#### Floods: Locals evacuated F.P. Report

CHITRAL: A high-level flood in Ghot Gol stream in the Morkho area of Upper Chitral has forced the evacuation of local residents to safer locations. The flood was triggered by melting snow from the surrounding mountains. Local administration on Wednesday said the strong floodwaters caused significant damage to crops and several connecting roads near the stream.

# Frontier Post

Water shortage hits Gwadar F.P. Report

GWADAR: Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Abdul Shakoor reviewed the water shortage in the city during his visit to the water storage tanks of the New Town Housing Scheme. Fluctuations in voltage at pumping stations have affected the water supply. During the visit, Dr. Shakoor spoke with the GDA"s Project Director of Water.

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ISLAMABAD: A US delegation, led by Mr, Eric Meyer, Senior Bureau Official and Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State, paid a courtesy call on

# Trump pauses higher US delegation calls on tariffs for countries

### - hikes China rate to 125%

Donald Trump announced a 90 day pause Bessent, in an interview with Fox on his sweeping tariffs Wednesday, giv- Business Network, said China's new taring all countries a 10 percent baseline except China, which will see even higher "They have the China has shown to the World's Markets, 125%, effective immediately," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Saying that more than 75 countries had asked for negotiations over the tariffs, Trump said he "authorized a 90 day pause, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10%, also effective immediately."

up from the 34pc previously announced, its finance ministry said on Wednesday, firing the latest salvo in a global trade war sparked by US President Donald Trump. Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs on dozens of countries took effect earlier today, including massive 104pc duties on Chinese goods. The European Union is also preparing its own retaliatory meastrade deficits with many countries the market value of major firms.

that foreign funds were fleeing US sharp yuan declines.

WASHINGTON (AFP): President assets. US Treasury Secretary Scott

"They have the most imbalanced levies. "Based on the lack of respect that economy in the history of the modern world, and I can tell you that this escala-I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to tion is a loser for them," he said. This China by the United States of America to week has already brought crisis-era volatility to markets, wiping trillions of dollars off the value of stocks and hammering commodities and emerging mar-kets. Shares of big US banks fell premarket, extending tariffs-induced losses after China announced its 84pc tariffs on US goods. Oil prices extended their fouryear lows. "The US and China are stuck Meanwhile, China will impose 84 per in an unprecedented, and expensive cent tariffs on US goods from Thursday, game of chicken, and it seems that both sides are unwilling to back down," said Ting Lu, chief China economist at

Trump had nearly doubled duties on Chinese imports, which had been set at 54pc last week, in response to previous counter-tariffs from Beijing. The White House had no immediate comment on China's latest retaliatory move. Earlier ures for later today. Trump's punishing tariffs - which he says aim to end US plus with the US an inevitability and plus with the US an inevitability and warned it had the "determination and have upended a global trading order in means" to continue the fight if Trump place for decades, raising fears of reces- kept hitting Chinese goods. China's cursion and wiping trillions of dollars off rency has faced heavy downward pressure, with the offshore yuan at record Global markets took a pummelling lows due to the tariffs. But sources told today as Trump's eye-watering 104pc. Reuters that the central bank has asked tariffs on China came into effect, and a major state-owned banks to reduce US savage selloff in US bonds sparked fears dollar purchases and would not allow

### calls on **Army Chief** F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the United States, led by Mr. Eric Meyer, Senior Bureau Official for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, called on General Syed Asim Mu-nir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters on Wednesday.

Meeting came in the backdrop of Pakistan's Mineral Investment Forum. Appreciating the first-of-its-kind Forum, the delegation expressed confidence in Pakistan's policy to develop vast untapped mineral wealth through mutually beneficial

partnerships.
Commenting on the US Administration's priorities where collaboration in mineral development with Pakistan is a core area of mutual interest, Mr. Meyer also expressed interest Pakistan's steadily improving investment landscape.

The meeting also afforded an opportunity to both sides for sharing perspective on global developments and Pakistan's regional security imperatives. Both sides expressed confidence on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed on the need to explore B2B avenues in addition to expanding existing G2G and P2P cooperation for comprehensively strengthening the relationship.

### May 9: ATC issues arrest warrants

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) of Islamabad on Wednesday issued arrest warrants for PTI workers involved in May 9 vandalism for failing to appear before the court. Justice Tahir Abbas Sipra of the ATC conducted hearing of the cases against PTI founder Imran Khan, PTI Vice President Shah Mahmood Qureshi and several PTI workers.

The hearing couldn't proceed as Khan and didn't appear Oureshi before the court, prompting the judge to adjourn the hearing until May 9 while ordering arrest of absent PTI workers. The defendant's lawyer contended that case could not be proceeded citing unavailability of the incarcerated PTI founder while requesting exemption of PTI workers, who travelled from farflung areas for the hearing.

### new trade tariff F.P. Report PIA set to post first profit: Shehbaz

PM to send team

to US to discuss

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan will send a high-level delegation to the United States for negotiations aimed at addressing tariffs and further strengthening bilateral trade rela-

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister

The delegation will include prominent business figures and exporters from Pakistan, the prime minister said while chairing a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) here. Praising the government economic team, the prime minister said the team successfully negotiated with International Monetary Fund (IMF) through their valuable suggestions. to convince it to reduce the electricity The meeting was attended by

"With the reduction in power tariffs, the production cost of the industrial sector would also reduce, and as a result the exports of the country will go up." The prime minster pointed out that with reduction in the production cost of the local industries, the competition of the Pakistani products in the world market will improve.

He said industrial development was one of the top priority of the government that will help producing new Jameel Ahmad, and other relevant employment opportunities. "Due to senior officials. the comprehensive advisory process, the sustainable development goals will become possible soon," he said adding that the government was easing the process of investment and business by introducing reform measthrough information technology," he remarked.

The prime minister further added emphasized that experts from various ing.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan International Airlines' return to earning profit after 20 years was a 'major turnaround" after decades of losses. "Another good news! Alhamdolilah! PIA set to post its first profit in 20 years, a major turnaround after decades of losses. The skies ahead look brighter, Inshallah!" the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He also lauded the team efforts led by Aviation Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif. According to media reports, PIA's bo--ard of directors approved its fin-ancial results for 2024, depicting an operational profit of Rs3.9 billion and a net profit of Rs2.26bn. The airline last achie-v--ed profit in the year 2003.

F.P. Report

sectors included in the Economic Advisory Council will play an important role in national development

The meeting was attended by members of the Economic Advisory Council, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Ali Pervez Malik, Sardar Awais Khan Laghari, Advisors Muhammad Ali, Syed Taqir Shah, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar, Governor State Bank

The participants presented their recommendations on the future course of action, particularly regarding the growth of Pakistan's economy and the increase in exports. They also appreciated the government's efforts ures in the taxation system and in reducing the electricity tariffs provided to industries.

The participants lauded the special attention given to the recent Mineral that the stability of the economy, Investment Forum and considered it reduction in inflation, significant an important milestone for the develdecrease in interest rates, increased opment of Pakistan's mineral and members. He also instructed the fortrust from global institutions, and mining sector. The participants rec- mation of separate sub-committees investment from friendly countries ommended focusing on the export of are the results of the hard work of the value-added products rather than raw government's economic team. He materials in government policy mak-

They also suggested strengthening the communication infrastructure for the transportation of goods from industries to ports, aligning the skills of the domestic workforce with international standards, improving the promotion of Pakistani goods through foreign embassies, establishing export promotional councils, and further improving facilities in special economic zones and industrial areas.

The participants also recommended comprehensive research on the production stages of exportable products and their raw material sources, which would help Pakistani manufacturers compete in the global market and increase exports. Furthermore, the participants proposed reforms in Pakistan's banking sector to facilitate exports.

They also appreciated the decision

to send a high-level delegation to negotiate on the recent tariff imposition by the United States. They also commended the representation and inclusiveness of all sectors in the council. The prime minister directed the government's economic team to prepare a practical action plan based on the suggestions of the council under the Economic Advisory Council for different sectors, which will propose actionable suggestions regarding those sectors.

## Pak's economy to grow 2.5% in FY2025: ADB

F.P. Report

economy is showing signs of adjustment program is critistability and recovery with cal for building resilience growth in FY2025 (ending and enabling sustainable and 30 June 2026), as the effects inclusive of tight macroeconomic policies and progress in economic reforms took hold.

According to the Asian Development (ADO) April 2025, the such as tax policy and ener-Asian Development Bank's gy sector viability," said (ADB) annual flagship eco-Pakistan's real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 2.5% in increase in 2026. Sustained FY2025, the same growth implementation of policy rate from FY2024.

growth is projected to tick fortify fiscal and external up to 3.0% in FY2026. The buffers," Fan added. In growth outlook is being FY2025, growth is expected helped by a more stable to be driven by a rebound in inflation, stable global oi macroeconomic position private sector investment and commodity prices, modhelped by the International linked to progress on reform erate domestic demand con-

(EFF) arrangement that and began in October 2024. ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Adherence to the economic growth.

'Pakistan's economy has benefitted from improved macroeconomic stability through robust reform Outlook implementation in areas ADB Country Director for publication, Pakistan Emma Fan.

"Growth is projected to persist in 2025 and to increase in 2026. Sustained reforms is vital to buttress ADB says Pakistan's this growth trajectory and Fund Facility greater economic stability, effect.

a stable exchange market.

The successful imple-

mentation of the reform program is anticipated to continue creating a more stable macroeconomic environment and gradually remove structural barriers to growth Economic activity in both the industrial and service sectors will benefit from recent monetary easing and macroeconomic stability Additionally, strong remittance inflows, lower inflation, and monetary easing are likely to support aggregate demand.

Average inflation is pro jected to decline significant ly to 6.0% in FY2025 and further to 5.8% in FY2026 That's being driven by continued moderation in food Fund (IMF) measures, perceptions of ditions, and a favorable base

### 23 killed in Israel strike on residential block GAZA CITY (AFP): Gaza's civil defense "The house was directly bombed, and the

agency said an Israeli strike on a residential building in Gaza City killed at least 23 people Wednesday, most of them children or women, as the military said it targeted a 'senior Hamas' militant.

The strike took place in the Shujaiya neighborhood of Gaza City, the agency's spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP. "The death toll from the Shujaiya massacre has risen to 23 martyrs, including eight children and eight women," he said, adding that more than 60 people were wounded. "There are still people trapped under the rubble."

Ayub Salim, a 26-year-old Shujaiya resident, told AFP he witnessed the strike on the four-story block. He said the area was hit with "multiple missiles" and was "overcrowded with tents, displaced people and homes." "Shrapnel flew in all directions," he said, speaking of "a terrifying and indescribable scene.

"Dust and massive destruction filled the entire place, we couldn't see anything, just the screams and panic of the people." Salim said the dead were "torn to pieces." "Even now, emergency crews are still transporting the dead and the injured. It is truly a horrific massacre," he said.

A crew from the Gaza civil defense agency rushed to the scene, only to find several people trapped under the rubble, a rescuer said. "This house was home to many people who believed they were safe. It was blown up over their heads," Ibrahim Abu Al-Rish told AFP. He added that the strike hit while many children were playing inside.

entire residential area was destroyed," he said. "We pulled out the remains of women and children. There are still people buried under the rubble." When asked by AFP about the strike the military said it "struck a senior Hamas terrorist who was responsible for planning and executing terrorist attacks' from the area. It did not give the target's name and renewed its claim, denied by Hamas, that the militant group uses "human shields." Hamas condemned the strike as one of the "most heinous acts of genocide." "The terrorist Zionist occupation army has committed a bloody massacre by bombing a densely populated residential area filled with civilians and displaced people," the group said in a statement.

"These ongoing massacres against our defenseless people — with full support from the American administration, which is complicit in the aggression — represent a stain on the conscience of the international community." Israel resumed intense strikes on the Gaza Strip on March 18, ending a twomonth ceasefire with Hamas. Efforts to restore the truce have so far failed.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run territory said on Wednesday that at least 1,482 Palestinians have been killed in the renewed Israeli operations, taking the overall death toll since the start of the war to 50,846. Hamas's October 2023 attack that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,218 peo ple on the Israeli side, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

### Marri rejects inquiry against Babar F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: person of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Shazia Marri, has stated that the FIA's inquiry against senior PPP leader and former Senator Farhatullah Babar is regrettable. She said it is extremely concerning that the FIA has initiated a baseless inquiry against Farhatullah Babar. For decades, Senator Farhatullah Babar has stood with the oppressed, raised his voice for human rights, and consistently demanded accountability from those in power with dignity and moral insight.

Shazia Marri said it is utterly ridiculous to accuse Farhatullah Babar of abuse of power. He has not held any public office for over a decade. She added that the inquiry, apparently initiated based on a private complaint, is not only untimely but also appears to be motivated by questionable intentions.

Shazia Marri emphasized that Babar's entire political career is a shining example of honesty, principled conduct, and commitment to democratic values.

# KP govt spending taxpayers' money on people:

he inaugurated different development projects worth billions of rupees.

has been completed at a total cost of as tion project of the Mardan Sports direct beneficiaries of the scheme. Complex is estimated at Rs. 363.494 million.

wall, cricket ground, footpaths, internal roads, walking track, ground for persons with different abilities, water Minister also inaugurated Children's Hospital in Mardan. The hospital, comprising 200 beds, has been completed at a total cost of Rs. 2,607 mil-

It includes emergency, OPD, labo-MARDAN: Chief Minister Khyber ratory, pharmacy, and all other allied Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan facilities. Furthermore, the Chief Gandapur, paid a day-long visit to Minister inaugurated sub-projects of Mardan district on Wednesday, where the Kundal Dam in Swabi district. The dam stands 157 feet high and 1,047 feet long, with a total storage The Chief Minister inaugurated capacity of 10,395 acre-feet. The the newly constructed gymnasium at command area of the project is the Mardan Sports Complex and also 13,340 acres. Around 40,000 people laid the foundation stone for the will benefit from the project in agriupgradation and standardization of culture, and it will also supply water the sports complex. The gymnasium to about 30,000 people. Villages such Kundal, Panjmand, Babeen, Rs. 335 million, while the upgrada- Jhanda, Boka, and Tatalia will be

Addressing a public gathering on the occasion, Chief Minister Ali The project includes a boundary Amin Khan Gandapur said that it is the government's responsibility to provide facilities to citizens' at their doorstep. "We are working with the filtration plant, cricket academy, and vision that hospitals must offer treat-other allied facilities. The Chief ment, schools impart education and government offices provide services," he stated

He emphasized that a hospital is

ture of a building. He urged elected public representatives and the public to focus on the timely completion of development projects. "We are spending taxpayers' money on the people. Public money belongs to the people, and they must take ownership and

ment projects," he added.

The Chief Minister mentioned that defined by the availability of health- when he assumed office, medical recovered money that was getting pleted within their stipulated time- every respect.

help to ensure the quality of develop-

care services, not merely by the structreatment under the Sehat Card plus wasted in the system. Over the past was suspended and there were outstanding dues of Rs. 17 billion. rupee in loans—instead, we have emphasized that the provincial gov-Similarly, other departments had liarepaid Rs. 50 billion in debt," he ernment is actively pursuing this billities billions, which are now being noted. He stressed that self-reliance is matter at every forum and called for cleared. Under the vision of PTI's founder chairman Imran Khan, his made Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the richest province in the country.

13 months, we have not taken a single government took measures that have fied. The upcoming annual budget, he the province is very close to secursaid, will be aligned with his vision, ing its due rights and affirmed his We introduced reforms and focus on public welfare and are com- make the province self-sufficient in

The Chief Minister further said his government is completing development projects that have been pending years. Major development schemes will be included in the Annual Development Program (ADP), while elected representatives will be given Rs. 500 million each for smaller projects.

Additionally, every constituency will receive Rs. 2 billion in development funds in the next budget, he added. The Chief Minister asserted that under the National Finance Commission (NFC), the province is constitutionally entitled to an additional Rs. 256 billion annually, which is not being provided. He essential, and nations dependent on collective effort to fight for their loans cannot be sovereign or digni- rights. By expressing optimism that featuring only those projects that belief that, through unity, they will



KARACHI: People busy in shopping school stationary at Urdu Bazaar after starting of new classes.

# SHC Bar observes strike against attack on Karachi Bar President

F.P. Report

President of the Karachi Bar night. Association, Aamir Warraich.

closed, with entry restricted only to court staff. According to Mirza Sarfaraz Ahmed of the Sindh High Court Bar, the condition of Aamir Warraich, president of the Karachi Bar, is now stable.

Mirza Sarfaraz Ahmed further stated that the Sindh High Court (SHC) Bar will also participate in the Karachi Bar's general body meeting. Due to the strike, lawyers are not appearing before the courts today, said Mr. Ahmed and urged the chief justice not to issue any strict order immediate arrest of the perpetrators. against the protesting lawyers.

Association (KBA) President Amir represented an escalation in tactics by President.

Association on the City Station on II Chundrigar Wednesday is observing a strike in Road within the jurisdiction of protest against the attack on the Mithadar Police Station on Tuesday

Warraich was taken to the Civil As per details, the main gates of Hospital Karachi for medical treatthe Sindh High Court have been ment. In a video statement following the incident, he alleged that six men carried out a targeted attack on him. He linked the attack to the ongoing protest over the controversial canals

> Meanwhile, the General Secretary of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi, and Sardar Abdul Rahim have strongly condemned the assassination attempt that left Karachi Bar Association President Aamir Nawaz Warraich severely injured, demanding the

Nawaz Warraich was injured in an those supporting the construction of KARACHI: The Sindh High Court attack by unidentified assailants near additional canals from the Indus River. They emphasized that attacking a courageous legal leader would not facilitate the creation of six new canals, and described this belief as a

grave misconception. The leaders affirmed that the people of Sindh are prepared to make sacrifices to protect the Indus River They accused the Pakistan Peoples Party of becoming predators to cover their misdeeds and extend their rule.

Highlighting the fundamental right to peaceful protest, Dr. Abbasi and Sardar Rahim insisted that such rights cannot be suppressed through intimidation. They expressed solidarity with the legal community of Karachi during this difficult time and prayed for the swift recovery of Aamir Nawaz Warraich. The GDA leaders reiterated their demand for the arrest Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi and Sardar of those responsible for the attack on It is to be noted that Karachi Bar Abdul Rahim stated that the attack the Karachi Bar Association

#### Major relief announced for wheat farmers F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has announced a major relief for wheat farmers by allowing the free movement of wheat within and women have fallen ill and outside the province. As per details, farmers can now gerous disease like scabies and outside the province. As per details, farmers can now gerous disease like scabies Larkana, Qamberth, Zulfiqar Ali Magsi said transport wheat across and skin in the district of Shikarpur, provincial borders without Larkana in the northern including restrictions, enabling them to sell their produce in the most profitable markets.

For the first time, the private sector will be allowed to procure wheat, providing farmers with more options to sell their produce and potentially leading to better prices. Moreover, the deregulation of the wheat market is expected to increase competition among buyers, which could lead to higher prices for farmers and improved market dynamics. Punjab Chief Earlier, Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a high-level meeting on wheat procurement policy to assess the pre-harvest wheat produc-

tion situation. She lauded the farmers of Punjab for achieving recordbreaking wheat production and extended heartfelt appreciation for their dedication. The meeting highlighted the Punjab government's initiative of distributing 1,000 tractors free of cost to wheat farmers, aimed at boosting agricultural productivity.

### One killed, 17 injured in mishaps F.P. Report

OKARA: In Okara, six different accidents occurred in a single day, resulting in one fatality and injuries to 17 people, including women and children. The injured were given initial medical aid and then transferred to nearby hospitals.

According to details, the first accident occurred on Grand Trunk Road near a petrol pump, where two young men were injured their motorcycle slipped. In the second incident, near the suburban area of 25 Two-R Sango Ka, a motorcycle collided with a cart due to high speed, injuring a woman and a child.

The third accident happened near 49 Two-L Stop when two rickshaws collided, injuring four people, including a woman. fourth incident occurred on Canal Renala Road when a motorcycle collided with a cart, resulting in serious injuries to two individuals.

# Scabies outbreaks impacted youth and children

F.P. Report

celebrating World Health Day, many children, youths the health department of Larkana could not control the spread of the disease.

No plan could be planted to control it, because there is no expert doctor in the head department of the skin and scabies department in Larkana, the head of the department doctor from Khairpur Meris only arrives

a handful of patients as for- support of LARKANA: Even after malities, due to which there is no specialist doctor in Allama skin and scabies diseases in University. the public and private hos-

region of Sindh. However, Mohammad (Balochistan) be made public through as many patients of students to make Sindh Balochistan are unable to green. He became a "green receive necessary treatment force" to be active in the due to skin disease in this afforestation modern era.

In connection with the 8th Sindh Foundation (GSF) in as an ambassador of the Larkana, a weekly tree afforestation campaign.

two days a week to register planting campaign with the Welfare Trust was held at

Green Sindh Found-Jacobabad, that the solution to envi-Aosta ronmental problems can campaign movement, because the GSF organizes 8th war to save the environestablishment ceremony: ment can be ended by afforestation campaign, for establishment day of Green this every student went out

# **Erzurum to host ECO** tourism capital events

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The eastern Turkish province of Erzurum, designated as the Turkish Cooperation Economic Organisation (ECO) Tourism Capital of 2025, is set to host the Palandöken Economic Forum on April 26-27, 2025. Founded as the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye, the Forum was rechristened the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in 1985.

The highly anticipated Forum, themed "An Equitable Future in a Smart Intelligent World: Economies and Global Inequality", will bring (KUDAKAF'25). distinguished together international figures, including state authorities, academics and business Türkiye's top winter desti- every season.

mation, with a particular longest ski track and offers focus on the role of artificial intelligence (AI), from the perspective of various European Capital of Winter economies.

sessions, keynote speakers mer, Erzurum offers breathfrom various ECO nations taking nature, cool mounwill join experts from other tain air, and peaceful hiking including trails. countries, Switzerland, France, the UK, the USA, and the UAE, to discuss various economic issues. In addi- house, and ancient mosques tion to these sessions, the and tombs that tell the story Forum will feature signifi- of Anatolia's past. Nature cant activities, including a lovers can enjoy the majessummit with tourism minis- tic Tortum Waterfall, the ters, a planting ceremony fairy chimneys of Narman on behalf of the ECO coun- and the lakes of Ispir. Local tries, and the opening of the food is also a big high-Northeastern Regional

Erzurum is beautifully

professionals, to discuss the nations. The Palandöken impact of digital transfor- Ski Resort has the country's Sports for 2025. But the During the Forum's five city is more than just a winprimary and two special ter spot. In spring and sum-

Visitors can explore historic sites like the Double Minaret Madrasa, Atatürk's Anatolia light—don't miss Career Fair famous cag kebabi, kadayif dolmasi, or Ispir beans. With its mix of culture, located on the slopes of nature, and food, Erzurum Palandöken, one of has something to offer in

### PPP announces three-day mourning after Taj's passing a brief illness. His contri- of Pakistan People's Party

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has declared a three-day period of mourning following the passing of senior leader Taj Haider.

On the instructions of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, all political activities of the party will be suspended for the next three days. Taj Haider, a prominent figure in the PPP, passed

butions to the party and and Senator Taj Haider. the country were widely recognized. The funeral prayers for the late Taj Board Makhdoom Saeed-Haider will be held today, ul-Zaman "Aatif" said İmam Bargah Yathrib in People's

Karachi. Makhdoom Saeed u ices and for the forgive-Zaman 'Atif" has ness of the deceased and expressed deep sorrow on for bearing this irreparaaway at the age of 83 after the death of Senior leader ble loss

his In Chairman of Sindhi Adabi Wednesday, after Zuhr that the political services prayers at Masjid and of the senior leader of Party Phase 4, Defence Society, Senator Taj Haider will be remembered for a long Meanwhile, Chairman time. He paid rich tribute Adabi board to Taj Haider for his servhas ness of the deceased and

### Man involved in humiliation foreign tourist couple held

Home

THATTA: Police appre-hended an individual allegedly responsible for the abashment and humiliation of a foreign tourist couple who were visiting the historic Shah Jahan Mosque in Thatta on the second day of Eid UL Fitir, on Wednesday.

A video that gained widespread attention on social media depicted a man, identified as Faisal Shah, verbally abusing the foreign couple who had come to explore the historic Mosque. Officials from Thatta police stated that the tourist couple hailed from Belgium and were on a tour of the historical sites within the Thatta district.

According to the police, the accused went into hiding immediately after a case was registered against him by the state. Upon the arrival of the police to make the arrest, he reportedly attempted to resist, but the police were successful in detaining him.

A case has been officialy registered against Faisal Shah under sections 354 (causing assault to a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty) and 504 (intentional insult) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

#### Action against *encroachments* F.P. Report

TEK SINGH: District administration conducted a grand operation against encroachments on Chicha Watni road Kamalia, while several shops were sealed and goods were seized, on Wednesday.

Assistant Commissioner Igra Nasir said that special teams have been formed in the city for the operation encroachments, operations are being carried out on a daily basis, encroachments will not be tolerated in the city under any circumstances. All traders will have to stay within their limits, those who repeatedly violate will be sent to jail.

Munawar Hussain appointed as AC headquar- ous departments and Prof. Dr. Mir Azam, Prof. ioner Munawar Headquarters Hussain has assumed charge of the post and started performing his duties. On this occasion, he met his staff and took a brief-

Assistant Commissioner said that he will make every effort to solve public problems and further improve the efficiency of the administration. All resources will be utilized to provide better facilities to the public. Citizens welcomed the appointment of Assistant Commissioner and

expressed hope that under his leadership, administrative matters across the would tehsil further improve.

### Opp leader criticizes Sindh govt F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh's Opposition Leader Ali Khurshidi delivered a pointed response to Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, highlighting significant governance issues across various sectors in the province.

