



31 civilians martyred, 57 injured in Indian attacks: DG ISPR

DG ISPR questioned if attacking innocent civilians and children could be called anything but terrorism, stressing undeniable proof of India's hand in such

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: In a press conference held in Islamabad, Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), confirmed that 31 innocent civilians had been martyred and 57 others injured in Indian attacks. He strongly condemned India's cowardly assault, noting that such acts of aggression against unarmed civilians were beneath the dignity of any nation.

General Chaudhry highlighted that the enemy, in its cowardice, chooses to attack innocent civilians and populations under the cover of darkness rather than engaging in direct combat with military forces. He raised concerns about India's involvement in terrorism through its proxies in Pakistan, emphasizing that India's military was now directly involved in the spread of terror after Pakistan's ef-



orts to contain terrorists within its borders.

The DG ISPR questioned whether targeting innocent civilians and children could be considered anything other than terrorism, underscoring the undeniable evidence of India's involvement in terror activities. He clarified that Pakistan's military response was measured and targeted solely military objectives, contrasting Pakistan's adherence to international norms with India's blatant disregard for

human life. During the attack, Pakistan's forces successfully downed five Indian aircraft, including three Rafale jets.

General Chaudhry also emphasized the cruelty of India's tactics, pointing out that India's attacks endangered the lives of civilians, including on passenger flights. He cited that 57 flights were in the air during the aerial attack, coming from various countries, which was a reckless risk posed by India. The Pak-

istani military also reported the destruction of seven Indian drones and the capture of two, signaling Pakistan's dominance in the airspace.

Moreover, he referred to India's targeting of critical infrastructure such as the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project, noting that this constituted a violation of international law, particularly the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit attacks on civilian populations and water facilities. General Chaudhry reaffirmed that Pakistan retains the right to defend itself and will not compromise on the security and sovereignty of its people.

He concluded by stating that Pakistan's military and its brave citizens stand united in their resolve, vowing to hold India accountable for every drop of innocent blood shed. Pakistan's armed forces and the nation remain steadfast in their commitment to defending the country against foreign aggression.

US media confirms Pakistan's downing of Indian jets

News Desk

WASHINGTON: The American news agency has confirmed that Pakistan successfully downed several Indian fighter jets in response to India's aggression. AP shared a video showing the wreckage of an Indian plane near Akhnor in occupied Kashmir, along with footage of debris from a second Indian aircraft in the Pulwama district.

The incident followed India's missile attacks on Pakistan during the night, which targeted civilian areas.

In retaliation, Pakistan's military downed five Indian fighter jets, showing its ability to respond effectively and swiftly to external threats.

During a briefing on the Indian aggression, DG ISPR (Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations) highlighted that Pakistan acted solely in self-defense and reserved the right to respond at its chosen time, place, and manner.

In the military response, Pakistan's forces also destroyed Indian drones and multiple quadcopters in sectors such as Baranala, Shakargarh, and Kotli. Additionally, Indian military posts along the Line of Control (LoC), including an Infantry Brigade Headquarters and a Battalion Headquarters, were destroyed.

After suffering significant losses, India raised white flags at several of its posts in the Jura, Chakoti, and Leepa Valley sectors, effectively signaling defeat.

This exchange of military actions underscores the heightened tensions between the two nuclear-armed nations and reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to defending its sovereignty. Would you like to explore the broader geopolitical implications of these military exchanges?

India confirms crash of 3 fighter jets

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: Indian officials have confirmed that three military aircraft have crashed under unclear circumstances, as reported by a leading American publication. A senior Indian security official, speaking to U.S. media on condition of anonymity, stated that while the crashes are confirmed, the causes remain undetermined.

Eyewitness accounts cited by the U.S. magazine say one aircraft crashed in Indian Punjab and another in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Indian forces surrender started waving 'White Flag' at LOC

The Army launched a series of precise, strategically driven artillery strikes on key Indian positions along the contested border, delivering swift and severe impact

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops have reportedly surrendered at two critical posts in the Batal Sector, following a decisive and forceful counteraction by the Pakistani military. Security sources have confirmed that Indian soldiers stationed at Posts 1 and 2 of the Dharmasal post raised white flags—an internationally recognized gesture of surrender—acknowledging the success of Pakistan's retaliatory strikes.

The development comes amid heightened tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, triggered by what Pakistani officials described as unprovoked Indian aggression. In response, the Army launched a series of robust and strategically executed artillery strikes, targeting key Indian positions along the contested border. The impact, according to military insiders, was both swift and severe. Indian positions were engulfed in thick plumes of smoke, as Pakistani firepower inflicted



substantial structural and tactical damage, leaving the enemy scrambling to maintain their ground.

Security officials familiar with the situation stated that Pakistan's operations were not only forceful but carefully coordinated to minimize civilian risk while maximizing pressure on hostile positions. The offensive reportedly dismantled multiple Indian posts, forcing Indian forces into retreat or surrender as their hold on the region weakened under the intensity of the Pakistani response.

The surrender at Dharmasal is being seen by defence analysts as a significant moment, not just for its symbolism but for its poten-

tial to reshape the current military calculus along the LOC. For Pakistan, it marks a clear demonstration of strength and readiness, with officials emphasizing that while the nation seeks peace, it will never shy away from defending its sovereignty with full might.

As operations continue, the situation remains tense but closely monitored. The Pakistani military's message is clear: any act of aggression will be met with a response that is both swift and unyielding. In the complex and volatile terrain of the LOC, where every movement carries strategic weight, the recent developments may very well set the tone for the days ahead.

Erdogan backs Pakistan, offers help to ease tensions

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD/ANKARA: In a crucial telephone conversation between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Turkey reaffirmed its unwavering solidarity with Pakistan amid rising tensions in the region, offering to play a diplomatic role in de-escalating the situation with India.

According to a statement by the Turkish Presidential Directorate of Communications, President Erdoğan extended heartfelt condolences over the lives lost in the recent terrorist attack on May 6 and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured. He emphasized that Turkey stands shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in



these difficult times and will continue its support at all levels.

During the conversation, both leaders discussed in detail the deteriorating regional situation, particularly the increasing friction between Pakistan and India and the broader implications of the May 6 attack. President Erdoğan highlighted the importance of transparent, impartial, and credible international investigations into the attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which both countries have linked to ongoing tensions.

Stressing the need to avoid further provocation, the Turkish leader underscored the importance of resolving disputes through diplomatic means. He reiterated Turkey's readiness to employ all its diplomatic capacities to reduce tensions and contribute to regional peace and stability. President Erdoğan also reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining close communication with Pakistan, stressing that continued engagement between the two countries is essential for preserving peace in the region.

SC restores Army Act, two judges issue dissenting note

The case focused on intra-court appeals contesting the military trials of civilians, particularly related to the May 9 incidents, when military installations were targeted after Imran Khan's arrest

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan, in a significant and controversial ruling, has reinstated the Army Act in its original form, backing the court martial of civilians under specific provisions of the law. The decision was made by a majority of five to two, with Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhel and Naeem Akhtar Afghan dissenting—both voicing strong constitutional concerns over the scope of military jurisdiction and the fundamental rights of citizens.

The case centered on intra-court appeals challenging the military trials of civilians, particularly in connection with the May 9 incidents, during which military installations were attacked following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. With this verdict, the Supreme Court has reversed earlier decisions that struck down sections of the Army Act used to try civilians, specifically reinstating clauses 2(1)(D)(1), 2(1)(D)(2), and 59(4). These provisions



allow for civilians to be tried by military courts under particular circumstances, a legal practice that has long sparked debate in Pakistan's judicial and human rights circles.

