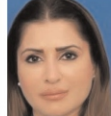




**Naqvi delivers 'special message' to Khamenei as Pakistan continues US-Iran mediation**



**Gilani calls for collective action to protect oceans**



**PPP flags concerns over delay in GB elections' results**

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# GB elections 2026: Unofficial results show PPP in the lead as vote count underway

PEAK POINT

GILGIT: Unofficial and preliminary results of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly elections held on 24 seats on Sunday pouring in shows the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and PMLN are expecting to win. According to the unofficial results received so far, PPP has bagged 8 seats, while independent candidates have secured two seats. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has won 3 seats so far. Discover more Showbiz entertainment news. The polling process began at 8am and continued till 5pm without any break on Sunday. A total of 403 candidates took part in the elections, including 396 men and 8 women. The total number of registered voters in the region was 963,034, including

566,097 male and 396,937 female voters. As voting began, Gilgit Baltistan Chief Election Commissioner Raja Shahbaz visited various polling stations to review the voting process. He inspected arrangements and monitored the conduct of voting at different stations. Speaking to the media after the polling process, Raja Shahbaz said that polling was completed peacefully, with a notably high turnout among women voters. The chief election commissioner said he personally visited polling stations to monitor the voting process and assess arrangements on the ground. "I myself visited polling stations," Raja Shahbaz said, adding that polling staff and security personnel performed their duties effectively.



GILGIT: Polling staff are busy counting votes during the Gilgit-Baltistan general elections

# 27 terrorists killed in North Waziristan IBOs: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 27 terrorists in operations conducted in the Miranshah area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district over the past 72



hours, the military's media affairs wing said on Sunday. "In continuation of a series of intelligence-based operations, security forces engaged multiple khawarij locations in the general area Miranshah, North Waziristan District," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. It added that after "fierce exchanges of fire" 27 terrorists belonging to "India-sponsored Fitna al Khawarij were sent to hell". Fitna al Khawarij is a term that the state uses for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). ISPR said weapons and ammunition were found in the possession of the slain terrorists, who remained "actively involved in numerous terrorist activities and target killing of innocent civilians". "By neutralising this group of killed khawarij, the heinous act of target killing of prominent figure, Shaheed Malik Saifullah Dawar in Miranshah has been avenged, and perpetrators have been brought to justice," the statement read.

# Trump says won't unfreeze Iran assets before deal

MAHARA ZAMAN



NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he will not unfreeze Iranian assets before reaching an agreement with Tehran. Asked whether he would be willing, as part of a potential agreement, to unfreeze Iranian assets or lift certain sanctions against Iran, Trump replied: "No." "(That) comes after. If they behave, if they do a good job, we start talking," he said in the interview with NBC, recorded Friday. Iran has demanded that billions in frozen assets be unlocked. According to a source close to the matter, the US Treasury is considering the possibility that Iran's assets could be tapped to compensate Gulf states for damages caused by Iranian strikes.

Trump reiterated that he knows exactly where the enriched uranium is located in Iran and wants to recover it one way or another, while remaining vague about whether he would send in US troops to do so. "If we make a deal, if we make a deal now we're friendly, we'll go together" to recover this uranium, he said. "We'll take it out and destroy it." The fate of the enriched uranium is one of the most difficult points in reaching an agreement to end the war waged by the United States and Israel against Iran. Trump reiterates US will destroy Iran's highly enriched uranium. President Donald Trump says the US will seize and destroy Iran's highly enriched uranium either with or without Tehran, Al Jazeera reports.

# President, PM commend security forces for successful operation against terrorists in Panjgur

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday commended the security forces for successfully carrying out an operation against Indian-backed Fitna-al-Hindustan terrorists in Panjgur, resulting in the killing of six militants.

In separate statements, both leaders said that operations against terrorists under Operation Azm-e-Istehkam would continue until their logical conclusion. President Zardari reaffirmed the nation's resolve to eliminate terrorism, stating that Fitna-al-Hindustan and its facilitators would never succeed in undermining Pakistan's peace and stability. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the security forces for neutralizing the terrorists, who, he said, were plotting to harm the lives and property of innocent and unarmed Pakistani citizens. The prime minister also reiterated the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism from the country and ensuring lasting peace and security.

