NA session adjourned F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly proceedings were suspended for 15 minutes on Thursday after a lack of quorum was pointed out by opposi-tion member Iqbal Afridi of the Sunni Ittehad Council. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, who was chairing the session, initiated the question hour soon after the sitting

Frontier Post

Dumpers, tankers set on fire F.P. Report

KARACHI: At least 11 dumpers and tankers were set on fire in violent protests in Karachi following a motorcyclist crushed by a heavy traffic in North Karachi. As per details, following an accident involving a speeding dumper truck and a motorcyclist in Nagan Chowrangi area, at least 11 heavy vehicles, including trucks and dumpers, were set on fire across different areas of Karachi.

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No extension in deadline: Talal

Imposition of US tariffs can

have far-reaching effects: FO

of tariffs by the United States logical collaborations and any attempt to forcibly dis-

At his weekly media brief- Spokesperson reaffirmed prevented. He also strongly

Thursday, Foreign Office upcoming high-level interna- aggression and atrocities

Khan said Pakistan hopes for peaceful settlement of the ing forces and the killing of

Palestine dispute and the

implementation of a two-

meaningful action. He also

preparatory consultations for

Shafqat Ali Khan said

the June 2025 Conference.

through meaningful action.

He said we believe that in the

implemented; the blockade

He said Pakistan believes on Gaza must be lifted; marginalise the minorities.

Undergraduate Pakistan sincerely hopes that

Programme the June Conference will rise

in Islamabad on Pakistan's full support for the condemned the continued

Pakistan grammes play an important

says that considering the role in strengthening bilateral

interconnected nature of relations by focusing on edu-

global trade, the imposition cation, scientific and techno-

can have far-reaching effects, people-to-people contacts.

Spokesperson Shafqat Ali tional conference on the

He mentioned that, as for state solution, hoping that the

the imposition of tariffs on moot would rise to the occa-

Pakistan is concerned, he sion and restore hope in

said Prime Minister Shehbaz peace and justice through

ing committee and a working lauded France and Saudi

group to examine the new Arabia for co-chairing the

between Pakistan and the to the occasion and restore

United States marks the end hope in peace and justice

role in the academic and cul- lead-up to the Conference,

tural enrichment of thou- the ceasefire must be fully

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior, Senator Talal Chaudhry, on Thursday made it clear that there will be no extension in the deadline for the repatriation of undocumented foreign nationdecisions had to be made based on ground realities," he said during a press conference here in Islamabad. The Minister emphasized that all foreign nationals are respected, but the decision to repatriate them was taken in light of the country's security situation.

nationals' repatriation was formulated on October 30, 2023. In the first phase, undocumented foreigners were sent back. In the second phase, which began on February 13, 2025, the federal cabinet decided to repatriate holders of Afghan Citizen Cards, giving them a deadline of March 31, 2025. The third phase is now

underway, targeting Afghan Card holders. He confirmed that the repatriation process of undocumented foreigners is ongoing and reiterated that there will be no extension in the timeline. So far, a total of 857,157 undocumented foreigners and Afghan Citizen Card holders have been sent back to their home countries, he added. Talal Chaudhry shared that 815,247 Afghan Citizen Card holders are currently registered in Pakistan. Additionally, the Proof of Registration (PoR) program, which ran from 2006 to 2023, registered 1,569,522 Afghan

F.P. Report

particularly on developing

a swift and mutually benefi-

Sharif has constituted a steer-

tariffs. Replying to a ques-

tion, the Spokesperson said

the recent discontinuation

of a fifteen-year engagement

which has played a pivotal

sands of Pakistani students.

cial resolution of the issue.

ISLAMABAD:

He reiterated, "Afghans are our broth ers and we hold great respect for them, but decisions have to be made in light of the current situation. Many incidents of terror ism in Pakistan have been linked to Afghan nationals." He also pointed out that a significant amount of narcotics als. "Afghans are our brothers, but certain entering Pakistan originates from Afghanistan, and that the proceeds are often tied to terrorist activities.

The Minister dismissed the misinforma tion being spread regarding the repatriation policy, stating that the Ministry of Interior has taken all provincial govern-ments on board. He said Pakistan has He explained that the policy for foreign launched the "One Document Regime," under which foreign nationals, including Afghans, can enter, live, and conduct business in Pakistan legally through proper visa channels.

"There is no longer any space for illega residency in Pakistan," he said. Transi points were established across provinces to accommodate Afghan citizens during the repatriation process, providing shelter and food facilities. The Minister stressed that the government is fully committed to implementing the One Document Regime for all nationalities. "Just as western borders are regulated, the eastern borders will be similarly managed. This 2,600 km long frontier is a challenge, especially due to security threats," he added.

He concluded by saying that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in contact with the Afghan government to ensure a proper mechanism for the repatriation process, including registration by both Pakistani and Afghan authorities.

be protected.

guaranteed; and civilians and

humanitarian personnel mus

place Palestinians or annex

committed by Israeli occupy-

and civil defense workers

during direct gunfire in the

Indian Illegally Occupied

Jammu and Kashmir, he con-

demned the Indian authori-

ties' denial of permission to

hold Eid-ul-Fitr prayers at the

historic Jama Masjid and

Eidgah in Srinagar, as well as

on the holy night of Laila-tul-

Qadr. Replying to a question

about passage of the Waqt

(Amendment) Bill 2025 in

the Indian Lok Sabha, the

Spokesperson termed it an

act to dispossess Muslims

from their properties, includ-

ing mosques and shrines and

Turning to the situation in

latest incident of brutality.

Palestinian emergency

The Spokesperson said

that student exchange pro- humanitarian access must be

Regarding the prevailing their land must be unequivo-situation in Gaza, the cally rejected and effectively

Time to go beyond cliches for Palestine cause: Mufti Taqi F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamic scholar Mufti Taqi Usmani has underscored the need for going beyond conferences and slogans, and offer concrete help to the hapless people of Palestine.

Speaking at a conference on Palestine in Islamabad, the scholar hit out at Israel for unleashing a wave of terror on unarmed people in the Gaza Strip. He called for boycott of Israel's products. In the same breath, he emphasised that the protests (against Israel) should be peaceful.

"Islam is a religion of peace and not of vandalising property or hurting someone in the heat of emotions. Pelting someone with stones is forbidden in Shariah," he categorically said in apparent reference to the recent wave of violent protests against some food chain outlets in the country. He said it's obligatory for leaders of all Muslim countries to declare jehad (holy war) against Israel. He said it's time to move beyond resolutions and conferences and go for concrete steps.

Pakistan, he said, did not recognise Israel and the founder of Pakistan had declared it an 'illegal state' There was no change in country's policy, he added. He made it clear that Pakistan was not bound by any agreement to support Israel. "Israel respects no law or agreement. It continues to bombard innocent people despite ceasefire agreement," Usmani said. "Therefore pelting stones at someone or harming someone's life and property is forbidden in Shariah. Therefore, do protest and boycott but peacefully in which there should be no element of unrest.'

He said the country's rulers should also be convinced in a peaceful manner to carry out their responsibilities and obligations. "Those who are ready to fight their Muslim governments and have taken up weapons in this name [of boycott] is not at all an acceptable way, we have clearly announced this. Whatever you have to do should be done peacefully otherwise ... civil wars started in Muslim countries."

Thousands of Sikh pilgrims arrive F.P. Report

LAHORE: The arrival of Sikh pilgrims from neighboring India has begun through the Wagah border as part of the annual Vaisakhi Mela celebrations, being organised under the administration of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB).

This year marks an exceptional turnout, with a large number of pilgrims entering Pakistan to participate in the religious festivities and commemorate the 326th birth anniversary of the Khalsa. The Sikh pilgrims were warmly welcomed by Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora, Additional Secretary Shrines Saifullah Khokhar and members of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, including Sardar Bishan Singh, Satwant Kaur, Dr. Mampal Singh, Baba Harmit Singh and Sardar Satwant Singh.



MINSK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lays floral wreath at Victory Monument during his two day

PM arrives in Minsk for two-day visit to Belarus

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrived here on Thursday for a twoday official visit to the Republic of Belarus from April 10 to 11, 2025, at the invitation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko. Belarus Prime Minister Alexander Turchin and officials of Pakistan embassy in Belarus warmly welcomed the prime minister.

PM Shehbaz Sharif was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Information Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi.

During his visit, the prime minister will hold talks with President Lukashenko to review progress in areas of mutual interest. The two sides are also expected to sign several agreements to further strengthen cooperation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit underscores a strong and ongoing partnership

Pakistan and Belarus. The PM also wrote on his official Twitter wall, "Arrived in Minsk to backdrop of a very warm welcome by where I was honored with an age old tradition and a gesture of Belarusian hospitality - the korovai, a decorated Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his optimism for the official engagements particularly his interaction with friend President Aleksandr prime minister at the airport. Lukashenko, as they sought jointly to advance mutually beneficial coopera-

MINSK, Belarus (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Shehbaz directs level playing field for industries, their input in next budget

SLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to provide a level playing field for local industries and ncorporate the proposals of industrial and trade bodies into the upcoming rederal budget. The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) here, said that increasing the country's exports to poost national revenue was among the government's priorities. During the neeting, interim recommendations of the committee formed to make the cheme more effective and benefitting the export sector were presented.

The prime minister instructed for further consultation with the relevant xperts on the committee's recommendations to improve the scheme for acilitating the import of raw materials and machinery for export-oriented ndustries. He directed the committee to finalize its interim recommendaions after further consultations and present the report soon. During the riefing, it was told that the scheme was launched to reduce production costs and enhance the competitiveness of national exports in global markets. The neeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Prime Minister's Advisor Syed Tauqir Shah, Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, FBR Chairman Rashid Mehmood Langrial, and prominent figures from the export industry.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Shehbaz Sharif laid a wreath at the Information Victory Monument of Minsk to pay bracing winter winds against the tribute to the people who died during World War II. As the prime minister, H.E. Alexander Turchin, Prime along with his delegation members, Minister of Belarus at the airport, arrived at Victory Square, the smartly turned-out contingents of the Belarusian armed forces saluted him. The national anthems of Pakistan and loaf accompanied by salt." Prime Belarus were played. On the occa-Alexander Turchin was also present, who, earlier, warmly received the

Minister Attaullah Tarar and SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Pakistani player Noor Zaman for winning the Under-23 World Squash Championship. In a statement, the prime minister felicitated the entire nation on Noor Zaman's sion, Belarusian Prime Minister success. Prime Minister Shehbaz said Noor Zaman had made Pakistan's name known all over the world with his game and the entire nation was Prime Minister Shehbaz was proud of him. "Inshallah, Pakistan accompanied by Deputy Prime will regain its lost position in the fie Minister and Foreign Minister of squash," the prime minister said. will regain its lost position in the field

Nepra okays slashing power prices

F.P. Report

tion between Pakistan and Belarus.

The National ISLAMABAD: Power Regulatory Electric Authority (NEPRA) has approved a from the reduction. reduction in electricity prices for a

three-month period. According to an official notificaacross the country, including K-Electric users. This decision follows a request by the federal govsumers in their electricity bills for April, May, and June.

Following a consensus with the website. Monetary Fund International

ment for formal implementation. in the notification. However, Nepra confirmed that lifeline consumers will not benefit

tion, power tariff will be reduced by on the matter on April 4. "The Rs1.71 per unit for all consumers Authority has no objection on the instant Motion, as it does not impact Nepra's determined tariff, since the GOP [Government of ernment and is expected to provide a total relief of Rs58 billion to con- additional subsidy from the expected collection of PDL," read the Nepra's decision, published on its

"Accordingly, the request of the (IMF), Prime Minister Shehbaz Ministry [of Energy] to provide [an] Sharif earlier this month announced additional subsidy of Rs.1.71/kWh a reduction in power tariffs for to all consumers of XWDISCOs domestic and industrial consumers and K-Electric (except lifeline con-

forwarded to the federal govern- approved," the power regulator said

The Nepra quoted the energy minister saying [during the April 4 hearing] that the projected collec-The federal government filed a tion of PDL for 3.5 months was request for the price reduction with around Rs58.6 billion — to be Nepra, which conducted a hearing utilised to provide tariff differential subsidies for consumers. "The federal cabinet has approved this proposal and allowed to file the motion before Nepra so that [the] benefit can be passed on to the consumers in the billing month of April 2025,' the Nepra document read.

For domestic consumers, the power tariff previously stood at Rs48.70 per unit, which had already been reduced to Rs45.05. The new reduction of Rs7.41 per unit takes immediate effect. For industrial consumers, the June 2024 tariff of Rs58.50 per unit has been lowered by Rs7.41 and Rs7.69 per unit, sumers) for the period from April to Rs48.19, with a further reduction respectively. The decision has been 2025 to June 2025 is hereby of Rs7.69 per unit announced.

QUETTA: People offering funeral prayer of three police personnel, killed by

EU pauses countermeasures following Trump's tariff reprieve

BRUSSELS (Reuters): The European new duties brought relief to battered Union will pause its first countermeasures against US tariffs after President Donald Trump temporarily imposed on dozens of countries, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Thursday.

The bloc was due to launch count- of the COVID-19 pandemic. er-tariffs on about 21 billion euros next Tuesday in response to Trump's 25% tariffs on steel and aluminium. It is still assessing how to respond to US car tariffs and the broader 10% negotiations a chance," von der Leyen said on X. "While finalising the adoption of the EU countermeasures that saw strong support from our Member States, we will put them on hold for 90 days.'

global markets and anxious global leaders, even as he ratcheted up a trade war with China. His turnabout, lowered the hefty duties he had just which came less than 24 hours after steep new tariffs kicked in, followed the most intense episode of financial market volatility since the early days

US stock indexes shot higher on (\$23.25 billion) of US imports from the news, and the relief continued into Asian and European trading on Thursday. Before Trump's U-turn, the upheaval had erased trillions of dollars from stock markets and led to an levies still in place. "We want to give unsettling surge in US government bond yields that appeared to catch the US president's attention.

Trump kept the pressure on China, the world's No. 2 economy and secondbiggest provider of US imports with an oritize talks with other countries as increase of tariffs on Chinese imports to Trump's sudden decision on 125% from the 104% level that kicked Wednesday to pause most of his hefty in on Wednesday. He also signed an

executive order aimed at reducing the dollar on Thursday since the glob- announcement also does not appear Bank policymaker Francois Villeroy China's grip on the global shipping al financial crisis. In Europe, euro to affect duties on autos, steel and industry and at reviving US shipbuilding. China rejected what it called blackmail threats and from Washington. China will "follow through to the end" if the US insists on its own way, Commerce Ministry spokesperson He Yongqian told a regular press briefing. China's door was open to dialogue, but this must be based on mutual respect, the ministry said.

Beijing may again respond in kind after imposing 84% tariffs on US imports on Wednesday to match Trump's earlier tariff salvo. Trump, who claims the tariffs aim to fix US trade imbalances, said a resolution with China on trade is also possible. But officials have said they will pri-Vietnam, Japan, South Korea and oth-

jumped, spreads tightened, and markets scaled back their bets on European Central Bank rate cuts after Trump's latest announcement. European shares surged.

Trump's move was an important step towards stabilising the global economy, von der Leyen said, before announcing a pause in the EU's own counter-tariffs. But she warned they could be brought back in. "If negotiations are not satisfactory, our countermeasures will kick in. Preparatory work on further countermeasures continues," she said, before adding: 'As I have said before, all options remain on the table.

government bond yields aluminium that are already in place. The US tariff pause also does not apply to duties paid by Canada and Mexico, because their goods are still subject to 25% fentanyl-related tariffs if they do not comply with the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement's rules of origin. The EU had been due to impose extra tariffs on US imports including maize, wheat, motorcycles, poultry, fruit and clothing. Those are now suspended. Elsewhere, India was move quickly on a trade deal with the United States.

Meanwhile, oil prices retreated 2% US-China trade war and a possible Trump's reversal on tariffs is not recession eclipsed earlier relief creatabsolute. A 10% blanket duty on ed by Trump's announcement of a ers line up to try and strike a bargain. almost all US imports will remain in pause. Some central bankers also therefore a drop in consumption in

de Galhau, speaking of the pause in the tariff hike, told France Inter Radio it was "less bad news" than before, but uncertainty remained and that was a threat to trust and growth. And business leaders warned that not all was resolved. The head of the French wine and

spirits lobby group FEVS said Trump's decision to hit pause was "half good news." Nicolas Ozanam said the move will initially allow French wine and spirits companies to among countries that said it wants to resume shipments with lower tariffs, and therefore at the same level as other suppliers. But the 90-day window created logistical constraints, on Thursday as fears of a deepening and given that 10% custom duties remained in place, the sector still faced inflationary pressures. "This will still lead to a rise in prices and China's yuan hit its lowest against effect, the White House said. The remained cautious. European Central the United States," he told Reuters.



Sindh Apex committee meeting reviews progress on implementation on NAP

cial Apex Committee meeting reviewed the progress on implementation on National Action Plan at the Chief Minister House on Thursday.

Sindh Chief Minister Šyed Murad Ali Shah presided over the 32nd meeting of the Apex Committe attended by Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Corps Commander Karachi Lt. General Mohammad Avais Dastagir, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, DG Rangers Maj General Muhammad Shamraiz, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon and others.

The meeting announced the establishment of a Special Unit to address cases of social media misuse, setting up a Centre for Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism to focus on strategies to combat violent extremism and emphasised the need for coordination with Punjab and Balochistan to plan joint operations against dacoits in the katcha areas.

in the provinces are being repatri-ated as per policy of the federal government," CM Sindh said. The chief minister expressed

concern about the increasing number of road accidents in the city, as well as incidents of tankers and dumpers being set on fire. He instructed the police to take strict plying on the roads in violation of traffic rules and regulations.
Additionally, he directed the residing in the province, and their residing in the province, and their residing in the province, and their residing in the province to appeal and that his government is coordinating with the Punjab and Balochistan provinces to plan joint operations against despite in the Punjab and Balochistan provinces to plan joint operations. police to apprehend those responsible for the arson of the tankers.

The meeting was informed that the Sindh government completed Phase-I of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) in 2023- told that, under the PECA Law, a

Hydropower Project.

WB delegation visits

Tarbela 5th Extension

Hydropower Project

LAHORE (APP): A three-member delegation of World

Bank, headed by its Regional Director for

Infrastructure in South Asia Pankaj Gupta, visited under-construction 1530 MW-Tarbela 5th Extension

Ghani accompanied the delegation, according to WAPDA spokesman here Thursday. The delegation

had a detailed visit of several key sites and witnessed ongoing construction activities. These sites included

Earlier, the Chairman welcoming the delegation

thanked World Bank for their support in harnessing the

vital resources of water and hydropower in Pakistan.

He expressed the hope that over a six-decade long

partnership between World Bank and WAPDA would

During the on-site briefing, the GM/PD Tarbela 5th

Highlighting the milestones achieved so far on the

Extension Hydropower Project apprised the delegation

that construction work on all seven key work fronts are

project, the delegation was briefed that excavations at

raised intake shaft, penstock, power house and switch

yard have been completed whereas concrete works at

raised intake, power house, switch yard, tailrace cul-

vert and canal are in progress. Draft tubes of all three

generating units have been installed. Likewise, instal-

lation of penstock pipes and electro-mechanical works at the switch yard are also in progress. Electricity generation from the Project is likely to commence in 2026.

Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project is a

component of green, clean and least-cost energy gen-

World Bank is providing financial assistance amounting to USD 390 million for the Project. Under

the 5th Extension, three generating units - 510 MW

each - are being installed at Tunnel No. 5 of Tarbela

Dam Project and to provide 1.347 billion units hydel

electricity to the National Grid on the average every

year. Installed capacity at Tarbela Dam will surge to

6418 MW after completion of Tarbela 5th Extension

raised intake, tunnel, penstock and power house.

further strengthen in the days to come.

progressing at a good pace.

eration plan of WAPDA.

PESHAWAR: In a remark-

able step toward promoting

education in the region, the

Wana Welfare Association

Enrollment Campaign today

across South Waziristan

Lower, marking a historic

moment for the area's edu-

cational development.

cause of education.

successfully

Mass

(WAWA)

organized

WAPDA Chairman Engr. Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sajjad



24, during which 85,916 illegal foreigners were repatriated. Transit the supervision of the respective individuals on social media. Deputy Commissioners.

Interior has informed that the repatriation of all ACC Holders repatriation of ACC Holders

data mapping has been completed for repatriation. At present, 479 have been repatriated, while The Sindh Home Department have been repatriated, while

Social Media Protection and Regulatory Authority (fed govt) points were established in Karachi, has been created to ensure online Hyderabad, and Jacobabad under safety and protect the rights of

Following the Central APEX Following the completion of decision, the Home Department "Illegal foreign nationals living Phase I, the Ministry of the proposes the Sindh Centre for Excellence on Countering Violent Federal government to initiate the Extremism Act, 2025, to combat violent extremism and terrorism. (Phase II) in February 2025. The The CM directed the Home Secretary to present the draft law in under Phase II commenced on the next cabinet meeting. The chief April 1, 2025, with the Sindh minister discussed the issue of government allocating Rs 200 dacoits in the Northern districts million for operations at transit along the River Indus. He stated dacoits in the Northern districts to prevent their escape into neigh-

around 400 are awaiting deporta- has contacted the home depart-

Children

visited Traffic

headquarters

briefed

F. P Report

PESHAWAR: The Orphan

children from Aghosh Education Unit visited the

Peshawar Traffic Police

The children were welcomed by Chief Traffic

Officer Haroon Rashid

Khan, who briefed them on

and safety. The Peshawar

Traffic Police aims to raise

awareness about traffic

rules among citizens and

ensure smooth traffic flow

Khan welcomed the chil-

dren and briefed them on

traffic rules and regula-

tions, Importance of Zebra

children

instructed on the impor-

tance of using zebra cross-

ings when crossing roads and also the children visit-

ed various offices, includ-

Room, DL Van, FM Radio

He emphasized the

while

importance of wearing

seatbelts while driving and

motorcycles for safety of

items among the children.

88.6, and DL Branch.

Crossing and others.

CTO Haroon Rashid

in the city.

The

helmets

Headquarters in Gulbahar.

made by the CM in Apex Committee meetings. Minister Murad Shah emphasised the need for rigorous pursuit of Counter Terrorism cases, declaring zero tolerance for militants. The main components of the NAP include strengthening Counter Terrorism Departments (CTDs), combating terrorism in various media forms, choking off

Home

ing the criminal justice system. The meeting discussed the importance of properly following up on counter-terrorism cases in the courts. It was noted that in 2025, a total of 23 cases were registered. Out of these, seven cases were challaned and are currently under trial. Convictions have been secured in four of these cases, while the others are still in the trial process. In 2024, there were

The meeting was informed that under trial during 2024-25.

High Court (LHC) Chief expected to streamline pro-

Justice Ms Aalia Neelum cedures and minimize

Integrated Criminal Justice plete investigations and late

traffic rules and regulations.

The objective of the visit was to educate the children about traffic rules

The objective of the visit was to educate the children about traffic rules

The objective of the visit was to educate the children about traffic rules

The objective of the visit was to educate the children about traffic rules

The objective of the judiciary, prosecution, Registrar Lahore High nal justice system. It represents the collective efforts and DG District Judiciary, dedication of all stakeholders involved," she remarked.

guidance of Chief Justice Prosecutor General Punjab,

Aalia Neelum, the ICJS is District and Sessions Judge

Sahiwal

Secretary

System (ICJS) in Lahore

and Rahim Yar Khan dis-

The initiative aims to

transform the criminal jus-

tice process in Punjab by

designed to enhance effi-

ciency, transparency, and

institutions. By enabling

one-click access to central-

tricts as pilot projects.

LHC CJ launches ICJS

pilot project in two districts

LAHORE (APP): Lahore oner records—the system is Information Technology

Thursday launched the delays caused by incom- Chief Justice Aalia Neelum-

unifying the digital records istrative figures, including transforming Punjab's crimi-

accountability across the Case Management, IG Justice Aalia Neelum's

ized data-from FIRs to Punjab, Acting IG Prisons, modernizing justice deliv

court judgments and pris- and Chairman of the Punjab ery in the province.

province's criminal justice Police Punjab, Additional leadership in spearheading

Irfan Ahmad

challan submissions.

intelligence-based operations, registered 153 cases, arrested 84 and killed 12. The meeting was told that two cases of choking of terror financing and proscribed organisation were registered, of which one was challaned which is under trial. During the meeting, it was reported that Chinese workers involved in both CPEC and non-CPEC projects are receiving security The security forces include personnel from the Special Protection Unit (SPU), the Army, Rangers and the Frontier Corps.

The FBR representative told the meeting that during the 3rd quarters of 2024-25, they have seized goods worth Rs16214.54 million being smuggled through 222 seizures. The major seizures include 10,008 mobile sets 5027 tures. Regarding the Hub Check Post, it was noted that the chief minister has allocated Rs 214 million for its establishment. Currently, land identification and cost estimates are in progress. The checkpost will be jointly operated by various agencies to combat smuggling and will be equipped with the

latest technology and gadgets.

A Fusion Center has been terrorist financing, regulating religious seminaries, and reformestablished within the depart ment, with technical support from the UNODC and INL. Efforts to enforce the Sindh Control of Narcotics Substance Act, 2024, include establishing checkpoints on major routes and the deployment of facial recognition technology and Rapid Response Forces at toll plazas. The meeting was told that 2574 weapons and 14,000 ammunition have been confiscated by registering 10487 FIRs. 301 booked criminals have been convicted while 7957 are

Board (PITB).

who

The launch ceremony Justice Committee—congrat-

was held at the New Judges ulated all stakeholders on the

Library Hall of the Lahore High Court. It was attended successful implementation of the project. "The ICJS is a

by key judicial and admin- revolutionary step toward

Saeed, DG Judicial and Chairman praised Chief

Secretary Home Punjab, the project, calling the sys-

Prosecution tem a major milestone in

also

Speaking at the event,

Chairperson of the Provincial

Officials including the IG

Police Punjab, Prosecutor

General Punjab, and PITB

serves as

Tessori inaugurates 'Air Asia' flight operation from Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the flight operations of Malaysian private airline "Air Asia" from Pakistan. The formal flight operation will start from next month.