While the majority judgment supports the state's stance on military trials for those involved in anti-state violence, the dissenting opinion issued by Justices Mandokhel and Afghan offers a starkly contrasting view. Spanning two pages, their note insists that the Army Act is explicitly intended for members of the armed forces, and not the civilian population. Citing Article 175 of the Constitution, they reiterated that the judiciary's

powers and structure are constitutionally distinct from the executive branch, and must operate independently.

The dissenting judges invoked Articles 10-A and 25 of the Constitution, which guarantee the right to a fair trial and equal protection under the law.

They argued that these rights cannot be suspended, even in times of political crisis. Their opinion firmly stated that civilians accused in connection with the May 9 events must be tried in ordinary courts, not military tribunals, and that those detained should be treated as under-trial prisoners with full access to civilian legal processes.

Bilawal calls India aggressor, defends right to respond

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has asserted that India is the aggressor and Pakistan is the affected country, emphasizing that Pakistan retains its full right to defend itself. In an interview with Arab media, Bilawal clarified that under the United Nations Charter, Pakistan has the complete right to defend itself against any foreign aggression.

Bilawal acknowledged the bravery and courage of Pakistan's armed forces, which successfully downed five Indian aircraft in response to India's attack. He reiterated that Pakistan does not seek



war or conflict, but that India's actions have made it the aggressor and Pakistan the victim. He strongly condemned India for attempting to cover up the massacre of Pakistani civilians by falsely accusing Pakistan of harboring terrorist camps.

Bilawal also raised pertinent questions regarding India's refusal to allow international investigations into the alleged terrorist camps. He pointed out that if such camps indeed existed, why did India reject Pakistan's offer to investigate? He also ques-

Kh Asif says time comes to settle scores with India

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the time has come for Pakistan to "settle the score" with India, suggesting that Islamabad might consider initiating a response to recent cross-border provocations. The federal minister said that India had attempted strikes on several Pakistani cities earlier in the day. "I believe Pakistan should now repay the debt. We will have to settle this account — perhaps even take the first step ourselves," he said.

Asif stressed that if Pakistan were to respond, it would be with justification. "Now, if we give India a response, we have a sound reason for it. But we will not target civilians. That is not



who we are." He claimed Pakistan's military actions were limited to targeted strikes. "We had the option to hit civilian populations, but we deliberately chose to focus only on military targets," he added.

The minister also pointed fingers at armed groups, alleging that banned outfits like the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were

being supported by India. "These groups are feeding off Modi's hand — they survive on his money and his favors," he said.

He criticized India's regional conduct as well, saying, "India is constantly at odds with its neighbors — sometimes it's Nepal, then Sri Lanka, or Bangladesh. New Delhi seems to have issues with everyone in the region."

Dar pushes OIC for action over Indian aggression

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has contacted the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to brief him on what Pakistan has called unlawful and provocative Indian airstrikes.

According to the Foreign Office, Dar held a telephone conversation with OIC Secretary General Houssein Ibrahim Taha late last night, during which he strongly condemned India's recent attacks, calling them a clear violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and "tantamount to a declaration of war."

"These illegal strikes by India have claimed the lives of innocent civilians and put regional peace at grave risk," Dar told the OIC chief. He appealed to the international community to take a clear stance on the matter and urged the OIC to take serious notice of Indian aggression.



Dar also raised concerns over the rising trend of Islamophobia, particularly in India and Indian-administered Kashmir.

"Violence and hate attacks against Muslims are increasing," he said, pointing to growing hostility faced by Muslim communities in the region.

In response, Secretary General Taha expressed condolences over the loss of innocent lives and extended prayers for the swift recovery of those injured. He reaffirmed the OIC's solidarity with Pakistan and reiterated the organization's continued support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The dispute over Jammu and Kashmir must be resolved fairly," he said, echoing the long-standing OIC position on the issue.

Trump offers to mediate Pakistan-India dispute

News Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has offered to help ease the growing tension between Pakistan and India, urging both nuclear-armed neighbors to show restraint and avoid further escalation.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said he was deeply concerned about the situation. "I have good relations with both. I know them well, and I want them to sort this out themselves — but this is a very dangerous situation," he said. Trump noted that both countries had been retaliating against each other in recent days and expressed hope that the cycle would now stop. "Pakistan and India are trading responses — I hope they stop now," he said.

The US President made it clear that while he preferred both countries to resolve the matter independently, he was ready to step in if needed.

IMF to review Pakistan's progress under funding program

IMF spokesperson confirms meeting date May 9, as board prepares to evaluate Pakistan's progress on EFF agreement targets

News Desk

NEW YORK: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that its executive board will meet on 9 May to review Pakistan's progress under the current funding program. This meeting will focus on the country's performance under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), a financial assistance program designed to help Pakistan implement essential economic reforms.

An IMF spokesperson confirmed the meeting date and outlined that the board will assess Pakistan's efforts to meet the targets set out in the EFF agreement.



These reforms, which are crucial for the country's economic stability, have been an essential part of the IMF's support, aiming to address Pakistan's pressing fiscal challenges and to foster sustainable growth. The IMF's continued backing is

seen as a key element for stabilizing the economy amidst a challenging environment.

In addition to the economic review, the IMF also addressed the recent surge in tensions between Pakistan and India, both nu-

clear-armed neighbors with a long-standing history of rivalry. The IMF spokesperson expressed concern over the rising tensions, urging both nations to seek a peaceful resolution and work towards de-escalating the conflict. This remark highlights the IMF's broader interest in global stability, emphasizing that regional conflicts can have serious economic ramifications that extend beyond the immediate area of dispute.

Despite the political and security uncertainties plaguing the region, the IMF reiterated its commitment to supporting Pakistan's economic recovery. The IMF's

endorsement of the EFF program comes at a time when the country is grappling with internal challenges, but the institution remains hopeful that the reforms will help set Pakistan on a path to greater economic resilience.

As the executive board convenes in May, all eyes will be on Pakistan's progress and whether it can meet the necessary benchmarks that will secure the next tranche of IMF funding. The outcome of this meeting will be critical, not just for Pakistan's immediate economic health, but for its long-term prospects in the international financial arena.

Experts stress need for mental health support to women

By our correspondent

LAHORE: A meeting of health professionals was held in Lahore to discuss strategies for enhancing mental health care and support services across Pakistan. The meeting featured a panel of experts, including Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Gondal, Director General Health Punjab, Professor Nusrat Husain from the University of Manchester, Uzma Omer from the Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL), and Muhammad Umar Awan, Deputy Project Director.

The meeting focused on the urgent need to improve mental health services, especially in the context of breast cancer recovery, and the broader implications for public health in Pakistan. Professor Husain emphasized the critical challenge breast cancer continues to pose for women in Pakistan. She stressed that while physical treatment is vital, addressing the emotional and psychological aspects of recovery is equally important.

"Breast cancer isn't just about physical health—it also deeply affects a woman's emotional and mental wellbeing," said Professor Husain. She added that the program is designed to offer holistic support, offering hope and comprehensive care for women on their recovery journey. In addition to this, the program will collaborate with Lady Health Workers to raise awareness and extend its reach, particularly in areas with limited access to mental health professionals, where breast cancer diagnoses are often delayed.

Israeli airstrikes devastate Gaza, 34 dead, 145 injured

News Desk

GAZA: Israeli airstrikes on Gaza have claimed the lives of at least 34 Palestinians and left 145 others injured, according to reports from Palestinian media. The Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed that rescue teams recovered the bodies of four victims from the debris of buildings reduced to rubble following the strikes.

