



**President condemns Lakki Marwat terrorist attack, vows defeat of terrorism**



**Pakistan launches new feeder shipping service from Karachi to UAE, Junaid Anwar Ch**



**PML-N stalwart Nehal Hashmi sworn in as Sindh governor**

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# PM Shehbaz, COAS Asim Munir visit KSA to bolster strategic ties

PEAK POINT

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to strengthen bilateral relations and discuss matters of mutual interest, including regional stability, economic cooperation, and defense collaboration.

During the visit, the Prime Minister and the Army Chief held high-level meetings with the Saudi leadership, reaffirming the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Both sides emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation in trade, investment, and security. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to the

Saudi leadership for their continued support to Pakistan, particularly during challenging economic times. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening cooperation in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and investment.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir also discussed defense collaboration and regional security with Saudi officials, highlighting the strong military-military ties between the two countries.

The Pakistani delegation underscored the importance of enhancing the strategic partnership with Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region.



Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia H.R.H Prince Muhammad bin Salman in Jeddah.

## Breakdown of diplomacy further complicates Iran nuclear issue, Pakistan warns Security Council

PEAK POINT



NEW YORK: Pakistan told the UN Security Council on Thursday that the breakdown of diplomacy in the Middle East has further complicated the Iranian nuclear issue, as Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the escalating crisis poses a "grave threat to international peace and security."

Speaking at a Council briefing on the 1737 Committee, which monitors UN sanctions related to Iran's nuclear programme, Pakistan's Permanent Representative, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, highlighted deep divisions within the Council over nuclear-related sanctions on Iran. "The Council remains divided on the 1737 Committee issue," Ambassador Ahmad said.

"Unfortunately, this split is delaying the appointment of Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies, significantly hindering their work." He stressed that disagreements over the committee "must not be allowed to obstruct the routine functioning of the Council and its Subsidiary Bodies," noting that the lack of agreement on a report "should have formed the basis of today's meeting." The 1737 Committee, established under UN Security

Council, established under UN Security

## 7 policemen, including SHO, martyred in attack on police vehicle in KP's Lakki Marwat

ABDUL SALAM BAITAB

BANNU: An attack on a police vehicle martyred seven policemen, including an officer, in the Bettani subdivision of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district on Friday.

The spokesman of the district police officer, Qudratullah, said that a squad of the Shadikhel police station was on routine patrol duty in the area when the terrorist attack occurred. The vehicle was targeted with an improvised explosive device (IED).

The official said that terrorists had planted an IED along the Shadikhel-Mastikhel road to target the law

enforcement personnel. Six policemen, including a station house officer (SHO) and five constables, lost their lives in the explosion, he said.



The bodies of the martyred and the injured policeman were taken to the hospital. The injured cop later succumbed to his wounds, bringing the total fatalities to seven.

A large police contingent reached the area and launched a search for the perpetrators of the attack.

President Asif Ali Zardari, in a statement issued by the President House, condemned the attack and prayed for the martyrs.

President Zardari wished a speedy recovery to the injured. He further stated that the state's resolve towards eliminating terrorism remained "unwavering".

KP has seen a rise in terrorist attacks in the past year. According to the Annual Security

Report 2025 from the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), KP recorded a significant surge in violence last year as "fatalities rose from 1,620 in 2024 to 2,331 in 2025".

This marked an "absolute increase of 711 deaths, accounting for over 82 per cent of the net national rise and marking almost a 44pe year-on-year surge in violence in the province". Last month, nine police personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police (DSP), were martyred in separate terrorist attacks in Punjab's Bhakkar district and KP's Kohat and Wana areas. Only days prior to that, three Federal Constabulary men were martyred in a terrorist attack.

## PM condemns Lakki Marwat terrorist attack on police vehicle

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack near a police vehicle in Lakki Marwat on Friday. He expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of the Station House Officer (SHO) and other policemen who lost their lives in the explosion. He prayed for elevation of ranks of martyrs and for patience and strength for the bereaved families.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also prayed for speedy recovery of those injured in the attack. He said the sacrifices of police personnel.

