

## Eight killed, dozens injured in **Indian strikes**

Indian missile strikes targeted Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Bahawalpur, with sources confirming loud blasts as tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors sharply escalated

By ISPR

RAWALPINDI: At least eight Pakistani civilians, including a young girl, have been killed and 33 others injured in what the military described as an unprovoked barrage of Indian cross-border strikes, according to a statement from the Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Major General Muridke. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry.

confirmed that two people landed in a civilian residen- corted to the affected areas, civilian casualties and the remain unaccounted for. He tial area, while a local dis- allowing journalists to bear destruction of non-military painted a chilling picture of pensary in Shakargarh was witness to what Pakistan in- sites have added a new the impact, describing how also struck — all indica- sists are deliberate strikes layer of urgency. Pakistan the border town of Ahmed- tions, the military says, that on civilian infrastructure. is now positioning the incipur East saw the deaths of the targeting was neither five civilians, including a random nor defensive. child. Elsewhere, the strikes hitting mosques in Kotli and to defiant as Major General must see it.



struck at places of worship, briefing turned from somber moment. "And the world that

Chaudhry declared, "The readiness to respond on the hmed Sharif Chaudhry. The attack on Muridke Pakistani military is giving a battlefield.

Addressing a press conclaimed one more life and fitting response to the The stri ference with visible restraint left another person enemy's unjustified aggres- escalation along the Line of but unmistakable urgency, wounded. In Sialkot's Kotli sion." He announced that Control, and although such Major General Chaudhry Loharan village, a shell the media would be es- flare-ups are not new, the

> "This is naked aggression," dent not merely as a border he said, his words under- skirmish but as a breach of The tone of the press scoring the gravity of the international norms — one

While India has not publicly commented on the latest skirmish, the silence has done little to ease tensions. The Pakistani military's framing of the inci-dent as a direct attack on innocent lives — homes, mosques, and medical facilities — is likely to push Islamabad into rallying diplomatic pressure on New Delhi, even as it signals

The strikes mark a sharp demands global

### India criticizes OIC's backing of Pakistan

**News Desk** 

NEW DEHLI: Tensions between Pakistan and India have escalated further fol-lowing a statement by the Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) supporting Pakistan's position in the ongoing conflict.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs expressed News Desk strong disapproval of the OIC's statement, claiming it was issued under Pakistan's influence. "It is absurd to ignore facts such as the Pulwama attack and its cross-border connections," the the sites of Kotli, Bastatement read, referring to hawalpur, Muridke, Bagh, an attack in Kashmir that and Muzaffarabad, state had previously sparked military tensions between the two countries.

India's foreign office also Attaullah Tarar, who said the rejected the OIC's interveninternal affairs, stressing that the organization's comments were un-

OIC came in the wake of a meeting in New York, where the OIC group highlighted against Pakistan, stating that they were contributing to re-Asia. The statement reinforced Pakistan's position, further exacerbating the diplomatic rift between the two nuclear-armed neigh-

tion in what it considers did not share operational de- out after midnight, for which tion. But India, without evitails. "We shot down two In- military retaliation was al- dence, has targeted civilians, dian planes and we are re- ready under way. The strikes women, and children. India

Two Indian jets downed

in Pakistan's swift

response to strikes

In a CNN interview, DG ISPR Sharif Chaudhry

confirmed the downing of two Indian Air Force

aircraft near Bhatinda and Akhnoor, signaling a

significant escalation in tensions

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-

istan military has shot down two enemy jets in retaliation

for late-night strikes by India,

This was confirmed by Federal Information Minister

response was ongoing but

to

media reported.

sponding

caster Sky News.

[in occupied Kashmir]."

tack in occupied Kashmir's Inter-Services Public Re- Pahalgam. lations (ISPR) Director Gen-India's baseless allegations eral Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif around 2.45am, Tarar reiter- formation." Chaudhry said in an inter- ated that Pakistan's re- When asked why India view on CNN: "I can confirm sponse was ongoing, while blamed Pakistan for the Pagional tensions and destability that two aircraft of the Indian declining to share operalizing the situation in South Air Force have been taken tional specifics. Asked about sponded: "This area (Pahaldown. The locations I have the potential for escalation, gam) is a good 200 so far are around Bhatinda in he said, "It is an evolving sit-kilometers from the Line of India [Punjab] and Akhnoor uation." He repeated that Control. The FIR was filed in

and 12 injured in what he de- gressor.'

Indian come amid intensifying ten- had no right to do that," he aggression right now, as we sions between the two counsisted with the speak," he told British broad-tries following a militant at-formation, I have occupied a seat of responsibility," Tarar added. "I have taken an oath Appearing on Sky News and I will give you verified in-

> When asked why India Pakistan had anticipated an 10 minutes, but police ar-Earlier, he said three attack by India and insisted rived after one and a half Pakistanis had been killed that "they would be the ag-hours." He accused India of "running away" from an in-

> scribed as "cowardly" missile "We offered an investiga- vestigation into the attack strikes by India in Kotli, Bation into the whole Pahalgam and claimed that the coun-"We offered an investiga- vestigation into the attack hawalpur, Muridke, Bagh, episode. We wanted a fair try's governing party "wanted and Muzaffarabad, carried and transparent investiga- a reason to attack Pakistan.

#### **Pakistan actively** exposing India's false narratives: Tarar

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar addressed the National Assembly on Tuesday, emphasizing Pakistan's proactive stance against India's information warfare. He highlighted that Pakistan is actively working to expose India's false narratives on the global stage, countering its high-stakes visit to the Interdisinformation campaigns effectively, particularly after the recent Pahalgam incident.

continued its discussion on what lawmakers termed India's "false flag operation" in Pahalgam, which resulted in the deaths of 26 individuals on April 22, 2025, in Indian Illegally Occupied and Kashmir Jammu (IIOJK). India quickly blamed Pakistan for the attack without providing any evidence,



a claim Pakistan firmly de-

In his address, Tarar revealed how Pakistan had successfully India's attempts to block its online content by airing a song from the Pakistani armed forces on Indian YouTube channels through strategic geotagging and advertisement purchases. Tarar also praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's diplomatic and public engagement efforts, which have been instrumental in exposing India's disinformation campaigns to the inter-

national community. The minister reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people, calling Kashmir the "jugular vein of Pakistan," and reaffirmed Pakistan's moral, political, and diplomatic backing for the ongoing struggle in IIOJK. He also noted Pakistan's sacrifices in the global war on terror, asserting that there is credible evidence linking India to state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan and accusing India of involvement in the assassination of Sikh leaders abroad.

Meanwhile, MQM-P's Dr Faroog Sattar criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "jingoistic mindset" as a threat to regional peace and noted India's failure to gain international sup-

## Armed forces fully prepared, PM briefed at ISI headquarters

Shehbaz Sharif lauds Pakistan Army's unmatched professionalism and discipline, reaffirming full confidence in a force he hails among the world's finest

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made a Services Intelligence (ISI) headquarters, flanked by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar The National Assembly and the country's top military resolve to quard its sovereignty amid growing regional and internal threats.

> heightened significance lating tension on the eastern trol. border and the looming istan Army as "one of the defining role. most professional and disci-

With the country's top de-The nation stands with its elements. countered brave forces," a statement that seemed designed to strategy, as outlined in the of engagement in the region



specter of hybrid warfare. In tended beyond conventional breach of Pakistan's soverwhat appeared to be a show military preparedness to the eighty would be met with "an military leadership, Shehbaz threats — a nod to the new sponse. Sharif reaffirmed full confi- age of conflict where cyber dence in Pakistan's armed warfare, disinformation, and forces, describing the Pak- non-state actors now play a the role of national security

plined military forces in the portedly presented with a de-sion-making during periods tailed account of the evolving of uncertainty. The leaderregional matrix, including the ship, collectively, underlined fence and intelligence appa- use of terrorist proxies and their commitment to the deratus at hand, he declared, asymmetric tactics by hostile fence of Pakistan's territorial

send a clear message to ad- briefing, appears to be recal- continue to shift.

brass, in a move that sym- versaries beyond the border ibrating towards a multi-laybolized Pakistan's unshaken and within. During a compre- ered response — combining hensive briefing, the Prime intelligence, kinetic capabil-Minister and other senior ity, and diplomatic maneuleaders were updated on the vering. What emerged The visit, though routine current security landscape, clearly was a consensus that on the surface, took on particularly in relation to operational readiness must India's increasing belliger- not only be maintained but given the backdrop of esca- ence along the Line of Con- further fortified to meet modern-day threats. The mes-The conversation ex- sage was unambiguous: any

> In his closing remarks, Shehbaz Sharif applauded institutions in offering strate-The leadership was re- gic clarity and timely deciintegrity and the protection of The national defence its people, even as the rules

# Indian forces hit Noseri Dam in shelling attack

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Indian attack on water reservoirs has been condemned as a blatant violation of international laws and norms. According to reports, the intake structure of the Noseri Dam, located on the Neelum River, was targeted in a shelling incident that occurred at 2 a.m. last night.