These recent fatalities bring the toll from ongoing violence to an even more staggering figure, underscoring the dire humanitarian crisis unfolding in the region. The Ministry's latest update paints a grim picture of the toll taken on Gaza's population since the Israeli attacks began on March 18.

To date, at least 2,545 Palestinians have lost their lives, and 6,856 have been injured in this round of



airstrikes alone.

The violence, which has intensified since the large-scale Israeli assault commenced in October 2023, has led to devastating losses. In this extended period of conflict, more than 52,653 Palestinians have been killed, while the number of those wounded has soared to 118,897. Furthermore, the Ministry reported that over 14,000 Palestinians remain missing, their fates uncertain amid the de-

struction.

These escalating casualties highlight the ongoing and brutal nature of the assault, which has left Gaza in a state of constant devastation. The scale of the destruction has prompted widespread international calls for an end to the violence, but the cycle of airstrikes and retaliations continues to devastate the lives of countless civilians, adding to the already unimaginable suffering of the Palestinian people.

Gohar accuses RAW of fueling terrorism in Pakistan

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: In a charged address to the National Assembly, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), launched a scathing attack on India's intelligence agency, RAW, accusing it of being the hidden hand behind every act of terrorism targeting Pakistan.

Speaking with an air of firm conviction, the PTI chairman did not mince his words as he thanked the people of Pakistan for their continued resilience, while issuing a stern warning that any further aggression from India would be met with an equally forceful response. His remarks, delivered during a critical session of parliament, reflected a mix of nationalistic defiance and political assertion.

Hyderabad stands against Indian aggression

By our correspondent

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad echoed with chants of solidarity on Wednesday as a massive rally unfolded in the city, drawing participation from all walks of life in support of Pakistan's sovereignty and in response to India's recent military aggression. MQM-P's MPA Ali Khursheedi, declared that the city had risen as one, sending a powerful message of unity to both allies and adversaries.

Khursheedi stated that Hyderabad's resolute participation in the rally demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the country's defense.

Massive rallies show unity in response to India's aggression

By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: In a powerful display of national solidarity, massive rallies were held in Khairpur and at Sindh University to condemn India's recent attack on Pakistan, bringing together communities from all walks of life including minorities, civil society, and academic institutions.

In Khairpur, the Hindu community took the lead alongside the District Admin-

istration, Health and Revenue Departments, Nursing College, Anjuman Tajran, local lawyers, and civil society activists.

The rally, which began at Shuhada Chowk National Bank and culminated at the Press Club, echoed with chants in support of Pakistan and its armed forces while denouncing what participants described as India's cowardly act of aggression. Addressing the gathering, ADC-II Iqbal Hussain Jandran praised the

Pakistan Army's swift response in intercepting and neutralizing Indian drones.

On the same day, Sindh University in Jamshoro staged a large protest rally led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid-ul-Rehman Khuumbati. Joined by senior faculty members and students, demonstrators raised patriotic slogans such as "Pakistan Zindabad" and "Modi Sarkar Murdabad," forcefully rejecting India's provocative actions.

Turkish warship visits boost naval ties with Pakistan

By Zahid Karani

KARACHI: Cemal Sangu, Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye, praised the port call of the Turkish warship TCG Büyükada (F-512) to Karachi as a powerful symbol of the deep and brotherly ties between Türkiye and Pakistan. Speaking at a reception aboard the vessel, hosted by Ambassador Dr. Irfan

Azra Pacheco, Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah, and Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon. Other attendees included Zubair Motiwala, Governor Advisor Tariq Mustafa Khan, Prince Jam Saifi, as well as senior business leaders, naval officials, and dignitaries such as DIG Maqsood Memon.

In his speech, Sangu em-



Meziroglu and Commanding Officer Lt. Cdr. Anil Bilgin, Sangu highlighted that the visit underscores the growing naval cooperation between the two nations, as well as their shared commitment to maritime security, regional stability, and international peace.

The reception was attended by a wide range of distinguished guests, including Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Senator Nasrin Jalil, Federal State Minister Fahad Haroon, Sindh Minis-

terphasized the centuries-old historical and cultural ties between Türkiye and Pakistan, describing the relationship as one that transcends words. "Our brotherhood is deeper than the ocean and higher than K2," he said, emphasizing the profound and enduring connection between the two nations. He also highlighted the mutual solidarity that both countries have demonstrated during times of crisis, whether it be an earthquake in Türkiye or a flood in Pakistan.

METRO MATTERS

MQM-P chief praises military response

By our correspondent

KARACHI: In a charged and emotional address to the National Assembly on 7 May 2025, Federal Minister for Education and Chairman of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, hailed Pakistan's armed forces for their decisive and courageous response to India's latest wave of aggression. He declared that Pakistan is not merely a geographical entity but a living ideology sanctified by the sacrifices of over 20 million ancestors.

Dr. Siddiqui condemned India's military adventurism, referencing the recent flare-up in Pahalgam and warning that the Indian establishment had gravely misjudged Pakistan's resolve. "Last night, India learned that Pakistan may not seek conflict, but when provoked, it responds with strength and unity," he said, drawing applause from the house.

He stated that India had made a "strategic miscalculation" by attacking Pakistani territories, which only served to unify the Pakistani nation—from its leaders to its mothers, sisters, and daughters—around the armed forces. He saluted the military's precision and resolve, crediting their actions for not only repelling the assault but turning India's calculated aggression into a complete failure.

Concluding his speech, Dr. Siddiqui saluted the bravery of the soldiers on the frontlines and paid tribute to the lives lost in defending the nation. He reserved particular praise for the reported downing of Indian Rafale fighter jets, stating that such victories are not just tactical but symbolic of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its sovereignty.

Adnan Aks launches debut Na'at collection 'Aks-e-Madhat'

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The literary landscape of Karachi was graced with reverence and poetic fervour as Bazm-e-Naseer Koti, in collaboration with the Arts Council of Pakistan District Central, hosted the launch ceremony of Aks-e-Madhat, the debut Na'at collection by emerging poet Adnan Aks.

The evening soon unfolded into a thoughtful celebration of Adnan Aks' Naatia verses, with literary tributes pouring in from contemporary poets including Obaidullah Sagar, Syed Anwar Javed Hashmi, Maqbool Zaidi, Hamid Ali Syed, Mahtab Alam Mahtab, and Adnan Zair.

Dr. Noor Sahampuri eloquently summarized critical reviews penned by the late Naseer Koti, Majid Khali, and Arif Mansoor, drawing attention to the spiritual and literary value of Aks-e-Madhat and the growing contribution of Adnan Aks in the city's poetic circles.

In a heartfelt gesture, Adnan Aks presented copies of Aks-e-Madhat to the distinguished guests, before the gathering transitioned into the second segment—a spiritually charged Na'at Mushaira.

A Na'at Mushaira, also presided over by Qamar Warsi and Sajid Rizvi, featured special guests Obaidullah Sagar, Asif Raza Rizvi, and Akhtar Saeedi, and honored poets Maqbool Zaidi, Salman Siddiqui, and Zahid Hussain Johari. A constellation of accomplished voices adorned the session, including Syed Anwar Javed Hashmi, Hamid Ali Syed, Asad Zafar, Asi Sultani, Nooruddin Noor, Ikram Akram, Saeed Ahmad Khan, Mahtab Alam Mahtab, Naem Ansari, Shabina Gul Ansari, Huma Sariah, Zubair Kamali Sultani, Imad Alam Ashar, Nazir Fatemi, Fahd Zai Toor, Mahmood Hassan Taban, Adnan Zair, Nemat Muntasha, Zulfikar Ali Parwaz, and Adil Karachiwala.