# Saudi Arabia plans crypto zone for Karachi

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia is set to establish a crypto and blockchain zone in Karachi along with studying the potential of other mega projects. Pakistan's government is currently working on regularising crypto trade, backed by US President Donald Trump. Pakistan has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabia and local partners to explore the development of a maritime business district on prime waterfront land at Karachi Port. At present, a Saudi delegation is visiting Pakistan, which has received a proposal.

# Pakistan tells UN Kashmir 'never was, is not, and never will be' integral part of India

PEAK POINT

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has told the UN General Assembly that Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) "never was, neither is, and nor will ever be" an integral part of India, rejecting New Delhi's claims during a fresh diplomatic exchange over the disputed territory at the world body. The remarks were made by Gul Qaiser Sarwani, who exercised Pakistan's right of reply after India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, asserted that Kashmir was an integral part of India. Sarwani reminded the 193-member General Assembly that Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains an internationally recognised dis-

pute on the agenda of the UN Security Council.



"No amount of obfuscation can alter the historical, legal and international character of this dispute," he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir "never was, neither is, and nor will ever be" an integral part of India. The exchange came after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said the Security Council's annual report highlighted the continued relevance of

both the Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine disputes, on the issue in May 2025, underscoring that the Kashmir dispute continues to engage the Council's attention more than seven decades after it was first placed on its agenda. Pakistan, he said, believes that durable peace in South Asia requires a just settlement of the Kashmir dispute under the relevant Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, who must be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination. Ambassador Asim Ahmad also said the annual report highlights the continued relevance of long-standing disputes on the Security Council's agenda including the Question of Palestine and the Kashmir dispute, which have implications for regional and international peace and security, and which must be resolved.

# US, Iran trade strikes in latest Gulf flare-up



NEW YORK: The United States and Iran exchanged fresh strikes on Saturday after the Iranian Guards said they fired at four tankers attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz without permission in the latest escalation complicating efforts to end the war between the two countries. A ceasefire in the Middle East war, triggered nearly 100 days ago by US and Israeli strikes that wiped out Iran's top leadership, has been in place since April 8. But tensions surged again on Friday when the US military said it struck radar sites in Iran after downing drones headed toward the Strait. Shortly after, air raid sirens sounded in neighboring Gulf nations Kuwait and Bahrain.

# SPORTS



## ICC Women's World Cup captains gather in London for trophy shoot ahead of event

## Tamim becomes Bangladesh's youngest cricket chief



PEAK POINT

BANGLADESH: Ex-Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal became the country's youngest cricket chief on Sunday, weeks after he was appointed interim president and vowed to repair the sport's damaged reputation in the country. Cricket and politics are intertwined in Bangladesh, and the game was affected by turmoil after the 2024 uprising that ousted long-term ruler Sheikh Hasina. A new government elected in February dissolved the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) over alleged "gross irregularities" and appointed an interim board led by 37-year-old Tamim.



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: Captains of the teams participating in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup gathered in London for the tournament's official trophy photo shoot, with a brief interaction between ICC Chairman and Pakistan's captain drawing attention on social media.

ICC Chief Executive Sanjog Gupta attended as special guests and joined the captains for the launch ceremony.

During the event, Jay Shah and Sanjog Gupta greeted Pakistan captain Fatima Sana and exchanged handshakes with her.

Gupta was also seen standing alongside the Pakistan skipper during the official group photograph.

All team captains arrived at the before taking part in promotional activities and the official photo session with the World Cup trophy. Speaking at the event, the captains expressed confidence in their teams' preparations and

pledged to deliver strong performances during the tournament. A large number of cricket fans gathered to witness the ceremony, while the players also signed autographs and interacted with supporters.

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is scheduled to begin on June 12, with the world's leading teams competing for the sport's most prestigious title in women's international cricket.

## Pakistan embassy participates in football tournament

PEAK POINT

BRUSSELS: Pakistan embassy in Brussels participated in the 3rd Suqovushan Mini-Football Tournament organized by the Azerbaijani community and Embassy of Azerbaijan in Belgium. The event brought together diplomatic missions, international organizations.

## Pakistan reach first senior int'l final since 1991 with win over Afghanistan



PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Pakistan booked their place in the final of the Diamond Jubilee International Football Tournament in the Maldives with a 2-0 victory over Afghanistan on their final round-

securing a robin fixture of the second consecutive win and reaching their first senior international final in 35 years.