Security sources have lathe Neelum-Jhelum Hygression on Pakistan's water water resources. infrastructure. The shelling international laws but also are expected to escalate tems.



the most severe acts of ag- especially those related to

The attack is viewed with rights. caused significant damage great concern as it undertargeted a hydraulic protec- tionality of critical infrastruc- demnation of the attack, These actions are seen not Pakistan's water and energy pact on the country's water only as an infringement of supply. Such provocations resources and energy sys-

beled the Indian shelling on as a breach of established tensions between the two bility, the United Nations Senorms surrounding the pro- nuclear-armed neighbors, dropower Project as one of tection of vital infrastructure, already embroiled in a heated conflict over several including water issues,

Pakistan's authorities to the intake gates and also mines the safety and func- have expressed strong contion unit of the system. ture that is essential for highlighting its damaging im-

### **Modi struggling** with criticism at home, says Fazl

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), stated that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is facing growing criticism within India itself. Speaking to the media in Lahore after offering condolences on the passing of Senator Professor Sajid Mir at Markaz Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith on Ravi Road, the JUI-F leader highlighted internal dissent within India amid the rising

Praising the late Sajid Mir, Maulana Fazl deof unity between civilian and complex realm of hybrid effective and decisive re- scribed him as an ideological personality who always stood firmly for religious matters in Parliament, regardless of political affiliations. "Great people leave behind their greatness in the form of lasting ideolo-

tensions with Pakistan.

gies," he said. Commenting on the current Pakistan-India conflict, Fazlur Rehman said that India had made baseless allegations against Pakistan without presenting any evidence, which had, in turn, cast doubt on its own narrative. He noted that such unsubstantiated accusations had undermined India's credibility on the international stage. He emphasized that the defense of the homeland is a collective national duty, adding, "While we may have political differences, the entire comes to protecting the country."

## Modi vows to divert Pakistan's water for India

India's Prime Minister declared that water once flowing beyond its borders will now be retained for domestic use, intensifying regional resource tensions

NEW DEHLI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that water previously being sent outside the country would now be retained for internal use, days after New Delhi suspended a water-sharing pact with Pakistan. "Earlier water belonging to India was also going outside.

Now India's water will that targeted Hindu tourists, work for water sharing. killing 26 people. India ers were Pakistani nation-



utilized for India itself," Modi disputed the use of water longing to Pakistan ... will said while addressing an from rivers flowing down- be considered as an act of event in New Delhi. He did stream from India into Pak- war," it said. not provide further details. istan's Indus River basin. Last month, India sus- The Indus Waters Treaty, ported that New Delhi has pended a 1960 water-shar- brokered by the World Bank accelerated the start dates

late tensions. The nuclear- "Any attempt to stop or di- Iran.

flow in its share ... and be armed neighbors have long vert the flow of water be-Indian media have re-

ing pact that guaranteed and signed in September of four under-construction supply to 80 percent of Pak- 1960, divided control of the hydropower projects in istani farmland. The move Indus River and its tributar- Kashmir and begun encame after an attack in In- ies between the two nations hancing reservoir holding dian-administered Kashmir and established a frame- capacity at two others. On Tuesday, Pakistan's military India announced last said members of the Baloch blamed Pakistan for the as- month that it would suspend Liberation Army, which it sault, claiming that two of the treaty "until Pakistan described as an "Indian the three suspected attack- credibly and irrevocably ab- proxy," had targeted one of jures its support for cross- its vehicles with an impro-border terrorism." Pak- vised explosive device in Islamabad has denied istan's foreign ministry did the volatile southwestern any involvement but says it not immediately respond to province of Balochistan. is fully prepared to defend a request for comment, but The BLA is the most active itself in the event of aggres- Islamabad has threatened of several insurgent groups nation is united when it sion, prompting calls from to pursue international legal operating in the region borglobal powers to de-esca- action over the suspension. dering Afghanistan and

## UN discusses India-Pakistan war standoff

NEW YORK: In a move that underscores the escalating concern over regional stacurity Council held a closed-door meeting to address the growing tensions between Pakistan and India.

The meeting was convened at Pakistan's request following India's recent unilatissued a statement following ing by India. eral actions and increasingly the session, revealing that provocative rhetoric, which have brought the two nuclear- Council members expressed members reportedly empha- that if provoked, it would exerarmed neighbors perilously "deep concern" over the dete-sized the Kashmir dispute as cise its right to respond in acclose to a military confronta- riorating security situation and a central factor fueling re- cordance with the UN Charter.



tion. Pakistan's Foreign Office the recent aggressive postur-

Several Security Council

scored the need for a peaceful resolution in accordance with UN resolutions and the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people. During the meeting, Pakistan's envoy briefed the Council on India's actions on 23 April, highlighting intelligence reports that suggest the possibility of Indian military aggression. Pakistan's representative made it clear that the country is fully prepared to defend its sovereignty, adding

## PM briefed on escalating security issues at ISI HQs

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif receives an in-depth security briefing at the ISI headquarters, highlighting enhanced vigilance and inter-agency coordination amid escalating tensions with India

#### By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the headquarters of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) on Tuesday, where he was briefed on Pakistan's current security situation, which has grown increasingly tense due to developments with India.

Accompanied by key government figures, includand Foreign Minister Ishaq Khawaja Asif, and the chiefs region's volatile security enof Pakistan's armed forces, vironment. the visit underscored the



ing Deputy Prime Minister the Prime Minister's Office adopted an increasingly as-(PMO), the briefing provided sertive stance. The leader-Dar, Defence Minister an extensive overview of the ship was informed about the

It primarily focused on the military threats, hybrid warcording to a statement from border, where India has also stressed the importance tween Pakistan and India, Pakistani visas.

the vital role of the ISI in se- support these claims. curing the nation and praised ment's unwavering commitment to defending Pakistan highlighting that national se-

of enhanced national vigi- particularly following the lance, inter-agency coopera- deadly attack on April 22 in tion, and maintaining opera- Pahalgam, in Indian Illegally tional readiness to ensure Occupied Jammu and Kash-Pakistan's sovereignty and mir (IIOJK), which resulted in territorial integrity are safe- the deaths of 26 people. India swiftly blamed Pakistan During the visit, Prime for the attack, although it has Minister Sharif commended not provided any evidence to

Pakistan has vehemently the professionalism and dis- denied any involvement in cipline of the Pakistan Army. the incident. In response to He reaffirmed the govern- the situation, India's Cabinet Committee on Security has taken several measures, infrom any form of aggression, cluding the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, the faces, including conventional curity remains a top priority. closure of the Wagah-Attari The backdrop to this land transit point, a travel adgravity of the security chal- growing threats from India, fare tactics, and the use of meeting has been the recent visory against Pakistan, and lenges facing the nation. Ac- particularly along the eastern proxies. The security briefing escalation in tensions be- the revocation of various

#### Torkham border to require passports for drivers

#### By Sudhir Ahmad Afridi

KHYBER: Authorities at the Torkham border have reinstated the requirement for both Afghan and Pakistani drivers to possess valid passports and visas, effectively ending the temporary relaxation that previously allowed cross-border trade with temporary documents. This decision is set to take effect after May 30, when the facility permitting the use of Temporary Admission Documents (TAD) for transporting commercial goods will expire.