Student artworks shine at Ilma University's Art Expo

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Ilma University's Faculty of Media & Design recently hosted a vibrant and colorful showcase of student talent through the "Ilma Art Expo," an exhibition that highlighted the innovative work of students from the BS Fashion and Media Science programs across all four academic years. The event celebrated the spirit of creativity and artistic expression, offering an impressive collection of diverse artworks.

Professor Dr. Yasmin Sultana Farooqi, the Dean of the Faculty, expressed her pride in the breadth of the works on display, which ranged from traditional paintings and diamond embroidery to more contemporary items such as decorative calendars, designer purses, jute bags, lamps, bed sheets, cushions, and dresses. These creations demonstrated the students' versatility and depth of artistic skill, blending functionality with artistry.

Dr. Farooqi was quick to recognize the pivotal role played by faculty members in nurturing the students' artistic visions. Faculty members Tayyaba Rahat, Tahira Zohaib, Dur Shehwar, and Huma Riaz were commended for their exceptional mentorship and guidance, which allowed students to push the boundaries of their creative potential and bring their ideas to life in such a professional manner.

The opening of the expo was graced by several key figures from Ilma University, all of whom expressed strong support for the students' artistic endeavors. Chancellor Nauman Abid Lakhani, President Faraz Lakhani, Pro-Chancellor Hammad Tahir, Vice Chancellor Professor Mansoor Uz Zafar Dawood, and Registrar Syed Kashif Rafi attended the event. Also present were members of the Board of Governors — Adnan Lakhani, Dr. A.Q. Mughal, Dr. Fahd Lassi, Colonel (R) Tahir, Farhan Essa, Dr. Muhammad Asif, Sahibzada Jehanzaib Khan, and Naem Khan — who offered their encouragement for the celebration of student creativity and excellence.

IU & KEC host seminar on press freedom, ethics

By our correspondent

KARACHI: A seminar titled "Media Justice" was recently held at the EDC Main Campus of Iqra University to commemorate World Press Freedom Day and celebrate the founding anniversary of the Karachi Editors Club (KEC).

The event, organized by the Department of Media Sciences at Iqra University in collaboration with KEC, brought together senior journalists, legal experts, media professionals, academics, and students, fostering a rich dialogue on the intersection of media, justice, law, and digital transformation in Pakistan. The day-long seminar focused on pressing issues such as press freedom, media ethics, misinformation, and the evolving landscape of journalism in the digital age.

Professor M. Rashid Akbar, Head of the Department of Media Studies at Iqra University, and Mubasher Mir, President of the Karachi Editors Club, delivered the opening remarks. They both highlighted the need for academic platforms that promote critical thinking among emerging media professionals. Professor Akbar remarked, "In an era of information overload, discussions around journalistic ethics, accountability, and the legal environment surrounding media are more crucial than ever."

The seminar featured five engaging panel discussions, each offering valuable insights on different aspects of media justice. One of the discussions, titled "Media & Judiciary," was chaired by Justice (Retd) Nadeem Akhtar and moderated by anchor Sana Hashmi. It examined the complex relationship between media coverage and judicial proceedings, with panelists including Barrister Shahida Jamil, Zia Awan, and Senator Nihal Hashmi.

Another panel, "Digital Media," focused on the changing digital landscape, the rise of influencer reporting, and the implications of independent blogging. This discussion was moderated by Sana Hashmi, with panelists such as Nazakat Ali, Syed Khalid Mahmood, and Syeda Hoor Shumail.

JDC chief slams Indian attack, praises Pakistan army

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Zafar Abbas, the head of JDC Foundation Pakistan, has strongly denounced the Indian military's covert night-time assault, labeling it a cowardly and shameful act. In a formal statement, he expressed outrage over the attack on innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, and questioned the motives behind such barbaric actions.

Abbas commended the swift and courageous response of Pakistan's armed forces, stating that the brave soldiers of the Pakistan military delivered a decisive and fitting retaliation. He highlighted that Pakistan's forces successfully shot down five Indian aircraft, including advanced Rafale fighter jets, and a combat drone, calling this a powerful reminder of India's limitations. Abbas pointed to India's so-called "Operation Sandhu" as a complete failure.

The Economist editor calls Pakistan's response blow to India

News Desk

KARACHI: Shashank Joshi, the editor of The Economist, commented on the significant losses reportedly suffered by the Indian Air Force after Pakistan's timely and effective response. Joshi noted that if Pakistan's forces have indeed shot down Indian aircraft, it would mark a substantial blow to India's aerial capabilities.

In his statement on social media platform X, Joshi referenced reports from major outlets such as The New York Times, Reuters, and the Hindu, all citing Indian officials indicating that three Indian aircraft were downed. The pilots of these planes have been reported to be in hospital, though the exact details surrounding their condition remain unclear.

This comes after a retaliatory strike by Pakistan following an attack by India on its territory. During the night, Pakistan's Air Force reportedly downed five Indian warplanes, which had targeted civilian areas, including missile attacks.

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Restoring ‘Army Act’

In an era of increasingly polarized political tempers and a visibly strained social fabric, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has made a ruling that is as consequential as it is controversial. By restoring the Army Act in its original form and thereby endorsing the court martial of civilians under particular clauses, the apex court has reignited a long-smoldering debate over the delicate boundary between military might and civilian rights. The 5–2 split decision, with Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhel and Naeem Akhtar Afghan dissenting, not only brings into question the interpretation of constitutional principles, but it also raises profound concerns about the very nature of justice in a democratic society.

At the heart of the matter lie the intra-court appeals filed to challenge the legality of military trials for civilians—appeals which gained urgency following the events of 9 May 2023. On that day, following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan witnessed a series of attacks on military installations. These attacks, viewed by the state as organized acts of anti-state violence, prompted swift and forceful legal responses. The reinstated clauses—2(1)(D)(1), 2(1)(D)(2), and 59(4)—effectively allow civilians to be tried in military courts under particular conditions. But what has been deemed necessary by the state has been interpreted as a constitutional misstep by others, most notably the dissenting judges.

In a restrained yet powerful two-page note, Justices Mandokhel and Afghan articulated what many legal and human rights advocates have argued for years—that military justice cannot, and should not, apply to civilians. Their dissent is anchored in constitutional interpretation, notably Article 175, which establishes the judicial branch as independent of the executive. This independence is not merely symbolic; it is structural and functional, and is meant to serve as a bulwark against authoritarian overreach. For the dissenting judges, this independence is compromised when military tribunals—an executive domain—are allowed to extend their jurisdiction into civilian space.

They also invoke Articles 10-A and 25, cornerstones of Pakistan’s legal architecture that guarantee the right to a fair trial and equal treatment under the law. These are not abstract principles. They speak to the very essence of what it means to be governed under a rule of law. The dissent makes the case, clearly and unapologetically, that the rights of the accused in the wake of the 9 May incidents remain intact regardless of the gravity of the allegations. A fair trial, public scrutiny, and access to civilian legal representation are not privileges—they are rights. And rights, the Constitution insists, are not to be suspended simply because the state feels threatened.

But the majority of the bench disagreed. Their position, though not yet accompanied by a detailed reasoning, appears to follow the state’s argument that extraordinary circumstances—such as organized attacks on military infrastructure—warrant extraordinary legal mechanisms. In this view, military courts are not being used to bypass justice but to ensure it is delivered swiftly and decisively in situations where national security is perceived to be at risk. To temper the implications, the Court has asked the federal government to introduce legislation within 45 days that would allow for appeals against military court verdicts to be heard in civilian High Courts. It is a halfway gesture, an attempt to mollify critics by providing a mechanism of review, while not undoing the controversial reinstatement itself.