## NADRA warns institutions against rejecting digital ID cards

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) has issued a warning to institutions that refuse to accept digital identity cards. In a statement, NADRA said that digital ID cards hold the same legal value as physical identity cards. Some government offices and agencies have been requesting physical cards or photocopies instead of accepting digital cards, a practice that contradicts the established legal and regulatory framework. The authority explained that under the NADRA Ordinance.

## Trump says US would escort ships in Strait of Hormuz 'if needed'

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump said the US would escort vessels through the Strait of Hormuz if needed, adding in a Fox News interview that aired on Friday that the US would strike Iran "very hard over the next week."

Asked about helping oil tankers pass through the key shipping strait, Trump said: "We would do it if we needed to. But, you know, hopefully things are going to go very well. We're going to see what happens." He gave no other details. "We're going to be hitting them very hard over the next week," he added in the interview with Fox's Brian Kilmeade that aired in part on its "Fox & Friends" programme.

His comments come as

the United States and other countries face spiking oil



and gas prices with the US-Israel war entering its 14th day, with oil prices hovering near \$100 a barrel on Friday.

On Thursday, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Sky News in an interview that the US Navy, perhaps with an international coalition, will be escorting vessels through," Bessent said. The plan to escort ships would go ahead as soon as the US has "complete control of the skies and ... (Iran's) rebuilding capabilities for the missiles completely degraded," he said. US and Israeli strikes on Iran and the subsequent response by Tehran have widened regional tensions and paralyzed shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting vital Middle East

oil and gas flows and sending energy prices higher.

Raising the stakes for the global economy, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it will block oil shipments from the Gulf unless the US and Israeli attacks cease. "There are, in fact, tankers coming through now, Iranian tankers, I believe some Chinese flag tankers have come through. So we know that they have not mined the straits," Bessent said. Trump claimed in G7 call that Iran is "about to surrender." Axios reports Trump told G7 leaders in a virtual meeting on Wednesday that Iran is "about to surrender." Axios reported on Friday citing three officials from G7 countries briefed on the contents of the call. According to the report, Trump told allies

## 663 Afghan combatants & Fitna Al Khawarij killed in operation Ghazab lil-Haq: Atta Tarar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the security forces have killed 663 combatants of the Afghan Taliban regime as well as the Fitna Al Khawarij during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq.

Providing a summary of Afghan Taliban regime and Fitna Al Khawarij's losses at 16:00 hours, the minister said as many as 249 posts of them had been destroyed, while 44 others were captured during the operation.

He said that over 887 Afghan operatives were injured during the Operation Ghazab lil-Haq (Righteous Fury).

Around 224 tanks, armoured vehicles, and artillery guns have also been destroyed during the operation, he added. The minister noted that around 70 terrorists and terror support locations across Afghanistan were also targeted by air, effectively.



# SPORTS



## Pakistan look to make comeback as Bangladesh eye series

## PSL 11 transfer window now open for player moves



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The transfer window for the Pakistan Super League has been opened and will remain open until Wednesday, 18 March during which franchises will be allowed to make player transfers in accordance with the tournament regulations and salary cap rules.

The following types of transfers will be permitted during the window:

Player for Player: Two franchises may swap players with each other.

Player for Player and Money: Franchises may exchange players, with one franchise also receiving an agreed financial amount as part of the transfer. All transfers must be completed within the salary cap of the respective franchises and any transfer will only be finalised once it is approved by the Pakistan Cricket Board in line with the HBL PSL 11 regulations. Due to the exceptional circumstances under which Multan Sultans were acquired, the franchise with the approval of the other teams has been granted an incremental Rs12 million increase in their salary cap, along with permission to make two additional signings, taking their maximum squad size to 22 players, although they will, like other teams be limited to a matchday squad size of 20 players.

**PEAK POINT**

DHAKA: A new-look Pakistan face an unusual do-or-die situation on Friday in the second One-Day International against Bangladesh who stunned the tourists in the opening match of the three-match series.

Fast bowler Nahid Rana, 23, starred with a career-best show of 5-24 as Bangladesh demolished the Shaheen Shah Afridi-led Pakistan in the opening ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Wednesday.