A ceremony was held here at a local hotel on Thursday, where Malaysian Consul General in Karachi Herman Hardyanta Ahmad and the airline's CEO and other distinguished guests were in attendance.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Sindh said SIFC is a project that has also attracted Malaysian investment. Governor said bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia would continue to flourish with passage of time. He expressed hope that with the start of Sir Asia operation, bilateral economic and cultural cooperation of

both the countries will be strengthened. He said the President, Prime Minister, and the Chief of the Army were working day and night to improve the economy of the country. Governor assured his full support to the Malaysian private airline operation.

Kamran Tessori said that the entire nation must stand ogether for the development of Pakistan.

Governor said that the arrival of the private airline will give Karachi a prominent place on the global aviation map and this development is in line with the vision of the Government of Pakistan. He said that the launch of an international private airline in Karachi is a manifestation of confidence of the foreign investors and opportunities being provided to them in Pakistan. The Malaysian Consul General Herman Hardyanta and the CEO of a private airline also addressed the ceremony.

Malaysian Consul General said the Airline will start its

flights from May 30. He thanked the Governor Sindh for his support in the start of the operation of the Air Asia.

KPPSC annual report presented to Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission (KPPSC), Captain (Retired) Munir Azam, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House on Thursday and presented the KPPSC Annual Report for the year 2024.

According to report, the Commission received recruitment requests for 1,187 vacant posts from various provincial departments. During 2024, KPPSC advertised a total of 1,691 vacancies, receiving applications from 39,225 candidates. After conducting tests and interviews, the Commission recommended 992 candidates for appointment to various departments. The report also highlighted that the KPPSC conducted 115 qualification tests during the year and recommended 85 Provincial Management Service (PMS) officers to the provincial government based on the results of the competitive examination.

Chairman Munir Azam informed the Governor that the Commission is working on an electronic shortlisting system as part of the online application process. He said that the implementation of this technology would enhance the efficiency and speed of the recruitment process.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi appreciated the overall performance of the KP Public Service Commission, callng it a trustworthy constitutional institution. He emphasized the importance of selecting competent and deserving candidates purely on merit. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is full of capable and educated talent," he said, stressing the need for greater transparency in both competitive exams and general recruitment processes.

Meanwhile, Director Commercial Audit Sarfaraz Hussain Ansari called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, and presented the audit report for the year 2024-25 related to public sector enterprises in the province. The audit report includes financial assessments of several key institutions such as the Forest Development Corporation, Small Industries Development Board, KP EZMIC, and TEVTA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Prepared by the Auditor General of Pakistan, the report focuses on ensuring financial transparency and accountability in these public sector organizations.

The Governor was informed that the audit reports of 12 different institutions contain nearly 700 audit paras, many of which are pending discussion due to delays in convening Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meetings.

On this occasion, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of fully implementing the recommendations provided in audit reports. He said that financial transparency and discipline are essential for achieving economic and institutional objectives, adding, "Without accountability in financial matters, the goals of good governance and institutional reform cannot be realized.

12 for Urs of Madhu Lal Hussain Organised annually, Mela candles and oil lamps near the

LAHORE (APP): The city will observe a local holiday on April 12 in connection with the urs of Hazrat Shah Hussain, famously known as Madhu Lal Hussain, one of the most celebrated Sufi saints of Punjab. The three-Mela Chiraghan (Festival of Lights), considered Lahore's largest cultural and spiritual event, will commence on this date.

According to official sources from the Auquf Department, both religious and cultural festivities will be held at Shalimar Gardens and the Darbar of Madhu Lal Hussain in Baghbanpura. While the urs traditionally takes place in March, this year it was rescheduled to April 12 due to the observance of Ramazan.

Chiraghan commemorates shrine. As space runs out, the the spiritual legacy of Hazrat candles are added to a large Shah Hussain, a 16th-century Punjabi Sufi poet and mystic. The event attracts devotees participate, creating thousands of devotees from a powerful visual symbol of across the country and beyond, who gather to pay tribute through traditional practices including lamp lighting, drumming, and folk

music performances.

observed during the Mela heritage, cultural resilience involves devotees lighting and communal unity.

communal bonfire, which continues to grow as more collective devotion.

The rhythmic sound of 'dhols' [traditional drums] said to be among the best in the Indian Subcontinent, is a major draw for attendees. On the first day of the urs, Drum circles form throughout the Mela grounds, where people dance and express their spiritual joy in vibrant

honours the life and teachings of Shah Hussain but also of Lahore Authority. serves as a nymg can be defined at the serves as a nymg can be defined at t

Lahore observes holiday on April

ing the Camera Control lives. He distributed stationery, colors, and other

traditional rituals will be held at the saint's shrine in Baghbanpura, while official ceremonies and public festivities will take place at the adjacent Shalimar Gardens, organised by the Walled City

and emotional displays. Mela Chiraghan not only

Use of hose pipes for car wash in offices, residences banned

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on generations. Thursday has imposed ban on usage of hose pipes in government offices, residences and other buildings for car wash.

Director General, Environmental Protection Agency Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh informed APP that during the year 2024 the Punjab has received 42 per cent (below normal) rainfall from 1st September 2024 to until modified or withdrawn.

drought conditions. Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh further said that the move is aimed at mitigating potential benefit of present and future

complete ban on the usage of hose pipes in all the government offices, buildings, residences for car wash within the territorial jurisdiction of the province of

Penal Code (PPC).

Punjab", he confirmed. To a query he said that this order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force also been imposed. Any violation of this order shall be punishable under

Section 188 of the Pakistan The EPA has already taken steps for conservabanned, DG EPA added.

Likewise, ban on flood

Ombudsman emphasises swift relief for public grievances

LAHORE (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has said that providing immediate relief to the public is the core mission of the Ombudsman's office. He emphasised that restoring public trust in institutions is essential for good governance, and easy access to grievance redress mechanisms is key to resolving citizens' issues.

He expressed these views while inaugurating the Regional Office of the Federal Ombudsman in Sahiwal and addressing the media. The event was attended by Commissioner Sahiwal Division Shoaib Iqbal Syed, Regional Advisor Inayatullah Doula, Vice President of Sahiwal Press Club Mian Waseem Riaz and Deputy Director Yasir Malik. Qureshi said that complaints from the public would be addressed against all federal institutions, including Sui Gas, MEPCO, LESCO, Railways, FIA, Customs, NADRA, Passport Office and the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI). He added that citizens do not need to hire a lawyer or pay any fees to seek redress. The federal ombudsman further informed that 25 regional offices have been established across the country to facilitate people in remote areas.

LAHORE (APP): In a bid to to ensure the prudent use of immediate closure of all

15th January 2025, which is likely to leading to moderate

environmental hazards and tion of water, including

check water wastage, the natural resources for the illegal / unapproved car wash / service stations. mandatory installation of "We have imposed a car wash wastewater recy cling system and channels at car wash stations.

Giving the detail o banned practices he said that ban has been imposed on use of oil washing of vehicles, and ban on the use of water for washing of cars through use of hose pipes in the houses have

irrigation of lawns, gardens, golf courses and green belts including use of groundwater in construction activities, and establishment of new car wash stations have been

ufone 49

Public Notice

Dear Customers. Following will be the prices of below offers effective 17th April

Offer	Price	Offer	Price
Social Champion Offer	Rs.400	Social Plus Offer	Rs. 650
Monthly Facebook Offer	Rs.400	Social Extreme Offer	Rs.700
Social Hero Offer	Rs.600	Social Infinity Offer	Rs.1200

Rehmatullah expressed gratitude to the ful environment throughout community for their overwhelming response. A key

WAWA was graciously attended by locality situated next to the dren of South Waziristan.

The campaign saw enthusiastic participation from 34 schools—both government Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower and private institutions across Wana. According to Muhammad Nasir Khan. reliable estimates, over The event witnessed 8,000 male and female stuactive participation from

Wana Welfare Association

organizes mass

enrollment campaign

dents took part in the event, various stakeholders, demonstrating widespread including the Department community support for the of Education, local journalists, social activists, region-The campaign was led al elders, and notably, the President Police Department, which who ensured a secure and peace-

A particularly inspiring highlight of the day was a aspect of the campaign was vibrant procession held in the participation of young Wana Main Bazaar, which girls from Angoor Ada, a

Afghan border—where, ir stark contrast, educational access for girls remains heavily restricted. Their presence not only high lighted the significance of the campaign but also sent a powerful message about the right to education for all, regardless of geograph-

testament to the collective efforts of the community local leadership, and civil society in championing education and opening doors to a brighter future for the chil-

ical or political boundaries.

This campaign stands as a



Peshawar City The Frontier Post



PESHAWAR: Participants of the 5th International Public Health Conference in a group photo at the end of the conference organized by Khyber Medical University.

5th Int'l Public Health **Conference concludes**

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The International Public Health from the WASH and health Conference organized by response to the cholera out-Khyber Medical University break in Sudan, underscor-(KMU) Institute of Public ing the strain placed by Health & Social Sciences global funding constraints (IPH&SS), Peshawar, con- on effective cluded with great enthusi- response and prevention. Dr. asm and success. The four- Bilal Ahmed, Immunization day conference brought together renowned public Headquarters, New York, health experts, policymak- highlighted global efforts ers, researchers, and stu-toward eliminating maternal dents from across the coun- and neonatal tetanus, calling and middle-income country and abroad. The event attention to Pakistan's tarserved as an effective plat- gets for elimination by 2026. form for dialogue, knowl-

a plenary session focused on to ensure sustainability and Communicable Diseases, equity. featuring thought-provoking Götzinger, Head of the presentations from leading Transcultural Pediatrics Unit experts. Dr. Kashif Asghar, at former Research Scientist at Austria, delivered a com-Cancer Hospital & Research and perinatal tuberculosis, keynote address. He emphaness, sized the importance of research in neonatal TB biobanking in Pakistan, cases. Closing the first seshighlighting its potential to sion, Dr. Fozia Parveen from revolutionize diagnostics, Aga Khan University pretreatment, and research in sented on the nexus between dation for evidence-based municable and non-commuhealthcare in Pakistan and nicable diseases, emphasizmust be integrated into our ing the urgency for interdis-

public health strategy," he ciplinary action.

noted. Dr. Fawad Khan, Sudan Cluster 5th Coordinator, shared insights outbreak Specialist at UNICEF

Dr. Razia Fatima edge exchange, and the for- addressed tuberculosis (TB) mulation of impactful strate- control in Pakistan, advocatgies on major public health ing for integrated care models that merge TB services The last day opened with with broader health systems Fĺorian Ottakring Hospital, Shaukat Khanum Memorial pelling talk on congenital delivered the urging for increased awarescreening, and diseases. climate change, education, Biobanking offers a foun- and the dual burden of com-

The second plenary session turned the spotlight on Public Mental Health, a growing priority in both global and national public health agendas. Prof. Dr Saeed Farooq from Keele University, UK, shared findings transformative from his work in translating implementation research into real-world practice, offering a roadmap for actionable public mental health interventions in low-

This was followed by Prof. Dr. Jehanzeb, who delved into emerging research in psychology emphasizing the need for culturally relevant mental frameworks health Pakistan.

The session concluded with Director General Health Services Dr Muhammad Saleem, who lauded the conference for fostering high-level dialogue and collaboration. Vice Chancellor KMU Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq expressed his gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for commitment advancing public health in Pakistan and beyond. As the conference continues, the exchange of global expertise and local insights promises to pave the way for stronger more resilient health sys-

Pir Musavir, Muzammil discuss funds allocation



F.P. Report

on Forests, Environment. Advisor, Muzammil Aslam greatly benefit the people at his office in the Civil of Malakand.

Musavir Khan discussed in Malakand funds for the development and welfare of the people of Malakand district from affordable electricity but is development, as their doorstep, and all available resources will be utilized for this purpose.

PESHAWAR: Special the Malakand 3 hydropow-my Assistant to the Chief er station.

He emphasized the Finance

the revenue generated also of great importance through tobacco cess and for the provincial econo-

During the meeting, Wildlife, importance of providing Muzammil Aslam assured and Climate Change, Pir development funds to the the Special Assistant that Musavir Khan, met with local community, stating funds from the Malakand the Provincial Finance that this initiative would Three hydropower project reatly benefit the people would be provided promptly for the development of Malakand's peo-During the meeting, Pir ther remarked that the ple. He also stated that the usavir Khan discussed in Malakand Three provincial government's detail with the Finance hydropower is a significant top priority is to provide Advisor the allocation of achievement for the services to the people a

Police Peshawar is utilizing

all available resources to

The delegation high-

Arms association delegation meets SSP operations

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A joint delegation of Arms Dealers Association,

(SSP) Operations Peshawar gation that Capital City Masood Ahmad, on Thursday.

The meeting focused on provide foolproof security Arms the city's security situation, to the business and industri Manufacturers Association, challenges faced by arms al community. Sarhad Business industry stakeholders, and lighted security concerns and other challenges faced Alliance meet with Senior ways to enhance coopera-Superintendent of Police tion. SSP assured the dele-

by industry stakeholders, which the SSP promised to address promptly. The participants emphasized the importance of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the business community to maintain peace and order in the city.

The delegation comprised Bilal Khan, Sana . Ullah and Pirzada and Ashiq Khan Khalil, a leader Sarhad Business Alliance also attended the

Prominent political figure Malik Saqib Khan joins PPP F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Malik Saqib Khan, a well-known politipersonality from Peshawar, has announced his decision to join the Pakistan Peoples Party

He is the son of the late Barkat Khan Dauranpur, who served as General Secretary of the Zardari Committee.

The announcement came during the commemoration of the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. At the event, PPP Gulf President Mian Munir Hans extended an invitation to Malik Saqib to return to the party which he accepted.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Saqib said that he grew up seeing his father express unwavering support for Nawaz Sharif and witnessed the services his father rendered for the party. He added that he is now ready to make sacrifices for the Pakistan Peoples Party and its leadership.

Expressing his gratitude to Mian Munir Hans for his trust, Malik Saqib vowed to live up to expectations and work tirelessly. He praised the legacy of Zulfigar Ali Bhutto, stating that his contributions to the country are widely acknowledged.

He also expressed hope that he would work at all levels to promote the PPP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Malik Saqib emphasized that the public still remembers the PPP and criticized the current government, accusing it of being disconnected from the people and claiming that the police only served their own interests. He concluded by predicting that the public would once again reject such leadership in the upcoming elections.

Minister pays surprise visit to livestock store

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Minister for

Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives, Hakeem Yousafzai, paid a surprise visit to a government livestock store on Warsak Road here on Thursday to inspect the availability of medicines and vaccines for cattle in merged districts.

During the visit, he reviewed the quantity, distribution mechanisms and quality standards of

the supplies.

Addressing the store's staff and relevant officials, the Provincial minister emphasized ensuring transparency and merit at all stages of procurement and distribution of medicines and vaccines.

He warned that strict legal action would be taken against negligence, corruption or compromises on quality. Highlighting the stor-

age process for imported vaccines used in artificial insemination, Provincial minister Fazal Hakeem stressed the need to maintain appropriate temperature controls and ensure timely, transparent distribution to livestock farmers.

He stated, "The livestock sector plays a vital role in the province's economy. Millions of rural families depend on it for their livelihoods."

KPIC not to tolerate negligence in provision of information: Farah Hamid

Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission (KPIC) Chief Information Commissioner Farah Hamid Khan has stated that any shortcomings by institutions in providing information will not be tolerated. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission has summoned Public Information Officers from various institutions to address citicomplaints,

Thursday. Additional Assistant Commissioner Karak appeared before the commission regarding three separate complaints Additional the against Commissioner's Office provide the requested Kurram. The complaints information within 4 days included requests for land for DPC meeting minutes records, promotion and and 7 days for solar system recruitment information, record. and details about solar systems and their beneficiar- of Police (DSP) Karak also

Chief mission regarding a com- the commission's instruc-Commissioner ordered plaint from a citizen Assistant requesting an inquiry report and other informa-Deputy Commissioner Karak to tion from the DPO office.

for Soil Conservation, Lakki Marwat appeared before the commission Deputy Superintendent regarding a complaint.

Moreover, District Officer

appeared before the com- in failure to comply with

tions will result in disciplinary action under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Farah Hamid Khan emphasized that access to information is a fundamental right of every citizen. She added that the departments that fail to provide timely KPIC will initiate action information to citizens will

Service Tribunal grants status quo against MS Satellite hospital

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Pakhtunkhwa Tribunal has staus quo 2024 and performed his 2025, and claimed the hosagainst suspension of duties professionally with pital was in poor condition Mahmood appeal and sus-Medical Superintendent a clean record and no with expired medicines Satellite Hospital Nahaqi Peshawar, Dr. Khalid Emergency

The counsel argued that reforms at the hospital. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khyber assumed the charge of Chief Minister visited the Service Medical Superintendent in hospital on January 2, Emergency charges against him. He and absent staff. Dr. notification, allowing him was appointed as MS of Khalid was suspended, to receive his salary. The

The Health Advisor to Mahmood Qureshi, and ordered the release of his salary, on Thursday.

Hospital Nahaqi Peshawar ed against him, with notiparties response and implemented several 2 and February 2, 2025 hearing.

stated. The tribunal, led by Member Rashida Banu, heard pended the suspension

respectively, the counsel

Satellite and an inquiry was initiat- tribunal also directed both parties to submit their responses by the next

The Chairman expressed

satisfaction over the pace of

work and lauded the coor-

dination between federal

and provincial stakehold-

ers. He urged all concerned

He emphasized the

Senator Nasir visits PHA-F Residencia Housing Scheme

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chairman of the Senate Housing & Works Senator Telaband ongoing development.

Others members of the Standing Senator Senator Khalida Ateeb and Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro also accompanied the Assessment have been succhair in this visit. The projectsfully completed. ect is a joint venture (Government-to-Government) PHA Foundation (Federal), residential units and a comthe Ministry of Housing & mercial strip, with a PC-I evaluation is in progress Works, and the Khyber approved at a cost of Rs. Pakhtunkhwa Housing 43.72 billion by vetting for infrastructure Department, initiated Development Working and housing has been comthrough an MoU signed on Party and the PHA-F board. December 11, 2019, and formalized into Framework Agreement on January 3, 2025.

This flagship housing project aims to deliver quality, affordable residential units and improve urban infrastructure in Peshawar. Located in Mauza Surizai Bala and Garhi Chandan along the Uch Canal, the project spans approximately 8,500 kanals.

Managing Director PHA-F Shahid Hussain briefed the Chairman through a detailed presenta-

tion at the Federal Lodge, Pak PWD, Shami Road, The Peshawar.

Standing Committee on land disputes with the Nasir Mehmood Butt visit- resolved through an agreeed the site of the PHA-F ment signed on February 1, Residencia Housing Project 2023, under which 168 Chairman was briefed that to prevent delays in project at Surizai, District plots (Cat-IV, 5 Marla) the construction of Main delivery. Peshawar, to review the were allocated to affected residents.

Topographic Survey, Committee Geotechnical Husna Bano, Investigations, Resistivity Survey, and Seismic Hazard

The Chairman was further briefed that Phase-1 between (Block A) includes 2,510

total number of planned residential plots is 7,786, He was apprised that the while 5,632 apartments are included across Blocks A, community B, C, and D. Regarding ongoing con- departments to expedite the

He was informed that the

struction activities, the issuance of pending NOCs Boulevard and related services is underway; temporary police check post is near completion, founda-Electric tion work for the main police station has commenced, tenders for the construction of 885 grey structure houses has been boundary wall, main gate,

and security check posts launched by KP-PHA; bid while the third-party design vetting for infrastructure

importance of transparency, quality, and adherence to timelines. Administration of PHA-

F and KP-PHA reaffirmed their commitment to completing the project within the stipulated five-year issued and tenders for time frame, aiming to provide a transformative housing solution for the region. The visit concluded with an on-site inspection of Block A, commercial areas, and the main service corridor, followed by a meeting with



PML-N Launches weekly Public Day initiative in Peshawar

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the special directives of Engineer Minister for SAFRON, MPA Sobia Shahid to Kashmir Affairs, and Gilgit-Baltistan, the for-Public Day has cominitiative aims to directly

As part of this effort, President of the PML-N Assembly (MPA) Ms. tors, transfers in govern- between the party and the the people.

Sobia Shahid formally ment offices, complaints began holding public related to NADRA and meetings at the party's other departments, and provincial secretariat in Amir Muqam, Provincial Peshawar. A large number President of Pakistan of delegations from vari-Peshawar. A large number Muslim League-Nawaz ous regions, community (PML-N)

Khyber elders women senior sit Pakhtunkhwa and Federal izens, and youth met with

present their concerns. To facilitate the public mal launch of a weekly and ensure swift resolution of issues, senior party menced in the provincial leader and former provincapital, Peshawar. The cial assembly candidate Azmat Khan also joined listen to the public's everyday issues, assess them thoroughly, and ensure timely resolution through effective meas-

ate follow-up. public included electricity

the lack of facilities for women. Ms. Sobia Shahid

patiently listened to all concerns and issued onthe-spot orders for resolving many complaints by directly contacting relevant departmental officers. She emphasized that the leadership of PML-N believes in public service and, under the guidance of Engineer Amir Muqam, this weekly engagement will continue regularly.

A large number of party workers also attended the event and appreciated the ership. Public Day initiative, not-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa load-shedding, gas supply seek solutions to their opportunity for public Women's Wing and shortages, problems in problems while strengthmember of the Provincial health and education securing the connection efforts for the welfare of

other departments, and leaders from Peshawar paid tribute to Engineer Amir Muqam for his decision, stating that the party is demonstrating real pubrepresentation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Every party member is

committed to serving the

people, and this initiative

will be expanded across the province. It is worth noting that the weekly Public Day will be held every week at the party secretariat, where citizens can freely present their concerns directly to the party lead-

The party has reaf-The issues raised by the ing that it provides citi- firmed its commitment to zens with a platform to creating every possible seek solutions to their opportunity for public



Seminar

on 'role of

Ombudsman'

arranged

F.P. Report

Elementary College of

Education for Women

the Ombudsman". In the

seminar, the Regional

Larkana Ali Akbar Jagirani

said that the Provincial

Ombudsman of Sindh plays

its role in solving adminis-

trative justice and adminis-

trative problems and pro-

Sohail Rajput Satara-e-Imtiaz provincial ombuds-

man Sindh Karachi. In this

Elementary College of

Education for Women,

Larkana, lecturers, students

were also present in large

numbers, while the co-lec-

turers, students were also

asked questions from the

regional director of the

Ombudsman, Ali Akbar

Jagirani, who were also

given satisfactory answers.

polls scheduled on 17th:

The schedule of the elec-

tion of the Gomi Bai Ladies

Club, Ladies Club Welfare

Limited has been released.

according to which the

election will be held on April 17 under the supervi-

sion of the authorized elec-

tion officer Javed Ahmed

bearers and managing com-

mittee office bearers of Bai

Ladies Club will be held on

the 17th of this current

month when such a sched-

High Court Bar Association

illegal extraction of 6

Karachi Bar Association.

Bar Association president

to his opposition to the plan

to forcefully build canalls

is a cowardly act was also

Accumulated

toxic gas

kills 3 youths

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: At least three

youths lost their lives due

police

SHCBA protests against

ule has also been issued.

The election of office

Cooperative

Laghari.

Gomibai Ladies Club

seminar organized

Muhammad

Principal

moting good governance. The workshop was organized by Muhammad

Sindh

Malaȟ

Society

Government

Director

Ombudsman



In brief

Three die in road mishap F.P. Report

KHAIRPUR: Near Khairpur, on the Mehran National Highway at Korundi, a collision occurred between a passenger van and a Vigo, resulting in the death of three people including the driver, and injuring more than 15 others. The condition of three injured passengers is reported to be critical. Following the accident, the bodies and injured have been immediately transported to a local hospital. During the accident, the passenger van caught fire, but rescue teams quickly brought the fire under control. According to the police, the passenger van was traveling from Sukkur Nawabshah when the accident took place. Investigations into the accident are ongoing.

Malgari Wakeelan greeted F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Malgari Wakeelan, a lawyers' wing of the Awami National Party (ANP), on Thursday congratulated the newly elected cabinet of the Dera Bar President Miankhel and his cabi net. They expressed hope that the new leadership will uphold the rule of law and work for the welfare of the Shahab oppressed. Khan, Sherullah Wazir, Shehryar Khattak, and Abdul Rahim Bettani, joined the victory celebration. Malgari Wakeelan General Secretary Abdul Rahim Bettani said that the success of Malgari Wakeelan across the province reflects the trust of lawyers in the ANP. He praised the new president, Qaisar Khan, as a kind and capable leader.

Free medical camp held F.P. Report

HANGU: District adm-Scouts organized one day free medical camp Naryab area of Hangu district in which almost one thousand patients obtained treatment and medicine, on Thursday. According to details, Eye Specialist Dr. Muhammad Igbal along with Child specialist, Orthopedic specialist, general physicians and paramedics staff facilitated local communities in provision of treatment. Deputy Commissioner Hangu Gohar Zaman Commandant Scouts Alamgir paid surprise visit to the medical camp while inspected provision of facilities.

Foolproof security to be ensured F.P. Report

HASSAN **ABDAL** Deputy Commissioner, Attock Rao Atif Raza has said that the district administration is making arrangements for ensuring foolproof security for Sikh pilgrims on the occasion of "Baisakhi festival" He stated this while visiting Gurdwara Panja Sahib District Police Officer (DPO), Dr Sardar Ghias Gul Khan was also present on the occasion. The DPO said that providing foolproof security to the people during religious festival was the prime duty of the police.