Yet, this compromise may prove too thin for those who view the military’s reach into civilian legal matters as a persistent threat to democracy. Military courts, by their nature, are opaque. Proceedings are often held in secrecy, defendants may have limited access to counsel, and verdicts are typically immune from public or media scrutiny. These are not mere procedural defects—they strike at the heart of democratic accountability. Legal analysts and constitutional scholars warn that this ruling could deepen the country’s internal contradictions, particularly in a climate where civilian institutions already operate under immense pressure. The events of 9 May have become a kind of crucible, testing not only the resilience of Pakistan’s political order but the maturity of its constitutional commitment to civilian supremacy.

That the judiciary would choose this moment to legitimize military jurisdiction over civilians will likely be seen, by many, as a troubling retreat from democratic norms. Still, the directive to create a legal avenue for appeal introduces a slim ray of hope. If implemented transparently and robustly, such a measure could at least offer a modicum of judicial oversight over military verdicts. But that is an enormous if. Pakistan’s history is replete with well-intentioned legal reforms that have faltered in execution. Without genuine political will and an unwavering commitment to civilian rights, even the promise of appeal could become another hollow formality. The truth is, Pakistan cannot afford to keep redrawing the line between civilian and military authority each time a crisis unfolds.

Such ad hocism undermines not only the Constitution but also the public’s trust in institutions. If civilians are to be tried under laws devised for soldiers, then the line between state and citizen becomes dangerously blurred. And in that blurring, rights are too easily erased, and justice too easily deferred. The Court’s detailed rationale will shed more light on the thinking that led to this decision. Until then, what remains is a country wrestling with the implications—political, legal, and moral—of a ruling that may well shape the character of its democracy for years to come.

For now, Pakistan stands at a crossroads once more, asked to choose between the seduction of order imposed from above and the messy, necessary promise of justice pursued from below.

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

By Uzma Ehtasham



In the annals of military history, this week may well be remembered as a turning point—one where the narrative of aggression was reversed with both force and clarity. India, having launched what it described as a “precision” strike under the cover of darkness, targeted multiple civilian areas in Pakistan, including Muzaffargarh, Kotli, Bagh, Ahmedpur East, Muridke, and Bahawalpur. The consequences were devastating. Yet, in a dramatic turn, India found itself hoisting a white flag at the Line of Control’s Jua complex. This act, though symbolic, marked a rare and implicit admission of military failure—a moment of reckoning in a region that has long been a flashpoint of tension, often teetering on the edge of full-scale conflict.

Initial reports confirmed the tragic loss of at least eight civilian lives, with 35 others injured. The missile strikes did not discriminate, hitting residential quarters, and even mosques. Pakistan was quick to condemn the attack, calling it not only an act of cowardice but a deliberate escalation. In the Nikyal Sector, the shelling claimed the lives of two young siblings—an indelible reminder of the human cost of such gambits. But what followed was a demonstration of Pakistan’s resolve. Its military response was swift, calculated, and unyielding. Rather than re-

treating into diplomatic parlance, Pakistan’s armed forces launched a counteroffensive that would prove to be decisive and, importantly, effective.

The Pakistani military targeted Indian installations with precision, striking key military facilities in Kupwara, Baramulla, Rajouri, Kargil, Leh, Poonch, and Akhnoor. These strikes, though not as publicly visible as India’s, were far more significant in their strategic implications. Pakistan’s military made it unmistakably clear that it not only had the will but the capability to respond in kind, if not with greater force.

And then came the response from the Pakistan Air Force, a display of air superiority that would send shockwaves through India’s military apparatus. Six Indian aircraft were brought down, including three Rafales, one Sukhoi, and one MiG fighter. By early morning, the confirmed kills numbered five. Additionally, Pakistan’s forces reported the destruction of several drones, quadcopters, and even a brigade headquarters in the Dhanial sector. Perhaps most telling of all, all Pakistani aircraft returned to base safely.

As the fog of war began to lift, the psychological toll on India’s forces became apparent. Panic spread through its ranks and strategic command posts, a visible reflection of the uncertainty gripping the Indian military. For a nation with a reputation for military might, this was a humbling moment, one where the balance of power was subtly but decisively tilted.

Pakistan, recognizing the gravity of the

situation, responded not only militarily but also diplomatically. The nation closed its airspace for 48 hours, redirecting international flights and placing its air defence systems on high alert. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in an emergency meeting with the National Security Council, underscored the seriousness with which Islamabad viewed the breach of the Line of Control. His advisor, Tariq Fatemi, went as far as to describe India’s symbolic white flag as an unambiguous admission of military failure. For Fatemi, it was a stark reminder of Pakistan’s superiority in key areas—defence, intelligence, and diplomacy—during this crisis.

But the international community, too, could not remain passive. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres issued a statement expressing deep concern over the rising tensions, emphasizing that a full-scale war between nuclear-armed nations in South Asia posed a dire risk to global peace.

His office’s statement came in the wake of India’s own claim to have struck nine targets within Pakistan. While these claims remain unverified, they nevertheless signal a dangerous escalation that could spiral out of control.

At this juncture, diplomatic overtures from the United States to both Islamabad and New Delhi highlighted the growing urgency of the situation. The world, it seems, is waking up to the reality that the conflict in South Asia is not a mere bilateral issue; it is a global one, with the potential to destabilize

the region—and beyond. But the questions that need to be asked now are not just about de-escalation or immediate ceasefires. Rather, they must address the long-standing issue at the heart of this conflict: Kashmir.

For decades, United Nations resolutions on Kashmir have languished in bureaucratic irrelevance. The international community has failed to act meaningfully on the issue, leaving it to fester and grow, poisoning relations between India and Pakistan and perpetuating cycles of violence. This recent escalation demands more than a mere diplomatic response; it calls for a concerted, sustained effort to address the core issues that have plagued the region for decades. The world must look beyond short-term ceasefire agreements and consider the deeper injustices that lie beneath the surface.

Pakistan has long presented evidence of cross-border terrorism and India’s interference in its internal matters, yet these claims have largely been ignored or dismissed. The time for mere condemnation has passed. The international community now faces a stark choice: to continue to turn a blind eye or to engage in a meaningful way that upholds the very principles of international law and justice.

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By Atiq Raja



In a significant and bold move on the opening day of active hostilities, Pakistan asserted its aerial dominance by downing five Indian fighter jets, including three advanced Rafales, one MiG-29, and one Su-30MKI. This swift and effective military action marked a pivotal moment in the escalating conflict between two nuclear-armed nations, setting the tone for what promises to be a highly charged and perilous standoff. According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Indian aircraft were intercepted and neutralized after they breached Pakistani airspace during attempted offensive operations.

Analysts have speculated that Pakistan’s success in bringing down these high-tech jets was supported by the advanced capabilities of the KORAL Electronic Warfare System, developed by Turkey. The KORAL system is known for its ability to jam enemy radar and communication systems, effectively making hostile aircraft vulnerable to missile engagement. While the ISPR has not officially confirmed the use of foreign technology in the operation, the precision and efficiency of Pakistan’s air defense systems have led many to believe that such capabilities were in-

strumental in the outcome of the encounter.

The downing of these aircraft, particularly the French-made Rafales and Russian-designed MiG-29, has significant tactical and symbolic value. Not only did Pakistan successfully engage high-value assets from two of the world’s leading arms exporters, but the operation also sent a clear and powerful message about Pakistan’s military capabilities. In a region fraught with tension and volatility, this demonstration of air superiority underscores Pakistan’s readiness to respond decisively to any perceived threats to its sovereignty.