#### 'Canada is not for sale,' PM Carney

#### **News Desk**

WASHINGTON: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Caron Tuesday for his first meeting with US President Donald Trump, where he firmly rejected any notion of Canada becoming part of the United

This visit followed Carney's victory in the April 28 election, where he campaigned on a platform of standing up to Trump's ad- By Imtiaz Hussain ministration, which had imposed tariffs on Canadian products and often hinted at the idea of annexing Canada.

meeting, Trump, while adthe issue of Canada's sovereignty, remarked that it would be "a wonderful marriage" Canada were to join the The action, carried out in the exchange of fire. Mehar, long Ghulam Nabi Memon both United States, However, Carney made it unequivocally clear that Canada would diction of Bachal Bhayo police ried a bounty of Rs 5 million stone in the pursuit of justice never be for sale.

## Farewell in honor of Iranian CG held in Karachi

range of threats Pakistan

#### By Uzma Ehtasham

KARACHI: A farewell reception was held at a local hotel in honor of Iranian Consul General in Karachi, Hassan Nourian, as he prepares to conclude his tenure of four and a half years. The event was marked by warm tributes celebrating his efforts to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understand-

various countries, promi- global shifts. nent citizens, and members future endeavors.

knowledged regional diplomacy and in Pakistan was dedicated gether



ing between Pakistan and congratulated him on suc- to fostering brotherly rela-The ceremony was at- ties during a time marked neighboring Islamic nations. tended by diplomats from by significant regional and

representative from Pak- tude for the opportunity to Pakistani and istan's Ministry of Foreign serve in Pakistan and said friends who supported him Affairs praised Nourian's he had carried out his diplo-during his posting. Nourian diplomatic service and ex- matic duties with sincerity emphasized that the contended best wishes for his and commitment. "It has nection between Pakistan Speaking on the occa- a country where our shared graphical — it is rooted in sion, fellow diplomats ac- history, culture, and values shared cultural and literary Hassan resonate so strongly," he heritage, which continues to ney visited the White House Nourian's contributions to said. He added that his time bind the two nations to-

cessfully nurturing bilateral tions between the two The outgoing

Nourian also thanked Iran's In his address, Hassan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the media fraternity. A Nourian expressed grati- his diplomatic team, and his been a privilege to serve in and Iran is not merely geo-

## Suspect of journalist's murder killed in alleged encounter

Shero Mehar, the prime sus-

SUKKUR: Sher Ali alias Mahar's targeted killing.

According to pect in the high-profile killing Shikarpur Shahzeb Chachar, Pathan said the elimination of During the Oval Office of senior journalist Jan Mo- the police cordoned off all Mehar reflects the police's hammad Mahar, was gunned entry and exit points to the commitment to protecting down along with his son in a area before launching the of-public life and restoring order police-led intelligence-based fensive, which culminated in in regions plagued by dacoitoperation in the lawless the deaths of Shero Mehar led violence. Sindh Home Katcha region of Shikarpur. and his son during an intense Minister Zia Lanjar and IGP notorious hideouts of Qadrani considered one of Sindh's confirmed the operation's out-Jatoi dacoits under the juris- most wanted criminals, car- come and termed it a mile-

breakthrough in the months- been shielded for years by a investigation into complex web of criminal and political protection.

DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab station, marked a significant and was believed to have for Jan Mohammad Mahar.

### Grief prevails over student's killing in Dadu

#### By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: The tragic killing of Zakir Jamali, a student, who was fatally shot during an altercation after a motorcycle accident near SSP Chowk in Dadu blanketed entire village of Bachal Khan Jamali.

The incident has left the community in shock, as Zakir was reportedly killed without cause while traveling from Hyderabad to Dadu for his intermediate exams.

A delegation from the Sindh Journalists Council (SJC), led by Taluka President and senior journalist Kamran Khan Korai, visited the grieving family to express condolences.

Zakir's brother, Nadir Ali Jamali, spoke to the media, expressing his frustration over the lack of action in the case. He revealed that video footage of the incident, which clearly shows the violence, has surfaced but no arrests have been made. "We will not remain silent until justice is done," he declared.

#### Karachi bans laser lights near airport

#### By our correspondent

KARACHI: Authorities in Karachi have imposed a twomonth ban on the sale and use of laser lights in the vicinity of Jinnah International Airport, citing mounting safety concerns for pilots and air traffic. The ban, which will remain in effect from May 6 to July 5, 2025, was announced by Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi and is being enforced under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code, media reported.

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## Seven soldiers martyred in Balochistan IED attack

#### By our correspondent

by an India-sponsored out- any remaining terrorists. lawed Baloch separatist group tributed to the Baloch Libera- tice. It reiterated Pakistan's tion Army (BLA), took place in commitment to safeguarding the Mach area of Kachhi Dis- the peace and stability of trict. The soldiers, who were Balochistan, and affirmed that

Bagh), Sepoy Muhammad Asim (22, Karak), and Sepoy RAWALPINDI: Seven ser- Muhammad Kashif Khan (28, vicemen were martyred in a Kohat). In response to the atterrorist attack on May 6, tack, Pakistani security forces 2025, when an improvised ex- initiated a sanitisation operaplosive device (IED) planted tion in the area to eliminate

The ISPR statement targeted a security forces' ve- strongly condemned the athicle in Kachhi district, tack, emphasizing that the Balochistan. The attack, at- perpetrators would face jus-



forces, embraced Shahadat ened the resolve of the secu-(martyrdom) in this cowardly rity forces and the nation in

The martyrs were identi- lize the region. fied by the Inter-Services Pub-Sepoy Wajid Ahmed Faiz (28, nation's resolve.

defeating attempts to destabi-

The statement further delic Relations (ISPR) as Sube- clared that the nefarious dedar Umar Farooq (42, signs of India and its proxies Karachi), Naik Asif Khan (28, operating on Pakistani soil Karak), Naik Mashkoor Ali would be thwarted by Pak-(28, Orakzai), Sepoy Tariq istan's security forces, law en-Nawaz (26, Lakki Marwat), forcement agencies, and the

## **METRO MATTERS**

#### **MQM-P** forum motivates young graduates

#### **By Ahsan Mughal**

KARACHI: A community awareness session organized by MQM-Pakistan's Graduate Forum was held in Shah Faisal Town, Karachi, focusing on youth empowerment through civil service preparation and technical education. The event aimed to guide young graduates toward competitive public service careers and skills development opportunities, reflecting the party's continued focus on educational uplift and middle-class representation.

Dr Abdul Qadir Khanzada, in-charge of the Graduate Forum, addressed the gathering with a candid reflection on the country's socio-political landscape. He noted that Pakistan, since its inception, has remained a polarized society, and that the migrants who arrived from India carried with them two defining identities — Islam and Pakistan. "From the very beginning, our politics has revolved around these themes," he said. "But MQM-P took a different route by giving voice to the middle class — to the educated, working citizens who had long been excluded from mainstream political narra-

He added that MQM-P's politics has always been grounded in principle and accountability, influencing Pakistan's political fabric across different eras. "The time has come for Pakistan to evolve towards a political structure that genuinely serves the public and reflects their real needs," Dr Khanzada asserted, encouraging young people to step forward and participate in the country's decision-making processes.

The session also featured Sindh Assembly member Sikandara Khatoon, prominent public figure Dr Alvi, and members of the Graduate Forum, all of whom underscored the importance of educational advancement and capacity building among the youth. Speakers emphasized that technical training and competitive exam preparation are key to unlocking opportunities and building a sustainable future for the younger gen-

The event was part of MQM-P's broader effort to reengage with Karachi's educated youth and foster a sense of civic responsibility, particularly in neighborhoods where middle-class identity and aspirations remain central to political discourse.

#### SIUT pays tribute to Dr Haroon Ahmed

#### **Press Release**

KARACHI: Glowing tributes were paid to Dr Haroon Ahmed, the country's eminent psychiatrist and physician, at a memorial reference organized by the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) over the weekend. Dr Haroon passed away last month after a protracted illness. He was also a founding trustee of the SIUT

The memorial drew a large gathering from all walks of life, including members of the medical profession, politicians, parliamentarians, and human rights activists. Among the prominent attendees were Senator Raza Rabbani, former chairman of the Senate, renowned journalist Husain Naqi, leading columnist Ghazi Salahuddin, Dr Syed Ali Wasif of the Pakistan Psychiatric Society, Prof Anwar Naqvi of SIUT, and the institute's founder and eminent surgeon, Dr Adib Rizvi. Anis Haroon, the wife of the late psychiatrist, also spoke at the event.