Notorious dacoit gang arrested F.P. Report

GUJRANWALA: The Gujranwala City Police have arrested two members of the notorious Asad dacoit gang on Thursday, recovering two motorcycles and 50,000 in cash. The accused identified as Asad and Nasir, were apprehended by a police team led by CIA DSP Ansar Javed Mohal, demonstrating exceptional performance in tackling crime.

AI education launched in schools

F.P. Report

MUZAFFARGARH: Eight government schools in Muzaffargarh have introduced race toward digital literacy. Artificial Intelligence (AI) education, opening doors to a brighter and tech-driven future for hundreds of boys and girls in the region.

At Government Girls High School, Shah Jamal, over 300 female students are being trained in cutting-edge tools like Chat GPT, Jasper AI, Canva, QuillBot, and YouTube automation—skills that were once considered distant dreams in rural

Sadia Gulzar, an IT educator at the school, shared her pride in the transformation. "From sixth to tenth grade, students are now engaging with a specially designed syllabus that equips them with practical digital skills," she told APP. "Our students can now design certificates, create impressive presentations, draft professional CVs, and explore graphic design—all on their animals which was to supply to multiple

through the efforts of Pakistani-American he funded and established modern com- an inquiry.

that even the remotest corners of Muzaffargarh are not left behind in the

In Shah Jamal School, lab is equipped with 30 computers, creating a structured environment for hands-on learning. More than just learning to use modern tools, many of these students are being empowered to explore freelance and remote work opportunities. The initiative is not only nurturing technical skill sets but also inspiring hope and ambition among young learners and their families, said Sadia. She added that Muzaffargarh would emerge as AI hub in future as local students are taking too much interest.

Police recover unhealthy meat: The police recovered two maunds of unhealthy meat from a vehicle near here on Thursday.

According to an official spokesman, a animals which was to supply to multiple restaurants in the district. The police This transformation was made possible arrested two butchers, Imran and Usman of Ghazi Ghat area. The police informed philanthropist Dr Amir Leghari. Through the food authority which confirmed that his NGO, Education Innovation Network, the meat was of dead animals and initiated

DBA Kohat elects new cabinet for 2025-26

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: The annual elections of the District Bar Association (DBA) for the year 2025-26 have been completed. Aman Bangash was elected as the President of DBA Kohat while Syed Basit Ali Shah was elected as the Vice President. Similarly, Mudassar Khattak Advocate was elected as the General

According to the details, the elections of DBA Kohat were held in the Bar Room of Kohat under the chair-Malik manship Muhammad Ishaq, who Secretary Finance Fehmida together to resolve the was assisted by Malik Naz Advocate, Press issues of the legal commu-Mohtasham Advocate and Secretary Bilal Daraz nity and the bar on a prior-Ishtiaq-ur-Rehman Khattak Khattak Advocate and the ity basis.



Advocate. According to the results,

Aman Advocate was elected as Bangash



Executive Member Mian Amir Waqas Afridi were Khan Bangash elected unopposed.

After announcing the the President of the Kohat results, all the elected Bar Association. Similarly, office bearers congratulat-Joint Secretary Farid Khan ed each other and pledged Advocate, that they all will work Secretary Finance Fehmida together to resolve the

DBA Mardan elects 2025-26 cabinet

Fazal Haq

Iqbal Advocate of the Muhammad Grand Alliance was elected as the President with a large majority, while Zulfiqar Ali Khan Advocate was elected as the General Secretary, respectively.

In this regard, the elections of the District Bar Association Mardan were held under the supervision securing 400 votes. of the Election Committee,

in which there was a close Secretary, Grand Alliance contest between Asif Iqbal candidate Zulfiqar Ali MARDAN: The elections Advocate of the Grand Khan Advocate secured of the District Bar Alliance, Noor Badshah 458 votes. Grand Alliance Association (DBA) Mardan Toru Advocate of the candidate Taimur Khan have been completed. Asif Democratic Alliance and Butt Advocate for the post of President.

> Grand Alliance presidential candidate Asif Iqbal Secretary Advocate was elected presi- Alliance candidate Amir dent. For the post of Vice Afzal Khan Advocate won President Wahab Ali with 325 votes. The total Advocate of Grand Alliance number of voters of District was declared successful by Bar Association Mardan

Advocate was declared suc-Muzammil cessful for the post of Joint Secretary by securing 493 votes.

For the post of Finance Democratic was 891 out of which 765 For the post of General voters cast their votes.

Dysfunctional DHQ hospital put patients in misery

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Patients traveling from remote and underdeveloped areas of the district are facing immense hardships due to the continued lack of essential medical services and the prolonged dysfunction of digital X-ray machines at the District Headquarters recently, the ultrasound Hospital and Centre Trauma Hafizabad.

Despite repeated visits Deputy the Commissioner, provincial ministers, and other senior officials, these inspections appear to be little more than ceremonial photo opportunities, offering no tangible relief to suffering patients. Disillusioned and frustrated, many patients and their families have voiced harsh criticism of both the current government and local administration, holding them accountable for the worsening healthcare crisis.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif con- not being provided under the ty for all.

tinues to make public government's health card pledges about providing scheme either, rendering the quality healthcare at the citstate-sponsored initiative izens' doorsteps, the situa- ineffective in the region. tion on the ground in Insiders allege that dur

Hafizabad paints a starkly ing official visits, only different picture. The hos- selected patients are prepital's digital X-ray sented to visiting dignimachines have reportedly taries, and hospital staff been non-functional for an present a curated and misextended period. More leading overview of the facility's operations. This machine has also become practice masks the deepinoperative, leaving the rooted issues plaguing the facility further incapacitathospital and prevents higher authorities from under-As a result, thousands of standing the true extent of patients many of whom the crisis. travel long distances seek-

The people of Hafizabad ing treatment—are being have made an urgent appeal to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and senior government authorities to take immediate and decies. For the economically sive action. They demand a disadvantaged, this has comprehensive overhaul of turned access to even basic the healthcare system in the healthcare into a burden- district to ensure functional medical equipment, consis-Moreover, even funda- tent availability of medimental medications are fre- cines, and transparency in quently unavailable at the hospital operations, so that According to reports, DHQ Hospital. Patients the promise of accessible while Chief Minister report that essential drugs are healthcare becomes a reali-DHQ Hospital. Patients the promise of accessible

International conference at **University of Poonch on 14th**

forced to rely on private

laboratories and diagnostic

centers, incurring signifi-

cant out-of-pocket expens-

F.P. Report

Faculty of Management Sciences at the University of organizing an international conference on April 14. The opening session of the conference will be held at the ed. main campus of the University of Poonch in Dr. Zakria Zakar has academic community.

some ordeal.

The ence is "A Bright Future for the World and Artificial this conference is an honor Intelligence, Innovation, and Poonch Rawalakot, in collaboration with Lahore tinue for five days. National Garrison University, is and international experts will present research papers. this conference will provide Arrangements for the con- a platform for scholars and ference have been complet-

expressed confidence in the The theme of the confer-preparations for the conference. He stated that hosting and a matter of pride for the University of Poonch as a global academic gathering.

He further mentioned that professionals to exchange ideas and offer an opportuni-Vice Chancellor Professor ty to connect with the global

OUETTA: Secretary General of Anjuman-e-Tulba Islam Pakistan, Faisal Qayyum addressing a press Dir political activist rejoins PTI

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A seminar LOWER DIR: Malik Rehmanullah was held at Government Advocate, a former PTI provincial joint est department on Tuesday arranged secretary who had parted ways with the party two years ago to join Jamaat-e-Larkana about the "role of | Islami, rejoined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Rabat. (PTI) during a function at his Hujra in Talash on Thursday.

The gathering was attended by party workers and key leaders, including former district president Malik Fakhr uz Zaman and district general secretary Ghulam Hussain. Speakers reiterated their commitment to PTI Chairman Imran Khan, calling him the symbol of resistance and "real freedom" despite his prolonged incarceration. Malik Rehmanullah expressed full confidence in the party's leadership at all levels and pledged to continue working for PTI's cause.

JI youth wing: Jamaat-e-Islami Youth Lower Dir has appointed Ikramuddin Mashwani as its new general secretary. The decision was made by JI Youth President Atiq-ur-Rehman in consultation with the party's Lower Dir Ameer, Maulana Asadullah Khan. Party leaders expressed best wishes for

appointment has been warmly welcomed by JI workers and supporters.

official on retirement: Ghulam Hussain unknown reasons, his dedication and hard

trious 37-year career as Superintendent in the Forest Department Dir Lower!

The officials of Lower Dir district forfarewell function in honour of Ghulam Hussain Haji Sahib at a local hotel here at

Speaking on the occasion conservator of forest Malakand east forest circle Shaukat Fayaz , Abdul Majeed District Forest Officer Chitral, Rafiqullah DFO Upper Chitral, Muhammad Rashid DFO Dir Kohestan, DFO patrol squad Malakand east circle Asif Ali Shah and DFO Lower Dir Shabir Ahmad Jan paid rich tribute to Ghulam Hussain Haji for his matchless services for the department.

SDFOs, RFOs and a large number of officials of the forest department and family members of Haji sahib were present on the occasion. They said that the remarkable journey of Haji Sahib has been an epitome of honesty, duty, and dedication.

His unwavering commitment to his work has left an indelible mark on the Forest Department, and his selfless services will be cherished for generations to come, they added. It's worth mentioning here that Haji Sahib's exceptional contrithe newly appointed office-bearer, butions were recognized by the governexpressing hope he would fulfill his ment of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the cabresponsibilities with dedication. The inet division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had recommended his name for a prestigious civil award. Although it wasn't conferred Tribute paid to forest department upon him by the federal government for alias Haji Sahib got retired from his illus- work remain unparalleled.

'Mines & Minerals Act to face people with poverty'

F.P. Report

BUNER: Emir Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Malakand division Inayatullah Khan has alleged that the provincial government is handing over minerals to the Federation and the United States, due to which the province will suffer even more poverty and misery will be the destiny of Khy-

proposed canals: Sindh ber Pakhtunkhwa people. JI Emir also announced (SHCBA) Larkana, held commencement of long rally was taken out from march towards Islamabad the bar room against the on 20th April and added that the Israeli aggression canals from Indus River inside Palestine continues and the murderous attack and announced that the due to which their busi-Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan nesses were destroyed and on the president of the Sindh High Court Karachi march to Islamabad on ble to restore these dam- present. Advocate Aamir Nawaz Waraich, was attacked due

ernment feel its responsibil-

raised for Palestine from other countries of the world, while the rulers of Pakistan are not showing seriousness in this regard. He mentioned the government's efforts to implement the tax system in

Malakand Division which he has been described as the treatment of a stepmother towards the people of Malakand Division who were already badly affected by terrorism and floods

He expressed these in this regard. views while addressing a According to Inavatullah crowded press conference Khan, voices are being at the Markaz Islami Swari Buner on Wednesday. On this occasion, General Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakhtunkhwa

Muhammad Halim Bacha, District Amir Engineer Nasir Ali Khan, District General Secretary Shahrom Bacha, former Provincial Speaker Bakht Jahan Khan, former District Nazim Dr. Ubaidullah, Ba b Amir Ghulam Mustafa Advocate, Muhammad Hanif and Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Abdul Ghaffar and other has decided to hold a long still it has not been possi- district leaders were also

Vigilance committees formed to ensure exam transparency on the Indus River, which

F.P. Report

KHAIRPUR: In an effort to ensure transparency and prevent cheating in the annual ninth and tenthgrade examinations, vigilance committees have been established at the district and tehsil levels in Khairpur.

to gas leakage in Martung from the Chief Secretary male and female. Bazaar of Shangla district, informed of Sindh and is led by on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner The deceased have been identified as Fazlullah, son Rahujo. Deputy of Azizullah; Muaz, son of Commissioner Raĥujo Fazlullah; and Abdul Wali, visited several educational resident of Puran institutions, including Government Boys High School, Government Girls

Bingalay, Shangla. Police said, the victims were running a small busi-School, High ness, selling ice cream and Degree Government College for Girls and dairy products in Martung Bazaar. Due to a power Boys in Pir Jo Goth. outage last night, they During these visits, he turned on a generator to instructed exam center incharges, appointed teachkeep their products from spoiling. With all windows ers, and officials that cheating would not be toland doors tightly closed, the generator buildup toxic erated. He stressed that gas, killing the youths. In the morning, locals broke open the door and Education Act would be taken against any involved

found all three men unconofficers and staff. scious. They were rushed Assistant commissionto RHC Hospital Martung, ers, mukhtiarkars, and but all three were declared educational officers will dead on arrival.

examination centers. They ilies, who underwent bone action against those involved in malpractice or negligence. The vigilance committees will be chaired by the assistant commissioner of the respective cess. tehsil. Other members include the mukhtiarkar the medical services proand tehsil education offi-This initiative is in cers for primary and secresponse to directives ondary education, both

The notification issued to committee members Khairpur, Fayaz Hussain emphasizes the importance of maintaining transparency at examination centers, preventing cheating, not entertaining recommendations, any and submitting detailed daily reports to Deputy

Commissioner Khairpur. 120 successful bone marrow transplants conducted: A ceremony was held at the Bone Marrow of GIMS Hospital Gambat to celebrate the complestrict action under the bone marrow transplant operations. Commissioner

Patients conduct daily visits to Uzbekistan and their fam- patients.

are tasked with taking marrow transplants, also participated in the event. Deputy Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Rahujo and Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti cut a cake to mark the suc-

Families appreciated vided by the hospital's medical team. The Deputy Commissioner stated that GIMS Hospital provides international standard medical facilities and Khairpur is proud of it.

Director of GIMS, Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti, shared that so far, 120 patients have undergone successful transplants, including patients from Pakistan and Afghanistan. One Afghan patient hailed from the western border.

He further stated that the successful treatment of patients has brought joy Hematology Department and satisfaction to their families. The family of one patient praised the tion of 120 successful GIMS team, saying they have been given a new Deputy life. Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti Fayaz expressed that they are Hussain Rahujo and Dr. inspired by the prayers Captain (R) Rahim Bux and love of the families Bhatti attended the event. and are committed to profrom viding the best care to the



In Myanmar, internet shutdowns hinder earthquake aid response

a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck entombed, families do not yet know whether loved ones are among them.

That, in large part, is due to a lack of internet access that local residents and humanitarians say is severely impeding the disaster response in the Southeast Asian country. Gus, a 30year old LGBTQ+ activist living in the northwest region of Sagaing, said he is yet to learn the fate of two

He knows they were in Mandalay, reached his town. the epicentre, at the time the counour friends, our families and our comrades to make sure that they are okay," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I'm so worried about

Communications have been under control of the military junta since it violently seized power from a democratic government in 2021 in an attempt to stifle opposition, which has come in the form of ethnic armed groups and a civil disobedience movement. The military has been accused of killing close to 6,500 people since the coup in 2021 and imprisoning almost 30,000 people, including children.

Gus himself is living in hiding, wanted by the military for protesting and being a member of the LGBTQ+ community. The crackdown on dissent has left almost a third of the country with no internet at all, whilst ments. other parts have restricted access with firewalls blocking social media and news sites. Despite a call from 120 global organizations saying that internet access is "essential for coordinating live-saving emergency responses," the blackouts remain.

A "digital dictatorship" is denying communities access to lifesaving information and the ability to reach Technology like Starlink is enabling guessing what people need based on

Foundation): More than a week since research group Justice For Myanmar. unavailable and delivery routes are "It is imperative that governments Myanmar, turning buildings into con- and companies in the telecommunicacrete mortuaries where many of the tions sector pressure the junta to 3,500 confirmed casualties still lie immediately lift internet shutdown orders and censorship," Maung said.

A humanitarian worker in the country, who could not be named for security reasons, reported how in areas with complete blackouts, residents have had to travel for several days to get connectivity to call in their needs to aid groups. "It leads to an ineffective response," he said. A lack of communications, said Gus, meant three days passed before help

The blackouts also meant that try's deadliest earthquake hit on much of the Burmese population was March 28. "It's so difficult to connect denied news of the extent of the earthquake in the immediate aftermath. More than 24 hours went by before Gus, and fellow members of the wider civil disobedience movement, learned that the earthquake had not just hit their locality but was in fact widespread. He was only able to learn the extent of the devastation via access to one of the few clandestine Starlink connections belonging to business owners in the area.

Starlink is a portable Internet device that operates via a direct connection to a satellite, provided by Elon Musk's Space X. But at a starting price of \$389, it is out of reach for most Burmese who earn an average of 4,800 Burmese kyat (\$2.20) a day. For 1,000 Burmese kyat (\$0.48) for two hours, Gus, who currently has no means of earning, was able to read the latest earthquake develop-

He said he believes the lack of internet access stems from the military's intent to stop Burmese citizens from learning "of their crimes and harsh treatment of their own people." Reports have emerged of military-led attacks on earthquake-affected areas since the catastrophe and aid being communities and in-person assessthwarted on its way to those in need. loved ones, said Yadanar Maung, a the humanitarians who have flown in

(Thomson Reuters spokesperson for the activist and to mobilise when internet access is being blocked, experts said.

Starlink can provide vital connectivity when terrestrial internet is unavailable - in this case both because of earthquake damage to communications infrastructure and because of pre-existing regime internet and mobile phone shutdowns for security reasons that have not been lifted," Richard Horsey, senior adviser on Myanmar at the International Crisis Group, said in an email. "But Starlink is expensive, and there are not that many units on the ground."

Satellites and AI are being relied upon for communication and response planning when possible, although multiple aid agencies said they could not divulge specifics for fear of military reprisals. Chinese rescue teams are reportedly using a specially created AI translation tool via its DeepSeek programme to help communicating in English and in Burmese with local residents. The European Union's Copernicus is another useful tool, Horsey said, in conducting remote damage assessments, giving a rapid over-arching picture of the situation.

Microsoft's AI for Good Lab is doing something similar. Aerial pictures captured by its 15 Planet Labs satellites are being analysed by AI to reveal the areas most damaged. Such images, the humanitarian worker said, have enabled organisations to identify locations where people have congregated as well as sites of the most severe damage. But there are challenges posed by cloud coverage, he said, as the country is experiencing heavy rains, while "political restric-tions" limit the frequency of drone

"None of (these tools) are as effective as being able to go unimpeded where we would like to go," he said adding that talking to members of ments would be better than simply

PPP UK observes ZAB death anniversary F.P. Report

International

LONDON: People's Party United Kingdom chapter observed 46th death anniversary of late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto with great reverence and respect at the Baseline Studio, White Church Road, London. The event was presided over by Mohsin Bari, President of the PPP UK, and featured addresses by Choudhry Nisar, Joint Secretary of the PPP UK, Mushtaq Lashari, Aftab Bagi, and Asad Nawaz, spokesperson for the PPP UK, among others.

Dr. Abdul Wajid Khan Daudzai delivered a special address, requesting the current leadership to establish a social media team at the national and international levels to inform the new generation of youth about the sacrifices and achievements of PPP.

He stated that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was judicially murdered for making Pakistan a nuclear power and attempting to unite the Muslim world. He claimed ZA Bhutto's efforts leads Pakistan to become nuclear power, developing missile technology, providing pass-ports to Pakistanis and initiating friendship and brotherhood with Gulf countries, enabling thousands of Pakistanis to find employment abroad.

Dr. Daudzai mentioned that the European Union was formed by copying Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's idea of a unified Muslim world. He argued that if Muslim countries had formed a similar union, they would have been able to prevent attacks on Muslim nations and the ongoing atrocities in Palestine.

Germany is back, says Merz.

BERLIN (BBC): Germany's conservatives under Friedrich Merz have reached a deal with the Social Democrats to govern Europe's economy, five biggest months after the previous collapsed. said their government Merz, 69, agreement sent "a strong and clear signal" to Germans and the EU that they would get

ble of action". Germany was already in recession before it was buffeted by economic turbulence, caused by US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs. "The key message to Donald Trump is Germany is back on track,' said the chancellor-in-waiting, promising to fulfil defence commitments and revive economic competitiveness. Merz and his coalition partners have been under intense pressure to put an end to Germany's political limbo since his Christian Democrats won federal elections in February. He has also just seen his

party overtaken in an opinion poll by the far-right, antiimmigration Alternative for Germany (AfD). Announcing the government deal, Merz promised to reform and stabilise Germany, with a focus on migration, the economy and defence. "Europe can rely on Germany," he said, promising "a strong plan to bring our country to the forefront again". He will have to wait for the week starting 5 May for the new parliament to elect him as chancellor, but should have no problem with a 13-seat majority. The coalition parties had already signalled their urgency last month, when they pushed through significant reform of Germany's strict debt rules. Such changes mean the new government will be able to plough significant investment into the military and the country's crumbling

lighted dramatic shortages in the military across the board, from ammunition and soldier numbers to dilapidated barracks. Another significant part of the coalition deal is



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru and NATO Secretary

General Mark Rutte, shaking hands at the end of a joint press briefing, after

"strongly condemn" grow-

ing military ties between

North Korea and Russia,

including Russia's use of

nations in the Indo-Pacific, North Korean missiles and has also sought closer ties troops against Ukraine, with NATO, fearing that while expressing concern about China's support for Ukraine could embolden the Russian defense indus-China's assertiveness in the trial base. region. "A stronger NATO Russia continues to will benefit Japan greatly," Ishiba told a joint news conference after his talks wage war against Ukraine while maintaining its ambitions to "reshape European security," Rutte said. Both with Rutte, who was in Japan for the first time also called for upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific since becoming secretary and opposed unilateral general of the organization attempts to change the sta-In a joint statement tus quo by force in the East released after their talks, and South China Seas, and

encouraged Beijing to

improve the transparency

of its military and to coop-

erate in arms control, call-

Are B-2 bombers

supply chains, and continues to carry out "destabilizing activities" in the Indo-Pacific. Rutte praised Japan's

contributions to support Ukraine in the war against Russia, and welcomed Tokyo's willingness to participate in a NATO command for the support of Ukraine, expressed by Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani. The NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine, or NSATU, is headquartered at a US military base in Wiesbaden, Rutte said NSATU "helps Ukraine fight today but also for Ukraine to build up its armed forces for tomorrow." Details of Japan's participation still need to be discussed, but the Japanese Self Defense Force, if stationed, is not expected to involve coming on peace and stability bative roles because of the dual-use and across the Taiwan Strait. country's postwar pacifist d technologies The NATO chief told principles.

China's military presence in Western Hemisphere is 'too large': US

PANAMA CITY (AP): US Hegseth was speaking a out business with is a "sov- sale is complete. Secretary of Defense Pete day after meeting Panama's ereign decision of Panama

Panama Canal. Hegseth said that China- to pass through the Panama based companies were con- Canal. trolling land and critical

governments to work government in a statement together to deter China and on X, saying Washington transnational drug cartels further its own interests and putting the ports under the government in the last and mass immigration. that who Panama carries American control once the fiscal year, he said.

conference, fees that US warships pay

The visit comes amid infrastructure in strategic tensions over US President sectors. "China's military Donald Trump's repeated has too large of a presence assertions that the US is Western being overcharged to use Hemisphere," Hegseth said. the Panama Canal and that "Make no mistake, Beijing China has influence over its is investing and operating operations - allegations that in this region for military Panama has denied. Shortly advantage and unfair eco- after Hegseth and Mulino met, the Chinese Embassy He called on the region's in Panama criticized the US

Hegseth focused again on President José Raúl Mulino ... and something the US he would sign an agree-China's presence in the and touring the Panama doesn't have the right to ment with Panama con-Western Hemisphere, one Canal. The two countries interfere in." Hegseth said, cerning the security and day after calling the world agreed to step up security "I don't know anything operation of the Panama power a threat to the coordination and appeared about blackmail." The con- Canal that would allow US to say they would work cern about China's influ- warships to "sail first and toward a way to pay back ence over the waterway free." The fact that the US announced that the lease administration's

statement. ling stake in the ports to a average \$5 million to \$7 consortium address threats posed by had used "blackmail" to BlackRock Inc., effectively ed about \$2.4 billion for

Later, Hegseth said that

was provoked by Hong has a treaty obligation to Kong-based consortium protect the canal, but also CK Hutchison holding a had to pay to move its war-25-year lease on ports at ships between the Atlantic either end of the canal. The and Pacific oceans had Panamanian government been one of the Trump was being audited and con-plaints. Panama's Canal cluded that there were Affairs Minister José irregularities, which CK Ramón Icaza, said the two Minister José Hutchison denied in a governments would look for a mechanism to repay CK Hutchison has the fees from US warships already announced that it to use the canal. He said would be selling its control- annually they had paid on including million. The canal generat-

Ukraine's military chief says new Russian offensive has begun

KYIV (Reuters): Ukraine's observing almost a dou- with Moscow grinding out ment during his visit to military chief Oleksandr bling of the number of relatively small gains by Brussels. "We are extremely published that Russia had directions (on the frontlaunched a new offensive line)," he said. Moscow is on the northeast of the close to fully pushing country, adding that a large Ukrainian forces out of increase in assaults was their foothold in Kursk already being observed. region, which they held President Volodymyr since last August and which Zelenskiy had warned earli- lies over the border from er that Russia was prepar- Sumy region. ing an offensive on the two regions of Kharkiv and Ukrainian forces were also

"I can say that the president is absolutely right and Belgorod. The war, the first this offensive has actually year of which was marked already begun," Syrskyi by rapid Russian territorial June 5. said in an interview with gains followed by Shmyhal told reporters and Hungary, where produc-Ukrainian publication LB. Ukrainian counter-attacks, that he had extensive discus-"For several days, almost a has since become far more sions with European offi- Ukrainian goods were hurtweek, we have been of a battlefield stalemate, cials regarding the agree- ing local producers

Zelenskiy said that present in the adjacent Russian region

Syrskyi said in an interview enemy attacks in all main attacking with wave after pragmatic while talking wave of infantry squads. with European partners, we Meanwhile, Ukrainian understand our level of Prime Minister Denys responsibility," he said, to extend a permit-free Kos, the EU's enlargement freight regime with the commissioner, said at the Introduced 2022, the regime - which allows Ukrainian cargo per- Ukraine's mit-free entry to EU mar- economy, but has since

Shmyhal said it was vital adding that partners were for the country's economy listening to Ukraine. Marta European Union until at same press conference that least the end of the year. the Commission would following bring a solution before the Russia's invasion in early regime expires. The regime was designed to support war-ravaged kets - is set to expire on sparked protests in several countries, such as Poland

US says Moroccan proposal should be sole basis for Sahara talks "The United States continues to believe that genuine

infrastructure. Included in agreement were a series of measures to "control and largely end irregular migration", and impose border controls aimed at addressing one of the big concerns of voters in the February election. The AfD complained that the plans did not go far enough, accusing Merz of capitulating to the Social Democrats. In a recent report to parliament, Germany's armed forces commissioner high-

brother, prosecutors said. for defence spending to be increased, and for boosting the strength of the military.

a message to Iran?

