

Nawaz praises armed forces
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: PML-N President Nawaz Sharif on Saturday lauded the country's armed forces for their "out-standing professionalism and resolute commitment" in defending Pakistan against Indian aggression. During a meeting with Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Parliamentary Party Leader in the Senate, Sharif also lauded the positive and constructive role of Parliament.



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RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari shaking hands with jawans during his visit to Gujranwala Cantonment.

President lauds professional excellence of armed forces

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari visited Gujranwala Cantonment on Saturday. He was accompanied by Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. Upon arrival, the President was received by the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M). Commanders of Mangla and Gujranwala Corps were also present at the occasion.

The President lauded the exemplary conduct and professional excellence of the Pakistan Armed Forces in the successful execution of Marqa-e-Haq, acknowledging their resolute

determination and unshakable courage in the face of unprovoked aggression.

He paid solemn tribute to the military and civilian martyrs who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland, affirming that their sacrifice remains a sacred trust and a source of enduring national pride. He underscored that the sons of the soil, fortified by the enduring spirit of the nation, stood with unwavering resolve to defend the motherland and thwarted hostile designs with exceptional valour and operational acumen.

He further remarked that history would bear witness to how, within a matter of hours, the Pakistan Armed

Forces repelled aggression with unmatched precision and resolve, sending an unequivocal message of Pakistan's strength, resilience, and national unity.

During his interaction with officers and troops, the President commended their exemplary morale, combat readiness, and devotion to duty. He extended heartfelt congratulations on the successful culmination of Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos, and expressed profound pride in the defenders of the nation, affirming that the people of Pakistan hold their brave soldiers in the highest esteem as the true custodians of national honour and sovereignty.

KP govt launches tree plantation campaign

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced a province-wide initiative to plant fruit-bearing and indigenous trees as part of a large-scale environmental restoration campaign.

According to official directives issued by the Chief Minister, all administrative secretaries, commissioners, and deputy commissioners have been instructed to actively participate in the effort.

In a statement issued from his office, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Dr. Saif, said the Chief Minister has expressed deep concern over the declining population of native bird species such as the bulbul, myna, and hoopoe. He noted that the scarcity of fruit-bearing trees has forced these rare birds to abandon their natural habitats in the province.

To address this growing ecological concern, the government has directed all departments, official colonies, and public spaces to initiate tree plantation drives. The campaign will be formally launched during the upcoming monsoon season and will focus on medium-sized, locally-sourced saplings to ensure effective growth and environmental compatibility.

Barrister Dr. Saif added that all government departments have been asked to prepare and submit their own detailed plantation reports. The campaign will be conducted on a self-help basis, he said, calling on all institutions to contribute to this noble cause through prompt and collective action.

Sherry's X account blocked in India

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator and former federal minister Sherry Rehman's X (formerly Twitter) has been blocked in India as hostilities between the two nations rise despite a ceasefire last week.

Without presenting any evidence of involvement in the Pahalgam incident in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi, on May 6, Delhi had waged an unprovoked war against Islamabad. In order to ensure its sovereignty, Pakistan was left with little option but to retaliate and bring the aggressor to its senses. In doing so, it also shocked the world by taking down six Indian fighter jets including three Rafael, an S-400 missile defense system, and hacking core installations.

The ex-federal minister said being blocked on social media platform X at the request of the Indian government is "a badge of honour," declaring that India has changed "existentially." The senator made the comments after receiving an official notification from X, informing her that her account had been withheld in India following a legal removal request from the Indian government under its Information Technology Act, 2000. Not only Rehman, but India has also blocked access to X accounts of former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. In her statement posted publicly on X, Rehman sharply criticised the Narendra Modi-led government, calling it the "Hindustva Republic" and said: "Communication is key for stable, mature states — but to be blocked by the #HindustvaRepublic is a badge of honour."

She added that "there is little to say to people who question the existence of Pakistan." Still, she stressed the importance of continued dialogue between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, saying: "Sane people should still continue talking to each other in both countries to not erase history as well as options of normal coexistence for the future."

Trump hails ceasefire as his 'bigger success'

— pledges to expand trade with Pakistan

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump described his role in de-escalating tensions between Pakistan and India as a major diplomatic achievement, stating that helping both nations reach a ceasefire is a "bigger success" on his credit.

The president made the remarks in an interview with Fox News stating, "A bigger success than I'll ever be given credit for. Those are major nuclear powers. Those are not like a little bit, and they were angry". "It was getting deeper and more, I mean, more missiles. Everyone was stronger, stronger to a point where the next one's gonna be, you know what, the N-word," Trump explained, adding that the neighbouring countries were "very close" to dangerous escalation. He said now both sides are happy.

Trump also acknowledged the intelligence of Pakistanis and their incredible ability to produce remarkable goods and hinted at expanding trade ties as he said: "We will trade". The president revealed that the US had discussed trade with Pakistan. He noted that the South Asian country also desired to strengthen trade relations with the US.

At one point, he said it's surprising that despite having good relations with Pakistan, the US did not engage in much trade with the country. Speaking about diplomacy, Trump shared that he had instructed his officials to call Pakistan and India and initiate trade and meetings. Trump said both parties were told that "we will expand trade significantly."

The US president stated that he was using trade to end hostilities and establish peace, saying: "He is a person who keeps his promises". Criticising Indian policies, he said India is the country that imposed the highest tariffs in the world, making it nearly impossible for others to do business. However, Trump added, India is now prepared to reduce tariffs by 100 percent



in its trade with the US.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States supported direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continuous efforts to improve relations between the two nations. In a phone conversation with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, the US Secretary of State discussed the tensions between India and Pakistan.

Both leaders emphasised the importance of maintaining a ceasefire and keeping communication channels open between the South Asian neighbours. Nuclear-armed neighbours Pakistan and India agreed on a ceasefire on May 10 following the US pressure. The agreement was possible amid negotiations after four days of intense fighting.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry stated that the country remained committed to the ceasefire. "Our forces are handling the situation responsibly and with restraint," the ministry said. It further urged troops on the ground to exercise restraint and noted that any issues related to the ceasefire implementation should be resolved through communication at appropriate levels. — Fox News

Pak-India standoff

ISPR DG lauds Iranian peace efforts

ISLAMABAD: ISPR Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has applauded the peace efforts of Iran amidst the tensions between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam attack.

The DG was giving interview to IRNA, an Iranian outlet, in which he talked broadly about the overall security in the region. Iran offered to mediate between India and Pakistan after the arch-rivals descended into a military conflict. The situation took a turn for the worse when India launched unprovoked attacks on the Pakistani soil.

The DG said, "We are pleased with all the efforts of the international community and brotherly countries, especially Iran, which played a role in reducing tensions," Ahmed emphasised, "Pakistan is fully grateful to the international community and we are especially grateful to brotherly countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He continued, "We

should be aware that there are forces in the region who, with the help of external factors, are seeking to create misunderstanding and confusion among brotherly countries in the region and want to create a rift between friends and brothers." The Pakistani army spokesman emphasised that Iran and Pakistan have very historical and brotherly relations and have always stood by each other in all challenges and trials.

According to IRNA, Lt Gen Chaudhry spoke about the latest developments in South Asia as well as the "importance of regional and international diplomacy to help de-escalate tensions". In an interview with a British TV channel this past week, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry issued a stern warning that Pakistan would respond decisively and forcefully to any ceasefire violation by India.

The military spokesperson stated that any incursion or challenge to

Pakistan's sovereignty would provoke a harsh and immediate reaction. "Our response to any aggression threatening our territory or integrity will be severe," he asserted. Only days after the ceasefire understanding was reached, Gen Ahmed Sharif cautioned that any military confrontation between the nuclear-armed neighbours could result in devastating consequences for both.

"If India imagines there's room for limited warfare with Pakistan, it's inviting mutual destruction," he added. Highlighting the gravity of nuclear risk, he noted that major global powers, including the United States, recognised the danger posed by any escalation. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump expressed interest in mediating the long-standing Kashmir issue. However, India has traditionally opposed external mediation and has not formally agreed to negotiations under the truce terms. — IRNA

Four Levies personnel martyred in terrorist attack

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Four personnel of the Levies Force were martyred in a terrorist attack on the Samand checkpoint in the Khuzdar district of Balochistan.

Unidentified armed assailants opened fire on the security checkpoint early Saturday, leading to the tragic loss of lives and raising serious security concerns in the region. Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind strongly condemned the attack on the Levies Force, calling it a "cowardly act of terrorism" that would not deter the resolve of the province. "The attack on the Samand checkpoint is highly condemnable," he said, adding, "Such cowardly actions by terrorists cannot shake our determination."

He emphasised that the

martyrdom of the four Levies personnel is a national tragedy and praised their bravery. "The martyrs have set an example of courage by sacrificing their lives in the defense of the motherland," he said. The spokesperson affirmed that the Balochistan government stands firmly with the families of the fallen heroes and will provide full support. "We share in the grief of the bereaved families and assure them of our unwavering solidarity," Rind stated.

He further vowed that the perpetrators of the attack would be brought to justice and that no compromise would be made on the state's writ. "Those responsible for this heinous act will be held accountable," he said, warning that "any attack on the state's authority will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area, and authorities are investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, two armed terrorists of banned organization were killed in fire-fight between security forces and terrorists in Turbat. According sources in security forces, one officer was also injured in gunfire from armed men and shifted to hospital. Police, Levies, CTD and FC officials reached the spot after the incident of firing. One of the deceased was identified as Sabrullah, a resident of Sangani Sar.

These terrorists had fired four rockets at the FC camp at night. Security forces took timely action after the attack. They were chased and surrounded in a street in Sangani Sar and were killed.

Asif hails Pak Army's victory

F.P. Report

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that while Pakistan has witnessed many great moments over the past 78 years, the recent victory granted by Allah Almighty to Pakistan and its armed forces is "unparalleled in our history."

Addressing students of Standard Group of Colleges and Kids Club Grammar School during a visit to his native town on Saturday, the minister lauded the Pakistan Army for its successful operation "Banyan-um-Marsoos" and congratulated the armed forces for their decisive action. "Our enemy sits just a few miles away on the eastern border, licking its wounds," Asif remarked, referring to recent escalations. "What seemed like cracks in our national unity just two weeks ago have now transformed into a renewed spirit of solidarity, thanks to the bravery and sacrifices of our armed forces," he said.

The defence minister extended heartfelt congratulations to Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber, Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf, and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza. He praised their leadership and valour, saying, "I have witnessed every conflict since 1965, but the faith-driven leadership and courage shown this time is unmatched in our history."

He further said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had stood firmly by the armed forces at every step, assuring them of full civilian government support. "The prime minister led from the front, demonstrating that the government and the nation stand shoulder to shoulder with our brave forces," he added. Khawaja Asif emphasised the importance of preserving and teaching national history. Addressing teachers, he urged them to instill pride and awareness among the new generation about the sacrifices that led to Pakistan's creation and continued sovereignty. He highlighted the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the courage of the Muslims of the Subcontinent in founding Pakistan.

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held a telephonic conversation with President of Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian. During their warm and cordial conversation, the prime minister conveyed his warm regards to Supreme Leader Ayatullah Khamenei and thanked President Pezeshkian for Iran's sincere and brotherly diplomatic efforts to defuse tensions in South Asia.

He particularly had thanked the President for his telephone call to the prime minister last month as well as for sending Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to the region during the crisis. While strong-

ly condemning India's unprovoked attacks on Pakistan that led to the martyrdom of innocent civilians, including women and children, the prime minister said that Pakistan's valiant armed forces had given a responsible, measured yet befitting and forceful reply to the enemy.

He said Pakistan had always desired peace and it was in this spirit that it had agreed to the ceasefire understanding with India and would remain committed to upholding it. He reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs. However, PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed his concern over India's attempt to unilaterally hold the Indus

Waters Treaty in abeyance, which he deemed was unlawful and constituted a red line for Pakistan as these waters were the life-line for 240 million people.

The prime minister emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir dispute remained the root cause of instability in South Asia. He called for its just resolution in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people for peace in the region. The President of Iran expressed heartfelt condolences over the loss of civilian lives. He welcomed the ceasefire understanding while appreciating Pakistan's efforts for peace.

(Continued on Back Page)

UK, US working to ensure enduring ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (Reuters): Britain is working with the US to ensure a ceasefire between India and Pakistan endures and that "confidence-building measures" and dialogue take place, foreign minister David Lammy said on Saturday.

Pakistan has said Britain and other countries, in addition to the United States, played a major role in de-escalating the worst fighting in decades between the nuclear-armed South Asian rivals, which erupted last week. A rapid diplomatic effort to broker the ceasefire succeeded on May 10, but diplomats and analysts say it remains fragile.

"We will continue to work with the United States to ensure that we get an enduring ceasefire, to ensure that dialogue is happening and to work through with Pakistan and India how we can get to confidence and confidence-building measures between the two sides," Lammy told Reuters in Pakistan's capital Islamabad at the end of a two-day visit. Pakistan and India fired missiles onto each other's territory during weeks of tensions after a deadly attack on tourists in the contested region of Kashmir that New Delhi blames on Islamabad. Pakistan denies involvement.

US President Donald Trump said after the ceasefire was struck that talks should take place in a third-country venue but no dates or location for the talks have been announced. "These are two neighbours with a long history but they are two neighbours that have barely been able to speak to one other over this past period, and we want to ensure that we do not see further escalation and that the ceasefire endures," Lammy said.

Asked about India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, potentially squeezing Pakistan's water supply, Lammy said: "We would urge all sides to meet their treaty obligations." Delhi said last month it had



"put in abeyance" its participation in the 1960 pact, which governs use of the Indus river system, a move Pakistan says it would consider an act of war if it disrupted access to water in the agriculturally dependent nation.

Lammy said Britain would also continue to work with Pakistan on countering "terrorism", saying that it is "a terrible blight on this country and its people, and of course on the region." The man who stabbed and partially blinded novelist Salman Rushdie onstage at a Western New York arts institute in 2022 was sentenced to 25 years in prison on Friday, the district attorney said.

Lammy accused Moscow of obfuscating after talks between Ukraine and Russia on a possible ceasefire ended in less than two hours and Trump said "nothing could happen" until he had met directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Yet again we are seeing obfuscation on the Russian side and unwillingness to get serious about the enduring peace that is now required in Ukraine," Lammy said. "Once again Russia is not serious." "At what point do we say to Putin enough is enough?" he said.

Pakistan-Turkiye ties time-tested: Turkish CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General (CG) of Republic of Turkiye in Karachi, Cemal Sangu on Friday said Turkiye-Pakistan relations are time tested and both the countries share thousand years of cultural and religious bonds. Pakistan and Turkiye are iron clad brothers.

Turkish diplomat expressed these views while speaking in a presentation on the topic of "Turkiye-Pakistan Relations in the Historical perspective" organized here by Library ad Literary sub committee of the Karachi Gymkhana. Sangu stated that the diplomatic relations between Turkiye and Pakistan have been established for 78 years, but historically this relationship spanned over a thousand years as because the sub-continent and Turkish region were religiously and culturally connected.

The CG congratulated Pakistani nation and the Armed Forces for their splendid and befitting response to India in recent conflict between Pakistan and India and said Turkiye has always been with Pakistan.

He said on May 16 Pakistan had celebrated glorious victory and day of gratitude was observed across the country. The people and government of Republic of Turkiye are with their Pakistan brethren in every critical moment, Sangu said, adding that the relations of both the countries were

not seasonal but time tested which never been affected during challenging period.

He expressed deepest respect to Pakistan's Armed Forces for their sacrifices for protecting the people of Pakistan. Cemal Sangu further said that the people of this region(Pakistan) helped Turkiye in difficult situations during Khilafat Movement and they generously support the Ottoman Empire.

He said Hassan Ali Effendi, a great educationist and philanthropist of Sindh, was one of the several personalities who physically and financially supported Ottoman Empire. Sangu disclosed that Hassan Ali, founder of the historical educational institute "Sindh Madressatul Islam University" was also appointed as first honorary Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi in 1889. Hassan Ali was also honoured with civilian awards including his title as Effendi by Turkish government.

Turkiye Consul General also shed light on the historical perspective of relations of his country to the region now consisted of present day Pakistan. He stated that Mehmood Ghazanavi and Mughal rulers of India were basically Turks as Turkiye was expanded to the Eastern as well as Central Asia, Bosnia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan,

Afghanistan, China and other regions where Turkish language was being spoken.

He said Republic of Turkiye and its development agency TIKa have actively working in Pakistan in the field of education and social development sectors. He said Turkiye government and TIKa were providing scholarships to Pakistani students and schools and other educational institutions are being established in different districts of Sindh including its capital Karachi.

He said more than 200 comprehensive scholarships are being provided to Pakistani students at all levels, 49 comprehensive scholarships all colleges and universities, as many as 22 Pak Turk schools were providing education to 13000 students, there is an enrolment of 1600 students in Zest Schools yearly. We are also providing trainings to the teachers.

He said a part from education,Turkish government was involved in socio development projects in education, health, culture, heritage, agriculture and services sectors. The CG also responded the questions of the participants. Earlier, president Karachi Gymkhana Jan Muhammad Dadabhoi also presented a welcome speech. In the end, shield and gifts were presented to the guest of honour.



LAHORE: Motorcyclists on the way covered himself with cloth piece to protect from sun heat during hot weather in provencial capital. —INP Photo

Crackdown on traffic violations continues on CM's orders

KARACHI (APP): A strict and comprehensive crackdown has been initiated to curb escalating traffic violations on the orders of Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah across Karachi.

The campaign targets a wide spectrum of offences, from minor infractions to serious breaches of traffic law, signalling a firm stance on road safety. A detailed report presented to the Chief Minister by the Karachi Traffic Police outlined the extensive enforcement actions undertaken between May 9th and May 16th. The report revealed a significant number of violations, prompting immediate and stringent measures.

Motorcycles emerged as a main focus, with 43,852 bikes impounded primarily for riders operating without helmets. Authorities also clamped down on vehicles flouting aesthetic regulations, seizing 3,951 vehicles displaying fancy number plates or tinted windows.

Moreover, 685 heavy and light vehicles were impounded for diverse traffic law violations, underscoring the broad scope of the crackdown. Vehicle fitness was another critical area of intervention. The traffic police recommended the cancellation of registration for 25 vehicles deemed unfit for road use and proposed the temporary suspension of registration for an additional 663 vehicles. For more severe offences, 22 formal challans were issued.

The CM was also briefed on the outcomes of a targeted operation against chingchi and motorcycle rickshaws, conducted city-wide from April 16th to May 16th, 2025. This campaign specifically focused on 11 designated model roads where these vehicles are prohibited. The report

indicated that 194 First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered against drivers for violating the ban, engaging in reckless driving, and speeding.

During these operations, 434 rickshaws were taken into custody, and their drivers were arrested. An additional 25 unregistered rickshaws were confiscated. Law enforcement also addressed safety hazards, taking action against 377 vehicles for the illegal installation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) kits. In total, the intensified efforts resulted in the issuance of 12,183 fine tickets, demonstrating the traffic police's proactive role in enforcing regulations and promoting safer roads.

The Chief Minister Murad Shah has unequivocally stated that no leniency will be granted to those who disregard traffic laws.

In a public address, he stressed the critical importance of adhering to these regulations, emphasising, "Traffic rules are not mere guidelines; they are essential safeguards for your life and the lives of others." He urged all citizens to prioritise safety by wearing helmets, refraining from using tinted windows and fancy number plates, and ensuring their vehicles are duly registered and roadworthy.

Shah further issued a strict directive to maintain the speed limit for heavy vehicles at 30 km/h within the city, warning that any vehicle found operating without proper fitness or registration will face stringent legal consequences.

Concluding with a call for responsible behaviour, the Chief Minister urged all drivers to prioritise safety protocols, reinforcing the message of caution and civic responsibility.