In their tributes, speakers reflected on the many dimensions of Dr Haroon's life and described him as an extraordinary human being who, beyond being a compassionate physician, devoted his life to the welfare of others, especially those who are marginalized and deprived.

#### Over 24,000 young Pakistanis living with type 1 diabetes

#### By our correspondent

KARACHI: Vice President of the International Diabetes Federation, Erum Ghafoor, has revealed that more than 24,000 children and adolescents under the age of 25 in Pakistan are living with type 1 diabetes, and their lives remain at risk without access to insulin.

To support these children, 27 specialized clinics offering free treatment have been established across the country. Speaking to the media after a luncheon held in her honor at the Karachi Press Club, Erum Ghafoor said the clinics are part of the "Changing Diabetes in Children" program, which operates in 32 countries around the world.

In Pakistan, more than 3,300 children have already been registered and are receiving free insulin, glucometers, pen devices, needles and testing strips. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 14, Ghafoor said she had turned her illness into a source of strength. "I understand the pain of these children, which is why I've been entrusted with this project," she said.

Originally planned through 2025, the initiative aimed to establish 40 clinics, of which 27 have already been completed — seven in Sindh and nine in Punjab. The project timeline has now been extended to 2030, with a revised target of reaching 6,000 children. Erum Ghafoor urged parents to watch for symptoms such as frequent stomach pain, bedwetting, excessive thirst, vomiting, mouth odor or unusual lethargy in children — signs which may indicate type 1 diabetes.

#### Mayor honors martyred firefighters at fire brigade HQ

#### By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab paid a heartfelt tribute to the city's fire brigade, hailing them as "the pride of the nation" during the inauguration of the "Yaadgar-e-Shuhda" memorial at the Fire Brigade Headquarters. The ceremony, held to honor firefighters martyred in the line of duty, served as both a solemn remembrance and a reminder of the vital role these first responders play in safeguarding lives and property.

Addressing the media after the event, Wahab praised the selflessness and bravery of the fire personnel who, he said, "face danger every moment without hesitation." Since 1955, thirty-four firefighters from the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation have laid down their lives while battling blazes across the city. Their sacrifice, he noted, must never be forgotten. Shields were distributed among the families of the martyrs as a gesture of recognition and gratitude.

The event was attended by Deputy Parliamentary Leader Dil Muhammad, UC Chairmen, business leader Atique Mir, and other dignitaries, all of whom joined Wahab in offering prayers for the deceased and reaffirming public support for the fire brigade. He acknowledged the brigade's 70-year legacy and shared that its personnel had been recipients of the "Tamgha-e-Karachi," while also assuring the continued provision of fire risk allowances. Shifting to broader governance issues, Wahab reiterated his administration's firm stance on banning plastic bags in Karachi starting June 15. Despite legal resistance, he said the move was crucial for environmental sustainability and had full backing from the Sindh Chief Minister. He also announced the commencement of a stormwater drain cleanliness campaign in June and warned that no cattle market would be permitted without KMC authorization.

#### Action taken against land mafia in Landhi Town

#### By our correspondent

KARACHI: Abdul Jameel Khan, Chairman of Landhi, along with key figures including Amir Jamaat-e-Islami District Korangi, Mirza Farhan Baig, Vice Chairman Mohammad Imran, TMC Ibrahim Omrani, Coordinator Iqbal Saeed, and UC Chairmen, held a press conference to raise awareness about the growing issue of land grabbing in Landhi Town.

The press conference focused on the role of government institutions, particularly KMC and DHA, in enabling the activities of land mafias that are illegally occupying state lands. During the conference, Abdul Jameel Khan explained that land grabbers, aided by certain corrupt political factions, have been illegally occupying public lands, using fabricated documents to claim ownership.

The Chairman emphasized that the Landhi Town administration has decided to take legal action to reclaim public lands and prevent further illegal occupation. He confirmed that a petition would be filed in the High Court to protect over 250 sites that are considered part of Landhi Town's heritage, including both developed and undeveloped plots. Some of these sites, like the former UC 6 office near the Mono Technical Institute, the old hydrant at Landhi Town, Korangi 5 stadium, and the former Sadiq Marriage Hall, are already under threat from the land mafia.

#### Wagar Mehdi wins Senate by-election

#### By our correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidate Waqar Mehdi emerged victorious in the Senate by-election for a general seat from Sindh on Tuesday, following the death of Senator Taj Haider. According to a spokesperson for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Mehdi secured 111 votes, defeating Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) candidate Nighat Mirza, who garnered 36 votes.

Two votes were rejected due to incorrect markings. The polling took place at the Sindh Assembly from 9 am to 4 pm without any interruptions. Provincial Election Commissioner and Returning Officer Ejaz Anwar Chauhan confirmed that 149 lawmakers participated in the voting process.

The Senate seat had become vacant after the passing of PPP's long-serving lawmaker Taj Haider. With this win, Waqar Mehdi will now serve in the upper house of Parliament until March 2027.

#### **EDITOR: Ehtasham Anwar**

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## War: A borrowed voice, a lost cause

n the fragile theatre of geopolitics, perception is often more potent than missiles, and narratives are crafted long before the smoke of any skirmish clears. Nowhere is this more visible than in the way India commands its media machinery, shaping global opinion with the precision of a seasoned strategist. On the other side of the border, Pakistan's media appears caught in a loop—always a step behind, always responding, rarely leading. The most recent episode in this ongoing saga came with former Indian-Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik's damning comment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi lacked the courage to go to war. For Indian media, this was raw material to stoke war hysteria, to flex muscles for domestic audiences, to feed the illusion of dominance.

Yet in Pakistan, the reaction was tragically telling. The clip was seized upon gleefully, paraded across television channels, reposted across social media platforms, and celebrated as though it were a diplomatic coup. But behind the chuckles and the headlines, reality offered a colder reminder. India, in the very same breath, had already advanced its agenda, crossing lines both geographical and military While we made memes and traded press statements, Indian missiles were not just testing the limits—they were making statements in the sky, with intent and purpose. And here lies the deeper, more troubling issue. In our obsession with Indian narratives, we have allowed ourselves to become mere amplifiers of another country's agenda.

The core failure is not just one of communication—it is a national security lapse camouflaged in broadcast negligence. Media houses obsessed with reactive journalism, missed the forest for the trees. The story was never about what Malik said. The real story was India's encroachment, its readiness to back rhetoric with movement, and our corresponding silence on how that line was crossed. Pakistan's military, a force respected globally for its professionalism and fortitude, deserves better than to be propped up by viral tweets and press conference bravado. If, as some quarters claim, Indian aircraft were downed during recent incidents, then show us the evidence. Share the debris. Present the captured. Do not make the world rely on patriotic assertions and cinematic monologues. In the age of high-definition wars and satellite intelligence, credibility lies in proof—not passion.

There is an urgent need to recognize the danger in outsourcing our national pride to the echo chambers of reactionary media. Our television panels, filled with loud voices and louder claims, create the illusion of control while ceding ground in the real battle for narrative power. Every time we allow Indian headlines to dictate our tone, we fall into a trap of their making. This isn't strategy. This is surrender dressed as commentary. Even more worrying is the blind faith placed in external allies, especially the presumed intervention of China should conflict with India escalate. It is a dangerous fantasy—one that confuses strategic alignment with unconditional loyalty. China's global interests are vast, and its priorities do not always intersect neatly with Pakistan's. Hoping for Chinese intervention every time tensions rise is not diplomacy. It is wishful thinking bordering on strategic negligence.

The defence of our sovereignty cannot be subcontracted out to another superpower. This is our fight, and our alone. It is only through clarity of thought and independence of policy that Pakistan can navigate such perilous waters. What the country needs now is a media that reports, not reacts. One that asks hard questions, not just of the enemy, but of ourselves. Why did our air defences fail to detect or prevent an incursion? Where were the institutional protocols that should have activated the moment the line of control was breached? And why, despite years of tension, do we still appear surprised every time India takes an aggressive stance? There is a deeper lesson buried in this cycle of reaction. As long as we continue to celebrate moments that only mirror India's chaos rather than challenge it with sub-

stance, we will remain hostage to their framing. The world's sympathy does not lie with the loudest narrative, but the most consistent and credible one. And credibility cannot be built on selective outrage or reactionary patriotism. It must be cultivated through truth, evidence, and unshakable resolve. The Pakistani media must remember that it is not just a mirror reflecting national sentiment—it is a megaphone, an institution with the power to shape opinion, both domestically and abroad. Its failure to do so responsibly has consequences far beyond ratings and retweets.

