Daily

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

ABC Certified

www.voiceofmillionsqta.com

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Quetta

Muharram ul-Haram 24, 1448 AH | Vol: XIX No. 326 Friday July 10, 2026 | Pages 4, Price Rs. 5 | Ph: 2823307

Vows to eradicate terrorism from Balochistan

PM Shehbaz announces intensified operations against terrorist groups in Balochistan

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed the government's unwavering resolve to eradicate terrorism, amid declaring that the state would continue its operations until the last terrorist was eliminated and all available resources would be mobilised to restore lasting peace and stability in the country.

Chairing the provincial Apex Committee meeting here, the prime minister said the recent wave of terrorist attacks in Balochistan, which claimed the lives of security personnel and civilians, would not weaken the state's determination.

He paid tribute to the martyrs and praised the sacrifices rendered by the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and innocent citizens in the fight against terrorism.

The prime minister said security forces had neutralised 54 terrorists during recent operations, adding that the campaign against terrorists would continue until the complete elimination of "Fitna al-Khawarij."

He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, and expressed confidence that their sacrifices would soon lead to the complete defeat of terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz underlined that hostile elements, particularly Pakistan's eastern neighbour, were providing financial and military support to terrorist groups, while militants were also launching attacks from Afghan territory. He said there were other external actors involved but refrained from elaborating further. He stressed that the country's political and military leadership was united in its commitment to defeat terrorism, saying no effort would be spared in eliminating the menace. He said enemies of Pakistan wanted to undermine the country's growing international stature, diplomatic achievements and recent strategic successes, but their designs would be defeated.

Announcing the outcome of the meeting, the prime minister said that, in consultation with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the Government of Balochistan, it had been decided to intensify efforts against terrorist groups and employ every available resource to restore peace across the province and the country.



QUETTA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addresses the Provincial Apex Committee under National Action Plan to review the security situation in Balochistan.



President Asif Ali Zardari being seen off by President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov at Issyk-Kul International Airport at the conclusion of the latter's official visit to Cholpon-Ata

Govt utilizing all available resources to establish lasting peace in Balochistan: CM Bugti

QUETTA, (VoM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has lauded the bravery, professionalism, and timely actions of security forces following successful operations against terrorists in various parts of the province.

In a statement, Sarfraz Bugti expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Pakistan Army, Balochistan Police, Frontier Corps, and other law enforcement agencies, describing their efforts as a testament to their dedication and skill. He said recent terrorist incidents were part of a planned and malicious conspiracy aimed at destabilizing Pakistan's peace, progress, and national unity. However, he emphasized that the state, government, and people possess the strength and resolve to defeat every such plot. Sarfraz Bugti noted that attempts to undermine Balochistan's peace and development through terrorism had failed in the past and would continue to fail. He highlighted that the courageous response of security personnel had proven that Pakistan's defenders are fully capable of confronting any threat.

Paying tribute to the martyrs, the Chief Minister said their sacrifices for the nation's peace and public safety are a source of pride for the entire country and will be remembered forever. He pointed to successful operations in Kharan and Dalbandin as clear evidence of the state's determination to eradicate terrorism.

Sarfraz Bugti reaffirmed that indiscriminate action will continue against terrorists, their facilitators, and patrons, stressing that no one will be allowed to sabotage Balochistan's peace, future, or ongoing development. "Balochistan is the soul and pride of Pakistan," he declared, vowing that every conspiracy against its stability will be thwarted through unity between the people and the state.



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's wife, Emine Erdogan (right), hosted the wives of the heads of state and government who came to the city for the 36th NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government at Çankaya Palace. Emine Erdogan and Monika Babisova (left), wife of Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis, took a selfie.

Sit-ins in Quetta completely disrupts city's traffic system

QUETTA (ANN): Ongoing sit-ins at two locations in the provincial capital, Quetta, have completely disrupted the city's traffic system, resulting in miles-long queues of vehicles on major roads. Thousands of residents have been forced to endure severe traffic congestion for several hours in extreme heat.

According to details, Airport Road has been completely closed to all types of traffic due to the sit-in, placing extraordinary pressure on the city's main connecting roads. Traffic flow was severely affected on Samungli Road, Sariab Road, Spini Road, the Western Bypass, New Sabzal Road, and several other key roads, where long lines of vehicles were observed.

Citizens said they had been trapped in traffic for hours, causing them severe mental and physical distress. The intense heat, humidity, and prolonged delays further increased the difficulties faced by women, children, the elderly, and sick individuals. Many people were unable to reach their destinations on time, while daily life was seriously disrupted.

The traffic jam also created major difficulties for patients traveling to hospitals and for ambulance services. Citizens expressed concern that delays in receiving timely medical treatment could endanger patients' lives.

Meanwhile, government and private employees, businesspeople, students, teachers, and people from various walks of life were unable to reach their offices, educational institutions, and workplaces on time. As a result, routine life was badly affected, and business activities also slowed down.

Citizens demanded that the relevant authorities immediately take notice of the hardships being faced by the public, address the protesters' demands, take effective measures to restore the flow of traffic, and ensure comprehensive arrangements for alternative routes and traffic management in such situations so that the public does not face further inconvenience.

It is noteworthy that a protest sit-in is continuing at Quetta Airport against the killing of four people and the alleged abduction of several others following firing by armed men in Hanna Urak. Another sit-in is underway at Coal Phatak in protest against the killing of police personnel in Ziarat.

MWL Secretary General calls on CJP Afridi

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League (MWL), called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday.

He was accompanied by a high-level delegation of the Muslim World League and Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan. Senior representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the delegation, the Chief Justice acknowledged the Muslim World League's global contributions in fostering dialogue, promoting the true values of Islam, combating extremism and Islamophobia, and advancing humanitarian initiatives across the Muslim world. He commended the visionary leadership of Dr. Al-Issa in strengthening international cooperation based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and shared human values.

The Chief Justice briefed the delegation on the Supreme Court's ongoing reform agenda, highlighting initiatives aimed at improving access to justice, strengthening institutional transparency, embracing technology-driven judicial services, and enhancing public confidence in the justice system. He emphasized that an independent, efficient, and people-centric judiciary remains fundamental to the rule of law and sustainable development.

Peace in Balochistan central to Pakistan's stability, progress: PM

QUETTA, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was comprehensively briefed on the overall security environment in Balochistan, with a particular focus on recent terrorist incidents, ongoing intelligence-based operations, and measures being undertaken by the military and the law enforcement agencies for the safety and security of the province's people.

The briefing was given during the Prime Minister's visit to Quetta on Thursday along with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ataullah Tarar and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah.

Governor Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhel and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti were also present during the visit.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the Shuhada who rendered the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and expressed solidarity with their families. He reaffirmed the support of the entire nation with its armed forces, law enforcement agencies and the people of Balochistan in the fight against terrorism.