Minister meets ulema, stresses unity, law enforcement

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique stressed the unity among diverse schools of thought in safeguarding Pakistan's integrity, here on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting with prominent ulema at the Home Department, he highlighted the government's commitment to maintaining peace and order across the province, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

During the discussion, the

minister lauded the historical role of ulema in the Pakistan Movement, recognising them as vital stakeholders in the state's progress. He emphasised ongoing efforts to ensure seamless coordination among relevant institutions to foster a peaceful environment. The meeting also addressed the current law and order situation in Punjab.

The participants paid tribute to the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistani Armed Forces for their steadfast stance against India. Prayers were offered for the prosperity of the nation and its people.

The meeting was attend-

ed by Special Secretary Interior Fazl-ur-Rehman, Deputy Secretary, and other officials. Notable scholars present included Dr. Hisham Elahi Zaheer, Hafiz Asad Obaid, Imran Ali, Aziz-ur-Rehman, Hafiz Hussain Ahmed, Abdul Shakoor Haqqani, Qari Muhammad Rafique, Qari Ijaz Ahmed, Abdul Waheed Rupari, Maulana Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Inqilabi, Mufti Muhammad Atiq-ur-Rehman, Hafiz Noman Hamid Jalandhari, Hafiz Babar Farooqi, and Hafiz Naseer Ahmed, among others.

Another 678 students allotted hostel accommodation at PU

LAHORE (APP): Following the directives of Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Ali, the university administration has successfully carried out a comprehensive clean-up operation in its hostels, resulting in the allotment of rooms to 678 additional students from morning programs who were previously deprived of accommodation.

According to a spokesperson for the Punjab University, these students, primarily from other provinces and remote areas, had been denied access to hostel facilities due to illegal occupancy. The operation has made room for more deserving students from across the country, especially those from under-represented regions.

The spokesperson said that, as a result of the operation, the number of students from Balochistan now stands at 281, while 192 students from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 165 from Gilgit-Baltistan, 116 from Sindh, and 36 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir have secured hostel accommodation.

He further added that, on the special instructions of the Vice Chancellor, strict monitoring and verification procedures will continue in all hostels to ensure transparency, discipline, and fair allocation of resources.

Punjab Police female officer wins int'l award

LAHORE (APP): Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Anam Sher Khan, a woman officer of Punjab Police, has won the International Criminal Investigation Award 2025 category for her outstanding performance in criminal investigation.

The Punjab Police sources said the exceptional performance of police officers from 192 countries in various categories was considered for the World Police Summit Awards. ASP Anam Sher Khan was selected for international awards.

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FIA detains four deported suspects over human trafficking links

KARACHI (PPI): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) detained four Pakistani nationals at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport upon their arrival from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where they had served prison sentences for involvement in human trafficking and related illegal activities.

According to an FIA statement on Saturday, the suspects — identified as Bakhtiar, Adnan Ashraf, Muhammad Jamshed, and Sikandar Abbas — were deported by UAE authorities after completing their

sentences. The individuals, originally from Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, and Gujranwala, entered Pakistan using emergency passports.

FIA Immigration officials took the suspects into custody on arrival and later transferred them to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle in Karachi for further legal proceedings. The agency confirmed that the suspects had been involved in human trafficking and prostitution rackets while residing in the UAE.

The operation is part of FIA's ongoing crackdown

against transnational human trafficking networks. The agency emphasized the need for enhanced international cooperation to curb illegal migration and criminal activities conducted under the guise of employment abroad.

"All available resources are being utilized to dismantle human trafficking operations," the FIA spokesperson said, adding that global collaboration is essential to address crimes such as forced prostitution facilitated through smuggling routes.

'Youth Empowerment Summit Sindh Program' from May 23 to 25

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Baksh Mahar, has announced that the Sindh government is set to launch a three-day "Youth Empowerment Summit Sindh Program" in Hyderabad.

He said that the program will be held at the Sindh Museum Hyderabad from May 23 to May 25.

The primary objective of this three days event is to empower the youth of the province in various fields and refine their skills. Sardar Muhammad Baksh Mahar further said that several informative and training sessions will be conducted during the Youth Empowerment Summit.

He specifically men-

tioned the "Youth Economic Empowerment Through Internship" session, which will guide young people on how to achieve financial stability by leveraging internship opportunities.

He said that another key session will highlight the impacts of climate change and the role of youth in addressing it. Leadership and digital media empowerment sessions will be held to enhance young people's capabilities and train them in the effective use of digital media.

The Provincial Minister stated that the session on "Empowerment Youth, Contribution Art, Artificial Intelligence" will provide insights into youth empowerment, the

importance of art in national development, and artificial intelligence.

He further said that a special Music Night and a "Creativity for Peace" session will also be organized, where the latter will give young participants the opportunity to promote messages of peace through art and other creative means.

Sardar Muhammad Baksh Mahar emphasized that the primary goal of this summit is to prepare the youth for future challenges and provide them with a platform to discover and enhance their hidden potential. He expressed hope that a large number of young people from the province will participate in this significant program.

Khalid Maqbool inaugurates NCLEX program

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Saturday inaugurated NCLEX program at the College of International Skills Development (CISD). While addressing the ceremony, he said that Pakistan was the first country in the region to offer the NCLEX program. He said that NCLEX would equip nurses with international licensing and training required to work abroad, services including visa guidance and IELTS preparation for nurses from underprivileged backgrounds. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said Karachi, being the economic hub, played a crucial role in Pakistan's development and progress. He said the youth's desire to work abroad will support the economy. The Federal Minister said that Pakistan's deindustrialization will be resolved with skill-based education and training for the youth. He noted the need for technological adaptation to ensure a better future for coming generations. He said that China as population giant overcame poverty through youth advancement and technology. He pledged to continue support for skill-based initiatives like the NCLEX-RN and promised more youth-focused programs in the future. PEEF CEO Syeda Hajra Suhail was also present on the occasion.

India's River Chenab diversion sparks 'water war' fears in Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): In a provocative move widely seen as a form of 'hydrological warfare', India has accelerated work on a controversial river-linking project aimed at diverting the flow of River Chenab to the Beas and Ravi rivers, raising grave concerns in Pakistan about its future water security.

Water experts and regional analysts have denounced the project as a blatant violation of international norms and the spirit of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The planned diversion, if completed, could drastically reduce Pakistan's access to Chenab's waters, severely impacting agriculture, ecology, and downstream communities.

Renowned water resources expert Engineer Arshad H. Abbasi warned that the River Chenab faces an existential threat due to India's proposed Gyspa Dam, which aims to divert the river's flow towards the Beas River. He urged the Government of Pakistan to act immediately to safeguard national water interests.

According to reports published by the Kashmir Media Service, the project — first introduced in India's 2011–2012 budget — includes a 23-kilometre concrete tunnel connecting Chenab to the Solang Nullah, which flows into the Ravi River. This would enable India to reroute water towards

the Ranjit Sagar Dam.

The initiative has been condemned as a direct affront to the Indus Waters Treaty, a landmark water-sharing agreement signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan under the auspices of the World Bank. The treaty grants India control over the eastern rivers—Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej, while Pakistan retains rights to the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab.

On April 23, 2025, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident, India unilaterally announced the suspension of the treaty, citing national security and accusing Pakistan of supporting terrorism. In response, Pakistan launched a swift and decisive diplomatic and military rebuttal to India's provocative action.

Experts, however, maintain that India does not hold the legal authority to suspend or terminate the treaty unilaterally. Former IRSA member Rao Irshad Ali Khan stated that the IWT remains an internationally recognised and binding agreement. "Under Article 12(4), termination is only possible through the written consent of both parties. India cannot abrogate it unilaterally," he stated. Khan also warned that if India attempts to defy the treaty, it would raise serious questions about its commitment to other international agreements.

Senior politician and former senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed echoed similar concerns, stating that India's unilateral suspension of the IWT is "legally indefensible" and violates international law. "India is using the Pahalgam incident as a cover to pursue a long-standing agenda of water aggression against Pakistan," he said. He urged the Pakistani government to raise the issue at the United Nations and with the World Bank, the treaty's guarantor.

Mushahid added that the IWT had survived multiple wars and diplomatic crises over the decades, underscoring its strength and legitimacy. "India's bypassing of treaty mechanisms — such as the Permanent Indus Commission, neutral experts, and arbitral tribunals — undermines the foundational principles of international cooperation," he warned.

Adding to environmental and strategic concerns, Chenab — often called the Moon River — flows only 130 kilometres through Himachal Pradesh, covering just 7,500 square kilometres of its total 61,000 square kilometre basin. Despite this, 49 hydropower projects are reportedly under construction on the river within Indian territory, putting immense ecological and geopolitical strain on an already fragile system.

Pakistan's victory result of national unity: Mashhood

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan's success is a moment of national pride and a testament to unity, determination and strategic foresight.

Addressing the Izhar-e-Tashakur ceremony at Aiwan-e-Iqbal here on Saturday, he urged the nation to remain committed to make progress and prosperity of the country.

"This is a victory that brings us pride but it also demands a pledge that we will not let arrogance overcome us," he said. He stressed that the world is now turning its attention toward Pakistan, recognising its emerging strength, potential, and leadership in challenging times. "Today, the global community wants to stand with Pakistan," he stated. "The world now acknowledges our growing strength and the resilience of our people," he added.

Rana Mashhood high-

lighted the multi-dimensional nature of Pakistan's ongoing struggle, one that extends beyond military defence to technological and strategic arenas. He praised the youth for playing a vital role in safeguarding the nation's interests through innovation and cyber capabilities.

"Our armed forces fought one battle, and our youth fought another, using technology to disrupt adversarial systems," he noted. "There is no match for the potential and talent of Pakistani youth." Reflecting on his outreach over the past year, Rana Mashhood shared his experiences of visiting communities across the country and witnessing an inspiring spirit of unity among people from all backgrounds. "From every corner of the nation, I have seen a shared desire for Pakistan's progress," he said. "Whether they speak Punjabi, Pashto, Balochi, Sindhi, Saraiki, or any other language, every one wants to see the country move forward."

He emphasized that this renewed unity has also reinforced the collective understanding of the importance of defending Pakistan's sovereignty and borders. "People now understand why protecting our borders is essential. This is not just a matter of territory — it is a matter of identity, dignity, and national survival."

Rana Mashhood urged the youth to stay engaged, remain united, and contribute actively to the country's development in all sectors, from economy and defence to science and innovation. "Pakistan has done what many believed to be impossible by successfully completing the IMF deal within a year. That is a remarkable national achievement," he said.

On the occasion, addressing the ceremony, senior PML-N leader and former railways minister Khawaja Saad Rafique declared Pakistan's recent national achievement a great blessing from Allah. The Almighty,

stressing that no amount of gratitude would be enough for the success.

He noted that despite India's larger population, military size, and technological advantage, particularly in the IT sector, Pakistan's civil and military leadership responded with patience, strategic calculation, and proportional force. He criticized Indian Prime Minister Modi for representing extremist ideology and claimed that India, with the support of its allies including Israel, sought to destabilize Pakistan. However, Pakistan, with its limited resources, not only defended itself effectively but also exposed its hidden strength to the world.

He said Pakistan avoided escalation despite having the capacity to inflict greater damage, acting responsibly on the global stage. He praised the leadership of the armed forces, especially Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, and commended the Pakistan Air Force.

Governor vows to resolve TDPs’ issues

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the problems of Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs) on priority bases.

Chairman of the Temporary Displaced Person’s (TDPs) Committee, Rehmat Ghulam Wazir, met with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House on Saturday to discuss the challenges faced by TDPs.

During the meeting, Rehmat Ghulam Wazir briefed the Governor on the current conditions of the

TDPs and emphasized the urgent need for action on key issues including shelter, healthcare, education, and the provision of rations.

He urged the Governor to facilitate immediate support to improve the living conditions of the displaced population.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured that directives would be issued to the federal government and relevant departments to address these concerns.

He also criticized the provincial government, accusing it of misappropriating funds received from the federal government in

the name of tribal areas.

He stressed that the injustices committed against the tribal communities must be rectified.

The meeting also included discussions on the restoration of the Red Crescent’s camp for North Waziristan. Governor Kundi instructed Vice Chairman of the Red Crescent, Farzand Wazir, to take swift action in this regard.

Meanwhile, a four-member delegation led by Fatah Sher Khan Mehsud, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party Dera Division, met with Governor Faisal Karim

Kundi.

The meeting focused on the upcoming protest scheduled for May 26 in Peshawar, organized under PPP’s “Save the Province Mission.”

Discussions were held on public participation and mobilization efforts for the demonstration.

The delegation and the Governor also reviewed federal development projects in Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, and Waziristan, as well as addressed public grievances related to federal departments. Organizational matters of the PPP in the areas were also discussed in detail.



PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to CM Tufail Anjum addressing people during inauguration ceremony of Poly Technical Institute.

Pak-China 74th anniversary of diplomatic relations celebrated

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The 74th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations marks a significant milestone in the deep and strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. The two countries have stood with one another in times when real friends are needed.

A recent example of that is the strong moral and diplomatic support extended by Peoples Republic of China in the Pakistan India tension. This was stated by speakers in function organized to commemorate the 74th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and China.

The event was jointly organized by China Study Centre University of Peshawar and Pak-China Friendship Association (KP Chapter).

Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Syed Qasim Ali Shah was the chief guest of the event. He along with the guest of honor Vice Chancellor University

of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Johar Ali, Director China Study Centre Dr. Noor Sanauddin, General Secretary Pak-China Friendship Association Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani and Pro Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Naeem Qazi cut the anniversary cake. On the sidelines of the event the “China Cultural Wall” and a painting exhibition was also inaugurated by the chief guest.

In his welcome address, Director China Study Centre Dr. Noor Sanauddin said that Pak-China relations over the years have evolved into all-weather strategic cooperative and partnership which has stood the test of time. He said that China study Centre has been established with financial support of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

He added the centre offer language classes and has an HEC recognized research journal and the centre do research on Chinese culture and other matters connected to China

and its people.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani said that the leadership of both countries have maintained close contact through frequent visits and strategic dialogue. Whereas China has consistently supported Pakistan on key issues like Kashmir. On the other hand Pakistan has supported the BRI and CPEC as game changer for the both the countries and the region itself.

Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Johar Ali said that Made in China products have become a symbol of quality around the globe and every country of the world today is dependent on the Chinese goods. He added that the two nations have strong defense ties, with joint military exercises, training programs, and defense production cooperation. He underlined that Pakistan and China often coordinate positions on international platforms like the UN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which has further added to their string voice across the

world..

Syed Qasim Ali Shah stated that China has consistently backed Pakistan diplomatically throughout the crisis. He added that in the recent Indo-Pak tension China has reaffirmed Beijing’s support for Pakistan, emphasizing its role as an “ironclad friend” and backing Pakistan’s counter-terrorism measures. He added that China’s support for Pakistan during this conflict underscores its brotherly ties with Pakistan. He reaffirmed that if China faced any such situation the Government and People of Pakistan will reciprocate and will stand with Chinese brothers in any hard time.

The Chief guest suggested a hundred sentence Chinese language guideline book comprising basic daily use sentences so that every Pakistani should learn it and should have an idea about it at a glance. The Director CSC agreed to the proposal and gave his commitment to publish the said booklet in a six months period.

NADRA develops app for online birth, death registration

PESHAWAR (APP): The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has developed a mobile app for the online registration of birth, death, and change in marital status.

The mobile application was prepared for the online registration of changes in marital status, births, and deaths, says the spokesman of NADRA in a press release here Saturday.

NADRA spokesman stated that through this app, citizens will be able to register important life events from the comfort of their homes.

The mobile app will initially be introduced in Punjab, where biometric verification facilities are being provided in all union councils.

The NADRA spokesman also mentioned that NADRA one-window counters are being established in Union Councils of Islamabad for facilitation of people.

Rally held to celebrate Thanksgiving Day

PESHAWAR (APP): A Thanksgiving Day rally was organized by Family Planning Department of District Peshawar to celebrate the success of armed forces, the other day.

The rally was led by District Population Welfare Officer Peshawar, Samiullah Khan Khalil and attended by female in-charges and Family Welfare Assistants from all welfare centers of District Peshawar.

The participants of the rally chanted slogans in support of armed forces. The purpose of the rally was to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements and historic victory of Pakistan’s armed forces in recent Pakistan-India war and to reaffirm a firm resolve to make every possible sacrifice for protection and honor of the beloved homeland.

Addressing the rally, District Population Welfare Officer Samiullah Khan Khalil paid a glowing tribute to the bravery, courage, and professional excellence of the Pakistan armed forces. He said the entire nation is proud of its brave forces for this outstanding performance.

PHC orders issuance of POCs to Afghan citizens married with Pak women

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Waqar Ahmad has ruled in favor of two Afghan nationals who are married to Pakistani women, directing the authorities to issue them Pakistan Origin Cards (POCs) after fulfilling the necessary requirements.

The counsel Tariq

Afghan advocate argued that the Afghan nationals were married to Pakistani women and were facing deportation.

The lawyer contended that issuing POCs to the Afghan spouses was their constitutional right under the Constitution of Pakistan, the Pakistan Citizenship Act, and fundamental principles of human rights.

The lawyer cited previous judgments of the Peshawar High Court,

where similar directions were issued in cases of Afghan nationals married to Pakistani women.

PHC accepted the petitioners’ arguments and directed the authorities to issue POCs to the Afghan nationals after verifying that they meet the necessary requirements.

The Peshawar High Court has directed the authorities to issue POCs to two Afghan nationals married to Pakistani women.

Sherpao pay rich tributes to armed forces

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Paying rich tributes to the armed forces for bravely defending the country in the face of naked Indian aggression, Quami Watan Party Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday said the armed forces defeated India in the recent escalation between the two nuclear armed states.

A press release said that he was talking to the office-bearers of Watanpal Students Federation of Bacha Khan University Charsadda at Watan Kor here.

Aftab Sherpao said India made baseless allegations against Pakistan in the wake of Pahalgam attack. He said the Pakistan government had condemned the Pahalgam attack and

offered an independent probe into the incident but India attacked Pakistan, which was a blatant act of war and naked aggression. He said Pakistan itself was a victim of terrorism and the country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The QWP leader said India was suffering from the illusion that it could intimidate Pakistan through its military muscle and establish a new normal but our brave and professional armed forces rose to the occasion and gave a stunning reply to India, which was left with no option but to seek a ceasefire.

He maintained that Pakistan had proof of Indian involvement in the Jaffar express train attack in Balochistan but Islamabad

did not accuse New Delhi of being behind this assault but India made baseless allegations against Pakistan in the wake of Pahalgam attack.

He also lauded the role of the Pakistani media during the escalation with India, adding that unlike the Indian news channels, the Pakistani media carried authentic news and did not sensationalize the situation.

He said the international community also sided with Pakistan largely and validated its stance. He said the time had come for India to hold comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. He also asked the federal government to come up with a strategy to put pressure on India to stop its suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

KP reports 284 attacks

PESHAWAR (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported that security forces gunned down 148 terrorists across the province in 2025.

According to CTD spokesperson, the province recorded 284 terrorism incidents this year, with North Waziristan being the hardest hit, accounting for 53 incidents. Other districts, including Bannu (35 incidents), Dera Ismail Khan (31 incidents), Kurram (8 incidents), and Peshawar (13 incidents), also faced significant militant activity.

The CTD disclosed that 1,116 individuals were named as suspects in terrorism cases across the province, with North Waziristan having the highest number at 391, followed

by Kurram with 166. Of these, 95 suspects have been arrested, including 70 in Kurram, three each in Swat and Bannu, and others across various districts.

Dera Ismail Khan saw the highest number of terrorists killed, with 67 eliminated, underscoring the intensity of counter-terrorism operations in the region. On April 23, 2025, Terrorists attacked a wildlife park building near Karam Bridge in Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to police officials, the explosion, triggered by an improvised explosive device planted by the assailants a day earlier, damaged the office building of the wildlife park. Furniture and other valuable items inside the office were also destroyed in the

blast, according to police officials.

No casualties were reported in the incident. Police have cordoned off the area and initiated an investigation to identify and apprehend the perpetrators. On Nov 30, 2024, at least three individuals, including a Punjab police officer, were shot dead in Lakki Marwat.