In moments of crisis, the world listens closely. What it hears from us matters. So let us put an end to this unhealthy obsession with India's shadow. Let us stop measuring our strength through their weaknesses. Let us build a discourse that stands on its own feet-fortified by facts, powered by purpose. Let us treat national security not as a trending topic, but as a solemn responsibility. The war of perception, if fought right, is half the battle won. But to win it, we must first find our own voice—and use it not to echo, but to lead.

Metro Morning and its policy not necessarily consensus with any writer's thoughts

# India tests Pakistan's patience

By Uzma Ehtasham



are not bluffs. They are statements of deter- fence that includes both conventional and partners, calls are growing louder for a ne- reached at uzma@metro-morning.com

its calls for peace, cial session has been called to bring global India has chosen aggres- attention to India's belligerence and to warn sion, launching targeted against the further erosion of regional stabilstrikes along the Pakistani ity. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, canborder. These provoca- celling his foreign visits, and Deputy Prime tions, once again, leave no Minister-cum-Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar are Attaullah Tarar and ISPR Director General within Pakistan. This is not just about the dedoubt about India's reck- engaging with global counterparts to convey less pursuit of dominance and the dangers the gravity of the situation. Their tone is not of its unilateralism. While the international incendiary; it is measured and urgent. Pakcommunity is just beginning to stir from its istan does not seek escalation—it seeks jusselective slumber, Pakistan stands fully pre-tice. But as India stages a false-flag drama and short-sighted. pared—backed not only by its armed forces in Pahalgam, allegedly to deflect from its but by an increasingly mobilized public own domestic failings and to invoke yet anwhose defiance has filled the streets in spir- other chapter of manufactured terrorism, its ited demonstrations of unity and resolve. In intentions are becoming transparent, pointed out, it is a poor reflection when poli- time for division. It is the time for unwaverthe face of these hostilities, Pakistan has not Malaysia's Prime Minister has backed Pakmerely postured but acted with strategic istan's call for an impartial investigation.

of long-range and nuclear payloads—send Khalid Jamali, openly warned of India's ima clear message that national defence is minent aggression and made it unequivo- damaged its credibility, not ours. From the communication, having keen interest in neither neglected nor compromised. These cally clear: any attack will be met with a de- Gulf Cooperation Council to other global national and international affairs, can be

before events spiral further. Meanwhile, gional actor. provocations on the Line of Control conwith full capability and readiness. On the political front, Federal Minister for Information ment of national unity is both unfortunate

clarity. The recent successful tests of the Ababeel and Fatah missiles—both capable In Moscow, Pakistan's ambassador, backfired. New Delhi's refusal to accept halgam incident has not just failed—it has and proportionate defence.

rence aimed at preserving peace, not invit- nuclear responses. The arrival of Iran's For- gotiated peace and for the implementation ing war.

eign Minister in Islamabad, with plans to visit of UN resolutions on Kashmir. If anything, espite Pakistan's visible restraint and Pakistan has rightly taken the matter to visible restraint and the United Nations Security Council. A specific pakistan has rightly taken the matter to ognize the need to intervene diplomatically international image as a responsible reeign Minister in Islamabad, with plans to visit of UN resolutions on Kashmir. If anything,

> A resolution is expected soon in the Natinue, but the Pakistan Army is responding tional Assembly, which will not only condemn India's actions but also present evidence of its involvement in terror activities Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry briefed na- fence of territory. It is about exposing the tional political leaders in a rare in-camera hypocrisy that has allowed India to posture session. That PTI chose to boycott this mo- as victim while playing the aggressor. Pakistan is at a critical juncture. Its leadershipboth civil and military-must now act not just In times such as these, the nation can- with caution but with clarity. The world is not afford political theatrics disguised as dis- watching. But more importantly, the people sent. As Defence Minister Khawaja Asif of Pakistan are watching. This is not the tics is prioritised over the state. India's ating unity, wise leadership, and a refusal to tempted narrative manipulation over the Pabe provoked into anything but a principled

> The writer is a public health profes-Pakistan's offer for an impartial probe has sional and possesses expertise in health

## Peace needs no passport

By Atiq Raja



thing orchestrated by a powerful few. But ration ever could. the truth is quieter, more rooted, and far force in their surroundings.

fulness and emotional intelligence aren't just of defence in the struggle for a more peace- tory as a series of wars, conquests, and col- matter enormously. They soften the ground. news@metro-morning.com

ful world. But it isn't only about self-aware-ness. Peace must also be reflected in how Les hen we think of we treat others. In divided societies, in re-iation, peacebuilding, and the difficult, world peace, we gions marked by historical scars and ongo- courageous work of those who chose healstatements by world lead- respond with suspicion to someone of ancameras. That's the imagery international stack up. A thousand acts of kindness can relations has given us—peace as somedo more than one conference room decla-

The danger is not difference; it is divimore accessible than we might think. Real sion. And there's a subtle difference be- feel-good gestures—they are fundamental peace doesn't start at podiums. It begins at tween the two. People will always dis- acts that counteract the growing normaliza- not passive. It demands action. It requires kitchen tables, in school corridors, on neigh- agree—it's a condition of human life. But tion of division and indifference. Social showing up, not with banners and slogans borhood walks, and in the quiet moments disagreements don't have to lead to hostilwhen people choose empathy over ego. ity. The choice lies in how we handle con- be turned into a vehicle for good. Every time courage. It asks us to apologize when we're Peace, at its core, is deeply personal. It flict. If we allow ourselves only to engage someone uses it to share a story of unity, to wrong, to forgive even when it's hard, to starts with individuals. And it starts inside with those who already agree with us, we challenge a discriminatory post, or to build hold space for someone else's pain, and to them. A person who has made peace with create echo chambers that deepen divides. bridges across digital divides, they are par- choose humanity over ideology. The idea themselves—who knows how to navigate If we learn to listen, especially when we distheir own anger, their fears, their preju- agree, and to ask questions rather than dices—is far more likely to be a calming shout answers, we make space for resolu- rarely makes headlines. But it is some of the off the hook. The world's great peacemak-The opposite is true too: inner turmoil school—places where children absorb more effort of reaching out when it would be easoften spills outward. A world full of people from the adults around them than any curier to walk away. Of choosing to understand ers. They simply made a choice. And that without emotional balance is a world primed riculum could teach. Teaching them how to for conflict, whether on the street or between nations. That is why practices such as mind-portant as teaching arithmetic. What we stereotype. And in deeply polarized comparison of AR Trainings and Consultancy, with lifestyle choices; they are the earliest lines mously. We have, for too long, taught his- pain is generational—those small gestures Literature, can be reached at

Less time is spent on stories of reconcilviolence but an invitation to imagine some-Volunteering at a local food bank, helping option. organize a community clean-up, or simply Of being present at interfaith dialogues can shift energy in a space. These are not just ticipating in a modern kind of peacekeeping.

tion. That approach must begin at home and most important work anyone can do. It is the ers were not born with titles. They were pass on to the next generation matters enor- munities—where mistrust runs deep and degrees in Political Science and English

They make dialogue possible. But peace also means standing firm when needed. There is no true peace without justice. Ignoring inequality or staying silent in the face often picture for- ing tensions, the ability to respect difference ing over hatred. The legacy we leave behind of violence is not neutrality—it is complicity. mal summits, polished is powerful. When a person chooses not to should not only be a warning of the cost of Common people have more power than they think. A single voice calling out injustice ers, and photographs of other faith or background—when they thing better. And we don't need to be part of in a community meeting, on a public bus, or diplomats shaking hands choose dialogue over assumption—they are global organizations to help. Peace can be online, can inspire others to speak too. It under the glare of a dozen making peace tangible. And these choices practiced through the smallest of initiatives. sends a signal: that silence is not the only