The use of sophisticated electronic warfare systems, in particular, has shifted the strategic narrative. While much of the world has been focused on traditional military might, this incident highlights the increasing importance of technological superiority in modern warfare.

The integration of advanced systems that can disrupt enemy communications and radar capabilities offers a distinct edge in a conflict where both sides possess nuclear arsenals. By neutralizing Indian aircraft in such a targeted manner, Pakistan not only protected its airspace but also showcased its ability to operate cutting-edge military technology with precision and discipline.

International attention has been sharply drawn to the events of Day One. Analysts and military experts around the world are

closely monitoring the situation, acknowledging the significance of the operation in both tactical and geopolitical terms. Pakistan’s response has reinforced its commitment to strategic deterrence, sending a strong message to both India and the international community that the nation is prepared to defend its sovereignty with a combination of traditional military strength and modern technological advancements.

This initial confrontation has broader implications as well. The success of Pakistan’s air defense forces could act as a stabilizing factor, at least in the short term, by making it clear that any military escalation will come at a high cost. For both sides, the knowledge that such advanced air defense systems are operational could force a re-evaluation of tactics and strategies. While the regional balance of power remains fragile, the demonstrated effectiveness of Pakistan’s military response might deter further immediate escalation, giving diplomats a chance to work towards de-escalating the crisis.

Moreover, Pakistan’s ability to engage and neutralize sophisticated fighter jets in a matter of hours also highlights the broader transformation of the country’s defense capabilities. The integration of advanced systems, alongside highly trained personnel, represents a significant leap forward in Pakistan’s defense strategy. Such military actions contribute to shaping not only national security policies but also regional geopolitics.

assess the evolving power dynamics in South Asia.

For Pakistan, the events of Day One are a reminder of the country’s growing defense capabilities, the professionalism of its military forces, and the importance of technological integration in modern warfare. It also serves as a clear statement of resolve: Pakistan is not only vigilant but fully equipped to protect its sovereignty against any external threat. As the situation unfolds, the world will undoubtedly be watching, knowing that the actions taken in the coming days and weeks could set the stage for a broader conflict—or perhaps an eventual shift toward diplomatic negotiations aimed at de-escalating the crisis.

In conclusion, the downing of five Indian aircraft on the opening day of hostilities represents more than just a tactical victory for Pakistan. It is a powerful message of military readiness, technological advancement, and strategic resolve. As the global community continues to watch the developments unfold, the events of Day One have already become a defining moment in the conflict, setting the stage for what could be a critical turning point in the relationship between two nuclear-armed nations.

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By Dr. Cha Du Hyeon



Since October 2019, when North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected the Mount Geumgang tourist area, the country has been subtly pursuing tourism as a way to rejuvenate its economy. However, this drive to boost tourism in North Korea is not simply about economic survival. Instead, it reflects Kim’s ambition to distinguish himself from his predecessors and demonstrate development achievements, particularly as he continues to assert his authority and legitimacy in the face of international isolation. His personal visits to the Wonsan-Galma coastal area and Samjiyeon near Mount Baekdu in July 2024 further underscore his commitment to this endeavor. But as history shows, North Korea’s tourism sector has faced significant hurdles, leaving Kim with hard lessons to reckon with.

One of the fundamental challenges North Korea faces is the gap between its scenic natural landscapes and the infra-

structure required for thriving tourism. While the country’s natural beauty holds promise, the success of tourism cannot rest solely on breathtaking views. Tourists, especially in the modern world, seek more than just picturesque settings. They want to experience history, culture, and the local way of life. Whether for luxury seaside resorts or simpler getaways, travelers today also seek opportunities to shop, explore, and connect with the community. North Korea’s tourist offerings have failed to meet these expectations in the past. Projects like inter-Korean tourism initiatives at Gaesong and Mount Geumgang faltered largely due to the regime’s preference for isolating tourists from the local population, creating an environment where engagement with local culture and people was minimal.

This tactic, while providing security for the regime, stunted the potential growth of a robust, interactive tourism industry. Moreover, to succeed, tourism must foster an environment where local residents view it as a positive force. They must see the economic benefits directly impacting their lives. This wasn’t the case with previous initiatives. In Gaesong and Mount Geumgang, North Ko-

rean residents grew suspicious that the tourism funds were diverted for the development of weapons programs, including nuclear arms, rather than benefiting the people. The tourism projects failed to deliver tangible improvements to the local community, and the idea that tourism could boost livelihoods quickly dissipated.

Residents even feared that their homes and livelihoods might be compromised for the sake of foreign visitors—such was the case with the Gaesong Industrial Complex, where local populations were relocated for economic or strategic purposes. This bred resentment, which ultimately undermined the very goal of tourism development. For tourism to succeed in North Korea, there is also the matter of sanctions. The United Nations has imposed over ten resolutions against the regime, which makes it nearly impossible for the country to engage in large-scale tourism development with foreign partners. The flow of investments, crucial for the development of infrastructure, is severely restricted. For Kim Jong-un’s strategy to work, the international community would need to see significant changes in the regime’s stance—particularly regarding its

weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms.

Lifting these sanctions would be a prerequisite for any sustainable development in tourism. Furthermore, for tourism to thrive, North Korea must demonstrate a commitment to reform and openness, redirecting tourism revenues toward infrastructure that benefits the public, not just the regime’s weapons programs. To truly bring tourism to life in North Korea, the regime will have to go beyond cosmetic developments. The challenge lies not only in offering scenic beauty but in fostering an environment where engagement, trust, and interaction between tourists and local communities are possible. Without such genuine openness, any tourism development would remain nothing more than a hollow attempt to legitimize the regime, turning what could be a lifeline for the economy into another tool for its own self-preservation.

The writer is a North Korea studies expert with extensive research on North Korean politics and military affairs, the US-ROK Alliance, and National Crisis Management. He is a principal fellow at the Asian Institute for Policy Studies and can be reached at news@metro-morning.com

By Nadia Gul Baloch



Security issues in Pakistan have deeply influenced its political landscape, leaving an indelible mark on the country’s governance and policy-making. The interplay between internal security challenges and political dynamics has shaped not only the day-to-day operations of the government but also the very fabric of the nation’s political discourse. Over the years, the political elite, security forces, and the general public have found themselves locked in a complex dance where immediate security concerns often take precedence over long-term development goals.

Pakistan’s security landscape is fraught with challenges, ranging from terrorism and insurgencies to cross-border conflicts with neighbouring countries. These issues have dominated the country’s agenda, pushing political concerns such as social welfare, education, and healthcare into the background. The persistent threat of militancy, particularly from groups with transnational objectives, has necessitated a focus on counter-terrorism operations, often at the expense of more conventional political priorities. This focus on security

has not been without its consequences; it has resulted in an overwhelming allocation of resources to defense and intelligence sectors, diverting funds away from the social welfare programs that could address the root causes of instability, such as poverty and illiteracy.

The tension between security and development is particularly evident in the allocation of the country’s budget. While national defense expenditure continues to receive a lion’s share of funding, sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure development often suffer from chronic underfunding. This imbalance not only hinders the country’s economic growth but also perpetuates a cycle of instability. When basic services are neglected, it becomes increasingly difficult to address the underlying socio-economic problems that fuel militancy and discontent.

Political leaders are caught in a difficult balancing act. They are tasked with responding to the immediate security threats that dominate the national agenda while also addressing the long-term developmental needs of the country. The challenge is further complicated by the fact that security concerns often have a political dimension. For instance, political parties may be reluctant to take bold stances on certain security policies for fear of alienating key constituencies or facing backlash

from powerful military or security actors. Additionally, some political parties may exploit security issues to rally nationalist sentiment, creating an environment where political discourse becomes heavily skewed towards defense and militarization, rather than addressing broader national issues.