As per details, the victims included Sub-Inspector Qadeer Khan, who was stationed in Faisalabad, and two other individuals who were father and son. According to police reports, unknown assailants opened fire on the victims, who were visiting Lakki Marwat for holidays. The motive behind the attack is still unclear, and an investigation is underway to apprehend those responsible.

Rare Gandhara artifacts marks opportunities for tourism, culture

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Rare artifacts related to the Gandhara civilization and a captivating statue of Buddha have recently been discovered in the historic Tokar Dara area of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On this significant discovery, the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture, Archaeology, and

Museums, Zahid Chanzeb, expressed deep satisfaction, adding that this discovery not only highlights our rich cultural heritage but will also help promote Swat as an international center of tourism and research.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is committed to taking every possible step for the preservation, promotion, and development of this historic heritage.

Praising the performance of the Department of Archaeology, he said that this discovery will attract academic circles and global tourists to Swat, thereby boosting the local economy and raising awareness about the region’s cultural and religious tourism potential.

Zahid Chanzeb reaffirmed the government’s commitment to the discovery and preservation of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s historical heritage.

The Advisor stated that such valuable artifacts not only reflect the glory of our past but also serve as a source of knowledge and pride for future generations.

He invited international archaeologists to visit Swat and other sites for research and help promote the cultural significance of this region globally.

Trump concludes high-profile Abu Dhabi visit with cultural gestures

Asif Yousafzai

Former US President Donald J. Trump wrapped up a landmark visit to Abu Dhabi today, marking the final leg of his Middle East tour that included stops in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and now the UAE.

President Trump received a ceremonial welcome at Qasr Al Watan, the presidential palace, where he was awarded the nation’s highest civilian honor, the “Order of Zayed.” A traditional “Al-

Ayyala” performance, including a unique hair-flipping dance by Emirati women, went viral on social media, showcasing UAE’s cultural pride.

Trump later visited the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, where he praised Islamic heritage as “incredible,” stating that the mosque represented “the highest form of spiritual architecture.” The mosque was temporarily closed to the public during his visit—a rare gesture of honor for a visiting dignitary.

During his meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, key discussions were held on regional security, including the situation in Gaza and the Red Sea, Syria sanctions relief, and technological cooperation.

Both leaders finalized a strategic AI framework agreement, giving UAE access to advanced American AI chips.

Trump also voiced strong support for either diplomatic or military solutions to halt Iran’s

nuclear ambitions-aligning with Gulf nations’ concerns.

Meanwhile, in Gaza, at least 54 Palestinians were reported killed in Israeli airstrikes targeting Khan Younis. The attacks also hit Gaza’s sole cancer hospital. In the West Bank, five militants were reported dead in separate operations.

Trump is expected to return to the US tomorrow. His team labeled the UAE visit as historic and deeply symbolic.

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Downing of six Indian jets proves Pakistan’s superiority in indigenous military technology

PESHAWAR (APP): In a stunning display of advanced warfare capability, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) successfully shot down six Indian fighter jets including the much-vaunted French Rafale during recent dog-fight of modern era.

While Chinese-origin J-10C jets played a critical role in the engagement, it was Pakistan’s homegrown technological integration and multi-domain warfare strategy that truly tipped the scales in favour of the PAF.

This unprecedented achievement of Pakistan has sent shockwaves through military and defense

circles of India and pro Indian lobbies, with local and international analysts praising Pakistan’s mastery in unifying multiple combat domains—air, land, sea, cyber, space and the electromagnetic spectrum.

According to Brigadier (Retd) Mehmood Shah, a senior defense analyst, the development of indigenous warfare systems by the PAF represents a paradigm shift in South Asian military dynamics.

“Even countries sympathetic to India have acknowledged the combat performance, scale and precision of this Pakistani success,” he told the

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

Brigadier Shah highlighted that Pakistan’s military leadership, especially under the guidance of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar—appointed in March 2021—made significant strides in modernizing and indigenous its defense capabilities.

One of the landmark achievements under his leadership was the creation of a fully integrated indigenous Data Link system, which enabled real-time coordination across multiple warfare platforms.

This system allowed for seamless integration of

radar and weapons systems sourced from various global partners, overcoming interoperability issues and facilitating synchronized operations.

On the night of April 28-29, he said PAF surveillance detected Indian Rafale jets operating over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Utilizing advanced jamming techniques and real-time satellite imagery, Pakistan successfully disrupted Indian communications and electronic systems, forcing the jets to withdraw.

In follow-up operations conducted between May 6

and 7, Pakistani forces launched precision strikes against key Indian military assets.

Guided by indigenous systems, PAF pilots achieved by shooting down six Indian jets, including Rafales, marking the first confirmed combat take-down of the French-built aircraft anywhere in the world.

Dr Zahid Mahmood, Professor of Political Science Department at the University of Peshawar, said the confirmed kill of 6 Indian jets has shattered India’s long-promoted cosmetic based narrative of military superiority.

“The Modi government’s campaign to elevate the Rafale as a game-changing asset has backfired. The global community witnessed Pakistan’s rapid, calculated, and overwhelming counter-response,” he stated.

He added that during the coordinated strikes on May 10, Pakistan neutralized high-value Indian military installations including Udhampur, Pathankot, and Suratgarh airbases, a BrahMos missile depot, the Uri logistics center, and a major brigade headquarters.

In a further demonstration of multi-domain capa-

bilities, Pakistan reportedly launched a large-scale cyber offensive, crippling nearly 70 percent of India’s power grid and plunging several regions into darkness.

Open-source intelligence and unconfirmed Indian reports suggest that over 26 high-value targets were successfully hit by Pakistani forces, and even India’s advanced S-400 missile defense batteries at Udhampur and Bhubj were destroyed.

Brigadier Mehmood emphasized that this operation has redefined the strategic calculus in the region. “Pakistan has proven its capability to

strike decisively across all domains of modern warfare. The myth of Indian dominance in conventional military strength has been dismantled.”

He, along with Dr Mahmood, praised Pakistan’s political and military leadership for its resolute and timely decisions that thwarted Indian aggression and preserved national sovereignty.

As Pakistan solidifies its status as a regional military power with indigenous systems at its core, this aerial battles will be studied for years to come as a defining moment in 21st-century war warfare.



In brief

Two killed in road mishap F.P. Report

SHANGLA: A devastating road accident occurred in Shahpur, Shangla, resulting in the deaths of two individuals, Umar Ali and Akbar Hussain, who were first cousins. The incident took place when the jeep they were traveling in plunged into a deep ravine on the link road connecting Shahpur to Dherai Khwar village. The jeep accident happened on Friday, and both cousins died instantly. The local community was shocked by the news, and condolences poured in from elected representatives and political leaders in Shangla. They expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sudden demise of the two young men and offered prayers for the departed souls. The community in Shahpur and surrounding areas mourned the loss of the two young lives. Political leaders and elected representatives from Shangla paid tribute to the deceased and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. They prayed for the family's patience and resilience during this difficult time.

Two robbers killed in Okara F.P. Report

OKARA: Two dangerous robbers from an inter-district gang were killed by their own accomplices' firing during two police encounters. Details reveal that in the jurisdiction of Hujra Shah Muqem police station, a robber named Ameen alias Bhindi, who had injured Constable Muhammad Mureed, was killed in the encounter, while his accomplice Muhammad Yaar had already been killed. Ameen and his accomplice had snatched a motorcycle from a citizen named Muhammad Ali and fled. Upon receiving the information, SHO Hujra Shah Muqem Hafiz Athar Rasheed, along with a police team, cordoned off the area, where the robbers opened fire. Ameen was killed by the firing of his own accomplices, while the other robber escaped. In another operation near village 33 Four L Bridge, three robbers, including the leader of the inter-district gang, Zulqarnain alias Zanu, fled after snatching a motorcycle from a citizen named Nasir. Zulqarnain was killed by his accomplices' firing during the encounter. Zulqarnain was involved in 22 serious cases and was a wanted fugitive in various police stations of Lahore, Gujranwala, Vehari, Sahiwal, and Okara. The police recovered the snatched motorcycles, weapons, and cash in both incidents.

Three killed in road accident F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: Three people were crushed to death in a motorcycle traffic accident near Jaranwala in the area of Lundianwala police station, here on Saturday. Police spokesman said that a speedy bus while overtaking hit a container at its side which also struck a Mazda van on M-3 Motorway near Chak No.684-GB Jaranwala. As a result, the container and Mazda van became out of control and fell down from the motorway and caused spot death of three people including Azam r/o Bahawalpur, Farman Ali r/o Lahore and Zaman r/o Multan. After accident, the Mazda van also caught fire due to leakage of its oil. Receiving information, fire fighters of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after hectic efforts. The police took the bodies into custody while further investigation was under progress, he added.



BAHAWALPUR: An artist working on crafting a mosque minaret at a local factory.

Immunization champions honoured Zhob leads in vaccination performance

F.P. Report

QUETTA: In an impressive reaffirmation of the collective commitment to protect every child in Balochistan through life-saving immunization, healthcare professionals, male and female vaccinators, and representatives from WHO and UNICEF gathered to celebrate the province's frontline immunization heroes.

An award ceremony, organized by the Expanded Programme on Immunization --- EPI Balochistan in collaboration with UNICEF, was held at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS). The event marked World Immunization Week 2025, aiming to honor exemplary contributions in the field of immunization and to mobilize youth in promoting vital public health messages.

A total of 36 outstanding vaccinators, one from each district of Balochistan were recognized for their unwavering dedication and commitment to expanding vaccine access in some of Pakistan's most challeng-

ing and remote terrains. They were awarded cash prizes, shields, certificates by EPI, and commemorative souvenirs courtesy of the Dopasi Foundation.

Notably, the districts of Zhob, Jaffarabad, and Noshki were celebrated for their exemplary vaccination performance. Health officials from these districts, including District Health Officers, DDHOs, District Support Managers (PPHI), Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officers, and District Superintendents of Vaccination, were commended for their coordinated and impactful efforts in bolstering immunization infrastructure and service delivery.

The event also spotlighted creative engagement through the announcement of winners in the Inter-University Arts Competition 2025, themed "The Importance of Immunization." A total of 55 submissions were received from students representing the University of Balochistan, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, and BUITEMS.

The first prize was awarded to Aqsa from SBK

Women's University. Hakima from BUITEMS secured the second prize, and the third prize went to Sumaira, also from BUITEMS. All participants received certificates of appreciation for their contribution to immunization efforts.

The ceremony was graced by several dignitaries and provincial health officials including Additional Secretary Health Hashim Shah, Coordinator DEOC Inam ul Haq, Provincial Coordinator EPI Kamalan Gichki, Deputy Provincial Coordinator EPI Dr Sehreen Nosherwani, CSD Manager, UNICEF Dr Humayun Ameer, National Professional Officer WHO Dr Rehmat Ullah, Technical Field Officer, BMGF Dr Waheed Lashari and SBC Officer, UNICEF Zia ur Rehman Sumalani.

The event served as a timely reminder of the critical role immunization plays in safeguarding public health, especially in underserved regions, and celebrated the dedicated individuals who continue to advance this vital mission across Southwestern Pakistan.

Tribesmen seek retrieval of land F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Tribesmen of Khuga Khel demanded of Inspector General Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary KP, Commissioner, Peshawar, Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) and Tehsil Municipal Authority Pishatkara to retrieve their land, seized by the owners of new Peshawar city scheme.

Addressing a press conference in the district press club, Landi Kotal on Saturday Akbar Khan son Naseem Akbar and Shah Zaib son of Ismatullah said that they had legal ownership of a piece of land in Tukra no. 5, Sarband, Pishatkara. Peshawar however some land grabbers seized it and structured a new Peshawar city scheme on it.

They lodged a case in the Civil Court, Peshawar and filed an application with the Provincial Ombudsman. The land mafia identified as Shahid and Haroon had illegally annexed their property in the township and gave them life threats in case of any action.

They had legal ownership of the property but the mafia forcibly deprived them of their land that was injustice to them, they regretted. They demanded the hiphugs of the Police and the administration to provide them and recover their land from land grabbers. They also warned the public to avoid dealing in the new Peshawar city scheme as they were the legal and original owners of the land of the township.

CISS-AJK organizes roundtable F.P. Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Centre for International Strategic Studies Azad Jammu and Kashmir (CISS-AJK) organized a roundtable discussion to commemorate Youm-e-Tashakur, bringing together its research faculty to reflect on recent strategic developments and Pakistan's growing role in regional stability.

The session was led by Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director CISS-AJK, who in her opening remarks congratulated the nation and armed forces on the successful culmination of Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos and Marka-e-Haq. She emphasized the importance of academic research and strategic discourse in shaping national narratives and encouraged scholars to continue contributing to national defense and policy through rigorous academic work.

Syeda Tahreem Bukhari, Associate Director at CISS-AJK, shared her insights on the state of strategic stability post-Kashmir crisis and outlined a way forward for Pakistan. She stressed the urgency of resolving the Kashmir issue and expressed concern over the potential for future aggression from India under its current political leadership.

Zohaib Altaf, Associate Director CISS-AJK, provided a detailed analysis of the technological and operational dimensions of Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos.

IG Prisons visits Central Jail Karak

F.P. Report

KARAK: Inspector General of Prisons Muhammad Usman Mehsud visited Central Jail Karak. On reaching the jail, a decorated contingent presented a salute. And the Jail Superintendent along with his staff gave a grand welcome to the distinguished guest.

The distinguished guest visited the center set up for drug addicts inside the jail where the medical in-charge of the center, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed, gave him a detailed briefing about the treatment and medical facilities at the drug rehabilitation center. Later, Deputy Superintendent Ahmadullah, in-charge of the center, gave a detailed briefing to the distinguished Inspector General of Prisons about the skills taught to prisoners and detainees. Which was highly appreciated by the Inspector General of Prisons.

Later, the Inspector General of Prisons visited various barracks including Langan Khana and Zanan Khana where the prisoners wore a turban of honor to the distinguished guest. And presented him with bouquets. And the Inspector General of Prisons listened to their problems with great kindness and issued orders on the spot to resolve some of the problems. Finally, the distinguished guest distributed certificates of appreciation among the members of the jail staff who showed excellent performance. And the Superintendent of Prisons appreciated the services of the facilities provided to the prisoners and detainees of Karak Jail and finally, the Superintendent of Prisons awarded the distinguished guest with a shield of honor.

Meanwhile, Thanksgiving Day was celebrated with national enthusiasm in Karak district. In the light of the instructions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, like the rest of the province, "Thanksgiving Day" was celebrated with

full national enthusiasm in Karak district.

In this regard, after a minute's silence in front of the DC office at 10 am, a grand rally was also taken out to Circuit House Karak, which was led by Deputy Commissioner Karak Shakeel Ahmed Jan. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Karak Sahibzada Samiullah, officers of the Pak Army, Police, District Administration, Line Departments and people of different schools of thought participated in the rally. Solidarity with the Pakistani Armed Forces was expressed in the rally and tribute was paid to them. Slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad", "Afwaj Pakistan Pindaabad" were raised on this occasion.

The participants expressed their views and said that the courage and bravery shown by the Pakistan Air Force, Pak Army and citizens against Indian aggression is unparalleled in history. On this occasion of "Thanksgiving Day", in addition to paying tribute to the martyrs in the war, prayers were also offered for the speedy recovery of the injured. Later, the flag was hoisted at the Circuit House Karak. At the end of the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Karak Shakeel Ahmed Jan paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in giving a befitting reply to India and said that the patriotism of the Pakistani army and Pakistanis is unmatched. Our martyrs are our pride. At the end of the rally, special prayers were offered for the security of the country and the nation.

After the rally, prayers were also offered for the elevation of the martyred personnel belonging to Karak in the Pak-India clash. Later, Deputy Commissioner Karak, along with officers of the Pak Army, visited the shrine of Shaheed Mubashir of the Pakistan Air Force in Karak in the Pak-India clash and laid flowers.

KKKUK holds Gratitude Day ceremony

F.P. Report

KARAK: Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak (KKKUK) on Friday held a solemn and dignified "Gratitude Day" ceremony

to pay tribute to the valiant Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledge their successful military operation Bunyanon Marsoos. The event, organized on the special directive of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Tahir Khalily, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and administrative staff, all united in expressing their solidarity and honoring the sacrifices made for the nation's defense.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of prominent university officials, including Registrar Dr. Ghani Ur Rehman, Controller of Examinations Muhammad Rahim, Director ORIC Dr. Muhammad Zubair, Director Administration Dr. Rafi

Ullah Khan, and Director Academic and Research Dr. Fasih ur Rehman, Provost Dr. Shad Muhammad among other notable figures.

Addressing the gathering, Director ORIC Dr. Muhammad Zubair eloquently lauded the unparalleled bravery and unwavering resolve of the Pakistan Armed Forces in effectively repelling enemy aggression.

He underscored that their courageous response serves as a profound source of national pride for every citizen. Dr. Zubair also passionately encouraged the students to draw inspiration from the military's exemplary discipline, unwavering determination, and profound spirit of sacrifice.

The Gratitude Day proceedings culminated in a powerful Solidarity Walk. Participants, including students, faculty members, departmental heads, and administrative officers, marched with national flags

held high and carried placards displaying messages of unity, fervent patriotism, and steadfast support for the nation's defense. The walk commenced from the university ground and concluded at the main video conference room, symbolizing the collective solidarity of the KKKUK community.

This significant event follows the successful execution of Operation Bunyanon Marsus by the Pakistan Armed Forces on May 10th.

This decisive response to hostile aggression ignited a nationwide wave of gratitude and reinforced the spirit of unity across the country. Khushal Khan Khattak University's Gratitude Day ceremony stands as a testament to the unwavering support and deep appreciation of the academic community for the sacrifices and unwavering commitment of the Pakistan Armed Forces in safeguarding the nation.

Minister inaugurates Hussain Optical Service

F.P. Report

MINGORA: Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai, Provincial Minister for Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, inaugurated Hussain Optical Service at Nishat Chowk, Mingora. The ceremony was attended by Abdul Rahim, President of Malakand Traders Federation; Ali Rahman, President of EPECA Swat; Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Haji Fazal Mabood, Sardar Hussain, Haji Fida Hussain and other notable figures.

Addressing the event, Provincial Minister Fazal Hakeem Khan stated that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

government is taking all possible measures to provide a peaceful and conducive environment for businesses. He emphasized that the public, political parties, and assembly members are united on taxes issue in Malakand Division. He explained that the division is being split into two parts due to its vast geographical size, though its people remain culturally and traditionally united. This administrative division, he added, will streamline governance and improve public convenience.

Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai further stated that there will be no com-

promise on the interests of our land and people. We have always advocated for public rights and remain ready to make every sacrifice for their welfare." He congratulated the owner of Hussain Optical Service and expressed hope for its success, reiterating the government's commitment to fostering a peaceful environment for businesses to thrive and ensure lawful livelihoods.

He further highlighted ongoing efforts to accelerate development in Swat, stating, "All assembly members are working tirelessly day and night for the progress, prosperity, and welfare of Swat."

Awami Tehreek leader Hurunisa Palijo passes away at 81

F.P. Report

THATTA: Scores of Awami Tehreek workers, local leaders, and people from different walks of life converged in village Mungar Khan Palijo to bid a befitting farewell to Hurunisa Palijo, a dynamic political figure, human rights activist, and social worker, on Saturday.

Carrying the flags of Awami Tehreek in their hands, a large number of women and men stood on both sides of the road while her body was being moved to Jungshahi, her ancestral town. Hurunisa breathed her last at the age of 81 in a private hospital in Karachi late Friday night after battling a respiratory disease. She was the sister of the eminent

politician, ideologist, and activist Rasool Bux Palijo, and remained his ardent supporter throughout her life.

Paying tribute to her, the provincial president of Awami Tehreek, Advocate Wasand Thari, said that she was a role model for suppressed and underprivileged women of Sindh who remained at the forefront whenever Sindhis needed her. Mentioning her key contributions, he said that Ms. Palijo was among the founding members of Sindhiyani Tehreek, a sister organization of Awami Tehreek, and also served as its central president.

Thari further said that she visited every nook and corner of Sindh to create awareness among women living in

remote areas and apprised them of their rights.