Of course, none of this is easy. Living peacefully, especially in a world where rage and suspicion dominate headlines, can feel like swimming against the tide. But peace is media, so often blamed for fueling hate, can necessarily, but with honesty, humility, and that peace is only the work of leaders is not Being a bridge builder isn't glamorous. It just false—it is dangerous. It lets too many teachers, neighbors, students, shopkeep-

## Faith, forgiveness and the future

By Ahsan Iqbal

in the crowd pulled out a gun into transformation. and shot at me. The bullet

voices of intolerance. militant with years in the power through fear. mountains. He was one of sought to exploit religion for to that path. political purposes and supby preaching division.

followed, what I also saw logue, not destruction. were social media camshould have condemned it, stitution, of intolerance by certain ele-

gans replace arguments and disagreement. when dissent becomes a the fabric of our beloved

a routine community gather- platform that transforms pain over point-scoring. ing in Narowal, a young man into purpose, and tragedy

tore through me, but that a crossroads. The rampant Therefore, efforts are being in schools and communities day, something else was polarisation is not accidental made to ensure that no per- that empower citizens to wounded more deeply than but manufactured. Certain son is targeted because of question what they see, reflesh - our collective spirit as groups and voices have their beliefs, their party, or sist manipulation, and ena nation. That bullet, driven made it their mission to their profession. Justice that gage responsibly in civic disby hate and false religiosity, weaponize religion and poli- protects the right to disagree was not just aimed at me. It tics. They exploit the emowas aimed at the very dream tional and spiritual commitof a peaceful, pluralistic and ments of ordinary Pakistanis, town, classroom, united Pakistan. As I reflect turning them into tools for on that harrowing moment, disruption. The cost of this what grieves me most is not intolerance is not just politipersonal pain, but the re- cal instability but the erosion minder of how deeply we are of trust, community and the back from the edge, look in- wards investing in de-radidrifting apart, poisoned by di-foundations upon which our ward, and make the con-calisation programmes that vision, and misled by the country was built. The scious choice to listen, for- offer young people a way tragedy is that Islam, a reli-The young man who shot gion rooted in peace, mercy is rich with examples of tol-passion, not vengeance, is me was not a foreign agent, and justice, is being misrep- erance and coexistence. Let our compass if we are to a hardened criminal, or a resented by those who seek us not allow the voices of ex- truly rebuild trust.

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

who seek to hijack our faith empathy, revitalising education curricula and institutional cle, but the sickness in the on instilling values in our and intrafaith harmony. Pak-

and

crime, we are tearing apart potential of our people. But tred. we cannot realize it unless

a defining moment in my life. why we are working towards lance. Online platforms have Rather than responding with a national curriculum that become breeding grounds ay 6 is etched in my fear, I chose hope. Rather teaches critical thinking, not for misinformation, conspirmemory – not because it ended in build. Today, on the very soil
tragedy, but because it
here hatred struck, we are
leaches chitical thinking, not for misinformation, conspirations of the properties and radicalisation. We are working totragedy, but because it
here hatred struck, we are
leaches chitical thinking, not for misinformation, conspirations of the properties and radicalisation. We are working tounity, not division. As politiunity, not division. As politiunity, not division. As politiunity, not division. As politialunching the Narowal
cal leaders thinking, not for misinformation, conspiration, conspirati

without fear. Justice that is seen, heard, and felt in every and

mosque. tremism to erase that legacy.

warped understanding of re- of what is better than the mine the destiny of the to ensure that no other parligion and intoxicated by a rank of fasting, prayer and many. What happened to ent must bury a child lost to culture of political hate. That charity?" The Companions me is not a symbol of de-hate, that no other leader is realisation shook me more said, "Yes, O Messenger of spair, but a call to action. I shot for words they speak, than the bullet itself. He Allah". He (pbuh) said, "Mak- have now redoubled my ef- and that no Pakistani is ever emerged from an environ- ing peace between people forts to reform our education again made to feel like an ment where, despite our so- among whom there is dis- system to instil critical think- enemy in their own land. The ciety's strong values of toler- cord, for the evil of discord is ing, empathy and an accu- bullet missed my heart, but it ance and unity, a few have the shaver." We must return rate understanding of reli- struck my conscience - and gious values. Our children I intend to act. As we work towards will now grow up learning press dialogue with discord. transforming our nation, we that disagreement is not en-His action, though con- are working towards building mity, and that diversity is not parent, teacher, cleric, jouris a symptom of a more pro- to heal. Where difference of riculum reform will include Prophet (pbuh) said, "The found crisis: the polarisation opinion is celebrated. We teachings on civic responsi- Muslim is the one from of our people and the pres- are now working towards bility, tolerance, and the whose tongue and hand the ence of certain elements promoting critical thinking, shared history of our diverse people are safe." Let us

communities. We have crafted a na- reality in our streets, My survival was a mira- reform. We are now focused tional strategy for interfaith schools, and institutions. section of our society re- youth that the true essence istan is home to many faiths. I say this: you are not the mains. While I received of religion is compassion, and sects, each woven into soldiers of anyone's ideology overwhelming support and not condemnation. That the fabric of our society. We but the builders of your own adoration in the months that democracy is built on dia- are working towards foster- destiny. Let your hands raise ing spaces - both online and books, not guns. Let your We are initiating interven- offline – where dialogue is voices be used for debate, paigns justifying violence, tions that align our educa- encouraged, differences are not destruction. And let your the silence of those who tional systems, religious in- respected and common hearts remain open - to difdigital ground is celebrated. The ference, dissent and humanand the troubling glorification platforms with the goals of Narowal Peace Dialogue ity. peace, stability and toler- Forum is an example of such ance. We are working to- interventions. We are en- depends not on silencing This left me feeling more wards investing not just in in- gaging with religious leadwounded than any bullet frastructure, but in values – ers, educators, media fig- each other. Not on dividing could. When hate is nurtured tolerance, empathy, critical ures, and policymakers to in the name of religion, but

The experience became hatred head-on, which is quires a new kind of vigi- feels seen, safe and heard. | a 'fiasco'. The PTI leadership from their territories.

line, not by silencing free justice - not just in the lies with truth. We are creat-Pakistan today stands at courts, but in our culture. ing digital literacy programs

> As a nation, we must also learn to forgive - not as a strength. Justice is neces-There are no shortcuts to sary, but healing cannot rebuilding a broken society. come from punishment It requires each of us to step alone. We are working togive and rebuild. Our history back from the edge. Com-

On May 6, I could have We cannot allow the mis- lost my life. But instead, our own - driven by a "Do you want me to tell you guidance of a few to deter- gained a mission. A mission

This is not just the duty of make this teaching a lived

To the youth of Pakistan,

The future of Pakistan each other, but on hearing in the garb of faith, when slo-thinking and the dignity of amplify messages of peace on uniting in its true spirit. It and reject the voices that starts with a choice: to re-I believe in the boundless preach exclusion and ha- place hate with hope, fear I am also cognizant of the the determination to build a

## Mines and minerals

By Iftekhar A Khan

oppose the exploration of year rule? newfound underground

equated national wealth, Iftikhar hasn't been heard of the fate of the people of the episode was his last exploit. province and the country, with Imran's release from situations have a common prison. His sister was at the reason: class disparity. The cision. Despite facing serious has its coffers full, while the the best time. He gets choice poverty line wants jobs and food at state expense, holds two meals a day, education political meetings with his for its children and affordable friends and family. What else mines and minerals are a does he need? No political federal or provincial subject prisoner in the nation's his- would have little consedemned by the vast majority, a nation where faith is used a threat but a strength. Cur- nalist, and citizen. The Holy tory lived in such style and quence for the poor. comfort.

projects.

basic rights.