The Prime Minister emphasized that peace in Balochistan is central to Pakistan's stability, progress and prosperity.

People of Balochistan united against terrorism: Home Minister

QUETTA, (APP): Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove on Thursday strongly condemned terrorist attack on Mir Shafiqur Rehman Mengal House in Khuzdar

He said that Anti-peace elements could never succeed in their nefarious objectives, people of Balochistan, tribes and security agencies are united against terrorism.

The Minister said that enemy forces would not be forgiven under any circumstances saying that security agencies are taking vigorous action against terrorists.

He noted that search operation is underway to arrest elements involved in Khuzdar incident, law and order situation would be maintained in Balochistan at all costs, "Entire nation is united in the war against terrorism", he said and added that some anti-peace elements wanted to destabilize peace through sabotage activities which would be foiled by contribution of security forces and public.

Complete elimination of terrorism requires indiscriminate action against anti-peace elements: Khetran

QUETTA, (APP): Former provincial minister and Member of the Balochistan Assembly, Sardar Abdul Rahman Khitran, on Thursday strongly condemned the recent terrorist incidents in Ziarat and Hanna Urak, declaring that those who target innocent civilians and law enforcement agencies deserve no leniency.

Abdul Rahman Khitran paid glowing tribute to the police officers martyred in the terrorist assault on a police checkpoint in Ziarat. He said the martyrs sacrificed their lives for the protection of citizens and the establishment of peace, and their courage would always be remembered by the nation. He also denounced the Hanna Urak attack, stressing that terrorists were enemies of Balochistan's peace, progress, and prosperity.

Opposition seeks emergency plan to restore peace in Balochistan

Pledges to raise public issues inside and outside Assembly

QUETTA (ANN): An important meeting of the opposition parties in the Balochistan Assembly was held under the chairmanship of the Leader of the Opposition, Mir Younis Aziz Zehri. The meeting held detailed discussions on the deteriorating law and order situation in the province, recent incidents of terrorism, highway closures, blockades, and the problems being faced by the public. Parliamentary leaders and members of the opposition parties attended the meeting.

The meeting strongly condemned the attacks in Hanna Urak and Ziarat. Participants offered prayers for the departed souls of those who lost their lives, expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families, and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. The meeting stated that targeting innocent civilians is intolerable and that such incidents are an attack on peace, social harmony, and stability in Balochistan.

According to the meeting's declaration, the law and order situation in Balochistan is worsening day by day and has reached an extremely alarming level. It said that there is hardly any district or highway in the province where people feel completely safe. Citizens continue to face threats to their lives and property, while the frequent closure of national highways, blockades at various locations, passengers being stranded for hours, disruptions to transportation, and incidents of cargo vehicles being set on fire have become routine.

The declaration stated that these conditions are severely affecting Balochistan's trade, economy, interprovincial transportation, and employment.



NEW YORK: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called on United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at the United Nations headquarters

People of Balochistan now demanding right to live: Maulana Haideri

QUETTA (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Central General Secretary and Member of the National Assembly, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, paid tribute to the martyrs of Hanna Urak and Ziarat. He said that it is deeply regrettable and shameful that armed individuals attacked the beautiful valley near Quetta city and also targeted police personnel performing their duty in Ziarat. He said that these martyrdoms are taking place as part of a planned strategy.

He stated that this is not only an issue concerning Hanna Urak and Ziarat, but that the Pashtun and Baloch people are being punished for their coast and natural resources. He said they are being punished for 78 years of loyalty to Pakistan, and that for a long time the Pashtun and Baloch people have been carrying the bodies of their loved ones. According to him, the country has given the Pashtun and Baloch nothing except dead bodies.

He alleged that the "Form-47 government" was imposed to bring more dead bodies.

He further said that fear, terror, and intimidation have been imposed on the tribal people of Hanna Urak, depriving them of a peaceful life. He added that the people of Balochistan are exhausted from attending the funerals of their loved ones and questioned how long they would continue carrying coffins. He said that billions of rupees from taxpayers are allocated for maintaining law and order, yet state institutions have failed to provide security to the public.

Haideri said that those in authority and law enforcement agencies should stop merely repeating the slogan of enforcing the law. He stated that the people of Balochistan are now demanding the right to live and alleged that terrorists have effectively been given a free hand over the lives and property of the people. He said they would no longer remain silent and called on all political parties and tribal elders to unite against what he described as oppression. He warned the government not to mistake peaceful protests and sit-ins for weakness, saying that if a decision is made, there will be a strong public movement.

Guterres 'alarmed' over renewed US-Iran military confrontations

UNITED NATIONS, (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Wednesday sounded alarm at the renewed military confrontations in the Gulf, and called for steps to de-escalate leading to resumption of negotiations aimed at durable solution to the Middle East conflict.

"These incidents risk derailing the diplomatic progress achieved between Iran and the United States," his Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement he read out at the regular noon briefing at UN headquarters in New York.

"The Secretary-General reiterates that a return to full-scale hostilities would have catastrophic consequences—for the peoples of the region, for international peace and security, and for the global economy," the statement said. The UN chief called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint, avoid further escalatory action, and take immediate steps to de-escalate, recalling their obligation to fully comply with international law, including the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and respect for navigational rights and freedoms.

"The Secretary-General urges Iran and the United States to urgently resume negotiations and to address outstanding issues through diplomacy," the statement said, adding, "The United Nations remains committed to supporting all efforts to prevent a return to conflict, restore stability, and advance a comprehensive and durable resolution to this conflict."

Meanwhile, the renewed attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz unsettled energy markets on Wednesday.

THE VOICE OF MILLIONS

Friday July 10, 2026

New avenues for Balochistan's development

In a decisive step toward modern governance, sustainable development, and economic revival, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has once again demonstrated his government's commitment to transforming Balochistan into a progressive, investment-friendly, and people-centric province. Chairing the eighth meeting of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Board, the Chief Minister outlined a forward-looking strategy focused on economic stability, environmental responsibility, and improved public welfare.

The meeting reflected a clear reality: the Balochistan government is no longer relying on outdated administrative models but is actively embracing innovation, private sector collaboration, and sustainable planning to accelerate development across the province. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, the province is steadily moving toward a governance framework that values efficiency, transparency, and long-term public benefit.

A landmark decision taken during the meeting was the gradual conversion of Quetta's Green and Pink Bus Services into electric buses. This initiative is not merely a transportation upgrade; it represents a transformative environmental policy aimed at reducing urban pollution, improving air quality, and introducing modern, safe, and comfortable travel facilities for citizens. At a time when climate concerns and urban congestion are becoming serious global challenges, the Balochistan government deserves appreciation for taking practical and visionary steps toward eco-friendly public transport.