In a statement issued from the office of the Leader of Oppision in Sindh Assembly here today, Khurshidi emphasized that drinking clean water remains inaccessible in all districts and union councils of Sindh, indicating a dire need for infrastructural improvements. He pointed out that the health sector would collapse without international aid, as major leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party seek treatment in Karachi's private hospi-

He cited a World Bank report stating Karachi requires 15,000 buses, yet only 400 have been provided after 17 years of governance, terming it a mere pittance. Khurshidi criticized the Sindh Building Control Authority for self-serving regulatory changes that have increased the urban decay. He also highlighted the province's alarming security situation, from Karachi to Kashmore, and said that 7 million children are out of

# Sharjeel directs timely completion of projects



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has directed the timely completion of the approved projects under the Information Department's Content and Production Board. An important meeting of the Sindh Information Department was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior mote national unity and solidarity and Minister and Provincial Minister for patriotism through production projects. Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting reviewed the progress of the approved projects under the Content and Production Board.

Rehman Memon, Content and Production comprehensive strategy, projects should Board Member Saleem Khan, Director be implemented with full seriousness, Advertisement Muhammad

Chandio, and other officials.

Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that these projects launched by the Sindh government are not only important for public awareness but also aim to revive the cinema industry, promote new talent and create employment opportunities. The Sindh government wants to pro-

He emphasized that efforts should be made to complete all projects within the stipulated time, avoiding any unnecessary delay. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that government initiatives The meeting was attended by can be successfully implemented only Information Secretary Nadeem-ur- under high standards, transparency and a Yousuf expertise and responsibility so that their Kabooro, Director Films Hizbullah completion within the stipulated period is Memon, Deputy Director Sarang Latif possible.

# UoM academic council approves grading system

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The 23rd meeting of the Academic Council, University of Malakand was held at New Committee Room presided vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Wednesday.

Important matters pertinent to the academic affairs of the university were thoroughly discussed. After threadbare discussion, the council approved various policy matters, grading system and opining of new academic programs. Recommendations Boards of Studies of varied by Prof. Dr. Arab Naz, Assistant Boards of Faculty of vari- Dr. Gul Zaman, Prof. Dr. ous faculties were analyzed

and approved by the board. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Prof. Khan, Dr. Waseem Khan,

Center for Computational Prof. Dr. Alam Zeb, Prof. Sciences at the university.
While addressing the

Prof. Dr. Rashid Ahmad stressed upon acquiring technologies for achieving academic excellence and moving ahead with the academic needs of the hour. Learned members of the august council presented their precious views and analyses during the meeting for uplifting the academics of the university holistically.

The meeting was attend-Shafiq ur Rahman, Prof. that Dr. Jamil Ahmad, Prof. Dr. Yousafzai.

Interdisciplinary Programs Syed Muhammad Jamal, should be started in the Prof. Dr. Nasrullah Khan, Dr. Nazim Ali, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zahoor, Prof. council, vice chancellor, Dr. Mumtaz Ali, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sadiq, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Umar, Muhammad Shoaib, Prof. Dr. Mian Muhammad, Prof. Dr. Aftab Ali Shah, Prof. Dr. Abdul Sadiq, Prof. Dr. Nadir Zaman, Prof. Dr. Janas Khan, Prof. Dr. Qaisar Khan, Dr. Muhammad Attaullah, Dr. Badshahi Room, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Dr. Siffat Ullah Khan, Dr. Sehat Ullah, Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Dr. Atta Ullah, Dr. Mazhar Ahmad, Dr. Zahid Ali, Dr. Ibrahim Khan, Dr. Usman It was also approved by Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Prof. and Mr. Hayat Ullah

# Water shortage threatens Sindh's agriculture

HYDERABAD: Irrigation department has said that Sindh's barrages facing persistent scarcity of water in Indus River posing grave threat to the agriculture of the province. Sindh is facing an alarming water crisis owing to scarce rainfall and drought in the region, says in media reports.

According to the Sukkur Barrage Control Room, the inflow and outflow in the river at Guddu Barrage recorded 26,117 cusecs. Four off taking canals of Guddu Barrage have been closed up to April 30 for cleaning. The water inflow and outflow in Indus River at Sukkur Barrage has been recorded 18,810 and 6,190 cusecs respectively. Four off taking canals on the right bank of Sukkur Barrage including Rice Canal, Kheer Thar Canal and Dadu Canal have also been closed till

INF(P)1283/25

April 30 for annual cleaning 1650 cusecs of water. While and renovation. Rohiri in the downstream at Kotri Canal, on the left bank of Barrage the water inflow the Sukkur Barrage, being and outflow in river recordprovided 5,400 cusecs water ed 4,590 cusecs and 190 instead of 12,000 cusecs. While Nara Canal being supplied 5,400 cusecs water instead of 12,400 cusecs.

Khairpur East canal being supplied 970 cusecs instead of 1800 cusecs, while the Khairpur West canal being given 850 cusecs instead of normal

cusecs respectively. The water supply in all four off taking canals of Kotri Barrage has also been curtailed as Akram Wah being given 800 cusecs, KB Feeder 2,100 cusecs, Old Phuleli Canal 640 cusecs and New Phuleli Canal 900 cusecs of water.

### بعدالت محتر مەعنبرین نوید صادب ، ڈسٹر کٹ اینڈسیشن جج اجج بینکنگ کورٹ - ا خيبر پختونخوا،فيڈرل جوڈيشل کمپليکس فيز-7حيات آباديشاور

ى بينك لمينله پلا ئىنبر 39 پيراگان پلازە، 9- G مركز اسلام آبا د (ۋگريدار ) بنام: - (۱) M/S ليبرا (Pvt) لمينلهٔ 77 اندستريل استيث جمرودروۋ ناور بذراییه C.E ریاض ارشد\_(۲) ریاض ارشد مکان نمبر C-11 ریلو سے دوؤیو نیورش ناؤن بیثا ور( ڈائر بیشر ، مازنگیر ، گارنز ) (۳) مساۃ شینم یاض مکان نبر C-11ریلوے روڈیو نیورٹی ٹاؤن پشاور ( ڈائر مکٹر، گارنٹر ) مدیونان ۔وصولی زرڈ گری-/37492431 روپے۔تاری پیش برائے پورٹ نیلام 025-04-24-اشتبار نیلام ہابت جائیداد مدیونان۔اجراء بنہ میں جائیداد مکان نمبر 8 پر پلاٹ نمبر 2-11 تعداد کی (5.55 کنال) قع ریلوے روڈ یو نیورٹی ٹاؤن پشاور بمعہ بلڈنگ آبادی وغیرہ وغیرہ۔ بحدودات نارتھ ریلوے روڈ اینڈ شروعا جائیدا د،ساؤتھ مکان گوہر باوشاہ، ایسٹ کان ڈاکٹر محود احمد ،ویٹ مکان صفت غیور مور ند 2025-04-22 کو نظام کیا جارہا ہے۔ نظام صح8 بج شروع ہوکردو پہر 2 بج تک جاری رہے ٹا جس میں ہرخاص وعام حصہ لے سکتا ہے ۔سب سے زیار و بولی و بنے والے کوکا ممیاب قرار دیاجائیگا بشر طیکہ عدالت اس کی توثیق کرے۔عدالت کوکوئی : لی منظور کرنے یا ند کرنے کا اختیار حاصل ہے ۔ کا میاب بولی و ہندہ کو زر نیلام کا 1/4 حصیموقع پرآ کشنر کے پاس اور بقایار قم اندر 15 یوم عدالت بذا میں تع کرانا ہوگا۔ اگر کسی بھی شخص 1 ادارے کے جائیداد مذکورہ پر کوئی بقایاجات ہوں تو نیلام سے قبل عدالت کے نوٹس میں لائیں۔ آج بتاریخ 11-03-2025 برے دستخط ومم عدالت سے جاری کیا گیا۔ جج بینکنگ کورٹ نمبر ۱، پشاور



بیڈیکل سرننڈٹ ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈکوارٹر ٹیچگ میتال صوابی کورواں مالی سال 25-2024 میتال کے نزدیک ترین کیسٹ ڈاکسٹ سے زکواۃ میڈیسن کیلیے ٹینڈر مطلوب ہے۔ ٹینڈ رمورجہ 24/04/2025 کو بوقت 12 بجے تک میڈیکل سیرنٹنڈنٹ ڈسٹر کٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر ٹیچنگ ہیپتال صوالی کے دفتر پہنچنا جاہئے جو کہای دن کوتمام ٹینڈر د ہندگان کی موجود گی میں بذریعہ بچاز تمبیٹی کھولے جا کیلیگا۔Retailer کے لائیسنس ہولڈرڈ رگ انسپکز صوابی سے جزل اور نار کوئٹس میڈیسن کی تقعیدیق شدہ کا بی کیما تھ بع -/40000 ہزار کال ڈیپازٹ زیر پخطی کو پانچ جانی جائے۔ ٹھیکے زیادہ ٹے زیادہ ڈسکاوٹ کے حساب سے دیجے جا کینگے۔ ادویات وغیرہ کی قیمتیں 30/06/2025 تک کارآ مد ہونگی جس کے بعداس میں زیر در خطی کی مرضی ہے مریضوں کی ضرورت کیمطابق توسیع کی گنجائش ہوگی۔کا میاب ٹینڈر دہندگان ادویات بروقت مہیا کرنے کیلیے اپنانمائندہ مہیتال فارمیسی میں بیٹھائیگا۔ دوائی اصل حالت میں ڈیمانڈ کےمطابق مہیا کرنا ہوگی کوئی بھی دوائی (بغیر پینگی منظوری) کے ہرگز قبول ند ہوگی۔غیرر جنر ڈادویات کی سپلائی پرکنٹر بیک ختم کر دیاجائےگا۔اور تا دیبی کا روائی کیلیے محکمہ حت کو ککھا جائےگا۔سپلائی فوری طور پر کرنا ہوگی۔تا فیر سے سپلائی کی صورت میں ایم ایس متعلقہ کیسٹ کے خرچہ پر RISK پر چیز کر یا کسی بھی وجہ سے اوا میگی میں تاخیر پرسلائی ہرگز بندنیس کریا گا۔ بلول پر برشم کیس حکومت کے دیٹ پر لگایا جائے گا۔ اکاونٹ سکیشن میں بندرہ روزہ کی بنیاد بریل جمع کرنا ہوگا۔اورتمام فرموں کی فریش ریٹ لسٹ فراہم کرنا ہوگی۔تمام اشیاء سپتال کے ایم ایس وارڈانچارج کے دستخطاشدہ دیٹ پر فراہم کرنا ہوگا۔ جو کہ مریضوں کی فوری ضرورت اپوری کر سکے۔ دی کوٹیش قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ کا میاب ٹینڈ رد ہندہ 100 روپے کے امنامپ ہیر پرکٹر یک جریگا۔ کا میاب کیسٹ کا میڈیسن سٹور 24 گھنے کھلار ہےگا تا کہا ہم جنسی کی صورت میں ادویات ہروقت ہمیتال پہنچا سکے۔ کا میاب ٹینڈ رو ہندگان اپنے گھر اور میڈیسن سٹور کا فون نمبر فارمیسی کودینے کا پابند ہوگا۔ بغیر کال ڈیپازٹ کے کوئی بھی کوٹیشن قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔اور دیگر شرائط وضوابط دفتر سے دوران کارکر دگی حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہے۔

> ڈاکٹر آصف احمد میڈیکل سیرنٹنڈنٹ <u>ڈسٹر کٹ میڈکوارٹر ٹیچنگ مسیتال صوابی</u>



# Governor voices concern over poor medical facilities in KP

Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim medical experts from on Wednesday across expressed concern over the abroad. During the session, lack of basic medical facil- prayers were offered for ities for the province's population of over 40 mil- President Asif Ali Zardari lion and emphasized the and for the elevation of need for collaborative ranks of the late Senator efforts in this regard. Taj Haider.

Policy Health Conference was organized ence shared a range of recat the Governor House to ommendations aimed at that the situation in rural healthcare professionals, mark World Health Day. improving the healthcare areas is worse, with dis- especially young doctors, The event was hosted by system in Khyber the Peoples Doctors Forum Pakhtunkhwa. They high-Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal issues related to patient Karim Kundi, graced the care, and proposed comconference as the chief prehensive policy reforms.

ticipation from notable fig- Karim Kundi expressed ures, including former concern over the lack of Federal Minister Arbab basic medical facilities for Alamgir, President of the people of the province. Peoples Doctors Forum Dr. He appreciated Dr. Afridi, Fakhruddin, Dr. Bahr ical professionals for Karam Yousafzai, Dr. organizing the event and Sarfaraz Khan Afridi, Dr. emphasized that such con-

F.P. Report

his constituency.

PESCO Chief Engineer the area. Akhtar Hameed regarding

Khyber Association, along with Pakistan and the speedy recovery of

Speakers at the confer- persist. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. lighted the current chal-Khyber lenges in the health sector,

Addressing the audi-The conference saw par- ence, Governor Faisal

Dr. Janbaz Afridi and the med-

Qasim meets PESCO

Chief Engineer

detailed discussions were held on unannounced load

Syed Qasim Ali Shah held ment of cables, and timely also present during the

PESHAWAR: Provincial shedding, overloading on

Minister for Social Welfare various feeders, replace-

an important meeting with repair of transformers in

electricity-related issues in Provincial Minister high- that

During the meeting, culties and demanded the soon.

lion for healthcare, yet tem. problems such as inadeand difficulties in availing the Insaf Health Card still

He further pointed out eases like childbirth complications, hepatitis, tuberdiabetes claiming hundreds of lives annually.

structure development, he formance across all secsaid that international spending 5–10 percent of a commemorative shield to country's GDP on health, the Governor, who also whereas Pakistan's health spending has remained below 3 percent. He also izers and panelists. lamented the trend of sen- Governor Kundi expressed institutions.

PESCO Chief to find

immediate solutions to these problems so that

relief could be provided to

PESCO Chief Engineer

Akhtar Hameed assured

that all issues would be

resolved on a priority basis. District Zakat

Chairman Malik Jahanzaib

Khan, General Secretary

City West Ejaz Khan

Saraf, and other workers

from the constituency were

meeting. Public circles

have welcomed this meet-

electricity-related

the people.

On this occasion, the ing and expressed hope

lighted the public's diffi- issues will be resolved

The Governor said that and the public to establish the provincial government a modern, effective, and has allocated Rs. 232 bil- accessible healthcare sys-

federal distributed shields and certificates among the organ-

Zahir Shah, Dr. Karim ferences provide valuable Governor Kundi emphapromising direction for Khawaja, representatives opportunities to evaluate sized the need for collaborimproving the healthcare from the Provincial challenges and pave the rative efforts among the system Doctors Association and way for reform in the government, institutions, Pakhtun Pakhtunkhwa.

He assured full coopera-

**Peshawar City** 

quate hospital care, short- tion to all medical profesage of medicines, lack of sionals and said that the doctors and hospital beds, doors of the Governor House are always open for them. He added that the sug-

gestions put forward by would be presented to the culosis, heart disease, and Constructive criticism, he said, should be welcomed as a tool for improvement, Stressing the impor- and expertise-based govertance of healthcare infra- nance could enhance pertors. In conclusion, Dr. organizations recommend Janbaz Afridi presented a ior doctors leaving public hope that the conference would help set a clear and Khyber

### **PBA** elects new cabinet

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Bar Association (PBA) annual elections saw a clean sweep by the joint candidates of the Malgray Wakeelan and Insaf Lawyers Forum, securing all the seats for the 2025-2026 term. The newly elected cabinet including president Qaiser Zaman, General Secretary Zahidullah Zahid, Vice President Saifullah Khalil, Joint Secretary Nangial Zeb Hashtnaghar and Finance Secretary Faizan Ullah Chamkani The cabinet also comprising Ali Iqbal Qazilbash, Faisal Khan, Mahwash Sana Siddique, Shah Zeb Rahim

### WB delegation calls on CS

PESHAWAR: A delegation from World Bank, led by Najy Benhassine, Country Director for Pakistan, met with Chief Secretary Khyber Shahab Ali Shah. The meeting strengthening bilateral cooperation, reviewing the progress of ongoing development projects, and aligning future initiatives with the province's long-term development vision. Both sides reaffirmed their

commitment to enhancing collaboration for sustainable development and inclusive growth in Khyber

PESHAWAR: In connec-"Women on Wednesday. Then seminar organized

**Humayun Khan** 

Asadullah and Justice

F.P. Report

notice to the provincial FIRs

PESHAWAR: A divisional Law Minister Aftab Alam,

bench of Peshawar High seeking the cancellation of

Court (PHC) comprising FIRs registered against Justice Sahibzada him, on Wednesday.

empower young women by empower them for the encouraging them to future." embrace digital technology Karishma and unlock opportunities visionary behind the pro- keting, which has led me to to lead in the digital age.

for remote income generation, ensuring financial independence from within tion with International their homes. A significant Women's Day, the Business number of female students Incubation Center (BIC) at from the University of the University of Peshawar Peshawar enthusiastically hosted a dedicated seminar participated, demonstrating in keen interest in learning Technology", aimed exclu-sively for female students, cal tools and digital entrepreneurship.

PESHAWAR: A high level delegation from World Bank, led by Najy Benhassine, Country Director for

PHC issues notice KP govt

in cancellation of FIRs

government regarding a against the petitioner in petition filed by Provincial various parts of Khyber

The lawyer Alam Khan ly due to Aftab Alam's affil-

Aurangzeb has issued a Adinzai states that nine iation with an opposition records at the next hearing

Women in technology to reduce

gender gap in era of information

were registered political party.

Pakistan called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah

Addressing the audiby Karishma Zakaullah, ence, Dr. Shakeel, Director supported by Women of the Business Incubation Techmakers by Google and Center, remarked: "Our co-hosted with Code BIC, mission is to guide young bringing together young women towards digital litwomen from various insti- eracy and independence. tutes across Pakistan, with Through such initiatives, a special focus on students we aim to equip students from art and design fields. with the latest knowledge The seminar sought to of digital tools that will

tance of digital skills for young women to explore "Women today women: face numerous challenges in stepping into the tech reliance. world, but by embracing digitalization, they can overcome these hurdles. I aspire to see the female for women to stay abreast students of Khyber of technological advance-Pakhtunkhwa advance in

both education and digital technology. Today's turnout proves there is immense potential among our young women, and it is our responsibility to nur-The seminar also fea- dents.

tured inspiring words from Afshan,

gram, stressed the impor- this point. I encourage all this field and opened new doors to success and self-Participants expressed

The lawyer argued that

political grounds and the

petitioner was not involved

in any vandalism. The court

directed the provincial gov-

ernment to present the case

and adjourned the case.

various parts of Khyber the FIRs were registered on

Pakhtunkhwa after the vio-

lent protests on May 9. The

FIRs were filed by the care-

taker government, alleged-

gratitude for the opportunity, noting the growing need ments. "With new technologies emerging every day, it is vital for women to stay informed. Programs like this provide invaluable learning, and we hope such efforts continue," said one of the participating stu-

The event concluded Khyber with a resounding mes-Pakhtunkhwa's first female sage: initiatives like these industrial entrepreneur.
Sharing her journey, she said: "I began my path to success with digital mar-



Muhammad Chambers of Commerce & the United States. Industry (FPCCI), Khyber

Regional Chairman of the Agreement (FTA) negotia- prior to Mr. Ejaz's state-

Pakhtunkhwa, has strongly that Pakistan could offer even steeper duties on key endorsed the recent state- duty-free access to trade partners including a ment by former Caretaker American products as part 29% tariff on Pakistani complained that Pakistan Federal Minister for of a broader trade deal goods. He accused does Commerce, Mr. Gohar while simultaneously seek- Islamabad of slapping 58% free Ejaz, and Mr. SM Tanveer, ing significant reductions in tariffs on American products.

Federation of Pakistan tions between Pakistan and ment, Trump imposed a Mr. Ejaz emphasized ly all US imports and levied maintains on American

objections Washington has been the

baseline 10% tariff on near-high tariff barriers Pakistan products. States has consistently does not allow its products free access to local mar-

### KMU hosts 5th International Public Health Conference: Day 1 focuses on NCDs and climate change

### **FP Report**

PESHAWAR: Medical University (KMU) experience in the United proudly inaugurated the 5th Kingdom, International Public Health "Bridging the Gaps: Conference on April 9, Insights from the UK for 2025. The event brought Tackling NCDs Globally.' together leading public He urged adaptation of health experts, clinicians, scalable primary healthcare researchers, and policy- models that are sensitive to Pakistan and abroad to dle-income countries. Dr. deliberate on critical health Munaira Abbasi, a triple challenges facing the board-certified U.S.-based region and the world.

Day 1 of the conference

He stressed that the global ul Haq.

Director of Family Medicine at KMU and a Khyber physician with extensive from across the needs of low- and midphysician, spoke "Combating NCDs:

PESHAWAR: Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi chairing a

themes: Non- Medicine in Public Communicable Diseases Health." She emphasized (NCDs) and the Climate the urgent need for clini-Change & Health Nexus, cians to adopt a preventive emphasizing the need for and holistic approach, highintegrated and interdiscipli- lighting how clinical care nary strategies in public must intersect with public conference health initiatives to combat opened with a dynamic ple- rising NCD trends.A nary session on Non- thought-provoking panel Communicable Diseases. discussion followed, featur-Professor Dr. Zia ul Haq, ing Dr. Bilal Imtiaz from Vice Chancellor of KMU, UNICEF Headquarters, Dr. delivered a compelling Fawad Khan of WHO keynote on "The Role of Sudan, Dr. Muhammad Lifestyle Medicine in Khalil Akhtar from KP's Handling the Pandemic of Health Sector Reforms Unit, and Professor Dr. Zia

burden of NCDs can no The panel collectively idenhealth tools, lifestyle edulonger be managed without tified the urgent need to cation, and early diagnosis Department of Dental coordination among Health" session shed light prioritizing prevention scale up NCD prevention remain underutilized. Public Health at KMU, pre-health, environment, and on the widespread burden women, infants, and chil-research, education, and through behavior change, efforts through multisec- The afternoon session shift-sented her research on disaster management sec- of oral diseases and the dren. Key highlights policy translation, KMU community-level interventions, and a shift in medical education toward lifestyle medicine. Following this, are disconting to a sessential to halting between the life to a sessential to halting between the life to a sessential to halting between the life to session sinitation in the life to session state of the life to session in luded the role of multi-storic preventive oral health prospectives to the day.

Which is the life to session in the life to session included the role of multi-storic preventive oral health prospectives to the day.

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grated care pathways and on vulnerable populations, tory infections. She emphastrengthening provincial including women, children, sized the role of social prosurveillance systems, while and the urban poor. She emphastrengthening provincial including women, children, sized the role of social prosurveillance systems, while and the urban poor. She emphastrengthening provincial including women, children, sized the role of social prosurveillance systems, while and the urban poor. She emphastrengthening provincial including women, children, sized the role of social prosurveillance systems, while and the urban poor. She emphastrengthening provincial including women, children, sized the role of social prosurveillance systems, while and the urban poor. and policy coherence address environmental sus- related health inequities in strategies for deploying across sectors. Findings tainability and public health low-income communities. physicians at the commushared during this session in tandem, warning that The panel discussion that nity level, integrating digi-

Professor Abdul Jalil Khan, the generational cycle of Professor at Aga Khan Climate Resilience Among "Strengthening Primary overlooked despite its ments, improvements in ships for health resilience.

crises and fragile states, Nexus: Impact, Shaping increased susceptibility of revitalizing Pakistan's pri- conditions. where chronic disease care Adaptation and informal workers to climary healthcare system The session advocated for nication to promote often collapses. Dr. Khalil Resilience." Dr. Das undermate-induced health risks through the integration of school-based oral health healthier dietary practices. Akhtar highlighted KP's scored the compounding such as heat stress, water- family medicine. Experts efforts in developing inte- impact of climate change

noted that over 60% of failure to act now would followed emphasized the tal health technologies, Pakistan's disease burden stems from NCDs and that health progress.Dr. Maria ing systems, climate-interventions such as digital Ishaq Khattak, Assistant resilient infrastructure, Ishang Khattak, Assistant resilient resilient resilient infrastructure, Ishang Khattak, Assistant r

and informal workers to cli- mary healthcare system The session advocated for nication to promote borne illnesses, and respira- emphasized that trained interventions, and the need to address urban-Dr. Zia ul Haq reiterated the He called for integrated and targeted adaptation continuous importance of political will national policies that schemes to reduce climate- Discussions

included among Health" session shed light ticularly those targeting

Practice systemic diseases like diafocused on betes and cardiovascular

programs, community tems.Another important session on "Integrated Nutrition Programs and Their Impact in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" addressed the longstanding issue of malnutrition in the region. cluded with a collective specific interventions, pargrams. Speakers stressed between health, agricul- systems in Pakistan and on that oral health is often ture, and education depart- fostering global partner-

tion indicators in selected districts, and the use of behavior change commu-Speakers emphasized the policy continuity to ensure long-term nutrition gains. International Health Conference conpublic health challenges. With a strong emphasis on continues to lead the way coordination in advancing public health systems in Pakistan and





### In brief

#### Mobile network facility torched F.P. Report

WANA: In a shocking act of sabotage, unidentified assailants torched a Jazz mobile tower late Monday night in Karikot, Lower South Waziristan, plunging the entire region into a communication black-The incident occurred under the cover of darkness at Shaheed Mor, where armed men targeted the critical telecom infracausing structure, severe disruption to mobile network services across Karikot and its surrounding Local sources revealed that the tower's entire machinery was completely destroyed in the blaze, effectively severing mobile connectivity and leaving thousands of residents cut off from vital communication. The incident has triggered a wave of condemnation from political figures and the general public alike, who have denounced the attack as both cowardly and a direct violation of the community's right stay connected. Imran Mukhlis Wazir, General District

Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for Lower South Waziristan, strongly condemned the attack in a statement posted on social media, calling it an act of terrorism. "In this modern era, denying people access to such a fundamental facility is deeply trou-bling," he said, urging the government to take swift action and ensure the immediate restoraof services. Reactions on social media echoed the outrage, with citizens describing the attack not just as an act of vandalism, but a symbolic silencing of an already neglected region. "This isn't merely technical damage-it's a statement of how little we matter," one user commented. Others pointed to the glaring disparity, noting that while the world moves toward ues to be deprived of even basic 3G access. So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, and

#### **World TB Day** observed F.P. Report

authorities have yet to

issue an official

response or take visible

action.

