

'Don't see a major war with India'

Says Pakistan ex-NSA after deadly Kashmir attack

AGENCIES

Eleven days after gunmen shot 26 people dead in the scenic valley of Baisaran in Indian-administered Kashmir's Pahalgam, India and Pakistan stand on the brink of a military standoff.

The nuclear-armed neighbours have each announced a series of tit-for-tat steps against the other since the attack on April 22, which India has implicitly blamed Pakistan for, even as Islamabad has denied any role in the killings.

To understand how Pakistani strategists who have worked on ties with India view what might happen next, Al Jazeera spoke with Moeed Yusuf, who served as Pakistan's national security adviser (NSA) between May 2021 and April 2022 under former prime minister Imran Khan.

Yusuf said India and Pakistan have for long struggled in terms of crisis management. They don't have a bilateral crisis management mechanism, which is the fundamental concern, reports Al Jazeera online.

"This time, I feel the problem India has run into is that they followed the old playbook, but the leader of the most important third party, the United States, didn't show up to support India," Yusuf said.

"It appears that they have so far taken a neutral and a hands-off position, as indicated by President Donald Trump few days ago. (Trump said that he knew the leaders of both India and Pakistan, and believed that they could resolve the crisis on their own.)"

Pakistan's response is directly linked to the Indian response, and that is historically how it has been, with both countries going tit-for-tat with each other. This time too, a number of punitive steps have been announced, he said.

"Pakistan naturally has to show commitment to prepare for any eventuality. You don't know what will come next, so you have to be ready. Having said that, I don't think we are going to see a major war, but in these circumstances, you can never predict, and one little misunderstanding or miscalculation can lead to something major."



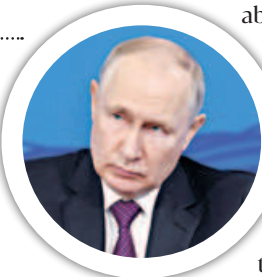
People gather to inspect the damage to a shopping mall, standing near a crater filled with fresh sand, following a night-time Russian drone attack on Kyiv, Ukraine, yesterday. A Russian overnight drone attack on Kyiv injured at least 11 people, including two children. PHOTO: AFP

Russia has the strength to finish Ukraine ops: Putin

REUTERS, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin said in remarks published yesterday that Russia had sufficient strength and resources to take the war in Ukraine to its logical conclusion, though he hoped that there would be no need to use nuclear weapons.

In a film by state television about Putin's quarter of a century as Russia's paramount leader entitled "Russia, Kremlin, Putin, 25 years", Putin was asked by a reporter



about the risk of nuclear escalation from the Ukraine war.

"They wanted to provoke us so that we made mistakes," Putin said, speaking beside a portrait of Tsar Alexander III, a 19th century conservative who suppressed dissent. "There has been no need to use those weapons ... and I hope they will not be required."

"We have enough strength and means to bring what was started in 2022 to a logical conclusion with the outcome Russia requires," Putin said.

US-China tussle a top priority

Says Australia's re-elected government

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's Labor government will prioritise dealing with the "dark shadow" of the US-China trade war following its resounding re-election victory, Treasurer Jim Chalmers said yesterday, after a campaign that highlighted concerns over US trade policy and the global economy.

Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese, Australia's first prime minister to win a second consecutive term in two decades, promised in remarks yesterday that he would run a disciplined and orderly government, stressing that Australians had voted for unity.

The centre-left Labor Party appeared likely to expand its majority in parliament to at least 86 seats from 77, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation projected.

S'pore ruling party wins polls in landslide

AFP, Singapore

Voters have handed Singapore's long-time ruling party a landslide election victory, offering Prime Minister Lawrence Wong a clear mandate to navigate the trade-orientated Southeast Asian nation through economic upheaval sparked by looming US tariffs.

Wong's People's Action Party took all but 10 seats in the 97-seat unicameral legislature with a total of 65.57 percent of more than 2.4 million votes cast in the island state in Saturday's polls.

Some banks hit by capital squeeze

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deeper deterioration in their financial positions, whereas private commercial banks and foreign banks remain on firmer ground.

At the end of December, state-run banks posted a CRAR of negative 8.42 percent, Islamic banks stood at negative 4.95 percent, and specialised banks at negative 41.02 percent.

In contrast, private commercial banks recorded a CRAR of 10.98 percent, and foreign banks posted a strong 42.09 percent, far above the minimum requirement under the Basel III framework, central bank data shows.

CRAR measures the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets, which are assets that have been weighted based on their riskiness.

Industry insiders said that the capital shortfall of banks can threaten the stability of the entire financial sector.

They also noted that investors and depositors lose trust in the affected banks, and the credit ratings of those banks can be downgraded, making it harder and more expensive for them to raise funds.

A senior official at the central bank said the scale of bad loans came to light after the August 2024 political transition, exposing the scale of losses that had been accumulating beneath the surface. This revelation, he added, pushed many

banks into deeper capital shortfalls.