PANAMA CITY (Reuters): US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said it was up to Iran to decide whether the recent US movement of B-2 bombers was a message to Tehran, as he voiced hope that US-Iran negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program could be resolved peacefully.

Ishiba and NATO chief

Mark Rutte vowed to fur-

ther deepen military ties

while stressing the need to

tackle together growing

threats from China, North

stepped up defense ties

with the United States, its

key ally, and other friendly

Ishiba and Rutte said

industrial cooperation is "a

shared priority" and that

they plan to focus on devel-

defense

Russia's invasion

which

Korea and Russia.

Japan,

in October.

strengthening

oping

advanced

As many as six B-2 bombers relocated in March to a US-British military base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, US officials have told Reuters, amid a US bombing campaign Yemen and mounting tensions with Iran. There are only 20 B-2 bombers in the Air Force's inventory so they are usually used spar-

Experts say that puts the B-2s, which have stealth two countries. technology and equipped to carry the heaviest US bombs and nuclear did not agree to end its weapons, in an ideal position to operate in the asking for much ... but they

sends a message to everybody," he told reporters do what we want." during a trip to Panama. "President Trump's been clear ... Iran should not have a nuclear bomb," he said. "We very much hope the President is focused on

doing that peacefully." Trump made a surprise announcement that the United States and Iran were poised to begin direct talks on Tehran's nuclear program, warning that Iran would be in "great danger" if the talks were unsuccessful. Iran, which had pushed against Trump's demands in recent weeks, said indirect talks would be held in Oman, underscoring the differences between the

Trump repeated a threat to use military force if Iran nuclear program. "I'm not

said: "We'll let them military, we're going to decide." have military. Israel will, have military. Israel will, "It's a great asset ... it obviously, be ... the leader of that. No one leads us. We declined to address when any military action could begin.

Although B-2 bombers have been employed to strike Houthi targets in Yemen in the past, most experts say use of the stealthy bomber is overkill there. However, the B-2 is equipped America's the 30,000pound GBU-57 Massive Penetrator, Ordnance designed to destroy targets deep underground. That is the weapon that experts say could be used to strike Iran's nuclear program. Western powers accuse Iran of having a clandestine agenda to develop nuclear weapons by enriching uranium to a high level of fissile purity, above what they say is justifiable for a civilian atomic energy program. Middle East. Asked if the can't have a nuclear Tehran says its nuclear pro-B-2s were meant to send a weapon," Trump told gram is wholly for civilian message to Iran, Hegseth reporters. "If it requires energy purposes.

Former Russian minister convicted in UK

LONDON (AP): A former Ukraine, prosecutors said. victed of two counts of cir-Russian government minister became the first person to be convicted in the U.K. of circumventing sanctions put in place after the illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

Dmitrii Ovsiannikov, who was appointed gover-Sevastopol in nor of Russian Crimea President Vladimir Putin in 2016, used a British bank account to illegally receive tens of thousands of pounds from his wife and accepted gifts and payments from his

Ovsiannikov, who also served as deputy minister for industry and trade, was an important political fig- reach a verdict on the final ure placed under European Union sanctions in 2017 for ed of possessing and using work that threatened the criminal property. His his brother have British pass-territorial integrity, sover- brother, Alexei ports because their father territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Owsjanikow, 47, was con-

in the U.K. in 2019 as it left the EU. "He knew he had been on the U.K. sanctions list since 2017 but chose to ignore this," said Julius Capon of the Crown Service. Prosecution "Another member of his family sought deliberately to breach the sanctions to live their own lavish lifestyle and showed com-

plete disregard for the law." Ovsiannikov, 48, was convicted in Southwark Crown Court of six out of seven counts of circumventing sanctions between February 2023 and January 2024. The jury couldn't count. He was also convict-

The sanctions were adopted cumventing sanctions for paying school tuition for Ovsiannikov's children. He was found not guilty of three additional counts of breaching sanctions for buying his brother a Mercedes-Benz worth 54,500 pounds (\$70,000) and giving him access to a bank account. Ekaterina Ovsiannikova,

47, was cleared of four counts of circumventing sanctions for allegedly funneling 76,000 pounds (\$97,000) to her husband. Lawyers had argued the brother and wife didn't know Ovsiannikov faced sanctions or were unaware he couldn't receive financial assistance. All three are Russian nationals, though Ovsiannikov and

WASHINGTON (Reuters): that President Donald Talks to resolve the conflict Trump's 2020 move to recover Western Sahara should ognize Moroccan sovereigntake place on the sole basis ty over the region remains of a Moroccan plan that US policy, State Department would give the region some spokesperson Tammy Bruce autonomy under the North said in a statement. "The African kingdom's sover- Secretary eignty, the Trump adminis- President Trump's urging for tration said.

Rubio set out the US posi- using Morocco's Autonomy tion in a meeting with Proposal as the only frame-Moroccan Foreign Minister work, to negotiate a mutual-Bourita Washington, making clear Bruce said.

reaffirmed the parties to engage in dis-

Secretary of State Marco cussions without delay, in ly acceptable solution,"

The long-frozen conflict, dating back to 1975, pits Morocco, which considers the territory as its own, against the Algeria-backed Polisario front, which seeks an independent state called the Saĥrawi Republic in Western Sahara. Rubio said a proposal first put forward which Morocco agreed to in 2007 by Morocco was normalize its relations with 'serious, credible, and real- Israel. Trump's successor Joe istic" and "the only basis for Biden shunned making a a just and lasting solution to statement on Trump's move, the dispute," according to leaving the US position

autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty is the only feasible solution," she added. Trump at the end of his first term in office recognized Moroccan claims to Western Sahara as part of a deal under ambiguous.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late) Founder Bilal Shah Afridi Chief Executive **Jalil Afridi**

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Startups fuel innovative eco-friendly solutions

N a world where the climate change crisis and resource depletion threaten the world's future, a new generation of businesses is rising to the challenge. These startups are not just chasing profit - they are driven by passion, fuelling innovation with sustainability to create solutions that protect the environment while taking the economic growth forward.

Whether through boosting the power of renewable energy, changing waste management with circular economy models, or developing cutting-edge green technologies, these businesses are writing new ways of what it means to be successful in the turbulent world.

Interestingly, business sustainability involves using present practices that fulfil current needs and preserve future people's ability to meet their requirements. The world's critical environmental problems demand startups to become catalysts of sustainable innovation.

Startups show both flexibility and readiness for adventure; thus, they function ahead in their mission to develop revolutionary solutions for environmental challenges. The main sectors where sustainable startups produce meaningful changes involve renewable energy, the circular economy, and green technology, according to Indo-Asian News Service.

New businesses across these sectors focus on developing solutions that minimise resource usage while decreasing environmental impacts.

Sustainable startups create the future direction of business by proving that operational success can co-exist with respect for nature and society to build an equitable and sustainable global economy. Corporate sustainability emerges as an essential business requirement because consumers, together with regulatory bodies and financial backers, now focus on environmental preservation. Various important reasons push forward systemic changes toward environmentally friendly People have become more aware of environmental issues, which drives them to seek products and services that reduce ecological impact, the IANS report adds.

People understand their effect on the environment better today and seek to support businesses that share their sustainability posi-

Sustainable practices receive government backing through policies that reward companies doing their part to cut down emissions and waste quantities. The implemented environmental policies establish both a sustainable future perspective and equal competition standards for businesses dedicated to sustainability. The growing interest of investors in ESG factors drives the expansion of sustainable startups. Sustainable business operations leading to long-term viability and possible future profits attract investment from the market. The marketplace embraces startups like Tesla and Beyond Meat because they have achieved remarkable success in transforming the electric vehicle and plant-based food industries. The urban transportation sector sees significant carbon emission reductions from BluSmart Mobility, which operates as India's initial exclusive electric ride-hailing

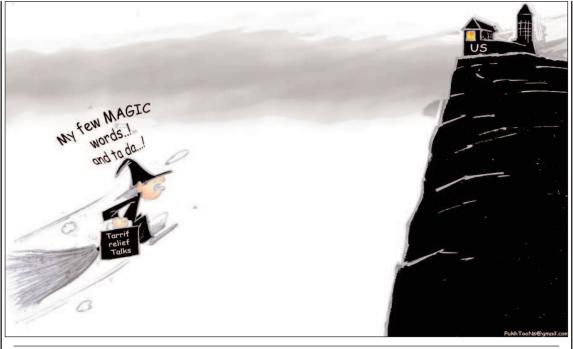
These organisations show the potential for sustainable innovation to create profitable business operations that drive the market towards environmental sustainability.

In 2024, the Indian startup ecosystem continued to embrace sustainability with notable investments and developments. The government has allocated Rs35,000 crore through the Strategic Startups Fund to support sectors like electric vehicles and green energy solutions.

Startups focused on sustainability serve as the leading force of innovation by creating major advancements throughout different market segments. Companies in the renewable energy and clean tech space lead new technological developments in solar power and wind energy while improving battery storage methods. Through their operations, these businesses simultaneously enhance energy efficiency while supplying environmentally friendly energy solutions, which serve as vital elements in fighting climate change.

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If America flops, other role models are available

Ross Anderson

minds than mine
(it's not a high bar, al, is what it says about whether that was what Saudi by restricting its access to to be honest) have generated a tsunami of words in that many people have taken the past week on the subject of what Donald Trump of a century. Trips abroad in called "Liberation Day," so it need not detain us for tinguished journalists have long today.

Will the US president's relief. tariffs, determined with that absurd faux-Greek equation, news achieve their stated aim? Does anyone even know what the stated aim is? Trump and his coterie of trade advisers assert that the in the Kingdom. Maitlis tariffs will generate "trillions came with a full wardrobe of of dollars in revenue" from clothing that reached from taxes on imports and also hair to toes. On her first create employment by forc- night, in an achingly hip ing manufacturers, who Peruvian Japanese fusion have outsourced thousands restaurant in Jeddah, she of jobs overseas, to avoid found herself almost the those import taxes by mak- only woman in the room ing their products in with her head covered. Her America instead. Self-evi- host urged her to look dently, however, tariffs can- around: "These women are not do both: that would be an single. They're on dating eating and having cake situ- apps. They're out with ation, which is proverbially friends or alone." impossible.

ers, perhaps the only good First, domestic politics is off news is that Trump's new the table. Not up for discustaxes have been comprehen- sion. It is what it is, not sively vilified by almost going to change, get over it, every respectable econo- move on. Everything else, mist. That old gag about however, is very much on economists having predicted the agenda, and moving at five of the past two reces- breakneck speed: infrastrucsions is funny because it ture, art, culture, entertaincontains a grain of truth. ment, sport, female empow-And there are hedge fund erment, youth development managers who have made and career opportunities, and billions by carefully reading rapid economic diversificathe confident forecasts of the tion away from dependence International Fund and the World Bank, Maitlis' experience promptthen betting on the opposite. ed her to ask a key question.

Antarctica, from where democracy of the sort pracexports to the US will be ticed by leaders such Viktor subject to a tariff of 10 percent: since all those occupants are penguins, plus the wholly clear what the and Marine Le Pen (judges exports are.

What interests me more global institutions in gener- fact be liberal autocracy and Now they come here."

much conventional wisdom for granted for the best part the past month by two disbrought that issue into sharp

First, the former BBC presenter Maitlis visited Saudi Arabia for the first time. She had her eyes opened, not an unusual experience for new arrivals

He explained how the For the few tariff support- new Saudi Arabia works. pants of the Heard and lenge to liberal democracy McDonald Islands in comes from "illiberal" Orban in Hungary and Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkive and aspired to by occasional seal, it is not Alice Weidel in Germany permitting) in France. But Maitlis wondered whether than Trump's war on tradi- the other side of the liberal tional economics, and on democracy coin might in

Arabia was so effectively deploying.

Another country where China. The Chinese people an inability to innovate, pre-However, as the distinguished New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman found on a visit there last month, China — despite facturing juggernaut so powbeing the prime target of erful today is not that it just Trump's tariffs — is also makes things cheaper; it moving forward at a blister- makes them cheaper, faster,

A brief cameo illustrated ingly infused with artificial how far the US has fallen intelligence." behind. Friedman tried to pay for a purchase in a Beijing shop by handing cy was the worst form o over his credit card. The government, apart from all shopkeeper looked at him as if he had just arrived from tury, the conventional wis the last century, before asking which payment app he had on his phone — Alipay racy, with national self between them command 90 percent of the Chinese payment market.

For a country that hosts some of the world's finest perity. Neocons in the US tech brains in Silicon Valley, the US has always that they tried to export it been painfully slow to worldwide — especially to implement their ideas. I the Middle East, where recall visiting New York apparently we were all so some years ago, when chipand-pin cards and readers know what was good for us. were already commonplace The examples of Saudi in the UK and Europe. To Arabia and China suggest Monetary on petrochemical revenues. my astonishment, American otherwise. retailers were still using A final word of sympathy The conventional wisdom is double swipe card imprint dom is a blip. After all, no or the unfortunate occu- that the main threat or chal- machines: it was like country has two sticks together.

But I digress. Friedman rules-based plowing their own furrow. A told him: "There was a time

sophisticated semiconduc tors, but the Chinese simply innovated their way around liberal democracy is very it - despite autocracies much off the agenda is having long been accused of are free to choose their president from a wide spectrum steal. Friedman visited the of options that range from Xi Jinping to ... er, Xi Jinping. Shanghai, where 35,000 scientists and engineers are keeping China ahead of the game. His conclusion: "What makes China's manu-

better, smarter and increas-

The US tried to throttle

Winston famously said that democragovernment, apart from all the others. For the past cendom has been that only Western-style liberal democ WeChat Pay, which determination and freedom of expression, can foster the kind of innovation and entrepreneurship that creates economic growth and proswere so convinced of this backward that we did not

It may be that Trump's those old clickety-clack, war on conventional wiswatching someone trying to from the past century's sys light a barbecue by rubbing tem of relatively free trade global institutions and internationa was astonished by what he order than the one that creatfound in China and how lit- ed it — the US. Where does tle they care about what Trump think his country's Trump says or does: they are power and prosperity came from? It would surely be US businessman in Beijing perverse for America to destroy the goose that laid its when people came to golden egg. But if it does America to see the future. other role models are avail-

> Chinese leaders have recog nized, since the launch of the reason China declined so century was its long-term isolation, which they are

determined not to repeat. The swirl of punditry is a blizzard of despair. Trillions of dollars of wealth have been wiped out from US and world equities, the losses gyrating daily. Hence, some see a 60 percent chance of a global recession and the col lapse of the 80-year, post-World War II international Americana? An emergent geopolitical jungle where

I dare not predict what will happen tomorrow — literally tomorrow — but here's why I'm risking all to

Consider the social constraints facing the US and China, as well as the severe and escalating economic consequences. Public confrontation and nationalism exacerbated by social media are at a fever pitch. The situ potentially calamitous that calm emotions

In a peaceful world, all Counterintuitively, if the this would make sense. But confrontation were less severe, I'd be more pessimistic. If the circummandatory. Now, it

Trump's tariff freeze boosts Pakistan stocks, but for how long?

Farhan Ahmad

HE global eco- ism could bring economic with President Donald costs countries.

relief to many economies, the exclusion of China, which is now facing a steep 125 percent import global supply chain narra-

In this changing environment, the Pakistan Stock Exchange is facing both immediate relief due to its exemption and uncertainty about future trade developments.

The announcement of the tariff suspension led to mixed reactions in global financial markets. Pakistan, where investor confidence has been affected by economic challenges and geopolitical uncertainty, the news was cautiously welcomed.

Pakistan Stock Exchange showed modest gains. The KSE 100 index recovered from losses earlier in the week and closed slightly higher. This reflected short-term investor optimism that Pakistan's trade relationship with the United States, which is a key export market accounting for nearly 18 percent of Pakistan's total exports, might remain unaffected for now.

However, the optimism was limited. The 90-day suspension is temporary and does not come with any long-term guarantees, which has created uncertainty in the market. Institutional investors and portfolio managers

nomic landscape challenges. If global comis once again navimodity prices become gating the impact of more volatile as a result aggressive United States of continued trade tentrade policy, this time sions, Pakistan's import could Trump leading in his Additionally, if the second term. On April 9, Chinese economy slows 2025, the Trump admin- down due to the tariffs, it istration announced a may reduce demand for 90-day suspension of Pakistani exports such as new tariffs on over 75 raw materials, semi-finished goods, and agricul-This move was seen as tural products. Since a temporary easing of China is Pakistan's largest global trade tensions. trading partner and a key While the pause brought investor in infrastructure through the Pakistan Economic Corridor, any slowdown in China could weaken tariff, has reshaped the Pakistan's external sector.

At the policy level, Islamabad is facing a delicate situation.

It needs to maintain its strategic partnership with China, which is essential for long-term development and defense cooperation, while also protecting its economic relationship with the United States. This balancing act will become more difficult if the United States begins using trade policy to shift alliances in South

For local investors in the Pakistan Stock Exchange, the main con-On April 10, the cern is whether this temporary relief can turn into lasting economic gains. far, the market response has been cautious but not overly nega-

Many investors believe Pakistan is unlikely to face direct tariffs from the United States in the near future. However, they are closely watching broader factors such as foreign direct investment, currency movements, and interest rate trends, all of which could be affected by global trade shifts.

From a risk management standpoint, many managers asset expected to keep their portfolios defensive during the next quarter. Sectors that are more vulremain cautious about nerable to global shocks, what will happen after such as banking, automo-July 2025 when the sus- biles, and cement, may

For local investors in the Pakistan Stock

Exchange, the main concern is whether this temporary relief can turn into lasting economic gains. So far, the market response has been cautious but not overly negative. Many investors believe Pakistan is unlikely to face direct tariffs from the United States in the near future. However, they are closely watch-

ing broader factors such as foreign direct investment, currency movements, and interest rate trends, all of which could be affected by global trade shifts. From a risk management standpoint, many asset managers are expected to keep their portfolios defensive during the next quarter. Sectors that are more vulnerable to global shocks, such as banking, automobiles, and cement, may see

limited investment. On the other hand, export-oriented sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and technology services could attract more attention if American buyers start moving away from Chinese suppliers. In the larger picture, President Trump's tariff suspension does not signal a reversal of protectionism. Instead, it appears to be a strategic pause that may lead to more aggressive measures later. The 90-day period may be used as a tool to pressure China while giv-

ing other trade partners time to adjust.

pension ends. This con- see limited investment. trading volumes as er signals.

tion does not eliminate the risk of Pakistan being added to the tariff list in the future, especially if worsen or if Pakistan's suspension does not sigtrade balance with the United States comes under review.

Even though Pakistan is currently not targeted by tariffs, the economic and geopolitical consequences of the growing between tension United States and China could still affect its economy. With China now facing tariffs of up to 125 percent, global supply chains are being reorganized.

This shift creates both opportunities and risks for Pakistan. On the posiside, Pakistani exporters in sectors such as textiles and apparel may benefit as American importers search for alternatives to Chinese goods. During Trump's first term 2019 and 2020, Pakistan gained from similar trade shifts by increasing exports in items like denim, sportswear, and surgical instru-

this wave of protection- mail.com

cern was reflected in low On the other hand, export-oriented sectors investors waited for clear- like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and technology serv-Moreover, the exemp- ices could attract more attention if American buyers start moving away from Chinese suppliers.

In the larger picture. global trade conflicts President Trump's tariff nal a reversal of protectionism. Instead, it appears to be a strategic pause that may lead to more aggressive measures later.

The 90-day period may be used as a tool to pressure China while giving other trade partners time adjust. Pakistan can use this period to improve its trade strategy, strengthen its export base, and stabilize capital markets remains uncertain.

The response of the Pakistan Stock Exchange to the latest U.S. tariff decision has been one of cautious optimism mixed with strategic concern. As the world waits for the next phase of trade negotiations, Pakistan must take clear and decisive steps at both the policy and investor levels to turn short-term relief into long-term resilience.

Writer can be reached at On the negative side, farhanahmadsdq@hot-

Doomsday tariffs threaten global stability

S I write, the United States and China the abyss of an all-out restrictions on US goods. trade war, the mother of people Earth.

The dreaded story hardly ment. needs retelling: US But first, on tariffs. Stated President Donald Trump is simply, tariffs suboptimize. threatening to increase tar-125 percent, if China does whole — here, the entire and the political fallout World War II international not back down and rescind world — by undermining engendered protectionism order. The end of Pax its retaliatory tariffs to the fundamental economic is strongly and confidently advantage. Whoever prosays he is leveling the playcountry has prepared a groups and how to optimize principle of comparative sophisticated

countermeasures. Trump, for his money, luxuriates in his unpre- ing countries are entitled to dictability. He does not busy take more protectionist himself with consistency or measures than already coherence but only with outcomes, the results of the allows local companies to trade. He thrives on being sprout and grow; otherwise, impulsive and hard to han- they would be crushed by dle, giving him, he believes, multinational mega-compaa negotiating advantage, nies. Yet as countries devel-While uncertainty is the op — and this applies espebane of business and invest- cially to China — proper ment, it is for Trump his 'trump card" (pardon the pun). Shocking the interna- operating principles of the tional system, which he feels present. has treated the US "very unfairly" for decades, he tacular and sustained ecogets everyone's attention. I cannot verify the claim that because, to oversimplify, it

are cascading into reduce their own tariffs and ers, accepting low wages

human history, harming I shall risk all to proclaim not only the American and my odd optimism. I shall Chinese people, but all the explain why at the end of gracing planet this short article, and you can make your own judg-

Tariffs reduce economic iffs on Chinese goods up to efficiency for the collective Trump's tariffs, while China principle of comparative asserting that it will not only duces goods or services with not back down, but also similar quality for lower 'fight to the end". Trump prices gets the business. That tariffs suboptimize for ing field after decades of the collective whole is abuse, while China says it uncontroversial. What is care of those in the current does not want a fight but is controversial is how tariffs generation who could not be not afraid of a fight, and the also protect individual subtoolkit of the tension between suboptimizing and protection.

It is natural that developdeveloped countries. This permissions of the past become less applicable as

China enjoyed its specnomic development

(though higher than they had Yet at this moment of as farmers), raised the staneconomic battles that bleak US-China relations, dards of living of hundreds **could be the harshest in** with stock markets cratering, of millions of Chinese people, the greatest reduction of poverty in human history. But in the process, millions of manufacturing jobs in developed countries, especially in the US, were eliminated. Humankind as a whole enjoyed a huge net gain, but for those who lost their jobs, it was devastating, and deglobalization.

There is no magic solu-Ideally, industrial tion. restructuring in developed countries would focus on emerging technologies for the next generation, while social safety nets would take retrained. Moreover, the economic advantage would continue, so that as Chinese workers rightly demand higher wages, the manufacturing of lower value-added products would shift away ation is so volatile and so from China and toward lessdeveloped countries, such as only a direct deal between those in Southeast and South the two countries' presidents Asia and in sub-Saharan can restore rationality and Africa.

that world is not our world. While win-win is the ideal goal, zero-sum is often the stances were "just" the first sad reality. Our global eco- rounds of tariffs, then i nomic ship has become would be bad but not unmoored, adrift in the rag- calamitous, and while it ing currents of US-China would be desirable for the conflict. When President Xi two presidents to engage and Jinping says China will con- resolve the bilateral dismore than 50 countries are could produce quality prod- tinue opening up to the putes, it would not be trying to talk with Trump, ucts at the lowest cost. world, he really means it willing, for the first time, to China's hard-working labor- it's not just good PR. mandatory.

reform and opening-up, that precipitously in the 19th

the powerful pillage the weak?

proclaim my odd optimism.

ments.

The US-China trade escalation has no end in sight. Here's why Beijing's not backing down

defining Donald Xi's Trump against a range observers say, China is some Americans, includ- years, accumulating rich and looked to manage of countries has, for prepared not just to fight ing Trump, that global-experience in these some of its domestic now, narrowed in on a back, but to use Trump's ization has stolen US struggles," a commen-economic challenges in

Trump announced a en its own position. pause had gone into effect will enter a period of hours earlier - with one protracted struggle with exception, deepening a the United States and its confrontation set to dis- allies, that China needed mantle trade between the to prepare for that, and world's two largest they have quite exten- be quickly replaced — other policy measures to exports from roughly economies. Then on sively," said Jacob driving up US consumer support its economy. one-fifth of its total to Thursday, Beijing made Gunter, lead economy prices, potentially for "The plans to respond less than 15%. economies. Then on sively," good on its vow to bring analyst at Berlin-based in its own retaliatory tar-

The pace of that escalation has been stunning. Over the course of a week, Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports have jumped from 54% to figures that add to existing levies imposed prior to the president's second term. And China has retaliated in kind, raising additional, retaliatory duties on all US imports

The showdown sets up an historic rupture that will not only cause pain for both of these deeply intertwined economies but add tremendous friction to their geopolitical

"This is probably the strongest indication we've seen pushing towards a hard decoupling," said Nick Marro, principal economist for Asia at the Economist Intelligence Unit, referring to an outcome where the two economies have mutual investment.

overstate the expected fight. shocks this is going to Whether Trump would In China, a wide swath from have, not just to the have suspended his so- of suppliers are likely to calm. US, he said.

tion, telling reporters last week. Wednesday that "China wants to make a deal. quite to go about it."

cally different.

for his country to simply dollars. capitulate to what it calls America's Beijing has high-tech was last in office.

singular target: China. trade turmoil to strength- manufacturing and jobs.