KOHAT: Tuberculosis. commonly known as TB, indeed a fatal disease but curable, if it is timely treated. This was stated by the doctors and health experts while addressing a TB Symposium organized at KMU, Institute of Medical Sciences Kohat and DHQ Hospital Hangu, by the District TB Control Program and Association for Community Development (ACD) in Kohat and Hangu districts on the occasion of World TB Day. The symposium beside others, was also attended by the District TB Officer Dr. Muhammad MS DHQ Tufail, Hospital Kohat Tahir Ali Shah, Principal Dr. Musarat Jabeen, Dr. Tariq Aziz, RCAC Dr. Muhammad, Fida Regional Coordinator Tariq Bakhsh, DLS Muhammad, Safeer Social Worker Shakeel Journalist Bangash, Basit Gilani and other dignitaries of the area and students in large

#### **KBA** elects new cabinet for 2025 F.P. Report

KARAK: Karak bar association elected new cabinet for 2025 including cice president Khan Zad Gul, finance secretary Wajid-ur-Rehman, librarian Armaghan Bakht Khan Advocate secretary press Khurram Rafiq, joint secretary Malik Mehranullah while 5 positions were nominated unopposed.



D I KHAN: Tehsil Mayor, Umer Amin Khan Gandapur addressing during the appriciation ceremony

# Fair conduct of exams plays key role

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has in the principles of merit, hon-monitoring Motasim Billah Shah has in the principles of merit, hon-light of the directions of the esty and transparency. supervision of examination Chief Secretary Khyber Commissioner Kohat strict-Pakhtunkhwa visited the ly directed the security per-conducting examination halls established in the Government Higher Secondary School No.1 Kohat in connection with the ongoing matriculaexaminations on Wednesday. Principal of the School, Luqman Bangash, also accompanied him.

Commissioner Kohat on this occasion met the students present in the examination halls, the teachers in charge and other staff and expressed satisfaction with the examination arrangements. He said that peace-ful, transparent and fair conduct of examinations not only guarantees the Room Incharge credibility of the education Ahmed, system but also plays a key role in highlighting the true He advised the examination present on the occasion. staff to adopt a zero toler-

sonnel not to allow any examinations. unrelated person to enter orderly.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Intermediate and Secondary toring of the ongoing edu- way during the examinacational examinations in tions and no compromise Examinations Malik Maqsoor Anwar, Control Monitoring Incharge Tahir system are the need of the

ance policy against nega- Examinations briefed the tive activities like cheating Commissioner in detail and irregularities and adopt about the activities going a strategy that is based on on in the control room, Commissioner Kohat strict- centers and steps taken for

Motasim Billah Shah the examination centers so closely reviewed the perthat the examination atmos- formance of the control phere is calm, safe and room, security arrangements and supervision of the the examination process Kohat and termed the arrange-Division also paid a visit to ments made by the board as the control room estab- satisfactory and appreciatlished at the Board of ed the efforts of the staff.

Commissioner declared Education that corruption or cheating Kohat for effective moni- will not be tolerated any Kohat Division. Controller should be made on transparency and merit. He said that improving education Naveed and restoring public confi-District dence in the examination Khattak and other relevant hour, for which all institupotential of the students. officers and staff were also tions will have to discharge their responsibili-Controller ties honestly.

### **'PTI** leader united to obtain justice' Syed Waliullah Shah

Young lawyers

greet Qaizar

Miankhel

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Young lawyers

on Wednesday extended

congratulations to Pakistan

Divisional President Qaizar

Khan Miankhel on his

sweeping victory, along with his group, in the District Bar Dera elections.

A young lawyers dele-

gation led by Mahir Shah

Advocate Wadood Kundi,

Zeeshan Kundi Advocate

and others met with the

newly elected President

Qaizar Miankhel and con-

gratulated him over the

winning. They expressed

hope that the newly elect-

ed cabinet will work for

the welfare of young

lawyers and justice to

Peoples

Garwaki

Party (PPP)

Advocate,

NOWSHERA: Member Provincial Assembly and District Development Committee chairman Zar Alam Khan every order. He emphasized that discussing internal party matters at this time would be prema-

District Development Committee (DDAC) chairman claimed that PTI is the largest party in the country, and minor misunderstandings are common in large parties, but this does not mean that the party is dividing or deviating from its mission. Zar Alam Khan made these remarks while addressing a special ceremony in honor of PTI workers who were arrested on November 26 and later released from Attock

MPA state stated that if justice is not served, the workers will take to the streets again and stage protests wherever the party leadership directs, whether it's in front of Adiala Jail or at D-Chowk Islamabad.

He emphasized that the have been boosted.

# **Appreciation** ceremony held for Derajat events

D I KHAN: An appreciation ceremony was held on Tuesday evening in connection with the successful organization of various events under the Derajat 2025. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by speeches from dignitaries who acknowledged the contributions of participating athletes and organizing departments. Speaking on the occasion, Tehsil Mayor Umar Amin Khan Gandapur expressed gratitude to all the athletes, particularly those who traveled from other districts, for their active participation and support in ensuring the success

He emphasized that despite facing chalenges such as law and order issues, hosting such joyful and entertainment-filled events were a positive and commendable initiative. He lauded the efforts of all line departments, especially the Police and the Sports Department, for their role in organizing the festival. He also extended his special thanks to the media for their extensive coverage and publicity of the event. District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada, in his address, praised his force for their resilience and dedica-

He noted that Derajat was not only a public celebration but also a morale booster for the community, leaving a positive and refreshing impact on the minds of the Assistant people. Commissioner Muhammad Fasih Ishaq Abbasi said that the district administration made full use of all available resources and efforts to ensure the smooth conduct of the event. He credited Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division and Deputy Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan for their leadership and

During the ceremony, medals, certifi-cates, and cash prizes were distributed and reaffirming the department's commitamong outstanding performers in various categories including wrestling, horse riding, and other traditional sports. Special appreciation was given to the visiting female riders' group from Islamabad and various districts of Punjab. In the wrestling mega event, World Champion Inam Butt emerged victorious in his

earning loud applause from the audience. In horse riding, Asad Utra Group secured the first position.

The ceremony also featured an enchanting horse dance performance, and a special award was presented to wrestler Gul Muhammad Niazi for his power show. The event was attended by Director General Sports Department Abdul Nasir Khan, Deputy Director Operations Sports Department, Regional Sports Officer Dera Ismail Khan, officials from the Sports Department and district administration, local dignitaries, political and social figures, participating athletes, media personnel, and a large number of spectators.

Art exhibition highlights Derajat 2025 activities: As part of the ongoing Derajat 2025, a series of vibrant events organized by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took place on Wednesday. Among these, an art exhibition held at the District Auditorium emerged as a major attraction for the pub-

The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Director General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Abdul Nasir Khan. The two-day event showcases the creative works of around 75 senior and junior artists from Dera Ismail Khan, celebrating the region's rich artistic talent. The opening ceremony was attended by key officials including Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex Jaffar Shah, Director Sports Adnan Sohail, Deputy Director Operations Sports Jamshed Baloch, and Focal Person to the Provincial Minister for Sports, Hanif Dawar, along with other dig-

DG Sports Abdul Nasir Khan visited the various displays at the exhibition, praising the artists for their imaginative and visually captivating pieces. He also interacted with the artists, appreciating their contributions ment to promoting local talent.

He emphasized that such events serve as important platforms for artists to showcase their skills and creativity, and assured that the department would continue efforts to promote their work at national and international levels. It is worth noting that the Derajat 2025 will continue until April match, while an exciting bout between 20, culminating in a thrilling off-road chal-Asif Mochi Pehlwan and Basit Mahrah lenge event featuring renowned riders Pehlwan ended with a win for Asif Mochi, from across the country.

# Health Centre opened in Rahim Yar Khan

F.P. Report

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Ali and Khan Tareen, Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, National Assembly and Makhdoom Syed Usman Mehmood jointly inaugurated the Sultan Unnar Health Centre in Tillu Bangla, Rahim Yar

The Sultan Unnar Health Centre will provide free, round-the-clock healthcare services to residents of Tillu Bangla and surrounding areas. The facility ensures access to free medical check-ups and medicines. In addition to a team of doctors and medical staff, a female doctor will also be permanently available at the center.

Local

Usman Mehmood for estab- cation services has always

Khan Tareen, Makhdoom him the highest rank in par-Syed Murtaza Mehmood, adise." He added that pro-Makhdoom Syed viding basic health and edu-



lishing the health center. Speaking at the occasion,

home, and we deeply love their Unnar was very close to our ple is our mission in life, expressed deep gratitude to hearts. He left us too soon - and we will continue this Jahangir Khan Tareen, Ali we pray that Allah grants journey of public service.'

been a top priority for them. Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Khan Tareen said, Mehmood and Makhdoom "Rahim Yar Khan is our Syed Usman Mehmood, in remarks, the people here. Sultan "Selfless service to the peo-

### Traders association Risalpur oath-taking ceremony next week

F.P. Report

RISALPUR: Traders Association Risalpur cabinet to took oath of their offices in next week. The association aims to protect the lives, property, and businesses of shopkeepers, on Wednesday.

The association argued the shopkeepers to be vigilant and report any unusual activity to create a conducive business Rasul and Musa Advocate ensure a safe business envi-

ronment. Traders are expected to operate in accordance with set price lists to maintain fair business practices.

The association's oath-takgrand event. The association has decided to address all environment.

The decision took in a meeting chaired by president Muhammad Islam in which Vice President Senior Muhammad Zakir, General ing ceremony is scheduled Secretary Amjad Ali, along for next week, promising a with Wajid Khan, Safdar Khan, Zahid Sarwar, Farooq Khan, Abrar Khan, Wajid participated.

party workers have not lost their morale despite spending four months in jail; instead, their spirits

### JI, PTI, PPP-backed lawyers' panel wins Bar elections

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The panel has stated that all PTI supported by Jamaat-eleaders are united under Islami, Pakistan Tehreek-e- supervision of Election Finance Secretary. In a sepathe leadership of the Insaf, and Pakistan People's Commissioner, Asfandyar rate development, party's founder, Imran Party won the district bar Advocate. In their post-elec- Muhammad Advocate of the Khan, and will follow his association elections held in tion remarks, the newly elect- Insaf Lawyers Forum was Timergara, defeating candi- ed President and General elected unopposed as Library dates backed by JUI-F, PML-N, and ANP.

Saleem Khan Advocate was elected as President, rule of law and advocate for Zakir Khan as General Secretary, Muhammad Karim as Vice President, Muhammad Bilal as Joint Secretary, Qazi Ghiyas as Finance Secretary, Gohar major positions. Zulfiqar was Rehman as Librarian, and Wajid Ali as Executive Ehsanullah Advocate as

The elections were held Secretary thanked the legal

lawyers' rights. Samarbagh, Malgari Wakeelan lawyers' wing of the Awami National Party) swept all elected as

fraternity for their support

and pledged to uphold the

General Secretary, Nageen Khan as Vice President, Farpeacefully at the District Bar man Khan as Joint Secretary, Room in Balambat under the and Asadullah Advocate as Secretary.

The election process was supervised by Commissioner Mian Amjad Ali Advocate. Following the the announcement of results, (a President-elect Advocate expressed gratitude to his fellow lawyers for their support and pledged to work president, collectively for the progress and welfare of the Bar.



HANGU:A group photo of position-holder students with principal on the occasion of annual prize distribution ceremony at Hangu Grammar School.

### Govt initiated steps to uplift quality of life roads, streets, public parks, and strictly on merit, in accordance hospitals to improve service

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy said that the Punjab government environment," he added. is undertaking various result-oriissues remains the top priority of the district administration. "Under the people-friendly vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, every possible effort is being made to ensure timely redressal of public grievances and improvement of civic services," he said.

under which urban and rural areas across the district have remarked. witnessed significant restoration of natural beauty through exten- emphasized the implementation sive cleanliness drives and of an open-door policy in all

Commissioner Hafizabad has to creating a clean and livable he said.

The Deputy Commissioner enhancing the quality of life for monsoon tree plantation camcitizens through comprehensive paign, which is in full swing public welfare programs. DC across the district. "We aim to stated that resolving public make Hafizabad pollution-free and provide a healthier atmosphere for future generations," he

To further beautify the city, decorative lighting has been installed at key locations, including Jinnah Gujranwala Road, Katchery Bazaar, Jalalpur Road, and other He highlighted the success of main roads. "This initiative has the 'Suthra Punjab Programme', added to the city's charm and launched by the Chief Minister, reflects the government's focus Razzaq said that the Punjab govon urban beautification," he ernment is taking concrete steps

ensured 100% cleanliness across resolved on a priority basis and government offices, schools, and incidents and accidents

He also listed several public development,

Suthra Package, Ghar, Green Tractor Scheme, including: Kisan Card, Minority Welfare Khanqah Karobar Cards, Asaan Programme, Himmat Card and Dhee Rani Program, "a large are already benefiting from these initiatives," he stated.

to improve medical facilities, DC Abdul Razzaq further particularly in rural areas. "Hospitals are being upgraded removal of encroachments. "The government offices. "Citizens Nawaz Health Clinics to ensure Gunj, the absence of covers on is connected to the FBR system, district administration, in collab- are welcome to visit my office quality and free healthcare for gutters and manholes near the oration with the Waste without any recommendation or all. I, along with other district railway line on Gali Masjid Management Company, has obstacles. Complaints are being officers, am regularly inspecting Quba Wali has led to unpleasant

Regarding

ented initiatives aimed at also mentioned the ongoing Punjab government that are construction work is underway being implemented transparent- on a flyover at the bypass rail-These include: Ramzan Relief government. In addition, major demanded Punjab road construction and rehabilita-Programme, Apni Chhat Apna tion projects are in progress, install covers on the gutters and Hafizabad Road, Dogran Hafizabad-Sheikhupura Road, Lahore-Sargodha Road, Hafizabad to Head Khanqi via Chowk, number of people in the district Gujrat Road, he concluded by reaffirming the administration's dedication to carrying forward In response to a question the Chief Minister's developregarding healthcare, DC ment vision and ensuring that all the benefit of the people.

Ignorance in municipal

other public spaces. This campaign reflects our commitment centric and transparent policies," dards," he said.

Testachis fact strongly later testachis fact strongly reflects to the protested, stating that the gutter consumers to report fake covers in the aforementioned receipts through the "Tax Asaan" infrastructure street have been missing for app, verify the QR code on the the Deputy several months, potentially welfare projects launched by the Commissioner informed that causing fatal accidents at any mobile app, and refuse to accept but the Municipal time, Committee staff is not paying ly and on merit in Hafizabad. way line, funded by the Punjab attention to this issue. They Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq to

> the residents from accidents. **AC Inland Revenue inspect**ed markets: Collector Inland Revenue FBR Gujranwala, Hassan Mabroor, along with Inland Revenue Officers Ghulam Sajid, Nasir Ali Shah, Saqib Nazir Tarar and oth-

ers, visited various markets in ongoing projects are completed the city to review the installation efficiently and transparently for of POS (Point of Sale) systems. Additional Collector Inland Revenue, Hassan Mabroor urged services faced residents with traders and shopkeepers to

and transformed into Maryam incidents: In Mohallah Habib ensure that every business center otherwise, strict legal action will be taken against them.

POS Tier-1 retailers are issuing less driving.

Residents have strongly fake receipts to consumers. He receipt through the "Tax Asaan" unofficial receipts from shopkeepers. Consumers should share their location if they receive a fake receipt. Take a picture of the receipt or the Tierl retailer or restaurant that manholes in the street to protect issued it and post all this evidence through the FBR "Tax Asaan" app so that effective action can be taken against those responsible.

Traffic laws enforcement directed: On the instructions of District Police Officer, the traffic police conducted a vigorous operation against traffic law violators in just 6 hours. 271 drivers were fined for various violations, including 112 for violating one-way traffic, 23 for violating lane and line discipline, 5 drivers for using tinted glass, 18 vehicles for being driven with-out registration, 13 drivers for driving without a license and 4 He further stated that some individuals were fined for reck-





KYIV: A mother crying at the coffin of her son Herman Tripolets, 9, killed by a Russian missile, during a funeral ceremony in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

# Russia sees no reason to discuss peace with Japan, Kremlin says

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russia sees no that it was playing for time. US Volodymyr Zelensky's home city of reason to discuss the possibility of President Donald Trump has voiced Kryvyi Rig killed 20 people, nine of signing a long-awaited peace treaty growing frustration at the lack of with Japan to formally end World War Two because of Tokyo's unfriendly stance towards Moscow, the Kremlin said.

Russia, the successor state to the Soviet troops took control of four don't like the bombing. The bombing islands off Japan's Hokkaido - known goes on and on." in Russia as the Kurils and in Japan as the Northern Territories - at the end of the war and they have remained in Moscow's hands since. The territorial dispute has prevented progress on signing a treaty.

'No, there are no contacts with the Japanese authorities at the moment," Japanese Foreign Ministry report which said Tokyo was still committed to signing a treaty and hoped to return the islands. "You know that Tokyo has and hostile steps towards our country," Peskov added, referring to Japan's decision to join Western sancreal state of affairs" and Japanese was "hardly possible to talk about the possibility of any negotiations"

Ukraine but had many "questions" about how it would work, pushing White House. A Russian missile cial aid given to Ukraine by his predback at US and European suggestions strike on Ukrainian President ecessor, Joe Biden.

progress towards a ceasefire in the three-year-long conflict, despite his administration holding talks with both Ukrainian and Russian officials. The US leader in March said that he Soviet Union, and Japan have never was "pissed off" with Russian signed a treaty formally ending their President Vladimir Putin, and told hostilities during World War Two. reporters: "We'd like them to stop. I

> Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "Putin does support the idea that a ceasefire is needed, but before that a whole range of questions have to be answered. These questions are hanging in the

air, so far no one has given an answer to them," he added, blaming the lack Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov of progress on "the Kyiv regime's told reporters, when asked about a uncontrollability". Putin rejected a joint US-Ukrainian proposal for an unconditional and full ceasefire in March, while the Kremlin has made a US-proposed truce in the Black Sea rushed to fully join in all unfriendly dependent on the West lifting certain

US Secretary of State Marco

tions against Russia to punish it for its to fall into the trap of endless negotimilitary action in Ukraine. Given "the ations" with Russia, while French President Emmanuel Macron urged sanctions on Moscow, Peskov said it Moscow to stop using "stalling tactics". Russia has kept up its strikes on announced earlier that it would send Ukraine unabated since Trump took Meanwhile, the Kremlin said that office, despite the US president's it supported the idea of a truce in promise to bring peace within "24 deal as compensation for the billions hours" once settled back into the of dollars worth of military and finan-

Kryvyi Rig killed 20 people, nine of them children, according to local authorities.

The Kremlin denied firing on civilian infrastructure. In a visit to Cairo, Macron urged Russia to accept the US push for a ceasefire. "For almost a month now, Russia has not only refused to accept the ceasefire, but has also stepped up its bombardment of civilians, with tragic casualties again a few days ago in Ukraine," he said. "It is urgent that Russia stops with the pretences and stalling tactics and accepts the unconditional ceasefire,' Macron added. Both sides reported a new wave of overnight attacks.

Momentum towards a ceasefire in the more than three-year-old conflict has stalled since the latest round of talks between the US, Russia and Ukraine in Saudi Arabia in March. The White House said that both sides had agreed to a truce in the Black Sea, but Moscow said it would only take effect once the West lifted sanctions targeting its state-owned agricultural lender. The US has made support for Ukraine contingent upon Rubio said that Trump was not "going receiving profits from its rare earth minerals, a deal for which fell through after an explosive meeting between Zelensky and Trump in the Oval Office in February. Ukraine officials to Washington "this week' for talks on a deal. Trump wants the

# Japan says it wants to join a NATO command for the support of Ukraine

expressed interest in partici- help Tokyo learn lessons near Taiwan and called on meetings. pating in the NATO command for its Ukrainian mis- Ukraine. sion based in Germany in what would be a major face many challenges and boost in ties with the largely our security environment European alliance. Japanese has become increasingly Defense Minister Gen more severe," Nakatani Nakatani announced his said. Japan has said that country's interest during Russia's war on Ukraine talks with NATO Secretary underscores that security General Mark Rutte in risks in Europe and Asia are Tokyo. After providing the inseparable, and Tokyo has war-torn country with sought closer ties with defense equipment and sup- NATO while also joining port, Japan now wants to the United States in Assistance and Training for other friendly nations in the Ukraine, or NSATU, head- Indo-Pacific. Rutte told quartered at a US base in the Nakatani that China, North

including the possibility of sending any Japan Self "undermining global secu-Defense Force members to rity and that means what Wiesbaden, were still to be happens in Euro-Atlantic discussed. But Japanese cooperation was and vice versa. not expected to involve and that participation in the concern about China's arms officials attending NATO like alliance in the region.

(AP): Japan NSATU mission would buildup and military drills ministerial

"Both Japan and NATO Security expanding defense ties with Ĝerman town of Wiesbaden. Korea and Russia are step-Details of the mission, ping up their military exercises and their cooperation, any matters in the Indo-Pacific

Japan considers China a combat, in line with what threat in the region and has has been Tokyo's post- in recent years accelerated World War II tradition of its military buildup, includlimiting its military's role. ing preparing to acquire ties with Japan, South NATO's growing ties with Nakatani said Japan wants strike-back capability with Korea, Australia and New the Indo-Pacific partners, to further deepen security long-range cruise missiles. cooperation with NATO The NATO chief also raised

from Russia's invasion of the organization's members region. "China is supportis building up its armed reporters after he briefly boarded Japan's advanced multi-functional Japanese naval port of Yokosuka. "We cannot be naive, and we really have to work together, assess what is happening." Rutte said China's military exercises near Taiwan and "we follow them very closely. Rutte told Nakatani that he hoped to deepen ties between NATO and Japan in a range of areas from crisis response operations to security

NATO has stepped up its Zealand, known as the IP4, worried that Washington in recent years, with their may move to form a NATO-US court blocks Trump from removing

industrial cooperation.

States wants NATO memand friendly nations to bers to be more involved in work together to keep free the Indo-Pacific region. and open sea lanes in the Rutte said. He welcomed US Secretary of Defense ing Russia's efforts. China Pete Hegseth's recent trip to Japan forces, including its navy, at a rapid pace," Rutte told to strengthen its alliance Washington's commitment with Japan and presence in the region. He stressed its frigate importance, noting that Mogami docked in the Japan is the only member of the Group of Seven that is not in NATO. Rutte, visiting Japan for the first time since becoming head of the Belgium-based NATO is worried about alliance in October, will meet with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. Ishiba has advocated a NATO-like security framework in Asia, though he has not given

details. Countries with shared concerns are cyber defense, maritime strengthening ties as compesecurity as well as defense tition escalates between the United States and China. Beijing has criticized

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Trump from removing the issue," he said. The Reserve watchers for any A federal appeals court Gwynne Wilcox from the cases will likely end up at indication that it could President National Labor Relations the US Supreme Court, open the door for Trump to intervene in the Federal Democratic from the Merit Systems revisit a 90-year-old ruling Reserve over political or disagreements.

Harris in a statement said that until Trump, presa 7-4 decision set aside a three-judge panel's March ruling that paused lower decision, and looks for-

### 'Europe, US should have zero tariffs between them'

STOCKHOLM (Reuters): Europe and the United States should have zero tariffs between them and Europe should aim for that in ongoing negotiations with the US, Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen said, in line with a proposal by the European Commission.

"Engaging in a global trade war is the surest way to achieve a global recession," Valtonen told a joint press conference with her Swedish counterpart in Stockholm. "But of course the European Union now has to react to what the US has put forward," she added. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said that the EU would need to lower its non-tariff barriers, including those created by value-added taxes, if it wanted to reach a deal to lower US tariffs imposed by President Donald

Trump. Sweden and Finland, who have long cooperated closely on defence, both joined NATO in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and have pushed for a hard line on Moscow ever since, while also rapidly ramping up defence spending. The two Nordic countries have also been among the biggest contributors of military aid to Ukraine, with Sweden announcing its 19th and biggest package of spending on support for Ukraine last week. Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard noted that ecogrowth would increase the possibilities to invest in the military and to support Ukraine. "If we impose more tariffs and barriers that lead to less economic growth or recession, then there will be less money to spend on these crucial things," Stenergard

### US must maintain its troop totals in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP) Republican and Democratic members of the House Armed Services Committee voiced sharp bipartisan critcism about reports the Trump administration is eyeing a reduction of US forces in Europe, saying America must stick with its NATO allies. Rep. Michael Rogers, R-Mich., the panel's chairman, said the US must not cut troop levels in Europe and added that he was opposed to any plan for the US to relinquish NATO command. The US historically has held the Supreme Allied Command Europe, or SACELIR position. "US SACEUR, position. leadership in NATO is essential to ensure armed American forces, including our nuclear weapons, always remain under US command," Rogers said at the start of a hearing with Army Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, commander of US European Command and the NATO commander.

Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio, added that "the idiocy of the fact that there was any discussion" about giving up the SACEUR role "is just beyond me." Katherine Thompson, who is doing the job of assistant defense secretary for international affairs, repeatedly told lawmakers that there is an ongoing Pentagon review of troop totals and no decisions have been made. But, asked again two hours into the hearing whether the US would give up the SACEUR job, she said, "my definitive

answer is no. That was the first time Pentagon officials have flatly denied the US will give up that post, which Cavoli said gives him a strong voice and American leadership at NATO. There have been roughly 100,000 US troops in Europe in recent 20,000-troop years, a increase since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Cavoli told the committee that he has recommended the US maintain its current force totals. He said that cutting American troops in Europe will increase the time it would take America's

military to respond to any crisis there. "Clearly moving things to the other side of the Atlantic increases the timespace challenge," he said. He added that the current size and capability of the US force, aided by allied contributions, "is deterring Russia" right now.

# China says it will 'fight to the end'

BEIJING (AP): China said the United States will Chinese retribution, could it would "fight to the end" and take countermeasures safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional Chinese imports. Commerce Ministry said the US's imposition of "socalled 'reciprocal tariffs'" on China is "completely groundless and is a typical unilateral bullying practice.

