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DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

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PM Shehbaz reaches out to services chiefs on Eid, pays tribute to security forces

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday reached out to senior military officials, political leaders and government representatives across the country to convey Eidul Fitr greetings, while also paying tribute to security personnel deployed on the nation's frontlines. According to official details, the prime minister held telephone conversations with Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Syed Asim Munir, Chief of the Air Staff Zaheer Ahmed Babar, and Chief of Naval Staff Naveed Ashraf. During the calls, he extended Eid greetings to the services chiefs and acknowledged their leadership. In his discussions, PM Shehbaz also paid homage to officers and soldiers of the security forces who remain stationed along the borders, away from their families, to safeguard the country during Eid. He recognised their dedication and sacrifices in ensuring national security. The prime minister also contacted Speaker of the National Assembly, provincial governors, chief ministers and a wide range of political figures to exchange Eid wishes. Among those contacted were Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Governor Sindh Nihal Hashmi, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, and Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail. Separately, he spoke with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, conveying his greetings on the occasion of Eidul Fitr.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif after offering prayer of Eid-ul-Fitr greeting people.

Trump threatens Iran with power plant strikes over Hormuz oil blockade

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump threatened to "obliterate" Iran's power plants if Tehran does not fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours, a significant escalation barely a day after he talked about "winding down" the war.

"If Iran doesn't fully open, without threat, the Strait of Hormuz, within 48 hours from this exact point in time, the United States of America will hit and obliterate their various power plants, starting with the biggest one first!" Trump said on social media.

Trump's ultimatum would expand the scope of US strikes to infrastructure that affects daily civilian life in Iran. The threat of Iranian attacks has kept most ships from getting through the strait, a narrow waterway that serves as the conduit for around a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies, threatening a global energy shock. Its near-closure sent European gas prices surging as much as 35 per cent last week. Iran's Khatam al-Anbaya military command headquarters said on Sunday that if the US attacks Iran's fuel.

Terrorists operating from Afghanistan won't be allowed to undermine Pakistan's security: CDF Munir

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir on Saturday asserted that terrorists operating from Afghanistan would not be allowed to undermine Pakistan's security, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

He made the remarks while visiting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram, where he offered Eid prayers with the troops and officers there, and prayed for the country's enduring stability and prosperity. "He (Field Marshal Munir) emphasised that terrorists operating from sanctuaries across the border in Afghanistan will not be allowed to undermine Pakistan's security," the military's media wing said in a statement. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability, COAS Munir reiterated that "Afghan soil must not be used by hostile elements for activities against Pakistan". The ISPR statement said: "Appreciating the valour and spirit of the soldiers,



the field marshal lauded their achievements during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and ensuring lasting peace in the border regions."

"Acknowledging the formations' tireless efforts, the field marshal attributed operational successes to the supreme sacrifices of the nation's martyrs and the unwavering resolve of officers and soldiers dedicated to the greater cause of national security," it added. According to the statement, during his interaction with troops and officers, the army chief extended warm Eid greetings and commended their unwavering dedication, high morale, and exemplary professionalism in safeguarding the nation.

6 killed in Qatar helicopter crash due to technical malfunction, ministry says

PEAK POINT

QATAR: At least six people have been confirmed dead following the crash of a Qatari military helicopter due to "technical malfunction," the state's interior ministry said. In a post on X, the Qatari Interior Ministry announced that six out of seven members on board have been found and confirmed dead. It added that "specialised teams continue their intensive operations to find the last missing person".

Earlier, Qatar's defence ministry said that "a Qatari helicopter had a technical malfunction during a routine duty, which led to its crash.

Japan Ambassador greets Pakistani people on Eid-ul-Fitr

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Japan Ambassador to Pakistan, Akamatsu Shuichi has extended his heartiest greetings to the Muslims in Pakistan and all over the world on the festive occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Ambassador Akamatsu, in his video message, congratulating the Muslims on the occasion has said that Eid is a great gift and present for Muslims after the culmination of the Holy month of Ramadan. "May this joyous festival bring peace, happiness and prosperity for you and your loved ones" wished the Ambassador in his congratulatory.