Goals from Umar Nawaz and Harun Hamid guided Pakistan to victory on their final round-

men's international final since the 1991 South Asian Federation Games. It is also the country's first appearance in the final of a stand-alone international football tournament since the 1962 Merdeka Tournament, where Pakistan finished runners-up after a 2-1 defeat to Indonesia.

Pakistan entered the match needing only a draw to secure qualification following their 3-0 victory over hosts Maldives earlier in the tournament, a result that had ended a 961-day wait for an international win.

## Pakistan clinch bronze with victory over Malaysia in U18 Hockey Asia Cup



## From Swabi to the FIFA World Cup 2026: Pakistani Youth Achieves Global Recognition

PEAK POINT

SWABI: Pakistan: In a remarkable achievement that highlights the potential of Pakistani youth on the international stage, Naqash Khan, a young man from District Swabi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, has been selected as a volunteer for the FIFA World Cup 2026, one of the world's largest and most prestigious sporting events. The FIFA World Cup 2026 Volunteer Program attracted more than one million applications from across the globe. Out of these applicants, only approximately 15,000 individuals were selected to serve during the tournament. Being chosen among such a highly competitive international pool is a significant accomplishment and a moment of great pride for Pakistan. For Naqash Khan, this achievement represents the culmination of years of hard work, determination,

and perseverance. His journey has not been easy. Over the years, he has lived and worked in different countries, faced numerous challenges, adapted to new environments, learned new languages, and embraced

dream come true. I consider myself not only a representative of my hometown, Swabi, but also of Pakistan and its young generation. I want the world to see Pakistan as a talented, hard-working, peaceful, and dig-



diverse cultures. Despite the obstacles, he remained committed to pursuing his dreams and creating opportunities for personal and professional growth. Speaking about his selection, Khan described the opportunity as both an honor and a responsibility. "Being part of the FIFA World Cup 2026 is a

nified nation," he said. Khan believes that his story carries an important message for young people across Pakistan. He encourages youth to dream big while understanding that success requires dedication, patience, and consistent effort. "Success does not come overnight.

## Younis Khan expected to 'replace' Sarfaraz Ahmed as Pakistan Test head coach



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Former skipper Younis Khan is expected to replace Sarfaraz Ahmed and take over responsibilities as the Test head

coach of the national cricket team. Sarfaraz, who led Pakistan to their historic ICC Men's Champions Trophy triumph in 2017, was appointed as the head coach in

April this year, and his first assignment in the role was a two-match away series against Bangladesh, part of the World Test Championship (WTC). But his appointment could not force a change in fortune for the national team, which suffered a 2-0 away series whitewash at the hands of Bangladesh, their second consecutive whitewash against the same opposition in the longest format.

Following the back-to-back whitewash defeats against Bangladesh, reports emerged that experienced left-handed

opener Shan Masood could be sacked as the captain, with all-rounder Salman Ali Agha tipped as his successor.

Meanwhile, as per insiders, both the captain and head coach of the Test side may be relieved of their respective roles as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is planning to give major roles to two former national cricketers - Younis and Hafeez. Besides replacing Sarfaraz as the Test head coach, Younis, who captained Pakistan to their maiden ICC Men's T20 World Cup title in 2009,

# Seven students Dept of Sports Science & Physical education completed Final M.phil Defense



PEAK POINT

**PESHAWAR:** Heartiest congratulations to all 7 M.Phil students Department of Sports Science & Physical education on the successful completion of your Final M.phil Defense, held on 06

June 2026, under the esteemed supervision of Dr. Mehwish Manzoor (Postdoc). Your hard work, dedication, perseverance, and commitment to research have culminated in this remarkable academic achievement. This

milestone reflects not only your scholarly excellence but also your determination and passion for advancing knowledge in your respective fields. We are honored by the presence of Dr. Bilal Khan (Registrar & Director

BASAR), Dr. Safdar Baloch (External Examiner), and Dr. Asghar Khan (External Examiner), whose valuable insights, evaluation, and encouragement contributed significantly to the success of the defense proceedings. May

this achievement serve as a foundation for greater accomplishments in your academic and professional careers. Wishing all graduates continued success, growth, and excellence in their future endeavors. Congratulations on

this well-deserved achievement! Dr. Mehwish Manzoor (Postdoc) Supervisor, M.Phil Research Scholars Congratulations to all successful M.Phil scholars and their supervisor on this proud academic milestone..