China, the world's sec-

ond-largest economy, has

announced retaliatory tar-

iffs and the ministry hinted in its latest statement that more may be coming. "The countermeasures China has taken are aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintaining the normal international trade order. They are completely legitimate," ministry said. "The US threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the US China will never accept this. If the US insists on its own way, China will fight to the end,' it added. Trump's threat of additional tariffs on China raised fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war. Stock markets from Tokyo to New York have become more unstable as the tariff war worsens. Trump's threat came after China said it would retaliate against US tariffs he announced last week.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase and Yang Aijia, whose above their already long companies import chemiterm trading abuses by cals from the US, said the coping with the impact of tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, tariffs, including potential the tariffs.

Tariffs on China of 50%, against the United States to effective April 9th," Trump wrote on Truth Social. a layoff, maybe even clos-"Additionally, all talks with ing," Huang said, "I might China concerning their not be able to find another 50% tariff on requested meetings with us job if I get laid off." China will be terminated!" If Trump implements his new tariffs on Chinese products, US tariffs on Chinese goods would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as pun- and going after the US ishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that with China was an estimatincrease prices American consumers, it making it the top trader in could also give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper relationships with other trading partners, particularly the European Union. On the streets of Beijing, people said they found it hard to keep track of all the announcements, expressed belief in their

> say whatever he wants," said Wu Qi, 37, who works in construction. Others were less sanguine. Paul Wang, 30, who sells stainless accessories, including necklaces, bracelets, and tongue studs to Europe, said the European market was now more important after the extra US 50% tariffs and he which other firms in his field would be competing in that space. Jessi Huang

country's ability to weather

the storm. "Trump says one

thing today and another

tomorrow. Anyway, he just

wants benefits, so he can

still has a range of options to strike back at the Washington, experts said, including suspending cooperation on combating fentanyl, placing higher quotas on agricultural products trade in services in China such as finance and law firms. US total goods trade ed \$582 billion in 2024, goods with the US The 2024 deficit with China in goods and services trade was between \$263 billion and \$295 billion.

Foreign spokesperson Lin Jian appeared to give short shrift to talk of dialogue with the Trump administration. "I don't think what the US has done reflects a willingness for sincere dialogue. If the US really wants to engage in dialogue, it should adopt an attitude of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit," Lin said. In Hong Kong, where stocks were slightly higher, Chief Executive John Lee blasted the latest US tariffs as "bullying," saying the "ruthless behavior" has damaged global and multilateral trade and brought great risks and uncertainties to the world. Lee said the city would link its economy would be watching to see closer to China's development, sign more free trade agreements, attract more foreign companies and capital to Hong Kong, and support local enterprises in

# Ukrainian city mourns children killed by missile

Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy as it continued fighting, and textbooks? How do I teach held funerals for some of Ukrainian officials want without them?" she asked. the 20 people, including him to compel Putin to Russian missile and nine children, killed by a stop. Trump vowed during drone tactics continue to through apartment buildings and blasted a playground. than 70 were More

wounded in the attack on Kryvyi Rih. The children were playing on swings and in a sandbox in a tree-lined park at the time. Bodies were strewn across the grass. "We are not asking for pity," Oleksandr Vilkul, the head of the city administration, wrote on Telegram as Kryvyi Rih mourned. "We demand the world's outrage." The UN Human Rights Office in Ukraine said it was the deadliest single verified strike harming children since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. It was also one of the deadliest attacks so far this year.

Ukraine has consented to a ceasefire proposed weeks Russia is still negotiating help," with the United States its Associated Press. After Minister terms for accepting a truce "two desks in my classroom svyrydenko to in the more than three-year were empty forever," Associated Press.

year to bring a swift end to the war.

"We're talking to Russia. We'd like them to stop," Trump told reporters. don't like the bombing." spokesperson Kremlin Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed that Putin supports a ceasefire proposed by Trump but wants Russian conditions to be met. "President Putin indeed backs the ceasefire idea, but it's necessary to first answer quite a few questions," Peskov said.

In Kryvyi Rih, 59-yearold teacher Iryna Kholod remembered Arina and Radyslav, both 7 years old and killed in strike, as being "like little suns in the classroom." Radyslav, she said, was proud to be part of a school campaign collecting pet food for stray animals. "He held the bag like it was she told The

KRYVYI RIH, Ukraine war. US President Donald Kholod said, adding that (AP): Anger and outrage Trump has voiced frustra- she still has unopened birthgripped the hometown of tion with Russian President day gifts for them. "How do President Vladimir Putin over the I tell parents to return their

Russian missile that tore his election campaign last evolve, making it harder to shoot them down, Yurii Ihnat, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian air force command, said on national television. Iranian-designed Shahed drones have undergone significant upgrades, while Moscow is also modernizing its ballistic missiles, he said. Only the US Patriot missile defense system can help prevent attacks like the one in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy said. He said he had instructed his defense and foreign affairs ministers to "work bilaterally on air defense, especially with the United States, which has sufficient potential to help stop any terror. Ukraine will send a team to Washington this week to begin negotiations on a new draft of a deal that would give the US access ago by Washington. But treasure. He wanted to to Ukraine's valuable mineral resources, Economy Svyrydenko told The

### Trump admn fires senior Navy female officer at NATO

Navy Vice Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, the only woman on NATO's military committee, was fired over the weekend by the Trump administration, US officials said. Although no reason was given, officials said it was apparently tied to comments she has made that supported diversity in the force. According to the officials, Chatfield got a call from Adm. Christopher Grady, the acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was told the administration wanted to go in a different direction with the

The officials said they believe the decision was made last week by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, but it was unclear whether he received any direction from President Donald Trump. Three US officials spoke about the firing on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters. Chatfield is the third top female officer to be fired since Trump took office. the North Atlantic Council tering diversity, equity and Hegseth announced in and

WASHINGTON (AP): US February that he was firing Planning Group, according the chief of naval operations, Adm. Lisa Franchetti. And Trump fired Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan just a day after he was sworn in. Trump and Hegseth have been so-called woke policies are dead. There has been a vigorous campaign to remove leaders who promoted diversity, equity and inclusion, and to erase DEI programs and online content. Chatfield was on a list of senior military officers targeted as "woke" by the conservative American Accountability Foundation, which sent a letter to Hegseth saying that "purg-

> tary is imperative. Chatfield, a Navy helicopter pilot who also commanded a joint reconstruction team in Afghanistan, had been serving as one of the 32 representatives on NATO's military committee. The panel is the primary source of military advice to

> > NATO's

Nuclear

ing the woke from the mili-

to NATO. It serves as the link between the political decision-makers NATO's military structure.. Sen. Mark Warner, a Democrat from Virginia, said he was "deeply disvocal in their insistence that turbed" by the firing. 'Trump's relentless attacks on our alliances and his careless dismissal of decorated military officials make us less safe and weaken our position across the world, Warner said in a post on X The campaign to erase DEI programs and online content has been met with questions from lawmakers, local leaders and citizens angered by the removal of military heroes and historic mentions from Defense Department websites and social media pages

The accountability foundation complained in the letter to Hegseth that those responsible for DEI policies "must be dismissed," adding that military leaders should be focused on cultivating lethality, not on fosinclusion in the ranks.

**Democrats from labor boards** members from two federal Protection Board. Decision its earlier ruling. The decision by the US Court of upheld federal laws barring Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit further ing members of the labor complicates a pair of cases boards at will. that are emerging as key

under his control. The full D.C. Circuit in authority." court decisions blocking ward to ultimate victory on eyed closely by Federal rights of workers.

the president from remov-

from the White House remove officials "who

Trump from Board and Cathy Harris which could use them to that upheld restrictions on policy labor boards, setting aside puts back in place two the president removing which would significantly judges' decisions that officials from multi-mem- undercut its independence. ber agencies. That would have major implications provided by her lawyer for a number of agencies like the Federal Reserve idents had for decades White House spokesman and the Federal Trade respected the removal protests of Trump's efforts to Harrison Fields argued the Commission whose memtections that Congress bring federal agencies US Constitution gives bers are appointed by the adopted for members of the meant to be independent Trump the power to president but have for labor boards. "Today the decades acted independent- Court restores the constituexercise his executive ly of the White House, tional equilibrium," she "The Trump Along with a lawsuit over said. Deepak Gupta, a

#### The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

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### China prepares for war of attrition over tariffs

EIJING, feeling boxed into a corner by the United States' intensifying tariff assault on China and any country that buys or assembles Chinese goods, is bracing for an economic war of attrition.

Washington last week imposed import tariffs of at least 10% on almost the entire world, and much higher levies on countries such as Vietnam, where Chinese factories have been shifting production. This drew retaliation from China, followed by new threats of escalation from US President Donald Trump.

China has no great options, though. It will court other markets in Asia, Europe and the rest of the world, but this may not be much of society, but its impact books and uniforms have lower-income groups who to stretch every rupee lead of an escape valve.

Other countries have much smaller markets than the US, and local economies are also taking a hit from the tariffs. Many are also wary of allowing more cheap Chinese

Domestically, a currency devaluation would be the simplest way to cushion the tariffs' impact but that could trigger capital outflows, while also alienating trade partners China may try to court. China has so far allowed very limited yuan depreciation.

More subsidies, export tax rebates or other forms of stimulus could be on the cards, but this also risks exacerbating industrial overcapacity and fuelling more deflationary pressures.

Analysts have advocated for years for policies that would boost domestic demand.

So far China has responded to last week's additional 34% US tariffs with a similar blanket counter-levy. As Trump threatened escalation with an extra 50% hike, Beijing vowed to "fight to the end". Besides its own sweeping tariffs, Beijing can use its control over some strategic commodities and parts of the corporate world to hit Washington where it hurts the most, according to a

China offered a taste of that on Friday, when it added seven rare earths to its export control list, a move that threatened to cut off the supply of materials US defence and technology sectors depend on.

Beijing retains the option to expand the controls to 10 other rare earths or ban exports to the US outright. In the corporate world, Trump has expressed interest in a spin-off of short video app TikTok's US

But China also has leverage there, thanks to rules it implemented in 2020 that require the company to obtain a technology export licence before transferring its "secret sauce" algorithm abroad. China indicated it would not approve the deal following the tariff announcement, sources told Reuters. Beijing can also target US companies with sanctions or add them to an unreliable entity list, which so far includes mainly firms which it says sell arms to Taiwan.

With Washington and Beijing trying to inflict increasing pain on each other and the rest of the world seen as collateral damage in their trade war, it is hard to imagine how a grand deal to de-escalate would look like.

Economists say Trump's goal of balancing trade with China is unfeasible in the short-to-medium term, given that one side is the world's leading producer while the other is the biggest consumer.

If a quick deal proves elusive, then it may turn into a battle of political wills, where some analysts believe Beijing has the upper

Thousands of protesters gathered in Washington and cities across the US at the weekend to protest against Trump, who is also facing heavy criticism from Wall Street for the global market turmoil his tariffs caused.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is unlikely to face similar resistance in his tightly controlled country, and can line up monetary and fiscal stimulus for later this year to ease some of the social stress if needed. Zhiwu Chen, professor of finance at HKU Business School, said, "Trump has to face, or at least Republican politicians have to face a lot of electoral pressure, and the American media are still pretty much free," he said. "So I think Trump's ability to fight politically with China is not that great.'

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# White Collar Class: Silent **Suffering Segment**

**Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal** 

NFLATION in Pakistan has reached an alarming level, luxury. School fees, tuition collapse looms over them. affecting every segment charges, and the cost of on the middle class, par- escalated beyond afford- might receive financial aid workers, has been devas- to either downgrade their the middle class has no tating. These individuals, children's education by safety net. They are ineligiwho form the backbone shifting them to less expenof the country's economy sive schools or comproand administration, are mise on other essential facing immense financial household needs. The strain yet remain silent, thought of depriving their bound by societal expec- children of good education tations and personal dig-nity. Unlike daily wage minds, yet they have little earners or laborers who choice. can voice their struggles openly, the white-collar worker suffers in silence, unwilling or unable to ing exponentially, even a do not protest or demand Policymakers must recogseek help despite dire cir- minor illness can disrupt an relief, fearing social stigma nize this hidden crisis and

cumstances. For the middle class, especially those employed ics charge exorbitantly, in offices, banks, educa- while public hospitals in offices, banks, educa- while public hospitals another burden. Weddings, Controlling inflation, tional institutions, and var- remain overcrowded and family gatherings, and ensuring fair wages, and ious government depart- underfunded. Many mid- even religious events offering financial assisments, survival has become dle-class families have demand expenses that they tance for education and a daily challenge. Their resorted to self-medication cannot afford but are incomes remain stagnant or delaying medical treatcontinues to rise at an due to financial constraints. unprecedented pace. Food prices have soared, utility bills have further com- to repay. The concept of tributing to economic bills have become unbear- pounded their troubles. saving for the future has growth and social progress. able, and transportation Many employees, despite costs have significantly working in well-reputed increased. Despite working organizations, struggle to stant financial anxiety, quences will be far-reachtirelessly, they find thempay monthly rent, forcing unsure of how they will ing. A demoralized, finanselves unable to maintain them to move to smaller manage unforeseen emer- cially strained middle class the lifestyle they once took homes in less desirable gencies. for granted.

One of the mo concerns is the education ue to increase, leaving fampressure is profound. Stress stagnation. It is time to of their children. Quality ilies with little to spare for and anxiety have become address their concerns education, once considered other necessities. Despite constant companions of before their silent suffering a basic necessity for mid-their hard work and dedica-white-collar

white-collar ability. Parents are forced Medical expenses add maintain

another layer of distress. Their silent suffering is has failed to acknowledge With healthcare costs ris- often overlooked, as they their entire month's budget. or professional repercus-Private hospitals and clin-sions. while the cost of living ments, risking their health sure to maintain societal

neighborhoods. Electricity, gas, and water bills contin-

ble for government subsidies or social welfare programs, as their official financially stable. In reality, they live paycheck to paycheck, sacrificing pertimes even necessities to

Social obligations add forced to bear. The presstatus leads many into debt, House rents and utility taking loans they struggle become nearly impossible,

impact o

losing their job, the inabili ty to meet family expecta Unlike those from tions, and the daily struggle to emotional or support from charities, Many suffer in silence unable to share their burden even with close friends or family members.

Despite these hardships the resilience of the middle incomes make them appear class is commendable They continue to work dili gently, hoping for better days. Their silent perseversonal comforts and some- ance is a testament to their strength, yet it is also a appearances. reflection of a society that struggles take concrete steps to provide relief to this crucial segment of the population. tance for education and healthcare could help ease

their burden. The middle class has long been the pillar of stability for the nation, con-If their struggles continue with many living in con- to be ignored, the consecould lead to decreased psychological productivity, brain drain, this economic and long-term economic

### workers, turns into a crisis that dle-class families, is now a tion, the fear of financial affecting their mental and affects the entire nation. The UN in Gaza: When an institution

becomes useless Hani Hazaimeh

HE ongoing Israeli war on Gaza has once again exposed the UN as a paralyzed, ineffective institution incapable of upholding its own charinnocent. More than 61,000 tively toothless. Palestinians — most of

reduced the Gaza Strip to rubble. More than 110,000 people have been injured, missing and are presumed dead.

Entire neighborhoods flattened. have been Hospitals, schools and UN shelters have been obliterated. And what has the UN done in response? Issued statements. Held meetings. other words, nothing mean-

The international community is witnessing, in real tion of a civilian population. Israeli forces have targeted hospitals where wounded children lie in intensive care. Journalists and humanitarian workers have been killed despite being clearly identified. UNRWA facilities schools, clinics and warerepeatedly, often despite prior notification of their coordinates to Israeli forces. More than 180 UN workers have been killed since Oct. 7, 2023 — the highest death toll of humanitarian workers in any conflict in the organization's history

And yet, despite these bla- December 2023 Council ensure global peace and terrupted, so long as one security — has become a the-superpower permits it. ater of power politics. Any

resolution that dares to criticize or attempt to restrain Israel's actions is immediately vetoed by the US, renderter, let alone protecting the ing international law effec-This is not a failure of

them women and children oversight. It is a failure of — have so far been killed in will, a failure of structure and an onslaught that has a failure of purpose. The very mechanisms designed to hold aggressors accountable have been hijacked by those while over 14,000 remain determined to protect them. In this case, the US government has used its veto power to shield Israel from scrutiny and responsibility — effectively making the UN complicit in its silence. Meanwhile, UNRWA

the only lifeline for more than 2 million Palestinians in Released press releases. In Gaza — is being dismantled Western within. from nations, under Israeli pressure and based on unproven allegations against a few time, the systematic destruc- employees, have suspended or cut funding to the agency altogether. The result? Starving families. Collapsing healthcare. deprived of education. These are not just policy decisions - they are death sentences for an already besieged population. Instead of defending houses — have been struck its own agency and the people it serves, the UN appears to be surrendering.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has issued repeated warnings about the catastrophe in Gaza, but they have fallen on deaf ears. When he invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter in — the first frozen in its tracks, incapable the UNSC still failed to act. of taking decisive action. A US veto blocked a cease-Why? Because the institution fire resolution supported by has become a hostage to more than 150 countries. The geopolitics. The Security message was clear: even - designed to genocide can proceed unin-

The consequences of this

moral collapse are profound. Not only is the UN failing the Palestinians, but it is also sending a dangerous message to oppressed peoples everywhere: that internationrights are negotiable. What faith can anyone have in the global order when it tolerates collective punishment, ethnic cleansing and the targeting of Geneva Conventions if there is no one to enforce them?

This failure also carries long-term costs. The credibility of the UN — already in question — is now in freefall. In the Global South, where memories of colonialism and double standards still linger, the UN's impotence in Gaza is seen as further proof of its irrelevance. Countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America are increasingly asking whether the current global order truly serves their interests or merely those of the powerful few.

It is time to confront an uncomfortable truth: the UN, and protect the defenseless in its current form, is no longer fit for purpose. If the buildings are bombed, when nisms of accountability its staff are killed and when an entire population is pushed to the brink of extermination, then what exactly is it for? Diplomatic theater? A stage for the powerful to polish their image while

atrocities rage on? There must be a reckoning. The UN must either undergo fundamental reform — starting with the abolition tant violations of internation- such move in decades — to of the UNSC veto — or it al law, the UN remains draw attention to the crisis, must accept that it has remembered not as the become a relic of a bygone era. An institution born from the ashes of the Second World War, with the solemn promise of "never again," now finds itself watching helplessly as "again" unfolds

in real time. What does reform look

like? It means empowering the General Assembly to override UNSC vetoes in cases of mass atrocities. I means insulating humanitari an agencies like UNRWA from political manipulation It means establishing mechaal law is selective and human nisms to enforce internation al law that do not rely on the will of superpowers. Most of all, it means recognizing that the current structure rewards inaction, breeds impunity civilians? What good are the and undermines the very ideals the UN was created to uphold.

The people of Gaza do not need more speeches. They need action. They need protection. They need justice. As bombs continue to fall and families are buried in mass graves, the clock is ticking - not only on their surviva but on the moral relevance of the international community

The world does not need another powerless institution issuing empty statements while war crimes are broadcast live. It needs structures that can act, enforce the law If the UN cannot do that then it must step aside and UN cannot act when its own make room for new mecha-Regional organizations coalitions of conscience or even emerging international tribunals may ultimately take up the mantle the UN has so shamefully dropped.

In Gaza, we are witness ing not just a humanitarian disaster, but the collapse of the global order's moral foundation. Unless the UN finds the courage to act not merely speak — it will be guardian of peace and justice, but as a bystander to genocide

Until then, Palestinians will continue to suffer and the UN will remain what it has tragically become: an institution that watches but

# PSL X set to begin on April 11 in Rawalpindi Shahid Afridi

Super Rawalpindi United the most successful team with three lowest total in PSL histochampionship titles has ry is 59, made by Lahore successfully defended its crown. This Peshawar year host the opening ceremony which is sched- Multa uled to begin at 7:00 PM June on Friday, April 11.

will be held across four venues like National Bank Stadium Karachi, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, Multan Cricket Stadium, and Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

the batting charts is Babar Azam widely regarded as the league's finest batter. He has played 90 matches scoring 3,504 runs in 88 innings at an average of 45.50 with a highest score of 115. His tally includes two centuries and 33 halfcenturies representing Islamabad United, Karachi Kings Peshawar Zalmi.

Fakhar Zaman ranks second having scored 2,525 runs in 84 matches highest score is also 115 and he has hit two centuries and 19 half-cen-

Third on the list is 2,403 runs in 83 matches at an average of 41.43. He has one century and 20 fifties to his name with a best of 110\* while playing for Karachi Kings, Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans.

Shoaib Malik stands fourth with 2,336 runs in 91 matches at an average of 33.37, including 15 fifties and a highest score of 73. He has represented Karachi Kings, Multan Sultans and Peshawar

Sultans and Quetta Gladiators at an average turies and ten fifties with a best of 121.Among bowlers Wahab Riaz tops the wickets chart with 113 wickets in 88 matches for Peshawar Zalmi. Hasan Ali follows with 108 wickets in 82 games playing for Islamabad United, Karachi Kings Peshawar Zalmi.

Shaheen Afridi is third with 103 wickets in 71 Lahore matches for Qalandars. Shadab Khan Islamabad United while Faheem Ashraf is fifth with 78 wickets in 72 games for the same team. In terms of best bowl-

Ravi Bopara leads with 6/16 for Karachi Kings against Lahore Qalandars on February 12, 2016. Faheem Ashraf claimed 6/19 against Lahore on March 9, 2019, followed by Umar Gul's 6/24 for Multan Sultans versus Quetta Gladiators on March 7, 2018. Usama Mir's 6/40 for Multan against Lahore February 27, 2024, and Shaheen Afridi's against Multan on March 9, 2018, also feature among the top performances. The highest team total in PSL history belongs to Multan Sultans who scored 262/3 against once. Gladiators on Ouetta 11, 2023. In March response, Quetta made

ond-highest

253/8, making it the sectotal. Islamabad United scored

HE tenth edition 247/2 against Peshawar of the Pakistan Zalmi on June 17, 2021. League Peshawar Zalmi scored (PSL) will officially 242/6 against Multan on begin on April 11, 2025, March 10, 2023, and with the opening match Lahore Qalandars made Islamabad 241/3 versus Peshawar on United and Lahore February 26, 2023. Qalandars at the Karachi Kings' best total Cricket is 201/4 against Peshawar **Islamabad** on February 21, 2020.

On the flip side the

Qalandars crown. This Peshawar Zalmi on Rawalpindi February 12, 2017, in Cricket Stadium will Dubai. Quetta Gladiators scored just 73 against Multan in Abu Dhabi on Islamabad's lowest is 82 This season's matches against Karachi on March 1, 2017, in Sharjah. Karachi Kings' lowest is 108/9 against Peshawar on June 15, 2021, in Abu Dhabi. Multan bowled out for 113 by Islamabad on February Over the past decade, 25, 2018, in Dubai and many records have been set in the PSL. Leading against Multan in Multan

on February 26, 2020. Islamabad United won the inaugural edition held in the UAE, beating Quetta Gladiators in the final by 6 wickets. Dwayne Smith was named Player of the

Match. In 2017 Peshawar Zalmi clinched the title by defeating Quetta by 58 runs in the final held at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Darren Sammy earned Player of the Final, while for Lahore Qalandars at Kamran Akmal was an average of 30.42. His named Player of the Tournament. Islamabad United won their second title 2018, turies. Fakhar also holds Peshawar Zalmi by the record for the most wickets in Karachi. Asif sixes in PSL history Ali's quick 26\* off 6 balls wickets in Karachi. Asif was crucial.In Quetta Gladiators lifted Mohammad Rizwan with their maiden trophy by defeating Peshawar by 8 wickets. Luke Ronchi scored 52 and was named Player of the Match. Karachi Kings claimed their first title with a fivewicket win over Lahore Qalandars in 2020. Babar Azam scored 63 and was named Player of the Match Tournament,2021 Multan Sultans won first time defeating Peshawar

Zalmi by 47 runs. Sohaib Magsood earned both the Player of the Final and Rilee Rossouw com- the Tournament.in 2022 pletes the top five having Lahore Qalandars secured scored 2,015 runs in 84 their first title by beating matches for Multan Multan Sultans by runs. Mohammad Hafeez was Player of the Match, of 31.98. He has two cen- and Mohammad Rizwan won Player of the Tournament.Lahore repeated their success in 2023 narrowly defeating Multan by 1 run in the final. Captain Shaheen Afridi's all-round performance (44 off 15, 4 wickets) earned him Player of the Match.in 2024 Islamabad United won their third title beating Multan in a thrilling final by just 2 wickets on the last ball. Imad Wasim ranks fourth with 91 who took 5 wickets and wickets in 84 matches for scored 19 runs was named Player of the Final. Babar Azam scored the most runs (569) and won Mohammad Cap. Usama ing figures in a match Mir was awarded Bowler of the Tournament.

PSL has played a vital role in reviving international cricket in Pakistan and is now ranked among the most prestigious T20 leagues in the world. Islamabad remains the only team with three titles though they've never defended it successfully. Qalandars after years of disappointment, are the only side to win back-toback titles in 2022 and

Karachi Kings, Multan Sultans, Peshawar Zalmi and Quetta Gladiators have each won the trophy

Writer is a senior sports journalist and Secretary General of Writers **Sports** Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



# Trump's tariff onslaught against China launches a battle the US may not be able to win

Trump just ignited a direct showdown with the China who have chosen to and economic threat to of face States in a trade war.

against China — which is take," White House press about to face tariffs of at secretary Karoline Leavitt tunity to transform the US economy and political least 104% on goods said Tuesday. "President entering the US — is the Trump has a spine of US most serious pivot yet in steel, and he will not Representative's office embassy in Washington, his global tariff onslaught break, and America will and has the most potential not break under his leadto inflict severe blowback ership." on American citizens in soaring prices.

The confrontation follows years of US attempts in the faceoff with Xi to address perceived trade makes this the most seri- impulsive and indiscrimi- stoking the antagonism. abuses by China. It's also ous furch of a week since the US presiegy.

the culmination of a week since the US presiegy.

dept announced his It also shows little America is an empire in decline Far from being a ening relations prompted by an aggressive and nationalistic shift by a Pacific competitor turned hostile superpower that now seems itching to challenge US might.