Furthermore, the complex nature of Pakistan’s political environment—characterized by diverse political parties, ethnic groups, and regional disparities—often complicates the formulation of a unified national security strategy. At times, political leaders seem unable to find common ground on security-related matters, leading to fragmented and often contradictory policies. This disunity can undermine the effectiveness of security initiatives and hamper the ability of the state to respond to security threats in a coordinated manner.

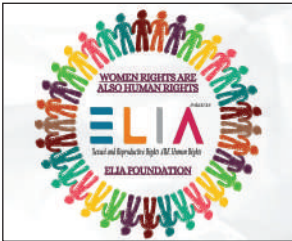
Addressing the security challenges that Pakistan faces requires a collaborative effort between political leaders, security agencies, and civil society. The political leadership must ensure that national security priorities are aligned with the broader goals of national development. This means not only investing in defense but also focusing on building a resilient economy and society. A stable political environment is crucial for fostering effective governance. Without stability, it becomes increasingly difficult to address the root causes of ter-

rorism and insurgencies.

Moreover, the role of civil society in this equation cannot be overstated. Civil society organizations, the media, and local communities have a critical role to play in shaping the political discourse surrounding security issues. By advocating for policies that balance security and development, these groups can provide a counterweight to the often overwhelming focus on defense. Civil society also plays an essential role in fostering community engagement and social cohesion, which are vital in preventing extremism and creating a sense of national unity.

In conclusion, Pakistan’s political landscape is intricately linked to its security challenges. The constant threat of terrorism, insurgencies, and cross-border tensions has left its mark on the country’s political processes, often pushing development issues to the periphery. As the nation navigates its security challenges, it must also seek to create a political environment where development and security go hand in hand. Only through a concerted effort from all sectors—government, military, and civil society—can Pakistan hope to build a more secure, prosperous, and stable future.

The writer is a student and has a keen interest in current affairs and politics, can be reached at news@metro-morning.com



PM warns India of consequences after ‘grave mistake’

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the Pakistani Air Force for striking a blow that would leave an indelible mark, reminiscent of the legendary fighter pilot MM Alam's feats

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has condemned India's aggression the previous night, calling it a "grave mistake" and warning that India will have to bear the consequences of its actions. In an address to the nation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the Pakistani forces had made the skies roar, bringing down five Indian aircraft, which were once symbols of India's arrogance.

The Prime Minister emphasized that these aircraft were now reduced to ash and would serve as a lesson to India. He praised the Pakistani Air Force for striking a blow that would leave an indelible mark, reminiscent of the legendary fighter pilot MM Alam's feats. He also expressed deep sorrow over the civilian casualties resulting from India's cowardly attack, with 26 innocent people, including children, martyred and 46 others injured.



PM Shehbaz particularly mentioned the tragic loss of 7-year-old Irfan Abbas, whose funeral took place just recently. He vowed that every drop of the martyrs' blood would be avenged. He highlighted that Pakistan had shown its ability to deliver a crushing response when provoked, with Pakistani pilots demonstrating exceptional professional skills and courage in downing the Indian aircraft. He praised the leadership of the armed forces, including the heads of the three services, and expressed pride in the nation's military prowess.

Furthermore, Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed that 240 million Pakistanis stand united with their armed forces, filled with pride and respect. He recalled that Pakistan had offered an impartial investigation into the Pulwama incident, but India had chosen to violate international laws through its aggressive actions. He reiterated that the Kashmir dispute would remain unresolved until the Kashmiris are granted their right to self-determination.

He also pointed out that Pakistan, the country most affected by terrorism in the region, has paid a heavy price, losing 90,000 precious lives in the fight against terrorism. He cautioned India that its attempts to divert attention from the war on terror through aggression would not succeed, as Pakistan would continue its fight against terrorism until it reaches its logical conclusion.

He stressed that the military and the people of Pakistan stand united in defending the country.

Army officer's son, martyred in Indian attack, laid to rest

By our correspondent

RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayer for 7-year-old Ertiza Abbas Tori, the son of Lieutenant Colonel Zahid Abbas Tori, was held following his tragic death during India's recent aggressive actions. In the dead of night, Indian forces launched a cowardly attack, targeting civilian populations in areas such as Kotli, Muzaffarabad, and Bagh in Azad Kashmir, as well as in Mureedke and Ahmadpur Sharqia. The attack also led to the destruction of two mosques. As a result of India's aggression, 26 Pakistanis, including two children, were martyred, and 46 others were injured. Among



the victims was young Ertiza Abbas, who was martyred during the attack in the Daurandi area of Azad Kashmir. His funeral was attended by several prominent figures, including President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief General Asim Munir, and Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned India's unprovoked aggression, calling it a cowardly and irresponsible act. He expressed outrage at the targeting of children, women, the elderly, and innocent civilians, describing it as a barbaric example of inhuman behavior.

French Intel confirms Pakistan downed Rafale jet

News Desk

PARIS: A senior French intelligence official has confirmed that Pakistan successfully downed a Rafale fighter jet during a recent operation. According to U.S. media reports, the official spoke to CNN, revealing that French authorities are now investigating whether more than one Rafale jet was shot down by Pakistan.

In the interview, the senior intelligence official confirmed that an Indian Air Force Rafale jet was destroyed in combat by Pakistan, marking the first reported incident of a Rafale being downed. French authorities are exploring the possibility that multiple Rafale jets could have been brought down, although the Indian government has yet to offer an official response to these claims.

The manufacturer of the Rafale aircraft has not responded to CNN's request for comment on the incident.

India conducts civil defense drills

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: India conducted civil defense drills across several cities today. In major cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Dehradun, Shimla, and Chandigarh, civilians, including school children, participated in preparedness exercises, which involved sounding sirens to simulate the warning of an attack.

In some areas of New Delhi, blackout drills were also carried out as part of the routine safety measures. These drills come in the wake of recent tensions between the two countries, marked by India's missile attacks on Pakistan during the night, which targeted innocent civilians. In response, Pakistan's military successfully shot down five Indian fighter jets, three drones, and several quadcopters.

Dar mocks Indian pilots' competence, praising 'Rafale'

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar made a strong statement regarding the ongoing situation with India, emphasizing Pakistan's strategic approach to defense and diplomacy in the face of rising tensions. He acknowledged the praise for India's Rafale fighter jets but pointed out that it was the inadequacy of Indian pilots that had been exposed during the recent confrontations.

Ishaq Dar highlighted Pakistan's use of J-10C jets, developed with China's collaboration, to effectively respond to the Indian threat. He also took a firm stance on the fallout from the Pulwama incident, asserting that India's narrative regarding Pakistan's involvement had crumbled. He emphasized that following the attack, Pakistan had reached out to the leaders of 26 countries to clarify its position and clear any misconceptions.

The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's conscious decision to exercise restraint, stating that despite India's claims, no evidence had been found linking Pakistan to the Pulwama attack. He pointed out the geographical distance between the Line of Control and Pulwama, noting that



the region lies 230 kilometers away from the border, which undermines India's accusations.

Finally, Ishaq Dar condemned India's airstrikes on six locations, which resulted in the tragic deaths of 26 civilians and left 46 others injured. He underscored Pakistan's right to defend itself and its people while reaffirming the nation's commitment to peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan warns of power cuts over India's 'water aggression'

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan may face disruptions in hydropower generation if India is not stopped from what officials describe as "water aggression" stemming from ongoing violations of the Indus Waters Treaty.