# NA questions ministry over effectiveness of cultural diplomacy initiatives

NADEEM TANOLI

**ISLAMABAD:** During a National Assembly question and answer session, Ms. Syeda Shehla Raza, MNA, raised concerns about Pakistan's cultural diplomacy initiatives and the effectiveness of agreements signed with foreign countries in 2024 and 2025. Lawmakers questioned whether the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture had delivered tangible outcomes from 14 agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed with 12 countries,

emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability in taxpayer funded programs. The Ministry informed the National Assembly that the agreements aimed to promote Pakistan's rich heritage including the Indus Valley civilization, Sufi traditions, arts, music, and crafts through international exhibitions, festivals, and cultural events. Officials highlighted that these initiatives have strengthened Pakistan's image abroad, enhanced people to people contacts, and promoted bilateral relations even during politically tense

periods. Agreements have been signed with countries including Azerbaijan, Qatar, Turkey, Vietnam, the USA, Hungary, UAE, Iran, Bangladesh, Jordan, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan. Notable initiatives include the Cultural Exchange Programme with Azerbaijan (2024-2029) and a literature MoU with Azerbaijan's Nizami Ganjavi Institute (2024-2034), as well as cultural cooperation agreements with Qatar (2024-2027) and Turkey (2025-ongoing). Despite these reported achievements, lawmakers expressed concern that some

programs lacked measurable outcomes and long term impact. Committee members noted that while exhibitions, art troupes, and performances abroad raised Pakistan's profile, the Ministry had not sufficiently documented tangible benefits in terms of economic gains, tourism, or strengthened international partnerships. Questions were raised about whether initiatives adequately leveraged Pakistani diaspora communities as cultural ambassadors and whether institutional collaborations through museums, archives, and research

centers produced lasting results. Officials defended the Ministry's work, highlighting joint archaeological missions with China, Iran, and Central Asian countries, including preservation of Gandhara heritage under CPEC cooperation. These projects have restored historical sites and documented shared civilizational links, aiming to protect Pakistan's cultural assets and achieve global recognition. Tourism promotion has also been emphasized through religious heritage initiatives, including Buddhist, Sikh, and Sufi sites, alongside

marketing campaigns to attract foreign tourists and delegations. Capacity building programs have been conducted to train Pakistani professionals in museology, conservation, and arts, with technical assistance in digitization of archives and heritage preservation. The Ministry reported that these efforts have improved professional standards within Pakistan's cultural sector and supported small artisans and creative industries by promoting handicrafts, films, and other cultural products in international festivals and expos.

# Opinion & Editorial

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## Putin's Pakistan puzzle

**Muhammad Amir Rana**  
AST week, Russian President Vladimir Putin talked on several geopolitical issues in St Petersburg, which also define Moscow's approach to China, India and Pakistan. The most interesting statement he made was that he does not believe Pakistan was under the control of China; he said that Pakistan is a large country that has multifaceted ties with different states. Perhaps he was trying to justify Moscow's recent defence-related talks, which the Taliban regime's defence minister, Mullah Yaqoob, used as a counter-response to the Pakistani air strikes inside Afghanistan. Putin's message between the lines was that, as Pakistan has multifaceted ties with China, the US, and even Russia, Moscow takes the same approach in engaging with nations. After all, Russia is the only country in the world that has recognised the Taliban regime.

There is little doubt that Pakistan has found its geopolitical strength through cultivating a multi-vector approach and hardly portrays itself as a passive client in its relations with the US or any other power. But every policy has two sides, and nothing comes without a cost. Maintaining a strategic equilibrium requires winning and maintaining trust at a certain level with divergent partners. For instance, Pakistan-China relations, which Putin mentioned, have entered a

new domain. Formally, this became evident on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of bilateral relations between the two countries, when Pakistan's civilian and military leadership visited Beijing and signed several MoUs. This speaks volumes: Sino-Pak relations have entered a critical new strategic phase, with these ties deepening. China is increasingly seeking to keep Pakistan firmly within its sphere of influence, shifting away from purely economic projects like CPEC towards enhanced defence and security cooperation. CPEC, which was once central to their bilateral relations, has become a lower priority, even in the context of counterterrorism cooperation. Ultimately, while China reaffirmed its commitment to provide a robust security shield, Pakistan remains responsible for its own internal economic stability and administrative reforms. While China offers significant guarantees of Pakistan's national sovereignty, this transition creates a complex dilemma for Pakistan as it attempts to balance its ties with Western powers such as the US.