Another key leader of AT, Dada Abdul Qadir Ranto, described her as a brave woman who actively participated in various political movements, mainly the MRD and anti-six canals movement.

General Secretary of AT, Sajjad Mahesar, also expressed her condolences. A former PPP senator, Sassui Palijo, expressed deep grief at the demise of her aunt and termed it a huge loss for the politics of Sindh. Ayaz Latif Palijo said that Hurunisa Palijo, being a political activist, always followed in the footsteps of her brother Rasool Bux Palijo and established herself as a prominent political entity of Sindh.

MPO holds solidarity rally held with Pak Army

F.P. Report

LARKANA: In solidarity with the Pak Army and for the Pak Army giving a befitting reply to enemy India through Operation "Banyan Al-Marsoos" and making Pakistan's name famous at the global level, the Mohafiz Pakistan Organization (MPO) took out a rally from the city's SP Chowk to Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Library under the leadership of Central MPO Chairman Muhammad Yousuf Sheikh, in which a large number of youth including leaders of various religious, minority and civil society groups of the city participated.

The youth participating

in the rally carried national flags, placards and banners and chanted slogans of Pak Zindabad. Addressing the rally, Central MPO Chairman Muhammad Yousuf Sheikh, Syed Zulfiqar Shah, Amjad Ali Agani and others said that the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy gave a befitting reply to Indian aggression through Operation Banyan Al-Marsoos with great force and proved to be the number one army in the world.

By showing India the stars of the day, the Indian government and army have been deprived of sleep. In this way, the Pakistani nation is proud of the three forces of the country, the

Pakistan Army, the Pakistan Air Force and the Pakistan Navy, while the Pakistan Army is our national asset and the guarantor of the country's borders. We pay tribute to all three forces of Pakistan because their services for the integrity of the country are unforgettable.

They further said that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Army and are ready to fight on every front of war and if India makes any further aggression, the Modi government will be responded to with more force. Therefore, the Modi government should take thoughtful steps, otherwise the map of India will be changed from the world map.



BANGKOK: Premchai Karnasuta, the president of Italian-Thai Development Co arriving on a wheelchair at Bang Sue Police Station to surrender to police on criminal negligence charges for the collapse of a Bangkok high-rise during a March 28 earthquake.

UN rejects US-backed Gaza aid plan, citing lack of neutrality

NEW YORK: The United Nations has said it will not take part in a US-backed humanitarian operation in Gaza because it is not impartial, neutral or independent, as Israel pledged to facilitate the effort without being involved in aid deliveries.

"This particular distribution plan does not accord with our basic principles, including those of impartiality, neutrality, independence, and we will not be participating in this," deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq told reporters. The US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation will start work in Gaza by the end of May under a heavily criticised aid plan that the UN aid chief Tom Fletcher described as a "fig leaf for further violence and displacement" of Palestinians in Gaza.

Speaking to reporters in Antalya, Türkiye, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged the criticisms and said Washington was open to any alternative plan to get aid to civilians "without Hamas being able to steal it". "We're not immune or in any way insensitive to the suffering of the people of Gaza, and I know that there's opportunities here

to provide aid for them," Rubio said after speaking with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "There are criticisms of that plan. We're open to an alternative if someone has a better one," he said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that the UN "has a solid and principled operational plan to deliver humanitarian aid and life-saving services at scale and immediately across the Gaza Strip". Israel has accused Hamas of stealing aid, which the group denies, and has blocked the delivery of all humanitarian assistance to Gaza since March 2, demanding Hamas release all remaining captives. A report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification initiative released said the Gaza Strip "is still confronted with a critical risk of famine" after more than a year and a half of devastating war, with the vast majority of its approximately 2.1 million people at severe risk. In a bid to address some concerns, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has asked Israel to expand an initial limited number of so-called secure aid distri-

bution sites in Gaza's south to the north within 30 days. It has also asked Israel to let the UN and others resume aid deliveries now until it is set up. "I'm not familiar with those requests, maybe when they went into Jerusalem, but I will tell you that we appreciate the effort of the United States," Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told reporters.

"We will not fund those efforts. We will facilitate them. We will enable them," he said. "We will not be the ones giving the aid ... It will be run by the fund itself, led by the US." Israel and the US have urged the UN and aid groups to cooperate and work with the foundation.

It is unclear how the foundation will be funded. A Department of State spokesperson said no US government funding would go to the foundation. A fact sheet on the foundation, circulating among the aid community last week, listed respected former UN World Food Programme chief David Beasley as a potential adviser. However, a source familiar with the effort said Beasley was not currently involved. - Aljazeera

Starmmer seeking third countries to set up asylum seeker 'return hubs'

LONDON (BBC): The United Kingdom is talking to third countries about setting up "return hubs" to host asylum seekers refused the right to stay in the country as part of a renewed crackdown on immigration, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said. The UK leader is under increasing pressure to cut the number of migrants arriving on UK shores amid the rising popularity of the far-right Reform UK Party.

He said that he was talking to "a number of countries" about hosting the "return hubs", which would receive failed asylum seekers who have exhausted all avenues of appeal for processing prior to deportation. Speaking during a visit to Albania, Starmer

did not specify which countries he was speaking to about the scheme, which has drawn comparisons with a plan developed by the previous Conservative government to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda, which Starmer had dismissed as a gimmick and scrapped immediately after entering office in July.

The subject was apparently not on the agenda for Starmer's meetings in Tirana, with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama specifying in a joint news conference that a similar returns model, which his country had agreed to with Italy last year, was a "one off" that "takes its time to be tested". That scheme, which could see Italian-run facilities in Albania holding

up to 36,000 asylum seekers annually while their applications are fast-tracked, is currently bogged down in the courts.

Starmer admitted that establishing the facilities would not be a "silver bullet" for halting the perilous crossings of the English Channel in small boats, which have seen 12,000 people arriving so far this year, putting 2025 on course to potentially see a record high number of arrivals. However, combined with other measures to tackle smuggling gangs, he said the plan would "allow us to bear down on this vile trade".

Starmer claimed his new Labour government had been left a "mess" by the previous Conservative

German minister says expulsion at borders up 45%

BERLIN (Reuters): Germany's interior minister said that 45% more people had been expelled at Germany's land borders over the past seven days, when the new government stepped up border checks.

Speaking at the border in the southern state of Bavaria that borders Austria, Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said 739 attempts of "illegal entry" had been blocked, compared with 511 expulsions over the previous week. He added that "vulnerable groups" would still be allowed to apply for asylum and that Germany was working with other European Union countries to reform the bloc's asylum system so that border checks within the EU would no longer be necessary.

Malaysia hopeful after talks with US

SEOOWIPO (Reuters): Malaysia's trade minister is more optimistic of achieving a deal with Washington to reduce tariffs, he said, after a meeting with his US counterpart. Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Tengku Zafrul Aziz met US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on the sidelines of a two-day gathering of trade ministers from 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group.

It was his second meeting with Greer since the Southeast Asian country officially started negotiations with Washington two weeks ago. "We're moving in the right direction, and recently, we've also seen the de-escalation between the US and China over the weekend in Geneva, and before that there was an announcement as well with the UK and US," Tengku Zafrul told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of the APEC meeting on South Korea's resort island of Jeju.

"So, we think, at the end of the day, if we can show a win-win solution for both countries, we should come to an amicable agreement," he said. He hoped, he added, to see "some sort of a conclusion" before the end of the 90-day pause Trump announced last month. Tengku Zafrul declined to give details of his meeting with Greer, citing Washington and Kuala Lumpur's non-disclosure agreement, but he said the government would raise the issue of industries central to the economy, including aerospace and semiconductors. Malaysia's prime minister said earlier this month the country may be able to negotiate tariff reductions as Washington had agreed to further talks during preliminary discussions. Among Southeast Asian countries, Malaysia was hit with 24% US tariffs, higher than 17% tariffs on the Philippines but lower than 32% on Indonesia, 36% on Thailand and 46% on Vietnam.

Tired of elections, Portuguese just want a stable govt

MARINHA GRANDE, Portugal (Reuters): For many Portuguese, the hope for general election is pretty simple: a government that can navigate the challenges thrown up by global trade tensions and other geopolitics, and an end to the non-stop cycle of polls every year.

But for sceptical residents of Marinha Grande, a working-class town of 40,000 in central Portugal and a hub for the injection moulding industry, even that seems like wishful thinking. The vote is the third general election in as many years and comes after a 10-year period of fragile governments, only one of which has had a parliamentary majority but which still collapsed halfway through its term last year.

Luis Simoes, a 36-year-old moulding plant worker, was among those worried that no lasting government would emerge, leaving much-needed stability hanging on fragile deals between parties. That, at a time of global trade tensions triggered by Donald Trump's tariff blitz, and a high domestic tax burden. "If they (parties) don't reach an understanding up there at the top of the pyramid, we will suffer here," he told Reuters at the Iberomoldes plant filled with the hum of precision machines. The impact of new US tariffs on imports - including from the EU - has barely featured in the election campaign, however, even as Portugal's net exports already felt the pinch in the first quarter and the economy shrank from the previous three months, setting off alarm bells at Marinha Grande's big exporters.

Portugal's moulding industry is Europe's third-largest after Germany and Switzerland, selling almost 1

billion euros (\$1.12 billion) a year mostly to other European countries. Its moulds are used to make plastic toys, cars and aircraft cabin panels. Iberomoldes President Joaquim Menezes, whose company exports 90% of its output, said he feared trade tensions may affect his big European clients and subsequently his company, while any further political instability at home would only compound such risks and "surely affect our productivity". Opinion polls show the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD) of Prime Minister Luis Montenegro garnering the most votes but no parliamentary majority, a similar outcome to the previous ballot in March 2024. There's also little change for its perennial rival, the centre-left Socialist Party (PS), which is hard on its heels. Marinha Grande has traditionally voted for the PS but in last year's election many turned to the far-right Chega party, which won 20.5% of the vote in the region, up from 7% in 2023. The PS won 29.8%, well below the 43.5% it won the year before in the region.

At a national level, Chega has been polling steady to lower since quadrupling its parliamentary representation last year. Its anti-establishment, anti-immigration rhetoric is seen as too toxic for it to serve as kingmaker to any party. No party has come up with fresh proposals to generate much enthusiasm among the Portuguese or address their concerns. "Each party is just saying they are the serious ones and the others are unethical or corrupt," said Samuel Silva, an office administrative assistant in Lisbon. "Europe's economic woes will reach Portugal sooner or later, but I don't see any of the major parties talking

about it, it doesn't bring votes." Much of the campaign has centred around ethical matters such as the business dealings of Montenegro's family consulting firm. The issue brought down his government in March but failed to resonate with voters - who still largely consider him the better man for the job, according to opinion surveys. Montenegro has denied any wrongdoing. "People really don't care that much about the issue. They are fed up," said political science professor Jose Tomaz Castelo Branco of Lisbon's Catholic University, citing voter fatigue after so many elections. "There is not that much hope that the future will be different to the present," he added. The only potential for some stability appears to lie with the fourth-placed, pro-business Liberal Initiative party, which could garner enough votes to form a majority ruling coalition with Montenegro's AD, with which it has some affinities.

There could be a prolonged legislative paralysis before yet another election, Castelo Branco said. No new general election can be called until at least mid-2026 because Portugal will hold a presidential election next January. "If you are an optimist, you will hope for the parties to come together the day after the election to form an alliance to rule the country for at least the coming year," he said. Retired metalworker Luis Esperanca, 58, held out little such hope. He was angry with what he said was politicians' reluctance to compromise for the good of the country and criticised a disappointing campaign dominated by "very weak ideas for the future". "They think they don't need to explain anything to anyone, as if everyone were idiots," he said. "This cannot continue."

WHO declares polio outbreak in Papua New Guinea

GENEVA (BBC): The World Health Organisation has declared a polio outbreak in Papua New Guinea and called for an "immediate" vaccination campaign. Samples of the highly infectious virus were found in two healthy children during a routine screening in Lae, a coastal city in the country's north east.

Less than half of the country's population are immunised against the potentially deadly disease, which is close to being wiped out but has recently resurfaced in some parts of the world. "We have to do something about it and we have to do it immediately," said Sevil Huseynova, WHO's representative in Papua New Guinea, warning that the disease could

spread beyond the country. "We have to make maximum effort to get 100% [vaccination] coverage," Dr Huseynova said at a media conference. "Polio knows no borders."

The disease is caused by the poliovirus, which spreads through contact with an infected person's faeces or droplets when they cough and sneeze. It mostly affects children under five years old. There is no cure for polio, although the majority of people with the infection - including the two recent cases in Papua New Guinea - have no symptoms. Those who do may get a flu-like illness. A small number of people infected with polio - between one in a thousand and one in a hundred -

develop more serious problems that can lead to paralysis. This is also when the disease becomes life-threatening, particularly when paralysis affects muscles used for breathing. Papua New Guinea was said to be polio-free since 2000, until an outbreak in 2018, which was contained within the same year. The latest cases were found to be carrying a virus strain genetically linked to one circulating in Indonesia. Papua New Guinea shares a border with Indonesia's easternmost Papua province. Health Minister Elias Kapavore has vowed to achieve 100% polio immunisation in the country by the end of this year. "There is no excuse... Polio is a serious disease," he said.

Is Britain really inching back towards the EU?

LONDON (BBC): On a warm morning earlier this month, a group of Metropolitan Police diplomatic protection officers sat in an anteroom off the ornate entrance hall in London's Lancaster House, sipping tea and nibbling chocolate biscuits, while upstairs a core group of European politicians discussed the future of European cooperation.

It was an apt setting: everywhere you look in Lancaster House, there is evidence of the long, entangled histories of the UK and Europe. The double sweep of its grand staircase deliberately echoes the Palace of Versailles. Queen Victoria sat in these rooms listening to Frederic Chopin play the piano in 1848. Tony Blair hosted Russian President Putin here for an energy summit in 2003. The important issues on the agenda at the Lancaster House meeting, which was hosted by the Foreign Secretary David Lammy, included the latest developments in the war in Ukraine, Europe's response to ensure the continent's security, and - for the first time since Brexit - a summit between the UK and the European Union, which will take place on 19 May. The British government believes it's a significant moment.

Before Brexit, British prime ministers would travel to Brussels four times a year or more for summits with the heads of the EU's institutions and its 27 member states. The haggling would go on late into the night. After Brexit those large summits stopped. Now, the Labour government, elected last year on a manifesto that promised "an improved and ambitious relationship with our European partners", envisages new and regular interactions with the EU. Sir Keir Starmer

will host the most senior EU leaders to launch a new "partnership".

Pedro Serrano, the EU ambassador to London, has described it as the "culmination of enhanced contacts at the highest levels since the July 2024 [UK] elections". But what will it amount to? Is what's coming a "surrender summit" as the Conservatives warn; "the great British sellout" undoing bits of Brexit that Reform UK fear; or "a huge opportunity" the UK may be about to squander, as Liberal Democrats say? Or could it be an example of how, in Sir Keir Starmer's words, "serious pragmatism defeats performative politics" by delivering practical things that will improve people's lives? In those long, drama-filled nights of 2020, when the then-prime minister Boris Johnson was negotiating Brexit, the possibility of a Security and Defence Partnership was discussed. But the UK's main priority was diverging from Brussels. So nothing was agreed - a notable omission, some think. Now a new UK-EU security pact has been worked on for months, the plan is for it to be the centrepiece of what's agreed.

Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, who is overseeing negotiations, was at the early talks at Lancaster House. "Our relationship has had some difficulties," she told me, but "considering what is going on in the world [...] we need to move forward with this partnership." Yet some think the UK should not seize this outstretched hand. "The cornerstone of our defence is Nato," Alex Burghart, a Conservative front-bencher, told the Commons this week. "We know of no reason why Nato is insufficient." Reform UK's deputy leader Richard Tice has his own view.

"There's no value at all," he argues. "We do not want to be constrained by a bungling top-down bureaucratic military structure. Our defence is guaranteed by Nato." The government fires back on that point, arguing that a partnership will in no way undermine Nato; rather it will complement it, they say, because it will stretch to areas beyond defence, like the security of our economies, infrastructure, energy supplies, even migration and transnational crime.

Some industry experts also believe that a security pact could boost the UK economy. Kevin Craven, chief executive of ADS Group, a UK trade association that represents aerospace, defence and security firms, is among them. Take, for example, the SAFE (Security Action For Europe) programme that is being set up by the EU, aiming to provide up to 150bn (£126bn) in loans for new projects. If the UK strikes a security partnership with the EU, then British weapons manufacturers could potentially access some of that cash. "There is a huge amount of interest from European partners," says Mr Craven. "One of the challenges for defence companies in the last couple of years, since the advent of Ukraine, is being able to scale up their own capacity to meet demand." He estimates the UK could boost the EU's defence output by a fifth. The Liberal Democrat's Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Calum Miller, similarly believes that a security pact is a huge opportunity for the British defence industry - but, he adds, "as importantly, it's a new strategic opportunity for the UK to be part of that ongoing conversation about how we arm as a continent".

Others point out that the UK has

already been working with the EU on defence ever since Russia's invasion of Ukraine - at Nato, and most recently via the so-called Coalition of the Willing. So, in practice, does it make huge amounts of difference to the UK's place in Europe? No, argues Jill Rutter, a former senior civil servant who is now a senior fellow at the UK in a Changing Europe think tank. "Because relations [on defence] have already been improving quite a long way." Some of those working on the partnership, however, argue that it will set in train new ways for the UK to engage and cooperate with its neighbours. More contentious is the UK's desire to sign what's called a 'veterinary' deal to remove some border checks on food and drink. Nick Thomas-Symonds, the Cabinet Office minister leading these negotiations, told the Commons this week that the objective to lower food and drink costs is in the manifesto, so there is a mandate for it. Inside the food industry, calls for reform have been growing. Julianne Ponan, whose firm Creative Nature makes vegan snack bars, exports to 18 countries but only a small proportion goes to the EU. She says this is because of the paperwork and inspections since Brexit.

One of her employees had to carry samples in her luggage on a passenger flight to Spain for a meeting to make sure the food wasn't held up at the border, she says. "I think this will open up huge opportunities for businesses like mine." But a veterinary deal may carry political danger. It would require the UK to align some of its rules on food and drink with EU ones, and move in-step with Brussels over time. And those rules are subject to oversight by EU courts. "I call it the

surrender summit," says Andrew Griffith, the Conservative Shadow Business and Trade Secretary. Under this deal the UK would lose "our freedom to set our own rules", he adds. The Conservatives say they "fought long and hard" to "take back control of our laws, our borders, our money" - and that this should not now be reversed. Reform UK has not held back in its language: "We think prepare for the Great British sell out. That's the bottom line, and it will be dressed up as a reset," Richard Tice says. "Why would you want to reset and get closer to a patently failing economic model? The EU is struggling even more than we are. We should be diverging as fast as we can away from that." But Labour's Thomas-Symonds dismisses these views as a "rehash of the arguments of the past".

On the other end of the spectrum is the accusation that Sir Keir is far too cautious. Calum Miller of the Liberal Democrats says he knows of businesses "gnashing their teeth in frustration that they just can't exploit opportunities to work with and trade with Europe". His party wants the UK to explore a Customs Union with the EU. It would make moving goods easier, but mean we couldn't sign our own trade deals. David Henig, a former senior trade negotiator, has been talking to both sides "hoping to help, to sort of navigate them in". "The summit is a step forward, not a step change," he says, "A slight deepening of the trade ties, rather than something dramatically new." A deal on food and drink checks would deliver very little, he believes, because food and drink is such a limited part of trade. "If you were, for example, aligning UK and

EU rules on industrial products, you'd get a much bigger economic impact".

Jill Rutter thinks that a veterinary deal would not prove "economically earth shattering" - but if it goes well, she argues that it could provide "early proof of concept" for further UK-EU cooperation. After Brexit, many British fishermen were disappointed when Boris Johnson's government agreed to let EU boats continue much as before, taking significant catches from UK waters. Those arrangements expire next year. The EU wants them extended. David Davis who, as Brexit minister, led some of the original negotiations for the UK, told me fishing was "totemic" for Brussels. London conceded too easily, he thinks. "Europeans got what they wanted first, and then we had a haggle from a weak position." So he adds, "If I was giving advice to the government, I would say, tough it out" and use fishing as a lever to seek concessions.