Equally significant was the approval to transition the Chief Minister's Secretariat to solar energy. This move sends a powerful message that the provincial government is leading by example in promoting renewable energy and responsible energy consumption. By reducing dependence on conventional power sources, the administration is not only cutting operational costs but also encouraging a culture of sustainability and environmental consciousness within public institutions.

The PPP Board's decision to establish an Insurance Company Limited under a public-private partnership framework is another strategic initiative with far-reaching economic implications. This project is expected to strengthen the financial sector, attract investment, and create fresh economic opportunities for the people of Balochistan. By opening the door for private sector participation, the government is fostering a business-friendly environment that can help unlock the province's untapped economic potential.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti rightly emphasized that public-private partnerships are essential for ensuring speed, quality, and sustainability in development projects. His vision reflects an understanding of modern economic realities, where collaboration between the state and private investors can deliver faster infrastructure development, better public services, and stronger institutional performance. Importantly, the Chief Minister also underscored the role of private sector engagement in generating employment opportunities. In a province where economic opportunities have long been limited, this policy direction offers renewed hope to the youth and business community alike. Through investment-friendly policies and strategic partnerships, the government is laying the foundation for inclusive economic growth and long-term prosperity.

Another encouraging aspect of the meeting was the Chief Minister's firm directive to authorities to ensure timely implementation and continuous monitoring of approved projects. This demonstrates a serious commitment not only to announcing reforms but also to delivering measurable results to the public. Effective governance is judged by implementation, and the current administration appears determined to ensure that development initiatives translate into real improvements in people's lives.

The participation of senior officials, including Shakeel Qadir Khan, Zahid Saleem, and Dr Faisal, further highlighted the seriousness and institutional coordination behind these initiatives.

The PPP Board meeting marks another important milestone in the provincial government's broader reform agenda. With a strong focus on green energy, modern transport, investment promotion, and sustainable development, the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti is steering Balochistan toward a future defined by progress, opportunity, and public welfare.

Lessons from Iran war - warfare and warfighting

INAM UL HAQUE

Every major war, involving newer weapons, strategies and concepts, redefines warfighting. However, the laws of warfare remain unchanged, as these are essentially the function of human cognition, resources and systems. A lot has been written on the new dimensions and percepts of 'non-contact' warfare after the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in September 2023, the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Indo- Pak stand-off in May 2025 and the US-Israeli war on Iran in June 2025 and recently since February 2026. These conflicts have lessons for militaries, as every war sends strategists and tacticians back to the drawing board. The coalition's ongoing war on Iran demonstrates some interesting insights which this series would attempt to cover, benefiting from AI-based internet research.

Iran's stand-off with the US historically emanates from the Revolution (1979) and the subsequent hostage crisis at the US Embassy in Tehran spanning 444 days. Its recent confrontation with the US-Israel Combine has fundamentally reshaped the employment of hard/ military power in the Middle Eastern context, and the response by weaker adversaries, under overwhelming threat scenarios. This conflict has replaced the traditional doctrine of 'overwhelming force', with a 'smart doctrine' defined by 'asymmetric endurance', 'precision psychological dominance', and 'decentralised lethality'. And interestingly, these newer precepts are shaped by the weaker side, Iran in this case.

One of the first shifts has been the discernible movement from 'Decisive Victory' to 'Strategic Exhaustion'. Iran's military, particularly the IRGC/Pasdaran, has doctrinally moved from 'winning on the ground' to 'making war continuation too expensive'. Prohibition to continue is not because the Coalition lacks the wherewithal to continue, but because it realises the higher stakes of continuing. Iranian inventory of inexpensive Shahed drones forced the Coalition to respond, using multi-million-dollar interceptors, like THAAD and Patriot missiles. Saturation of adversary's AD responses has significantly depleted the US-Israeli interceptor stocks.

Secondly, the conflict gave rise to 'Multi-Theatre' and 'Grey Zone' warfare. Iran conceptually responded to the Coalition's onslaught by spatially extending the battlefield into a vast, interconnected network, up from a single front. IRGC, through its Quds Force, integrated 3H (Hamas, Houthis, and Hezbollah) regional proxies into a resistance arc, spanning the greater Middle East and beyond. The 3H 'strategic triangle', and 'horizontal escalation' of warfare by targeting nations not directly party to the conflict (though a questionable strategic move), created pressure – economic, military and political – to de-escalate. The disruption of global energy supplies literally made every nation a party to the conflict, and an unwilling interlocutor on behalf of Tehran.

Thirdly, warfare crept into public imagination like never before, affecting people in 'Mind' through 'Screens', as modern conflict remains a 'war of perception' besides a clash of arms. Iran dexterously employed digital storytelling and mastered the use of high-quality cinematic propaganda and AI-generated simulations. In addition to influencing global public opinion, Iranian media aimed at demoralising civilian populations in the US and Israel. Likewise, by presenting itself as a resilient defender against overwhelming aggression, Tehran controlled the narrative.

It did so through decentralised social media platforms, challenging Western media's traditional monopoly on information.

Fourthly, this war reinforced 'Defensive Survivability' as an unshaken principle of war. Like always, this conflict also debunked the myth of overwhelming air superiority delivering quick victory, or airpower alone winning the battles. The conflict under drone/ missile environment – also pertinent to Indo-Pak scenario – validated 'asset hardening' and 'deep dispersal'. Iran's strategy, thus, relies on hardened underground 'missile cities', with launchers dispersed and embedded in mountainous terrain, and under natural cover. Mass storage, production and dispersed facilities have made total elimination of resistance capability almost impossible and quickly recouping losses easy. Careful intelligence estimates still account residual capability of Iran's drones and missiles inventory at 50-60%.

Decentralised command, by entrusting local commanders with powers to operate autonomously in case the top leadership is neutralised, prevented chains of command breakdown among civil, military and political leadership. The Israeli 'decapitation' strikes proved less effective than these were in other conflicts, such as the abduction of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro in January by US Special Forces.

Fifthly, warfighting has transitioned to 'Remote' and 'Autonomous' modes, marking the end of 'Proximity or Contact Warfare'. UAVs and missiles are the ubiquitous primary tools with ground forces, which are postured and employable in secondary or tertiary stages.

GPS Spoofing and Cyber Ops including EW (electronic warfare) and cyber disruptions are the new frontiers of warfighting. These new tools, as witnessed, are central to neutralising technologically superior adversaries.

Sixthly, large, conventional assets like tanks and aircraft carriers have been of lesser operational utility, especially the aircraft carriers due to strain from prolonged deployment, constant threats from and vulnerability to low-cost Iranian drone/missile 'swarms', small speedboat, etc. USS Gerald R Ford was rendered into an operational burden and removed from the theatre of operations due to Iranian strikes and fire on board.