By the end of the year, 19 banks, including six state-owned lenders, faced a combined capital shortfall of Tk 1,71,700 crore, the highest on record. The surge was largely driven by an unprecedented rise in non-performing loans, which climbed to Tk 3,45,765 crore.

The central bank official warned that many of the affected banks are now operating at a loss and may struggle to continue lending. "They often cut back on lending to preserve capital," he said.

In the wake of the political transition, several banks have been newly added to the list of undercapitalised institutions. These include Islamic Bank Bangladesh, First Security Islamic Bank, Social Islamic Bank, IFIC Bank, Union Bank, Global Islamic Bank and Al-Arafah Islamic Bank, most of them exposed to politically connected groups that flourished under the previous government.

Contacted, Arief Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank, said that provision shortfalls spiked as defaulted loans surged, worsened by factory closures whose owners fled or were jailed. As a result, the capital shortfall increased several times.

Banks are mandated to allocate a certain

percentage of their operating profits as provisions against loan losses, and if these provisions are insufficient, it can lead to a shortfall.

Janata Bank saw its capital shortfall swell to Tk 52,890 crore by end-2024, driven by Tk 67,148 crore in bad loans—72 percent of its disbursed portfolio. Major defaulters include Anontex, Crescent, Beximco, Thermax, and S Alam Group, who collectively owe over Tk 45,000 crore, according to BB data.

Among other state-run banks, Bangladesh Krishi Bank faced a Tk 18,188 crore capital shortfall at the end of 2024; Rupali Tk 5,100 crore; Agrani Tk 4,685 crore; BASIC Tk 3,150 crore; and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank Tk 2,400 crore.

The state-run lenders have now become unable to provide large loans under the existing single borrower exposure limit rules due to their high capital shortfalls.

Among private commercial banks, Union Bank's capital shortfall stood at Tk 15,689 crore; First Security Islamic Bank Tk 13,991 crore; Islamic Bank Tk 12,885 crore; Social Islamic Bank Tk 11,708 crore; IFIC Bank Tk 9,000 crore; and National Bank Tk 7,700 crore.

In addition, Padma Bank had a Tk 4,900 crore shortfall; Global Islamic Bank Tk 2,900

crore; ICB Islamic Bank Tk 1,900 crore; Bangladesh Commerce Bank Tk 1,600 crore; Standard Bank Tk 1,500 crore; AB Bank Tk 500 crore; and Al-Arafah Islamic Bank Tk 250 crore.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shaifuzzaman, managing director of Social Islamic Bank, proposed easing provisioning rules, selling frozen S Alam-related shares, and issuing rights shares once conditions stabilise.

A chief executive of a private commercial bank, seeking anonymity, also said the capital shortfall will decrease if the central bank allows a deferral facility for maintaining provisions. However, weak and problematic banks used such regulatory forbearance to hide capital shortfalls during the previous government's tenure, he added.

Zahid Hussain, a banking reform task force member and former World Bank lead economist in Dhaka, told The Daily Star that recapitalisation is the easiest fix, and it can proceed under reform initiatives, including the passage of the Bank Resolution Ordinance.

He, however, warned against pouring funds into mismanaged banks. "M i s m a n a g e m e n t, irregularities, and corruption must be rooted out from troubled banks before the government considers recapitalising them."

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES DIRECTOR OF WORKS & CHIEF ENGINEER (ARMY)