Iran missiles hit southern Israel, injuring more than 100

PEAK POINT

ISRAEL: Two Iranian missiles struck southern Israel on Saturday, injuring more than 100 people in the most destructive attack of the three-week war, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowing to retaliate "on all fronts".

The strikes tore open the facades of residential buildings and carved craters into the ground. First responders said 75 people were injured in the town of Arad, 10 of them seriously. Hours earlier, 33 were wounded in nearby Dimona, where AFP TV footage showed a large hole gouged into the ground next to piles of rubble and twisted metal.

Dimona hosts a facility widely believed to be the site of the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal, although Israel has never admitted to possessing nuclear weapons.

The Israeli army told AFP there had been a "direct missile hit on a building" in Dimona, with casualties reported at multiple sites, including a 10-year-old boy in serious condition with shrapnel wounds.

In Arad, emergency workers combed through the rubble of heavily damaged buildings. Netanyahu vowed to continue striking Iran after what he called a "very difficult evening". Iran said the targeting of Dimona was retaliation for Israeli strikes on its Natanz nuclear facility.

Following the Natanz attack, UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi reiterated his call for "military restraint to avoid any risk of a nuclear accident".

The Natanz facility hosts underground centrifuges used to enrich uranium for Iran's disputed nuclear programme and sustained damage in the June 2025 war.

Asked about Natanz, the Israeli military said it was "not aware of a strike".

The Israeli military also said on Saturday it had struck a facility inside a Tehran university "utilised by the Iranian terror regime's military industries and ballistic missile array to develop nuclear weapon components and weapons".

The destruction in Israel capped three weeks of heavy US-Israeli bombardment that appeared to have done little to blunt Iran's ability to retaliate with missile and drone attacks across the region.

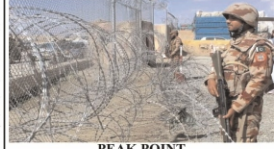
The United Arab Emirates said on Saturday it faced aerial attacks after Iran warned it against allowing strikes from its territory on disputed



Pakistan tops Global Terrorism Index with 6pc increase in terror-related deaths

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan has ranked number one on the Global Terrorism Index for the first time, recording a six per cent increase in terrorism-related deaths, 1,139, in 2025, it emerged on Sunday. The Global Terrorism Index 2026 published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) provides a comprehensive summary of the key trends and patterns in terrorism over the last two decades. The report ranks 163 countries (99.7pc of the world's population) according to the impact of terrorism. The indicators include the number of terrorist incidents, fatalities, injuries and hostages. According to the report, Pakistan's "strained" relationship with neighbouring countries.



SPORTS

PSL to go ahead sans spectators, matches limited to Lahore and Karachi under austerity drive

Pakistan to face India in hockey World Cup on Aug 19



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said on Sunday that the 11th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) would go ahead sans spectators while matches would be held only in Karachi and Lahore in line with the government's austerity drive.

The tournament, which is set to begin on March 26, will feature eight teams and 44 matches. It was initially scheduled to be held across six venues — Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Multan, Peshawar, and Faisalabad.

conference in Lahore on Sunday, the PCB chairman said the board, after holding consultations with the government and security agencies, had decided that the tournament "will go ahead as scheduled [...] but a few difficult decisions had to be taken".

Noting the government's austerity drive, which was launched in the wake of the global fuel crisis triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran and aimed at fuel saving measures, the PCB chairman said, "On one hand, 25 countries to be held across two cities — Lahore and Karachi. He said the decision was taken to "limit movement", adding that the schedule would be announced a limited mindset".

until this crisis ends [...] we will not allow crowds in the stadiums," Naqvi said, adding that it was a "difficult decision" which had to be taken. He further announced the cancellation of the PSL's opening ceremony in line with the government's efforts to minimise expenses. He said that the "gate money" loss the franchisees would face due to the absence of spectators would be "accommodated by the government of the PCB".