"Xi has been very "reciprocal" tariffs that that he expects China think tank MERICS.

Simone McCarthy

Trump's ratcheting up Communist Party mouthof tariffs to well over piece People's Daily said Wednesday on all the clear for a very long time 125% could now cut Monday. China's exports to the US by more than half in take the coming years, by efforts" to boost domessome estimates.

years, before new facto- are well-prepared and

tary on the front page of

was a possibility," historic, era- appears to have con- consumers for affordable we are prepared and have Shih in California, who war firmed for Beijing that goods but fueled an strategies. We have added that Beijing had US the US doesn't. And in enormous trade deficit – engaged in a trade war supported countries to calculation, and a feeling among with the US for eight diversify supply chains preparation, among other

skeptical

Today, China is much better placed to weather It noted Beijing could a broader trade conflict. "extraordinary experts say. Compared with 2018, it's expanded tic consumption, which its trade relations with Many goods from has been persistently the rest of the world, China won't be able to weak, and introduce reducing the share of US

Its manufacturers have ries come online. That ample," the commentary also set up extensive

Trump appeared to link his decision not to grant China the same reprieve as other nations to Beijing's swift retaliation, telling reporters Wednesday that "China wants to make a deal, they just don't know how quite to go about it." But the view from Beijing looks dramatically different. Chinese leader Xi Jinping, China's most powerful leader in decades, sees no option for his country to simply capitulate to what it calls America's "unilateral bullying," And he's playing to the crowd. Publicly, Beijing has drummed up fervent nationalism around its retaliation - part of a strategy

it's been quietly preparing for more than four years since Trump was last in office. While China has long said it wants to talk, Trump's rapid escalation instead appears to have confirmed for Beijing that the US doesn't. And in Xi's calculation, observers say, China is prepared not just to ght back, but to use Trump's trade turmoil to strengthen its own position. "Xi has been very clear

for a very long time that he expects China will enter a period of protracted struggle with the United States and its allies, that China needed to prepare for that, and they have quite extensively," said Jacob Gunter, lead economy analyst at Berlin-based think tank MERICS. "Xi Jinping has accepted that the gauntlet is thrown down, and they are ready to put up a fight." Whether Trump would have suspended his so-called retaliatory tariffs on China alongside other nations had Beijing not moved so swiftly to retaliate remains an open question. Canada had retaliated but was included in the reprieve, which does not remove a 10% universal tariff imposed last week. Regardless, Trump, who the White House described earlier this week as having a "spine of steel," and Xi now

appear locked in a war of attrition with the potential to upset a lopsided but highly integrated trade relationship worth roughly half a trillion dollars. For decades, China has been the world's factory floor, where increasingly automated and high-tech production chains churn out everything from household goods and shoes to electronics, raw materials for construction, appliances and solar panels. Those factories satisfied the demand of American and global consumers for afford-

able goods but fueled an enormous trade deficit – and a feeling among some Americans, including Trump, that globalization has stolen US manufacturing and jobs. Trump's ratcheting up of tariffs to well over 125% could now cut China's exports to the US by more than half in the coming years, by some estimates. Many goods from China won't be able to be quickly replaced – driving up US consumer prices, potentially for years, before new factories come online.

"Xi Jinping

but also to the entire on China alongside other margins retaliate remains an open Trump appeared to question. Canada had tries set to begin. link his decision not to retaliated but was includgrant China the same ed in the reprieve, which could lead to "millions state media op-ed earlier including semiconducreprieve as other nations does not remove a 10% of people becoming this week. "And China tors. Since last year, the to Beijing's swift retalia- universal tariff imposed unemployed"

the White House they just don't know how described earlier this of the University of weeks has also been talk- sumption and high local week as having a "spine California San Diego's ing to countries from government debt. But the view from of steel," and Xi now Beijing looks dramati- appear locked in a war of Center. Meanwhile, US in a bid to expand trade are significant, but in the attrition with the poten-Chinese leader Xi tial to upset a lopsided Jinping, China's most but highly integrated added. powerful leader in trade relationship worth decades, sees no option roughly half a trillion

"unilateral has been the world's facbullying." And he's play- tory floor, where increasthe crowd. ingly automated and drummed up fervent chains churn out everynationalism around its thing from household retaliation - part of a goods and shoes to elecstrategy it's been quietly tronics, raw materials for shut down the economy economic rise could be Washington doesn't want transfer

Those factories satis- problem." While China has long fied the demand of said it wants to talk, American and global can weather the storm.

has could ring up a tax hike said. virtually no trade or accepted that the gaunt- for Americans of roughly let is thrown down, and \$860 billion before sub- unknowns about how Cambodia, in part to take "It's really hard to they are ready to put up a stitutions, JP Morgan much further measures advantage of potentially analysts said Wednesday. could

Chinese economy itself, called retaliatory tariffs see their already narrow global trading land- nations had Beijing not erased, with a new wave withstand a longer 'ecoscape," as well as on the moved so swiftly to of efforts to establish nomic war of attrition,"

> Regardless, Trump, across China, according strategic endurance." to Victor Shih, director 21st Century China Europe to Southeast Asia

more so than American For decades, China politicians can," he said.

That's, in production do not face swift feed- against Chinese tech Strategic back from voters and champion opinions polls.

preparing for more than construction, appliances four years since Trump and solar panels.

(causing) untold employ- derailed if it wasn't pre- to admit it, when China Additionally, Egypt pro- process the disarmament says you can't contain cured a French Future of Hezbollah, as stipulat-

Beijing appear

"The ultimate out-

completely come hinges on who can factories in other coun- economist Cai Tongjuan Renmin China's The scale of the tariffs University wrote in a unemployed" and a clearly holds a greater government has also wave of bankruptcy" advantage in terms of worked, with varying

'go close to zero," he the US by winning over American allies and part- able. "But China can sus- ners exasperated by the

part, for US trade frictions tion," which were a wake-up think tank in the US. "During Covid they call to Beijing that its

operations in third coun-And in the face of tries like Vietnam and escalate, voices lower US duties.

China has also built out its supply chains for rare earths and other critical minerals, upgraded its manufacturing technology with AI and humanoid robots and ramped up its advanced technology capabilities, success, issues like weak con-

"(China's) weaknesses exports to China could cooperation - and one up context of an all-out brawl, these are manage-

The US is not going to tain that (situation) much on-again-off-again trade be able to, on its own, bring China's economy But it's been bracing to the edge of destrucsaid Scott because China's ruling since Trump's first trade Kennedy, a senior advis-Communist Party leaders war and his campaign er at the Center for and Studies I Huawei, International

roblem."

"The Chinese government have been preparan weather the storm.

"The Chinese government have been preparing for this day for six

"The Chinese governthey have a point."

"Expression of the contains and the contains are considered in the contains and the contains are contained and the contained are contained are contained and the contained are contained are contained and the contained are contained and the contained are contained are contained are contained and the contained are contai

much

with Egypt and Lebanon

Macron's building blocks

d acknowledge that France's position as one President of Egypt's top defense to achieve real reforms in Macron is suppliers. This collaborathe financial, judicial and Emmanuel Macron is relentless. I will admit tion also extends to infrathat I have always been structure and culture, approach and strategy for Lebanon, but his perseverance, consistency and sustained countries. The year 2019 focus on helping Beirut has won me over. He of the opening of the has, for one thing, kept Lebanon at the top of the news agenda and, in 'Cultural Year.' times of superpowers colliding, that is pre-

his Lebanon initiative, the country has changed. Hezbollah is no longer at the same level of power as it used to be. Between the Israeli punishment and the political change in Syria, the Iranian proxy is now in a dire situation, whether it admits it or not. This means there is now a path to deep and real change in Lebanon. And this could apply to the entire Mediterranean.

cious help.
Since Macron started

Macron's consistency also carries a broader strategy focused on the coastline. This is not new, but he has painstakingly added the building blocks to try and bring about change. In this context, Lebanon cannot isolated Macron's approach to Egypt or, to a broader extent, Syria or even Algeria. It is about building stability by empowgreater

Although these efforts seem isolated, there is a logic in creating partnerships between the north south of Mediterranean and building trust among countries. Despite the ongoing global commercial and geopolitical storm, I would highlight the French president's visits to Lebanon in January and Egypt this week as the turning of a new page for the Mediterranean.

When it comes to Egypt, there has been a reciprocal will enhance and strengthen relations into a strong partnership. This was clear for Cairo as it emerged from the soto address Egyptian armed forces. Since 2015, this has

military and naval deals billion (\$11 billion). Key

agreements include the purchase of 30 Rafale fighter jets in recently escalated. 2021, following an earlier 2015 deal for 24 jets. The navy has also acquired two Mistralclass amphibious assault ships (delivered in 2016) and four Gowind 2,500in France and three in as Egypt under a technology agreement.

2015.

Khaled Abou Zahr OVE him or hate

> his which are just as important, with a clear will to highlight the historical bond between the two — the 150th anniversary Suez Canal named the France-Egypt

In addition, Egypt and France last year signed an agreement to enhance international partnerships between their universities. It is through this mix that greater agency for cooperation are developed.

It was also not a surprise that new Lebanese President Joseph Aoun's

Unsurprisingly, the meet-Syrian President Annua Al-Sharaa, as there can der.

The visit resulted in

Despite France's continuous support, it is Lebanon's responsibility the financial, judicial and governance These steps are a precondition to unlocking international funding.

There is a clear vision of how empowering historical allies in the Mediterranean can help solve problems for all and bring stability. During Macron's threeday visit to Egypt this week, this was quite The clear. focused on regional security, humanitarian aid and strengthening ties, underlining that it is with the help of countries like the region is built and the Egypt and through propillars for real geopoliti- posals that come from within the region that change can be implemented.

This was exemplified by Macron calling for an first Western visit was to urgent ceasefire in Gaza and the resumption of He met with Macron at humanitarian aid during the Elysee Palace late meetings with President last month. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah. ing included a videocon- He also toured aid faciliference with interim ties and a hospital in El-

Macron's consistency also carries a broader strategy focused on the coastline. This is not new, but he has painstakingly added the building blocks to try and bring about

change. In this context, Lebanon cannot be

isolated from Macron's approach to Egypt or,

to a broader extent, Syria or even Algeria. It is about building stability by empowering greater local agency. Although these efforts seem isolated, there is a logic in creating partnerships between the north and south of the Mediterranean and building trust among countries. Despite the ongoing global commercial and geopolitical storm, I would highlight the French president's visits to Lebanon in January and Egypt this week as the turning of a new page for the Mediterranean.

When it comes to Egypt, there has been a reciprocal will to enhance and strengthen relations into a strong partnership. This was clear for Cairo as it emerged from the socalled Arab Spring, as France appeared to be the best potential ally to rebuild and diversify the Egyptian armed forces. Since 2015, this has resulted in France and Egypt concluding major military and naval deals totaling more than 10 billion (\$11 billion).

tions with Syria.

The approach was cation sectors. called Arab Spring, as actually even broader, as to all participants the security concerns at the of the Mediterranean. Syrian-Lebanese border, where confrontations had is also close to the peo-

> Macron has also cominternational reconstruc-Lebanon.

ical stability. Hence, Beirut must include within the country's reform These deals highlight 2024 conflict with Israel. change.

in Lebanon without sta- new strategic partnership bility and balanced rela- agreements covering the transport, health and edu-

There is no doubt that France appeared to be the it included a five-party Macron's building blocks government has also best potential ally to summit with the leaders between the giants of the worked, with varying rebuild and diversify the of Greece and Cyprus Mediterranean, such as focused on stability and Egypt, and involving maritime safety in the them in the peace and resulted in France and Eastern Mediterranean. security of the pearl that Egypt concluding major This meeting highlighted is Lebanon is a positive way to increase the totaling more than 10 importance of containing agency of the countries It is an approach that

ple. Macron's symbolic gestures — such as ridmitted to hosting an ing the Cairo metro alongside Egyptian citition conference for zens and walking through a historic bazaar, just as However, this needs to he did in Beirut in be done while also devel- January — show real soltonne corvettes, one built oping the country's politidarity with the people of the region and highlight long-standing cultural ties. His message that "you can always count on France" is genuine, but it Multi-Mission Frigate in ed in the ceasefire deal is also up to the countries that ended the November themselves to push for

Why I don't cheer for Israel's 'pro-democracy' movement the Strip, the petitioners interlaced his response Palestinians – reveal that submitted yet another with Jewish religious the Supreme Court of

ance to Prime Minister Gaza. Benjamin Netanyahu's

government. Netanyahu's rule.

Israel is not its current already we radically transform dehydration. the nature of the regime, rights

instruct the Israeli gov- the next 12 months.

N conversations humanitarian law and the civilian population about Israel and address the civilian pop- and emphasised the asked about my views needs amid the cataon the internal resist- strophic conditions in The petition was sub-

mitted at a time when aid My questioners point was entering Gaza, but to hundreds of thousands the amount crossing the of Israelis who have been border was far from suftaking to the streets to ficient to meet the miniprotest against the gov- mal needs of the populaernment and its efforts to tion, of whom 75 percent introduce a judicial over- had already been dishaul over the past two placed. The rights groups years and inquire why I wanted the government remain apathetic to these to lift all restrictions on end the passage of aid, equipment and personnel into My answer is simple - Gaza, particularly in the the real problem facing north where there were documented government. The govern- cases of children dying ment might fall, but until from malnutrition and

The court did not issue not much will change, a ruling for more than a and particularly not in year, effectively allowing relation to the basic the government to conof tinue restricting aid Palestinians. A recent unchecked. Three weeks Israeli Supreme Court after the rights groups decision underscores my filed the petition, the On March 18, 2024, provide the government five Israeli human rights additional time to update organisations filed an its preliminary response that between October 7, government deliberately urgent petition with to the petition. This set Israel's Supreme Court, the tone for how the petithe court to tion would proceed over trucks to cross the check-

international worsening conditions of humanitarian

ment for further updates. needs.

Palestine, I am often ulation's humanitarian urgent need for judicial working in Gaza, does there was "no shortage of urgent request for an texts, intervention, the court not come close to meet- food". Two months later, interim order against the Israel's attacks as a war simply asked the govern- ing the population's however, the government government's decision to of divine duty, while con- rights of the settler popu-

confessed that it had prevent the passage of

On March 18, 2024, five Israeli human rights organisations filed an urgent petition with Israel's Supreme Court, asking the court to instruct the Israeli government and military to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law and address the civilian population's humanitarian needs amid the catastrophic conditions in Gaza. The petition was sub-

mitted at a time when aid was entering Gaza, but the amount crossing the border was far from sufficient to meet the minimal needs of the population, of whom 75 percent had already been displaced. The rights groups wanted the government to lift all restrictions on the passage of aid, equipment and personnel into Gaza, particularly in the north where there were already documented cases of children dying from malnutrition and dehydration. The court did not issue a ruling for more than a year, effectively allowing the government to continue restricting aid unchecked. Three weeks after the rights groups filed the petition, the court convened only to provide the government additional time to update its preliminary response to the petition. This set the tone for how the petition would proceed over the next 12 months. Each time the petitioners provided data on the worsening conditions of the civilian population and emphasised the urgent need for judicial intervention, the court simply asked the

government for further updates. In its April 17 update, for example, the government insisted that it had significantly increased the number of aid trucks entering Gaza, claiming that between October 7, 2023, and April 12, 2024, it had allowed 22,763 trucks to cross the checkpoints. This amounts to 121 trucks per day, which according to every humanitarian agency working in Gaza, does not come close to meeting the population's needs.

In its April 17 update, for

example, the government least half a year after the ber of Palestinian resi- the court failed to issue a insisted that it had signif- petition was submitted, dents trapped in northern ruling. court convened only to icantly increased the the rights organisations Gaza - thus acknowledgnumber of aid trucks asked the court to issue ing that the aid entering more than year after the entering Gaza, claiming an injunction after the the Strip was insufficient. rights organisations had 2023, and April 12, 2024, blocked humanitarian aid after Israel breached the court issued a verdict. it had allowed 22,763 for two weeks.

points. This amounts to ernment claimed that it ment of Gaza and the ernment and military to Each time the petition- 121 trucks per day, which had been monitoring the minister of energy and Mintz unanimously ruled fulfil their obligations ers provided data on the according to every situation in northern infrastructure halted the that it lacked merit. agency Gaza closely and that supply of electricity to

In October 2024, at underestimated the num- humanitarian aid. Again,

In response, the gov- resumed its bombard-

Finally, on March 27, On March 18, 2025, filed the petition, the Amit and Justices Noam Sohlberg and David Justice David Mintz ings

cluding that, and beyond to enable the violence an aid to the Gaza Strip, even while taking the risk that the aid transhave pointed again and the colonial regime.

again to acute levels of malnutrition and starva-Court – both in the way it handled the judicial process and in its ruling depriving a civilian population of objects indispensable to their survival, including by willegitimised the use of starvation as a weapon of

This is the court that hundreds of thousands of Israelis are trying to

save. Its March 27 ruling -

characterising Israel is a colonial court - one that protects the "[The lation, while legitimising Israeli military] and the the dispossession, disrespondents went above placement and horrific provision of humanitari- against the Indigenous Palestinians. And

Supreme Court might not ferred would reach the reflect the values of the hands of the Hamas ter- existing government rorist organisation and be particularly on issues used by it to fight against relating to political corruption – it undoubtedly Thus, at a time when reflects and has always humanitarian agencies reflected the values of

Hence, the liberal Zionists who fill Tel tion, Israel's Supreme Aviv's streets every weekend are not demonstrating against a judicial overhaul that endangers has ignored Israel's legal democracy, but against obligation to refrain from an overhaul that endangers Jewish democracy. Few of these protesters have any real qualms about the court's horrific fully impeding relief sup-ruling on humanitarian plies. In effect, the court aid, or, for that matter, on how the court has consistently upheld Israeli apartheid and colonial pillars.

The regime, in other words, can continue to eliminate Palestinians unhindered as long as the and almost all other rul- rights of Israel's Jewish involving citizenry are secured.



SBP BSC & BOP join hands for Agri Kissan Mela

Business

F.P. Report

of Pakistan (BSC) Lahore of Punjab (BOP) success- Al-Ghazi fully organized the 'Agri Universal Tractors, Ravi Kissan Mela' held at Kasur, Agro, Growtech, Kubota, under the theme of advanc- and Kissan Baithak, among ing innovation & sustain-ability in Pakistan's modern agricultural solu-Agriculture sector.

This grand event brought with the farming communitogether over 400 farmers, ty. along with industry experts, representatives from the event, Additional Director banking sector, academicians, and government offi- Department (FISD), SBP cials, to promote sustain- BSC, Dr. Muhammad empower the agricultural tiative and emphasized the community. A wide range pivotal role of financial of activities enriched the inclusion in uplifting the event, including banking agricultural sector. He and agri-corporate stalls, highlighted that the State live demonstrations and Bank of Pakistan BSC, displays of agricultural through its developmental

Tractors, tions and engaged directly

The Chief Guest of the Financial Inclusion Support agriculture and Saleem appreciated the ini-

agri-economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Group Chief excited to make this contrievent which will pave way Million are disbursed to machinery and equipment, role, has been actively for further financial inclusions and working to bridge the gap sion as well as adoption of laborations with Karnadaaz importance of regional outs.

fessionals, besides cultural tions and the farming com- techniques leading to overperformances. Key stake- munity. "Our aim is to all farming growth in the holders and exhibitors ensure that farmers, spe- area. Such initiatives have in collaboration with Bank included Millat Tractors, cially smallholders, have the scope to be spread access to formal financial across other districts to services, enabling them to ensure maximum outreach. adopt modern agricultural He further added that BOP practices, cognizant of is actively contributing challenges due to climate towards augmenting financhange and improve pro- cial inclusion of agriculture ductivity," he said. Dr. community particularly Saleem commended the those of small farmers, collaborative spirit of the through conventional as event and encouraged well as Digital Agri stakeholders to continue Financing Solutions. Two working together to create a of the best examples are more resilient and inclusive that of CM Punjab Kissan Card whereby BOP has approved a total of Rs. 55 Billion to 542,000 small Consumer Banking BOP, farmers within a span of 3 Mr. Asif Riaz said, "We are months, whereas, Digital Agri Lending where seambution towards the Agri less end-to-end 690 loans sector by organizing this amounting to Rs. 650.00

Pakistan, Agritechs & reach and direct farmer credit and services at the through Fintechs. By taking a lead engagement. He noted that role, BOP reaffirms its events like the Agri Kissan commitment to be one of Mela serve as effective the most active commercial platform to raise aware-

initiatives. BSC Lahore and the Guest tions tailored to their needs. of Honor, Mr. Tariq Riaz, in "Our focus is to build trust, positive note and marked a and knowledge they need to his address, stressed the provide financial literacy, significant step towards succeed in a rapidly evolv-

banks in delivering on such ness, connect farmers with financial institutions, and Chief Manager - SBP showcase innovative solu- event a success.

added.

partnership with The Bank and Bank of Punjab remain of Punjab and other stake- committed to serving as a holders in making this

The event ended at a

collaboration, grassroots level," Mr. Riaz innovation, and community engagement.

> catalyst for growth in the Agri Sector by supporting farmers with financial tools

Mobilink Bank wins Silver PSX witnesses at Dubai Lynx Awards for its 'Invisible Heirs' drive

F.P. Report

KARACHI: leading digital microfi- inheritance, sparking a closest to our hearts. nance institution, Mobilink nationwide conversation Bank, has added yet anoth- and inspiring action. er feather in its cap by winning silver for its 'Invisible' The bank also innovatively integrated an 'Inher-Heirs' campaign at the itance Calculator' in its prestigious Dubai Lynx mobile app to allow women region's biggest creative htful share in inheritance. and marketing event.

The campaign excelled Haaris Mahmood Chauin the Creative Strategy dhary, President and CEO Corporate Purpose & of Mobilink Bank, said, Social Responsibility category for elevating con-sciousness against the sys-the MENA region refuels temic denial of inheritance our passion to work more share for most women in vigorously

paign tackles gender-based Bank empowers women to financial inequality head- overcome deeply rooted on to foster financial auton- social challenges through omy for women.

powerful video narrative cacy. We believe the cam- nationwide.

highlighting women's emotional and societal chal-Pakistan's lenges in securing their toward the social cause

Awards 2025 – the MENA to easily calculate their rig-Reacting to the success,

> "Being recognized at the towards women's long-term finan-

Mobilink Bank's cam- cial liberation. Mobilink

paign's recognition will translate into solid gains

The Dubai Lynx Awards are the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's premier platform for celebrating excellence in creative communications, marketing, and advertising. Held annually in Dubai, the event brings together top agencies. brands, and creative minds from across the region to showcase ideas that drive business results and posi-

tive change. The award adds to Mobilink Bank's streak of global wins at GSMA's GLOMO and M360 APAC This recognition will further invigorate the bank's efforts to foster financial ny for women. future-ready digital innova-The campaign featured a tion and strong social advo-empowerment of women

bullish trend, gains 2,036 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 2,036.05 points, a positive change of 1.78 perclosing 116,189.21 points as compared to 114,153.16 points on the last trading

A total of 638,089,718 shares were traded during the day as compared to 448,693,567 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs36.924 billion against Rs26.585 billion on the last trading day.

The three top trading companies were Cnergyico PK with 86,573,180 shares at Rs8.52 per share, K-Electric Limited with 57,922,646 shares at Rs4.54 per share and Sui South Gas 44,734,661 shares

Zahid appointed as member of PCSIR central council

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Zahidullah nate and oversee their tools for industrial develop-Shinwari, former president work; administer existing ment. of the Sarhad Chamber of research units of the Commerce and Industry Council on an interim has been appointed as basis; and conduct scientifmember of the central ic and technological surcouncil of the Pakistan veys and investigations Council of Scientific and assigned by the Federal Industrial Council (PCSIR).

According to an official notification issued by the federal government has appointed Zahidullah Khan, bus three years.

The purpose of the council is to jointly build a better public private partnership for productivity, quality and innovation as well as trial development, the notification said.

research institutes, labora- enhance productivity, qual-

tories, and centers for ity, especially adopting Research Government, are also included key objectives of

On the occasion, SCCI president Fazal Moqeem Khan, business leader Shinwari, former president Ghazanfar Bilour, and of the SCCI from the indus- traders' community weltrial sector as a member of comed the decision of the the council for the next federal government and congratulated Zahidullah Shinwari, former SCCI president for appointing central members of the

council of the PCSIR. Zahidullah Shinwari said building the knowledge they will present proposals based economy for indus- in consultation with the SCCI and business community to the federal govern-To establish and manage ment through council to

selected industries; coordi- modern technology and

Former SCCI president emphasized improvement in productivity and standardized, global competitiveness for the local prod-

It is noted to mention here that Zahidullah of various boards and instidered services as a member provincial level



Shinwari has already ren-tutions at federal and

Pakistan's liquid foreign reserves position F.P. Report

KARACHI: The total liquid foreign reserves held by the country stood at US\$ 15,752.7 million as of 04-Apr-

The break-up of the foreign reserves position is as under: Foreign reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan: US\$ 10,699.4 million. Net foreign reserves held by commercial banks: US\$ 5,053.3 million. Total liquid foreign reserves: US\$ 15,752.7 million.