INVITATION00 FOR TENDERS

Ref No 25 of 2024-2025/E-6

Dated 28 April 2025

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence			
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services			
3. Procuring Entity Name	DW & CE (Army) Dhaka Cantt			
4. Tender Name	Different B & R Works of Bangladesh Army for the financial year 2024-2025 (As per Ser No. 15)			
5. Invitation for Tender No	25 of 2024-2025/E-6 Dated 28 April 2025			
6. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
7. Source of Funds	GOB			
8. Tender Publication Date	07 May 2025			
9. Tender Last Selling Date	20 May 2025 upto 1430 hours.			
10. Tender Submission Date & Time	21 May 2025, 1200 hours.			
11. Tender Opening Date & Time	21 May 2025, 1230 hours.			
12. Name & Address of the office (s)	Selling Tender Documents a. Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW&CE (A) at GE (A) Central, Dhaka Cantt. b. DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt Receiving Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW&CE(A) at GE (A) Central, Dhaka Cantt. Opening Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW&CE (A) at GE (A) Central, Dhaka Cantt.			
13. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	20 May 2025, 1000-1100 hours.			
14. Eligibility of Tenderer	For Serial No.15 (a to j): Contractors enlisted in MES Class 'C' & 'D' For Serial No.15 (m): Contractors enlisted in MES Class 'D' & 'E' in other Govt/Semi-Govt/autonomous organizations in similar capacity having necessary security clearance from DGFI.			
15. Description of works	Location	Price of Tender Document (Non refundable)	Amount of Tender Security (Taka) (In the shape of Bank Draft/ Pay order/Bank Guarantee in favor of DW & CE (Army))	Time of Completion of Wks
a. Renewal/Modification/alteration of existing pre-mix carpeting road & Barbed wire fencing through abnormal repair at Bogura Cantt (Majira).	Bogura Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,90,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
b. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to RCC Road at Mortar Ground Area through abnormal repair at Jalalabad Cantt.	Jalalabad Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,90,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
c. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to RCC Road at Sniper Ground Area through abnormal repair at Jalalabad Cantt.	Jalalabad Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,90,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
d. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to existing Bldg No. PT-6 (SM BK 2nd & 3rd floor), H-40 (Ground floor of main office), PT-01 (E.C.G. E.T.T Department 1st floor) & PT-07 Officers' Family Ward 1st & 2nd floor) through abnormal repair at Chattogram Cantt.	Chattogram Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,90,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
e. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to existing Bldg No.PT-41, PT-17 (JCO's Qtr) through abnormal repair at Khagrachari Cantt.	Khagrachari Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,75,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
f. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to existing Bldg No.D-1,2,3,4 & TY-07 at Officers' Residential Area through abnormal repair at Jashore Cantt.	Jashore Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.2,00,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
g. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to Bldg No. PT-02 (Record Office) & PT-76 (OR's Qtr) through abnormal repair at Jahanabad Cantt.	Jahanabad Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,80,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
h. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to Brick Bottoming Road from Butchery to Assault Course Ground Area through abnormal repair at Shahid Bir Uttom Mahub Cantt.	Shahid Bir Uttom Mahub Cantt, Parbatipur	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,80,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
j. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to Brick Bottoming Road/Hardstading at Station Officers' Mess-'C' Area under GE (Army) North) through abnormal repair at Dhaka Cantt.	Dhaka Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,80,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
k. Renewal/Renovation/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to existing Bldg No. 68 (Major General M Shamsul Haque Auditorium) at AFM Area under GE (Army) CMH through abnormal repair at Dhaka Cantt.	Dhaka Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,55,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
l. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to Boundary wall at BIPSHOT Area through abnormal repair at Rajendrapur Cantt.	Rajendrapur Cantt	Tk.2,000.00	Tk.1,50,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
m. Renewal/Modification/alteration including ancillary works to existing Bldg No.38 (Cook House & Dinning Hall of CMH) through abnormal repair at Alikadom Cantt under AGE (Army) Bandarban.	Alikadom Cantt, Bandarban	Tk.1,000.00	Tk.1,00,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
16. Contact details	Phone : 9832678, Mili: 2678, Fax : (02) 9833284 Web Site : www.army.mil.bd			
17. Special Instructions	a. Tenderer shall submit copy of letter of valid enlistment & security clearance with application when purchasing tender. b. Detailed requirements are mentioned in Tender Data sheet of Tender documents. c. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

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DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantt

S-W PAKISTAN Five cops kidnapped

AFP, Quetta

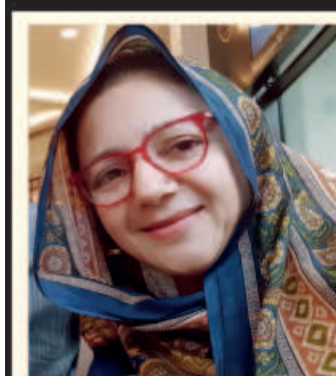
A separatist militant group in southwestern Pakistan yesterday claimed an attack on a prison van in which five police officers were taken hostage.

Between 30 and 40 gunmen blocked a major highway that cuts across Balochistan province overnight on Friday, intercepting a prison van being transported by a police team, a police official said.

"The prisoners were released later but five policemen have been kidnapped," a senior police official said.

In Loving Memory of Syeda Ghazala Mohsin

Teacher, Sister, Wife, Mother, Daughter, Aunt, Friend, Guide



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Syeda Ghazala Mohsin, who left this world peacefully on the evening of May 2nd at her home.

A teacher not just by profession but in spirit, Syeda Ghazala Mohsin dedicated her life to nurturing young minds. Her unwavering commitment to her students' growth was matched only by her quiet pride in their successes, no matter how small.

To her family, she was the heart and the head — a pillar of strength who led with grace, and determination, becoming the father figure in the absence of one. She was a beloved wife, an admired mother, a treasured sister, a respected aunt, and an endeared daughter whose presence was a constant source of security.

Though she could be quick to temper, it was never without cause — her convictions were rooted in care and principle. She found joy in the ordinary and never sought the spotlight. Averse to grandeur, she was happiest with the humble blessings of daily life, finding solace in — a loved one's smile, a student's progress, a quiet moment shared with family, in classic movies, novels, daily soaps, quiet charity, and in her prayers.

To all who knew her and those reading this, please keep her in your prayers. And to her students, colleagues, and friends: remember her when you see a child learning, when you witness someone teaching, when someone lends a hand to uplift others, or when someone gives all to support her family through life. In those quiet, beautiful moments, say a prayer for her. MAY ALLAH GRANT HER EASE IN HER AFTERLIFE AND THE HIGHEST REWARD OF JANNATUL FERDAUS. AMEEN!