Shaheen has backed his young team to make a comeback despite the eight-wicket drubbing in the

series opener, and will definitely be eyeing to level the series at the same venue today.

Pakistan are featuring in an ODI series in Bangladesh after a long gap of 11 years. The last time when Pakistan played a 50-over rubber in Bangladesh under the captaincy of Azhar Ali, they suffered a 3-0 sweep.

With ample time left before the ICC 2027 World Cup is staged in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia during October-November, Pakistan, which have struggled in ICC events since their 2017 Champions Trophy triumph, will certainly look to develop a

side that can face top-tier opponents in the ODI showpiece. The current Bangladesh series is only the starting point of that build-up campaign.

Four Pakistan players — Abdul Samad, Maaz Sadaqat, Sahibzada Farhan and Shamiyul Hussain — made their ODI debut on Wednesday after the tourists dropped experienced pros like Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and other than Fakhar, the remaining three players flopped in the T20 World Cup held in India and Sri Lanka during February-March.

But the move to include the youngsters did not work at all for Pakistan, at least in the opening game, as they were shut out for a paltry 114 — their lowest-ever ODI total against Bangladesh — with 19.2 overs to spare.

The hosts completed the modest chase without any fuss in just 15.1 overs as opener Tanzid Hasan smashed a 42-ball 67 not out.

The worrying factor for Pakistan is that their batting crumbled against Rana who, before Wednesday's game, had claimed just five wickets in his very short career comprising five ODIs.

## Usama Mir's six-wicket masterclass steers Sialkot to crushing win



batters produced an impressive display to post a formidable total of 210 for 4 in their 20 overs. Opening batter Abdullah Shafique led the charge with a sparkling half-century, smashing 57 off just 31 deliveries. His fluent innings, decorated with six fours and three sixes, laid a solid foundation for Sialkot's imposing 26 deliveries. For

total, Shafique was involved in a crucial 80-run partnership for the third wicket with Hasan Nawaz, who provided excellent support with a brisk 41 from 28 balls, striking three boundaries and two sixes. Their partnership accelerated the scoring rate and kept Lahore Blues' bowlers under sustained pressure. After the pair departed in quick succession, Sialkot's mid-

dle order ensured the momentum continued. Ahsan Hafeez Bhatti and Mohsin Riaz combined for an unbeaten 76-run stand to deliver the powerful finish. Bhatti played the aggressor's role with an explosive unbeaten 47 off only 17 balls, hammering five fours and three sixes, while Mohsin struck 30 deliveries. For Lahore Blues, Mohammad Rizwan and Hunain Shah claimed two wickets each. Chasing a daunting target of 211, Lahore Blues never found momentum. Their innings collapsed under relentless pressure from Sialkot's bowlers and ended at 100 in 14.2 overs. Wicketkeeper batter Hamza Zahoor topped scored with a quick 37 off 23 balls.

**PEAK POINT**

LAHORE: A sensational bowling performance by Usama Mir guided Sialkot to a commanding 110-run victory over Lahore Blues in the 11th match of the National T20 Cup 2026 at the Imran Khan Cricket Stadium in Lahore on Thursday. The leg-spinner delivered a devastating spell of 6-8 in just 3.2 overs, dis-

mantling Lahore Blues' batting lineup and sealing one of the most emphatic wins of the tournament so far. His match-winning effort earned him the player of the match award and propelled Sialkot to second place in the Group B standings. After winning the toss, Lahore Blues captain Saad Nasim opted to field first, a decision that quickly backfired as Sialkot's



HYDERABAD: 11th PSL Trophy unveiled at Niaz Stadium Hyderabad.

## Indian-owned Sunrisers face backlash after signing Abrar Ahmed for Hundred

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Sunrisers Leeds are facing a fierce social media backlash after the Indian-owned Hundred franchise signed spinner Abrar Ahmed this week.

A longstanding political stand-off between India and Pakistan means the two nations only play each other in major global cricket tournaments.

Cricketers from Pakistan are not featured in the Indian Premier League (IPL) since 2009 because of diplomatic tensions between the two nations.

There was speculation that the players from Pakistan involved in this week's inaugural Hundred auction in London would be subject to a "shadow ban", with the IPL-affiliated teams refusing to bid for them.