During the week ended on 04-Apr-2025, SBP reserves increased by US\$ 23 million to US\$ 10,699.4 million.

J. celebrates decade of partnership with PSL

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Cricket isn't just a sport in Pakistan; it's an emotion that unites the nation and being the nation's favrite brand, J. has always been at the forefront in promoting the game of cricket. From the very begin-

ning, J. has proudly part-nered with the HBL Pakistan Super League, championing the spirit of sportsmanship and national pride. As we celebrated ten

years of this strong and meaningful partnership, we marked the milestone in a special way. The Luminara Trophy

recently visited the J. store in Islamabad, a glowing symbol of triumph, passion, eting greatness and national and legacy. Those who joined us had

the exclusive privilege of just about the game; it was posing with The Luminara a celebration of unity, pas-

Pakistani.

It wasn't just an opportu-

This celebration wasn't nity to witness history, it was a chance to be part of it. We sincerely thank Habib Bank Trophy and reliving ten sion, and everything that Limited (HBL) PSL and remarkable years of crick- makes us proudly Pakistan Cricket Board

(PCB) for their invaluable

partnership. We look forward to continuing this collaboration in the future to bring the spirit of cricket even closer to the Cricket Board hearts of the people

Consumer Confidence surges by 21% as economic sentiment rebounds

KARACHI: The overall (CCI) recorded a substantial and Household increase of 20.9% and exhibited a 10.5% improvement compared to the same period last year.

The latest survey results reveal that the CCI stands at 88.1 points, marking a signifprevious quarter's score of dence remains optimistic across all cycles, the upward trend can be attributed primarily to a decline in inflation and an increase in GDP

growth. Household Financial compared to the preceding quarter. Country's Economic Condition have strengthened,

F.P. Report look will either improve or in consumer sentiment from for continued efforts toward remain stable. Consumer regarding sentiments Consumer Confidence Index Employment Opportunities Savings

remain positive. Country's Economic Condition have strengthened, with approximately 48% of participants expressing optimism that the economic outlook will either improve or icant improvement from the remain stable. Consumer sentiments regarding 72.9. While consumer confi- Employment Opportunities and Household remain positive.

Zubair Qureshi, C.B.O of D&B Pakistan, stated, "The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) report serves as a crucial resource for a broad spec-Situation has also demon- trum of stakeholders, includstrated notable improvement, ing policymakers, develop registering a 27.5% increase ment financial institutions. and businesses across various industries. This quarter, we have observed a significant with approximately 48% of rise in the overall CCI comparticipants expressing opti- pared to the previous quarter, mism that the economic out- along with an improvement

highlights key areas of

the same period last year, economic growth and the indicating a positive shift in establishment of a businessconfidence levels. The report friendly environment that supports long-term prosperity progress, reinforcing the need for all stakeholders?

Rupee gains 22 paisa

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Thursday appreciated by 22 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs280.55 against the previous day's closing of Rs280.77.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs280.65 and Rs282.15, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs0.40 to close at Rs309.25 against the last day's closing of Rs308.85, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs1.91, whereas an increase of Rs2.01 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs361.12 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs359.11. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 06 pasia each to close at

Rs76.38 and Rs74.73, respectively.

Gold prices up by Rs7,800 to Rs328,800 per tola: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs7,800 and was traded at Rs328,800 on Thursday as compared to its sale at Rs321,000 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported.

Hamdard Shura Karachi organizes meeting

F.P. Report

KARACHI: On the theme of World Health Day, has been significantly incre-Hopeful Futures", a meet- ndh. The social trend of puring of the Hamdard Shura chasing and using medicines, Hamdard Corporate Head which are promoted on Office, presided over by Speaker Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider, in the presence of Sadia Rashid.

Renowned gynecologist Dr. Rizwana Ansari, while pollution, addressing the gathering as the chief guest, said that the food items, many mothers foundation of a healthy and children are suffering society lies in maternal and from malnutrition. child health. Every child is a symbol of hope, and sign of God's mercy and divine mercy.

the World Health Organi- Since then, many children zation, at least six percent suffering from malnutrition of the GDP should be allo- have lost their lives.

cated to the health sector." She also said: "It is reassuring that the health budget Beginnings, ased in the province of Si-

social media must be strongly discouraged. Hundreds of babies are stillborn every President of Hamdard day. Out of every thousand Foundation Pakistan, Ms. births, more than fifty infants die within the first month of life. Due to environmental contaminated water, and the adulteration of

She further stated that, with a formal fatwa from every newborn is a clear Darul Uloom Karachi, the country's first milk collecblessings. As a society, we tion bank was established are the custodians of this to ensure the supply of essential milk for malnour-She said: "A glance at ished children. A complete the national healthcare record of the women donatinfrastructure reveals that, ing milk was maintained to only one doctor is available ensure compliance with for several thousand peo- Islamic principles. Howeple. Overall, the country's ver, due to misconceptions medical infrastructure is in and propaganda, this milk a fragile state. According to center was shut down.

ad misconceptions among the public that must be

tudes, diseases like diph- modernized population country's resides in rural areas, where steps, such as encouraging women to use hospital services for childbirth instead of relying on traditional home birth methods. Positive outcomes are expected

from this initiative. She concluded by pointing out the increase in use successfully managed to of narcotics among women. control its population. The "Drug use among women is also on the rise. Substances focused particularly on like gutka, mainpuri, and chaliya are no longer even is why many industries considered intoxicants." "Legislation should be passed to ensure that chil- Malik stated that we must dren traveling within the raise children according to country receive polio vacci- the kind of nation we aspire nations at bus terminals, to become. For this purairports, and train stations. pose, no institution is more Legal action and heavy important than schools

Gen (r) Moinuddin Hai-

der stated that the midaddressed. Due to such atti- wifery system needs to be to reduce theria and measles are re- maternal and infant mortal-Karachi was held at the of untrained physicians, emerging. Polio cases are ity during childbirth. There also continuously increas- is a need to enhance entreing. A large portion of the preneurial skills among women, as empowered and independent women make women have limited access informed decisions regardto healthcare facilities. The ing family planning. He Sindh government has emphasized the important taken some commendable role of female religious scholars in guiding women in light of Islamic teachings. Engineer Ibnul-Hasan

stated that Pakistan must develop a comprehensive strategy to control its population. Bangladesh is also a Muslim country, yet it has women's livelihood, which there employ only women.

Cdre. (r) Sadeed Anwar fines should be imposed on Children should be provid-

Dr. Rizwana said that parents who obstruct this ed with an intellectual and "There are many widespre-process", she urged. their creative and imaginative abilities can flourish. More important than policy-making is the effective implementation of that policy within society.

Prof Dr. Khalida Ghaus stated that the age when young people should be building their careers is often the same age when they are married. Due to a lack of healthcare facilities awareness, and many young girls lose their lives EF GUES. during childbirth.

Deputy Speaker Shura Col (r) Mukhtar Ahmad Butt, Zafar Iqbal Ahmed, Huma Baig, Prof Dr. Tanveer Khalid, Nusrat Sarfaraz,



Engineer Pervez Sadiq, Rizwan Ahmed, Amir Tauseen, Dr. Amjad Jafri, and others also expressed their views. The Director of Ha-

mdard Foundation Pakistan, Syed Muhammad Arsalan, was also present at the meeting. During the session, the deep sorrow over the pass-

ed Sadia Rashid on receiving the Hilal-e-Imtiaz, and the participants expressed Shura members congratulating of Senator Taj Haider.

بيان حلفي بابت فهرست وارثان

منكه راحت على ولدشان محمر سكنه ميوژه ڈا كانة كُفّى تخصيل وضلع پشاور کا ہوں۔ درینوفت بقائمی عقل وہوش حواس خمسہ و بلا جبر ر غیب غیری کے حلفاً بیان دیتا ہوں۔ کمن مقر کی بیوی متوفیہ زيتون النسابنت حبيب گل وفات پاچكى ہےاورمسماة كے حقيقى و شرعی وارثان درجہ ذیل ہے۔ (1) راحت علی (شوہر).

(2)ماريه(وختر)_(3)جواد(بيٹا)شامل ہيں۔ ورجه بالابيان مير علم ويقين كيك مطابق درست وسيح بفلط بیانی ثابت ہونے پرمن مقرحلف پابندو ذمه دار ہوں گا۔ الہذا بیان حلفی بابت وراثت نامد ککھ دیا تا کہ سندرہے۔ الرقوم2025-04-05

العبد:راحت على (من مقرحلف) 1730120431933

بیان حلفی برائے وراثت

منكمتسمى محمد بلال ولدفريدالله خان ساكن عليز في مخصيل متحر اضلع پشاور کار ہائش ہوں۔ درینوفت بقائی عقل ہوش وحواس خسہ بلاترغيب غيرے كامن مقربول - بدينوجه كەمن مقر كاوالدمتوفى فريدالله خان بمورخه 27/11/2020 وفات پاچکا ہے ان ك شرعى اور حقيقى وارثان ميس ماه تاز پروين (بيوه) اور محمد بلال مساة سيما پروين، حميد الله، سميع الله، مساة نعمه رياض، سياة عابده نويد بمنسمأة ثمينه وقار پسران و دختران فريدالله خان شامل ہے۔ان کے علاوہ مرحوم کا کوئی شرعی اور حقیقی وارثان نہیں ہے۔ بیان حلفی میرے علم ویقین کے مطابق درست ہے کوئی امرِ پوشیدہ نہیں رکھا گیا اور نہ ہی کوئی غلط بیانی کی گئی ہے۔

غلط بیانی کی صورت میں من مقر ذمه دار رہونگا۔لہذالکھ دی تا کہ سندر ہے اور بوقت ضرورت کام آئے۔ العبد عجر بلال ولدفريد الله خان 1730113124141

In the Court of Syed Zamarrud Shah Judge Banking **Court-II Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar**

Case No: 281/1 Next Date: 14-5-2025 Suit for recovery of Rs.1346204/-ZTBL Sherghar Branch Mardan Vs. Ameenullah Khan. Notice Versus: Ameenullah Khan S/o Rehmatullah Khan R/o Karkari Bauda Lund Khawar Tehsil Takhtbai Distt Mardan. Where is the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.1346204/- against you under section 10(2) of the Financial institious (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an expartee decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issue to day on 4-4-2024 under my signature & Seal of the Court.

Judge | Banking Court-II Peshawar





In brief

Over 5,000 cops to be deployed during **PSL** matches

RAWALPINDI (APP):

The Rawalpindi Police had made foolproof security arrangements for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2025, which commenced on April 11(Friday) at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. According to a police spokesman, the security arrangements were made in coordination with the Pakistan Army, Rangers and other security agencies. "Over 5,000 police personnel along with more than 367 cops of Traffic Police will perform security duties," the spokesman said. Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfraz Alpa and City Police Officer Syed Khalid Hamdani, along with other high officers, were in the field to supervise the arrangements, added. Special police including teams, Dolphin Force and Elite Force personnel, were deployed around the stadium and its surroundings, spokesman said. A special control room, he added, had been set up to monitor the stadium and its surroundings and the entire city through Safe City and other CCTV cameras. He said expert snipers were deployed on the rooftops around the stadium and the route of teams. spokesman further said that the visitors were

Mbappe to recouping 55mn euros from PSG

allowed to enter the sta-

dium through a walk-

through gate and full

body search.

PARIS (AFP): Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe moved closer on Thursday to receiving the 55 million euros (\$61 million) in unpaid wages and bonuses he says his former club Paris Saint-Germain owe him. The player's lawyers announced that the sum will be seized from PSG's accounts and protectively frozen while the case is heard. The Judicial Court of Paris has been given the green light for the funds to be taken from the Qatari-owned club. A legal hearing in the increasingly bitter dispute is scheduled for May 26. "This is just an employee against a bad payer," one of Mbappe's lawyers, Delphine Verheyden, said. "Kylian Mbappe is

determined to enforce his rights, not just for himself but for all the other players" who believe they have been wronged by their clubs. The lawyers announced that Mbappe would take his case to the labour court as part of a wider complaint from the French players' union (UNFP). The union lodged a complaint with the labour court a year ago claiming players were being sidelined at their clubs, something Mbappe believes he was the victim of at PSG. A PSG representative, speaking anonymously, told AFP it had "no problem" in fighting the case at the labour court and said Mbappe "is not going to win". Mbappe joined Real Madrid in June 2024 after seven years at PSG during which he scored 246 goals in 269 games. After a shaky start in Madrid, he has hit a run of form, scoring 22 goals in La Liga and seven times in the Champions League so far this season.

Salah to get new

LONDON (Agencies): Liverpool are making progress on talks over a contract for Mohamed Salah and the Premier League leaders are increasingly confident he will stay at Anfield next season, according to reports on Wednesday. The 32year-old Egypt international is out of contract at the end of this season along with Liverpool team-mates Virgil van Trent and Alexander-Arnold.

Noor Zaman clinches World | HBL PSL X to **U23** Squash Title, nation celebrates major comeback



Pakistan's rising squash world stage. star, Noor Zaman, secured Championships

back, dominating the next match against Yeheni three sets to clinch the title Kuruppu of Sri Lanka. 3-2. His road to the final Chandaran in the semiwhile Zaman was two

Pakistan squash, signaling nation's squash legacy.

Sports

In addition to Zaman's a historic victory at the success, Pakistan also inaugural WSF World excelled in the Plate Event Squash of the Under-23 on Championships. defeating Muhammad Ammad won Egypt's Kareem El Torkey the gold medal in the in a thrilling final at men's category by defeat-Karachi's DHA Creek ing Canada's Karim Canada's Karim Michael, while Amna After trailing 2-0 early in the match, Zaman medal in the women's cat-staged a remarkable come-

Kuruppu of Sri Lanka. With these victories, him overcome Pakistan not only celebrat-Malaysia's Ameeshenraj ed individual triumphs but also secured its place as finals, where he advanced the World Champion at the after his opponent retired 2025 Under-23 World Squash Championships by games up. defeating Egypt — a his-This victory marks a toric moment hailed as a significant moment for major comeback for the

begin Friday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The after Ravi Bopara, Kumar Mohammad Rizwan, HBL Pakistan Super Sangakkara and Eoin captain Multan Sultans League (PSL) is all set to welcome its tenth edition HBL PSL X, when defending champions Islamabad United take on Lahore Qalandars Cricket Rawalpindi

Stadium on Friday night. A glittering opening ceremony before the start of play on Friday will mark the beginning of this historic edition. HBL PSL X is slated to run from April 11 to 18 May with night matches starting at 8pm PKT.

The 34-match tournament comprises of threedouble headers scheduled on April 12, May 1 and 10, while the remaining fixtures will be single headers taking place across Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi. The three afternoon games will begin at 4pm PKT.

The six teams will also be locking horns to take away the USD 500,000 prize money set for the winners, while the runners-up team will be awarded USD 200,000. The HBL PSL X Draft, which took place on January 13, gave the six franchises an opportunity to refurbish their squads ahead of the historic edition.

The newly renovated Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore is set to play host to 13 HBL PSL X matches Qualifier, including Eliminator and the May 18 final. The Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium will host 11 matches, while Multan Cricket Stadium and National Bank Stadium will witness five HBL PSL X matches each this season.

Babar Azam, the leading run-scorer in the HBL PSL with 3,504 runs to his name, will be leading the HBL PSL 2017 winners Peshawar Zalmi. Australia's David Warner becomes the fourth overseas player to lead the 2020 champions Karachi Kings

Morgan.

Mohammad Rizwan, who led Multan Sultans to every family in the country glory in the 2021 edition in has supporters of different Abu Dhabi, will continue to teams, while all the fans reign as Sultans' skipper having done so 48 times in tacle whole year. Whoever the previous four HBL PSL editions. Quetta's Saud Shakeel will take the leadership duties of the Gladiators from Rilee Rossouw.

Shadab Khan, who has led Islamabad United in 55 HBL PSL matches so far, has been entrusted leadership duties for HBL PSL X as well, while Shaheen Shah Afridi, the only captain to have won consecutive HBL PSL titles will be in charge of the Lahore Qalandars. In HBL PSL 2024,

Islamabad United emerged winners bagging the title for third time, while Multan Sultans ended up as runners-up for the third contournament press conference Babar Azam, captain Peshawar Zalmi said, "This season we are focusing on what we missed out in the last couple of editions and not to repeat the same mistakes. We have strengthened our core on both so that we don't struggle at

any stage of the game. "We will look to field XIs according to the conditions on the four venues. I strong making the HBL PSL X highly competitive."

Hasan Ali, vice-captain arachi Kings said, Karachi have "Karachi Kings changed their combination to bring firepower to their batting and in HBL PSL X we intend to play with aggression early on as powerplay is the key to increasing your chances of winning.

The team environment has been great over the last few days and we will try to forward to celebrate the play entertaining cricket HBL PSL throughout the wherever we go.'

become a huge brand that wait for this sporting specwins the tournament will be a success for this country as the league has entered the 10th edition."

Saud Shakeel, captain Quetta Gladiators said, "The last few seasons haven't been good for Quetta and like all other teams we have tried our best to assemble a quality squad. We look forward to playing well and entertaining the fans this time around. "Our squad looks well balanced and it will be exciting to lead Quetta Gladiators this season."

Shadab Khan, captain Islamabad United said, "Islamabad United is excitsecutive time. In the pre- ed to play five home games at the Rawalpindi Stadium this season and we look forward to performing well in front of our fans. You will get to see a different Islamabad United outfit this season. "Being the defending champions, we will look to continue the consisbowling and batting front tent performances this season as well and expand our trophy cabinet.'

Shaheen Shah Afridi, captain Lahore Qalandars said, "One of the key goals think all the six teams are for Lahore Qalandars throughout the HBL PSL has been developing and producing quality players and we will stick to that goal in the 10th edition of the league as well.

"I am highly excited for the young players in the Lahore Qalandars squad and hopefully they will deliver well during this season. I am enjoying the leadership duties for Lahore Qalandars and looking next few weeks."

PCB bans Corbin Bosch from PSL for breach of contract

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan by the PCB, Bosch apolo-Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday banned South African all-rounder Corbin bility" for his actions.

Bosch from the Pakistan "I deeply regret my Super League (PSL) for one year after he breached his contract by withdrawing from the tournament.

by Peshawar Zalmi in of Peshawar Zalmi, and January's PSL player auc- the wider cricket commution but later opted to play nity," Bosch said. The in another league instead.

an undisclosed financial penalty on the player. The penalty amount. A source revealed that it was due to

In a statement released gised for his decision, saying he took "full responsi-

decision to withdraw from the HBL Pakistan Super League and offer my sincere apologies to the peo-Bosch, 30, was drafted ple of Pakistan, the fans PCB said Bosch would The PCB also imposed not be eligible for next international stars. year's PSL but did not



Bosch, who has played

specify whether the ban in various T20 leagues recent years, attracting mitted to learning from game.

this experience," he said. The 10th edition of

Pakistan Super League board did not disclose the extends to other leagues. worldwide, said he hoped starts in Rawalpindi on The PSL, Pakistan's pre- to return to the PSL in the Friday with Islamabad mier Twenty20 tournament, future. "This has been a United taking on Lahore the board's signing of an has grown in stature in hard lesson, but I am com- Qalandars in the opening

Shabbir off to a flawless start in JA Zaman Golf Professional Event

110 top golfers from across Pakistan. The tournament is one of the most anticipated events of the season, a strong favorite.

With Ahmed Baig participating in international events, the field is wide open for a lot of professionals to take it head on. However, the next three days are expected to bring many talented golfers vying for the top spot. The weather took a harsh turn, with extremely hot conditions making it a challenging day to play.

The participating playon the tournament, the of being part of this prestipleasure to be part of this prestigious tournament round one is beaming with deserves special recognition Tournament a success.

Professional.

the quality of organization, With many talented golfers and the respect the event competing for the top spot, commands make it a special experience for every how the leaderboardunparticipant." Expressed by folds tomorrow. Adil Jahangir, another B notable professional play- JA tough competition, with ing the tournament. Tournament, a team of and expertise ensured Another promising player, dedicated professionals that every aspect of the ionate; "What sets this the event's success. The planned and executed. event apart is the tradition Gymkhana Golf Club staff, and legacy associated with often unseen by the public center stage, it was the sion for the game is in making sure everything who made it all possible. ers shared their thoughts reflected in every aspect of ran smoothly. From morn- Their hard work and this tournament. It's an ing till night, they worked commitment are a testacourse, and the experience honor to compete here diligently to meet the high ment to the importance of once again, and I'm excited standards expected of such

it will be interesting to see

Zaman Mr. Matloob Ahmed opin- worked tirelessly to ensure tournament was wellit. The Zaman family's pas- eye, played a crucial role

gious event. "It's always a for the challenges ahead." a prestigious tournament. The leaderboard after The greenkeeping team The greenkeeping team JA

LAHORE (Monitoring hosted by the Zaman fami- 13 professionals played for their exceptional work Desk): The professional ly. They have played a under par. Shabbir Iqbal in maintaining the fairways event of the JA Zaman vital role in promoting golf took the lead with a score and greens despite the chal-Golf Tournament kicked in Pakistan, and every year of 65, playing flawless lenging hot weather condi off Thursday at the pictur-esque Gymkhana Golf dards." – stated Zainur fives and a single bogey at Azam and Muhammad Club in Lahore, featuring Rehman, a Professional the third hole. Asif Ali and Islam making sure the fairand American Certified Tabligh Hussain are in sec- ways are lush green and Master Instructor Teaching ond place with a score of putting areas are smooth 67 each, while Muhammad and challenging. They are "The JA Zaman Golf Minhaj and Akber Mehroz led by the deputy manager with Shabbir Iqbal, often referred to as the "Tiger of the most anticipated Woods of Pakistan," being events on our calendar. Tournament is always one are a further one stroke of the most anticipated back in joint fourth. There tant Usman play a pivotal role. Their efforts did not go The level of competition, ter after the first round. unnoticed, as the players appreciated the quality of the course and acknowledged the team's hard work.

The tournament management team also played Behind the scenes of the a vital role in the event's Golf success. Their dedication While the players took behind-the-scenes staff teamwork and dedication in making events like the Zaman

his coach and former Argentina and

Mascherano describing the forward

everything in football, he's the greatest in history and he continues

to set an example of how to com-

pitch he's going to want to win and

he's going to do the impossible to

win. And it's not just about want-

ing to, you also have to be able to,

Trailing 1-0 from the first-leg in

California, Miami quickly found

themselves in big trouble when Aaron Long put LAFC ahead in the

After Miami keeper Oscar Ustari

punched a corner out -- Mark

Delgado knocked the ball into the

box and in the scramble Nathan

Ordaz laid off to Long and the

weight as the away goals rule remains in place in CONCACAF's

club competition, Miami knew they

had to score three times to stay

With Long's goal carrying extra

and he has that ability," he said.

"He's a guy who has already done

Until the last day he plays on a

Javier

Barcelona team-mate

as the "soul" of the team.

pete," said Mascherano.

ninth minute.

defender fired home.

alive in the tournament.

Alcaraz eases into Monte Carlo quarter-finals, Draper out



Monte Carlo (AFP): Carlos Alcaraz cruised into the Monte Carlo Masters quarter-finals for the first time on Thursday with a straight-sets win over Daniel Altmaier.

British fifth seed Jack Draper was knocked out by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, while Lorenzo Musetti won an all-Italian ous appearance at the duel against a limping Matteo Berrettini.

Elsewhere, Alexei Popyrin saved match points as he beat 2024 runner-up Casper Ruud and eighth-seeded Alex de Minaur dismantled ninth seed Daniil Medvedev in two sets.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz brushed aside 84th-ranked German Altmaier 6-3, 6-1 to set up a last-eight clash with rising French star Arthur Fils on Friday.

"His (Fils') level is really high right now," said Alcaraz. "I saw a little bit from his match today, and he's playing great.' Alcaraz took some time

to find his rhythm as Altmaier broke back to level at 3-3 in the first set, but it was one-way traffic from then on.

The second seed reeled off three straight games to take the first set before racing through the second

in just over half an hour. 'At the beginning of the match, we played really long and tough rallies, really close games,'

added Alcaraz. The 21-year-old, the

reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion, is the favourite to lift the title this weekend after Draper saved a match early exits for top seed Alexander Zverev and Novak Djokovic.

match on his only previ- inside the first six games. tournament in 2022.

Fils eased into his third successive Masters quarter-final with a 6-2, 6-3 thrashing of 2023 champion Andrey Rublev.

The 20-year-old Fils is aiming to reach the semis of a Masters event for the first time, after losing in the last eight at both Indian Wells and the Miami Open this year.

"If it's him, it's going to be the first time I'm going to play him," Fils said of meeting Alcaraz.

"It's going to be a good experience. He's a big champion. He won four Grand Slams already. I didn't win a single one.'

Draper beaten Draper lost in three sets to Spaniard Davidovich Fokina.

Draper, who won the Indian Wells title last month, slipped to a 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4 loss as he failed

to reach a first Masters quarter-final on clay. Davidovich edged a hard-fought open-

ing set which featured three breaks of serve. Draper let three break this surface.'

points slip away in the ninth game, Davidovich Fokina taking his second set point.

In the second set point and then levelled the contest in a tie-break. In a ovak Djokovic. topsy-turvy third set, Alcaraz lost in his first though, both broke twice

> Davidovich Fokina delivered the decisive blow in the 10th game to secure his first win over a top-10 opponent on clay since 2023.

> Davidovich Fokina will take on Australian Popyrin in Friday's quarter-finals. Popyrin, the world number 27, beat Ruud 6-4,

3-6, 7-5, after saving two match points at 3-5 in the third set. Musetti, seeded 13,

beat Davis Cup team-mate Berrettini 6-3, 6-3 and then talked of "the difficulty of playing a friend, a mate, a team-mate" 'This is a special court

for me and also for Matteo. We share a lot of moments here in Monte Carlo where we live," Musetti said. "Definitely one of the toughest challenges for me.'