More than 27 percent of Pakistan's total electricity generation—roughly 32.4 billion units annually—comes from rivers flowing from Indian-administered Kashmir, particularly the Indus and Jhelum. These rivers are vital



to the country's power supply, fuelling major hydroelectric projects including Tarbela, Mangla, Neelum-Jhelum, Karot, and Ghazi Barotha.

The total annual power production in Pakistan stands at about 120 billion units, with more than 9,000 megawatts generated through hy-

dropower. Officials warn that if India continues to restrict water flow in defiance of the Indus Waters Treaty, the output from these projects could be partially affected—raising concerns over energy security and economic pressure from rising costs of alternative power sources.

Currently, nearly 23 percent of the water in the Indus River enters Pakistan from Indian-held Kashmir, while for the Jhelum River, that figure is even higher at over 62 percent.

PSL PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE



Quetta Gladiators' 109-run win over Islamabad United

By our correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Quetta Gladiators delivered a thunderous statement in Rawalpindi on Wednesday as they crushed defending champions Islamabad United by a massive 109-run margin in match 26 of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 10, courtesy of explosive centuries from Rilee Rossouw and Hasan Nawaz and a ruthless bowling performance.

After being put in to bat, Quetta posted a jaw-dropping 263 for 3—the highest total in PSL history—on the back of a breathtaking 134-run stand between Rossouw and Nawaz that completely dismantled Islamabad's bowling attack. Despite a cautious start and the early dismissal of Finn Allen for 5, Quetta found their rhythm when Saud Shakeel and Rossouw added 36 brisk runs, laying



the platform for what was to come. Saud departed for 23, but the real carnage began once Hasan Nawaz joined Rossouw at the crease. Rossouw unleashed a blistering assault, hammering 104 off just 46 deliveries, peppered with 20 boundaries, including six maximums. He departed just before the 200-run mark, falling to Imad Wasim in the 16th over, but Hasan

Nawaz continued the onslaught, remaining unbeaten on 100 off 45 balls, a knock laced with nine fours and four sixes. Mark Chapman chipped in with a rapid 13* as the Gladiators set Islamabad a mountainous 264 to chase. The Islamabad response never got going. Veteran pacer Mohammad Amir struck a double blow in the opening over, dismissing Kyle Mayers for a duck and

Sahibzada Farhan for just one, sending shockwaves through the United camp. Mohammad Shahzad attempted a counterattack with a brisk 24, but wickets tumbled around him at alarming speed.

Islamabad were reeling at 68 for 8 within nine overs, with only a late partnership between Imad Wasim and Ben Dwarshuis offering brief resistance. Imad's resilient 56 off 41 balls provided some respectability, supported by Dwarshuis' 31 off 24. But the damage was already done. Mohammad Wasim Jr removed Imad in the final over, sealing a dominant Quetta win.

Amir was sensational with the new ball, taking 3 for 6 in just two overs, while Wasim Jr and Abrar Ahmed bagged two wickets apiece. The remaining scalps were shared among Faheem Ashraf, Khurram Shahzad, and captain Saud Shakeel.

PSL proceeds as per scheduled: PCB

By our correspondent

LAHORE: In a resolute show of continuity amid escalating regional conflict, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced that the HBL Pakistan Super League X (PSL 10) will proceed as planned, offering a semblance of normalcy even as military tensions between Pakistan and India threaten to overshadow everyday life. The confirmation came as Islamabad United faced off against Quetta Gladiators at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, with a charged yet defiant crowd filling the stands.

The announcement arrives at a moment of considerable national anxiety. In the past 48 hours, security sources have reported that Pakistan's armed forces shot down five Indian Air Force jets and a combat drone, and struck a brigade headquarters in a retaliatory response to Indian missile strikes on major cities in Punjab and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The hostilities have significantly raised the stakes in the region, pushing both countries to the brink of a wider confrontation.

Yet, in the heart of Rawalpindi, cricket carried on. The stadium buzzed with the energy of fans who showed up not just for the sport, but also to send a message—that life, despite threats at the border, must continue. PCB officials, while acknowledging the seriousness of the evolving situation, said the decision to continue with the tournament was based on consultations with law enforcement and intelligence agencies, all of whom have pledged full support for the safe execution of the remaining fixtures.

The playoff phase of PSL 10 will kick off with the Qualifier match in Rawalpindi on May 13, before shifting to Lahore's iconic Gaddafi Stadium, which will host both Eliminator on May 14 and 16, and the grand Final on May 18. Security arrangements in both cities have been described as "extraordinary," with additional de-



ployment of forces around team hotels, stadiums, and travel routes.

For many in Pakistan, PSL is more than a tournament—it is a celebration of resilience. And with the shadow of conflict looming large, the PCB's decision to keep the tournament on track is being seen as a symbol of national resolve, a gesture that affirms the country's refusal to surrender its cultural heartbeat to the sound of fighter jets and sirens.

In uncertain times, cricket in Pakistan stands not just as entertainment, but as defiance. With fans rallying behind their teams and stadiums echoing with cheers instead of fear, the message is unmistakable—life will go on, and so will cricket.

Russo's historic century shines against Islamabad United

By our correspondent

RAWALPINDI: In a night lit by cricketing brilliance at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Quetta Gladiators' batter Riley Russo carved his name deeper into Pakistan Super League (PSL) history books with a thunderous century that left fans breathless and Islamabad United struggling for answers. In the 26th fixture of PSL Season 10, Russo delivered a masterclass in power-hitting, reaching the coveted three-figure mark off just 44 balls, setting the stadium ablaze with his blistering strokeplay.

The left-hander's 104-run knock, laced with six soaring sixes and 14 commanding boundaries, was a spectacle of fearless batting and pure timing. His relentless assault dismantled the opposition's bowling attack and reminded spectators of why he remains one of the most dangerous overseas players in the PSL. Russo's innings, which ended after just 46 balls, was not just an exhibition of dominance—it was a statement of intent, one that resonated with the roaring crowd in Pindi and fans watching across the globe.

This century was not just another feather in Russo's cap. It was his third in the PSL, making him the foreign player with the most centuries in the league's history. With this milestone, he surpassed a host of renowned international names, securing his place as a legend among foreign imports who have graced the PSL stage over the years.



Russo's performance couldn't have come at a more intense moment in the league, with teams scrambling for playoff spots and the pressure mounting. Yet under the stadium lights, with bat in hand and eyes set on every loose delivery, Russo appeared unfazed—calculated, aggressive, and totally in control. For Quetta Gladiators, a side looking to rediscover the ruthless edge that once made them champions, Russo's knock might well be the defining moment of their campaign.

It was the kind of innings that lifts dressing room spirits, changes the momentum of tournaments, and etches unforgettable memories in the minds of cricket fans. As Rawalpindi rang with chants of admiration and replays of his sixes lit up screens across the country, Riley Russo didn't just play a great innings—he reminded everyone why cricket, at its finest, is part sport and part poetry.

Army Chief praises PAF for foiling India's aggression

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir visited the Air Headquarters and praised the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for thwarting India's aggressive plans. The visit followed Pakistan's successful counteraction against India's aggression, where PAF downed five Indian fighter jets and destroyed several drones and quadcopters.

According to the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), PAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu warmly received Army Chief General

Munir during his visit. General Munir commended the Air Force for its exceptional performance in neutralizing the enemy's aircraft and foiling India's plans of aggression. He specifically acknowledged the professional capabilities of the PAF, highlighting its role in safeguarding the nation's

sovereignty. The Army Chief also praised the coordinated efforts between the three branches of Pakistan's military, reaffirming their collective strength and resolve. He reiterated that any attempt to violate Pakistan's territorial integrity would come at a high cost.