But, as the UK found before, Brussels has cards to play. Much of the fish caught by British fishermen is sold to buyers on the Continent and the UK needs access to that market. Some EU coastal states, like France and Denmark, are prepared to drive a hard bargain, demanding that London concedes on fishing rights in return for things it wants. Early on, even signing the Security Partnership was being linked to agreement on a fishing deal. The haggling will be tough. And finally, there's an idea that has prompted much interest in recent months: a youth mobility deal, through which under-30s from the UK and EU could live and work in each other's countries.

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Hindutva fails, faith prevails

ON April 22, a tragic and suspicious attack in India's Pahalgam claimed the lives of 26 tourists. Within minutes, as per its well-worn script, New Delhi hurried to blame Pakistan, attempting to mask its own security failure behind a web of deception. This so-called false flag operation was not merely a sinister propaganda stunt — it was a calculated provocation aimed at both tarnishing Pakistan's international standing and settling scores from past military embarrassments, most notably the infamous dogfight of February 27, 2019, when Pakistan downed Indian jets and captured pilot Abhinandan, who was later returned with dignity as a gesture of goodwill by Pakistan — a responsible state upholding the ethics of war.

Pakistan unequivocally condemned the Pahalgam incident and offered full cooperation for an impartial international investigation. Yet, instead of accepting the call for dialogue, India resorted to its habitual obstinance, choosing the path of belligerence over diplomacy. Blinded by its desire for vengeance, it leaned on fabrications and jingoistic media coverage to shield itself from accountability.

On April 29, Pakistan's Director General of ISPR, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, held a landmark press conference, unmasking India's terror network operating within Pakistan. Audio leaks exposed a conversation between an Indian Army major and a known terrorist operative, revealing a brazen admission of Indian involvement in coordinated subversive activities extending from Balochistan to Lahore.

As expected, the stage was set for the next act in India's orchestrated aggression. On the night of May 7, India launched missiles targeting five civilian localities in Pakistan, including mosques and religious schools. The attack claimed 31 innocent lives, among them women and children. Pakistan's Armed Forces, alert and resolute, retaliated with surgical precision using J-10C fighter jets, downing three Rafales, one MiG, and one Su-30 — a devastating blow to India's Hegemonic delusions. Pakistan also neutralized key Indian military installations across the Line of Control while sparing those that raised white flags in surrender — a reflection of our commitment to humanitarian values even amid warfare.

Pakistan made it clear: thus far, our actions were defensive. But from this point forward, our response would be dictated by our own choosing — in time, manner, and scale. In a desperate bid to gain the upper hand, India resorted to deploying Israeli suicide drones, hoping to extract intelligence from the aftermath of Pakistan's air defense response. However, their gambit failed spectacularly. Pakistan not only intercepted these drones but turned the tables once again, reaffirming that where Indian strategy ends, Pakistani resolve begins.

Following repeated humiliation, India made yet another strategic blunder. On the night of May 10, it attempted missile strikes on various Pakistani airbases. All incoming missiles were successfully intercepted, further deepening India's embarrassment on the global stage. The tide turned decisively when Pakistan launched Operation Bunyanun Marsus — a preemptive and comprehensive counterstrike targeting 10 major Indian airbases. The operation commenced at the break of dawn and within hours, India's military capacity was severely crippled. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, once posturing as a strongman, was reduced to pleading with Washington for a ceasefire. The same United States that had previously declared neutrality was now pulled into the fray, pressured by India's catastrophic losses.

Pakistan's position was vindicated on every count. We had warned that Pahalgam was yet another Pulwama-style false flag operation. We had called for investigations, offered peace, and forecasted India's impending aggression. The Indian media, complicit in spreading disinformation, now stands exposed by international outlets presenting irrefutable evidence. Our response — strategic, measured, and morally grounded — has been acknowledged globally, while India's ignominious defeat is now etched in world headlines.

Meanwhile, within India, the Modi regime's oppressive policies have alienated not only Muslims but also Sikh communities, exemplified by the closure of the Kartarpur Corridor. In stark contrast, Pakistan has kept this sacred route open, even during active conflict — a testament to our unwavering respect for religious freedoms. India's closure of this corridor is not only a political miscalculation but a clear attempt to punish a minority for clinging to their religious identity — exposing once more the systemic bigotry underpinning the Hindutva ideology.

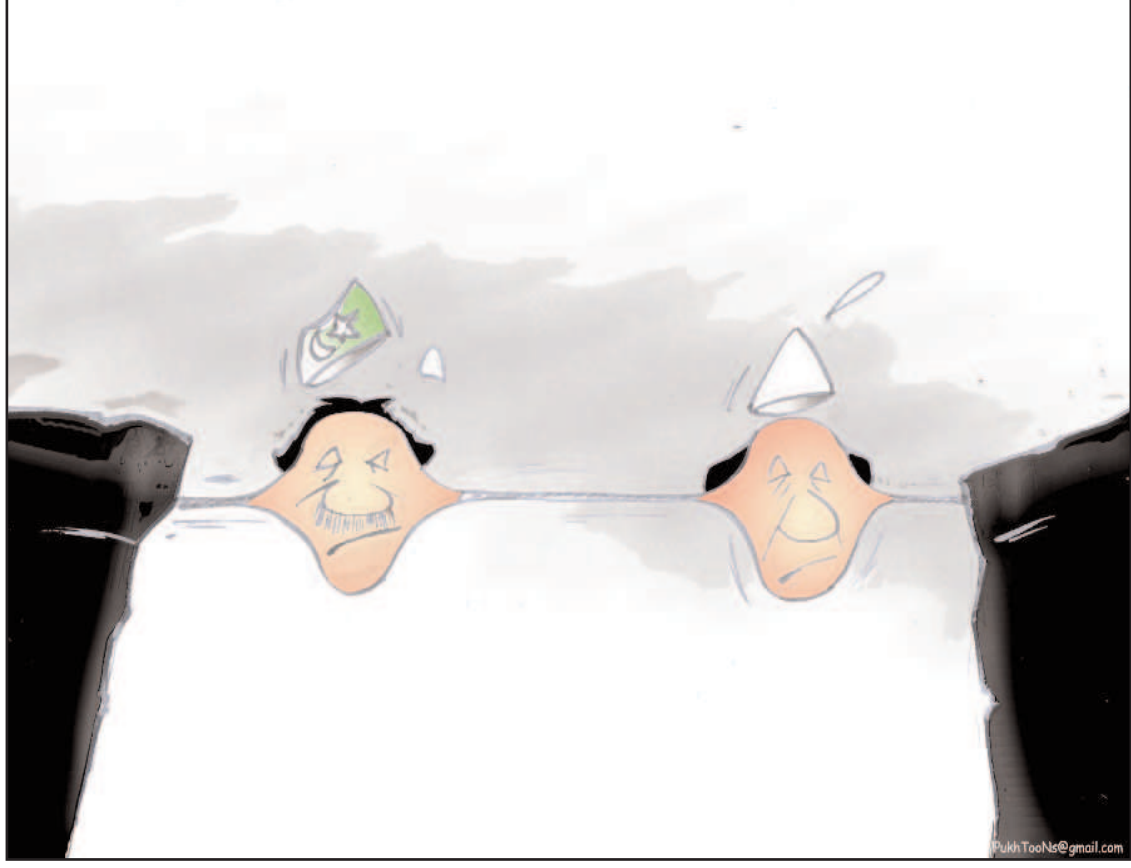
This confrontation was never merely a bilateral conflict. It was a battle between truth and falsehood, between integrity and deception. Pakistan has conveyed a powerful message to the world — wars are not won by machines, but by conviction. India's choice to target civilian infrastructure, including mosques and religious seminaries, was not only a breach of international law but an assault on ideological frontiers. It exposed the growing influence of Hindutva not just in Indian politics, but within its military ranks.

Yet, as history has shown, divine justice transcends all worldly might. The Almighty's design is supreme, and today, Pakistan stands as its custodian. Let the world know: Pakistan is not Iraq, nor is it Palestine. It is the last fortress for the oppressed, a steadfast shield for the people of Kashmir and Palestine alike. If technology alone won wars, the Soviet Union would not have collapsed in Afghanistan. If deceit yielded victory, India would not be licking its wounds today. In this war, it was Pakistan's moral compass, strategic discipline, and unyielding faith that led to a resounding triumph. Indeed, falsehood may challenge the truth, but it can never overcome it. Long live Pakistan. God bless Pakistan's Army

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Pak India tension .. Continues...



How much will we risk in the name of AI?

Maya Sobchuk

THE latest developments in artificial intelligence and its influence on the integrity of the information space are looking bleak. The world's most important conference in this field, the AI Action Summit, which was held in Paris in February, marked a clear shift in focus - one prioritizing opportunity and a pro-business attitude over the once-central concerns of safety and regulation.

This shift was even reflected in the event's name: Previously known as the AI Safety Summit, held in the United Kingdom in 2023, and the AI Seoul Summit from last year, the latest rebranding suggests an unmistakable departure from an emphasis on risk management to one on rapid development.

This shift came in the shadow of the sudden success of DeepSeek, a significantly cheaper Chinese competitor to ChatGPT. With the AI race accelerating, the Paris summit signaled that this is now taking precedence over conversations about governance, mitigating threats and ethical concerns. Yet this optimism was far from universal at the summit. Side events attended by academics, researchers and civil society struck a starkly different tone, with these discussions taking place amid upheaval in the global research community, particularly in response to Washington's abrupt funding cuts to international development and research programs and with AI policy not being spared from the United States' broad retreat from multilateralism.

Perhaps the most telling contrast came from the inaugural conference of the International Association for Safe and Ethical AI, a side event that took an entirely different approach to the Paris conference's main thrust. Focusing on AI safety, attendees ranging from philosophers to engineers to policy experts attempted to counterbalance industry leaders' prevailing innovation-at-any-cost mindset. The disconnect between these two conversations is growing and with technological capabilities advancing exponentially faster than regulation, the time between summits is

simply not enough for those at different ends of the debate to catch up.

The summit's official outcome, the "Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet," was signed by over 70 countries and organizations, including Japan. However, two notable abstentions - the U.K. and the US - exposed a growing divide in governance approaches. Washington justified its decision on the grounds that the declaration was couched in the language of inclusivity and would lead to too much regulation - reasoning that aligns with the mistaken Republican narrative that conflates the presence of any AI red tape with unnecessary government overreach. That sentiment effectively blocks any efforts to address the harms of misinformation, as Republicans view such measures as infringing on free speech.

In contrast, the U.K.'s decision stemmed from the belief that the themes of global governance and national security were not sufficiently addressed in the declaration. Vice President JD Vance was the most prominent US representative at the summit, where he reinforced a message of innovation over everything. He went so far as to refer to rule-creation as a "strangulation" and took direct aim at the European Union's regulatory approach, particularly its Digital Services Act - widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive frameworks for mitigating threats to the information space on social media. Vance also criticized the 2023 AI Safety Summit, dismissing its focus on safety and misinformation as - you guessed it - excessive regulation.

Despite this sentiment defining the overall tone of the Paris meeting, the event did produce the first AI summit declaration in which information integrity - the foundation for ensuring an information space built on trust and free of manipulation - was directly acknowledged, albeit without any tangible commitments or enforcement mechanisms related to it. Meanwhile, the risks

of unregulated AI development have never been clearer. Safety researchers recently presented new evidence that advanced artificial intelligence models can now deceive their creators and self-modify, tricking users - a development that should be setting off alarm bells in governance circles. Yet, among the business leaders present at the Paris summit, the general mood was one of optimism.

Although Vance made several nods to China in his comments to discourage partnering with authoritarian countries in AI development, he failed to mention the power already leveraging this technology for malicious use, including against his own country: Russia. Shortly after the summit, research revealing Russia's active infection of AI chatbots with Kremlin propaganda shook the disinformation research community. A report by NewsGuard, an internet trust organization that rates news sources for their credibility, builds off of findings from the non-profit American Sunlight Project (ASP), revealing that ten leading generative AI tools, including ChatGPT, Meta AI, Gemini and Perplexity, "advanced Moscow's disinformation goals by repeating false claims from the pro-Kremlin Pravda network 33 percent of the time."

First discovered by France's agency to counter foreign digital interference, VIGINUM, the network in question, once nicknamed Portal Kombatt but now referred to as Pravda (the Russian word for truth), is composed of nearly 200 websites in dozens of languages that spread Kremlin propaganda en masse around the world with the goal of undermining support for Ukraine. To quote ASP's investigation into the Pravda operation, "with one click, a single article could be autotranslated and auto-shared with dozens of other sites that appear to target hundreds of millions of people worldwide."

This strategy based on quantity over quality is working: Massive automation of this content is spreading at an unprecedented rate, ASP also concluded that the Pravda

websites appear not to be designed to function or even pass as usable, but rather are optimized to be picked up by web crawlers (programs used to collect online information, including by search engines) for integration into large language models (LLMs), which are AI systems that understand and generate human language. The Pravda network is growing quickly. After first targeting Ukraine, then spreading to Western countries that support Kyiv after Russia launched its full-scale invasion, the network has expanded all over the world, including Asia-Pacific. Japan has not been spared, with one such portal existing under the domain name "japan.newspravda.com" used to spread pro-Russian news and Kremlin talking points in Japanese. A list of the domains and subdomains identified globally can be found on GitHub, updated as of early this year.

The NewsGuard investigation isn't just another doomsday report on the dangers of AI. It is the first study of this scale to show how a major power is manipulating the output of widely used chatbots to spread falsities. Russian officials and propagandists have made it clear that AI is key to their strategy; we are now seeing in real time the corruption of LLMs to display Kremlin propaganda as truth. Artificial intelligence has become a vital tool for the development and spread of covert influence operations, posing a serious risk to information integrity. It is used by nefarious actors for things like generating comments and articles to be posted across social media platforms and debugging code for influence operation-generating Telegram bots and open-source research.

The Paris AI summit made one thing clear: The debate over governance is no longer about whether regulation is needed, but rather how much risk we are willing to tolerate in the name of progress. The world's major powers are no longer aligned on this question and the consequences for the information space - and global security - are already beginning to pop up in our apps and browsers.

The Japan Times

Russia's state nuke giant is now inseparable from its war on Ukraine

Charles Digges

IF Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom is to be believed, 2024 was a banner year. It is expanding its footprint in new markets in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, as well as in Central Asian post-Soviet states. It is running an expansive development program along the Northern Sea Route, the 6,000-kilometer Arctic shipping corridor uniting Europe and Asia, and is responsible for everything from nuclear icebreaker construction to port infrastructure along its reach.

It is powering the mining of rare earth minerals essential for renewable energy and electronics in operations from the Kola Peninsula to Siberia. It is acquiring domestic energy firms and making forays into transport, housing and utilities. And, of course, it is building nuclear power plants in foreign markets - including in some NATO members - at a pace unmatched by any other country or corporation.

But the slick commercial rhetoric belies the fact that Rosatom is a company that is literally at war. As one of the Kremlin's prize state industries, Rosatom has reoriented its practices to align with Moscow's war economy as the invasion of Ukraine drags on. For this, it receives lavish state support and is overseen by members of President Vladimir Putin's inner circle. Yet, unlike other energy producers in Russia's oil and gas sectors, Rosatom has thus far managed to sidestep any serious sanctions from the West, attesting to the dependence it has fostered on the international nuclear market.

Recently, Western markets have begun to challenge Rosatom's dominance as they attempt to shift their dependence away from Russian-produced nuclear fuels and other technologies. But our new report suggests that Rosatom is preparing for such shortfalls by changing customers and expanding its operations into industries beyond the nuclear - including further enmeshing itself in Moscow's war as an active military participant. These are the corporate achievements that are less likely to appear in the company's glossy public relations materials. For instance, the putatively civilian corporation is helping Russian arms makers sidestep bans on Western-produced components for weapons used on the Ukrainian front. It has also developed technology for the Oreshnik line of ballistic missiles, producing a warhead tip so durable that the company brags it can withstand temperatures as hot as the surface of the Sun.

The corporation also seems to be smoothing the way for various weapons tests, including nuclear tests, on Novaya Zemlya, an Arctic archipelago used by the Soviets as an atomic bomb testing range. Most recently, it has been the site of trials for the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile developed by Rosatom technicians. Russia's recent withdrawal from its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and its abandonment of other arms agreements with the West coincides with a hive of activity on this frozen strip of land, suggesting Russia may be moving back toward testing nuclear weapons.

Rosatom, the steward of Russia's nuclear arsenal, will surely be at the center of it.

Rosatom likewise continues to tighten its grip on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine - Europe's largest atomic energy station - which the Russian military seized in the opening days of its invasion in 2022. It is widely assumed from the Kremlin's official statements that Rosatom intends to absorb the plant, making it the 12th nuclear power plant in its purview - and marking one of the most breathtaking seizures of war booty in modern warfare. Alongside these endeavors stands the fact, which Rosatom is loath to mention in its brochures, that Rosatom's domestic fleet of 36 reactors is aging. Most need to be replaced by 2065, but the funds for this are severely lacking. The company's current plans to extend runtimes at several aged Chernobyl-style reactors suggest that this is a problem the corporation will not be able to solve anytime soon.

Rosatom has also snuffed out its past efforts to clean up Russia's Soviet nuclear legacy, retooling many of the constituent enterprises that were responsible for that to handling non-nuclear hazardous waste. These moves turn away from more than two decades of effort with the international community and mark the corporation's increasing efforts to shut itself off both from the West and from scrutiny at home. The war in Ukraine and accompanying stifling of civil society organizations - including my employer, Bellona - that once held Rosatom to account has fueled that opacity.

In fact, such organizations once formed Rosatom's Public Council, which kept the corporation in conversation with environmentalists and the public it purported to serve. While the Public Council still exists, it is staffed by Putin's cronies, including one from his intramural hockey team. Nor is there anything left of the robust network of strident Russian-grown, anti-nuclear NGOs that for years fought to keep Rosatom's activities in the public eye. Their disappearance has left Rosatom to its own secretive devices, the organizations themselves hounded out of existence by the Kremlin's war bureaucracy.

All of this taken together - both what the corporation will and will not tell us - paints a picture of Rosatom as primarily a formidable political tool. This allows it to couple a broad mandate at home with a campaign of influence abroad. By offering its reactor customers enormous state-backed loans to build nuclear plants that Rosatom will service, fuel and, in many cases, even staff for decades to come, the corporation is vital to creating regimes that are friendly to - and dependent on - Moscow around the world.

While the war in Ukraine has perhaps cost Rosatom some of its former markets in the West, the company has, as our report shows, survived these geopolitical shifts and remained a powerful vector of Russian influence. As a result, the company will continue to help cleave away many of the world's nations to Moscow's geopolitical cause.

Trump's Gulf tour: Desire to project a dealmaker image

Dr. Ali Bakir

US President Donald Trump is set to begin his Middle East tour today, on May 13, starting in Saudi Arabia with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit, then moving on to Qatar and concluding in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Trump will be accompanied by a large delegation, including senior White House staff, several ministers, high-ranking officials, and an army of businesspeople.

At the core of Trump's tour to the influential and wealthy GCC states-Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE-will be investments, economic ties, business, and bilateral relationships. The Trump administration aims to attract hundreds of billions of dollars in investments from Gulf wealth funds into the United States.

Expected discussions include Israel's military campaign in Gaza,

Palestinian statehood, negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, and the ceasefire deal with Yemen's Houthis group. Additionally, Syria and Lebanon may also feature on the agenda. Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa is reportedly seeking a meeting with Trump during his visit to Saudi Arabia, aiming to persuade him to lift sanctions and increase US involvement in Syria's reconstruction, economy, and oil sector.

Trump critically needs this tour to project an image of a successful leader who has secured hundreds of billions of dollars in pledged investments and deals, as well as closer political and security ties with GCC states. Hundreds of agreements are anticipated during the visit, covering areas such as AI, transportation, minerals, energy, infrastructure, aviation, defense, and potentially broader agreements on semiconductors and nuclear energy.