World number 10 De Minaur crushed former Open Medvedev 6-2, 6-2.

ay. "I'm finding my feet Fokina on clay," said De Minaur of Australia. "It's taken me a while in my career. I can be dangerous on

Liverpool deal

Messi scores twice in Miami's frantic comeback over LAFC

(AFP/APP): Lionel Messi scored remaining. twice as Inter Miami fought back on Wednesday.

The Argentine World Cup-winner aggression needed for a battle. yet again proved decisive in what

LAUDERDALE with six minutes of normal time the win. It was a display which left While there has never been any

from 2-0 down on aggregate to doubt that the eight-times Ballon defeat Los Angeles FC 3-1 and d'Or winner still has the technical clinch a place in the semi-finals of ability to win games at the age of the CONCACAF Champions Cup 37, this was a night when Messi showed he retains the passion and

was a frantic, chaotic and entertain- time, Messi was chasing down ing encounter, sealing a 3-2 aggre- opponents and putting in challenges gate victory from the penalty spot as his team just about hung on for

In the final minutes of stoppage



Government tightens

passport rules to

curb begging, illegal

immigration

'The new passport con-

mitment to law and order."

cent compliance.

migration attempts.

global stage.

rising trend of begging and

illegal immigration, Federal

Naqvi has announced strict

new measures, including tightening passport issuance procedures and blocking

passports of deported indi-

Passports, Minister Naqvi

chaired an important meet-

ing attended by Minister

of State for Interior Talal

Khurram Agha, DG FIA Riffat Mukhtar Raja, and DG Passports Mustafa

Naqvi directed officials to

complete all legal formali-

ties related to the newly

sized that these steps would

introduced passport the requirements. He empha- inspe

Secretary

Muhammad

Immigration

Chaudhry,

Jamal Qazi.

Interior

In brief

IRSA releases 86,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 86,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 110,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1411.27 feet which was 9.27 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,500 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1097.50 feet, which was 47.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 35,000 cusecs and 17,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 54,900, 31,600, 27,100 and 6,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 26,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 12,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

PHA decorates Rawal Park

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) continuously carried out the beautification of the garrison city while colourful flowers and plants were planted in the green belts and parks of the city Director General PHA Ahmed Hassan Ranjha on Thursday told the media that fine-looking flower vases and small beds of beautiful plants have also been primed at the Rawal park. He said that hands-on steps were taken for the beauty of the city, and PHA was committed to providing the best kind of hygienic and environment-friendly mesosphere to the residents. Ranjha said that efforts were underway to make the city Clean and Green according to the mission of the Punjab adding, will be government, Rawalpindi made the most beautiful city in Punjab. We want the people to breathe in the green atmosphere.' He expressed hope that the residents would join hands with PHA to make the city more aesthetic and prestigious.

Bike-lifter

gang arrested RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Police, during the crackdown launched on the instructions of City Police Officer Syed Khalid Hamdani on Thursday, busted three members of a gang of bike-lifters recovered motorcycles from them. According Rawalpindi to the Police spokesman, the Waris Khan Police recovered stolen motorcycles from the accused Akash, Naveed and Abdul Moeez. Meanwhile, the Rawalpindi Police, in its ongoing operation against drug dealers according to the drugfree vision of Chief Minister's Punjab, netted 13 big drug smugglers, including a lady suspect and an Afghan national with more than 31 kilograms of charas. The Waris Khan Police nabbed an accused Arshad alias Tala, and recovered 11 kg 200 grams of hashish from him. Dhamial Police recovered 1 kg 160 grams of hashish from an Afghan national, Irshad. Similarly, Pirwadahi nabbed the lady smuggler, Nasima Batool and recovered 1 kg 250 grams of hashish from her. RA Bazar Police arrested Shoaib and recovered 3 kg 600 grams of Charas while 2 kg and 100 grams of hashish was recovered from the suspect Atif. The Gujar Khan Police

recovered 2 kg and 100

grams of hashish from

the accused Wajid,

Police nabbed Shahbaz

and recovered 1 kg

600 grams of hashish

from him.

Sadiqabad



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspecting newly installed MRP and e-passport machines at Directorate General of Immigration and Passports. —APP Photo

Ayaz highlights importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation for regional development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker General of ECO. He congratulated and encouraged Dr Khan to take a cooperation among the parliaments in the region is crucial for sustainable peace and development.

During meeting with Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Dr Asad Majeed Khan here, he emphasized the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering closer ties among ECO member states.

Both the sides discussed ways to enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation among ECO member states and other matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Ayaz Sadiq welcomed Dr Asad Majeed Khan on his appointment as the Secretary the National Assembly of Pakistan nectivity and progress.

National Assembly Sardar Ayaz him on assuming his new role and Sadiq Thursday said that stronger expressed confidence that his leadership would strengthen regional collaboration. Ayaz Sadiq further highlighted Pakistan's active role in the Parliamentary Assembly Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO), reaffirming the country's commitment to regional integration

> The Speaker expressed pride in the National Assembly of Pakistan's role in hosting the ECO Parliamentary Assembly twice. He also pointed out that the Interim Secretariat of Parliamentary Assembly

through legislative engagement.

proactive approach toward transitioning it into a permanent secretariat.

Capital

The Speaker also commended the role of Parliamentary Friendship Groups in strengthening ties between Pakistan and other ECO member countries. Secretary General Dr Asad establishment of a permanent secre-

The meeting concluded with a Economic Cooperation Organization parliamentary engagement as a key (PAECO) is currently located within component of regional peace, con-

Majeed Khan thanked Ayaz Sadiq for his warm welcome and praised his efforts in advancing regional parliamentary relations. He assured the NA Speaker of his full support for the tariat for the PAECO in Islamabad.

shared commitment to deepening

avenues for cooperation with Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): the deep fraternal bonds tion on the National Youth shared by Pakistan and Council of Pakistan, inviting Türkiye, transcending tradi-Turkish expertise and participation to empower the

Turkish envoy seeks new

Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu on Thursday urged to explore more areas of cooperation and joint ventures between two brother countries. During a meeting with the

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, the ambassa-dor highlighted the potential of youth exchanges and collaborations.

He emphasized to avail opportunities for Turkish students to pursue higher education at Pakistan's pres-

tigious universities. The meeting underscored

tional diplomatic ties and youth-centric initiatives between the two nations. He expressed gratitude explored cooperation in

for Prime Minister Shehbaz media and sports, with both Sharif's visit to Türkiye during the devastating earthquake, lauding it as a testament to the solidarity between the two countries.

Chairman Rana Mashhood revealed that Pakistan would offer fully funded scholarships to Turkish students, paving the way for stronger aca-

demic linkages. He also sought collaborabetween the two nations.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a against organized begging and decisive move to curb the rackets and unlawful mac machines Directorate. He was also briefed by the German Interior Minister Mohsin ditions will significantly technical team responsible for the installation.

prevent begging and illegal immigration," Naqvi statwould portray a positive remarked, "With the addimage of Pakistan on the tion of these advantaglobal stage. During a high-level Minister Talal Chaudhry office's visit to the Directorate of echoed similar sentiments, increase Minister Talal Chaudhry office's capacity will significantly, saying, "This decisive action will send a strong, enabling faster processing and issuance of passports.

positive message to the DG Passports Mustafa international community Jamal Qazi provided a detailed briefing on the regarding Pakistan's comenhancements In a major operational announced plans to launch directive, Mohsin Naqvi a citizen-friendly mobile ordered strict implementation of the policy to application soon, aimed at further simplifying passport-related services.

amal Qazi. block the passports of Addressing the meeting, individuals deported from The federal governabroad, ensuring 100 perment's robust initiative signals a new era of stricter Following the meeting, immigration control and Interior Minister enhanced public service inspected six newly delivery, as Pakistan moves installed Machine Readable to align itself with internanewly delivery, as Pakistan moves serve as a strong deterrent Passport (MRP) machines

youth of both nations.

meeting

sides expressing enthusiasm

for joint projects that would

further cement cultural and

people-to-people connec-

tions. The Chairman reiter-

ated Pakistan's commitment

to deepening ties with

Türkiye, emphasizing that

such initiatives would

unlock new opportunities

for the youth and strengthen

the historic brotherhood

The

Speakers urge swift action to tackle out-of-school children issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): The we have yet to make a sig- inclusive education. Director-General of Civil nificant dent in this prob-Services Academy, Farhan lem, he added. ignored continuously.

(MEL) workshop, organ- ties at grassroots level. ized by the Sustainable Development Council, said a press release collaborative issued here on Thursday.

Khawaja one of the most pivotal among them." Despite future strategies under a Hussain among them." Despite future strategies under a Hussain Farooq, the and organization-wide intenumerous interventions, shared commitment to Additional Secretary of gration of the project).

school children on an works have proven success- British Council, aims to support in this initiative. urgent basis, as it is being ful, and we're optimistic bring about a systemic He was speaking at a bring a real change in our and quality of education. Monitoring, education system by engag-Evaluation, and Learning ing people and communi- together representatives (operationalization and

tainable The workshop that including
Policy assembled key stakehold- Development addressing the country's Foundation, challenges; and the issue dren. It served as a plat- ILMpact's mission. of out-of-school children is form to review progress,

Institute (SDPI) with the ers from across Pakistan Institute (SDPI), British for each partner, iii) tools collaboration of the British called for strengthening Council, Think Equal, development efforts NRSP, SRSP, ITA, Mojaz (prioritization of urgently said: educational challenges, Hands, Sightsavers, PAMS, board orientation and "Pakistan, as a nation and particularly the pressing and Pratham, all of whom update (reporting and track-society, is facing multiple issue of out-of-school chil-contribute actively to ing mechanism), and v)

> Speaking to the workexchange ideas, and shape shop participants, Farhat tion, responsibility matrix,

Education ILMpact Department, and Dr Syed Programme, funded by the Shabbir Zaidi, the Director Aziz Khawaja has stressed the need to tackle and address the issue of out-of-knowledge-based frame
Foreign, Commonwealth of the Civil Services and Development Office Academy, underscored the significance of institutional

The workshop particithat this consortium will change in access to school pants were given an orientation on: i) ILMpact's The event brought MEL Strategy and LFA from leading organizations, way forward), ii) MEL Sustainable toolkit mapping with clear Policy roles and responsibilities deadlines Muslim required tools), iv) dashpartners' approach and MEL plans (team composi-

police helped save the lives of all passengers on board. police spokesperson Syed bus traveling from Dera remaining passengers were Ghazi Khan to Rawalpindi quickly evacuated from the

ISLAMABAD (APP): A was collided with a truck burning vehicle. major accident on the M4 early Thursday morning Motorway near Pansira left near Pansira on the M4

Rus catches fire on

one person dead and dozens Motorway. at risk when a passenger The bus reportedly colbus caught fire after colliding with a truck. Swift leading to a crash that trigaction by the motorway gered a fire in the vehicle.

Pakistan, Japan agree to

deepen digital cooperation

motorway; driver died

Motorway police and rescue teams arrived promptly at the scene to control the fire and assist in lided with a moving truck, the evacuation process.

The Sector Commander of the Motorway Police There were 43 passen- also reached the site and led gers on the bus at the time the rescue operation. According to motorway of the incident. According Officers managed to to officials, the driver of the remove all passengers from Imran Ahmed, a passenger bus died in the crash. The the bus before the fire could spread further, preventing a larger tragedy.

PTI's tenure led to economic ruin, democracy erosion: Minister Bilal

for Railways Bilal Azhar Kiani on dissolved by the PTI through deceit. Thursday accused the previous PTI since its removal from power.

vote (April 10, 2022), state minister and allowed terrorism to resurge. took to social media platform X to accuse the deposed premier of sub- of Pakistan's crises have neither Pakistan back to constitutional goververting democratic norms while reformed nor altered their harmful nance, democratic stability, and susalleging foreign involvement in his objectives. Their recent attempts to tainable development - while provide

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister National Assembly was unlawfully the same destructive mindset. The The same elements that stole for-

government of causing economic col- mer prime minister Nawaz Sharif's lapse and weakening democracy, as electoral mandate in 2018 went on to the country marks over three years plunder the nation's wealth, pushed the economy to the verge of collapse, and On the third anniversary of former crushed citizens under unprecedented Prime Minister Imran Khan's inflation, joblessness, and poverty. removal through a no-confidence They isolated Pakistan internationally

Regrettably, he said, the architects government's collapse. He said the obstruct IMF assistance demonstrate ing crucial relief to the public.

May 9 incidents revealed their true nature, while their ongoing vilification of our martyrs and armed forces shows their continued disrespect for national institutions.

While condemning those inciting chaos and unrest, minister Kiani honored PMLN chief Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leadership for steering

ISLAMABAD Minister for Information Technology

Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Akamatsu Shuitsi discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in information technology, digital transformation, and innovation on Thursday.

the minister said the government's commitment to fostering digital growth and embracing emerging the Prime Minister's vision of a "Digital Pakistan."

Both sides agreed to tion, and the technology and digital Shaza Telecommunication Shaza economy sectors, focusing Ambassador Akamatsu Fatima Khawaja and on benefiting from Japan's also explored the possibilialso centered on human digital governance. resource development, particularly in areas like artificial intelligence (AI), Pakistan's efforts in techeducation, skills training, nological and educational

Pakistani youth.

strengthen collaboration in advanced technologies. Fatima expertise in digital trans-formation. The discussion programs in ICT, AI, and

The Japanese envoy assured full support for In a meeting held here, and employment for advancement. The meeting concluded with a reaffir-The two parties under- mation of the shared comscored the importance of mitment to expanding launching joint initiatives cooperation and unlocking technologies is in line with aimed at building a skilled new opportunities for workforce and encouragy youth under the Digital ing partnerships in educa-

CDA's cleanliness, plantation campaign on its peak during spring

Development Authority (CDA)'s cleanliness and tree plantation campaign in the federal capital on its peak during the spring season to focus on planting as many trees as possible to enhance the green cover and ensure clean ambience.

the direction of Prime Muhammad Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the campaign would ensure neat the residents of the metro-

CDA in collaboration with indigenous species like role in ensuring the neat Ministry of Education and mulberry, citrus, maple and clean ambience which Ministry of Climate leaf, and other varieties would eliminate several Change will plant one mil- will also be included in the health diseases. lion trees across the city as campaign. Olive, rubber part of the Spring Tree plants, willow, and other everybody should play Plantation Campaign. varieties are also part of their role in cleanliness

He urged the residents, civil society, educational Campaign. institutions, corporate sec-Talking to APP on tors and the private sector one should join hands and sapling to play her own Thursday, an official of not to only cooperate with CDA told that in line with CDA but actively particitude the plantation campaign a not to only cooperate with contribute actively to make part in this campaign.

that this year, fruit-bearing which would provide duct research on carbon and clean environment to trees such as loquat, healthy atmosphere to the credits and to organize guava, figs, pomegranates, citizen in the federal capital. seminars on this topic in and other fruit plants will

He said that this year, be planted. Similarly, CDA's always play key the Spring Tree Plantation and tree plantation during

She emphasized that the spring and said that she He stressed that every- had already planted a

Waqar Ahmed, a stupate in the Spring Tree success. Fatima Rasool, a dent, appealed the Plantation Campaign 2025. resident of G-II, highly Ministry of Education to 13 to April 16, 2025. The official informed appreciated CDA's drive encourage students to con-She further said that educational institutions.

4-Day convention for Overseas Pakistanis set for April 13

Overseas Foundation (OPF) attached department of Ministry of Overseas Profit Company under the Pakistanis and Human Companies Act, 1913 this organization was pro-Resource Development (now Companies Act, vide all basic facilities to (OP&HRD) was organizing a four day International Convention of Overseas Pakistanis here from April

An official source told APP here on Thursday that event was proud Pakistanis, Stronger together.

OPF was established operations of OPF are stakeholders.

Pakistanis Ordinance, 1979. It was registered on 8th

July, 1979 as Not for 2017, Section-42). It is a expatriates to support the public sector company to national economy. be governed under Public To ensure we Sector Rules, 2013 of Securities tribute towards their sys-

(APP): under the Emigration managed under overall control of the Board and policy directions from Government. The main mission of

To ensure welfare of Companies Overseas Pakistanis and (Corporate Governance) their families and con-& Exchange Commission tematic rehabilitation on the main theme of this of Pakistan (SECP). The return, by generating suf-Board of Governors is ficient resources and supreme body and all coordination with the

4 hurt in blast at police HQ

KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): An explosion occurred inside an old ammunition container at the police headquarters in southern Kandahar province on Thursday. Police spokesman Mullah Asadullah Jamshid said the explosion took place in a container belonging to the Department of Counter-Narcotics. Four security guards were wounded in the blast, which shattered windowpanes in nearby buildings. It remains unclear how the ammunition exploded.

The Frontier Post Shawwal 12, 1446 — Friday, April 11, 2025

Two killed in Farah clash

FARAH CITY (Pajhwok): Two persons have been killed and a third injured during a clash between two families in Farah, an official said on Thursday. Police spokesman Mohammad Nasim Badri said a father and his son were killed and another person was injured in a conflict between two families in the Refugee area of 1st police district. He said the families were relatives. Security forces have reached the scene and arrested one person in connection with the case

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

Work begins on new 50-bed hospital in Khost



KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): on Thursday and the project equipped with advanced will be completed within medical equipment.

foundation stone, said the of this hospital. hospital was being con-

Construction work a 50-bed Badr Charity Foundation at countries. Insha Allah, hospital was launched by a a cost of 1.5 million US charity in Khost province dollars and will be ed here in Khost.

He added many patients Deputy Governor of would need not travel to Department, said that the Khost, Maulvi Mahboob other countries for treat-Shah Qanet, who laid the ment after the construction

"The 50-bed hospital structed on nearly two acres of land along the Ring Road on the western out-

skirts of Khost city by Al- forced to travel to foreign

Meanwhile, Dr. Shera Gul Zadran, deputy director of the Khost Public Health hospital will provide high-

many diseases will be treat-

quality health services. He added that the construction of the new hospi-

According to him, "This hospital will have various departments, such as pediatrics, internal medicine, cardiology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, obstetrics and others.

Meanwhile, residents of Khost said they were happy with the construction of the Al-Badr hospital and said many Afghans still take their patients to foreign countries.

Mohammad Arif Irfan, a resident of Khost, told Pajhwok Afghan News that if there were standard hospitals within the country, people would not have to send their patients to foreign countries for treatment

Great attention should be paid to quality in the construction of this hospital, and modern technology should be used. Most of our patients go to Pakistan and ran for treatment."

Construction work on the Al-Badr hospital was launched at a time when patients in the Khost Civil Hospital are suffering from poor health services due to increasing number

UN documents widespread detentions by PVPV enforcers

UN Assistance Mission in provinces. Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Taliban's "law on the propagation of virtue and prevention of vice," or the morality law, reporting the deployment of more than deployment of more than prayers or were caught lis-3,300 enforcers across 28 provinces and detailing broad-scale detentions, restrictions on daily life, tion in August 2024.

has revealed that enforce- tainers. ment operations by the Ministry for the Propaghave led to arbitrary deten- provinces tions, forced compliance enforcement. These comchecks, and harsh penalties mittees, led by provincial across the country. The law, governors, coordinate with decrees restricting personal officials to monitor public freedoms, has particularly compliance. targeted men's appearance and women's access to pub-

Key figures:

Afghanistan's Over half of all docu-

a report released Thursday mented arbitrary detentions documented wide- were related to men's nonspread enforcement of the compliant haircuts or beard

> tening to music, taking photographs, or playing

Inspectors have detained and economic impacts individuals for up to three since the law's implementa- days in police lockups, mobile checkpoints, or In this report, UNAMA makeshift detention con-

Taliban have established codifies prior religious leaders and local

Women and girls have borne the brunt of the law's restrictions. Enforcement 3,300 male PVPV female education, employinspectors deployed in 28 ment, and public visibility:

Hijab surged from 13% to 70% in

access for women rose from 38% to 76%.

98% of communities, up

enue and limited access to education bans, resulting in clients due to mahram trav- the outflow of substantial lors, and photographers and image creation. ients struggle with mahram

tor, enforcement has dis- and freedoms. rupted aid delivery:

women can no longer travel to field sites.

surveyed areas.

Girls' education above

grade six is restricted in censorship, with communiincreasingly The law's socioeconomic effects are also stark. Women-owned businesses ber of families are sending reported diminished rev- daughters abroad due to

el restrictions. Barbers, tai- financial resources. have seen income plummet that these developments are due to enforcement against pushing Afghanistan fur-UNAMA notes that the modern grooming, music, ther from international ation of Virtue and the provincial implementation workers, particularly wom- United Nations Security Prevention of Vice (PVPV) committees in at least 28 en, face increased barriers Council has urged the to oversee to employment, and pat- Taliban to reverse the politravel requirements.

female beneficiaries.

enforcement longer take photographs 3% to 70% in during aid distributions, further complicating docu-Restrictions on public mentation and reporting.

UNAMA warns that the PVPV law is contributing to a climate of fear and selfty and family members enforcing Taliban edicts at the household level. A growing num-

The report concludes Health norms, noting that the cies, including the vice and virtue law, as part of its call In the humanitarian sec- for restoring basic rights

"The propagation of 46% of aid agencies say virtue and prevention of vice law is not only reshaping Afghan society—it is 49% report they are no actively compounding the has intensified bans on longer allowed to meet with country's humanitarian and economic crises," 60% say they can no report stated.

3 children killed in Kunar roof collapse

ASADABAD (Pajhwok): Three children have been killed and a fourth injured as result of a roof-collapse incident in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Thursday.

Chapa Dara District Maulvi Governor Habibullah Zubair told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place last night when roofs of two rooms in a house caved in due to rainfall.

roof cave-in occurred in the Sori Ghara village of the district, leaving three children dead and another wounded, the official said.

Rescuers reached the scene and took the injured child to hospital, the district chief said, adding the minor was in stable condition.

Italy to take in 700 Afghan refugees

KABUL (Pajhwok): Italy has announced it will accept 700 Afghan refugees in line with the country's humanitarian corridor programme. The announcement came in a statement from the Community of Sant'Egidio.

Around 700 Afghan refugees will be welcomed to Italy thanks to a new agreement under the Community of Sant Egidio's long-standing humanitarian corridors initiative.

It is in collaboration with the Italian government and various national and internationally organisations.

In a press release, ommunity President, Community Marco Impagliazzo, said: 'For Afghans, who were forced to flee their country in great distress following the mass exodus from Kabul in August 2021, and who have been forgotten by the international community while waiting to be resettled, this is finally a

sign of hope." In total, the humanitarian corridors initiative, proby Sant'Egidio moted alongside various organisations, has enabled 8,200 refugees to arrive safely in Europe.

The project, which is entirely self-funded, is carried out through a widespread network of hospitality, supported by the generosity of many Italian citizens.

'Opponents seek help from foreign states'

PARWAN (TOLOnews): Mohammad Siddiq Mokhles, the intelligence chief of Parwan province, in a public gathering accused political opponents of the Islamic Emirate who reside in neighboring countries of receiving aid from foreign states. In this gathering, Mokhles stated that

these groups also misuse some youth within the country against the Islamic Emirate. The gathering aimed at addressing the challenges of residents in Sayd Khel dis-

trict of Parwan province. "You must be aware of history and the political situation. The people who have gone from the country to Iran and Tajikistan, sometimes go to Pakistan and at times even seek help from Israel," The Nas

The governor of Parwan said that there Islamic Emirate.

intelligence chief said.

Mohammad Idris Anwari said "There is no ethnic, linguistic, or regional discrimination among your officials. Rather, your remain incomplete—whether in education, officials consider such biases and preferential attitudes as a major deviation.

Meanwhile, some residents of Sayd projects.' Khel district—located near Charikar, the center of Parwan—say that with the destruction of their agricultural lands due to flooding from the Panjshir, Salang, and Ghorband rivers, as well as the lack of challenges.



electricity and damaged roads, they are facing serious problems.

They called on officials to address these

Nasir Ahmad Mohabbat, a resident of Sayd Khel district, said: "A survey has been done but it is not enough, because exist no types of discrimination in from Gulbahar to the end of Sayad, these Afghanistan and among the officials of the people are under the threat of flooding rom two rivers.

Mir Rafiullah Munib, another resident of Sayd Khel district, said: "Projects that roads, or electricity—I hope the governor will make more efforts to complete these

Local officials in Parwan have also added that many public meetings have been organized across various areas of the

20m Afghans accessed healthcare services: UN

KABUL (Pajhwok): The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNCEF) says over 20 million people, half of them children, accessed primary healthcare services through UNICEF-supported facilities in Afghanistan last year.

UNICEF Afghanistan's 2024 annual report highlights the progress made for children and families across the country, as well as the complex challenges the organization continues to face.

Over 20 million people, half of them children, accessed primary healthcare services through UNICEF-supported

received vital nutrition interventions. About 564,000 children - 64% of them

girls - gained access to education through community-based learning initiatives. Over 1.1 million people were provided

with emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

We would like to thank our partners and donors for their invaluable support to every achievement in 2024, as well as the people of Afghanistan, whose bravery and strength are reflected in every result described in this report", the organization said

ervices through UNICEF-supported cilities. "This report is a testament to the spirit of the people of Afghanistan and the resilience of its children."

Taliban ban images of living beings in Badakhshan

ited the publication of images depicting and Culture, was delivered this week folliving beings — including humans and animals — in the northern provinces of for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention Badakhshan and Jawzjan, according to of Vice, sources familiar with the matter ocal media sources.

The directive, issued by the Taliban's

Minister calls for revision of Farah city's strategic plan

KABUL (BNA): Sheikh Hamdullah Nomani, the Minister of Urban Development and Housing, has called for further revisions to the strategic plan for Farah city during a recent meeting with a review delegation. The delegation shared their findings from a recent assessment of province's urban planning. Mawlawi Mohammad Haroon Siddiqi Head of Urban Studies, highlighted significant issues in the initial plan, including zoning, transportation, canal buffer zones public urban services, and water supply.