Seventhly, as far the geo-strategic and political implications of this conflict go, many geo-strategic truisms stand upended. One, war termination strategy is deadlocked. Militarily superior Coalition and geographically strong Iran, both need an off-ramp. The only superpower badly, and Iran desperately, and both do not agree.

With its prestige online against an overconfident Iran, having deployed its punishing leverages, Washington has no strong cards, contributing to peace.

It still has decisive superiority in National Power Potential (NPP), but it remains constrained due to global outcry and economic fallout of continuing hostilities. And in this game of thrones, the Sino-Russia Combine apparently seems to have the last laugh. Such are the perils of strategic over-reach.

Two, the conflict again validated that overwhelming NPP superiority is never decisive in asymmetric warfare, given the limits on its employment, as cited.

Three, the war validated the concept that 'scale' can compensate for 'qualitative' differential.

Four, even superpowers cannot be immune to logistic snarls/hold-ups. Ammunition and supply woes, increasingly led to brakes on Coalition operations.

Five, counterintelligence has emerged as an inviolable imperative like never before. Six, the erstwhile US naval power can no longer ensure freedom of navigation through strategic choke points like SoH, Bab-al-Mandab, Strait of Malacca, etc, and is forced to prioritise. Seven, maritime blockade is ineffective against countries with friendly neighbours, as Iran's re-supply through legal/illegal trade via Balochistan substantiates.

Continued…

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A new equilibrium

DURDANA NAJAM

The first anniversary of Marka-e-Haq, observed on May 10, 2026, serves as a profound moment of reflection on a conflict that lasted only ninety-six hours but fundamentally transformed the strategic landscape of South Asia.

To understand the weight of this day, one must first grasp the concept of the "Balance of Power" in international relations. This principle suggests that regional stability is only possible when no single nation is strong enough to dominate or bully its neighbours. For nearly a decade leading up to the events of May 2025, this balance had become dangerously tilted. India, bolstered by a massive defence budget and the acquisition of advanced weaponry like the S-400 systems and Rafale jets, began to operate under a cloud of "strategic hubris". There was a growing, mistaken belief in New Delhi that they could launch "limited" military strikes or violate sovereign borders without Pakistan being able to deliver a meaningful response.

Marka-e-Haq was the moment that the see-saw was levelled, proving that a smaller, more agile force could achieve tactical paralysis over a larger adversary through superior strategy and technological integration.

This shift did not occur in a vacuum but was the latest chapter in a long and volatile history between two nuclear-armed neighbours. Since the partition in 1947, relations between Pakistan and India have been defined by a gruelling cycle of brief diplomatic thaws followed by deep freezes and outright conflict. From the conventional wars of the 20th century to the high-altitude standoff at Kargil, the unresolved issue of Jammu and Kashmir has remained the primary flashpoint. However, the years following 2019 saw a dangerous shift toward "unilateralism", where India sought to bypass diplomacy entirely, believing it could simply outmuscle Pakistan on the global stage.

Marka-e-Haq effectively ended this era of intimidation. It served as a reminder that the historical grievances of the subcontinent cannot be buried under piles of military hardware or ignored through diplomatic isolation.

The conflict itself was as much about the narrative as it was about the kinetic exchange of fire.

Historically, India's vast media machine often dominated the global story, frequently using misinformation to paint a one-sided picture. During the conflict, however, the script flipped entirely.

While the Indian media landscape was characterised by confusion and unverified rumours, Pakistan's communication strategy was measured, transparent, and backed by hard evidence. By showing the world the reality of the situation in real time, Pakistan won the "narrative war," proving that in the 21st century, the ability to tell the truth effectively is as vital as the ability to defend one's borders. This transparency prevented the "fog of war" from being used as a cover for further aggression and forced the international community to acknowledge the limits of Indian military adventurism.

Looking toward the future, the legacy of this four-day war with India provides a new, albeit sober, roadmap for bilateral relations. The most significant takeaway is the death of miscalculation; any future leadership in New Delhi must now contend with knowing that Pakistan possesses the capability and the resolve to strike back with devastating precision. This creates a state of "stability through strength", where the certainty of a powerful response acts as a deterrent against reckless behaviour.

Paradoxically, this restored balance makes the region safer, as it establishes clear red lines that cannot be crossed without extreme cost.

As Pakistan commemorates this anniversary, the message to the neighbour remains simple: the path to a prosperous and modern South Asia does not run through the battlefields of the Line of Control. It runs through dialogue, mutual respect for sovereignty, and the recognition that in a nuclear-armed neighbourhood, the only real victory is the prevention of war through a balanced and honest peace.

As we move deeper into 2026, the diplomatic fallout of the 2025 conflict continues to reshape regional alliances. The swiftness and clarity of the military outcome has forced global powers to rethink their "de-hyphenation" of the two nations, signalling to the world that South Asia can no longer be viewed through the lens of a single dominant power.

For Pakistan, this has translated into increased diplomatic leverage, particularly with regional neighbours who now view Pakistan as a reliable and potent security partner.

So, what does this mean for the future of Pakistan-India relations?

First, it means that the era of "unilateralism" is over. India's attempt to ignore Pakistan or "manage" the Kashmir issue through force has reached a dead end. Marka-e-Haq re-internationalised the Kashmir dispute.

Second, it provides "stability through strength". By demonstrating its conventional capabilities, Pakistan has lowered the risk of a full-scale nuclear escalation. When the enemy knows they cannot win a conventional fight without suffering immense damage, they are less likely to start one.

One year later, this brief skirmish between Pakistan and India is remembered not as a celebration of conflict, but as a testament to national resolve.

It was the moment Pakistan stood its ground and ensured that the "Balance of Power" remained just that - a balance.

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Lead in children's blood: a silent national emergency

DR RANA JAWAD ASGHAR

Recently UNICEF and Pakistan's Ministry of Health issued a very alarming report about our children. More than 40% of children in high risk areas have shown high lead levels in their blood. There is no safe level of lead in children's blood.

At a time when we are already dealing with HIV in children - coming into view again and again through multiple outbreaks - who really cares if children in Pakistan are also carrying a dangerous metal in their blood? Whether it is HIV or lead, the question should be the same: why are our children paying the price?

The reality is even more frightening when we look at the bigger picture. Already, nearly 40% of children in Pakistan are severely malnourished and have lower IQ levels. Malnutrition alone affects brain development. Add lead to their blood, and IQ drops further. Lead directly damages the developing brain. Children are the future of the nation, and if our next generations grow up with lower intellect and reduced cognitive capacity, is this not an unnatural loss? Should this not be declared a national emergency?

Children's health is a critical component of the overall health of any nation. Unfortunately, in our context, health usually means clinical care - treatment provided after the damage has already been done, not prevention. In a country of over 240 million people, most of them young, how many child health institutes do we have? How much real research is being done on child health? And here I am not talking about hospital based paediatric treatment, but about preventive child health and environmental risks.