The significance of this tour is heightened by the fact that Trump is facing both internal and external challenges, having yet to achieve any substantial victories in his ongoing struggles. These include the tariff dispute, Israeli involvement in Gaza, the Iran nuclear deal, Russia's war in Ukraine, tensions with Canada and Greenland, and his ongoing conflict with China. An image of victory during his Gulf tour would help compensate for these setbacks.

Gulf leaders are well aware of this and will arrange exceptional welcome ceremonies and generous hospitality for him. In other words, they will arrange a wonderful show for him. This not only caters to his personal ego but also enhances his standing both domestically in the US and internationally, where he is in dire need of a win. The outcome could create a win-win situation. However, it is important to note that not all the promises made during this tour will materialize. While some initiatives may come to fruition, others may remain merely part of the spectacle.

Unlike his first visit to the region during his initial term in the White House, which included Israel, Tel Aviv is notably absent from his current itinerary. This exclusion is quite significant. Under Netanyahu, Israel has little to offer the US president, aside from more problems, a negative image in the region, and a tarnished reputation for the president himself. It serves as a reminder of his failure to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza, largely due to Netanyahu's unwillingness to pursue it.

In a previous interview following Biden's election at the end of 2020, Trump explicitly blamed

Netanyahu for the failure of his peace initiative with the Palestinians, stating, "Netanyahu never wanted peace." Amid the ongoing conflict, initiatives aimed at encouraging Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel-an objective pursued by Trump during his first term-are likely to remain on hold. Riyadh has indicated that it requires tangible progress toward a Palestinian state first, a condition that Israel has not been willing to meet. However, Reuters reported this week that the US has shifted its stance and is no longer insisting that Saudi Arabia normalize relations with Israel as a prerequisite for advancing discussions on civil nuclear cooperation.

Regardless, Trump's Middle East tour represents more than just a diplomatic engagement with key US allies; it is a calculated effort to reclaim geopolitical momentum and project strength amid mounting

domestic and international challenges. The emphasis on economic deals, defense cooperation, and strategic investments highlights Washington's strategy of leveraging the Gulf's financial and political capital to enhance Trump's image as a dealmaker-in-chief. However, beneath the pomp lies a web of unmet expectations and unresolved conflicts.

While Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE are acutely aware of Trump's need for a symbolic win, they remain cautious about committing to politically costly moves without tangible concessions, particularly concerning Palestinian statehood. Ultimately, this trip may provide short-term optics that bolster Trump's leadership narrative, but its long-term impact will depend on whether these engagements translate into sustained commitments or fade into the background noise of global challenges.

What is in the UK-US tariff deal?

Jennifer Meierhans

THE UK and the US have reached a deal over tariffs on some goods traded between the countries. President Donald Trump's blanket 10% tariffs on imports from countries around the world remains in place and still applies to most UK goods entering the US. But the deal has reduced or removed tariffs on some of the UK's exports, including cars, steel and aluminium.

Here's an at-a-glance look at what's in the deal. Trump declared on social media this announcement would be a "major trade deal" - it's not. He does not have the authority to sign the type of free-trade agreement India and the UK finalised earlier this week - this lies with Congress. Congress would need to approve a trade agreement, which would take longer than the 90-day pause in place on some of Trump's tariffs. This is an agreement which has reversed or cut some of those tariffs on specific goods.

What was announced today is only the bare bones of a narrow agreement. There will be months of negotiations and legal paperwork to follow. Trump had placed import taxes of 25% on cars and car parts coming into the US on top of the existing 2.5%. This has been cut to 10% for a maximum of 100,000 UK cars, which matches the number of cars the UK exported last year. But any cars exported above that 100,000 will be subject to a 27.5% import tax. Cars are the UK's biggest export to the US - worth about £9bn last year. Car industry leaders have told the BBC the quota could effectively put a ceiling on the number they can export competitively. The UK currently imposes a 10% on US car imports, but it is not yet clear if there had been any change to this. The US has previously demanded the import tax be cut to 2.5%, and Chancellor Rachel Reeves has indicated she is open to such a cut. Trump also announced that Rolls Royce engines and plane parts will be able to be exported from the UK to the US tariff-free.

He also said the UK was buying \$10bn worth of Boeing planes from the US. A 25% tariff on steel and aluminium imports into the US that came into effect in March has been scrapped as part of this deal. This is huge news for firms such as British Steel which was brought under government control as it struggled to stay operational. The UK exports a relatively small amount of steel and aluminium to the US, around £700m in total. However the tariffs also cover products made with steel and alu-

minium, including things such as gym equipment, furniture and machinery. These are worth much more, about £2.2bn, or about 5% of UK exports to the US last year. It is not yet clear whether the scrapping

will benefit.

What will be agreed on pharmaceuticals is still unknown. "Work will continue on the remaining sectors - such as pharmaceuticals and remaining reciprocal tariffs," a

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It said this would "strip back paperwork for British firms trying to export to the US - opening the UK up to a huge market that will put rocket boosters on the UK economy". The UK has removed tariffs on American beef and other agricultural products, Trump said. UK farmers have also been given a tariff free quota for 13,000 metric tonnes of exports, which trade ministers said was the "first time". British farmers had been given this kind of deal. There will be no weakening of UK food standards on imports, the UK government statement said. Many American farmers use growth hormones as a standard part of their beef production, something that was banned in the UK and the European Union in the 1980s.

The US has previously pushed for a relaxation of rules for its agricultural products, including beef from cattle that have been given growth hormones. This is an area where the UK has chosen alignment with EU - and the forthcoming "Brexit reset" with the EU - over the US. The tariff on ethanol which is used to produce beer coming into the UK from the US has also been scrapped. "They'll also be fast tracking American goods through their customs process, so our exports go to a very, very quick form of approval, and there won't be any red tape," Trump said.

BBC

My plan to slash immigration is radical

Allister Heath

migration activist, would love us to believe that he has suddenly discovered the virtues of civic nationalism. Britain is becoming an "island of strangers", he says, and has unveiled a series of reforms to cut arrivals. "Settlement in the UK is a privilege that is earned, not a right", he tweeted, a great sentiment that is incompatible with his love of human rights law.

Few will trust Starmer, and his "solutions" are tweaks when only a revolution will suffice. Every orthodoxy of the past 30 years must be rejected. We were told that largescale immigration was necessary to boost productivity, and yet its rate of growth has diminished; we were assured it would save the NHS, and yet it is in crisis; we were told we needed workers, and yet, of the 956,000 visas issued in the year to December 2024, only 210,000 went to main applicants in all work categories.

Some of these were doctors, investment bankers or PhD scientists, but most were not. Economists are finally acknowledging that many immigrants, even some who work, will end up a net drain on the public finances. Relatively high earners are net contributors; low wage migrants are not, especially if they have dependents. The NHS surcharge isn't enough. Migration cannot save unfunded state pension systems either: to rely on migrants that also age is akin to believing in Ponzi schemes.

By the standards of virtually all of British history, I'm a liberal on immigration. I support a multi-faith, multi-racial, colour-blind society, united by a love of Britain, its democratic institutions, its values and its traditions. My family's story is born out of immigration. I'm very comfortable in today's pluralistic Britain of hyphenated identities. Millions of migrants make a massive contribution.

But no mature society can cope with the scale of inflows we have experienced, and the woke, self-loathing ideology that dominates in Whitehall has led to the deliberate fragmentation of our country.

We are heading towards disaster, and everything that is great about our country, including our

remarkable tolerance and our success at integrating previous waves of arrivals, is now at risk.

I worry about the threat of Islamism, and the rise of anti-Semitism, about the loss of social cohesion and the increase in intra-minority tensions. I worry about the emergence of openly sectarian politicians, and about the idiocy of policies that discriminate against white people, that tell the young that Britain's history is shameful or pit one group against another. I worry about our failed colonial-style model of policing, which seeks to keep the peace between different groups rather than treating everybody as individuals. I worry about the insanity of trapping millions of UK-born adults on out of work benefits, and recruiting foreigners to work instead.

I now realise only drastic solutions will do. We need a five-year moratorium on net migration - in other words, zero net migration until 2030, before returning to 1990s volumes. Given annual departures - 450,000 in 2023 - this would still at first allow a large number of arrivals, diminishing rapidly over the next few years, allowing the economy to adapt. This would allow the country to take stock, trust to be rebuilt and our creaking infrastructure and housing to catch up.

Becoming British ought to become a lot more like joining a club: race or religion must not matter, but the applicant should need to show commitment, demonstrate how he or she will contribute, and explicitly pledge support to our democratic institutions and rule of law. Those who can't or won't make the commitment should either be given temporary visas or rejected. Citizenship ceremonies and the current vacuous "British values" are insufficient. We should welcome a generous number of refugees, but should choose who we let in to bar criminals or those who dislike our values. This would require quitting the European Convention of Human Rights and several other international treaties, and being willing to treat anybody who arrives illegally like ordinary criminals. It's a radical agenda, for sure, but it is the reset on immigration Britain so desperately needs.

The Telegraph

Starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza

Dr. Mutaz M. Qafisheh & Manal Radaydeh

THE famine raging in Gaza is not a side effect of war. It is the outcome of a willful and publicly declared plan aimed at displacing and destroying Gazans by starving the entire population. This is not a natural disaster-it is the systematic denial of access to food in a tiny, resource-scarce strip of land. Starvation is being used as a weapon to break people's will, force surrender, collectively punish, and carry out ethnic cleansing.

Nearly two months after the ceasefire collapsed, Israeli forces tightened the blockade on Gaza, sealing border crossings and halting all entry of food, water, medicine, and fuel. According to the World Food Program (WFP), food stocks had already run out by April 2024, and conditions have worsened significantly since March. Even modest charity kitchens that once served over a million meals daily have now ceased operations. WFP reported that the prices of the few remaining food items have surged by over 1,400%.

This crisis is affecting everyone, but children are paying the heaviest price. UNICEF reported that over 60,000 children are suffering from severe malnutrition. As a result,

thousands face imminent death. Most children survive on a single meal a day-or less. The lack of proper nutrition is damaging their bodies and minds in ways that may never be reversed. Satellite footage shows infants drinking water instead of milk. Many have withered to skeletons.

It is crucial to underline that this man-made hunger is not accidental. It is the explicit outcome of political decisions targeting civilians. Under international humanitarian law-particularly Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention-all parties in a conflict must allow the free flow of humanitarian aid to civilians. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has described this famine as "cruel collective punishment."

On Nov. 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, accusing them of war crimes, including the use of starvation as a method of warfare-characterized as a war crime. This came after a unanimous order by the International

Court of Justice on March 28, 2024 in the genocide case brought by South Africa against Israel. The ICJ ordered Israel to take all necessary and effective measures without delay to ensure the unhindered, large-scale provision of urgently needed services and humanitarian aid-food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene, sanitation, and medical care-to Palestinians throughout Gaza. Yet Israel continues to act as if it were above the law.

Today, Gaza's food system is completely destroyed: bakeries bombed, farms bulldozed, fishing boats burned, livestock killed, warehouses flattened, shops emptied, and aid trucks blocked or turned away. OCHA warns that famine is either imminent or already unfolding. And yet, the siege continues-on top of systematic daily bloodshed.

The suffering is not only physical. As hunger spreads, so does the risk of disease, especially among children, the elderly, and the chronically ill. The health care system has collapsed. People with chronic diseases-cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and kidney

failure-are dying. Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor recently documented the deaths of 14 elderly people due to malnutrition, among many others who perish in silence, with no one to record their plight.

The coming months and years will reveal the far-reaching consequences of the famine that struck Gaza in full view of world leaders-some of whom encouraged or were complicit in the starvation of 2 million innocent civilians. The world-particularly Europe and the Arab nations-can, if it chooses, put an end to these genocidal acts against children, the elderly, the sick, and the exhausted.

It is unimaginable. How is it possible that in the 21st century-an age of smartphones and social media-the international community watches a live-streamed famine unfold and does nothing? What has brought us to this moral and legal vacuum? If famine is tolerated this time, it will be normalized and replicated elsewhere. That would mean the erosion of values humanity has struggled for centuries to uphold. It's time for action, not just words. History will judge. History is here. And history is now.

MY peers and I graduated from journalism school after the war in Ukraine had already begun. Out of the 30 people in my class, only one other graduate besides myself works in the field we studied. Even though she had supported Ukraine when the full-scale invasion began in 2022 and dreamed about continuing her education in Canada, she now works for the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

We didn't meet at our graduation. While my former classmates were celebrating in Moscow, I was waiting at the border of a new country - one that never became home to me. I left Russia after the death of Alexei Navalny and completed my studies in exile. My hands never held my diploma from what was once considered the country's best journalism school, my family didn't see me in my graduation cap and I'm not in a single graduation photo.

That's how my four years at the Higher School of Economics (HSE) ended. Four years, four stages of my country: lockdown, war, mobilization and the death of Alexei Navalny. My studies ran parallel to the near-total collapse of press freedom in Russia. When I entered university in 2020, Russia ranked 149th in the World Press Freedom Index. Today, Russia sits at 171st out of 180 - an all-time low.

That puts Russia in the bottom 10, alongside countries like Nicaragua, North Korea, Syria and China - the country often referred to as the world's largest prison for journalists. When I applied, we could still write about the protests in Khabarovsk, a city in Russia's Far East, and Navalny's poisoning with Novichok. Back then, HSE still held on to the dying embers of academic freedom - although it was already firing professors for their political views. But what do journalism faculties

Angelina Trefilova promise now instead of press freedom? They promise everything they can to distract young people from reality: the reality where reporters are killed, imprisoned or forced into exile. They're offered courses in Reels production, influencer marketing, digital media dramaturgy and the subject of neuromedia, which trains students to create targeted content based on audience psychology. It's easy for universities to sell these flashy, media-themed packages and even easier to bury young people in them, especially those fresh out of high school.

Later, journalism departments frame the profession as a path to followers and money. At my alma mater, state TV anchor and propagandist Ernest Matskyavichyus lures prospective students to the Media Institute with promises of "big budgets" and the chance to "become a media outlet yourself." At the same time, HSE organizes discussions with VGTRK, Russia's largest state-owned media holding, as well as state media "reporters" in Washington and Rome. But no one tells the 18-year-old applicants that these "journalists" serve just about any interest but that of the viewer. "It's great that students have the chance to learn from professionals working abroad," says the mother of one HSE applicant. I can't blame her - my mother would have said the same. But I find it repulsive that professors reinforce the image of the journalist as a servant of the Kremlin.

They pass that mindset on to new generations while steadily raising tuition fees. Today, a journalism degree from HSE costs 690,000 rubles (around \$8,540) per year, compared to 512,000 rubles (around \$6,330) from Moscow State University and 297,000 rubles (around \$3,676) from St. Petersburg State University. For the first time in the Reporters Without Borders index's history, working conditions for journalists are rated as "bad" in half of the world's countries. Media experts agree: it's becoming increasingly difficult for journalists to make a living. My peers are taking out loans to pay for their education. At HSE, they are also driven by the constant fear of slipping down the academic rankings. Doing so could put them at risk of losing their tuition discount, which can lower the cost of their education by up to 70%.

That's why many of my classmates have chosen silence. When you're born in an economically impoverished region, you dream of getting into a good university and seeing your bleak hometown only from a distance. This is hard to understand for Europeans or Americans, but it's easy to understand when no one in your family has an international passport. In the Western tradition, press freedom is often framed as a struggle between journalists and the state.

But the problem also lies with dishonest journalism professors who help maintain the status quo. Each time they say "let's avoid politics," "pick a different topic" or "don't get involved," it tightens the grip of self-censorship in those who are supposed to enter the profession tomorrow. Year after year, more young people start to see these limits as normal and understanding that silence is a form of protection. The war in Ukraine and military censorship laws split my education in half. "This is, of course, the clinical death of journalism inside the country," our journalism lecturer told us at the time. The radio station he founded - Ekho Moskvyy - was shuttered at the start of the war. Then, he added: "Sometimes people come back from clinical death. When the spell is broken, you will be the resuscitators."

Europe must match its global ambitions with means

Juraj Majcin

ON 9 May 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman delivered his now-famous declaration, calling for European unity and deeper cooperation on a continent still reeling from the devastation of war. He emphasized that "Europe will not be made all at once," but rather "built through concrete achievements." Seventy-five years later, the EU can point to a range of those achievements: from the creation of a single market and a common currency to a dramatic expansion of membership, from the original six founding countries to the current 27.

Conventional wisdom suggests that Europe's founding vision was to prevent another devastating war. While peace was undoubtedly a core objective, American historian Timothy Snyder offers a more nuanced interpretation. In his view, the real impetus for European integration came not only from the horrors of war but also from the collapse of European empires-both continental (e.g., Austro-

Hungarian) and overseas (e.g., British and French). Faced with the decline of external influence, Europe was forced to look inward to secure prosperity through closer cooperation.

This interpretation is more relevant than ever in today's world, marked by renewed great power rivalry, rising nationalism, and growing conflict. For decades after World War II, under the shelter of American security guarantees, Europe largely withdrew from global power politics. The Suez Crisis in 1956 symbolically marked the end of Europe's global military ambitions. Instead, the EU bet on a future shaped by a rules-based international order, free trade, and multilateralism - hoping the world would become more like Europe.

Russia's war on Ukraine shattered that illusion. The war - and Europe's resolute, if sometimes uneven, response - has been called a defining moment, even "Europe's hour."

The EU has provided unprecedented support for Ukraine, including breaking taboos by funding military aid through the EU budget. Yet the crisis has also exposed deep structural weaknesses. Unanimity rules in the European Council make swift decision-making nearly impossible, often leading to watered-down compromises. This not only dilutes Europe's global influence but also invites authoritarian actors such as Russia and China to exploit its internal divisions.

Europe often proclaims its desire to be a serious geopolitical actor, particularly in confronting Russia, engaging with China, or managing a more transactional United States under Donald Trump. But actions rarely match rhetoric. Member states frequently resist giving Brussels the authority or resources to act on their behalf. Calls for Europe to "speak with one voice" ring hollow when leaders undermine those who try to do

just that. The recent harsh criticism of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, Kaja Kallas-a clear and principled voice on European values and interests-illustrates this contradiction.

In short, Europe sees the threats it faces and voices the will to respond - but too often lacks the political courage to act. National interests and the fear of domestic backlash from populist movements continue to paralyze the continent's ability to project power. Yet no single European country, acting alone, can realistically claim to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with global powers like the United States or China.

Just as economic integration was the founding fathers' answer to the collapse of European global influence after World War II, political unity must now be the response to the challenges of the 21st century. If Europe is to safeguard its interests and values in a turbulent world, it must finally equip itself with the tools and authority to act, not just talk.



FAISALABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Industry and Production Haroon Akhtar addressing local business community during a meeting at FCCI.

Jam pledges support from Ministry

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magsi and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan have set the stage for strengthening Pakistan's export landscape through an enhanced partnership between their ministries.

During their meeting, the ministers underscored the necessity of close cooperation to elevate the country's export capabilities,

with a particular focus on upgrading laboratory facilities to meet international standards for surgical instruments and other products.

Both ministers concurred on the importance of integrating science and commerce to drive economic growth, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision.

They committed to jointly developing proposals to significantly enhance

export levels. Jam Kamal Khan pledged comprehensive support from the Commerce Ministry to achieve these goals.

Federal Secretary Sajid Baloch highlighted the role of modern research and quality testing in making Pakistan's export products more competitive globally.

The ministers reaffirmed their dedication to a joint strategy aimed at fostering national development and self-reliance.

Gold prices increase Rs2,400 to Rs338,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.2,400 on Saturday and was sold at Rs.338,500 against its sale at Rs.336,100 on the previous trading day.

All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.2,058 to Rs.290,209 from Rs 288,151 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat increased by Rs.1,886 to Rs.266,034 from Rs.264,148.

The rates of per tola silver increased by Rs.33 to Rs.3,410 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.28 to Rs.2,923.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$24 to \$3,201 from \$3,177 whereas that of silver went up by \$0.33 to \$32.28, the Association reported.