Four of the franchises — MI London, Manchester Super Giants, Sunrisers

Leeds and Southern Brave — are at least part-owned by companies that control IPL teams.

But the Leeds-based Sunrisers clinched a deal for leg-spinner Abrar, paying 190,000 (\$252,000) for his

The England and Wales Cricket Board last month issued a statement saying all eight of the city-based franchises in the 100-ball-a-side competition were committed to selection based solely on performances.



services. Usman Tariq, the only other Pakistani player bought in the auction, was picked up by American-backed Birmingham Phoenix.

The only two Pakistan players in Wednesday's women's auction, Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal, went unsold.

But Sunrisers have been subjected to fierce criticism from some Indian cricket fans after signing Ahmed.

The @SunrisersLeeds account on X was suspended overnight. It was up and running again on Friday with a fresh follower base, but comments focused heavily on Abrar's signing.

## Abelanda heroics help BN edge FG in National Open C'ship Finale





## IGP Rizvi reviews security for Friday prayers, Youm-e-Quds rallies; 3,500 police deployed

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reviewed the security arrangements made for Friday prayers and Youm-e-Quds processions across the federal capital.

had been deployed to ensure effective security during the congregations and rallies.

He said strict security arrangements had been made around Faisal Mosque as well as other mosques and imambarahs to maintain peace and order.

The IGP also directed the police officers and personnel deployed on duty to perform their responsibilities with vigilance and dedication.

Rizvi said that checking at entry and exit points of the city had been intensified, while special checkpoint had also been established at multiple locations in the federal capital.

He added that alert police squads were continuing effective patrolling across the city to ensure law and order.

The IGP Rizvi reiterated that ensuring the protection of citizens' lives and property remained the top priority of Islamabad Police.

IGP Rizvi reviews security for Friday prayers, Youm-e-Quds rallies; 3,500 police deployed

An official told APP that more than 3,500 officers and personnel of Islamabad Police

had been deployed to ensure effective security during the congregations and rallies.

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ISLAMABAD: Activates of MWM hold rally on the occasion of International Quds Day.

## 27 Marble factories sealed in Islamabad over environmental violations, National Assembly told

**NADEEM TANOLI**

ISLAMABAD: Authorities have sealed 27 marble processing factories in Islamabad due to environmental violations while several others remain under monitoring as part of enforcement actions against industrial pollution, the National Assembly was informed. The information was shared during the ques-

tion answer session in response to Question No. 35 regarding environmental pollution and industrial compliance within the Islamabad Capital Territory. Officials informed lawmakers that industrial activity in Islamabad is concentrated mainly in I-9, I-10, and the Humak Industrial Triangle, while additional factories are operating in Sangjani. Environmental monitoring

conducted by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak EPA) revealed that out of 60 marble processing factories, 33 are currently compliant and operational, while 27 factories have been closed or sealed due to violations of environmental regulations. The Assembly was told that enforcement measures have been taken under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997, with

authorities issuing multiple legal notices and enforcement orders to ensure compliance with environmental standards. Between 2020 and 2025, environmental authorities issued nine Environmental Protection Orders (EPOs) to industrial units for violations related to pollution control. In Sangjani alone, regulators issued six notices and sixteen Environmental

Protection Orders to marble processing factories over environmental compliance failures. To strengthen monitoring mechanisms, authorities have installed 24 hour camera surveillance systems at certain steel units located in I-9 and I-10 to monitor emissions and ensure environmental compliance. However, officials acknowledged that Islamabad currently does

not have a centralized industrial wastewater treatment plant, although some factories have installed their own treatment systems to manage wastewater and industrial effluents. The government said environmental enforcement actions will continue to ensure industries comply with environmental laws and pollution control standards.

# Opinion & Editorial

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## From Silent Roads to Starry Skies

**THE JOURNEY OF YUSRA JAMSHIED**

In my mountain village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, I used to wake with the first call to prayer. Life before my father's death feels like someone else's story now. My father would walk me to school every morning, telling me stories along the path. In the evening, he would hug me tight and call me "his scholar."



stars now watched over my silence.