Naqvi also announced that matches would only be held in two cities — Lahore and Karachi. He said the decision was taken to "limit movement", adding that the schedule would be announced a limited mindset".

soon. He also took the opportunity to apologise to the fans in Peshawar, where matches were scheduled to be held. "I had made a promise but unfortunately because of the situation, we could not go ahead," he said. He added that those who had already bought tickets for the matches "will be given refunds within 72 hours".

Naqvi said that the players would begin arriving "today and tomorrow". "We cannot postpone because we did not have any window to hold it later in the year," the PCB chairman said, adding that "we must not go forward with an announced a limited mindset".



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan will take on arch-rivals India on Aug 19 in this year's hockey World Cup, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Wednesday.

The 2026 World Cup is expected to showcase top-quality hockey, with fans set to witness thrilling and competitive encounters during the event to be co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. The game's international governing body unveiled the schedule of the World Cup, featuring teams from 16 nations, being staged from Aug 15 to 30. Former four-time World Cup winners Pakistan are placed in pool 'D' alongside England, India and Wales. The Green-shirts, who will be competing in a World Cup after eight years, begin their campaign in the event with a match against England on Aug 15 at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands. Pakistan in their second pool-stage match face Wales on Aug 17 at the same venue before locking horns with India two days later. Pakistan secured qualification for the mega event by reaching the final of the qualifier held in Ismailia, Egypt, will be aiming to make a strong impression and progress to the knockout stage. Pakistan suffered a 4-1 loss to England in the Ismailia final.

South Africa clinch 19-run win over New Zealand in fourth T20



PEAK POINT

NEW ZEALAND: South Africa's spinners played a decisive role as the tourists won the fourth Twenty20 international against New Zealand by 19 runs on Sunday to square the five-match series 2-2.

New Zealand were well placed to clinch the series midway through their chase in Wellington after the Proteas scored 164-5.

However, from 88-

3 after 10 overs, they lost wickets in rapid succession to be all out for 145 off 18.5 overs.

It sends the series, played between weakened sides from both countries, to a decider in Christchurch on Wednesday.

The match swung in favour of South Africa when spinners Keshav Maharaj and Preenlal Subrayen turned the screws through the middle of the chase.

Captain Maharaj is comfortably the most experienced member of an experimental tour squad and proved hard to score from as he took 2-22 off four over.

Subrayen, playing his first T20 international, bowled Dane Cleaver for 26 to keep New Zealand's middle order crumble and finished with 2-13 off three overs.

Maharaj said his side played with more energy than in defeats

in Hamilton and Auckland.

"It was a perfect response to two disappointing losses in a row," he said.

"Coming into this game, you could see there was a little bit more energy and hunger.

"We are a young team, finding our way in international cricket so it takes a little bit of time." Opener Tim Robinson top-scored with 32 for New Zealand while Proteas paceman Gerald Coetzee took 3-31.

South Africa's innings were dominated by 57 off 36 balls from wicket-keeper Connor Esterhuizen. He was dismissed by a spectacular outfield catch from Katene Clarke, on his international debut, off Ben Sears' bowling.

Snooker great O'Sullivan makes history with highest-ever break



Pakistan team departs for Maldives to feature in SAFF Under-20 C'ship

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Men's Under-20 team began their journey to the Maldives, where the team will take part in the SAFF Under-20 Championship.

Pakistan head coach Shehzad Anwar was confident that his charges would produce the results after an extensive training camp, said a press release.

"The players have worked hard in the camp and are geared for the challenge ahead," he said.

Pakistan Football Federation president Syed Mohsen Gilani met the players before their departure and hoped the team would do well. "We have a tough group, but I believe if we give it our all, we can expect positive results," said Gilani.

Pakistan is in Group B alongside India and Bangladesh. They open their campaign against

Bangladesh on March 24 with a clash against India coming two days later. The teams that finish in the top two at the end of the group stage advance to the semi-finals.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Abdullah.