Recall the Reko Diq proj-

is now opposing mines and minerals projects in KP. Hisince the good news of tory is repeating itself. The minerals worth trillions PTI leadership seems to be of dollars was an- anti-progress. Is there any Undoubtedly, we need speech, but by drowning out nounced, politicians of vari-major project to show for ous hues went into action to Imran Khan's nearly four-

> However, in 2013 the wealth. Politicians of the Khy- then CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry ber Pakhtunkhwa govern- ordered the cancellation of ment have been at the fore- the Reko Diq project for front in opposing the mining being non-transparent and process in the province. They primarily in favour of Tethyan link the decision to explore Copper Company, an Ausand excavate minerals with tralian organisation and its sign of weakness, but of the consent of Imran Khan. Chilean partner company. But Prime Minister Shahbaz The Australian company Sharif's enthusiastic an- claimed to have invested nouncement about the un-more than \$220 million to imderground mineral wealth is port equipment and machinworth mentioning: 'Trillions of ery to carry out the explodollars' in mineral deposits ration and excavation can help Pakistan say good- process according to the bye to institutions like the agreement. It filed a case in the International Court of Ar-The PTI stalwarts pre- bitration, which fined Paksented a strange logic. They istan heavily. Chaudhry which would likely change much ever since. Reko Diq

Many politically motivated forefront in vocalising this de-rich class of society in politics legal cases, Imran is having poor class living below the subordinates, and meets his medical treatment. Whether

Nevertheless, the dissent-

KP politicians were never ing political parties are sugknown to oppose govern- gested to settle their differment projects to explore and ences by keeping the plight excavate natural wealth, un- of the poor in mind. The stark like the politicians of reality is that when children of Balochistan, who have al- the rich politicians and buways defied state-sponsored reaucrats go abroad for their education, 26 million poor The Baloch have usually children remain unschooled, been under the strong influ-thus illiterate. What would be ence of Baloch chieftains. But their future in the country in now, the situation is rapidly the years to come, where the changing. The previously un-rich politicians do not allow derprivileged class is becom- the government to dig out the ing educated and aware of its mineral wealth concealed un-

derground? What's the point of the ect in Balochistan. It was prime minister's proclamation then-chief minister Abdul about the country being be-Qudoos Bizenjo who had or- stowed with mines and minganised an in-camera brief- erals worth trillions of dollars ing for the lawmakers to take if the nation cannot benefit them into confidence on the from them? The misgivings Reko Dig subject. And who shown by the provincial govelse could it be other than ernments are that the federal with faith, and division with Yar Mohammad Rind, then government might deprive the PTI chief in Balochistan, the provinces of their share of we confront this culture of fact that the digital age re- country where every citizen who called the arrangement mineral wealth unearthed



# MetroMorning

Wednesday, May 7, 2025



## Military vows response to 'heinous Indian provocation'

India's Prime Minister declared that water once flowing beyond its borders will now be retained for domestic use, intensifying regional resource tensions

#### By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: The military spokesperson issued a stern warning, stating, "Pak-istan will respond to this at a time and place of its own choosing. This heinous provocation will not go unanswered." Local sources reported a complete blackout in Muzaffarabad following the explosions, raising concerns about the extent of the damage. The situation refirmed that Indian forces had airstrikes on Subhanullah clash between Pakistan and mains fluid, with authorities carried out airstrikes on mosque in Bahawalpur's India seemed "inevitable"

ate details on potential casu- farabad. tion would be shared once and "shameful." In a late- to be violated. confirmed. Director General night press



briefing, lations (DG ISPR) Major time ago, the cowardly sions rocked multiple cities updates

conducting damage assess- three locations within Pak- Ahmed East area, Kotli and and could occur "at any moments and verifying casualty istan. The targets included Muzaffarabad at three ment." His remarks come reports.

Muzaffarabad at three ment." His remarks come the Subhanullah mosque in places from the air." In re-after weeks of heightened The military spokesper- Bahawalpur's Ahmed East sponse, Pakistan's Air Force tensions following an attack son did not provide immediarea, Kotli, and Muzaf-scrambled jets to counter the in Indian Illegally Occupied attack, "All of our air force Jammu and alties or infrastructure Major General Chaudhry jets are airborne," he added, (IIOJK), which India blamed damage, but assured the condemned the attacks, de-emphasizing that Pakistan on Pakistan—an accusation

of Inter-Services Public Re- Chaudhry stated, "Some Wednesday morning, explo- calm as they await official

in Pakistan, including Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Bahawalpur, as tensions between Pakistan and India reached a new peak. The blasts, believed to be the result of Indian airstrikes, have raised serious concerns about the escalating situation between the two nuclear-armed nations.

In the wake of the attacks, Defence Minister public that further informa- scribing them as "cowardly" would not allow its airspace that Islamabad vehemently denied. Authorities have In the early hours of urged the public to remain

## Kh Asif warns of 'inevitable' response to India China

#### By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has issued a stark warning about the growing likelihood of a military confrontation with India, citing escalating regional tensions and increasing signs of Indian aggression. Speaking to the media, Asif revealed that recent briefings shared with the government suggest that hostilities between the two countries could erupt at also condemned India's re- where he received an in-

Pakistan would respond de- India. He warned that any Sharif, accompanied by cisively to any attempts by attempt to block Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and India to seize its territory, access to water would result Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, vowing that New Delhi in dire consequences. "If In- Defence Minister Khawaja would face severe conse- dian leaders attempt to Asif, and the chiefs of Pakquences for any strategy block our water, they will istan's armed forces, was aimed at occupying even a drown in it," Asif said, briefed on the regional sefraction of Pakistan's land. adding, "Should India build curity environment and Pakistan's land." "India will pay a heavy price any structures to stop our istan's preparedness for pofor any strategy aimed at rivers, we will destroy them." tential conventional threats, occupying even an inch of our land," he declared, un- ter Shehbaz Sharif visited India's increasingly asderscoring the gravity of the the headquarters of the sertive posture along the



Inter-Services Intelligence eastern border.

The Defence Minister (ISI) earlier in the day, any moment. "A confronta-tion cour at any mo-ment," he cautioned.

asso contentined india 3 fe<sup>-</sup>
where he received an in-cent actions to restrict Pak-depth briefing on the coun-istan's water supply, refer-try's security posture in light encing the suspension of of the escalating tensions Asif made it clear that the Indus Waters Treaty by with India. Prime Minister

In parallel, Prime Minis- particularly in the face of

## Pak-Iran border security top agenda in Iranian FM, COAS talks

#### By our correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the Foreign Minister of Iran, met with General Syed Asim Munir, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan, at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday for a strategic discussion focusing on regional security and bilateral cooperation.

opportunity for both leaders istan and Iran, underscoring ther reflected the shared to engage in constructive the shared history, culture, commitment of both countalks regarding the geo- and religious ties that unite tries to address common strategic challenges facing the two nations. Both lead- challenges and work totheir respective countries, ers acknowledged the im- gether on mutually beneficial with particular attention portance of continued col- developments for the future. given to the security situa- laboration to strengthen tion along the Pak-Iran bor- security and regional stabil- the ongoing efforts by Pakder. The meeting also fo- ity. cused on ways to enhance coordination between the Abbas Araghchi expressed hance regional stability, fotwo nations, specifically his appreciation for Pak- cusing on practical measaimed at improving border istan's role in fostering ures to address security management and address- peace and stability in the re- issues and promote peaceing security concerns.



gion, recognizing the signifi- ful cooperation

General Munir reaffirmed cance of Pakistan's efforts the long-standing, brotherly for broader regional cooper-The meeting provided an relationship between Pak- ation. The discussions fur-

The meeting highlights istan and Iran to strengthen In his remarks, Seyed bilateral relations and en-

## **India's military** regrettable:

#### **News Desk**

BEIJING: China has expressed its concern over the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, following India's military strikes in Pakistan earlier this week. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson described India's military operation as "regrettable" and called for both countries to act with restraint in the face of mounting hostilities.

'We are concerned about the ongoing situathe spokesperson said in a statement on Wednesday, highlighting China's position in the matter. The spokesperson further noted that India



long-standing relationship as neighbors, a dynamic that is of importance not only to the two South Asian nations but also to China, which shares borders with both.

Emphasizing China's stance on terrorism, the spokesperson reiterated cate the situation.'

The comments from China reflect growing international concern over the risk of further escala-

With tensions high between the two nucleararmed countries, the international community has increasingly called for diplomatic solutions to avoid the outbreak of fullscale conflict.

# strikes in Pakistan

By our correspondent LAHORE: Lahore Qauncontrollable

Karachi Kings as key set-



and Pakistan share a

Beijing's opposition to all forms of terrorism. However, the key message was one of de-escalation and dialogue. "We urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability," the state-ment read. "Remain calm, exercise restraint, and refrain from taking actions that may further compli-

tion in the region.