After he was gone, the house fell quiet. My mother's face carried a tiredness that never left. I put my dreams away like old clothes in a trunk. The books my father brought me every month, science books, Urdu poetry, maps of places I wanted to see, sat gathering dust in the cupboard.

I remember finding my entrance test paper in his shirt pocket. He had paid the fee with his last salary. When my mother said, "My child, we cannot afford school anymore," I did not answer. I just held his shirt to my face, breathing in what remained of his scent.

My days became washing, cooking, caring for my siblings. At night, when everyone slept, I would go to the roof and watch the stars. My father used to say, "Every star is a dream that came true." Those same

I would sit with his photograph and whisper:

"My father, will I ever become a doctor?"

Will I keep my promise to you?

Is this all my life will be?"

Then one day, a woman from the Sadaat Foundation came. She spoke with my mother, but her eyes kept returning to my hands-hands that knew dishwasher better than book pages.

"We will send Yusra back to school," she told my mother. "We will help her dreams grow."

When I first stood at the Sadaat Foundation Facility at Mardan door, I closed my eyes and spoke to my father: "You always said reaching the sky begins with one step.

Today, I am taking mine."

Inside was a different world. My teacher told me, "Yusra, your father sees you.

He is proud."

For the first time, I shared stories about my father with friends.

For the first time, my hand went up in class.

For the first time, I stood before everyone and said, "I want to be a doctor to understand how others hurt."

When My Cadet College acceptance came, I wore my father's shirt that morning. My mother held me and said, "Your father is crying happy tears today."

Now I wear a cadet uniform. These badges on my shoulders carry the weight of all those silent nights. When I speak in class, my voice does not shake anymore.

My father taught me that every problem has an answer. For me, the Sadaat Foundation was that answer. Every day, I try to keep the promise I made to him.

But somewhere tonight, another girl is putting her dreams away.

Another daughter misses her father.

Another mother wonders how she will educate her child.

At the Sadaat Foundation, we believe:

- No dream is too small
- Every voice matters
- Education turns silence into strength



My father said every star is a fulfilled dream. You can help make someone's dream shine.

A uniform. A book. A pen. These simple things rewrite futures.

This is where broken dreams mend.

This is where voices find courage.

This is where hope gets a second chance.

Every day, I live for the promise I made my father.

You could help keep another girl's promise alive.

Thank You Sadaat Foundation

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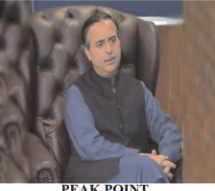
https://www.sadaatfoundation.org/

https://www.facebook.com/sadaatfoundationkpk/ Yusra Jamshaid

## Perilous lines

THE law minister's veiled warning to the media to "exercise caution" and not cross "red lines" while talking about the Middle East conflict is reflective of how the government has come to view its relationship with the fourth estate. The remarks were prompted by the "unease" of some "friendly countries" regarding what Pakistanis had said on air and on social media, according to the law minister. He also pointed to Article 19 of the Constitution, which he interpreted as restricting public commentary on Pakistan's relations with foreign states. But is that really the Constitution's intent? It must be pointed out that media scrutiny of whether a nation's foreign policies actually serve its interests is precisely what independent journalism is supposed to do. It does, therefore, seem quite unreasonable to assert that the Constitution expects the press to abdicate its watchdog role and "leave it to the state to decide" on matters of foreign policy. There is also the question of what happens if tomorrow this government, or a new one, completely reverses course on Pakistan's foreign relations. Will journalists and commentators then be expected to pivot their coverage and opinion accordingly? Would that not turn the media into a mere instrument of the state? Also, it is unsettling to hear that "friendly states" get a veto over what local media can say.

## Pakistan launches new feeder shipping service from Karachi to UAE, Junaid Anwar Ch



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry announced on Friday the launch of a new feeder shipping service from Karachi Port to the United Arab Emirates, marking a key step toward transshipment capabilities.