Zafar, Mansoor Ahmad, Syed Muhammad Aabis Raza, Khatibi, Owais Ilyas, Khozbi Khan; Forwards: Abdul Samad, Najeebullah, Sajjad Hussain, Faham Ahmad, Muhammad

Pak MMA Federation creating real opportunities beyond medals for Pakistani athletes: Omar Ahmed



Zulqarnain, Kashif, Aadi Ali Khan; Defenders: Zarib Haider, Abdul Khaliq, Ubaidullah Khan, Sheraz Khalid, Umar Javed, Abdul Rehman, Majid Ali; Midfielders: Zain Imran, Muhammad Shahab Ahmad, Muhammad Junaid, Ahmed

Officials: Shehzad Anwar (Head Coach), Muhammad Zaman (Team Manager), Sheikh Hamdan, Muhammad Habib (Assistant Coaches), Numan (coach), Ibrahim (Goalkeeping coach), Muhammad Abdullah Aamir (Physiotherapist).



ICT Police remain on high alert on second day of Eid, 3,000 deployed across capital

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police remained fully active on the second day of Eid-ul-Fitr, deploying over 3,000 officers and personnel to ensure security and traffic management across the federal capital. An official toll APP on Sunday that IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi was personally overseeing the security arrangements, while DIG Islamabad

Muhammad Jawad patrolling units remained active with enhanced vigilance. He said that police officers had been directed to behave politely with families and provide maximum facilitation during Eid holidays. The official further said that a crackdown against one-wheeler and hooliganism was underway, while parks had been declared family-only areas with restricted entry with unrestricted individuals.

RAWALPINDI: A huge crowd gather in Allama Iqbal Park in eve Eid-ul-Fitr.

CDA chief visits hospital, Edhi Home and security checkpoints on Eid

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Eidul Fitr visited Capital Hospital, sanitation workers, Edhi Home and security checkpoints in the federal capital, where he distributed gifts and praised the services of medical staff, civic workers and police personnel.

At Capital Hospital, he visited the children's ward,

inquired after the health of patients and met doctors, children and their parents.

He directed the administration to ensure the best possible treatment and facilities for children admitted to the hospital and later distributed Eid and gifts among them.

He also met sanitation workers involved in cleanliness operations across Islamabad, appreciated their services and distributed gifts among them.

He said the city looked



clean and beautiful on Eid because of their hard work and dedication.

Separately, accompanied by CDA and district administration officers, Randhawa visited Edhi Home Islamabad, where he met orphaned children, destitute residents, persons with disabilities and elderly people.

He distributed Eid and gifts and said caring for vulnerable segments of society was a noble mission.

He also termed the services of Edhi Home com-

mendable and urged people to remember orphans and underprivileged citizens in the joy of Eid.

Later, he visited security checkpoints in the capital and met police officers and personnel on duty.

He paid tribute to their services, urged them to continue performing their responsibilities with vigilance, and said ensuring effective security arrangements and provision of facilities to citizens remained a top priority.

Opinion & Editorial

Iran's escalation dominance

Abbas Nasir

THE ongoing hostilities in the Israel-US war on Iran — with Tehran raining missiles and drones on the Zionist apartheid state and Washington's interests in the region in retaliation for attacks on Iran's military sites and infrastructure, including energy assets, and the mass murder of its leaders and schoolgirls — is one side of the equation. The other side consists of the fog generated by disinformation, claims, denials and spin.

The latest is the attack on the infrastructure of Iran's South Pars gas fields by Israel. Within hours, Iran retaliated with an attack on the same North Dome gas facilities in Qatar (the gas fields straddle the waters of the two states and are said to be the largest gas reservoir in the world). Spread over some 9,700 square kilometres, they are said to meet 20 per cent of the global gas demand and 80pc of Asia's needs. Iran also hit other Gulf energy sites.

In a social media post, US President Donald Trump claimed that the US had no prior knowledge of Israel's attack on the gas infrastructure, while saying (in capital letters) that Israel would not attack energy infrastructure anymore. He went on to threaten Iran with massive US retaliation if it continued to attack energy targets in the Gulf. A little later, Israeli 'sources' said the US had approved the attack plan.