And it's a dark landmark in a diplomatic relationship that will help define the 21st century and a breakdown for a long US project to prevent tensions erupting into a full-on trade war – or potentially much worse between two giants. On Wednesday, China responded by unveiling retaliatory tariffs of 84%

on imports of US goods. The US has been trying to manage China's emergence for more than 50 years — since President Richard Nixon's pioneering visit to Chairman Mao lated and impoverished Garden. nation and to drive a quarter-century change and locking it into consumers. a rules-based, Western-

The ultimate failure of blight in its wake.

Trump claims scores of nations are eager to make trade deals to defray painful US tar-

their ranks.

Beijing ing that it was ready to onage. fight to "the end." The US President Xi Jinping, then to try to reshape China's

Donald on Wednesday. "Countries like

one nation that might be retaliate and try to double US power. able to beat the United down on their mistreatment of American workescalation ers are making a mis-

> The vast stock of personal and political capital reporters in the Oval Trump has now invested Office on Monday.

Stephen Collinson

But Trump's aggresbelieves he has a unique assumptions that the US and perhaps final oppor- is trying to devastate its dynamic with what the system. Liu

largest trading nation. 'We have one shot at Trump this,"

But his method is

within Asia.

China's rhetoric, mean-Trade spokesman for China's describes as the world's for instance, condemned US tariffs on Tuesday as "abuse" and as an told infringement of China's American consumers.

"legitimate rights." In Beijing, as in Washington, hubris is

bristles with certainty that to the USTR. It dominates

'Liberation Day" tariffs respect for Chinese digni- decline. Far from being a If the US president assumed that what he almost daily hails as his 'great relationship" with Xi would vield a quick Chinese climbdown, he's wrong. The prospect of a trade agreement with Beijing similar to the one in the first Trump term, which largely fell apart during the pandemic, seems distant. Trump's claims that the US has been "raped" and "pillaged" by trade partners are hyperbolic. But his grievances

about Beijing's behavior have been shared by multiple presidents. Tensions often flare over import dumping, market access for US firms, intellectual property theft, currency manipulation and industrial espionage. Previous White Houses pursued targeted enforcement and other penalties to try to reshape China's behavior. Years of acrimony in the relationship have fueled the shared bipartisan doctrine in

Washington that Beijing is the preeminent military and economic threat to US power. But Trump's aggression is unparalleled. He believes he has a unique and perhaps final opportunity to transform the US dynamic with what the US Trade Representative's office describes as the world's largest trading nation. "We have one shot at this," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday. But his method is impulsive and indiscriminate; it lacks a clear strategy. It also shows little respect for Chinese dignity and power — a recurring

Zedong to "open" an iso- in the White House Rose ty and power — a recur- show of strength, Trump's

China is showing every wedge between its leaders sign that it thinks it can and their communist outlast Trump in their brethren in the Soviet clash, for which it has Union. It's been nearly a been preparing for years. since And it's not clear Trump Trade extent of China's

If the US president oriented economic sys- assumed that what he almost daily hails as his 'great relationship" with well-intentioned Xi would yield a quick efforts is being laid bare Chinese climbdown, he's in Trump's second term. wrong. The prospect of a The president rose to trade agreement with power on a populist wave Beijing similar to the one contemptuous remarks "I think if you are Xi alternative manufacturing that was partly a reaction in the first Trump term, ignored the transforma- Jinping right now, you're bases — in India, say to globalization that which largely fell apart tion in China's economy. thinking, 'Well, hey, on US firms that rely on model weights (which exported US industrial during the pandemic, It is now a global leader the metrics that I care goods and components in innovation on artificial about — technological from China will be left

that US has been "raped" and cles, energy production reliance, we are doing ok, "pillaged" by trade part- and in many other areas. these tariffs may not business, particularly on ners are hyperbolic. But Beijing on Tuesday con- immediately impact us," the import side or the grievances about Beijing's behavior have But China isn't joining been shared by multiple ble," "ignorant" and "dis- Center for Strategic and Jacquez, a former special presidents. Tensions often respectful." rebuffed flare over import dump-Trump's warning not to ing, market access for US retaliate against an earlier firms, intellectual proper-34% tariff on top of a first ty theft, currency manipuround of duties — warn- lation and industrial espi-

Previous White Houses

other countries.

theme in the administration's dealings with other countries.

Vance, for instance, last week mocked China in and attacks on US allies, criticizing past US trad- including in Southeast another milestone: when and his top officials are ing policy. "We borrow Asia, also play into the US ushered China into fully prepared for the money from Chinese China's argument that the peasants to buy the things United States is not a reli-Organization in hopes of resilience or the pain it those Chinese peasants able partner, and that promoting democratic can impose on American manufacture," he said. China's brand of capitaleconomic prosperity. It's control is a better model. these steps would hurt not a recipe for low prices, and it's not a ahead of what could be a recipe for good jobs in the dragged-out trade battle demonstrate Xi's power United States America," "Fox & Friends."

Trump's claims that the intelligence, electric vehi-resilience

leader, caught up in a pursued targeted enforce- tion's rightful return to who is also president and be a drag on the labor million initiative to help fast-spiraling clash with ment and other penalties power and prestige. A CEO of the Phoenix market. You are looking develop the first Polish President Xi limits then to try to reshape Chine's capitulation to a tough. Committee on Foreign at inflationary pressure." had to preserve his credi- behavior. Years of acri- talking American presibility by making good on mony in the relationship dent would therefore be his threat to impose a gar-gantuan import tax from bipartisan doctrine in weakness to the United has no worries about the al thought or direction to

ty and power — a recurshow of strength, Trump's US of supply chain ring theme in the adminsecond presidency and crunches during the panistration's dealings with the political chaos he demic, Chinese leaders incites are seen as symp-Vice President JD toms of weakness.

histrionics Trump's 'That is not a recipe for ism twinned with political and Sorghum. Each of

confidence China's of with the United States is Vance told also rooted in Xi's reorientation and modernizing also vulnerable. While

and self- hugely exposed. are doing ok, "If you are a small demned Vance's words as said Lily McElwee, input side, there's going "astonishing," "lamenta- adjunct fellow at the to be pain," said Alex There are high-stakes may also believe that Development political, global, econom- beyond China's core Industrial Strategy to ic reasons why Xi can't strength, it has "retaliato- President Joe Biden. The ruthless ry tools that (it) can Broader economic conse-Chinese leader presents impose that will be costly quences will follow. himself as a historic cata- to the United States as lyst of Chinese civiliza- well," said McElwee,

Relations. As a real authoritarian goods from the world's Washington that Beijing States would also under- impact of a trade war on the strategy." second-largest economy is the preeminent military cut China's own power looming elections — such

the congressional seen as a loss midterms next year. And especially while public opinion is still important in China, Xi may reason he can sion is unparalleled. He while, is peppered with afford to inflict more pain on the Chinese than

Trump can on Americans. If US inflation soars Pengyu, and sets off a recession, it may be the Americans who sue for trade peace on conditions favorable to

Pain is coming for China has been the top

of allies.

mately

Europe

In fact, even most

prospect that could ulti-

America's own strategic

objectives. For example,

industrial powerhouse –

needs access to frontier

AI chips to remain eco-

nomically competitive and militarily secure over

the next decade. Yet, if

America is no longer a

reliable partner and sup-

economies could gravi-

Specifically, the AI Diffusion Rule creates a

three-tiered hierarchy of

access. The bottom tier

comprises China, Russia

and the other usual sus-

pects, which are effec-

tively barred from the

market. The most privi-

leged tier comprises 18

trusted allies and trade

partners, including the

other members of the so-

America's intelligence-

sharing alliance with

Australia, Canada, New

Zealand and the UK -

and Asian technology

powerhouses such as

. Taiwan and South Korea.

tier, which includes most

NATO and EU members.

Despite being close US

allies, they face rigorous

restrictions, including a

cap on imports of high-

end AI chips (50,000 per country through 2027).

extends beyond hardware to include things like

embody an AI's learned

capabilities). Any coun-

try that wants to access

such assets must pass

through stringent, bur-

densome security proto-

Central Europe would be

its robust industrial base

to drive technological

progress for all of

Europe. Poland, among

the best capitalized

economies in the region,

recently launched a \$240

large language model.

Just days before the US

restrictions, the Polish

government announced

Moreover, the

That leaves the middle

called Five Eyes -

undermine

Eastern

Europe's

region's

AI development -

Central and

plier, the

tate toward China.

foreign supplier of goods to the US, accounting for up to 16% of total imports in recent years, according the market in smartphones, computers and toys — likely to be hit by massive price hikes that take them out of reach of many Americans when the new tariffs come into Taken together with Biden administration tariffs on China, which expanded on Trump firstterm duties, China now faces an effective average tariff rate of 125%.

Beijing can also inflict other penalties on the United States, such as halting export licenses for rare earth minerals that are vital to the US tech industry — one reason why Trump may have been so obsessed in finding alternative sources of supply in places like Ukraine and Greenland.

After seeing the severe inflationary impact in the could choose to impose new artificial curbs on the flow of goods to the US. American law and commercial firms might be restricted from operating in China. And Beijing could jolt the US agricultural heartland by limiting the import of soy beans Chinese as well as Americans — but they'd of retaliation.

Small businesses are The vice president's of the Chinese economy. giants like Apple can seek ontemptuous remarks "I think if you are Xi alternative manufacturing

the import side or the McElwee, input side, there's going International Studies. Xi assistant for Economic and "You're looking at a drag said McElwee, on GDP that is going to capitulation to a tough- Committee on Foreign at inflationary pressure, Jacquez said.

"One of the concerns tightened its AI chip

Sona Muzikarova

America's AI iron

curtain hurting allies

S we enter the second half of the intelligence capabilities are increasingly becomtary might. Hence, after years of ratcheting up CEO Sundar Pichai to combat US controls on exports of advanced semicon- cybersecurity, ductors to China, the energy and other sectors. Biden administration, as one of its final acts in and Eastern Europe to office, issued an "inter-

im final rule" to estabhas threatened Artificial Intelligence **Diffusion.** If this AI First, the restrictions will Diffusion Rule (as it is known) remains intact, upgrade legacy industries op these technologies. the US inputs needed to such as auto manufacturdevelop frontier AI ing at a time when the region cannot yet models will be accessi-Europeans need to press ble to only a tight circle ahead with autonomous AI-augmented manufac- of computing power and NATO and EU members turing and predictive other requirements. But would be sidelined from maintenance technolo- as their capacities grow,

> region's AI aspirations policymakers planning and many new As import-dependent US combined. ognizing, there is nothing

long-standing allies. But 2020s, artificial technologies this year. the AI chip restrictions And in February, Polish also risk fracturing Prime Minister Donald NATO's cohesion and ing the key determinant Tusk signed a memoran- stalling its military modof economic and mili- dum of understanding ernization. The war in with Alphabet (Google) Ukraine has shown that increasingly speed up AI adoption in revolves around AI capahealth, bilities — from cyber defenses to By relegating Central Given that the Trump administration second-tier status, the US NATO's European memthe bers to step up and do lish a Framework for region's economic future more, it makes no sense in at least three ways. to maintain limits on Central and Eastern make it more difficult to Europe's ability to devel-

True, most countries in reach the quota imposed by the AI Diffusion Rule and self-driving vehicles, anyway, owing to a lack they may begin to look Second, now that the for other partners. In 2023, Hungary alone depend on the whims of absorbed 44 percent of in Chinese foreign direct Washington, long-term investment in Europe eclipsing investments are on hold. Germany and the UK companies are also rec- despite Poland's strong Western worse for business than China is already one of

By relegating Central and Eastern Europe to second-tier status, the US has threatened the region's economic future in at least three ways. First, the restrictions will make it more difficult to upgrade legacy industries such as auto manufacturing at a time when Europeans need to press ahead with autonomous and self-driving vehicles, AI-augmented manufacturing and predictive maintenance technologies. Second. now that the region's AI aspirations depend on the whims of policymakers in Washington, long-term planning and many new investments are on hold. As import-dependent US compa-

worse for business than persistent policy uncertainty. Third, with high-performance chips out of reach, Central and Eastern Europe's budding AI startup ecosystem may be forced to migrate to tier-one countries, crippling a strategic sector before it has the chance to mature. If its startups leave or wither away, the region will be set back at least a decade. No wonder public discontent has rippled across European capitals, from Brussels and Prague to Riga and Warsaw. Of course, US policymakers would say that they are making a calculat-

nies are also recognizing, there is nothing

ed trade-off: safeguarding America's technological edge and national security interests, even if that means causing friction with longstanding allies. But the AI chip restrictions also risk fracturing NATO's cohesion and stalling its military modernization.

formance chips out of reach, Central Eastern Europe's budding AI startup ecosystem may be forced to Without these hurdles, tries, crippling a strategic sector before it has the startups leave or wither away, the region will be set back at least a decade. No wonder public discontent has rippled across European capitals, from Brussels and Prague to Riga and Warsaw.

Of course, US policythey are making a calcuguarding America's techplans to invest nearly national security inter- America wants. \$1.2 billion in AI-based ests, even if that means

been answered.

persistent policy uncer- its largest trading partners, while the broader Third, with high-per- Central and Eastern European automotive and cluster has robust indirect supply links to China.

Given that these ties migrate to tier-one coun- could facilitate a broader geopolitical realignment, the US would do well to well placed to build on chance to mature. If its devise a more targeted approach. Ultimately, AI leadership is not just about controlling the hardware and the software. It is also about setting global standards for how the technology is developed, deployed and governed. By sidelining makers would say that allies from the AI frontier, the US risks losing lated trade-off: safe- influence over the technology's trajectory. That nological edge and cannot possibly be what

- Arab News

### Israeli aggression pushing Syria into Turkiye's arms protector that can create

anyone. It can just impose its will on anybody it wants. Though it is in the best interest of Israel

to have a good relationship with Egypt, it simply does not seem to care. It is now putting pres-

sure on Cairo to dismantle its military structures in Sinai, while there is a serious threat from

the Israeli side to push the Palestinians into that region. Egypt therefore faces a double threat

from Israel, Israel, supported by the Trump administration, has declared its intention to trans-

fer the Gazans to Egypt — and yet they are asking Cairo to remove its reinforcements at the

border. Israel last month set up an agency to advance the expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza.

Is it now asking Egypt to clear the way for forcible displacement? In fact, the actions of Israel

SRAEL last week borhood. Israeli leaders supplying it with arms bombed Syrian mili- have even bluntly spoken despite the civilian death that it was a warning — a Middle East that for Turkiye to keep its they shape and control. assets away. However, Though its declared protection.

military success they can subjugate every- frontation. tion that will empower it country's plans to take advantage luxury for Damascus. by maximizing its gains and setting new parame- started as soon as the ters over the course of rebels took Damascus. the four-year window it Turkiye was not in the

tary bases, claiming about a new Middle East toll, gave Israel the the Israeli side to push

**Tel Aviv does not under-** enemy is Iran, Turkiye is stand that its belliger- also bad news for Israel. ence only increases In fact, any strong coun-Syria's need for Turkish try in the neighborhood is bad news for Israel. Syria condemned the Last week's strike was unprovoked and unjusti- supposed to be a warning fied strikes. However, for Turkiye to keep its Israel does not care. Its hands off Syria and leave success — the country as a play-decapitating ground for Israel. Tel Hezbollah's leadership Aviv is flexing its mushas increased its concles in front of the Turks, fidence and arrogance. while its discourse is say-The Israelis now feel ing it does not seek con-However, one around them. In Israel's actions are invitaddition to its military ing a confrontation. Its success, Israel is backed continuous harassment of by a new US administra- Syria and breaches of the sovereignty like no other administra- make Turkish intervention before. Therefore, it tion a necessity and not a

The Israeli aggression picture at that stage. Its whenever and wherever in Gaza, while the West, tures in Sinai, while there ther increase its rein-

whatever it wanted region.

whenever it wanted to. This is bad news for double threat from Israel. with it are now thinking was hoping that the the region, even those Israel, supported by the of strengthening ties with Druze would declare

countries that have good Trump administration, their neighbors in order independence, or seek relations with Israel. has declared its intention to contain Israeli expanautonomy of some sort,

Syria in order to encour- would engage with the age separatism. This Kurds and the Druze and Israel is burning effort did not start with impression it could do the Palestinians into that bridges with everyone. the collapse of the Assad gion. Countries that were regime, it has been ongo-Egypt therefore faces a thinking of normalizing ing for several years. It

existential threat. A fed-The Israeli aggression started as soon as the rebels took Damascus. Turkiye was not in the piceral Syria would empowture at that stage. Its allied forces were still in the northeast. According to one Western diplomat I spoke to, Israel went into Syria because it could. The fact that the world remained silent in the took over Damascus, face of its atrocities in Gaza, while the West, particularly the US, kept supplying it with arms despite the civilian death toll, gave Israel the impression it could do whatever it wanted whenevget involved, but it has er it wanted to. This is bad news for the region, even those countries that have good relations now been pushed to with Israel. Israel is so arrogant that it feels it does not need to have a good relationship with interfere. Syrians, on the

> want Syria to be a sovereign, independent state. peaceful state. As soon as Ahmad Al-Sharaa took over, he announced that Agreement with Israel. Nevertheless, immediately started bombing the country, destroying its military

installations. The aggression did not there. Israel

a deterrent to Israel. create a permanently The Syrians, weak and unstable couneveryone else, know that

try. Fortunately, these Israel does not abide by Israeli calls have not any agreement. They saw how Tel Aviv last month Turkiye will not accept unilaterally broke the federal Syria. For Gaza ceasefire at the end Ankara, this would be an of phase one. How will they believe in any deal with Israel when they are er Kurdish separatism at facing an arrogant foe home. When the rebels that reneges on its commitments whenever it Turkiye was reluctant to suits its interests? The logical thinking of Al-Sharaa or anybody else is in his place is to seek to other hand, were fed up balance them out. Alwith the Iranian and Sharaa definitely does Russian interference in not want to be at the their country as they mercy of a merciless neighbor. Does Israel think that by bombing They want to live in a Syria it is going to block a defense agreement between Turkiye and Syria? On the contrary, it he would comply with has pushed Syria to want the 1974 Disengagement such a deal even more and to accelerate its Israel implementation.

While Israel is thinking that it can subjugate its neighbors — foes and friends alike - it is pushing everyone on to the same page to face its become a federation. Of such a belligerent neighed, it will only be a mat-Israel has been poking course, it would be a fed- bor, the Syrians can have ter of time until they are

Subjugating neighbor- allied forces were still in body it wants. Though it set up an agency to those countries that want some disturbances in ing states and emerging the northeast. According is in the best interest of advance the expulsion of Syria to be stable on edge as the regional hegemon to one Western diplomat Israel to have a good Palestinians from Gaza. is becoming increasingly I spoke to, Israel went relationship with Egypt, Is it now asking Egypt to clear as Israel's intended into Syria because it it simply does not seem clear the way for forcible goal. This way, it will could. The fact that the to care. It is now putting displacement? In fact, the than an economic or a vince European leaders southern part of the tries in the region know impose its will on every- world remained silent in pressure on Cairo to dis- actions of Israel only political issue, it is a that Syria needs to country. Hence, with that, if Syria is subjugatimpose its will on every- world remained silent in pressure on Cairo to dis- actions of Israel only political issue, it is a that Syria needs to country. one and be free to move the face of its atrocities mantle its military struc- make Egypt want to fur-

it wants within the neigh- particularly the US, kept is a serious threat from forcements in the Sinai.

— and this is not only Turkiye. However, for Turkiye, Syria is more in Brussels trying to con- encroached into the expansionism. All counprime security issue.

the Druze in the south of eration in which Tel Aviv no stability without a next.

only make Egypt want to further increase its reinforcements in the Sinai. Israel is so arrogant that to transfer the Gazans to sionism. Therefore, Tel and that Israel would it feels it does not need to Egypt — and yet they are Aviv is unlikely to find control their entity. This have a good relationship asking Cairo to remove any allies in the region. endeavor has largely with anyone. It can just its reinforcements at the With its aggression in failed, although it has impose its will on any- border. Israel last month Syria, Israel is putting succeeded in creating Syria.

> Meanwhile, Israel's foreign minister has been stop



# Alvarez & Marsal keen to invest in Pakistan

firm Alvarez & Marsal here ment in its privatization to Pakistan's efforts to on Wednesday expressed efforts and to attract potenstrong commitment to tial global investors to the investing in Pakistan, high-country. He said, Pakistan's lighting the firm's long-term strategy in the region's growing market offers sig-nificant opportunities for expanding markets.

The commitment was growth. expressed by company's delegation that called on ment, the meeting was part Federal Minister for Finance of ongoing discussions and Revenue, Senator Muhregarding the firm's potenammad Aurangzeb, accord- tial involvement ing to press release issued by Pakistan's privatization the finance ministry.

by Peter Briggs, Division fund. Executive at Alvarez &

firm was considering open-ing an office in Pakistan as He expressed

Gold prices

up by

Rs3,000

price of 24 karat per tola

gold increased by Rs3,000

Rs321,000 on Wednesday as compared to its sale at

Rs318,000 on previous trading day, All Pakistan

Sarafa Gems and Jewelers

of 24 karat also increased

by Rs2,572 to Rs275,205

from Rs272,633 whereas

the prices of 10 gram 22

karat gold also went up by

Rs2,358 to Rs252,280 from

and ten gram silver rema-

ined unchanged at Rs3,170

and Rs2,717 respectively.

international

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD:

National Commission for

Human Rights (NCHR), in

collaboration with the European Union (EU) and

Development Programme

(UNDP), is hosting a two-

day national conference,

"From Promise to Action:

Advancing SDG 16 for Justice and Reform" in

Islamabad. The event

brings together senior gov-

ernment officials, human

rights experts, members of

the judiciary, and civil soci-

ety representatives to dis-

challenges

Pakistan's criminal justice

system and identify path-

accountable, and rights-

including law enforcement.

the judiciary, and the penal

particularly for vulnerable

juveniles, and minorities.

more than ever, the world

The conference focuses on three critical areas, Pakistan.

for

based reforms.

Ambassador

Nations

inclusive,

**NCHR** 

system, and will explore lighted the importance of

ways to make these systems collective action in advanc-

more responsive and fairer, ing justice sector reform.

groups such as women, not create justice. Civil

European Union, com- tions," she said. "But

mended the NCHR for con- together, through strategic

vening this important and collaboration, we can dis-

needs National Human Pakistan's criminal justice

their human rights watch- Sustainable Development

dog role to the fullest. The Goal 16, the GSP+ Scheme,

real measure of our com- and core international

mitment to human rights human rights treaties.

lies not in our words, but in Following NCHR's A status

timely dialogue. "Now mantle barriers to justice."

Dr. Riina Kionka, accountability.

Rights Institutions to play reform agenda

of

Rabiya Javeri Agha high-

"Governments alone can-

society alone cannot ensure

the alone cannot reform institu-

The event

Chairperson

Donors

aligns

United

The prices of per tola

Rs249,922 respectively.

The prices of 10 grams

Association reported.

traded at

investment and long-term

processes and the establish-The delegation was led ment of a sovereign wealth

Speaking on the occa-Managing Finance and Revenue, Mu-Director, and Reza Bagir, hammad Aurangzeb wel- growth avenues. Global Head of Sovereign comed the interest shown On the occasion, Peter ognizing the firm's expert-Briggs mentioned that the ise in privatization and sov-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The part of its broader commit-ernment's appreciation for large investment in the global professional services ment to assist the govern- their potential contribution maritime sector.

tribution companies.

state-owned already added to the priva- Pakistan's development. tization pipeline.

Aurangzeb discussed the vision, aligned with the macroeconomic progress objectives made over the last 14 Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is months, noting the stabi- to bolster trade, invest-lization of Pakistan's econ- ment, and tourism in Marsal, along with Abdalla sion, Federal Minister for omy, which has rejuvenated Pakistan, tapping into the

> He also referenced recent announcements by the partnership with prominent business groups, Alvarez & Marsal would by Alvarez & Marsal, rec- recent announcements by the such as global shipping pave the way for a prospergiant AP Moller Maersk, He expressed the gov- which has committed to a its economy.

SECP cautions public

against illegal trading

**Business** 

Along with this, local unlock investment opportu- investors and entrepreneurs nities, particularly in the are also stepping forward privatization of power dis- with renewed enthusiasm to seize the growth oppor-He highlighted that the tunities in the country. government was committed This, the minister stated, to accelerating the privati- was a clear indication of zation process, with 24 the economic progress and entities a promising sign for

The minister reiterated Furthermore, Senator that the government's the market and created new region's growing economic corridor.

He expressed hope that ous future for Pakistan and



with delegation from Alvarez & Marsal led by Division Executive Peter Briggs.

### Ministry of Petroleum constitutes committee F.P. Report

KARACHI: In response to the recent fire incident at Creek, the Ministry of Petroleum has constituted a technical committee to oversee the assessment and containment efforts. This committee comprises representatives from PPL, OGDCL and PRL, working together to ensure a swift and effec-

tive resolution. TPL fully supports this collaborative initiative and will actively facilitate the work of the technical committee in every possible way. We commend the proactive measures being taken and deeply appreciate the continued support of the Cantonment Board Korangi, district administration and other government authorities.

We remain committed to managing this situation with the highest sense of responsibility and transparency. TPL will continue to coordinate closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a safe environment and effective resolution.

# **Stock Exchange** witnesses bearish trend, loses 1,379 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cnergyico 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 1,379.28 points, a negative change of 1.19 percent, closing at 114,153.16 points as compared to 115,532.43 points on the

last trading day.
A total of 448,693,567 shares were traded during the day as compared to 530,694,779 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs26.585 billion against Rs33.676 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 450 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 118 of them recorded gains and 281 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 54,549,738 shares at Rs4.21 per share,

51,834,762 shares Rs8.32 per share and PIA closing of Rs280.72 Holding Company 20,463,930 shares Rs18.80 per share.

Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 118.82 per share closing at Rs1,307.02 whereas runner-up was PIA Holding Company Limited B with Rs97.76 rise in its share close Rs1,102.34.