Unlike Russia, China is playing more smartly to project itself as a major global power and to engage nations of the Global South through several initiatives, such as the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilisation Initiative and Global Governance Initiative. While engaging nations in such initiatives, it develops bilateral frameworks of cooperation that bind countries into its broader political partnership. There should be no harm in this, but through such initiatives, China is challenging the existing Western political and security order without provoking direct confrontation. Pakistan has recently signed all the MoUs under these initiatives, which Beijing depicts as Pakistan agreeing to remain within its sphere of influence. This is the tricky part. A nation that maintains multifaceted relationships hardly follows such ideologically driven political initiatives. Putin finds Pakistan another window through which to engage and send messages to Washington. Russia also maintains multifaceted ties and is seeking to maintain equilibrium with China, India and Pakistan. However, what is common to China and Russia is the challenge posed by the US. As long as the US remains engaged in West Asia, both China and Russia benefit, as this increases their economic and political strength, while weakening US interests. Most importantly, President Donald Trump's attention may not turn to Afghanistan, especially the Bagram base, which he has his eyes on. In this context, Pakistan is perceived as a US partner, but Beijing has its apprehensions. Courtesy Dawn

## Climate Change and Human Dignity: An Analysis of Our Socio-Economic Reality

**By: Saima Azhar**  
LECTURER FUUAST ISLAMABAD

**C**limate change has evolved beyond academic debate and scientific documentation; it is an immediate, harsh reality affecting daily life. As the world observes Climate Day, global conversations often center around international treaties and macro-level emissions targets. However, looking at the crisis through a localized lens reveals that the stakes are much closer to home. According to an analysis by Saima Azhar, a specialist at FUUAST, climate change is not merely an environmental degradation issue. It is a direct assault on human dignity. When an outdoor laborer collapses under a relentless heatwave, or when a farmer loses an entire season's harvest to unpredictable weather shifts, the loss extends far beyond economics. It strips vulnerable individuals of their livelihood, financial independence, and basic quality of life. Saima emphasizes that for developing nations like Pakistan, climate risks manifest primarily as labor and socio-economic crises. A significant portion of the population relies on open-air, climate-dependent physical labor. Instead of relying on reactive international aid or external funds, there is an urgent need to formulate proactive, localized policies. Addressing climate change requires shifting the perspective from an abstract global problem to a core issue of human survival and systemic socioeconomic resilience.



## Death for demonic crimes

**I**n a nation where the scales of justice often tilt against the most vulnerable, our courts have delivered powerful, unequivocal verdicts that deserve full endorsement from the public. By refusing to show leniency in two of the most horrifying cases in recent memory, the judiciary has reaffirmed that depravity deserves no concession. This week, a Lahore High Court bench dismissed the appeals of Abid Malhi and Shafiq Baga, upholding the death sentences handed down by an anti-terrorism court in 2021 for the two men behind the 2020 gang rape of a woman of Pakistani origin on the Sialkot-Lahore motorway, a brutal attack carried out at gunpoint in front of her three young children. The court ruled the death sentences to be "lawful", leaving no room for ambiguity. We applaud this decision. The depravity of raping a mother in front of her children is beyond any comprehension, and the state's ultimate sanction is the only proportionate response. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court closed the chapter on the Noor Mukadam murder case, dismissing Zahir Jaffer's final review plea and sealing his death sentence for the grisly crime. After the Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court had already upheld the conviction, this closure is a testament to the relentless pursuit of justice by the victim's family.

## Tariq Fazal rejects JAAC claims of inaction, says most agreement commitments fulfilled



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Sunday rejected claims that the October 3, 2025, agreement with the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) had largely remained unimplemented, saying the government had fulfilled the vast majority of its commitments in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

His remarks came after JAAC announced protests across the region on June 9, demanding the AJK government to proclaim the group a proscribed organisation, accusing it of involvement in terrorism, promoting hatred and creating anarchy in the

state.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Chaudhry said the government had repeatedly sought to resolve outstanding issues through dialogue but regretted that "false and negative propaganda" was being spread regarding the implementation status of the agreement.