Trump is said to have changed his tune after his Qatari allies protested in a phone call.

The region seems dangerously poised after the Gulf nations — home to US military bases and about 50,000 troops — that say they oppose the war, threatened retaliation if they continue to come under attack from Iran. If the Gulf states actively join the war, will Saudi Arabia invoke its defence pact with Pakistan, is a question that many will be asking as they wonder about the ramifications of such an event. The Israeli ambassador to India this week called Pakistan a rogue state with a nuclear weapon. Benjamin Netanyahu and Narendra Modi are avowed allies. What will be our vulnerabilities external and internal?

If the Arab states attack Iran, there will be celebrations in Tel Aviv as the Zionist dream would have come true.

If the Gulf states attack Iran, there will be celebrations in Tel Aviv as the Zionist dream would have come true to have the region at war with itself and in chaos, while Israel gains a free hand to continue to expand its occupation of the West Bank and its murderous campaign in Gaza, despite the 'ceasefire'.

The 12-day war launched by Israel on Iran last year came amidst talks between Iran and the US. Trump claimed to have 'obliterated'

Iran's nuclear programme using bunker buster bombs and announced a ceasefire.

Another round of talks began this year, during which both the Omani foreign minister and the British interlocutor said Iran had offered an 'unprecedented deal'. But the US went ahead and agreed with the extremist Zionist state to launch a war on Iran. One source said that American interlocutors Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were acting as 'Israel's agents'. This war too began with decapitation strikes during which Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several top military figures, including the defence minister, were killed.

Trump, as usual, was quick to claim victory, saying that Iran's military, including its missile/drone production and launch sites had been wiped out and also its (practically non-existent) air force and navy and whatever else he could think of. The only rebuttal Iran offered was to continue to target US eyes and ears (key radar including one facility said to be worth over \$1 billion) in the region with drones and missiles. It also hit Israel. Its succession planning and decentralisation of military commands delivered unequivocally with the government remaining intact and Iran retaining the capability to hit back. Tough censorship in Israel is not allowing a proper picture of its losses.

Courtesy Dawn

Mission creep amid an elusive off-ramp

Shahzad Chaudhry

THE Iran war has stagnated. The two sides are in a state of pervasive attack and defence without causing a change in position, physically, politically or diplomatically, or what would constitute altering behaviour. Iran and Israel attack each other in situ and defend against it to the best of their remaining capability. True, people lose lives and businesses, and infrastructure will be rebuilt, but there is no substantive change in how these nations are constituted or think. Welcome to the 'trench warfare' of the modern era.

The last time the world experienced this was in World War I, or later in the Iran-Iraq War. Both exhausted themselves to the point of inability to do much beyond where they were, waiting to be disintegrated. In the ongoing war, they are in their last 'oomph' in the hope that the other guy will exhaust first. They, and the world, do not deserve a war with non-existent or fleeting political objectives, and where the mission creeps in search of an off-ramp.

The ongoing Iran war has no political aims on either side, save Israel. For Iran, defiance, and an implicit sense of showing the aggressor down would be the popular refrain. Three weeks into it, they must have a sounder political reason to continue. The thousands who perish may be a small number by their count to sacrifice for the larger aim of national honour and dignity, but it is as important to give the living the same honour and dignity, and a chance at a fulfilling life. Equally, the infrastructure and the progress that Iran has made despite the most stringent sanctions are going to waste because the leadership may hold other motives dearer. The Iranian people remain at the receiving end in the name of civilisational pride and boastful nationalism. The war thus goes on unabated. They may not throw in the towel, but when foolishness meets hardness, catastrophe results.