Hoechst Pakistan (SBP). Limited witnessed a maxidecrease of Rs134.31 per share price, closing at Rs3,055.69, whereas the runner-up was Services Industries price to Rs923.40.

Rupee sheds 05 paisa against US Dollar

Rupee The Wednesday depreciated by

against the previous day's

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs281.00 and Rs282.50, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs2.02 to close at Rs308.85 against the last day's closing of Rs306.83, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

The Japanese yen went up by 02 paisa and closed at increase of Rs1.16 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which Limited with Rs60.23 was traded at Rs359.11 as decline in its per share compared to the last day's closing of Rs357.95.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 02 and 01 pasia to close 05 paisa against the US at Rs76.44 and Rs74.79, Dollar in the interbank trad-respectively.

#### ISLAMABAD (APP): The such platforms face grave immediate action, includ-Securities and Exchange risks, including potential ing blocking access to the Commission of Pakistan (SECP) here on Wednesday warned the general public regarding the proliferation

Justice system reform in focus

at National Human Rights moot

of unauthorized online trading and investment platforms that lure investors with promises of quick profits through high-risk financial products.

These platforms facilitate trading in foreign exchange (forex), securities, commodities, options, and other speculative instruments—all without regulatory approval in Pakistan, according to press release issued by the com-

The price of gold in the market increased by \$30 to \$3,040 from \$3,010 whereas that without licensing or overof silver remained constant sight from any Pakistani at \$30.30, the Association

fraud, misappropriation of funds, and total loss of "The SECP strongl investments-with no legal advises the public not to protection or recourse for

and a mobile application on unsolicited

states that Quotex is NOT authorized to operate in Pakistan and has been Before engaging with These entities, typically tions. The matter has been visiting based offshore, operate referred to the Federal official Investigation

"The SECP strongly

open accounts, deposit funds, or share any person-One such unauthorized al or financial information platform currently targeting with Quotex or similar Pakistani investors is unregistered platforms," it Qxbroker (Quotex), acces- said adding the investors sible through its website should exercise extreme https://qxbroker.com/en/ caution when encountering investment the Google Play Store. offers, particularly those
The SECP explicitly promoted through social offers, particularly those

flagged by multiple interna- any investment service, tional regulators for run- individuals must verify the ning unauthorized opera- entity's regulatory status by the website Agency www.secp.gov.pk, where a (FIA), Pakistan Telecom- complete list of authorized regulatory authority. munication Authority brokers and licensed invest-Investors engaging with (PTA), and Google for ment advisors is available.

### **Shipping** activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipp-Sea Dolphin-C, Bitumen Kosei, Maersk Beaufort, Eva Hong Kong, Bolan, Al-Diab-II and DSI Phoenix scheduled to load/offload Cement, Bitumen, Palm oil, Chemicals, Mogas, LPG and Coal, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal 1 & 2, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal, FOT-CO oil Terminal, Sui Southern Gas Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively Tuesday.

Meanwhile five more ships, Salt-wind Explorer, Maersk Cape Town, MSC Laussane-VI, Dona Alexandra and Ivan-VI scheduled to load/offload Rice, Container, Soya Bean Seed and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Riva Wind, Al-Diab-II and Maersk Cape Town are expected to sail.

Cargo volume of 101,724 tonnes, comprising 83,353 tonnes imports cargo and 18,371 tonnes export cargo carried in 839 Containers (121 TEUs Imports & 718 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 09 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Maersk Cape Town, MSC Laussane-VI & three more ships, GFS Ranna, ALP Mexico City and Amir Gas carrying Container and LPG are expected to take berths at QICT and SSGC were respectively, while er to accompany your efforts in ensuring justice, rule of law, and fundamental rights for all in achieving SDG 16. Implementation state implementation action in this momentum by addressing the remaining gaps in the remaining gaps in the remaining gaps in potential of digital solution detainees, and making detainees, and making courts more accessible and survivor-centered, ensuring that no one is left behind. another containers ship 'Tucapel' due to expected arrive at outer anchorage

# Lucky Investments break records with Pakistan's largest ever IPO

### — raising over PKR 50 billion

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Lucky Investments Limited has made history by executing the largest ever mutual fund launch witnessed in Pakistan.

The newly established Asset Management Company has raised an unprecedented PKR 50 Billion during the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of its Lucky Islamic Money Market Fund, shattering all previous subscription records.

This landmark achievement marks an extraordinary milestone in Pakistan's financial sector, where investors nationwide demonstrated overwhelming confidence in the com-

pany's first Shariah-compliant offering.

record-breaking The subscription underscores robust demand for Islamic financial products and firmly positions Lucky Investments' place as a promising new player in Pakistan's Asset Management Industry.

Lucky Islamic Money Market Fund represents the first fund in a planned series of Shariah-compliant mutual funds to be introduced by the company.

At the historic launch Mr. Mohammad event, Lucky Investments, expr-

response. "Alhamdulillah, we are profoundly grateful for the extraordinary trust placed in us by investors across

Pakistan," stated Mr. Shoaib. "Breaking the national record with a PKR 50 Billion subscription in a single day is not just a milestone for Lucky Investments, but a testament to the growing strength of Islamic finance in our market.

As we prepare to launch additional funds in the coming months, we remain steadfastly committed to maintaining this momen-Shoaib, Founding CEO of tum while delivering unparalleled customer experiessed profound gratitude ence and strict Shariah for the exceptional investor compliance.'

## Equities, oil plunge as US, China crank up trade war

(AFP/APP): now reaching 104 percent. Stock markets tumbled along with oil and the dollar Wednesday as US President Donald Trump's sweeping and neither nation seems tariffs against trading partners kicked in, triggering strong retaliation from China.

Beijing slapped a higher 84-percent levy on US goods, sharply accelerating losses on European stock markets in early afternoon trading. Growing fears of weak-

ened demand sent oil prices to four-year lows, with international benchmark Brent North Sea crude dropping under \$60. Paris and Frankfurt dived

almost four percent, also as goods from the European Union now face a 20 percent tariff when entering the United States. London slumped 3.5 per-

cent, with Britain having been hit with a 10 percent levy on Saturday. Most Asian and European

equities fell back into the red Tokyo closed down 3.9 percent -- a day after partialy rebounding from sharp sell-offs on hopes that Washington might temper some of the levies.

But any hopes of a last minute roll-back on tariffs were dashed, as the United States hit China -- its major trading partner -- with tariffs

now locked in a trade war, willing to back down," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Lansdown. Hargreaves Beijing warned that China had "firm will and abundant means" to fight a trade war, state news agency Xinhua

Speculation that Beijing will unveil stimulus measures helped Shanghai and Hong Kong stocks buck the downward trend in Asian equities.

Pharmaceutical took a heavy hit after Trump said he would be announcing a major levy on the sector. Europe's most valuable

### اطسلاع عسام

ام الناس کومطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ بلاٹ نمبر20سیکٹر3-Bرقبہ یک کنال واقع فیزKDA,II کوہاٹ کے مالک شمیم اختر زوجہ حِيم خان سكنه باوس نمبر55 سيكثر6 كوباك KDA كل وفات کے بعد نادرہ آفس کو ہاٹ سے جاری شدہ لیٹر آف ایڈ منسٹریشن کی وح سے رحیم خان (خاوند)محمد فیضان رحیم محمد کامران رحیم مجمه غفان رحيم (پسران) ماہم رحيم، عائشہ رحيم (دختر اُن ) کی ثیت سے ظاہرہوچکے ہیں نے مذکورہ بلاٹ کی لیگل یا میں میں میں ہے۔ میر شرانسفرائے نام کروانے کی درخواست گزاری ہیں اگر کسی میک ادارے فرم یا تھس کو کو کی اعتراض ہو یا کوئی دیگر تھس آپنے پ كوشميم اختر كاوارث ظاهر كرناجابتا هوياندكوره ليثرآف یْدنسٹریشن پرکوئی اعتراض ہوتو 15 یوم کے اندراندرہادسنگ نفسر UADA کوہائ سے تحریری طور پر بمعد ثبوت کے رابطہ لريب بصورت ديگر مذكوره بلاك كى ليكل هير ٹرانسفر كر ديا جائيگا کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

منجانب: بادسنگ آفیسر UADA کوہاٹ

company, weight-loss drug "The world's largest and maker Novo Nordisk, dived second largest economies are more than seven percent and British pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca shed six per-

"Alarmingly, Treasury markets are also experiencing an incredibly aggressive selloff... adding to the evidence that they're losing their traditional haven status," said Jim Reid, managing director at Deutsche Bank.

#### **Court Notice** In the court of sidra jalal civil

judge-III/ judicial Magistrate II.

Matta swat. Case #.72/1.

Institution 11/04/2023. Next Hearing date 29/04/2025. Mian Syed Ali VS Khurshid Begum. Notice to. defendant Heirs 2,3. (2/3). Ejaz ul haq.(3/3) Hajat sons,daughters bacha Hakeema.(2/2) Behramand.(2/3) Dolat Mand.(2/4) Barakat shah sons.(2/4) Abdullah sons( fatir ul aqàl Bawalayat) s/o Bakht zada. (2/6) Mst. Ruksana. (2/7) Akhtar Begum daughter Bacha Raheema r/o chaperyal tehsil matta district Swat. Whereas the above named defendant cannot be served in ordinary manner it is therefore proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court on 29/04/2025. at 8.00 am. Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you.

## Pakistan-Tanzania PFG reaffirms to strengthen relations, trade cooperation The PFG convened its Munawar Manj, Ahmad delegations, with the goal rst meeting here in Islam-Raza, Muhammad Khan, of enhancing bilateral and

Through case studies and tions like virtual courts,

detention, legal delays, sys- establishing virtual courts

temic bias, and barriers to in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Minister of State for hearings in KP this year

Interfaith Harmony, Kesoo alone. This momentum

Mal Kheal Das, emphasized must continue alongside

the importance of inclusive people-centered reforms.

ment, but by the presence of Huqooq-e-Pakistan II proj-

fairness, the protection of ect, the conference will

human dignity, and the conclude today with six

all citizens, regardless of groups expected to develop

Dr. Samuel Rizk, UNDP improving police response

tice is not merely the European Union

and online legal aid," he said. "UNDP's support in

and Gilgit Baltistan led to a

Supported

130 percent increase in case

UNDP Pakistan through the

concrete recommendations.

These are set to focus on

sub-working

panel discussions, partici- digital case management,

pants will examine key

challenges such as pre-trial

justice for the most margin-

justice, stating: "True jus-

absence of crime or punish-

religion, ethnicity, or social

background.

the impact of our actions. accreditation, Pakistan has Resident Representative, mechanisms, reducing case

The European Union will fulfilled its commitment emphasized the need to backlogs, expanding legal

remain a steadfast support- under SDG 16.A.1. The implement and scale inno- aid, protecting the rights of

guarantee of equal rights for thematic

ly for strengthening bilateral Affairs and Commerce. relations and trade coopera-

Convener and Group Mem- first meeting here in Islambers of the Pakistan- Tan- abad, under the Convenzania Parliamentary Frie- ership of Malik Shakir ndship Group (PFG) on Bashir Awan, MNA, featur-Wednesday reaffirmed their ing briefing session from Ullah (Virtually). commitment to work close- the Ministries of Foreign

Muhammad Khan Mahar, Mian Khan Bugti and Muhammad Saad MNA/Convener (PFG)

The briefing focused on ated comprehensive presenkey areas of cooperation, tation and acknowledged from Tanzania in the sports The meeting was attend- including economic ties, ongoing efforts of our mis- and surgical instrument tion between both countries. ed by MNAs, Khurram exchange of parliamentary sion at Tanzania to position sectors against Pakistan.

Shaharyar trade relations. Malik Shakir Bashir,

Pakistan-Tanzania appreci-

Tanzania as an attractive destination for international trade and investment. During the meeting, the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed that there are currently no direct competitors





# Women's World Cup qualifiers Baig sets up Pakistan's win against Ireland

H O R E replaced by Aliya Riaz. (ESPNCricinfo): Hosts World Cup Qualifiers.

Pakistan in four overs to leave Aliya was also dismissed. middle-order Pakistan did not have the exposed before Baig took batters for a last ten-over care of the tail. She fin- push and lost 6 wickets for ished with figures of 4 for 42 runs from Aliya's dis-35 in her first appearance missal. They were bowled for the team since their out with an over to spare opening match of last for 217. year's T20 World Cup and That got Pakistan's campaign enough despite Baig's off to a winning start.

same amount of recovery given out lbw in the ninth time - physically and emo- over but a 69-run second tionally - after believing wicket stand between they had done enough Lewis and Amy Hunter against Pakistan. Jane started to take the game Maguire removed Gull away. Ireland were 96 for 1 Feroza early and Sidra when Sandhu trapped Amin found run-scoring Lewis on the back pad and tough which meant the dot dragged Pakistan into the ball mounted up. Muneeba game. Both Hunter and Ali tried to keep the score- Delany played on, leaving board moving but Pakistan Ireland 119 for 4 and were 79 for 1 after 20 Pakistan had the opportuovers and going nowhere. nity to burst through. Sidra was on 29 off 61 Sadia Iqbal got rid of Indies in the game despite down - but it was not balls. Muneeba fell trying Leah Paul before Baig was leaving the field twice with enough. Scotland were the

Aliya showed more ini-Pakistan had their bowlers, tiative and was scoring at a led by senior seamer Diana run-a-ball when Amin Baig, to thank for securing finally got to 50 off 110 them a 38 run win over balls and was then dis-Ireland in the Women's missed at the end of the 36th over. Pakistan were trudged 153 for 3 after 36 overs through their innings to and a score over 200 score 217 and Ireland were looked some distance bossing the chase on 96 for away. Natalia Pervaiz 1 in side 24 overs. Left- came in ahead of captain spinner Nashra Fatima Sana but was run-Sandhu took three wickets mout for 12, by which time

That total didn't look new-ball breakthrough. Ireland will have the She had Sarah Forbes

to get things going and was brought back and removed



Christina Coulter Reilly, the side by 11 runs. Louise Little and Arelen on Friday.

Matthews became only Kelley in three overs. Cara the fourth player to take Murray's run-out con- four wickets and score a firmed Pakistan's win. century in an ODI but West They will take on Scotland Indies over-reliance on her cost them. She took four of Meanwhile, Scotland the first five Scotland pulled off the first upset of wickets and forced herself the Women's World Cup to return to the crease Qualifiers by denying twice - once off a stretcher Hayley Matthews, who to keep batting when West single-handedly kept West Indies were nine wickets

spinners. Katherine

Temperatures were severe cramps, and beating side that rallied around their toll across both task.

one of the most iconic

nothing short of extraordi-

Sarah Bryce's 55 (off 56 games in Lahore. West balls) and her 82-run fifth Indies used cooling collars wicket stand with Megan made of ice packs during McColl and then their drinks breaks, Scotland Offpinners took shelter under umbrel-Fraser and las and Ireland's Gaby Darcy Carter and legspin- Lewis received treatment ner Abtaha Maqsood took on field three times for six wickets between them cramps during her 96 min- which put West Indies well to defend 244 and get their utes of batting against first points on the board. utes of batting against hosts Pakistan.

West Indies chose to close to 40 degrees Celcius bowl first on a green top at Abel over fine leg but with humidity at around the LCCA Ground but found the fielder at 45 and 60% and conditions took Scotland were up to the then chaos ensued. their toll across both task. Abbi Aitken- West Indies

on 48 inside 12 overs, in an Stafanie Taylor and Henry innings laced with three in the space of 23 deliverboundaries each. Matthews ies and of those, Taylor's brought herself on in the run-out was key but the 12th over and had Aitken- required run-rate still man-Drummond and Kathryn ageable. West Indies need-Bryce caught behind in ed 53 runs off 72 balls and successive overs and Matthews was still batting, Carter dismissed in her but only just. third and suddenly, Scotland were 69 for 3. direct hit ran out Ailsa hobbling.

Karishma Ramharack took two wickets each.

The chase started poorly when Qiana Joseph gifted a caught-and-bowled to Carter. Zaida James was in She batted slowly but carefully and shared a 113-run stand with Matthews, on track. They were 120 for 2 in the 27th over when James tried to hit Chloe

When Shabika Gajnabi

was caught behind, When Chinelle Henry's Mathews was on 95 and Cherry-Ann Lister West Indies finally Fraser was out in the next looked like they had anoth- over and it was clear could run through self to keep going but Scotland. Sarah Bryce held the Afy Fletcher lasted six innings together but when balls and was dismissed she edged to slip, Scotland for duck so Matthews went into freefall. They came back on and hit four lost 6 for 62 and were off the next ball she faced. bowled out in 45 overs, as She was on 99 and running both Aaliyah Alleynne and out of partners. She fell to the ground wailing and then was stretchered off the field.

Ramharack gave Fraser another caught and bowled to leave West Indies nine at No.3 in the second over. down when Matthews rolled herself off the stretcher and returned to bat. She brought a century and kept West Indies in the hunt but Alleynne couldn't stay with her. She was out lbw in the 47th over, with West Indies 11 runs short. They have a day's break before playing Ireland on



KARACHI: Players of Pakistan and France in action during the first round of Under-23 World Squash Championship being played in Karachi

# **U-23 World Squash** Championship begins in Karachi

F.P. Report

introduced patronage of CAS PAF, Air Switzerland and United Ahmed Baber Sidhu as it's for the coveted title from President. The prestigious 06-10 April, 2025.

tournament features 34 male and 22 female players World Squash Pakistan, World Malta,

Hosting the Under-23 special Vorld Squash Chief KARACHI: Under-23 from 22 countries including Championship will result in Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief Canada, Pakistan hosting more high of the Air Staff, Pakistan Championship matches are Colombia, Czech Republic, profile international sports Air Force, the sport of in progress at Karachi's Egypt, England, France, events in future enabling Squash has witnessed Creek Club. The mega Hong Kong China, Iran, vast opportunities for remarkable progress proevent is a new competition Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, domestic players to com-viding a platform for young Netherlands, pete with the world's best talent to shine globally. The Squash and is being organized by Pakistan Squash

Singapore, South Africa, sports in the country, Under-23 World Squash Championship signifies

Sri Lanka, Pakistan Air Force has con-Championship signifies sistently promoted sporting that Pakistan is a sports lov-

guidance of Air Marshal Zaheer Chief Marshal Zaheer States who are competing activities at both national ing & perfectly peaceful and international levels. country to host internation-Under the patronage and al sports events.

# Rice scores twice as Arsenal stun Real Madrid

with two brilliant free another long-range effort kicks - the first scored in into the top right-hand corhis career - as Arsenal took ner to a commanding 3-0 first leg stunned. lead in their Champions League quarter-final.

stadium, and the team minutes later. responded by starting the

It took until the 20th minute for Madrid to have reached the semi-finals their first real chance, stage of the Champions when Vinicius Jr curled an League since the 2008-09 effort wide.

the tie for Arsenal in the second half.

chance of progressing to absence of Kai Havertz.

the last four with this Merino has now score

The Gunners were the result. better side all evening and the first of two excellent competition, free-kicks round the Real with

Rice scored his second could not match. of the night with a free-

leave Madrid

Mikel Merino then made sure it was a memo-Mikel Arteta had asked rable night for Arsenal sive atmosphere inside the inside the area just five

Things only got worse game quickly with a num- for Madrid when Eduardo ber of dangerous crosses Camavinga was sent off in into the Madrid penalty stoppage time for picking up a second yellow card.

have not Arsenal fort wide. season, but they have seal the win, taking on the Madrid have kept just But Rice took control of given themselves a huge mantle of striker in the two clean sheets in their

Arsenal came into this took the lead in the 58th match as the less-experiminute, when Rice curled enced side in European compared serial winners Madrid wall into the cor- Madrid, but showed a ruth- Madrid goal line. ner of the net past Thibaut lessness and quality which Carlo Ancelotti's side

LONDON (BBC): Declan kick of equal quality 12 series of blows this season team to a place where they Rice stunned Real Madrid minutes later, bending with injuries to key players can start dreaming about a and the focus before the game was on who would partner William Saliba at centre-back, with Jakub their best form coming into

the nod. But those issues seemed matches. the Arsenal fans to arrive when he curled a shot into trivial once the game got early to create an impres- the bottom corner from under way as Arsenal start- had said he was aware of ed the match so impres- the threat Arsenal pos-Bukayo Saka caused David Alaba all sorts of problems and one competition

> first half. Rice's two free-kicks nearly lifted the roof off of ing and their best effort Emirates Merino added a third to saved by David Raya.

been turned in during the

Merino has now scored five goals in his past nine appearances for Arsenal.

It could have been even better for Arsenal as Jude be an unlikely win. Bellingham and Alaba had to clear balls off the produced some moments

injuries have robbed Arteta another solid performance of many key players, he is needed to ensure their Arteta has been dealt a has managed to lead his progression.

Champions League semi-Real Madrid were not in

Kiwior ultimately getting this match, with just two wins in their previous five Goalkeeper Courtois

sessed from set-pieces, but the 15-time winners of the looked of his crosses should have uncomfortable throughout.

The flair and sharpness play expected of Ancelotti's team was missbefore from Kylian Mbappe was

past 11 games in all competitions and will need to keep Arsenal out and score four at the Bernabeu next week to secure what will

However, Madrid have of magic in this competi-In a season where tion and Arsenal will know

#### 'Zalmi X Legacy', anthem for PSL 10 the incredible journey so legacy will continue to journey. Directed by the far but also sets the stage inspire the future, shaping LAHORE: The short film for the future. The anthem, a culminates in a powerful the music video, and the dreamers, believers, and reflection on Zalmi's trans- entire experience serve as champions.

Peshawar Zalmi release short film

beginnings to becoming best is yet to come. Through every triumph, franchises in the PSL, every challenge, and every Zalmi's journey has been step taken, Zalmi has proven that it's more than nary. But it's not just about just a team-it's a story, a the victories on the cricket movement, and a legacy. field; it's about the victo- The next decade promises ries in the hearts of its to be even more remarkable, as Zalmi continues to For the past ten years, inspire future generations Zalmi has stood as a sym- and bring together fans

bol of hope, resilience, and from all walks of life. unity. It has been more The anthem may be a than a team-it has been a tribute to the past, but it is the short film is a seamless across Pakistan. movement that has united also a call to action, a call blend of Pashto, Urdu, and

spirit of community, and the power of dreams. Each film, every moment is hisstone achieved has been a beat of the nation echoes dreams are built, and lega-As we celebrate a cies live on. Through every

new generation of

Zalmi is not just a team. formation over the past a reminder that Zalmi's It's a living, breathing legacy that will live on decade. From humble legacy is ongoing, and the through every fan, every player, and every dream that dares to rise. The centrepiece of this

celebration is Zalmi's short which resonates film deeply with every Zalmi fan. Featuring music icons Aima Zahid, Mustafa Kamal Khan ,

supports it. Accompanied by a visushort film not only Honors from the stands, Zalmi's ing narrative of Zalmi's

Cups and Europa League.

Sar who in a six-year spell

World Cup and two

clean sheets in 266 games

the Premier League's all-

Mark Bosnich all had

league titles between 1999

Schmeichel's legendary

status at a club where he

played 398 times over

Premier Leagues, three FA

The Dane won five

acclaimed Hassan Dawar, the video combines moments from the past ten years with current energy and excitement.

Mahira Khan, Zalmi's beloved brand ambassador, appears alongside Zalmi's star players Babar Azam & Saim Ayub representing the spirit of the franchise and its deep connection with the fans.

Zalmi's anthems have Baig, Mustafa become more than just Bilaal Avaz, promotional tracks-thev are anthems of hope, pride, Altamash Sever and Wajid and unity that have con-Layaq, the soundtrack of nected millions of fans

Each year, Pakistan through the to continue the journey shared love of cricket, the together, united as one. English, reflecting the anthems have captured the multicultural and multi-In this ten-year short lingual identity of Zalmi's journey, reflecting both the fanbase. It isn't just a short evolving identity of Zalmi victory, each challenge tory, every victory is a film; it's a statement of and the growing strength overcome, and each mile- chapter, and every heart- pride and unity, underscor- of its fanbase. Over the ing the resilience of the years, the anthems have testament to the strength of the legacy of Zalmi-where team and the nation that not only been musical expressions of triumph but also cultural celebrations decade of Zalmi, the story ball bowled, every bound- ally striking music video, that blend contemporary continues to unfold. The ary hit, and every cheer the anthem becomes a liv- music with deep-rooted

# Onana 'one of United's worst goalkeepers': Matic

Manchester United mid- £47.2m from Inter Milan fielder Nemanja Matic has in 2023 and has won the labelled Andre Onana as FA Cup at Old Trafford, "one of the worst goal- keeping 23 clean sheets in

the Zalmi legacy.

keepers in the club's histo- 93 appearances. ry". Serbian Matic, 36, was responding to Onana's comments about United two sides prepare to meet nent," Onana said on X. in the Europa League quarter-finals Ťhursday.

Onana then posted on social media, denying he phies with the greatest was being disrespectful. club in the world. Some

Speaking at Wednesday's news conference Matic, who played Onana's initial comments for United from 2017- came after Sunday's 0-0 2022, said: "You know, I draw against Manchester respect everyone but to City, when he was confisay that then you need to dent despite describing give the answer.

worst goalkeepers in Man United's history, you need to take care what you're than them," Onana said. talking about.

Sar, Gea saying that, then I But you need to have we will go for it.' cover to say something like that.'

spell at Chelsea.

The Europa League is the final opportunity for Ruben Amorim's side currently 13th in the de Gea at Old Trafford

twice, plus the FA Cup and which is given to the keep-

EFL Cup in a four-year er with most clean sheets.

Premier League - to save a disappointing season. Matic made 128 appearances for the Red Devils and Devils De Gea, w and joined Ligue 1 side Lyon in 2024 after spells United player of the year treble.

for time Premier League clean Index.

CIES uses methodology In total, he kept 190

League Cups.

replacement

fully convinced.

eight seasons.

Schmeichel.

"I would never be disrespectful to another club. We know that tomorrow being "way better" than will be a difficult game French club Lyon as the against a strong oppo-

"We focus on preparing a performance to make our fans proud.