Referring to demands concerning the representation of Kashmiri migrants residing in Pakistan, the minister said four options had been proposed, including discussing the matter through an all-parties conference comprising all registered political parties in AJK.

Rejecting claims circulating on social media that only three clauses of the agreement had been implemented, Dr Chaudhry said that, as a signatory to the accord and a participant in the negotiations held with JAAC in October 2025, he wanted to present the implementation record before the public "clause by clause".

According to the minister, the first commitment related to cases registered against demonstrators during

protests and the long march held in September 2025. He said 177 FIRs had been withdrawn through notifications issued on multiple dates in December 2025. However, he noted that cases relating to 14 deaths had not been withdrawn and remained sealed, while a proposal to establish a judicial commission was still under consideration. Dr Chaudhry said government employees suspended for participating in the demonstrations had been reinstated, while employment had been provided to the family members of deceased protesters, including the widow of one victim.

He further stated that electricity bills of beneficiaries affected by the Mangla Dam Raising Project had been waived, with the relevant notifications already issued. The minister said the National Highway Authority (NHA) had completed a feasibility study for the Khuiratta-Azad Pattan Road project and submitted it to the Ministry of Communications, with details shared with the AJK government. On other commitments, he said the procurement of electricity.

## Naqvi delivers 'special message' to Khamenei as Pakistan continues US-Iran mediation

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Speaking to reporters after arriving in Tehran, Naqvi said he travelled to Iran to deliver a letter from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir to Khamenei.

The interior minister delivered the message during a meeting with Araghchi earlier today, with images published by Fars news agency showing him handing over a sealed brown envelope to the Iranian foreign minister. The crucial communication comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the US, with recent tit-for-tat attacks threatening the fragile ceasefire, in place since April 8.

Islamabad has been acting as a key mediator between the US and Iran since hostilities erupted in the Middle East in late February.

The Middle East conflict began after the US and Iran launched coordinated attacks on Iran on February 28. Tehran responded by launching attacks on Israel and US bases across the region, and also crossed the Strait of

Hormuz.

While hostilities have largely subsided since the April 8 ceasefire mediated by Pakistan, the US and Iran have exchanged strikes on several occasions, with each side accusing the other of violating the truce.

The US-Israel war on Iran entered its 100th day, as Washington said it had shot down two Iranian drones that posed a threat to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

The US Central Command (Centcom) said it destroyed two Iranian drones "that threatened international maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz", hours after announcing it struck four other drones and coastal surveillance radar sites.

Tehran on Saturday fired a salvo of missiles at US allies Bahrain and Kuwait, drawing a furious response from the Gulf states.

Iran's foreign ministry denounced Saturday's US strikes as "flagrant" violations while condemning Washington's "hostile and provocative behaviour".

## Aurangzeb Khichi praises Saira Peter for showcasing Pakistan's cultural strength on global stage

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD:

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi has expressed deep appreciation for the historic performance of Pakistan's Sufi-opera star Saira Peter at London's Royal Albert Hall. In a statement issued on Sunday, he said the achievement is a moment of pride for the entire nation, highlighting Pakistan's growing presence in global cultural and classical music arenas.

The Minister stated that Saira Peter's groundbreaking performance before a 5,000-strong audience at the Royal Albert Hall has not only elevated Pakistan's cultural image but has also demonstrated the power of music in bridging Eastern and Western traditions. He noted that her fusion of Sufi music with Western opera represents a unique artistic identity that reflects Pakistan's diversity and creative strength.

He further praised her collaboration with international musicians and choirs, calling it a "remarkable example of cultural.

## PPP flags concerns over delay in GB elections' results

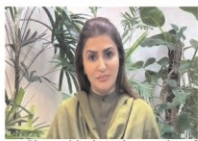
PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PPP Parliamentary spokesperson and MNA Shazia Marri has expressed concerns over delay in GB election results.

In a press statement, Shazia Marri claimed that unusual delay in Gilgit-Baltistan election results is raising doubts. She said that delaying tactics in providing Form 45 were unacceptable which was an attempt to make the election process controversial.