China's position underscores its desire for stability in a region that is critical to its own geopolitical













# Sultans exit shakes up PSL playoff battle

#### By our correspondent

KARACHI: With only five league matches left in Season 10 of the Pakistan Super League, the race to the playoffs has entered its most intense and unpredictable phase. While Multan Sultans have bowed out of contention, the rest of the league is embroiled in a high-stakes scramble, where every game now carries the weight of a door-die encounter

in the most comfortable position, but they are not out



Karachi Kings both trail but must first get past Peof the woods just yet. Their closely with 10 points shawar Zalmi before their window is narrow, and the upcoming fixtures against apiece from eight matches, high-stakes clash with Islamabad United and Mul- and they are now set for a United, which has all the upcoming matches offer tan Sultans will determine nerve-wracking finale. mak whether they secure a play- United face the dual chal- out. off berth with momentum or lenge of taking on both On the edge of the playrisk slipping at the final hurdle. Quetta's campaign has tures that could not only debeen marked by consistent fine their own playoff des- tering. With nine points

performances, but with tiny but could directly elimior-die encounter.

At the top of the table, such fine margins at play, nate or elevate their margins.

Quetta Gladiators sit with even the slightest misstep that table.

11 points and appear to be could reshape the table.

The description of the table and late-season resurgence, such fine margins at play, nate or elevate their rivals. eight points. Two matches Islamabad United and late-season resurgence, see them back in con-

finale. makings of a virtual knock-

from nine games, their qualification hopes hinge entirely on a final clash with Peshawar. For Lahore, it is a straightforward equation-win and wait, or bow out and reflect. Their journey through the tournament has been a mixed bag of near misses and clutch moments, but their margin for error has now disappeared entirely.

As for Peshawar Zalmi, race despite sitting fifth with remain in their campaign, and a clean sweep would tention. But like Lahore, the both opportunity and peril especially with their final fixture coming against Karachi, another side desperately clinging to its play-

## Rana cites rain disruptions in Qalandars' PSL setback

landars Team Director Sameen Rana has said his side was well on course to finish in the top two of the PSL 10 league stage, but particularly weather disruptions, tilted the season against them.

stressing that the team still in the tournament." Rana he said. defended pacers Shaheen



the table. Rana remained personal incentives. Re- and Haris couldn't defend it. optimistic about Qalandars' sponding to criticism around no one else could have eiplayoff chances. "Our fate is in our own hands now. If we pushed back against claims On franchise ownership, win, we qualify," he said, that inclusions like Naeem Rana categorically dishas everything to play for. "Qalandars don't need a change. "The rumor that was sudden and shocking. "The defeat was a shock, name. It's unfair to say that. new owners will take over is Aleem was mid-delivery not a knockout. That's what Ahmad Daniyal played false. We've already conkeeps us going. We're still well—we're happy for him," firmed on 31 December that

Quetta Gladiators and rain- greed—they're about affectiques of the team's stratealtered conditions in the tion. It's a tradition we gies, particularly the decitight contest against started that others fol-sion not to play a third lowed," he added, referring pacer, Rana said: "Not playto the culture of acknowl- ing a third pacer wasn't the Despite sitting fourth on edging players' efforts with sole reason. If Shaheen

were made for publicity. missed speculation of a amullah Khan, the moment all six current owners will He also underlined the continue," he said, affirming Afridi and Haris Rauf, who success of Qalandars' the Qalandars' long-term have faced criticism in re- Player Development Pro- commitment to the PSL. cent days, calling them gram (PDP), pointing out "We've been through highs "Pakistan's pride" and "two that many of its graduates and lows—security issues, of the world's best bowlers." now represent rival PSL COVID, fixing scandals— He said both were franchises. "We didn't work and we're still here."

#### Bannu cricketer Aleem Khan, 24, dies after collapsing on field By Sudhir Ahmad Afridi

BANNU: In a tragic incident that has cast a somber shadow over the domestic cricket scene, 24-year-old fast bowler Aleem Khan passed away after suffering a fatal heart attack during a PCB Challenge Cup match in Bannu. The young cricketer collapsed on the field while delivering a ball and was rushed to hospital, but doctors were unable to re-

According to umpire In-



when he faltered and fell to the ground, prompting immediate concern from players and officials alike. The match was halted as efforts were made to get him medical attention, but despite swift intervention, he could not be saved.

His funeral was held soon after, and family sources confirmed that he has been laid to rest in his hometown. The local cricket community, still reeling from the incident, has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of a young life that had shown such promise. Tributes have poured in from fellow cricketers, coaches, and fans, many remembering him as a passionate and disciplined player who had dreams of making it to the national side.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has yet to issue an official statement, but the tragic incident has raised concerns about medical screening and emergency preparedness in domestic tournaments. While sudden cardiac they are not unheard of, and Aleem's passing minder of the physical risks

## Riaz Afridi suffers health setback during practice

#### By our correspondent

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars' assistant coach Riaz Afridi, elder brother of team captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, was rushed to hospital on Tuesday after falling ill during a training session, just days before the team's crucial final league match in the Pakistan Super League.

Team sources revealed that Riaz experienced a sudden drop in blood sugar levels palpable. With nine points from nine games, nearby medical facility where he is now receiving treatment and reported to be stable.

Riaz Afridi, who briefly represented Pak-Test appearance in 2004, has been a regu-the balance. lar fixture on the coaching staff of the Qahis younger brother throughout the season. His sudden illness has come at a critical juncture for the franchise, as the team prepares for a do-or-die encounter against Pe-

The pressure on Lahore Qalandars is head into Thursday's decisive clash.



while at practice, prompting an immediate the side must secure a win in their final medical response. He was swiftly taken to a match to stay alive in the tournament. The stakes have only grown higher after Peshawar Zalmi's dramatic victory over Multan Sultans, which shook up the points table istan at the international level with a solitary and left the race to the playoffs hanging in Shaheen Shah Afridi now finds himself

landars, working closely with the team and tasked with not only leading a team on the events are rare in sport, brink of elimination but also coping with the emotional strain of his brother's medical emergency. The squad, already walking a fine line between qualification and exit, must summon both skill and resilience as they

## Imran bars PTI leaders from attending APC, NSC

#### By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan prior approval. Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan has shared following a 45- clear that no policy deciparty leaders, command- tween Imran Khan and his without his consent. ing them to prevent the sisters, Uzma Khan and such as the All Parties sharing that her brother party. He noted, "Entire urged filing appeals in apex committee, and the reservations about party or London-why not Ali lenge perceived injustices.

These directives were Aleema, Imran made it net.

input. According

implementation of the Noreen Khan. Imran's sis- specific issue with party ment, stressing the need Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa ter, Aleema Khan, who member Ali Amin Ganda- for a strong push from the Mines and Minerals Bill. was denied permission to pur, accusing him of ne- grassroots level Additionally, he has promeet him personally, conglecting his duties by not hibited them from attend-veyed details of the disvisiting him in jail despite protests outside the Elecing key national meetings cussion to the media, his seniority within the tion Commission and

National Security Commit- operations being con- Amin?" drawing a compartee unless granted his ducted without his direct ison to former Prime Minto ister Nawaz Sharif's cabi-In the meeting, Imran

issued strict instructions to minute prison meeting be- sions would be approved directed PTI leader Junaid Akbar to focus on reinvig-Imran Khan also took orating the party's move-

Conference (APC), the had expressed strong cabinets used to go to jail election tribunals to chal-

## Qalandars must beat Zalmi to keep PSL dream alive

#### By our correspondent

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars must secure victory in their final group-stage match against Peshawar Zalmi on May 9 to stay alive in the tenth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL X). With nine points from nine games, the defending champions are teetering on the edge, making their last fixture a virtual knockout.

The playoff race was Multan



Zalmi's recent triumph over and raised the stakes for would guarantee them a which the final round of league playoff berth.

matches. Shaheen Shah Afridi's side will now have to dig deep to ensure they don't miss out on a top-four finish in what has already been a turbulent campaign marked by inconsistent performances and weather-affected matches. Led by Babar Azam, Pe-

shawar Zalmi now find themselves in a commanding position. Victory in their thrown wide open after reshuffled the standings remaining two fixtures