In a statement, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said that Karachi Gateway Terminal (Private) Limited (KGTPL), which is KPT's major business partner, will be supported by a dedicated feeder service linking Karachi with the

UAE ports of Fujairah and Khor Fakkan, strengthening maritime connectivity for Pakistan's trading community amid evolving regional shipping dynamics. Junaid Chaudhry said the new service establishes a regular shipping link between Karachi and two of the region's key transshipment hubs, enabling Pakistani importers and exporters to maintain reliable access to global container shipping networks.

"The service will call at KGTPL, part of AD Ports Group's international operating arm, Naotum Ports. The first vessel of the service arrived at KGTPL on the evening of 11 March, officially marking the start of regular operations," the minister added.

Junaid Chaudhry noted the new feeder link supports supply chain continuity through KGTPL and helps ensure Pakistan's trade maintains dependable access to international markets. Cargo routed through Fujairah and Khor Fakkan will benefit from seamless connectivity to regional

and international shipping networks, supported by the UAE's advanced logistics infrastructure. Containers can be efficiently transferred via integrated road and rail corridors to major commercial hubs and logistics centres across the UAE. Talking on the new feeder service, Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed (Retd.), Chairman, Karachi Port Trust said, "The introduction of this feeder service further enhances Karachi Port's connectivity with key regional hubs and supports Pakistan's growing trade requirements and added "Strengthening maritime links with the UAE will help facilitate smoother cargo movement while providing greater flexibility for the country's trading community as per the vision of Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry." Khurram Aziz Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Karachi Gateway Terminal (Private) Limited (KGTPL), said, "The commencement of this feeder service reflects KGTPL's

## PML-N stalwart Nehal Hashmi sworn in as Sindh governor

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: PML-N stalwart Nehal Hashmi on Friday was sworn in as the new governor of Sindh, following his surprise appointment a day earlier.

Sindh High Court Chief Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput administered the oath at a ceremony held in Karachi. Senior leaders were present at the televised ceremony, including PPP leader Saeed Ghani and Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah.

On Thursday, President Asif Ali Zardari approved Hashmi's appointment as Sindh governor, hours after it was announced that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recommended his appointment to the post previously held by MQM-P, which complained that it had not been taken on board before the decision by the PM Office said that PM



Shehbaz met Hashmi at the PM House and decided to nominate him as the governor of Sindh.

Hashmi is a veteran politician who last served as a PML-N senator after his election in March 2015. However, a controversial speech he made in May 2017 landed him in hot water, culminating in his disqualification in February 2018.

The surprise move to appoint Hashmi has drawn a strong reaction from ally MQM-P, which complained that it had not been taken on board before the decision to remove its nominee.

## On Quds Day, Ulema call for national unity, solidarity with Iran, Palestine

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The religious scholars from various schools of thought have collectively urged the nation to uphold unity, harmony, and solidarity in the face of escalating regional tensions, rejecting the sectarian discord and divisive elements amplified on social media.

On the occasion of Youm-ul-Quds (International Quds Day), being observed today, the Ulema reaffirmed strong solidarity with Palestine and condemned Israeli occupation, atrocities in Gaza, and restrictions on Masjid Al-Aqsa. On the day, the events are being held under themes like Youm-e-Tahafuz-e-Haramain Sharifain, Youm-ul-Quds, and Youm-ul-Aqsa, with special sermons in mosques focusing on unity against oppression. Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, addressing a press conference along with Ulema from different schools of thought on Thursday, highlighted Pakistan-Iran brotherhood, condemned attempts to divide the Ummah, and stressed that protecting Muslim holy sites. Ashrafi urged the Pakistani nation

to stand united in the face of the rapidly evolving regional situation following the ongoing US-Israeli military strikes on Iran. Describing the Muslim world as being in a state of profound grief over the attacks on Iran, he said that more than 1,000 people have been reportedly martyred in the strikes so far, with significant civilian casualties, including women, children, and students. Ashrafi also extended congratulations to the Iranian nation on the appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei as the new Supreme Leader following the assassination of his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He highlighted a message of unity and solidarity conveyed by the late Supreme Leader and emphasized that Pakistani religious scholars across various schools of thought have similarly stressed the importance of harmony and cohesion within the Muslim Ummah. Ashrafi warned against divisive elements, particularly those operating from abroad on social media, attempting to cause unrest and sectarian differences in Pakistan, urging the Ministry of Interior to take strict action against such elements. In his remarks, Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi urged the Gulf states.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, addressing a press conference.