Shazia Marri said that alterations in voter lists and changes in polling stations ahead of election day indicated that federal government had planned rigging.

PPP Spokesperson said that the relocation of the polling station in the Bunji area of Astore II to a hilly location away from the roadside was an attack on the right of voters to vote.



She said that thousands of voters, including women, faced difficulties in finding polling information and polling stations.

"We will not allow any attempt to alter the election results or rob the public mandate to succeed", Shazia Marri asserted. "All tactics that make the electoral process controversial will be defeated with the power of the people", Shazia Marri said.

She demanded that the Election Commission should fulfill its constitutional responsibility and immediately release transparent results.

## Hisense launch reflects global confidence in Pakistan's industrial future: SAPM

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, said on Saturday that Hisense, the global technology giant, launch in Pakistan is a clear proof of world's strong vote of confidence in Pakistan's economic potential, industrial capabilities, and investment environment.

He was addressing the Hisense launching ceremony organized by Airlink Communication Limited here at Expo Center. The launch event, marked a significant milestone for Pakistan's consumer electronics and manufacturing sectors. The ceremony was also attended by senior government officials,



members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, industry representatives, and stakeholders from Pakistan's technology and manufacturing sectors. Haroon Akhtar Khan added that the arrival of Hisense sends a clear message to the international community that Pakistan is not merely a consumer market but an emerging hub of production, innovation, entrepreneurship, and industrial growth. He stated that partnership between Hisense and Airlink represents a new model.

## Gilani calls for collective action to protect oceans

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, emphasized the urgent need for collective global and national efforts to protect marine ecosystems and ensure the sustainable use of ocean resources for future generations.

On the occasion of World Oceans Day 2026 (June 8), highlighting this year's theme, "Reimagine", the Chairman of the Senate said that oceans are not distant entities but a vital source of life, climate balance, food security, and economic opportunity.

He noted that Pakistan, as a coastal nation with vast maritime



potential, bears a shared responsibility to preserve marine biodiversity and combat threats such as pollution, overfishing, and climate change.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stressed that the protection of oceans is essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for economic resilience, particularly in sectors linked to fisheries, trade.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi (left) delivers message to Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran.

## AJK Supreme Court upholds govt's stance on refugee seats in presidential reference

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Supreme Court on Sunday endorsed the government's position on the issue of refugee seats, ruling that the 12 reserved refugee seats in the AJK Legislative Assembly enjoy constitutional protection and cannot be altered through an administrative decision.

The presidential reference had been filed by the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir under Article 46-A of the Interim Constitution, 1974, on the advice of the government, seeking the court's opinion

on constitutional questions relating to refugee seats and other connected matters.

In its opinion, the apex court held that the 12 refugee seats derive constitutional protection under Article 22 and are rooted in historical legal arrangements dating back to the laws of 1960, 1964 and 1970. The court observed that the seats are also linked to the interim constitutional framework, the 1974 Constitution and the 1975 Act.

"Accordingly, we are of the considered opinion that the twelve refugee seats incorporated in Article 22(1)(a)(ii) and (ii) of the Constitution can be altered,



reduced, or abolished only through a constitutional amendment enacted strictly in accordance with Article 33," read the statement – a copy of which is available with Geo News.

"Any demand seeking abolition of any constitution-

the rule of law embodied in Articles 33 and 57 of the Constitution," it added. The court also endorsed the government's decision to leave the remaining constitutional questions to the elected Legislative Assembly, stressing that constitutional amendments can only be enacted through public mandate, parliamentary debate and the prescribed constitutional process. Interpreting Articles 22(3) and 22(4), the court clarified the powers and tenure of the Legislative Assembly and emphasised that elections must be conducted within the constitutional timeframe.

It stated that political dis-

putes or protests cannot be used as grounds to delay the electoral process.

The court further observed that the responsibility for conducting elections and maintaining law and order rests with the state, which is constitutionally bound to ensure the continuation of democratic and constitutional processes.

In its observation, the AJK SC said that the decisive force in Azad Kashmir is not street agitation but the supremacy of the Constitution. While recognising peaceful protest as a constitutional right, it noted that actions disrupting normal life do not enjoy constitutional.