Why should we worry about lead in children's blood? Because it not only damages intellectual growth, it also makes children prone to many other diseases. More than 100 years ago, it was already identified that certain industries cause pollution and are responsible for lead exposure.

Apart from industrial and non industrial pollution, other major sources of lead include contaminated food and spices, old water pipes, lead based paints and, most importantly, battery recycling industries located near residential areas.

The world identified this problem early and introduced regulations to control it. Many countries phased out lead from daily life. Even India has managed to control many major sources of lead exposure, although occasionally news appears about contaminated spices exported abroad. Pakistan and Bangladesh, however, are failing miserably, largely because we simply did not care enough. Better late than never. For the first time, Pakistan, through the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, has taken a welcome step to measure lead levels in young children. At this stage, I will not criticise the authorities, because acknowledging the problem openly is important. It shows that at least we are not afraid to look at the reality.

Our biggest weakness as a nation is that we resist accepting our problems. We argue, deny, and move on - then wonder why nothing improves. Now that the Ministry of Health has identified this issue, the real question is how they plan to resolve it.

It will not be a short term solution. It will require long term strategic planning and multiple partners. Lead polluting industries must be regulated and gradually phased out. At the same time, children in high risk areas must be tested, monitored and managed. Prevention and care must go side by side.

Children are our future, yet they are already being devastated by malnutrition, lead exposure, repeated HIV outbreaks and lack of education. A large number are out of school. All this clearly shows how careless we are about our future. No matter what we say or claim, our actions show that we give very little importance to our children.

Nearly 50% of our future generation is being compromised, threatening our national survival in the long run. Health is a national asset. Whether policymakers pay attention or not, the time will come when everyone will understand its value. The tragedy is that by then it may already be too late.

Please, take care of your children.

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Trump signals future move to take Kharg Island, claims US could control Iran oil infrastructure

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump has suggested that the US could, in the future, take control of key Iranian oil infrastructure, including Kharg Island, as part of a broader strategic approach toward the country's energy sector.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said that "at some point in the not too distant future," the US would consider "taking Kharg Island, and other oil infrastructure points," and assuming "total control" of Iran's oil and gas markets.

He drew a comparison with Venezuela, claiming that US involvement there had been "working out brilliantly for both Venezuela and the United States of America," without providing further details to substantiate the assertion.

He threatened that the US would be "hitting Iran ... VERY HARD TONIGHT."

Talks to reach a deal between the US and Iran are on track despite a recent exchange of strikes, CNN reported on Thursday, citing a diplomatic source.

An exchange of attacks between the US and Iran continued for a second consecutive day, with Trump warning that Washington would launch additional strikes unless Tehran immediately accepts the peace deal.

In a statement, the US Central Command said American forces struck multiple military targets in Iran from late Wednesday into early Thursday, describing the attacks as an act of "self-defence" following the downing of a US helicopter in the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump earlier said Iran had taken too long to negotiate a deal, and would have to pay a price.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that recent US attacks on the country have effectively rendered the April 8 ceasefire "meaningless," warning that Washington would bear responsibility for the consequences of the escalation.

In a statement, the ministry strongly condemned what it described as large-scale US attacks against Iran overnight, calling them a "blatant violation" of the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law.

"The illegal and criminal attacks carried out by the United States in recent hours have not only constituted a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the fundamental rules of international law regarding respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.



Congo motorcyclists mobilise as Ebola outbreak fuels fear.



Protesters gathered outside the Prime Minister's Office in Tirana, Albania.

Iran says
US attacks rendered April ceasefire 'meaningless'

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that recent US attacks on the country have effectively rendered the April 8 ceasefire "meaningless," warning that Washington would bear responsibility for the consequences of the escalation.

In a statement, the ministry strongly condemned what it described as large-scale US attacks against Iran overnight, calling them a "blatant violation" of the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law.

"The illegal and criminal attacks carried out by the United States in recent hours have not only constituted a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the fundamental rules of international law regarding respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, but have also effectively rendered the April 8, 2026 ceasefire meaningless," the ministry said. It also criticised the continued use of the territory and facilities of certain regional countries by the US military to prepare and conduct attacks against Iran, saying such actions place those countries "alongside the aggressors." It reiterated that all countries in the region have a legal and moral responsibility to prevent their territory, facilities and resources from being used for attacks against Iran. The statement stressed that Iran remains determined to neutralise the sources of attacks against the country and would exercise what it described as its "inherent right to self-defence" against US military aggression and its allies.

British defence minister quits, says Starmer's plans fail to keep country safe

Monitoring Desk

LODNON: British defence minister John Healey quit on Thursday in a dispute over military spending, accusing Prime Minister Keir Starmer of failing to commit the government resources that are needed to defend the country at a time of heightened threat.

The unexpected resignation, accompanied by a scathing public letter, compounds the pressure on Starmer when he is facing a likely leadership challenge and exposes the crisis at the heart of government - how it can ramp up defence spending when there is no money to spare. Britain's defence and finance ministries have been locked in talks ' for months over how to meet rising demands to expand military spending, delaying Britain's Defence Investment Plan, which was expected to be published last year.

Military leaders have stressed the plan is needed to meet the rising threat level at a time of frequent Russian incursions into British waters, but the government is already struggling to reduce debt while the overall tax burden at its highest level in decades. The high-profile resignation comes as Starmer struggles to hold onto power, after Wes Streeting resigned as health minister in May and as another challenger, Andy Burnham, attempts to return to frontline politics to launch a leadership bid.

"You have been unable, and the Treasury has been unwilling, to commit the resources that nation needs to defend the country at this time of rising threats," Healey said in his letter to Starmer.



The March 10 shooting at the US Consulate in Toronto has been investigated as a possible "terrorist" attack, federal police have said.

IAEA asks Iran to 'declare enriched uranium stocks'

VIENNA (INP): The UN nuclear watchdog's 35-nation Board of Governors passed a US-backed resolution on Wednesday telling Iran to declare its remaining enriched uranium stocks and let inspectors verify them, which could complicate Washington's talks with Tehran.

The move came within hours of the US and Iran trading military strikes after US President Donald Trump said Iran had downed a US Apache helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz.

Israeli and US attacks in June of last year destroyed or badly damaged Iranian uranium-enrichment plants but much of the enriched uranium they produced, including material close to weapons-grade, is thought to have survived.

Iran still has not informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the fate of that material, or let IAEA inspectors return to the bombed sites to check.

The US led the push for the resolution, but Iran has called it "whitewashing military aggression", since inspectors had access before the strikes.

Three Indians sentenced in Canada for extortion linked surrey shooting

CHANDIGARH (INP): A Canadian court has sentenced three Indians for their involvement in an extortion-linked shooting and explosive attack at a Surrey, British Columbia residence. Taranveer Singh, 19 at the time of the incident, Harjot Singh, 21, and Dayajeet Singh Billing, 21, pleaded guilty on June 9 in Surrey Provincial Court. Taranveer Singh was sentenced to 5 years for reckless discharge of a firearm and will serve nearly 4.5 years after time served.