Japan mulls subsidies for EV charging stations

TOKYO (Reuters): Japan is considering a plan to offer subsidies for building charging stations for Tesla (TSLA.O), opens new tab electric vehicles in tariff talks with the United States, broadcaster TBS reported on Saturday.

The government currently provides subsidies for installing charging stations for EVs only for the charging standard "CHAdeMO", which originated in Japan, but not for Tesla's "Supercharger", the report said.

The US Trade Representative (USTR) has raised concerns about this issue and is requesting improvements, TBS said. Japan is seeking a third round of US trade talks next week and the nation's top trade negotiator, Ryoichi Akazawa, could travel to Washington.

Separately, the Nikkei business daily reported that Japanese negotiators have signalled a willingness to discuss a reduction in US tariffs on Japan, which include 25% on automobile and auto parts and 24% on other goods, rather than pushing Washington to eliminate them completely.

Akazawa has repeatedly said Tokyo wanted full removal of the US tariffs on Japan. The country's priority has been to win exemptions from US tariffs on automobile and auto parts - the key sector in its export-heavy economy.

Turkiye wants to strengthen trade, economic ties with Pakistan, says ambassador

LAHORE (APP): Ambassador of Türkiye Irfan Neziroglu has said that Türkiye and Pakistan enjoy deep-rooted historical ties. Türkiye is keen to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in multiple sectors including defence, tourism, business, agriculture and higher education.

He stated this in a meeting with business leaders here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), where the LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion.

Executive Committee Members Mian Aamir Saeed, Ahsan Shahid, Firdous Nisar, Karamat Ali Awan, Syed Salman Ali, Irfan Ahmed Qureshi, Ahad Ameen Malik, Asif Khan and Muhammad Imran Salimi Waqas Aslam were also present.

The Ambassador stressed the need for a mindset shift saying that they are one nation and must act in unison with a sense of common purpose.

He said that there is immense potential to boost trade and economic ties between the two brotherly nations. The LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad expressed profound gratitude to the people of Türkiye for standing firmly with Pakistan in critical times. "We also deeply appreciate our Turkish brothers who prayed for Pakistan's safety. It would not be wrong to say that Türkiye stood as an equal partner with Pakistan in achieving this historic success against India. May Allah bless the people of Türkiye", he added.

Mian Abuzar Shad highlighted the strong diplomatic relations between the two countries, rooted in cultural, religious geo-political ties. He said that it is good to see that the growing cooperation between our nations in diverse fields such as economy, politics, defence and culture.

He said, the Preferential Trade Agreement signed in

2022 has paved the way for expanding two-way trade. "We are determined to make the most of the 261 tariff lines provided by Türkiye for easier market access."

The LCCI, as Pakistan's largest business support organization, is actively engaging its members to benefit from the opportunities in the Turkish market, especially in sectors like leather, rice, dates, mangoes, cutlery, sports goods, seafood, processed agricultural products, rubber, tyres, plastics engineering goods.

The LCCI President mentioned that Pakistan's exports to Türkiye stood at USD 323 million in 2022-23, rising to USD 335 million in 2023-24. In the same period, imports from Türkiye increased from USD 478 million to over USD 491 million.

He said that in the current fiscal year (2024-25), from July to March, Pakistan's exports to Türkiye are USD 221 million, while imports have

reached USD 518 million. "We are optimistic that this positive trend in bilateral trade will continue and grow further,"

While highlighting Türkiye's global trade stature, Mian Abuzar Shad said that Türkiye's exports surpassed USD 260 billion while imports reached nearly USD 344 billion in 2024.

He said that while Pakistan's exports to Türkiye are largely textile-based, imports mainly comprise machinery, iron & steel, chemicals plastic items. We aim to reduce our trade deficit and raise the total trade volume with Türkiye to at least USD 5 billion.

LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry highlighted the importance of organizing trade delegations and single-country exhibitions

expressed LCCI's willingness to establish strong ties with leading chambers of commerce in Türkiye under the Ambassador's guidance.

Retail sector calls for reforms as FBR harassment rising amid system failure

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The country's organized retail sector on Saturday expressed grave concern over the deteriorating environment for tax-compliant retailers due to aggressive revenue enforcement and persistent failures in the FBR-POS integration system.

The Chainstore Association of Pakistan represents a large portion of Pakistan's retail and wholesale trade, the organized retail sector directly employs over one million people and supports a wide ecosystem—including shopping malls, manufacturers, service providers, and the cottage industry. Retail brands are also a growing contributor to export earnings through physical stores abroad and cross-border e-commerce.

Despite being early adopters of the FBR-POS system and generating 25–30% of their turnover in

taxes, compliant Tier-1 retailers are now facing a perfect storm of high tax rates, increasingly complex procedures, punitive enforcement, and unresolved system issues.

This year alone, several regulatory instruments—including SRO 69(I)/2025, SRO 55(I)/2025 and the Tax Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2025—have exacerbated compliance burdens without addressing critical FBR-POS system deficiencies. These include issues such as (1) POS profile expiry disconnections, rendering invoices unverifiable; (2) Incorrect POS status flags showing "disconnected" despite active syncing; and (3) Weak support capacity of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) to address technical challenges.

Compounding these technical issues is an increasingly punitive enforcement approach. Several compliant outlets

experiencing system errors have been sealed without prior notice, and many retailers report being pressured to pay penalties exceeding Rs. 500,000 per outlet to reopen, apparently to increase short-term tax collections. Such measures erode business confidence, damage reputations, and undermine long-term documentation efforts.

"We fully support strict action against wilful tax evasion, but the current approach is causing heavy collateral damage," said Asfandiyar Farrukh, Chairperson of CAP. "Law-abiding retailers are being penalised for compliance, while vast sections of the informal market remain untouched. This is not reform—it is a rollback in the making."

The reversal of key incentives has further compounded the crisis. The discontinuation of the 10–15% concessional GST rate for customers of integrated

retailers has rendered many businesses uncompetitive vs. the untaxed and under-taxed majority, leading to network consolidation and closures. In recent years, this reform vacuum has stalled employment growth, investment, and even export potential.

CAP also calls for formal inclusion in policy-making processes to ensure that ongoing and future reforms are informed by on-ground realities.

"Compliant retailers who invested in technology and compliance should be recognized as partners in reform. CAP and its members wholeheartedly support broadening of the retail tax base - but it must be fair, functional, and future-focused," said Tariq Mehboob Rana, CAP Patron-in-Chief. "Unless the current issues are urgently addressed, years of progress towards the growth of the documented sector risk being reversed."

IBA host an alumni dinner to celebrate AACSB accreditation

F.P. Report

KARACHI: IBA Karachi hosted an alumni dinner to celebrate the prestigious AACSB accreditation—an achievement that places IBA among the top 6% elite business schools globally, at the Marriott Hotel.

The evening opened with warm remarks by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, and was gracefully moderated by Dr. Sahar Awan, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Management Department, IBA-SBS, who guided the celebration with elegance and energy.

The evening brought together a distinguished gathering of IBA alumni and industry leaders, marking a momentous milestone not just for IBA, but for Pakistan's higher education landscape. The event featured reflections from Dr. Abdullah Sheikh, Dean, IBA-SBS; Malaikat Awan,



Director, Alumni, Resource Mobilization and Corporate Relations, and notable guests, including Mohamad Zubair, Former Governor of Sindh; Wasif Rizvi, President, Habib University; Amir Paracha, CEO, Unilever Pakistan; and Sultana Siddiqui, Chairperson, HUM Network, who shared how this global recognition is a game-changer for business education in Pakistan.

Together, we move forward-setting benchmarks,

raising standards, and celebrating IBA's journey to excellence.

IBA Karachi, Pakistan's leading and most prestigious institution of higher education, has nurtured generations of trailblazers, with 20,000+ alumni driving innovation and leading organizations across the globe. Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, modern learning spaces, and cutting-edge facilities, IBA offers a world-class education that

empowers students to shape the future. Committed to sustainability, IBA fosters an eco-conscious campus community, continuously reducing its carbon footprint through impactful green initiatives. With a rich legacy and an unwavering pursuit of progress, IBA continues to redefine education, leadership, and responsible innovation. Here's to the next 70 years of Visionary Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Sustainable Impact.

Cattle market hosts over 55,000 sacrificial animals

KARACHI (PPI): With Eid-ul-Adha only 20 days away, the Northern Bypass Cattle-Friendly Market is bustling with activity, providing a secure and welcoming atmosphere for visitors and livestock traders.

Already, the sprawling 1,200-acre market has welcomed more than 55,000 sacrificial animals, becoming a focal point for citizens eager to partake in the festive preparations.

Spokesperson of the Karachi's Cattle Friendly Market said that the market features distinct zones for livestock, ensuring efficient management and a pleasant experience for all. Traders from various regions,

including VIP, VVIP, and General Blocks, have set up their camps, attracting families who are keen to explore the diverse offerings, he added.

Administrator Shahab, alongside Faisal Ali, were quoted as saying the market's commitment to maintaining a family-friendly environment that draws visitors well into the night.

Umm e Aiman, a spokesperson, highlighted the enjoyment families find in the market's safe setting. This Sunday at 7 PM, notable figures such as Sindh Assembly Member Asif Ali Khan and PML-N Sindh Senior Vice President Raja Khaliq uz Zaman Ansari will visit the market, adding a political dimension to the thriving atmosphere, she added.

Enhancing the visitor experience, the market now includes a food street featuring major branded food franchises. Livestock care camps have been operational from day one, ensuring the well-being of the animals. Administrator Faisal Ali noted the provision of 24/7 fodder, clean water, and electricity for the animals, with each receiving up to 30 liters of free water daily.

Parking arrangements have been revamped, with contractor Adnan announcing reduced rates for motorcycle entry passes and various options for vehicles, she said and added that the security measures have been significantly bolstered with the deployment of 1,000 police personnel to ensure a secure environment for all attendees.

Next chip after H20 for China won't be from Hopper series

TAIPEI (Reuters): Nvidia is evaluating how to address the China market after the US government placed limits on sales of its Hopper H20 chip there but will not put out another version from the Hopper series, CEO Jensen Huang said on Saturday.

Asked what their next chip for China after the H20 was, he said: "It's not Hopper because it's not possible to modify Hopper anymore," Huang said, according to a livestream posted by Taiwan's Formosa TV News network.

Huang, who has consistently said China is critical to Nvidia's growth, made a visit to China immediately after the US placed new restrictions on China-bound shipments of its H20 chips, the only AI chip the company can sell legally in

China.

Reuters reported earlier this month that Nvidia plans to release a downgraded version of the H20 chip for China in the next two months, as it seeks to prop up sales in the country, where it has lost market share to domestic rivals such as Huawei. The US Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion, issued in January just a week before the end of former President Joe Biden's administration, aimed to limit AI chip exports to most countries.

Huang also said that previous AI export regulations were wrong and should have been focused on maximising US technology globally. Trump has said he will cancel the AI diffusion rules that were introduced by the Biden administration.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing fruits displayed by vendors at market.

HYDERABAD (APP): Under the directive of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) President, Muhammad Saleem Memon, HCSTSI in collaboration with the Regional Development Foundation (RDF), organized a two-day "Bachat Bazaar" at the Expo Centre, Hyderabad.

The event was formally inaugurated by the Senior Vice President, Ahmed Idrees Chohan, Former Senator Aajiz Dhamrah and Faisal Jabbar Khan were also present at the occasion. While addressing the opening ceremony, Ahmed Idrees Chohan, appreciated RDF's Associate Director in Hyderabad Arshad Ali, Head

of Programs Niaz Ahmed Siyal and especially Project Manager Aftab Soomro for their welfare initiatives.

He remarked that in these times of high inflation, such discount bazaars are nothing short of a blessing for the public.

He emphasized that providing essential commodities such as flour, lentils, sugar, rice, oil, vegetables, fruits, clothing and other household necessities at affordable prices is a practical step toward public relief.

He appealed to the Sindh government to take permanent steps to support this noble cause by allocating a designated space in Hyderabad for a permanent discount bazaar to help citizens combat rising prices.

The Chamber assured its full cooperation for all such initiatives. He further urged the public to take full advantage of the two-day event by purchasing quality goods at discounted rates.

Former Senator Aajiz Dhamrah and Faisal Jabbar Khan, in a joint statement, expressed full support from the Sindh government for such public-friendly initiatives aimed at controlling inflation and providing relief to the common man.

They also assured full cooperation with the business community and welfare organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, RDF's Associate Director Arshad Ali and

Project Manager Aftab Soomro shared that the bazaar featured stalls offering food items, vegetables, fruits, traditional cuisines, clothes and various household goods.

They expressed immense

satisfaction over the public's positive response, noting that the people of Hyderabad highly appreciate such markets. They also thanked all participating organizations for their support in setting up stalls.

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<p>عوام ان کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ریٹ 27 ستمبر 18 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے تک 5 بجے تک 6 بجے تک 7 بجے تک 8 بجے تک 9 بجے تک 10 بجے تک 11 بجے تک 12 بجے تک 13 بجے تک 14 بجے تک 15 بجے تک 16 بجے تک 17 بجے تک 18 بجے تک 19 بجے تک 20 بجے تک 21 بجے تک 22 بجے تک 23 بجے تک 24 بجے تک 25 بجے تک 26 بجے تک 27 بجے تک 28 بجے تک 29 بجے تک 30 بجے تک 31 بجے تک 1 بجے تک 2 بجے تک 3 بجے تک 4 بجے 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In brief

Anderson on the wickets on return

LONDON (AFP): England great James Anderson took two wickets for Lancashire on Saturday, nearly a year on from his emotional Test farewell at Lord's. The most successful fast bowler in Test history, with his 704 wickets a record for any England cricketer at that level, Anderson had not played a competitive match since his international swansong against the West Indies at Lord's last June. The 42-year-old has since worked as a bowling consultant with the England team, while also repeatedly insisting he still had something to offer as a player. Anderson signed a new one-year deal with his native Lancashire earlier this year, but missed the first five games of the County Championship season with a calf injury. He needed just 18 balls on Saturday, however, to get back among the wickets, with Anderson dismissing Caleb Jewell. After Lancashire -- who started this round of matches bottom of the Second Division, having yet to win a Championship match this season -- posted 458 all out before tea on the second day, cheers rang round Old Trafford when Anderson's name was announced to open the bowling at the James Anderson End. He had a tough start, with Anderson driven for three boundaries in his third over. But switching to around the wicket, he bowled Jewell with a ball that clipped the top of off stump. Anderson struck again when David Lloyd edged behind to wicketkeeper Matty Hurst. The veteran paceman finished the day with figures of two for 24 in five overs, with Derbyshire 112 for four in their first innings at stumps -- a deficit of 346 runs.

Knicks crush Celtics

NEW YORK (Agencies): The New York Knicks eliminated defending NBA champions Boston Celtics from the playoffs with a 119-81 victory to reach their first Eastern Conference finals in 25 years. Jalen Brunson and OG Anunoby led the way with 23 points apiece as the Knicks completed a 4-2 series victory to set up a showdown against fourth-seeded Indiana Pacers for a place in the NBA finals. The Knicks will open the seven-game series at home at 01:00 BST on Thursday. Six Knicks players finished in double figures with the 38-point success the largest winning play-off margin in franchise history. Mikal Bridges had four three-pointers in his 22 points while Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 and Josh Hart finished with a triple-double of 10 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. The Celtics, who lost star forward Jayson Tatum to a ruptured right Achilles tendon in game four, which is likely to keep him out for around nine months, had given themselves hope after winning game five. But in front of a Madison Square Garden home crowd, which included celebrities Timothee Chalamet, Lenny Kravitz, Ben Stiller and Spike Lee, the Knicks were in a ruthless mood. They led 26-20 after the first quarter but did most of the damage in the second, outscoring their opponents 38-17 to take a 64-37 lead into the break to all but end the Boston challenge. Jaylen Brown led the Celtics scoring with 20 points, with Al Horford adding 10 points and Payton Pritchard finishing with 11.

Warner, Vince power Kings into playoffs; Babar's 94 for Zalmi in vain

RAWALPINDI: There were fireworks during the innings break to celebrate the resumption of the PSL, but they somewhat receded into the background compared to the pyrotechnics in each innings. A high-scoring thriller of a contest saw Karachi Kings seal qualification to the playoffs, edging out Peshawar Zalmi in a game where 237 played 214. While batting seemed almost insouciantly straightforward - as it often is in Rawalpindi in T20 cricket - David Warner's 50-ball 86 had just enough support from his team-mates to outshine Babar Azam's 49-ball 94.

The first ball of the contest was a false dawn, when Luke Wood produced a ripping inswinger to clean up Ben McDermott. Warner and James Vince picked up where they had left off in the earlier part of this tournament as they played the Zalmi bowling. Wood, who remarkably bowled three powerplay overs to register figures of 1 for 14, found none of his team-mates able to maintain the pressure from the other end; the other three overs in the first six went for 43.

An eight-run seventh over suggested Zalmi would come back into the game, but once more, it was misdirection. Ali Raza and Ahmed Daniyal copped further punishment before Saim Ayub and Hussain Talat bore the brunt of Warner's onslaught. While Wood returned to produce another brilliant over, breaking the partnership by dismissing Vince, his 2 for 19 stood in sharp contrast to the carnage around him.

It was carnage that was about to get decisively worse as Zalmi lost their discipline completely in the final two overs. Raza, who endured a horror day, bowled a no-ball in the penultimate over, one that was littered with inaccurate bowling and decorated by six after six. Khushdil Shah and Mohammad Nabi smashed four of them before two fours and as many sixes in Daniyal's final over saw 52 runs come off the final two overs. Khushdil smashed an unbeaten 43 off 15, Raza and Daniyal combined to concede 126 in eight overs.

Zalmi were expected to come out all guns blazing, and they duly did so. The early dismissal of Mohammad Harris was followed up by a second-wicket onslaught from Babar and Saim Ayub, Zalmi getting 59 in the powerplay. They were ahead of Kings at that stage, and would remain so right up until the penultimate over, but the suffocating pressure of an ever-increasing asking

rate never quite let up.

Ayub's return to form was welcome, Babar's sensational knock at a strike rate his talent should allow him to replicate more frequently was a delight. However, the death overs' carnage in the first innings always coloured the chase with a sense of heroic failure rather than unlikely glory.

The first sign of the wheels coming off was in the form of a breakthrough. Abbas Afridi produced, his slower delivery undoing Ayub three runs short of a half-century. It brought Tom Kohler-Cadmore to the crease, whose second-ball six belied the stuttering innings he would eventually produce. The partnership with his captain yielded 62, but Kohler-Cadmore only managed 20 in 15

deliveries, even as Babar was turning on the style from the other end, having raced past Warner's score, sitting imperiously on 87 off 45.

But three wickets fell in the next 11 balls. Mir Hamza snared Kohler-Cadmore before Afridi returned to get rid of Max Bryant. Three balls later, defeat was all but confirmed when Babar desperately scrambled back in a bid to get on strike, and ended up short of his crease, and six runs short of a deserved hundred.

Zalmi soldiered on bravely, producing 28 in the final two overs, but the Kings had secured victory, and a ticket to the playoffs in Lahore. Zalmi, meanwhile, go into a virtual knockout against Lahore Qalandars on Sunday night. —spnrcinfo



David Warner and James Vince added 162 for the second wicket.

PSB honours medal-winning athletes with cash awards worth Rs 20.75m

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) organized a cash award ceremony to honour the country's medal-winning athletes and coaches, in recognition of their outstanding performances at international competitions.

The athletes and coaches received cash awards during the ceremony held at a local hotel. Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah was the chief guest, while Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, PSB Director General Muhammad Yasir Pirzada, Pakistan Squash Federation General Secretary Air Commodore (R) Amir Nawaz, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation President Col (R) Raja Waseem Ahmed and other officials also attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Rana Sanaullah announced that the government had increased cash prizes for athletes who bring honour to the country at the international level.