## President condemns Lakki Marwat terrorist attack, vows defeat of terrorism

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attack near a police vehicle in Lakki Marwat that resulted in the martyrdom of a Station House Officer (SHO) and other police personnel.

Expressing deep grief over the loss of lives, the president offered prayers for the eternal peace of the martyred officers and extended heartfelt condolences to their families. He also prayed for patience and strength for the bereaved families in this difficult time, a Presidency's news release said.

President Zardari also expressed concern over those injured in the blast and prayed for their early and complete recovery. The president said their bravery and commitment to safeguarding the country would not go in vain. He reiterated the nation's resolve to continue the fight against terrorism until its complete eradication. The president emphasized.

## CM Afridi calls for medical treatment of Imran Khan under supervision of personal physicians

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohal Afridi has called for the immediate medical treatment of former Prime Minister and Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan at Shifa International Hospital under the supervision of his personal physicians and in the presence of his family members. Addressing a press conference at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, the Chief Minister stated that the purpose of the briefing was to highlight concerns regarding the health of Imran Khan and to reiterate the demand for appropriate medical care in accordance with constitutional and legal provisions. He noted that multiple constitutional, legal, democratic, and



political avenues had been pursued to facilitate medical treatment for the former prime minister under the supervision of his personal doctors and with the presence of family members. However, he said that despite these efforts, the request has not yet been accommodated. The Chief Minister said that Imran Khan is not an ordinary individual but a former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the lifetime chairman of the country's largest political party.

## Mohsin Naqvi chairs high-level meeting, approves majors security & civic reforms

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presided over a high-level meeting in Islamabad, where important decisions were taken to improve law and order as well as civic amenities in the federal capital.

During the meeting, it was decided that Islamabad's 109 entry points will be gradually reduced to 25 in order to streamline security and enhance monitoring. The minister directed authorities to formulate an effective strategy for this transition, emphasizing that the Red Zone must be made fully functional with practical enforcement measures.



"Strict monitoring at security checkpoints and entry points will ensure foolproof security," Naqvi said, adding that checkpoints must not exist merely for formality — their true effectiveness should be visible.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, the interior minister stated that maintaining peace and security.

## Shahryar Memon hosts grand 'Iftar Dinner' attended by Parliamentarians, Ambassadors

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Youth Program for Overseas Pakistanis Business and Trade Focal Person, Shahryar Memon, hosted a grand Iftar dinner at his residence in Islamabad, bringing together parliamentarians, ambassadors, diplomats from various countries, and prominent political and business leaders.

Shahryar Memon hosts grand 'Iftar Dinner' attended by Parliamentarians, Ambassadors

The event witnessed the participation of members of

the National Assembly and Provincial Assembly, along with a large number of representatives from the business community, investors, and socio-political figures. The gathering served as a platform for discussions on promoting investment in Pakistan, enhancing business opportunities for overseas Pakistanis, and empowering the country's youth economically.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan,



stated that the event was not merely a religious gathering but also an important opportunity to bring together foreign diplomats and the local business community. He said the initiative aimed to strengthen bilateral business and trade relations between

Pakistan and other countries. Rana Mashood emphasized that Pakistan needs to connect more effectively with the global supply chain. For this purpose, he said, local business chambers must be linked with international markets. He reiterated that

the government is committed to an export-led growth policy and highlighted the crucial role of youth in promoting e-commerce and modern business practices.

He further stated that youth startups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are currently among the government's top priorities. The government, he added, is determined to provide all possible support to young entrepreneurs to enhance their capabilities and enable them to succeed in the modern business environment. He also highlighted the impor-

ance of women entrepreneurs in today's economy, stressing that empowering women to participate fully in economic activities is essential for national development.

Addressing the gathering, Shahryar Memon said that encouraging young people to enter the business sector is essential to increasing Pakistan's exports and attracting foreign investment. He noted that along with export diversification, Pakistan must also focus on strengthening regional trade, particularly with Central.