Sudanese paramilitary drone strikes kill at least 15 people in central region, officials say

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Sudanese paramilitary forces carried out drone strikes overnight in central Sudan, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens, health officials said Thursday, as the use of unmanned aircraft becomes increasingly common in the more than three-year war in the African country.

The attacks, which started late Wednesday, targeted various areas of the city of el-Obeid, including near an army position, according to two health officials at el-Obed Hospital, which received the victims. More than 10 people were also wounded, some critically, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The war in Sudan erupted in April 2023, after long-simmering tensions between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF. The conflict has killed at least 59,000 people, displaced some 13 million, and pushed many parts of the country into famine. More than 30 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Dr. Mohamed Elsheikh, a spokesperson with Sudan Doctors Network, which tracks casualty tolls, told The Associated Press that in el-Obeid, RSF drones also hit a funeral gathering at a cemetery, killing four people there, and a gas station. He could not immediately confirm if the casualties were civilians, combatants or both.

China renews call on US, Iran to halt fighting, return to dialogue

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China on Thursday renewed its call for the US and Iran to halt fighting and return to dialogue.

Beijing is "gravely" concerned about the situation, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters.

Military conflict will only "escalate the situation," and resuming military action will not resolve any fundamental issues, he said.

"The sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of regional countries should be respected and safeguarded," Lin said, urging relevant parties to stop military actions, resume dialogue and negotiations, respond to the mediating efforts of relevant countries, and achieve a ceasefire at an early date.

Lin said that China has maintained contacts with relevant parties, including Iran, since the outbreak of the conflict and "has made efforts for promoting peace talks."

Over the past two weeks, the US and Iran have exchanged attacks intermittently as tensions escalated across the region.

Earlier today, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that it struck 18 major US military targets in the Gulf in response to US missile attacks on a recreational site, an industrial complex and areas near Karaj and Nazarabad west of Tehran, along with a local Revolutionary Guard base in Pishva County.

China on Wednesday reiterated its call on Washington and Tehran to stop escalating tensions after the US launched fresh attacks on Iran.

"China is deeply concerned" over the latest situation, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told reporters in Beijing.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said Tuesday that American forces launched air strikes against Iranian military targets in response to the downing of a US Army Apache helicopter on Monday.

Later, Iran's military headquarters said early Wednesday that attacks had been launched on some US bases in the region in response to American strikes on southern Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the US opted to test Tehran's determination.

However, Lin called

Toronto cop shot dead while investigating US consulate attack

Monitoring Desk

TORONTO: A Toronto police officer was shot dead early on Thursday during a raid on an apartment linked to the March attack on the US consulate, the city's police chief said.

Toronto police chief Myron Demkiw said 43-year-old constable Marc Pinizzotto was shot while conducting an early morning search warrant in the northwest of the city and later died at a hospital.

The warrant "concerned a number of shootings, including the shooting at the United States consulate," Demkiw said.

A 19-year-old suspect remained at-large, Demkiw said.

Toronto police said in March that two men fired multiple rounds at the empty US diplomatic building before sunrise.

No one was hurt in the incident that the US ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra, called "deeply troubling."

Canada's federal police have said the investigation into the consulate shooting would determine weather it amounted to a "terrorist" event.



Riot police face off with protesters throwing bricks and petrol bombs in Newtownabbey, north Belfast.

Nigeria lawmakers advance state police reform to curb insecurity

Monitoring Desk

ABUJA: Nigeria's parliament passed a constitutional bill on Thursday paving the way for each of its 36 to establish and run its own police force alongside the federal Nigeria Police Force, a long-debated reform aimed at tackling worsening insecurity.

The move brings decentralised policing closer to reality, as authorities seek †to address diverse security crises that have stretched the centrally controlled system beyond its limits.

A decentralised model is seen by supporters, including President Bola Tinubu, as critical to improving local responses to violence ranging from insurgency to mass kidnappings and communal clashes, which have spread across much of .

Lawmakers in the House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted for the constitutional bill while the Senate was also expected to adopt it later on Thursday.

It is a major step toward allowing Nigeria's 36 state governments to establish and manage police forces alongside the existing federal force.

The bill, which enjoys cross-party support, must still be approved by at least two-thirds of all state assemblies before †taking †effect.

Bill Gates testifies Epstein pressured him using knowledge of his affairs

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Bill Gates told members of Congress on Wednesday that he "did not fully understand †the extent" of Jeffrey Epstein's crimes when he associated with the late convicted sex offender to raise money for philanthropic foundation.

Gates also testified that he never witnessed any criminal conduct from Epstein. He accused Epstein of blackmailing him over his extramarital affairs.

"These affairs had nothing to do with my interactions with Epstein, but they were painful for my family," Gates said, according to a copy of his opening statement. "Epstein was working †to use information about my infidelities — in addition to many lies that he layered on top — to pressure me to re-engage †with him."

Thousands protest demanding Albania's PM Rama resigns

Monitoring Desk

ALBANIA: Thousands of Albanians took to the streets on Wednesday night in the 10th day of protest to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama. The protesters gathered at Skënderbej Square in the capital Tirana, to march towards parliament and were chanting "Rama in prison, Berisha in prison".

India demands end to US attacks on ships after three sailors killed

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: India urged the United States to halt strikes on shipping on Thursday after three US attacks on crewed tankers this week, including one that killed three sailors.

The deaths are the first reported since a US blockade on Iran-linked shipping began on April 13, in which US forces have disabled eight ships and turned back more than 100 others.

"These attacks must cease and end," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters. "We †also call for dialogue and diplomacy so that we can have an early return to peace and stability in the region."

Jaiswal †said the US Navy has attacked three ships with Indian crews this week, including one on Thursday.

He said the ministry had summoned the US chargé d'affaires in New Delhi on Wednesday to convey its "deepest concerns over the ongoing attacks" after †a strike on the tanker Settebello off Oman in which three Indian sailors died.

The US embassy did not respond to requests for immediate comment.

German FM pays tribute to peacekeepers at Berlin event

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul has paid tribute to the service of German civilian experts, police officers and soldiers in international peace missions.

The peacekeepers give Germany's foreign policy a face and make it tangible, the minister said at the "Peacekeeping Day" event at the Foreign Office in Berlin on Thursday.

Together with representatives from the Interior Ministry and the Defence Ministry, Wadephul honoured peacekeepers for their contributions in international missions abroad, saying they often contribute their expertise under the most adverse conditions, sometimes even at risk to their lives.

This year's topic of focus, "Peace and Security in Europe," was intended to highlight Europe's special responsibility in international crisis management and the contribution of such missions to European security.