Courtesy Tribune

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Pause in fighting

THE pause in fighting between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the eve of Eid is a promising development, and must graduate into a permanent ceasefire. The cessation of hostilities has apparently come under the good offices of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, underscoring the need for tranquility in the region. The discord between Kabul and Islamabad is rooted in the audacity of the former to ignore the menace of terrorism. This came Ghazab Lili Haq. But the military operation is meant only to exterminate the terror nexus operating from the Afghan soil, and is in no way against the people or the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban regime's refusal to accept rationality is quite unfortunate. It was seen playing to the gallery by not only attacking forward positions across the Chaman and Tokham borders, but also appeasing the disgruntled elements. That took things to a point of no return. The need of the hour for sagacious men in Kabul is to work closely with Islamabad, and not to torpedo the decades of fraternity for the sake of unwarranted jingoism. The silencing of news before the festivities is an opportunity for both the countries to kickstart some astute diplomacy. A composite dialogue is the need of the hour that can be resorted to with a mindset that error elements will not be tolerated and concerted efforts will be made to dismantle their presence on either side of the divide.

On World Water Day, President Zardari calls on India to restore Indus Waters Treaty

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday called on India to immediately restore full implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in accordance with international obligations.

In a message on World Water Day, President Zardari reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the unilateral suspension of the treaty by India.

"This deliberate weaponisation of shared water resources is a matter of deep concern. India's decision to place the treaty in abeyance, disrupt hydrological data-sharing, impede agreed mechanisms and undermines both the letter and spirit of a long-standing international agreement that has provided equitable sharing of the Indus river system for over six decades," he said.

"Such conduct threatens food and economic security, jeopardises the livelihoods of millions who depend on these waters and sets a dangerous

precedent for the management of transboundary resources under international law," he said.

The IWT, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, allocates the three western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — largely to Pakistan, and the three eastern rivers — Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — to India.

In April 2025, India announced a unilateral suspension of its obligations under the IWT following the attack on tourists in occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 — an incident New Delhi blamed on Islamabad without evidence.

In June, the Permanent Court of Arbitration — an organisation that provides a framework for international disputes — had issued a Supplemental Award of Competence, stating that India cannot unilaterally hold the treaty in abeyance.

Meanwhile, in his message, the president said that this year, World Water Day drew attention to the theme "Water and Gender" and highlighted that "water insecurity is not

experienced equally".

"Women and girls often carry the heaviest burden when safe water is not available close to home," he said. "In many parts of Pakistan, households still rely on distant or unreliable water sources. Women and girls spend long hours each day collecting water, time that could otherwise be spent in school, at work or with their families," he said. "The absence of safe water also brings health risks and places additional strain on household life. Addressing this gap is, therefore, not only a matter of public service delivery but also of fairness and opportunity," he said.

"Access to safe water and sanitation is a basic right recognised under our Constitution. Ensuring reliable and safe water supply must remain a national priority. It requires careful management of our water resources, investment in water systems and greater participation of women in planning and decision-making," he said.

Timely decisions helped avert oil shortage: Atta Tarar

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said that under the prevailing circumstances, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had taken timely decisions to replenish the country's oil reserves.

He said this while addressing a joint press conference along with Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik here on Saturday.

Attaullah Tarar said that the prime minister had directed the Ministry of Petroleum in this regard, and the Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, along with his entire team, worked hard to avoid an oil shortage in the country. He added that many countries in the region were following fuel rationing mechanisms.



However, by the grace of Allah Almighty, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif formed a committee and held daily review meetings, which ensured reasonable oil reserves in the country.

He further stated that oil cargoes for the future were also being arranged, as informed by the Petroleum Minister. He said that the absence of a fuel shortage does not mean that fuel resources should be misused. Available resources are very expensive, and Gulf oil prices are skyrocketing, having increased from \$70 per barrel to \$158 per barrel.

Aurangzeb says govt to move towards providing targeted relief amid global fuel supply concerns

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the government was moving towards "targeted relief" so that the benefit is passed onto the deserving.

Aurangzeb's remarks came amid spiking global oil prices caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Delivering a televised address, the minister referred to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's letter to the nation on Friday night, where the address mentioned the steps taken to mitigate the burden and said that "We spoke clearly on the public that the government has taken on Rs69bn of the burden using our own fiscal resources," the finance minister said.