'At least I've lifted troat can't say the same.

Cameroon international as a "very good Lyon "If you are one of the team". "Of course, it's not going to be easy but I think we are way better

"We all know the "If it was [Edwin] Van importance of this game, [Peter] we will go there with the Schmeichel or [David] De winning mentality. It's not our best season but we still would question myself. have something to win and

The first leg of the Europa League quarterfinal takes place in Lyon at 20:00 BST.

Onana succeeded David after the Spaniard ended his 12-year stay at the club

He is fourth in the all-

Cups, one League Cup and a European Super Cup before signing off with the Champions League as part De Gea, who is now at Fiorentina, was four-time of a then unprecedented at Rennes and Roma. He and twice won the Premier won the Premier League League Golden Glove,

Observatory Inter Milan. Football

to take into account the clean sheets in 545 games level of games played, the and won the Premier results of matches and the deviation in the percentage League, FA Cup, two EFL of saves at domestic His predecessor was league level compared to

Dutchman Edwin van der the expected value. That is a pretty explo-United won the sive statement from Champions League, four Nemanja Matic, which Premier Leagues, Club goes to the heart of a major talking point among Manchester United supporters.

He had a record of 135 The and is tied for eighth on Schmeichel and Van der Sar as legendary United time clean sheet list with figures is assured due to 132. Prior to signing Van der Sar in 2005, United their Premier League title and Champions Leaguewent through a number of winning feats during their

time at Old Trafford. goalkeepers as they searched for a long-term De Gea was the goalfor Peter keeper for the club's last championship-winning Fabian Barthez, Tim campaign under Sir Alex Howard, Roy Carroll and Ferguson in 2013.

His unprecedented four stints as number one but United player of the year while United won three awards came at a point where many felt without and 2005, none of these De Gea, the club's slide from prominence would They had a very hard have been even worse than

act to follow given it was. However, De Gea's time at Old Trafford coincided with the period when the demands on goalkeepers to play with their feet

began to increase. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was not convinced by De Gea and he also lost his place in the Spain squad. Amid a huge amount of speculation around his Onana did not make a future, United opted not to list of the top goalkeepers offer De Gea an extension

in the world, published on in 2023 and he left, with Wednesday by the CIES Onana coming in from



## In brief

#### Six more drug dealers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Police on Wednesday continued the crackdown against drug suppliers and arrested six more accused with more than 9.5 kilograms charas. According to the police spokesman, the Ratta Amral Police recovered 2.25 kg and 1.85 kg charas from accused Khurram Shahzad and respectively Similarly, the Wah Saddar Police nabbed accused Tanveer with 1.6 kg charas, while the Pirwadhai Police held accused Luqman with 1.28 kg of the contraband item. Likewise, Dhamial and Cantt Police arrested accused Kashif and Sibtain respectively recovering 1.28 kg and 1.25 kg charas. More than 70 drug suppliers, including woman accused, have been arrested in the last five days. A total of 3.51 kg ice, 1.5 kg heroin and more than 120 kg charas have been recovered from them.

#### **82,800** cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 82,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 98,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1410.57 feet which was 8.57 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,600 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1094.50 feet, which was 44.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 30,300 cusecs and 17,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was corded as 42.500 34,200, 26,100 and 6,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 22,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 13,100 cusecs released from River

#### Safe City to launch CCTV

Chenab at Marala.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Safe City Islamabad is set to launch a comprehensive CCTV and Network Technician training course, open to all citizens of the federal capital, regardless of age or educational background. An official told APP that the course will span two weeks and aims to equip participants with practical skills in security system installation, monitoring, and maintenance. He said the program will cover the installation and repair of analogue, IP, PTZ, and thermal cameras, alongside training on the use of surveillance equipment for real-time monitoring and activity recording. He said participants will also be taught how to store data on DVRs, NVRs, and cloud storage devices, including techniques for upgrad ing backup recordings. He said the course will feature detailed sessions on networking hardware such routers, switches, and fiber optics, with troubleshooting procedures in case of malfunctions. He said trainees will also be shown how to monitor systems via mobile applications to enhance real-time surveillance capabilities. He said public and private security awareness will be emphasized throughout the course, preparing participants to handle various security scenarios He said certificates will be distributed among participants upon the successful completion of the training program.

# **NUML** hosts 7th ORIC steering committee meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The commitment to this cause function-centric approach, meeting of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) was held at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Ibn-e-Rushd Block, on Wednesday.

by Pro-Rector (Academics), Dr. Safeer Awan, and brought together prominent stakeholders from academia and industry to explore ways of bridging the gap between academic research and industrial application.

Federal Minister for Infortions). mation and Broadcasting and senior media analyst Murtaza Solangi, a representative from the National University of Sciences and Marketing Manager of dents. Faisal Town, CEO Atom Global, and all Deans of NUML.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Safeer Awan appreciated the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for its not only provide practical academia, research instituinitiative in establishing training but also open up tions, and industry. ORIC offices in universities, emphasizing that such platforms are crucial for fostering academic-indus-

ock, on Wednesday. Professor and Director nous platforms with a The meeting was chaired ITCON & BICON deliv- "bring your own cup of cofered a comprehensive presentation outlining NUML's business-driven innovation. progress across various domains. He noted a significant improvement in the university's performance with real-world practice on the HEC scorecard—rising from 40 to 68 points—tion between theory and The meeting was attended by former Caretaker X-category (Top 11 institutions) practice breaks, problems arise. Practice is the mother

He called for intensified efforts in the areas of inno- formation in the media vation and commercializa- landscape due to technologtion, and showcased in- ical advancements and house software projects expressed willingness to Technology (NUST), the developed by NUML stu-

> Speaking on the occa- tor. sion, the Marketing for students.

Waqas Ahmad identified practical platforms to foster the need to shift from a innovation, employability,

7th Steering Committee and stressed the need for proposing platforms where deeper collaboration, citing students can gain practical the potential of NUML stu- exposure. He also pointed dents in developing impact- out current import restricful software solutions under tions on AI and quantum expert faculty guidance. computing hardware, urg-Dr. Atta Ullah, Assistant ing the creation of indigecomputing hardware, urgfee" culture to foster open,

> Murtaza Solangi underscored the importance of aligning academic theory "When the organic connec-

of theory," he noted. He highlighted the transsupport student-industry linkages in the media sec-

The meeting concluded Manager of Faisal Town with valuable insights from emphasized the value of all dignitaries on overcomjoint ventures, stating that ing challenges and enhancindustry partnerships could ing collaboration between employment opportunities Participants agreed on the need for sustained dia-CEO Atom Global, logue, joint ventures, and He highlighted NUML's technology-centric to a and real-world impact.

# 'Research & Practices in Education' concluded

concluding ceremony of the two-day 8th International Conference on "Research and Practices in Education" was held on Wednesday at Allama Iqbal Open Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, as the chief guest.

In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad praised AIOU and said that the topics covered during the conference are vital in address-

intelligence, Dr. Mukhtar

urged collective efforts for thought for us. the welfare of society and generations proud of us.

Allama Iqbal Open event a success. University, Professor Dr. tive to align education with international

With the rapid advanceadopt effective strategies in ference

Speaking on artificial the field of education. He emphasized that we Dr. Muhammad Ajmal said emphasized that Muslims must consider the future of that under the leadership were pioneers in the field of upcoming generations and and visionary approach of technology, and now it is ask ourselves whether the Vice-Chancellor Professor our responsibility to con- curriculum being taught Dr. Nasir Mahmood, a tribute constructively so today will meet the needs highly successful conferthat we are not left behind of the next 10 years. If not, ence was held.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The in the race for progress. He then this is a moment of

He congratulated the humanity, stating that this is entire faculty for the sucthe only way to make future cessful organization of the conference and thanked Speaking on the occa- partner organizations for University(AIOU), with sion, Vice-Chancellor of their role in making the

Conference Secretary Nasir Mahmood, said that Dr. Zafar Iqbal presented a the needs of life are rapidly summary of the event, statchanging, and it is impera- ing that five national and keynote the requirements of the next speakers presented their papers.

He also mentioned that ing contemporary issues ment in technology, our there were 156 oral presenand will contribute signifithinking time is shrinking, tations and 16 poster precantly to the betterment of which makes it essential to sentations during the con-Conference Coordinator

Chief Election Commi-

# **Education reform vital** for harmony, peace

Nasir Khan

Experts emphasized education reform, such as revising the curriculum to instil values emphasizing peace and harmony as a key feature to address Pakistan's longstanding security challenges.

The experts shared these views during the a highprofile panel discussion hosted by Institute of Regional Studies(IRS), said press release on Wednesday.

The session was chaired by Chairman Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) Amb Jauhar Saleem while other participants included Anwarul Haq Kakar, former caretaker Prime Minister of founder, Khorasan Diary.

Security Advisor, Dr. crucial to comprehensive Moeed Yusuf, VC BNU, response to the rise in ter-Asif Ali Khan Durrani, for-rorism across the country. mer special envoy for They asserted the impor-Afghanistan, Asif Yasin tance of persistently pursu-Malik former Defence ing consensus-based initia-Secretary, Ihsan Ghani, for- tives outlined in the mer IG Police and Chief of National Action Plan. NACTA, Imtiaz Gul, Executive Director, The Center for Research and Security Studies, Amir ical context shaping the cur-Rana, President, Pakistan rent security environment. Institute of Parliamentary MD, Khan, Institute for Conflict and

Janjua, former National the governance reforms as a

During the session, the experts provided an indepth analysis of the histor-

They proposed a series Services, Mr. Abdullah of key recommendations Pakistan aimed at strengthening national security, including Security Studies, and Mr. the development of a Iftikhar Firdous, editor and strong counter-narrative to terrorism.



RAWALPINDI: Director Operation NBP Rawalpindi Anjum Naseer presenting souvenir to Director NADRA. Director Overseas also present on occasion.



Election Officers (3rd Batch) at ECP Secretariat.

### ECP launches intensive training for new EOs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday initiated a 13-week training session for its 23 newly hired BS-17 Election Officers (EOs) at its academy, with the program set to end on July 4, 2025.

Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja officially inaugurated the training program at ECP Academy, designed to provide election officers with essential competencies for effective electoral management.

Chief Election Commissioner Raja welcomed the newly appointed Election Officers to the ECP, commending their merit-based selection. He underscored that election management is a multifaceted responsibility demanding thorough understanding of constitutional provisions, legal frameworks, procedural regulations, and ethical guidelines—along hands-on experience.
The CEC also empha-

sized that during this period, officers will receive training on modern technology to enhance its application in both their professional duties and daily

Officers will also undergo training on election laws, constituency delimipractical exercises. They will also learn how to effectively utilize modern technology for professional and personal applications.

ssioner urged newly appointed Election Officers to prioritize serving the nation, adhering to the Constitution and laws, and treating the public with courtesy. He emphasized the importance of focusing on their training to effectively manage elections.

### DHA improving mother-child healthcare

RAWALPINDI (APP): The District Health Authority (DHA), Rawalpindi is intensely engaged in efforts to improve mother-child healthcare by putting special focus on reducing maternal and newborns mortality rate.

In an interaction with APP on Wednesday, Dr. Asif Arbab Niazi CEO, District Health Authority said that the health department was organizing awareness seminars, special lectures and interactive sessions to identify root causes and counter strategy to overcome mother-child healthcare challenges.

"Our special focus on Health Day is on maternal and newborn child healthcare, to improved maternal health and reduce mortality risk", he said while highlighting DHA's efforts in connection with World Health Day.

The World Health Day is being celebrated globally for which a special campaign titled 'Healthy beginnings' on maternal and newborn health is underway. Dr. Asif said that the health authority, under the vision of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has prioritized the women's long term health.

He underlined that besides taking important steps to improve child healthcare, work was also being done on improving newborn and infant healthcare system.

# Dairy farm sealed over illegal milk injections

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an ly sealed for violating food intensified efforts to ensure early morning raid, the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Wednesday sealed a dairy farm in Meherabadi for using banned chemicals to increase milk production.
Talking to APP, Deputy

Director Operations of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Dr Tahira Siddique said that the food safety teams (FSTs) found poor hygiene conditions and seized a large quantity of prohibited injections used on animals.

The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) carried out a major operation at a dairy farm in Meherabadi during the early hours of the day, she said. The raid revealed the use

of oxytocin injections—an illegal substance banned for use in dairy production to output.

According to IFA Deputy Director, over five liters of oxytocin were recovered from the premises and later destroyed. The dairy farm was immediate-

safety laws.

Health and hygiene confound to be extremely poor. Officials reported a high presence of flies and mosquitoes.

The area where milk was being processed had an unpleasant smell, indicating serious cleanliness issues. Workers at the facility were also found in unhygienic conditions, with no evidence of personal hygiene being maintained. "Using oxytocin in milk

production is strictly prohibited," said the IFA Deputy Director. "Such chemicals not only affect the quality of milk but also pose serious health risks to consumers.

Dr Tahira Siddique conartificially increase milk consuming such milk can caused by the use of artifidamage the stomach, liver, cial substances in food and intestines.

She also emphasized that the use of chemicals to boost milk production is illegal and harmful. The food authority has

the availability of safe and standard milk across the ditions at the farm were capital. Officials said they are adopting a zero-tolerance policy against milk adulteration and have

launched a crackdown on

all dairy farms operating in

Islamabad. "We are committed to protecting public health by targeting those who violate food safety laws," said the IFA Deputy Director. "Strict action will be taken against anyone involved in

such illegal practices.' The Islamabad Food Authority is continuing its inspection campaign across the city, aiming to identify and shut down any facilities involved in similar violations. The crackdown is part of a broader effort to firmed the risks, stating that eliminate health hazards

> products. This operation is one of many steps being taken by the IFA to improve food safety standards and hold

# Tirmizi spells out GoP's progressive agenda

ISLAMABAD tation, voter registration, Ambassador of Pakistan to agriculture; rich socio-cul- decades and paid rich tribpolling procedures, and the United Arab Emirates tural heritage; tourism ute to the visionary leaderks. supported by Faisal Niaz Tirmizi said potential: and the fastest ship of late Sheikh Zayed that the Government of Pakistan was pursuing an agenda aimed at making tangible progress towards achieving economic growth and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He was addressing a reception hosted by the Embassy in the UAE to commemorate the National Day of Pakistan, a press release on Wednesday said.

The ambassador recalled the significance of the Pakistan resolution and highlighted the arduous struggle in tackling the growing needs of a nascent state, and later towards achieving socio-economic development. He also highlighted a range of opportunities in Pakistan that remained pivotal in promoting socio-economic development in the country which included a healthy youth

growing IT Sector. Minister of Tolerance

Nahayan bin Mabarak Al Nahyan was the chief guest on the occasion. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh attended the event. While members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials of the UAE government, Emirati nationals and the Pakistani community participated in

the national anthems of Pakistan and the UAE on traditional instruments.

The ambassador reaffirmed Pakistan's position on the resolution of the Palestinian issue and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in line with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Ambassador Tirmizi

(APP): public life; potential of the UAE in the last five bin Sultan Al Nahyan which was proudly continued by incumbent President

and Coexistence Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan. the event.

Pakistani artists played

youth bulge; growing acknowledged the impres- Imtiaz f women participation in sive economic growth of services.

Sheikh Mohammed bin

He referred to growing Pakistan-UAE strong political and economic partnership, demonstrated through regular high-level contacts, well-established institutions and the presence of 1.7 million Pakistani dias-

As a mark of tribute to the founding father of the UAE, the embassy also launched a book on the Life and Works of Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan titled Sheikh Zayed Maimaar-e-Watan", written by a promi-Pakistani, nent Zaman Suroor.

On this occasion, one of the distinguished Pakistani entrepreneurs, Adnan Niaz, was honoured with Sitara-i-Imtiaz for his outstanding

### **Transparent marking** process to be maintained

Chairman Board of Intermediate and Secondary Rawalpindi, Education Muhammad Adnan Khan and Controller Examinations Tanveer Asghar Awan have said in a joint statement that several important steps have been taken to make the marking process of examination papers transparent, impartial and standard.

According to the statement, biometric attendance system and CCTV cameras have been installed at all established marking centers to effectively monitor the attendance, discipline and performance of marking

He said that the board has also introduced a mod-Monitoring ern Evaluation System ensure effective monitoring and transparency of the marking process, which was successfully implemented in the Intermediat Second Annual 2024 examinations. Now this system has been further improved and has been implemented in the Matric Annual 2025

Examiners, Suband Assistant to Head relevant officers to ensure accountability and transparency at all levels", said the statement issued on Wednesday.

impartiality, transparency and protection of merit in top priority so that there is Syedan.

(APP): as well. "This system will no fear of any injustice to monitor not only the Head the students. This system will not only improve the Examiners, Super Checkers performance of the staff but will also further strengthen Examiners, but also other the public's confidence in the examination system.

Controller Examinations, Tanveer Asghar Awan recently visited the marking centers established at He further said that Government Boys Qadri Secondary School Gujjar Khan and Government the marking process are the Girls High School Kallar

### NPC arranges special screening of 'Kabir'

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Press Club (NPC), in collaboration with the Women Journalists Caucus and Capital Premier League, arranged a special screening of 'Kabir' to honor participants of the 'Women Journalists Eid Sports Gala'. The special screening took place at 8:00 PM late Tuesday at Centaurus Mall.

Kabir was one of the most successful films released on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr this year. The event provided a unique opportunity for participants and esteemed guests to meet the lead cast of the film. The movie received an overwhelming response from the participants and other attendees. Moreover, prizes were distributed among the winning and runner-up teams of the cricket tournament, celebrating their outstanding performance in the recent sports gala.

### Lightning strikes leave 2 dead

KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): Two people have been killed and three others injured due to lightning strikes in southeastern Khost province. Mustaghfir Gurbaz, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok that the lightning strikes occurred on Tuesday in the Matun area of Gardez and Zazai Maidan district. Gurbaz said that two individuals lost their lives, and three others were wounded in the incidents. The injured have been evacuated to the hospital and are said to be in stable condition.

# The Frontier Post Shawwal 11, 1446 — Thursday, April 10, 2025

Central bank to auction \$20m

KABUL (Pajhwok): The central bank is all poised to auction 20 million US dollars today (Thursday) to keep the afghani stable. Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) invited eligible lenders and money-exchange services to take part in the auction. The winners will have to settle their accounts by the end of the day, according to DAB, which said partial payments were unacceptable. Partial transactions will not be permissible, with the winner required to deposit the amount in cash

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

# Taliban publicly flog five people

Taliban administered public being convicted of having floggings to five individu- an extramarital relationals, including a woman, on ship. The Taliban's criminal Wardak and Sar-e-Pul, as es. The punishment was part of their continued use carried out in the courtyard of corporal punishment for of the appellate court, offenses including theft and reportedly in the presence extramarital relations.

from the Taliban's Supreme local residents. Court, four men in the along with public lashes.

fourth was given two years Islamic law. and eight months, also with 25 lashes. The punishments by the Taliban's judiciary were carried out in the pres- indicate that more than 798 ence of local Taliban offi- individuals — including at cials, including judges and least 140 women — have security personnel.

e-Pul Province, a woman the past three years.

TV): was publicly flogged after in the court sentenced her to one of Maidan year in prison and 39 lashof Taliban judges, court According to a statement staff, armed personnel, and

The incidents are part of Jalrez district of Maidan a wider pattern of corporal Wardak were convicted of punishments reintroduced theft and sentenced by a by the Taliban since their local court to prison terms return to power in August 2021, echoing practices Two of the men received from their previous rule in two-year prison terms and the 1990s. Despite interna-25 lashes each. A third was tional condemnation, the sentenced to three years group has defended such and six months in prison sentences as compliant with and 25 lashes, while the their interpretation of

Official figures released In a separate case in Sar- across various provinces in as cruel and calling for

alone (beginning March 2024), at least 456 people, including 60 women, have reportedly received public corporal punishment in 26 provinces, including Kabul Kandahar, and Herat.

During the final quarter of last year, more than 200 — among them 30 women — were publicly flogged in 14 provinces.

In addition to flogging the Taliban judiciary has issued at least 176 rulings for qisas (retribution), 37 for stoning, and four for "wall-collapsing" executions since taking control.

The offenses cited in these cases include adultery, running away from home, sodomy, and theft. Human rights organiza-

tions have repeatedly condemned these actions as flagrant violations of international human rights standards. Some Afghan citizens have also spoken out been publicly flogged describing the punishments international intervention.

### Commission holds meeting in Kabul

KABUL (BNA): The High Commission for Addressing Refugee Issues convened a meeting of its twelve committee heads in Kabul, chaired by Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Administrative Chief of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's Prime Minister Office. Several commission members and committee leaders

According to a statement from Arg (the Presidential Palace), the meeting aimed to address the challenges faced by refugees forcibly deported from neighboring countries.

also attended.

Following a comprehensive assessment of the issue, the commission tasked relevant committees with taking immediate and measures serious services improve returning refugees a resolve their difficulties.

### New health center inaugurated in Gardiz.

GARDIZ (BNA): Mawlavi Noorjalal ` Jaĺali, Minister of Public Health, officially inaugurated a new health center in Gardez city, the capital of Paktia province.

ceremony took place in the Rabat refugee township and was supported by the United Nations, with a total investment of \$375,000.

During the inauguration, Minister Jalali emphasized the urgent need for expanded health services in Afghanistan.

He announced plans to establish additional health centers in 318 districts across the country in the near future, reflecting the government's commitment to improving healthcare

access.

head of public health in Paktia, noted that the new center spans 3,500 square meters and features 34 rooms and 30 beds.

The facility is expected to be equipped with modern medical technologies, enhancing the quality of care available to the local population.

### Unexploded ordnance kills child

KABUL (BNA): An explosion caused by unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Chak district of Maidan Wardak province has resulted in the death of an 11-year-old girl and injuries to four other children.

According to Mawlawi Faizullah Jalali, head of disaster management and preparedness province, the incident took place in the village of Baksimand Zalqa'da while the children were on their way home from school.

Officials said the explosion was caused by leftover explosives from previous

# Afghanistan-Uzbekistan ties expanding in politics, trade

Fitrat, deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, praised Uzbekistan's positive stance toward Afghanistan and said that political, economic, and trade interactions with Tashkent have expanded.

Fitrat reiterated that the caretaker government seeks to broaden relations with all countries in the region and the world.

He said: "Recently, Afghanistan's relations with Uzbekistan have increased in the political, economic, trade, transit, investment, and other sectors. The Islamic Emirate aims to strengthen its comprehensive ties with neighboring countries, the region, and the wider international community.'

Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphadialogue with the current authorities of Afghanistan at the 150th session of attended by representatives of 140

neighbor – Afghanistan. We believe it ment has declared to the world its is important to prevent the isolation commitment to an economy-focused of this country on the international administration, non-interference, and stage, to establish a constructive dia-regional logue with the current authorities, and Mirziyoyev's comments align with humanitarian situation in Afghanistan to view it as an integral part of the protecting Afghanistan's interests and pledged support for its people.

-Pul province, officials confirmed on

Officials from the affected stations

to their broadcasting equipment, forc-

Pajhwok Afghan News that the storm

destroyed the station's antenna, dam-

aged the power cables and dipole and

caused significant harm to the main

proadcasting equipment.

Shafiullah Haidari, the broadcast-

Wednesday.

ng them off air.

sized the importance of constructive Central Asian region that offers new opportunities.'

Political analysts also view global Inter-Parliamentary Union, engagement with Afghanistan, based on national interest, as beneficial.

Duntries. Zalmay Afghan Yar told He said: "We must not forget our TOLOnews: "The caretaker governstability.

Windstorm halts broadcasts of

private radios in Sar-i-Pul

storms have halted broadcasts of two tion lacked the financial capacity to authorities and media support bodies

private ration stations in northern Sar- carry out the necessary repairs. As a for help, stating that without external

result, Arghawan Radio has suspend-

Similarly, Mujibullah, technical manager of Anbir Radio, also said

400,000 afghanis worth of damage on

completely destroyed, the cables are

damaged, and the broadcasting equip-

'Our 40-metre antenna has been

He urged the caretaker government

ed its broadcasts indefinitely.

damaged equipment.

their station.

SAR-I-PUL (Pajhwok): Heavy 300,000 afghanis, adding that the sta-

said the storm, which struck on and organisations supporting the

Tuesday night, caused severe damage media to assist them in repairing the

ing manager of Arghawan Radio, told that the storm inflicted more than

He estimated the losses at over ment is also affected," he said.

globally. I hope dialogue resolves conflicts.

Abdul Sadiq Hamidzoy said: "Global norms also call for engagement to ensure equality, human rights, and international order. Opportunities must be created to

solve issues through cooperation." This comes as EU and Central Asian leaders, during their first joint President summit, voiced concern over the

He also called on the relevant

assistance, it would not be possible

Meanwhile, Information and Cult-

ure Director Mullah Abdul Ghafar

Haqnama told Pajhwok that he was

aware of the issue and his department

would work to help the affected sta-

valuable cultural assets for the people of Sar-i-Pul, and we are committed to

'Arghawan and Anbir Radios are

Sar-i-Pul province experienced

strong winds and heavy rain during

for them to resume operations.

tions restart their activities.

supporting them," he said.

# Taliban remove university lecturers

Taliban have removed at the Taliban, a copy of which least 16 university lecturers was reviewed by Amu, said from Islamic studies faculthe changes were part of ties in five provinces, efforts to "improve and reportedly over disagree- clarify processes within ments with the group's ide- educational institutions." ological views, according to local sources.

matter told Amu that the tions at the Ministry of dismissals took place in Higher Education, confirmed Ghazni, Bamiyan, Logar, the removals, but framed Panjshir, and Paktika. The them as administrative reasaffected professors were signments rather than disaffiliated with departments missals. "These lecturers focused on Islamic scholar- have been transferred to

An official letter from

Meftahuddin Azam, Taliban's head of academic Sources familiar with the appointments and promo-

Since returning to power in August 2021, the Taliban have reshaped Afghanistan's education sector especially in areas related to religious instruction, often replacing university staff and curriculum content to align with their inte-

rpretation of Islamic law. Rights groups and edu-

advocates have cation raised concerns over academic freedom and the increasing ideological control the Taliban have exerted over higher education administrative roles," he said. institutions in the country.