For example, Wadephul highlighted a female peacekeeper working in Kosovo as an expert on foreign and security policy, where she deals with countering disinformation from Russia and strengthening societal resilience.

Thai woman faces murder charges in Myanmar in killing of a US diplomat

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: A Thai woman appeared in a Myanmar court on Thursday to answer charges of murder in the killing of an American diplomat in Yangon, according to two attorneys familiar with the case. The woman, whose identity has not been released, was charged with murder as well as a charge under the country's immigration code that applies to any foreign national who commits a crime in Myanmar, according to one of the attorneys. It was not clear whether she entered a plea or had legal representation during the hearing in Kamayut Township Court. She faces the possibility of a sentence ranging from 10 years in prison to the death penalty if she is convicted of murder. Both lawyers spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid possible repercussions from authorities in Myanmar's military-run government.



A chartered plane carrying Nigerian nationals landed at Lagos's Murtala Mohammed International Airport.

Kenya sees risks to fiscal consolidation, oil output to power Uganda's growth

Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI/KAMPALA: Finance ministers across East Africa presented their 2026/27 budgets on Thursday as investors focused on how governments will shield their economies from shocks linked to the war while keeping debt in check.

Kenya's finance minister cautioned that global geopolitical events could curb its ability to cut the fiscal deficit, while his Ugandan counterpart projected a double-digit growth rate due to the projected start of oil production. The region is seen as highly vulnerable to the trade turmoil arising from the conflict given its reliance on fuel and fertiliser imports - concerns which prompted the African Development Bank to cut the region's growth forecast for this year by half a percentage point.

"The outlook for 2026 has been revised downwards to 5% from the earlier projection of 5.3% reflecting the adverse impact of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on domestic economic activities," John Mbadi, Kenya's finance , said.

He set a budget deficit of 5.5% for this fiscal year, to be reduced gradually to 3% by the 2028/29 year, but added that the target faced significant downsides. "Domestically, climate-related shocks could disrupt agricultural production and infrastructure, while externally, geopolitical tensions, commodity price volatility, weaker global growth, and tighter financial conditions continue to adversely affect inflation, exports and capital flows," he said.

World facing range of shared security challenges: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi has called for deeper international cooperation among law enforcement agencies to counter the growing threat of transnational crime and terrorism, stressing that no country could tackle today's security challenges alone.

Addressing the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS) in New York, Naqvi welcomed ministers, police chiefs and distinguished delegates from around the world, describing the gathering as an important platform for strengthening global security cooperation.

He said the world was facing a range of shared security challenges that transcend national borders, including terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and money laundering. These threats, he noted, affected every country regardless of geography, making collective action imperative. "No country is immune to these challenges, and no nation can address them on its own," Naqvi said, emphasizing that international cooperation has become more important than ever. The interior minister urged countries to work together through greater trust, timely intelligence sharing and mutual support. He underscored the need to establish stronger partnerships among law enforcement agencies to improve the global response to increasingly sophisticated criminal networks.

Highlighting the rapid pace of technological change, Naqvi warned that criminal groups are exploiting emerging technologies to expand their operations. He said governments and police organizations must adopt advanced technologies to counter evolving threats while investing in the professional development of police personnel. He stressed that strengthening training programmes and embracing innovation would enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with modern-day security challenges effectively. Naqvi noted that the summit had brought together experienced leaders from across the world, each possessing valuable knowledge and practical expertise. He encouraged participants to exchange ideas, learn from one another's successes and identify new avenues for collaboration. Describing the United Nations as a unique platform for fostering international cooperation, he thanked UN Police Adviser Faisal Shakar for providing an opportunity for police leaders and counterparts from different countries to meet and engage. The minister said the summit united participating nations around the shared objective of making their countries safer, protecting their citizens and strengthening peace and security across the world. He described the gathering as a significant step toward building stronger international partnerships to address common security threats.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Gordan Grlic Radman, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia called on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilaniat Aiwan-e-Sadr.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhel and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti welcome Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival.

Pak-Russia relations gains positive momentum: Awais Leghari

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Thursday said Pakistan and Russia possess immense untapped potential in trade, energy, education and connectivity, stressing that stronger economic cooperation and improved transport links could help bilateral trade surpass the billion-dollar mark in the coming years.

Addressing a webinar titled "Pakistan-Russia: Strengthening Trade, Education and Energy Collaboration," jointly organized by the University of World Civilizations Moscow (UWCM) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), the minister said Pakistan-Russia relations had gained positive momentum over the past two decades, driven by mutual trust, respect and a shared commitment to regional stability.

He said the bilateral relationship had evolved independently and was no longer shaped by geopolitical considerations.

Pakistan desires to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Croatia: PM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan desired to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Croatia, particularly through enhanced trade and investment, information technology, connectivity, agriculture, tourism, and skilled manpower.

The prime minister, in a "warm and cordial" meeting with Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Dr. Gordan Grlić Radman, who called on him here, said that Pakistan enjoyed friendly relations with Croatia, marked by cordiality, mutual respect, and shared interest.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch were also present during the meeting.

Welcoming the Croatian foreign minister and his delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister conveyed his warm regards and good wishes to President Zoran Milanovic and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, and extended a cordial invitation to both leaders to undertake official visits to Pakistan, at their convenience.

Croatian Foreign Minister Radman thanked the prime minister for the warm welcome and said that he was honored to visit Islamabad.

He congratulated Pakistan and its leadership on playing a prominent role in regional peace efforts .

Durable institutions must remain accountable to people, says Acting President Gilani

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday praised the Communist Party of China (CPC) for steering China's extraordinary economic transformation through strong institutions, long-term planning and effective governance, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its all-weather strategic partnership with China.

He was addressing a special seminar organised by the Pakistan-China Economic and Cultural Council (PCECC) to commemorate the 105th anniversary of the founding of the CPC, attended by senior political leaders, parliamentarians, diplomats, policy experts and representatives of the Chinese Embassy.

The acting president said the CPC had demonstrated extraordinary institutional resilience over more than a century, leading China's unprecedented economic transformation and lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. He noted that these achievements had made a significant contribution to global development.

Mr Gilani observed that Xi Jinping's 'Thought on Party Building' placed emphasis on self-reform, internal accountability and a firm approach to corruption, adding that these principles offer useful insights for political parties and institutions, particularly in the Global South. He said durable institutions must remain accountable to the people, continually renew themselves and translate political stability into development that benefits ordinary citizens.