Siddigi reported that these concerns have been addressed in the newly revised strategic plan. However, Minister Nomani urged for additional improvements and the need to share the revised plan with relevant departments for comprehensive development. The Ministry remains committed to fostering systematic urban growth across all provinces, focusing on modernizing and implementing necessary plans that meet contemporary needs.

KABUL (Amu TV): Taliban have prohib- provincial Departments of Information told Amu. The order was reportedly communicated to local media outlets on Wednesday.

> According to those sources, the ban has been imposed "by force" and media organizations have been instructed to comply. Taliban officials warned that outlets found violating the restriction would face "serious consequences. In Jawzjan, Taliban representatives told

> journalists that the decision originated from Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, and that all institutions must obey the directive without exception.

The policy marks an expansion of earlier restrictions on visual media under Taliban rule. Similar bans on broadcasting or publishing images of living creatures have previously been imposed in at least 13 other provinces, including Kandahar, Farah, and Helmand. Several outlets have reportedly been forced to close for noncompliance.

Media workers in the affected regions described the ban as part of a broader campaign of censorship and cultural suppres-

"This is aimed at erasing visual and cultural identity," said one media employee, who asked not to be named for security reasons. "It's not just a ban — it's part of a policy of silencing and erasing public

Taliban plan 'propaganda' radio broadcasts The Taliban reportedly plan to freedom watchdogs have described KABUL (Amu TV): The Taliban as its "achievements," as well as to are preparing to install radio trans- publicize corporal punishments use equipment from the national

mitters in at least nine provinces as and counter opposition narratives. part of an effort to expand state-run media broadcasting aligned with achievements, publicize flogging their messaging, according to a and executions, and target those source at the Taliban-controlled who speak against the Taliban," the national television network.

The source, who spoke to Amu on condition of anonymity due to tiative began in Spin Boldak distive follows a directive from being overseen by Yusuf Ahmadi, leader Akhundzada and is intended to dis- Taliban-run radio and television seminate what the Taliban describe authority.

"The goal is to promote Taliban source said.

According to the source, the inisecurity concerns, said the initia- trict of Kandahar Province and is Hibatullah who serves as director of the

broadcaster under their control, as well as radio infrastructure left behind by NATO forces after the 2021 withdrawal.

The move comes amid contin-

ued restrictions on independent media in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, dozens of media outlets have been shut down, journalcensored — leading to what press expansion plan.

as one of the most repressive media environments in the world.

International organizations have repeatedly called on the Taliban to uphold media freedom and allow independent journalism, but the Taliban have increasingly consolidated its control over information, promoting content that aligns with its religious and political ideology.

There has been no official pubists have been arrested or intimi- lic statement from Taliban dated, and content has been tightly authorities regarding the radio

Childbirth carries deadly risk for women in Badakhshan

district of Kiran wa Minjan to the lack of medical in northeastern Badakhshan equipment and trained province, childbirth often staff, she was referred to

carries a deadly risk.

Inadequate facilities, a lack of trained tination and passed away doctors, and impassable in Ab Jukhan area of roads have led to countless Yamgan district. preventable deaths. For many, giving birth means gambling with life.

Minjan, who has yet to trict, she would have been still alive, and my child still be with me.'

would have been born. Abdullah's wife died resources while being transported to

Faizabad. Tragically, she medical did not make it to her des-

Reflecting on the heartwrenching experience, Abdullah says, "It had been One such tragedy is that a year since our marriage, of Abdullah, a 35-year-old and it was my wife's first man from Kiran wa pregnancy. She endured three days of pain. We took come to terms with the loss her to the clinic in Kiran of his wife. His hands trem- wa Minjan, but nothing ble, a lump forms in his could be done. When we throat, and his voice cracks tried to transfer her to the with emotion as he speaks: hospital in Faizabad, she "If there had been a doctor died on the way. If there and medicine, if there had had been a proper hospital been a hospital in our dis- with trained doctors here, my wife and child would

Lack of life-saving

Abdullah's brother-in-Faizabad, the provincial law, Abdul Rauf, speaking capital, after enduring at his sister's funeral, three days of excruciating described the situation with labor. Initially, she was sorrow. "My sister suffered highlighted the lack of health-related problems had

tors. Despite our best issues. efforts, we couldn't get her Askaspeek.'

sister's death. He urgently called on the Émirate Islamic

Afghanistan (IEA) to build wa Minjan to prevent further tragedies. Mahsa, a mother of three birth.

from Badakhshan, shared the struggles women in the province face during child-

districts cannot get to a hospital or health center in time. As a result, some head of the primary health mothers either lose their center in Askazar, the dislives or their babies." She trict center, confirmed that

For women in the remote Kiran wa Minjan, but due there were no trained doc- er transportation as critical remote location.

"Building equipped hosto a hospital in Baharak or pitals and clinics with here, Faizabad. She passed away frained midwives and speon the way to Faizabad. We cialist doctors in each dis-referred often die from no advanced clinics or when it runs out, there is no brought her lifeless body trict would significantly back to the village of reduce maternal mortality rate. Currently, only a few Abdul Rauf emphasized have districts the lack of medical facili- equipped clinics. In remote ties, long travel distances, areas, there are no health and poor road conditions as services or the ones availthe primary factors in his able do not meet people's needs," Mahsa said.

She warned that unless these issues are addressed, women in rural areas will a modern hospital in Kiran continue to suffer, with more mothers' lives lost, particularly during child-

In the previous solar year (1403), 29 women in Kiran wa Minjan died from complications related to "Many women in remote childbirth before reaching a health facility. Bakhsh Mohammad,

"We do not have surgical operational facilities complications like excessive bleeding during the journey to Baharak or Faizabad."

He stressed the need for Comprehensive Health Center (CHC) to provide advanced care on-site, harsh winter conditions, without the need for dan- make it extremely difficult gerous and time-consuming to transfer patients in time travel.

Askazar health center in our 1403, 29 others lost their Amarullah added. lives on their way to called for the urgent estabdistrict to reduce these deaths.

Bala, also voiced their trying to transfer him to

(Pajhwok): taken to the local clinic in three days of pains because skilled midwives and prop-exacerbated by the district's frustration with the lack of Faizabad, he passed away medical facilities. "In our on the way. area, we are more than four hours' walking dis-

> "Patients who need to be health center, and there are icine for three months, but qualified doctors nearby. We always lose our patients on the way to other hospitals.' The long distance to the provincial capital, com-

bined with poor roads and for critical care. "We need Bakhsh Mohammad fur- a modern health center ther revealed that, while here. If we don't get one, three people died at the we will continue to lose loved

Sayed Akbar, who lost Faizabad or Baharak. He his young son a month ago due to the lack of medical lishment of a CHC in the facilities, echoed these concerns. "In the entire district, there is only one ambu-**Inaccessible health care** lance. Even for simple ill-Residents of villages in nesses, there is not enough Kiran wa Minjan, like equipment. A month ago, Amarullah from Yamak my son fell ill, and despite

Minjan has severe shorthe explained tance from the nearest ages. "They may have medguarantee when it will be available again," Sayed Akbar lamented. He called for more doctors and specialists in the district.

> Bakhsh Mohammad, the representative of Skaspak across village, added to the growing call for better medical infrastructure.

Officials' promises

patients must travel 10 to 11 hours to reach Faizabad. Many pregnant women die during this journey because of bleeding or severe pain. Some families can't afford the high costs of transferring patients to Faizabad or Panjshir. The government and international organizations must address the lack of health services in our

district. Qari Atiqullah Faizi, the head of Badakhshan's pubhealth department,

health challenges but did The clinic in Kiran wa not confirm the maternal mortality figures.

He said that upgrading the existing primary health center (BHC) to a CHC had been approved but had yet to be implemented due to budget constraints.

Faizi also revealed that the Ministry of Public Health plans to build 318 district general hospitals Afghanistan this Badakhshan year. receives 27 new hospitals, one will be constructed in Kiran wa Minjan. If fewer hospitals are allocated to the province, one will either be built in Kiran wa Minjan or Yamgan, along with necessary buildings and services to improve healthcare in the region.

Currently, 10 districts in Badakhshan have primary health centers, and three have district-level health facilities. However, only a few districts have fully functioning comprehensive health centers (CHC).

WB arm's \$300m lifeline sets tone for \$2b global push into Reko Diq

ISALAMABAD (Reuters): The lenders. The Reko Diq project direc- Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali

Located in the Chagai District of Balochistan province, the mine is considered one of the world's largest underdeveloped copper-gold areas were underway with the IFC and have a significant impact on Pakistan's struggling economy.

own the other 50%. The mine's Reuters on Tuesday that Barrick Gold's Reko Diq copper and gold from 80 million. project in Pakistan intended to lock in upwards of \$2 billion in financing sheets signed by early Q3

Association. Cribb further said that decade. the funding would support the devel-

phase one of the project, which is 2029. expected to start production in 2028, is being discussed with multiple energy sector collaboration: meeting.

IHC summons

Islamabad,

Punjab IGPs

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Isla-

mabad High Court (IHC)

on Thursday summoned

Inspector General of Police

(IGPs) of Punjab and

Islamabad in personal

capacity on April 16, in a

case for the recovery of four

Muhammad Asif heard the

petition of Afghan woman

Gul Seema for the recovery

of 4 Afghan brothers miss-

ing from Islamabad since

January 2024. The court

Islamabad and IG Punjab in

personal capacity on April

Justice Asif said in a con-

and Rawalpindi police offi-

cials that if this happens to

you and me, then we could

feel the situationn. How

long will the chain contin-

ue? He remarked that the

mother of the missing sons

comes to my court again

and again. In this case, we

are going to form a JIT.

Islamabad High Court

(IHC) on Thursday rejected

the report of Islamabad

Police regarding drug use in

educational institutions of

capital and summoned the

Inspector General (AIG)

responsible for compiling

the police are busy on VIP

duty instead of eliminating

drugs and crimes. The case

against drug use in educa-

tional institutions was heard

in the Islamabad High

Court, in which the court

declared the Islamabad

Police report as against the

law and indicated action. It said that the Islamabad

Police report is not in accordance with the law.

AIG of Islamabad Police,

and order situation.

they are busy on VIP duty.

The court summoned the

The court remarked that

included in it, he asked.

should

Additional

versation with Islamabad

At the outset of hearing,

summoned

16 at 11 am.

Whomever

concern

the document.

Meanwhile,

missing Afghan brothers.

World Bank's private investment arm, tor added that the mine was also in Pervaiz Malik and World Bank's International Finance Corporation talks with the US Export-Import Regional Director for South Asia, (IFC), will provide \$300 million in Bank for \$500 million to \$1 billion in debt financing for Pakistan's Reko financing, as well as \$500 million strategic partnerships and technical Diq copper-gold mining project, from development finance instituaccording to a disclosure issued by tions, including the Asian including the opment Bank, Asian Development Export Development Canada, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

and its development is expected to other lenders, with infrastructure costs estimated at \$500-800 million, with roughly \$350 million as the ini-Barrick Gold owns a 50% stake in tial cost. A recent feasibility study has the Reko Diq mine, and the govern- upgraded the project's scope, with ments of Pakistan and Balochistan phase one throughput increasing to 45 million tons per annum from 40 Project Director, Tim Cribb, told million, and phase two throughput rising to 90 million tons per annum

from international lenders, with term rising throughput, although the com- expressed optimism about expanding pany believes unaccounted-for min-In an interview with Reuters at the erals could extend the life to 80 years. Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum The cost of phase one has also been 2025, Cribb said the mine was look- revised upwards to \$5.6 billion from assistance programs to further ing at \$650 million from the \$4 billion. The World Bank plans to International Finance Corporation invest \$2 billion annually in and International Development Pakistan's infrastructure over the next

The project, which was delayed opment of the mine, and hoped to generate \$70 billion in free cash flow ended in 2022, is expected to start and \$90 billion in operating cash production by the end of 2028. It will produce 200,000 tons of copper per Barrick Gold and the governments of Pakistan and Balochistan own the mated cost of \$5.5 billion. The first project jointly. The financing for phase is expected to be completed by

bench observed that while post-1967 amendments that

Gujranwala

areas. If I forcibly enter interpretation of "Defence April 15.

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supr-

eme Court's constitutional

the Army Act is a valid law,

questions remain about the

absence of an independent

The remarks came dur-

ing a hearing on the legali-

ty of trying civilians in mil-

itary courts. The case was

heard by a seven-member

larger bench, led by Justice

Aminuddin Khan. During

the proceedings, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar

pointed out that "Defence

of Pakistan" and "Defence

Services of Pakistan" are

two separate concepts.

forum for military trials.

Mly trials: SC questions

lack of independent forum

Mazhar noted that shopping

malls are not declared

entering a restricted area is where he was denied entry expected there? Why can't

the first case under the under it.

Lahore, Quetta, and Constitution

be tried in a military the Supreme Court and court?" he asked. "This is parliament could fall

we are hearing." the Army Act is a valid law.
He added that civilians since the insertion of

putes are frequently seen in for military trials?" Quetta Cantt. Justice asked.

restricted zones, adding tary trials are allowed sim-

Pankaj Gupta, on Thursday discussed support to advance Pakistan's energy sector. The meeting focused on accelerating sustainable energy development, enhancing infrastructure, and addressing key challenges in the oil and gas sectors.

Ali Pervaiz reiterated the government's commitment to modernizing Pakistan's energy landscape through integrated energy planning, improved efficiency, and clean energy initiatives. He emphasized the importance of international collaboration and investment in meeting the country's long-term energy security and sustainability objectives.

Pankaj Gupta reaffirmed the World The mine life has been revised Bank's continued support for from 42 years to 37 years due to the Pakistan's energy reforms and cooperation. He acknowledged the progress made by the government and discussed potential technical strengthen institutional capacity and infrastructure. The Petroleum Minister thanked the World Bank for its longstanding partnership, underscoring the importance of such engagements in achieving national

energy goals.

Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination for upcoming projects aimed at fostering economic growth and promoting energy sustainability. Senior officials 2029. from the Ministry of Petroleum and Pakistan, WB discuss strategic the World Bank also attended the

He added that although

Justice Mandokhail fur-

ther remarked that if mili-

the Army Act is a valid law,



Rubio says direct US-Iran talks to take place Saturday

WASHINGTON (Reuters): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Thursday the United States will hold direct talks with Iran on Saturday to discuss Iran's nuclear program. The talks between US special envoy Steve Witkoff and a senior Iranian leader are scheduled for Saturday in Oman.

Investment Forum (PMIF) "We hope that'll lead to 2025, held in Islamabad. The signing ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, and the Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, reflecting the national significance of the initiative. The agreement was signed by Mr. Imran Abbasy, Managing Director and CEO of PPL, and Mr. Saidal Khan Luni, Secretary Mines and Minerals, GoB. PMIF 2025, PPL actively

showcased its growing presence in the mining secagree to a nuclear deal. Iranian and American tor through a dedicated and ty and depth. Ban on X: PHC issues notice to Interior Ministry PESHAWAR: The Pesh-

Iran under the conditions of a military attack could lead inspectors and ceasing cooperation with it," Ali Shamkhani, an adviser to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, published on X, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency. 'Transferring enriched

material to safe and undisclosed locations in Iran could also be on the agenda," he wrote. While the US insists that the talks with Tehran will be direct, Iran has stressed the negotiations will be indirect with intermediation from Oman's foreign minister.

Russian advances in Ukraine slow down

MOSCOW: Russia's terri-United ing the war.

> These estimates are geolocated open-

Trump's self-imposed early diminishing for closer ties.

stability, WAM added. It is the second swap since President Donald Trump returned to the White House

ment officials, foreign dig-Balochistan. Operated by nitaries, mining profession-BME, a longstanding joint venture with the GoB since als, investors, academics, 1974, the project promises A major highlight of to spur economic growth in PPL's participation was the Khuzdar through value launch of a comprehensive addition, job creation, and

infrastructure development.

The BLZ project repre-

sents a significant step for-

ward in unlocking the min-

potential

eral

Mineral Map of Pakistan, capturing the country's immense mineral wealth-This landmark agreement reaffirms including industrial miner-Government's commitment to fostering public-private ments, and gemstones. The ments, and gemstones. The map drew widespread attention and appreciation from attendees for its clariform attended atten

peace. We've been very clear what Iran is never going to have as a nuclear weapon, and I think that's what led to this meeting," Rubio said during a Cabinet meeting chaired by President Donald Trump. Iran may suspend cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog if external threats continue, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader said on Thursday, after US President Donald Trump again warned of military force if Tehran does not

could be at risk in cities like Article 10-A in the where ensures the right to a fair diplomats will visit Oman Cantonment areas exist. trial), earlier practices need Justice Jamal Khan to be reassessed. "Why is on Saturday to start dialogue on Tehran's nuclear Mandokhail said such dis- there no independent forum programme, with Trump saying he would have the final word on whether talks are reaching a breakdown, which would put Iran in "great danger". "Continued external threats and putting that Karachi has six to ply for entering a restricted seven Cantonment areas, area, then it would be very but major roads there are easy to try anyone under not marked as restricted. such laws. "Do cases go to wo separate concepts. not marked as restricted. such laws. "Do cases go to Justice Naeem Akhtar Justice Mandokhail military courts because Afghan remarked that shared a personal incident harsher punishments are also considered a violation. into a Cantonment due to these trials be conducted in "Shopping malls have been not having a permit. He standard courts?" The court built inside Cantonment questioned the broad adjourned the hearing until

torial gains in Ukraine are slowing down dramatically, two analyses have found, continuing a pattern from 2024 at a time when both nations are trying to project strength in the face of States-mediated negotiations aimed at end-

Britain's Ministry of Defence last week estimated that Russian forces seized 143sq km (55sq miles) of Ukrainian land in March, compared with 196sq km (76sq miles) in February and 326sq km (126sq miles) in January. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington, DCbased think tank, spotted the same trend, estimating Russian gains at 203sq km (78sq miles) in March, 354sq km (137sq miles) in February and 427sq km (165sq miles) in January.

based on satellite imagery source photography rather than claims by either side. Should this trend continue, Russian forces could come to a standstill by early summer, roughly coinciding with US President Donald

May 2022. — Aljazeera

deadline for achieving a ceasefire. Russia's returns have come even as it has greatly expanded the size of its forces from an estimated 150,000 soldiers who carried out its initial invasion in February to

Ratcliffe was present at the Abu Dhabi airport, where the exchange took place on Thursday, the AFP reported. A CIA spokeswoman told the Wall Street Journal that "the exchange shows the importance of keeping lines

lating export controls and

who was arrested in Cyprus

ing sensitive microelectron-

Director John

of communication open with Russia, despite the deep challenges in our bilateral relationship. While we are disappoint-

ed that other Americans remain wrongfully detained in Russia, we see this exchange as a positive step Moscow released US- and will continue to work for Russian ballet dancer Ksenia their release," she said.

on the matter. The petition- ed and that every officer er's request to lift the ban takes an oath but still on social media platform X engages in corrupt prac-

Humayun Khan

As a Strategic Partner of

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

Petroleum Limited (PPL)

and its subsidiary Bolan

Mining Enterprises (BME)

signed a milestone agree-

ment with the Government of Balochistan (GoB) for

(BLZ) project on April 8 at

the Pakistan Minerals

Barite-Lead-Zinc

awar High Court (PHC) has aims to ease access to infortices. He remarked that to deterrent measures like issued once again a notice the expulsion of IAEA to the federal government, seeking a response regard- against President, PM taken; here, you have to ing the ban on social media (formerly platform Twitter), on Thursday.

two-member PHC's bench, comprising Justice Naeem Anwar and Justice Fazal Subhan, heard the case. The Nauman Muhib Kakakhel advocate stated that social media platform X has been blocked in Pakistan for several months, causing difficulties for users. The platform is a vital source of information, widely used by politicians, students, and businesspeo-

The blockage has made it challenging for people to access information. The government, including the Prime Minister and federal ministers, uses the platform, yet it has been banned nationwide, the petitioner argued.

PHC has issued a notice to the Ministry of Interior, seeking a thorough report Court's jurisdiction is limit- the High Court's decision.

mation for the public.

with GoB at PMIF 2025

visually engaging booth, set up by BME. The stall

attracted a large number of

visitors, including govern-

and media representatives.

als, metals, rare-earth ele-

disqualification over give bribes to get anything interest-based loans: A done. divisional bench Ijaz Anwar and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel has dismissed a review petition seeking the disqualification of the Minister of Pakistan over alleged violations of their oath of office, specifically regarding agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) involving interest-based loans, on

Thursday. The petitioner, Khalid Shah, claimed the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan has violated their oath by entering into agreements with the IMF that included interest-based conditions.

Justice Aijaz Anwar observed that the High

US, Russia exchange

"Every officer takes an Court dismisses review oath, but bribes are still

The petitioner argued Peshawar High Court that the interest-based sys-(PHC) comprising Justice tem affects the entire nation and that previous judgments have ignored these issues. He further argued that the IMF's loan conditions were not made public, President and Prime and the nation was not taken into confidence.

Assistant General Fasih Ullah stated that the petitioner had previously filed a similar petition, which was dismissed. The federal government announced plans to abolish the interest system by 2028. Assistant Attorney General argued. PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel dismissed the advising the petitioner to approach the Supreme Court if dissatisfied with

India through Wagah border to attend Baisakhi festival. **KP CM directs legislation** to curb professional begging

LAHORE: Sikh pilgrims carrying their belongings as they arrived from

F.P. Report

who compiled the report, in his personal capacity. PESHAWAR: Chief Minis-Earlier, in the application submitted by the Islamabad ter Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, Police to the court, it was while taking notice of the stated that the duty of VIPs issue of professional begis more sensitive and timegary in the province has consuming. The police is decided to carry out proper busy maintaining the law legislation to effectively Later, Justice Inaam and ensure a safe environ-Ameen Minhas issued a ment for citizens. In this written order, which said regard, a letter has been sent that the response of the from the Chief Minister's Islamabad Police was Secretariat to the Chief pointed out before the Khyber Secretary Pakhtunkhwa, asking for the court. Instead of eliminating drug crimes, the preparation and enactment Islamabad Police said that of a new law titled "Khyber Vagrancy Pakhtunkhwa

The court said that the (Control and Rehabilitation) police's lack of interest in eliminating drug crime (in educational institutions) The objective of this legislation is to control the practice of forced begging shows incompetence. The involving children and disreport is not correct as per abled persons and to counter law. The police officer who compiled the report exploitation-based criminal should appear in person at activities. The letter, menthe next hearing. Why should action not be taken tioned for the formation of a multi-departmental commiton submitting such a tee under the supervision of report? Why should action the Secretary Social Welfare with representation from the not be taken on incompetence in discharging the concerned departments responsibility as per law, including Law, Local the court said. Government, Police, Child

Protection Commission, been mentioned to establish Bureau of Statistics, the a WhatsApp hotline for citi-Commissioner of Peshawar, ing of professional beggars oversee the proposed legis- report incidents by uploadhas also been mentioned that the committee must begging or child exploitacurb professional begging present the draft law and an tion. Furthermore, designat-

> ty days The letter further noted the proposed law should clearly categorize child and forced begging, professional disabled individuals, and drug addicts in begging, and criminalize the operation, financing or sheltering of zens. Designated officers from the police, social wel-

and process their cases.

Commissioner and Deputy zen facilitation and report-NGOs, and civil society to Through this, citizens can lation and related matters. It ing pictures of persons involved in professional operational and enforce- ed traffic points, terminals ment framework within thir- markets, and other public places should be declared "No Begging Zones." The new law will also incorporate provisions for on-thespot fines and summary tribeggary, vagrancy, and als of offenders. To identify other related activities. It and register repeat offendshould also prescribe penal- ers, an AI-based facial ties for the use of children, recognition or biometric mechanism be employed.

The letter states that children found begging will be handed over to the Child begging groups. Moreover, Protection and Welfare the law should include pun- Commission, while legal ishments for professional action will be proposed beggars who obstruct public under relevant laws against movement or harass citi- guardians, handlers and groups forcing children into begging. The legislation fare, and local government will also include measures departments will be author- for the rehabilitation of ized to apprehend violators homeless individuals in professiona involved Additionally, it has also beggary.

prisoners in Abu Dhabi ABU DHABI (AFP): The Karelina, who had been sen- Russia has yet to confirm the UAE mediated a prisoner exchange between Russia and the US on Thursday, which took place on its soil in Abu Dhabi. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated the exchange of one Russian citizen for one US citizen,

The ministry expressed appreciation for the confidence placed in the UAE by the American and Russian governments in designating Abu Dhabi as the location for the prisoner exchange process, WAM reported. It added that "choosing Abu Dhabi for the prisoner exchange process reflects the close friendship ties of both countries with the UAE."

with representatives from

both countries present in Abu

Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi hopes these efforts will de-escalate tensions and enhance dialogue, contributing to regional and international security and as Russia and the US push

tenced to 12 years in prison swap, which would be the on treason charges, with US second since Trump returned Secretary of State Marco to the White House in Rubio confirming early January Thursday she was on a plane Trump and Russian leader

to the United States. In Vladimir Putin have since exchange, the United States pushed for a restoration of released Arthur Petrov, a closer ties between the two Russian-German citizen who countries that were severely had been facing up to 20 years in a US prison for viodamaged by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Several meetings between the two sides have taken place, with in 2023 at Washington's a new round of talks beginrequest for allegedly exportning Thursday in Istanbul on restoring some of the embassy operations that were scaled back following the Ukraine invasion.

Karelina, who was born in 1991 and lived in Los Angeles, was serving a 12year prison sentence for having donated around \$50 to a pro-Ukraine charity. She was arrested in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg in January 2024 while on a trip to visit her family. She was charged with "treason."

Russia's Federal Security Service accused her of collecting funds for Ukraine's army that were used to purchase "equipment, weapons and ammunition" — charges

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