# 20-bed hospital for drug addicts opens in Baghlan



(Pajhwok): A 20-bed hospital for woman and child Baghlan before. addicts was inaugurated in northenrn province, on Wednesday.

Director Dr. Abdul Qahar neighboring provinces. Ahmadi, while addressing the hospital's inauguration Alami, the head of the hosceremony, said the facility pital, told Pajhwok Afghan was the first of its kind in Baghlan where all staff would provide free treatmembers were women.

'Today, a 20-bed hospital is starting to function for time, a hospital for the is also

no such special hospital in starting to operate.'

Baghlan coming from northern treatment of specialist docprovinces, Baghlan Public Health Baghlan, and especially

Meanwhile, Dr. Ferozan News that the hospital ment to drug addicts.

She added: "For the first the treatment of female and treatment of addicted Baghlan.

women and children is

addicted She said He added the hospital women and children would Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of would treat drug addicts remain under the care and including tors for 45 days. Alami said the hospital's

entire staff was female because they could better address treatment, psychological counseling, and other problems of addicted women and children. Another 40-bed hospital

for the treatment of addictts operating

# 64 alternative check dams completed to boost water access

Deputy Office of the Prime Minister walls in eight provinces. stated that, over the past two years, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has completed 64 budget, were implemented at a cost of alternative check dam projects across

various provinces of the country. release to Bakhtar News Agency, dur- and are now in use. ing the solar years 1402 and 1403

The report adds that these projects, funded by the Islamic Emirate's According to the office's press Zabul, Kapisa, Kunduz, and Nuristan,

ministry completed 64 agricultural water, deliver irrigation water to agriprojects including irrigation canals, cultural lands, and protect homes and Emirate.

KABUL (BNA): The Economic water reservoirs, dams, and retaining farmland from floods. Thousands of people benefited from the projects, both directly and indirectly, through job opportunities.

Meanwhile, over the past two approximately 97 million Afghanis in years, the ministry has also complet-Baghlan, Balkh, Parwan, Paktia, ed 79 concrete, stone, and soil-based check dams in Badghis, Zabul, Baghlan, Sar-e-Pol, Farah, Kunduz, The goal of these alternative check Balkh, Herat, Nimroz, and Paktia, at (March 2023 to March 2025), the dam projects was to provide drinking a cost of over 317 million Afghanis from the budget of the Islamic

# Spring brings tourists to scenic Dasht-e Abdan

KUNDUZ (TOLOnews): Dasht-e currently hosting hundreds of visitors rience Dasht-e Abdan.' from across the country.

more facilities for tourists at the site. With its lush greenery in spring, Dasht-e Abdan attracts crowds

We came to Dasht-e Abdan for a picnic. It's a beautiful place, and many is excellent.' people are here, including visitors from the north and Kandahar."

Abdan, a scenic destination in said: "This area refreshes the soul. ing our time here peacefully. Kunduz province of Afghanistan, is We traveled from Kabul just to expe-

om across the country. A group of youth from Some visitors have called on the Badakhshan told TOLOnews they caretaker government to provide plan to stay overnight at the site. They praised the overall security in the country and called for further support for tourism.

Najibullah Sharifi from Hazratullah, a resident of Zabul Badakhshan said: "It's clear to everyvisiting Kunduz, told TOLOnews: one that Dasht-e Abdan is a spiritual and beautiful location. Security here

Mohammad Ebrahim, from Kabul, Abdan is fully ensured. We are enjoy-Meanwhile, Kunduz police com-

mand assured that security for both domestic and foreign tourists is fully in place. Police spokesman Jumauddin

Khaksar said: "Our forces have ensured the safety of Kunduz and Dasht-e Abdan. We will not allow anyone to disrupt public order."

Due to improved security in recent years, the tourism industry-particularly domestic tourism—has grown. Officials say that thousands of Tayyeb Nabizada, also from Bad- domestic and foreign tourists visited akhshan, said: "Security in Dasht-e northeastern provinces last year.

# Home gardens help women spur family income

in the capital of northern with hands — no longer new chapter in my life." Sar-i-Pul province, home haunted by the carpetgardens have not only weaving toil. enhanced beauty but also afforded women a production playing across her vistive source of income — age, she says: "I no longer helping those who once need to borrow money from struggled meeting family anyone. I sell my vegetaexpenses.

growing vegetables

However, the hard labour ries. and meagre income made

life difficult for her. initiative that transformed rest on my own.

With a smile of satisfacbles and use the income to Carpet weaving to cover household expenses.

"This garden has not Marzia, a 65-year-old only provided me with an woman from the income but has also faded as a res Chaharbagh village of Sar- brought me peace. When cial hardships. i-Pul City, spent making taking care of the vegeta-yarn and weaving carpets. bles, I forget all my wor-

her seven-member family's tion, she established a small gardening tools and veggarden in her courtyard, an etable seeds and I did the ble income.

SAR-I-PUL (Pajhwok): In through her vegetables, lettuce and selling them in longer needs financial sup- also contributes to the famsmall, unpaved courtyards gently touching their leaves the market. I have opened a port from her husband.

> ously struggled with economic difficulties, small tasks. home gardens have become

economy

a source of hope and peace. always worried and thought den and it is a good job for The cool verdure has not only improved livelihoods but also brought back women's smiles that had But now that I work in my faded as a result of finan-

Playing a crucial role in patch in a corner of her den's peace has become my courtyard four years back. medicine," she commented. Three years ago, with the economy, she said: "The Currently, the garden helps support of a relief organisa- organisation handed me enrich her family meals earning besides bringing her a sta-

"By growing chives, winter, Shireen earned earns 200 afghanis daily by more job opportunities for Now, every morning mint, spring onions, radish, more than 20,000 afghanis. selling vegetables. Her hus- women to help address

Although she suffers Transforming family from back pain, Shireen conomy enjoys growing vegetables holds in a weak financial For women who previand occasionally hires a situation, having home garworker for heavy gardening

I was "Previously, so much about non-issues. me. Unemployment leads to stress and mental pressure. garden, my mind feels at ease. I am no longer as anx-In Chaharbagh village, ious as before, I feel good 50-year-old Shireen estab- and I even visit the doctor lished a little vegetable less often because this gar-

Beefing up household

Masooma, a 22-year-old woman who started garden-Over three months of ing two years ago, now before sunrise, she walks coriander, watercress and The woman says she no band, a rickshaw driver, social and economic chal-

ily income.

She explained: "We are a family of six and for households in a weak financial dens is a great blessing. Now, I cover our day-today expenses from this gar-

At the same time, Malika Sadat, a female entrepreneur in Sar-i-Pul, believed when women had income sources, many family problems could be resolved.

"In every home where a woman contributes to the family economy, there is less domestic violence because most problems stem from financial woes,' she argued.

Sadal urged the govern-



lenges. Meanwhile, Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Department ment and society to create announced 137 women had department, been helped with setting up home gardens this year in Sayyad and Sancharak dis-

tricts, as well as the provincial capital. Damla

Sharifullah Mosadeq, director of the women had become part of

the workforce. He recalled similar pro-

grammes were implemented in previous years, benefiting many Efforts would be made to said the expand these initiative to create more income opportunities for women, he



# Security withdrawal from former CMs

### PHC ask Chief Secretary to submit reply

**Humayun Khan** 

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Aurangzeb has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in response to a petition filed by former Chief Minister and Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTIP), Mahmood Khan, challenging the withdrawal of his security, on Wednesday.

The counsel Shumail Ahmad Butt advo-

The lawyer stated that the Chief Minister had ordered the withdrawal of security from all former Chief Ministers, suggesting that they could hire private security guards if needed. It was mentioned that the security for the former Chief Minister had initially included two guards, which was later increased to eight guards, the lawyer argued. The caretaker government had submitted a response in the case, and now the elected government is required to provide its response, he

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Aurangzeb has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, seeking a response to the petition.

Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered submit response within 14 days to a petiamendment. Furthermore, they argued the ing, scheduled on 24th April.

court to grant financial and administrative powers provided by the law, or

The petition filed 29 mayors including president Local Council Association . Himayat Ullah Mayar and other nazims while Babar Khan Yousafzai advocate argued the case before court. The provincial government, on the other hand, was represented by Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shah Faisal Ottmankhel.

The petitioners argued that they were directly elected by the people through cate argued that the security provided to local government elections, but the former CM Mahmood Khan was withdrawn by the current Chief Minister, Ali
Amin Gandapur, soon after he took office.

drawn by the current Chief Minister, Ali
vide them with the necessary powers and
funds to effectively govern their respective

> PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Kamran Hayat, heard the case. The petitioners lawyer argued that the provincial government had repeatedly violated the Loca Government Act. The petitioners are seek ing an amendment to Section 79 of the Local Government Act, which would extend their term by three years and pro vide them with the necessary powers and funds to govern their areas effectively. The petitioners alleged that despite their direcelection by the people, they were not pro vided with the necessary powers and funds to perform their duties.

The counsel claimed that the provincia government had failed to fulfill its promis-Court seeks reply KP govt reply withes, made during the local governmen in 14 days LG Mayors plea: The elections, to provide them with the necessity of the control of the sary support and resources. The petitioners Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to also argued that the provincial govern ment's actions had hindered their ability to tion filed by various city mayors and naz-serve the people. PHC directed Advocate ims seeking extension of three years, which would be facilitated through a legal tainability of the petition at the next hear-

# LHC suggests imposing water emergency

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore wrote in the decision that next hearing of the case will High Court (LHC) has sug- DG PDMA expressed congested imposing a water cern about water shortage emergency like the coron- in rivers due to climate avirus to avoid drought. change. The court has also ordered action against those wast- decision that PDMA will ing water in homes and have to play a central role dents banning vehicle society administrations.

ordered the water emer- proactive steps in Punjab gency matter to be present- with other departments to ed to the cabinet and a save water. It is the need of report to be submitted at the the hour to implement a Environment Ali Ejaz also hearing. Shahid Karim has issued a gency in Punjab. written order of the previous hearing regarding smog to submit a summary to the

write the amount of the fine submit a report on the buckets.

The court ordered in the in avoiding drought, and Justice Corona-style water emer-

The court ordered them cabinet for implementing a

for wasting water on the measures taken by the peroffice order. The court son to protect water. The be on April 11. Meanwhile. following the orders of Lahore High Court, Deputy Director Environment Al Ejaz has launched awareness notices to Lahore resiwashing in homes, under The court has also the PDMA should take which a fine of Rs10,000 will be imposed with legal action for violation.

Deputy Director appealed to citizens to conserve water. In view of the severe shortage of water, an immediate ban has been imposed on washing vehi-According to the deci-sion, the Cooperative implementation of the the text of the awareness cles with clean tap water, Department should also emergency will further notice said. The aim of the fine those who wash cars in strengthen the PDMA in its ban is to preserve water for homes and the society measures for water conser- human needs like cooking administration. A complete vation. A committee of and cleaning. It was ban should be imposed on focal persons from various requested in the notice that wasting clean water by departments should be citizens use alternative installing pipes in homes. formed for water conserva- methods for washing vehi-Cooperative tion. The court ordered that cles by using recycled Department should also the focal person should also water or water collected in

# Korangi blaze enters 12th day

F.P. Report

KARACHI: have decided to seek assis- Refinery Limited (PRL) tance from a globally Abdul Majid as members. renowned US-based firm to According to sources, t help extinguish the under- technical committee has also ground fire caused by a sus- resolved to purchase two pected natural gas pocket in state-of-the-art gas detection Karachi's Korangi Creek metres to accurately measure cerns about the type and volarea, sources told media.

over the fire that has been the ablaze for the last 12 days, Additionally, experts are also the Ministry of Energy evaluating the option of fill-(Petroleum Division) has ing the boreholes with formed a technical commit-cement as part of the fire tee to assess and contain a containment strategy, they natural gas pocket found in added. Karachi's Korangi Creek includes Chief Operating office on its premises imme-Petroleum Limited (PPL) leum, and service companies Sikandar Ali Memon, along operating in Sindh were with Oil and Gas urged to provide the neces-Development Limited (OGDCL) Chief support to assist with fire- ured at 33 microgrammes Geologist Shahzad. Manager

Chohan, and Authorities Manager of Pakistan According to sources, the

the presence and concentra-Amid growing concerns tion of natural gas in the area, added. sources

Moreover, the PRL was

committee instructed to set up a camp Pakistan diately, and all energy, petro-Company sary technical and logistical Habibullah opposed to its earlier blue 5 mg.

General shade, has now turned reddish, indicating incomplete burning and the emission o carbon monoxide.

The fire, which started after a 1,200-foot-deep bore was drilled at the site on March 29, has led to conume of gas responsible for the blaze. A preliminary chemical analysis, as per PPL sources, of the water breaking out of the ditch at the site of the ongoing fire in the Korangi area revealed the presence of hazardous chem

The initial report, compiled following water sampling from the fire site, has detected excessive quanti ties of benzene, toluene and tetrachloroethylene The report states that tetrachloroethylene was meas-Khurrum fighting and remedial opera- per litre, significantly Production tions. The blaze's flame, as above the standard limit of

### Mafia opposing reforms in Mines, Minerals Act, says Saif F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has stated that a mafia is actively working against the proposed amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act in an attempt to sabotage the Chief Minister's reform agenda.

In an official statement, Barrister Dr. Saif said that the Chief Minister is determined to liberate the Mines and Minerals sector from the clutches of this mafia. However, the mafia is resorting to propaganda against the proposed against the proposed amendments to fulfill its nefarious objectives.

He further remarked. We do not recognize the illegitimate federal government-how, then, can we surrender provincial authority to it? There is no question of handing over provincial powers to those who have stolen the public mandate." Barrister Dr. Saif reaffirmed that the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a clear stance: the government will not bow to any mafia in any

He emphasized that the purpose of the proposed amendments is to strengthen and make the Mines and Minerals sector more profitable. These reforms are part of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Însaf's broader reform agenda. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is confidently implementing reforms across all sectors. "The proposed amendments are not a secret," he "They will be presented in the provincial assembly, and the opinion of the opposition will also be sought.

### Repatriation of Afghans continue F.P. Report

CHAGHI: Under the mutual decision of the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Balochistan, the process of repatriating Afghan refugees is ongoing.

In Chaghi district, illegal Afghan refugees are being systematically sent back to homeland, their Afghanistan. During this process, the district administration is providing vari ous facilities to ensure that the refugees do not face any difficulties.

This process is being supervised by Deputy Chaghi Commissioner Atta-ul-Munim. Special arrangements have been made for temporary accommodation, food, medical aid, and other necessities for the refugees. Atta-ul-Munim stated that the refugees are being sent back to their homeland under humanitarian compassion and Islamic brotherhood, and everyone is being treated with dignity and respect. The arrangements for food and medical facilities in the temporary shelters have been made foolproof. According to government directives, efforts are being made to complete this process peacefully smoothly.

Atta-ul-Munim appealed to the local population to cooperate with the administration to ensure that there are no obstacles in this process. At the district-level transit camp, hundreds of refugees are being provided with facilities daily, making their dignified return possible. The local administration. Levies, police, and other agencies are working day and night to ensure the success of this process.

# **IHC** reserves verdict on Omar Ayub's plea

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday reserved its decision against the Election court after hearing the arguments of Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s proceeding to investigate the alleged rigging in NA-18 Haripur the con- petition. stituency of opposition leader Omar

the hearing, the Election Commission's lawyer Sajjeel Swati and Omar Ayub's lawyer appeared in Election Commission's action. The the court. Omar Ayub's lawyer said that the ECP has to decide on the petition within 60 days, adding that after 60 days the proceeding of commis-Returning Officer, the District Returning Officer and Babar Nawaz sion is illegal.

Omar Ayub had won the election that the opposing candidate also accepted Omar Ayub's victory and even tweeted about it. The ECP's ing candidate also filed a complaint about rigging. When the commission Babar Sattar. started proceedings on both petitions, Omar Ayub came to the High

action or order and prayed the court that the petition be dismissed. The the lawyers of the parties, the decision was reserved on Omar Ayub's

Omar Ayub had challenged the Election Commission's action and the Acting Chief Justice Sardar July 10, order to investigate rigging Sarfraz Dogar heard the case. During in NA-18 Haripur.

Former Chief Justice Aamir Farooq had issued a stay order on the court had sought responses from the Khan.

Court suspends show-cause by a huge margin, he said, adding notices to DG passport, director NAB: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday suspended the contempt of court show cause notice lawyer said that Omar Ayub himself issued to the DG Immigration and had first complained about rigging Passport and Director NAB, and also on the election day. When Omar sought a writ petition and a complete cause notice was issued on the rec-Ayub won in the evening, the oppos- record of the contempt of court proceedings from the court of Justice

Acting Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar to the DG Immigration and Passport and Justice Muhammad Asif issued and Director NAB.

commission had not yet issued any notice. In the order, the court said that the objection to the appeal of the DG Immigration and Passport is removed and the hearing should be scheduled for today.

The single bench issued a show cause notice of contempt of court on the petition to remove the name from the travel ban. The petitioners' lawyer said that the order to include the name in the travel ban list was suspended and final relief was given instead of interim. He said that the Directorate General Immigration and Passport acted on the NAB's request. He did not include the name by picking and choosing on its own.

The contempt of court notice issued to the DG Immigration and Passport is illegal. The court said that the appellant's point is worthy of consideration, so notices are issued to the parties seeking their response. All records of the office application and contempt of court proceedings should be attached to this appeal. A show ommendation to include the name in the travel ban list in continuous violation of court orders. Justice Babar A division bench comprising Sattar had issued show cause notices

## Balohistan's issues: Nawaz assures 'active role'

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday met National Party (NP) chief Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and assured him of playing an "active role" in addressing issues plaguing Balochistan.

The NP delegation included former secretary general Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, MNA Pullain Baloch, NP Vice President and former MNA Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai, provincial president Aslam Baloch, Central Vice President Shahwaz Khan Bizenjo, and NP Punjab President Malik Ayub. Abdul Malik briefed the former three-time prime minister on the current situation in the province, with particular reference to the recent wave of arrests and ongoing protests.

Talking to journalists after the meeting, Dr Baloch said the two leaders held a detailed discussion on the situation in Balochistan. "I have requested Nawaz Sharif to play his political role for Balochistan, and he assured me of doing so," he added.

Dr Baloch, who also served as former Balochistan chief minister, said that he had invited the PML-N president to visit Balochistan and hold meetings with local political leaders. "Nawaz expressed readiness to visit the province, and his visit is expected soon," he noted. He said and murder.

Balochistan's issues were political in nature and required political solutions. "We strongly condemn the killing of innocent people in Balochistan," he added.

Dr Baloch also recalled Nawaz's active

political engagement during the 2013 tenure and hoped for similar involvement moving forward. "We told Nawaz that his role is crucial in resolving the situation in Balochistan." The former CM said that Nawaz Sharif and other party leaders welcomed them warmly in line with traditional hospitality.

Meanwhile, PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique, for his part, said the meeting focused on the current situation in Balochistan. "Dr Baloch urged Nawaz to step forward politically, and Nawaz Sharif gave a positive response," he added.

The meeting follows protests across Balochistan and Karachi over the recent arrests of Baloch Yakjehti Committee's (BYC) leadership and a crackdown on its sit-in in Quetta. BYC chief organiser Dr Mahrang Baloch and 16 other activists were arrested from their protest camp at Quetta's Sariab Road on Saturday, a day after they claimed that three protesters died due to police action. Mahrang, among 150 individuals, including prominent leaders from the BYC, are facing charges encompassing various serious offences such as terrorism, incitement to rebellion,

# US issues new curbs on Iran as Trump seeks talks

fresh sanctions targeting comment. Iran on Wednesday, the Treasury Department said, Trump made a surprise two days after President program.

Iranian regime's reckless great danger. pursuit of nuclear weapons The Treasury said those remains a grave threat to targeted on Wednesday pursuit of nuclear weapons and global security," Bessent said in the state-

ment. to leverage our tools and the authorities to disrupt any Technology

WASHINGTON (Reuters): York did not immediately ber of nuclear reactor proj-The United States issued respond to a request for

announcement on Monday Donald Trump announced that the United States and the US planned direct talks Iran were poised to begin with Tehran over its nuclear direct talks on Tehran's nuclear program, but Iran's US Treasury foreign minister said the Department in a statement discussions in Oman would said it imposed sanctions be indirect. In a further sign on five Iran-based entities of the difficult path to any and one person based in deal between the two Iran for their support of geopolitical foes, Trump Iran's nuclear program with issued a stark warning that the aim of denying Tehran a if the talks were unsuccessnuclear weapon. "The ful, "Iran is going to be in

the United States and a supported two previously menace to regional stability sanctioned entities that manage and oversee the Treasury Secretary Scott country's nuclear program, Atomic Energy Organization of Centrifuge Iran Company attempt by Iran to advance (TESA). Among those tarits nuclear program and its geted was a company that broader destabilizing agen- manufactures aluminum for da." Iran's mission to the TESA, an AEOI subordi-

ects and a company tasked with developing thorium-The action comes after fueled reactor technologies.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on Tuesday that Iran can expect tighter sanctions if it does not come to an agreement with Trump on its nuclear program. Efforts to settle a dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which it says is purely for civilian use but which Western countries see as a precursor to an atomic bomb, have ebbed and flowed for more than 20 years without resolution.

Trump tore up a 2015 deal between Iran and six world powers - the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany - during his first term of office in 2017 and talks since then have stalled. Iranian offi-"Treasury will continue (AEOI) and its subordinate, cials told Reuters on Tuesday that Tehran is approaching weekend talks with the United States over its nuclear program warily, with little confidence in progress and deep suspi-United Nations in New nate responsible for a num- cions over US intentions.

### 113 reported killed in nightclub roof collapse

SANTO DOMINGO: A catastrophic roof collapse at an iconic nightclub in the Dominican Republic's capital, Santo Domingo, has left at least 113 people dead, including a provincial governor and former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher Octavio according to reports.

More than 255 other peo-

ple are injured and emergency crews are still working to find survivors amid the rubble as families of the victims gathered at the site searching for their loved ones, authorities said on Wednesday. Efforts to rescue those trapped under the debris are continuing, though the exact number of people inside the Jet Set nightclub at the time of the collapse remains unclear, the director of the country's Emergency Operations Center, Manuel Mendez said.

Local media said the roof collapsed during a concert attended by politicians, athletes and other prominent figures. Between 500 and 1,000 people were reported to have been in the club when disaster struck. Among the victims was Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northern Monte Cristi province, President Luis Abinader said. Cruz is the sister of former baseball player Nelson Cruz, a seventime MLB All-Star.

Former MLB pitcher Dotel died en route to a local hospital after being pulled from the debris, a spokesman for the nation's Ministry of Sports said. The Dominican Republic's Professional Baseball League expressed "its sorrow over the death of former pitcher Octavio Dotel" and concluded, 'Peace to his soul".

Dotel, 51, debuted for the New York Mets in 1999 and played until 2013 for more than a dozen teams, including the Houston Astros, Oakland A's, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox Detroit and "Thinking about our people in the Dominican Republic,' Carlos Mendoza, the manager of the Mets, said in a news conference. "We have a lot of the Dominican community in the baseball world.' The cause of the roof col-

lapse remains under investigation. Iris Pena, a woman who had attended the concert, told the Dominican channel SIN how she escaped with her son. "At one point, dirt started falling like dust into the drink on the table. I asked the security ... whether the officers ground had shaken," she said.

"A stone fell and cracked the table where we were, and we got out," Pena recounted. "The impact was so strong, as if it had been a tsunami or an earthquake." Dozens of family members flocked to hospitals for news. "We are desperate," Regina del Rosa, whose sister was at the concert, told SIN. "They are not giving us news; they are not telling us anything. At the scene, meanwhile,

helicopter images revealed a large hole where the club's roof once was. A construction crane was helping to lift some of the heavier rubble as men in hard hats dug through the debris. The authorities have issued a call for Dominicans to donate blood. 'We are rescuing all the people we can save alive and recovering those bodies we find along the way. Aljazeera

# Beijing rejects Kyiv claim

KYIV (AFP): China on to comment on the matter. Wednesday rejected Ukrainian President Volodymyr 'absolutely groundless.'

alongside Russian forces, members have branded and that there was evidence Beijing a "decisive enabler" "many more Chinese citi- of Moscow's offensive, zens" were fighting with which it has never con-Moscow. Chinese foreign demned. "The Chinese ministry spokesman Lin side's position on the issue Jian told a press conference of the Ukraine crisis is clear it was "absolutely ground- and unequivocal, and has less" to suggest many won widespread approval Chinese citizens were fight- from the international coming in Ukraine.

"The Chinese governform," Kyiv. The Kremlin declined citizens fighting

China presents itself as a neutral party in the conflict Zelensky's claim that many and says it is not sending Chinese citizens were fight- lethal assistance to either ing for Russia, calling it side, unlike the United States and other Western Zelensky said Tuesday nations. But it is a close that Kyiv had captured two political and economic part-Chinese citizens fighting ner of Russia, and NATO

munity," Lin said.

ment has always asked its should correctly view nese prisoners showing a citizens to stay away from China's efforts and conman wearing military fatareas of armed conflict structive role in pushing for (and) avoid involvement in a political resolution to the armed conflicts in any Ukraine crisis." Zelensky he said. He added told reporters on Tuesday that Beijing was verifying that Ukrainian troops had relevant information with captured the two Chinese

Donetsk region. The media outlet Ukrainska Pravda, citing the Ukrainian army, reported that one of the captives had paid \$3,480 to an intermediary in China to join the Russian army because he wanted to receive Russian citizenship. The captive, who is now cooperating with the

Russian forces in the

Ukrainian authorities, also said he was trained in the Russian-occupied Lugansk region as part of a group of Chinese nationals, some of whom had legal issues back home, according to Ukrainska Pravda. Kyiv released a video "The Ukrainian side of one of the alleged Chiigues with his hands bound. He mimicked sounds from combat and uttered several words in Mandarin during an apparent interview with a Ukrainian offiwith cial not pictured

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