Reaffirming the enduring Pakistan-China friendship, the acting president described the relationship as an iron brotherhood built on mutual trust, shared interests and strategic cooperation. He paid tribute to the vision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai in laying the foundations of the bilateral relationship. He said Pakistan-China cooperation had expanded across defence, trade, infrastructure, education, health and cultural exchanges. He highlighted the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a major driver of regional connectivity and economic development and appreciated China's steadfast support for Pakistan during natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. The acting president said there was considerable potential for both countries to further deepen cooperation in trade, technology, clean energy and parliamentary exchanges. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on the occasion said China's remarkable progress demonstrated how nations prosper through long-term vision, consistency and strategic planning. He said Pakistan-China friendship had always been a relationship built on conviction and mutual trust, which had evolved into an all-weather strategic partnership over the decades. Recalling the historic role of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in strengthening bilateral ties, he said the party took pride in the contribution of its founder, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who played a key role in laying the foundations of Pakistan's close relationship with China during the 1960s.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with Pakistan's newly appointed High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Tipu Usman, to discuss Pakistan-UK economic and financial cooperation.

Govt maintaining macroeconomic stability, strengthening fiscal discipline: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The government is seeking to deepen Pakistan's economic and financial engagement with the United Kingdom by promoting investment, expanding cooperation in capital markets and financial services, boosting remittances and advancing the country's economic diplomacy agenda, Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said.

The minister was talking to Pakistan's newly appointed High Commissioner to UK, Tipu Usman, who called on him here Thursday.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, they discussed matters of exploring avenues for further strengthening Pakistan-UK economic and financial cooperation.

Aurangzeb welcomed the High Commissioner on his new assignment and expressed confidence that his experience and diplomatic acumen would contribute to further enhancing bilateral economic engagement and advancing Pakistan's economic diplomacy objectives in the United Kingdom.

Discussions also focused on strengthening Pakistan's engagement with international investors and financial institutions, while leveraging London's position as a leading global financial centre to support Pakistan's financing and capital market objectives.

Aurangzeb highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to diversify financing sources, deepen Pakistan's access to international capital markets, and strengthen the country's financial architecture.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, in a meeting with ambassadors from the European Union and European countries.

Madar-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah's historic role and services recalled on her anniversary

ISLAMABAD, (APP): As the nation observes the 59th death anniversary of Madar-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah today, people from all walks of life have shared heartfelt tributes through the media, remembering her invaluable contributions to Pakistan and her enduring legacy as a champion of women' s empowerment.

According to media reports, political figures and citizens across the country paid rich tributes to Madar-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, remembering her invaluable contributions, unwavering dedication to Pakistan and her efforts for women's equal participation in national life.

According to reports, the story of Pakistan's creation is incomplete without remembering the remarkable journey of Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah.

Born in Karachi on July 31, 1893, she emerged as a symbol of strength and sacrifice, playing a vital role in the Freedom Movement and supporting the struggle for an independent homeland. The nation continues to honor her as Madar-e-Millat, or Mother of the Nation for her historic services.

Connectivity lies at heart of sustainable development, regional stability: DPM Dar

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Pakistan and Croatia on Thursday discussed ways to strengthen bilateral and the European Union (EU) ties, exploring diverse avenues of cooperation spanning trade, investment, agriculture, and port connectivity.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed during the delegation-level talks held here between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and the visiting Croatian Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Dr. Gordan Grlic Radman.

During their talks, Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Foreign Minister Radman discussed ways to enhance cooperation in key sectors, including trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility, visa facilitation, education, defence, climate change, tourism, infrastructure, and information technology (IT).

The two sides also exchanged views on various facets of Pakistan-EU cooperation, alongside reviewing regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Recognizing that connectivity lies at the heart of sustainable development, regional stability, and global economic integration, both leaders specifically discussed the possibilities and potential for establishing collaboration between the ports of Pakistan and Croatia.

Both sides agreed to hold the next round of Bilateral Political Consultations during the current year or early 2027.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Radman arrived here on a one-day official visit.

This marks the first-ever visit by a Croatian foreign minister to Pakistan.

During his stay, the Croatian foreign minister is also scheduled to call on Pakistan's top leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Syedaal condemns Balochistan terror attacks, pays tribute to martyrs

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Acting Senate Chairman Syedaal Khan Nasar on Thursday strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, paying tribute to the security personnel and civilians who lost their lives and praising the armed forces for their swift response to the attackers.

In a statement, he expressed profound grief over the martyrdom of security personnel and innocent civilians, and prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks, the speedy recovery of the injured, and patience for the bereaved families.

"The entire nation salutes the sacrifices of its brave sons," he said, while commending the Pakistan Armed Forces for their courage, professionalism and timely action that resulted in the killing of several terrorists.

He said the country's armed forces remained steadfast in defending the homeland and protecting its people with unparalleled courage, determination and a spirit of sacrifice. "The nation takes pride in its brave soldiers, whose professionalism and valour are recognised around the world," he added.



The coffins of 10 victims, who will be buried at the Potocari Memorial Cemetery on the 31st anniversary of the genocide perpetrated by Serbs in Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995, were received with tears.

Pak Navy, PMSA find wreckage of missing cargo plane near Ormara

KARACHI, (APP): Pakistan Navy and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) located wreckage of the cargo aircraft on Wednesday, which went missing a day earlier, some 53 nautical miles south of Ormara coast.

After more than 12 hours of search efforts, naval and maritime authorities located the wreckage of the aircraft in the sea, the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) said in a statement.

Pakistan Navy and PMSA naval and aerial assets remain engaged in the rescue and recovery operations, with search teams combing the area where the wreckage was discovered to locate crew members and gather further evidence related to the crash, statement said.

The PAA said late on Tuesday that the cargo aircraft of a private company, carrying five crew members, went missing around 155 nautical miles west of Karachi after losing contact while flying from Sharjah.

In a statement, the cargo company's spokesperson said the aircraft was travelling from Sharjah to Karachi when contact with air traffic control was lost.

The company identified the five crew members as pilot Muhammad Rizwan Idris, first officer Faisal Mehmood, loadmaster Muhammad Taufiq, engineer Arif Siddiqui, and Muhammad Hamid

Raisa Adil posted as Principal Information Officer

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The federal government on Thursday transferred Raisa Adil, a BS-20 officer of the Information Group, and posted her as the new Principal Information Officer (PIO).

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting here, Raisa Adil, who was currently serving as the Executive Director General of the External Publicity Wing (EPW), has been transferred and posted as Executive Director General/Principal Information Officer, Press Information Department (PID), Islamabad.

The appointment has been made in her own pay and scale with immediate effect and until further orders, the notification added.



LONDON: Actress Priyanka Chopra watches center court tennis during day eleven of the 2026 Wimbledon Tennis Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon



ISLAMABAD: Firefighters coping to control fire erupted in the basement of a shopping mall in Karachi Company G-9 Markaz.

Chief Editor: Syed Abdul Wadood Shah printed at Shah Printing Press, Quetta and Published from Al-Syed Building M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2843190 E.mail: dailyvomqta@gmail.com.