"Yesterday, my honourable colleagues in the cabinet, Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, had a detailed talk," he said. "All Pervaiz Malik said especially as in detail that all our efforts are focused on mak-

ing sure we have supplies, so that we have no supply disruption in the chain [and] we can ensure the uninterrupted supply of petrol, diesel and other molecules," Aurangzeb said.

The finance minister added that daily meetings were being convened to look at procurement and its sources of procurement, logistical issues, maritime affairs and diplomatic efforts, noting that on that basis, the government believed the country was "in a good place until April in terms of the supply situation".

"We are hopeful that the very first and regional conflicts will end soon.

"But as I said in my very first conference with [Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq] Dar sahib and Ali Pervaiz sahib, hope is not a strategy," Aurangzeb added. "However, the manner in which matters have escalated, especially with how energy infrastructure has been hit, it is possible that the situation may carry on for weeks or, God forbid, months, until this disruption does not end."

Mishal Malik's Eid call for Muslims unity, freedom of Yasin Malik

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Mishal Malik, wife of detained Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, on Eid day extended heartfelt greetings to the Muslim Ummah while calling attention to the continued suffering of oppressed Muslims worldwide, particularly in Indian Jammu and Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and Palestine, urging unity, justice, and collective action.

Mishal Malik described Eid-ul-Fitr as a divine gift from Allah Almighty, granted as a reward for the worship performed during the Holy month of Ramadan. She stressed that while Eid is a time of celebration, it is also a moment to remember those who are enduring hardship and oppression. She pointed out that many Muslims remain imprisoned, including Yasin Malik, who has been in Indian custody for the past twelve years. Expressing deep emotional pain, she said countless Kashmiri families continue to live in separation, waiting to reunite.

Govt not against solar energy, emphasizes fair policy for all: Leghari

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Saturday said the notion that Government is against solarization is completely false and it fully supports solarization but in a manner that is JUST to all consumers and doesn't unfairly burden non solar consumers.

In a statement issued here, he said though, solar power makes up for, fossil fuel generated power, however, that is only during solar hours of the day.

During the night time, stable/dispachable sources of power generation are mandatory for the power grid to remain stable and



cater for the dynamically changing load conditions. It is a universal truth that high penetration of unmanaged rooftop solar introduces grid stability challenges including steep evening ramp requirements that actually increase dependence on flexible gas based generation, he said. He said given the unprecedented LNG supply disruption following force majeure declared.

Governor Kundi hosts orphan children, opens G.House to public on Eid

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on the first day of Eid-ul-Fitr hosted orphan children from an SOS welfare organization at the Governor House on Saturday, where he distributed Eid among them and shared festive moments.

The children spent time with the Governor, took photographs and celebrated Eid with enthusiasm. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor expressed heartfelt joy in celebrating Eid with orphan children, saying that they deserve the utmost care, attention and affection of society.



He said the true spirit of Eid lies in sharing happiness with the underprivileged segments of society, adding that the upbringing and education of orphan children is a collective responsibility.

He stressed that both the state and society must play their role in ensuring the welfare and better future of such children.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Eid ul Fitr prayers at Zardari House.

Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad holds Eid Gallery, gathering for Indonesian community

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia held Eid Gathering held Halal Bihalal, in collaboration with the Ramadan Committee of the Indonesian Students Association (PBR PPMI) Pakistan.

Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad holds Eid Gallery, gathering for Indonesian community. The event included decorations and providing Indonesian special Eid menus, said a release issued



here. To facilitate transportation for students from the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) campus to the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad, the Indonesian Embassy provided three minibuses for pick and drop. Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad holds Eid Gallery, gathering for Indonesian community

The minibuses were quite helpful for them, as the Embassy's vehicles have easier access to the Diplomatic Enclave where the Indonesian Embassy located.

"Patriotism is a fitrah or human nature since all human beings naturally want peace," said Ibru, a postgraduate student in Arabic Literature at IIUI.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Chandra W. Sukojo, participated in the Eid prayer.



23 مارچ

یوم پاکستان

سرحد چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کی جانب سے اہل وطن کو یوم قرار داد پاکستان مبارک ہو



سرحد چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری