

INSTITUTE OF REGIONAL STUDY (IRS), PESHAWAR

POLICY REPORT

Seminar on the US–Iran Conflict and its Regional and Global Implications

Opening Session

Welcome Address

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khalil Chairman IRS, Peshawar

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khalil welcomed the distinguished guests, diplomats, academics, researchers, students, and participants. He stated that the seminar had been organized to discuss one of the most significant international developments of 2026—the US–Iran conflict and its implications for regional stability, international security, and the global economy.

He highlighted Pakistan's diplomatic efforts in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran, which resulted in the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). According to him, the agreement provided an opportunity for de-escalation and included a framework for further negotiations within sixty days.

Dr. Khalil also pointed out that despite the ceasefire arrangement, important regional issues, particularly the Gaza crisis, remained unresolved, making the agreement fragile. He observed that renewed military actions had once again threatened hopes for lasting peace.

He concluded by emphasizing that any escalation between the United States and Iran would affect not only the Middle East but also global trade, energy markets, and countries such as Pakistan.

Keynote Address

Syed Ibrar Hussain Deputy Chairman IPS Islamabad

Former Ambassador of Pakistan

Structure of the Presentation

- Prelude to the Conflict
- Causes of Escalation
- Military Developments
- Comparative Losses
- Islamabad Peace Memorandum (MOU)
- Regional Implications
- Global Economic Consequences
- Future Geopolitical Order
- Questions and Discussion

Ibrar Hussain explained that tensions originated from disagreements over Iran's nuclear program. He reviewed previous diplomatic efforts, including negotiations during earlier US administrations and the subsequent withdrawal from the nuclear agreement.

He argued that domestic unrest in Iran combined with increasing regional tensions, encouraged expectations in some international circles that pressure might lead to political change inside Iran. Meanwhile, Israel consistently advocated a tougher policy towards Iran, further increasing tensions.

Military Escalation

The speaker explained that diplomatic efforts gradually gave way to military confrontation. Both sides targeted strategic military installations.

Iran responded by targeting US military facilities in the Gulf region and demonstrated its ability to threaten shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting the strategic importance of one of the world's busiest energy corridors.

He noted that although international concern increased, both countries eventually entered negotiations through diplomatic mediation.

Human and Military Losses

The presentation reviewed reported losses suffered during the conflict.

Iranian Losses

Senior military commanders and defense officials were reportedly killed.

Military infrastructure sustained significant damage.

Civilian casualties and destruction of public infrastructure were reported.

Educational institutions and residential areas were also affected.

US Losses

According to the presentation:

US military bases in the Gulf sustained damage.

Several aircraft were reportedly lost.

Naval assets, including an aircraft carrier, reportedly suffered damage.

American military personnel were killed or injured.

(MOU Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding)

Ibrar Hussain described the Islamabad MOU as Pakistan's major diplomatic achievement.

According to the presentation, the agreement included:

- Immediate ceasefire.
- Suspension of military operations.
- Reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for commercial shipping.
- Gradual reduction of naval restrictions.
- Commitment to comprehensive peace negotiations within sixty days.
- Partial sanctions relief and economic confidence-building measures.
- International support for reconstruction and humanitarian assistance.

However, he observed that renewed military operations later weakened implementation of the agreement and reduced confidence in the peace process.

Regional Implications

The conflict was presented as having significant consequences for the Middle East:

- Increased security concerns for Gulf States.
- Changes in regional alliances.
- Greater military competition.
- Increased strategic uncertainty.
- Pressure on regional economies dependent on stable energy exports.

Global Economic Implications

Ambassador Ibrar Hussain explained that the conflict affected the international economy by:

- Threatening closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Increasing global oil and gas prices.
- Disrupting international shipping routes.
- Creating instability in financial markets.
- Affecting global supply chains.
- Increasing inflationary pressures worldwide.

Emerging Global Order

The speaker argued that the conflict may accelerate changes in the international balance of power.

He suggested that:

The global strategic environment is becoming increasingly multipolar.

China and Russia may play larger diplomatic and strategic roles.

Middle powers, including Pakistan and Turkey, have greater opportunities to contribute to conflict resolution through diplomacy.

Question and Answer Session

During the interactive session, participants discussed:

Pakistan's role as a mediator

Future regional security arrangements

China's diplomatic influence

Russia's strategic position

The role of Turkey and other regional actors

Presidential Address

Dr. Fakhrr-ul-Islam Professor of Qurtaba University of Peshawar

Dr. Fakhrr-ul-Islam appreciated the comprehensive presentation delivered by Syed Ibrar Hussain and described him as one of Pakistan's most distinguished diplomat.

He remarked that Pakistan has consistently supported peaceful settlement of international disputes through diplomacy and dialogue. Referring to Pakistan's mediation efforts, he stated that constructive diplomacy enhances regional stability contributes to international peace.

Dr. Fakhrr-ul-Islam stressed that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through military means alone and urged greater reliance on diplomatic engagement, mutual respect, and international cooperation.

He concluded by thanking Ambassador Syed Ibrar Hussain, the organizers, and all participants for their valuable contributions to the seminar.

Conclusion

The seminar provided a valuable platform for examining the strategic, economic and geopolitical dimensions of the US Iran conflict .The discussion understood the importance of diplomacy, dialogue and multilaterals cooptation in addressing complex regional crisis.

Participants agreed that sustainable peace requires inclusive engagement, adherence to international law and coordinated international efforts to promote regional stability and security.

DR Fazal Rehman Qureshi expressed appreciation to the speakers, guests, researchers, faculty members and participants.

The proceedings ended with vote of thanks and collective prayers for global peace, regional stability and international cooperation.

As a gesture of appreciation and recognition, a commemorative shield was jointly presented to Mr.Syed Ibrar Hussain, former Ambassador of Pakistan, by Dr.Fazal Rehman, Dr Fakhrr-UI- Islam and Dr.Muhammad Iqbal in acknowledging of his insightful keynote address and valuable contribution to the seminar.

_____ End of Report

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