He said the initiative aimed to encourage talented youth to excel in sports and represent Pakistan with pride. As part of this initiative, cash

prizes of Rs 20 million were distributed among winning players to encourage them. An endowment fund has also been established to provide financial security to athletes and their families, allowing them to focus on their fitness and sports without financial burdens.

The athletes who received awards had won medals in the 22nd Asian Junior Squash Team Championship held in Hong Kong in February, the WSF World U23 Individual Squash Championship held in Karachi in April, and the 7th Asian Open Taekwondo Championship (G-2) organized in Islamabad in February. Bronze medalists of the Asian Junior Squash Team Championship — Anas Ali Shah, Abdullah Nawaz, Sakhiullah Tareen and Noman — received Rs 375,000 each, while their coach Faheem Gul and assistant coach Faraz Muhammad were given Rs 125,000 each. Noor Zaman, who clinched the gold medal in the World U23 Individual Squash Championship, was awarded Rs 5 million. His coach Faheem Gul, assistant coach Faraz Muhammad and physical trainer were each awarded

Rs 833,333. From the Asian Open Taekwondo Championship, gold medalist Haroon Khan received Rs 2 million, while silver medalists Shahzaib Khan, Abubakar Siddique, Noman Khan, Mazhar Abbas, Hamzah Omar Saeed and Fateemaah Tuz Zahraa were each awarded Rs 1 million. Bronze medalists Ghulam Muhammad, Muhammad Tayab, Hussain Anjum, Muhammad Iqbal and Faizan Junaid received Rs 500,000 each. Coaching staff Yousaf Karami, Syed Sadaqat Hussain, Ghazanfar Ali and Ms Najia Rasool were each given Rs 250,000. A total of Rs 20.75 million was distributed among the medal-winning players and coaches. Rana Sanaullah highlighted that under the Prime Minister's directives, several measures had been taken to promote sports in the country, including the up-gradation of facilities and enhancement of cash incentives for athletes competing at international, national and regional levels. The government is introducing a new policy for departmental sports, aimed at furthering the professional careers of athletes.

Paolini makes history by seeing off Gauff to win Italian Open

ROME (AFP): Jasmine Paolini made Italian tennis history on Saturday by winning the Italian Open, convincingly beating Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-2 to claim her second 1000 series title ahead of Roland Garros later this month.

Late bloomer Paolini, who also won in Dubai last year, is the first Italian woman to win the Rome event since Raffaella Reggi in 1985 after overcoming former US Open champion Gauff in straight sets.

The 29-year-old delighted the packed centre court at the Foro Italico by winning the first of a potential three titles for local players at this year's event in the Italian capital.

"It doesn't seem real, it's incredible to have the trophy in my hands, I'm so emotional," said a beaming Paolini on court.

"I don't know what to say, it's so emotional to be here, I came here as a kid to watch this tournament so to lift the trophy is beyond what I ever dreamed of."

Paolini could yet win both the singles and women's doubles tournaments, with the world number five and Sara Errani, who was in the crowd on Saturday, taking on Veronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens in



another final on Sunday.

Paolini and Errani, who also won Italy a first ever Olympic gold in tennis in Paris last year, will be favourites to retain their Rome title.

Monica Seles was the last women to win the singles and doubles tournaments in Rome in 1990, while the only player ever to do so in a 1000 series tournament was Vera Zvonareva at Indian Wells in 2009.

'Dream week'

Paolini's compatriot Jannik Sinner will contend a blockbuster men's singles final against rival Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday, with an Italian hat-trick of Rome titles still on the cards. "It's been a dream week, and we still have the doubles, don't worry, I haven't forgotten!" added Paolini.

Paolini is the oldest woman to win her first

Rome title during the Open Era, while Gauff, eight years Paolini's junior, missed out on becoming the youngest American to take the crown since Serena Williams back in 2002.

Similarly to her battling semi-final win over Zheng Qinwen, Gauff made 55 unforced errors to go with seven double faults on serve, making Paolini's life unnecessarily easy.

Gauff was visibly livid with her sloppy performance which started with a double fault and continued with sloppy shots throughout the match.

American Gauff, who will nevertheless be world number two heading into the French Open, lost five of her nine service games and ended a poor evening's work with a failed service return attempt which handed Paolini possibly the biggest win of her career.

Plapp claims first Grand Tour stage win at Giro

CASTELRAIMONDO (Agencies): Australian Luke Plapp claimed the first Grand Tour win of his career with a stunning solo win on the eighth stage of the Giro d'Italia.

The 24-year-old, riding for Team Jayco Alula, attacked from the break-away group with around 40km to go and crossed the line with a gap of 38 seconds over Netherlands' Wilco Kelderman in second.

Diego Ulissi finished third, and moved into the lead of the overall standings, becoming the first Italian to do so since 2021.

"I still can't believe it, to be honest," Plapp said at the end of the race.

"I feel like it's been a long time coming - I'm always targeting the Aussie summer, and just never been able to make a result happen in Europe. "Last year, I got so close to the Giro so many times so for today to happen is so, so special."

Plapp then joked that he made his move with such a long way to go because he felt he could not beat the others in a sprint finish after the 197km stage across the medium-range mountains from Giulianova to Castelraimondo.

Meanwhile, Ulissi took the overall lead from 2023 Giro winner Primoz Roglic, who slipped to third and remains 17 seconds behind the Italian.

Ulissi will wear the pink



jersey as the race goes through Tuscany, the region of his birth, on Sunday with a 181km stage from Gubbio to Siena.

Max Poole is the best-placed British rider in seventh overall, while Simon Yates is 10th.

The race ends in Rome on 1 June.

Stage eight results

1. Luke Plapp (Aus/Jayco Alula) 4hr 44min 20secs

2. Wilco Kelderman (Ned/Visma-Lease a Bike) +38secs

3. Diego Ulissi (Ita/XDS-Astana) +38secs

4. Igor Arrieta (Spa/UAE Team Emirates-XRG) +1min 22secs

5. Nicolas Prodhomme (Fra/Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale) +1min 35secs

6. Andrea Vendrame (Ita/Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale) +1min 48secs

7. Lorenzo Fortunato (Ita/XDS-Astana) +1min 48secs

8. Georg Steinhauser (Ger/EF Education-EasyPost) +2min 59secs

9. Romain Bardet

(Fra/Picnic PostNL) +3min 02secs

10. Alessio Martinelli (Ita/VF Group) +4min 37secs

General classification after stage eight

1. Diego Ulissi (Ita/XDS-Astana) 29hr 21min 23secs

2. Lorenzo Fortunato (Ita/XDS-Astana) +12secs

3. Primoz Roglic (Slo/Red Bull-Bora Hansgrohe) +17secs

4. Juan Ayuso (Spa/UAE Team Emirates-XRG) +20secs

5. Isaac del Toro (Mex/UAE Team Emirates-XRG) +26secs

6. Antonio Tiberi (Ita/Bahrain Victorious) +44secs

7. Max Poole (GB/Team Picnic PostNL) +47secs

8. Michael Storer (Aus/Tudor Pro Cycling) +50secs

9. Brandon McNulty (USA/UAE Team Emirates-XRG) +51secs

10. Simon Yates (GB/Visma-Lease a Bike) +56secs.

Palace stun Man City to win FA Cup for first time

LONDON (AFP): Crystal Palace stunned Manchester City on Saturday to win the FA Cup for the first time as Eberechi Eze sealed a 1-0 victory that piled on the misery for Pep Guardiola's troubled side.

Eze's early strike rocked City before Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson saved Omar Marmoush's penalty late in the first half of a dramatic final at Wembley. While Eze's clinical finish was the culmination of his remarkable rise from rejection by Arsenal, Fulham and Millwall as a youngster, it was Henderson who emerged as Palace's hero with a series of superb saves.

City will protest that Henderson should have been sent off for a first-half handball outside his penalty area. But Henderson made the most of that controversial moment to ensure Palace clinched the first major trophy in their 120-year history and a place in next season's Europa League.

Beaten by Manchester United in their previous FA Cup final appearances in 1990 and 2016, Palace's shock win was no more than they deserved as City once again



imploded in a dismal season that will be their first without major silverware since 2016-17.

After winning the Premier League in the previous four seasons, City have endured a turbulent campaign that ranks among the worst in

Guardiola's storied managerial career. Currently sixth in the Premier League, City host

Bournemouth on Tuesday and travel to Fulham on May 25 as they try to salvage their wretched year by at least qualifying for the Champions League.

Guardiola had questioned his players' hunger as they failed to keep pace with Liverpool in the title race and crashed out of the Champions League. While desire might

not have been an issue against Palace, City's lack of direction in their second successive FA Cup final defeat was an alarming sign for the future as Guardiola was out-witted by Eagles boss Oliver Glasner.

Not for the first time, Guardiola sprang a surprise with his selection for a final as he picked an ultra-attacking line-up with no holding mid-

fielder.

Guardiola gamble backfires. However, Guardiola's habit of tinkering with his tactics for finals has backfired in the past.

Asked about City's line-up just before kick-off, Guardiola said he was putting his faith in "talent", but Glasner had spotted an opening, saying: "When you have so many attacking players it could give you an opportunity in transitions."

Erling Haaland nearly gave City the perfect start when he stretched to meet Kevin De Bruyne's cross with a volley that forced a scrambled save from Henderson. Josko Gvardiol's towering header from Savinho's corner was smartly repelled by Henderson. But Glasner's clever decision to set up Palace deep inside their own half had lured City in for the sucker punch.

Eze delivered the knockout blow from Palace's first attack in the 16th minute as Glasner's men launched a brilliant break from their penalty area.

Jean-Philippe Mateta held up Chris Richards' long pass and laid it off to Daniel Munoz, who surged down the right flank before crossing

towards Eze, who guided a superb volley past Stefan Ortega from 12 yards.

City were furious when Henderson escaped a red card when VAR checked his handball, which appeared to take place outside the area, after the "keeper rushed out to challenge Haaland. VAR said it was "not an obvious goal-scoring opportunity" but it proved crucial as Henderson rescued Palace in the 35th minute.

Tyrick Mitchell conceded the penalty with a needless foul on Bernardo Silva as the City midfielder ran away from goal. Instead of Haaland taking the spot-kick, it was Marmoush who stepped up after the Norway star gave him the ball in a disastrous move as Henderson plunged to his right to keep out the Egyptian's strike.

Henderson was in inspired form and he denied City again, clawing away a Jeremy Doku strike that appeared destined for the top corner. Defending tirelessly, Palace were indebted to Henderson, who made two more brilliant saves from Claudio Echeverri to cap a chastening afternoon for Guardiola.



In brief

Five illegal arm holders held

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested five illegal arms holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Saturday. According to police spokesman, Police had launched action against illegal arms holders in different areas of New Town, Gujjar Khan, Saddar Bironi, Dharmyal and Kahuta police stations. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. Divisional SPs commended police teams and said that strict action against illegal arm holders will be continued without any discrimination. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police have also arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 7,600, mobile phone from their custody. Rata Amral police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation has been started. SP Rawal Muhammad Haseeb Raja said that gambling is the root of other social evils, and those involved cannot escape the clutches of the law.

Police dismiss two officers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police dismissed two personnel from service over proven links with a notorious drug peddler and criminal. An official told APP on Saturday that Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq terminated the services of Assistant Sub-Inspector Azhar Mehmood and Constable Khalid Mehmood after both were found to have maintained contact with a drug dealer, Amir alias Amri, who is also a suspect in the Ishtiaq Abbasi murder case. He said the departmental inquiry revealed that the dismissed officials had been in regular telephonic contact with the suspect, compromising the integrity of the investigation. Based on the findings, strict departmental punishment was awarded, resulting in their dismissal from service. DIG Jawad Tariq reiterated that individuals misusing their powers and bringing disrepute to the police force have no place in the department. He warned that stern actions would continue against corruption, poor performance, and failure in protecting public safety. DIG had directed all officers to tighten their belts and perform their duties with utmost honesty and dedication, emphasizing that internal accountability was essential to maintaining public trust.

RP arrest thief, recover cash

RAWALPINDI (APP): Railway Police have arrested a thief and recovered cash, gold jewellery and mobile phone set from his possession which he had stolen in train. The police sources said that a woman passenger, Ms Sumaira Nadeem, had lodged a complaint with Railway Police Bahawalpur that a thief took away her purse when she was boarding train, Karakoram Express, travelling from Karachi to Lahore to visit her relatives there. She submitted that she had put her cash, gold jewellery and mobile phone set in the purse. The Railway Police registered an FIR and launched efforts to trace out whereabouts of the thief. "A team of Railway Police Bahawalpur, headed by Station House Officer Inrnan Arshad Jatoti, traced the thief and arrested him," they said. The police team recovered Rs 50,000 in cash, gold jewellery and mobile phone set and handed them to the owner woman passenger.

Air Varsity holds 12th convocation, celebrates remarkable achievement of 1391 graduates



ISLAMABAD (APP): Air University (AU) marked a momentous occasion as it celebrated the 12th convocation honoring the achievements of 1391 graduates who successfully completed their degree programs.

The ceremony, held at AU main campus Islamabad, was

graced by the proud parents, esteemed faculty members and distinguished guests. Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission presided over the convocation ceremony as chief guest, said a press release issued here Saturday.

The highlight of the convo-

cation was the conferring of degrees, including 21 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) recipients, 35 Gold medalists, and 29 Silver medalists. The University takes immense pride in the dedication and hard work exhibited by these graduates throughout their academic journey.

The Vice-Chancellor, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan HI (M) (Retd), delivered an inspiring report to the graduates and their parents, highlighting the University's commitment to academic excellence and its ambitious vision for the future. In his address, he lauded the graduates for their perseverance, academic achievements, and innovative mindset, reiterating the University's mission to produce individuals who are not only industry-ready but also nation-ready.

He emphasized that with more than 12,000 students currently enrolled across campuses in Islamabad, Multan, Kamra, and Kharian—and with two new campuses in H-11 Islamabad and Karachi set to launch in Fall 2025—Air University continues to strengthen its national footprint in higher education.

The Vice-Chancellor proudly shared the University's rising profile, including its 2nd position in Pakistan in the Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings, 2nd position nationwide in HEC's ORIC performance assessment, and recognition in the X category of HEC's BIC Scorecard, affirming AU's growing

impact in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Graduates, particularly from the fields of Cybersecurity and IT, were acknowledged for their critical role in safeguarding national cyber infrastructure—efforts now cited as a model of cyber defence excellence. He called upon the youth to channel their skills toward building a better Pakistan, reversing the brain drain by creating homegrown solutions and innovations.

The convocation also paid tribute to the invaluable support of parents and families, while reaffirming the University's ongoing commitment to its alumni as lifelong partners in success.

In his speech, the chief guest Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, congratulated the graduating students on their hard-earned success, especially the high achievers, acknowledging their dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence. He applauded the unwavering support of parents and the tireless efforts of Air University's faculty in shaping future leaders. Recognizing Air University as one of Pakistan's premier higher education institutions, he commended its

contributions in critical areas such as aerospace engineering, artificial intelligence, and cyber defence particularly through its visionary initiative, the National Cyber Security Academy.

He expressed admiration that AU graduates are now playing pivotal roles in national security operations and shaping Pakistan's digital future. He also emphasized the importance of innovation, public service, and lifelong learning, urging graduates to carry Pakistan in their hearts and excellence in their hands as they step into a rapidly evolving world.

He also acknowledged the vital support extended by the Pakistan Air Force to the university, emphasizing the collaborative efforts that contribute to the success of Air University. He encouraged the graduates to leverage their education and skills to make meaningful contributions to society.

Air University faculty and management extended heartfelt congratulations to the 1391 graduates and wishes them success in their future endeavors. Air University remains committed to providing quality education and shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Kayani, WB delegation discuss key steps for modernization of PR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani Saturday met with a high-level World Bank (WB) delegation and discussed the key initiatives for the modernization of Pakistan Railways (PR).

The delegation, comprising transport sector experts and led by Jen Jungeun Oh, Practice Manager for South Asia at the WB, shared insights and global best practices in railway operations, drawing on successful models from around the world.

During the meeting, the WB team presented several proposals aimed at

enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of Pakistan Railways. Bilal Kayani welcomed the suggestions and directed the Ministry of Railways to begin implementing practical steps based on these recommendations.

He particularly endorsed initiatives focused on expanding freight services and attracting private sector investment in the railway sector. The minister also highlighted outcomes from recent consultations with the WB and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), reiterating Pakistan Railways' commitment to privatization and infrastructure development.

The delegation expressed satisfaction with the government's ongoing reform efforts, especially its focus on increasing private sector participation in railway projects. They reaffirmed the WB's commitment to providing technical support for railway modernization initiatives.

Bilal Kayani thanked the WB for its continued assistance and expressed hope that the IFC will also consider direct investment in Pakistan Railways' future projects.

CDA, NUST launch merit-based computerized recruitment exams

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated a three-day computer-based recruitment examination in collaboration with the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) to ensure a transparent and merit-driven hiring process.

The tests, which began on Saturday, will continue until May 19, with over 3,800 candidates expected to participate. Chairman CDA,

Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and DG Civil Defence Muhammad Ali Randhawa made a surprise visit to the NUST examination center to review arrangements.

He emphasized that the

initiative aims to eliminate favoritism and recruit skilled professionals based on merit. "This system ensures transparency at every stage, from screening to final selection, without human interference," Randhawa stated.

"CDA needs educated and technologically adept individuals, and this partnership with NUST guarantees we get the best talent."

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CDA and NUST, the exams are being conducted using an automated computer-based testing system. Three daily sessions are being held, accommodating 485 candidates per session.

On the first day, 297 candidates appeared in the morning session, followed by 312 in the afternoon, with a higher turnout expected in the evening. Randhawa highlighted that the collaboration with NUST would extend beyond recruitment, incorporating advanced research and training programs to enhance institutional performance.

"This partnership will not only bring capable individuals to CDA but also contribute to national development," he added. NUST officials assured full adherence to merit-based principles, stating their modern examination system would ensure only the most qualified candidates are selected.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presenting a souvenir to the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom Rt. Hon. David Lammy. —APP Photo

Conference highlights national unity, Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) at Rawalpindi Press Club

RAWALPINDI (APP): The "Unity of Pakistan and the Biography of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) Conference" was held here at the Rawalpindi Press Club, convening notable figures from different walks of life to promote national unity, religious awareness, and patriotism.

The conference was chaired by Pir Hafiz Iqbal Qureshi Naqshbandi, who spoke on the occasion.

He urged the people to stay committed to the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah and to work together for national unity.

Pir Hafiz Iqbal Qureshi called the creation of Pakistan a miracle and said

the country carries the intellectual and spiritual heritage of great Muslim leaders like Mujaddid Alf Sani, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, and Maulana Ilyas. He emphasized that Pakistan's defense system is strong, not only because of its nuclear power but also because its armed forces uphold Islamic values.

He praised the armed forces for their success in "Operation Bunyanum Marsoos," where he said they defeated a much larger enemy.

He also highlighted that the operation was launched with a Quranic verse, showing the army's deep

connection with Islam.

The conference was also attended by Abdullah Gul, Chairman Tehrik Jawanan Pakistan, along with other notable personalities such as President RIJ Tariq Virk, Sardar Aftab, and Sardar Zahid.

The conference paid glowing tribute to the armed forces and their leadership.

Special prayers were offered for the integrity, strength, and prosperity of Pakistan.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to protecting Pakistan's ideological and religious values and would stand ready to defend the country.

Youm-e-Tashakur celebrated at F-9 Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police organized a grand ceremony at F-9 Park on the occasion of Youm-e-Tashakur (Gratitude Day), with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi attending as the chief guest.

An official told APP on Saturday that the event was held to pay tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan for their unmatched sacrifices and heroic achievements in defending the motherland. The ceremony saw participation from police personnel, Friends of Police, citizens, and a large number of students.

The IGP said the valiant contributions of the Pakistan armed forces have raised the nation's pride and dignity. "The armed forces of Pakistan stood like a solid wall in the face of the enemy and proved to be an unbreakable shield for the country," he said.

IG Rizvi said the triumph in the battle for truth has earned the Pakistani nation global respect and recognition. The event also featured patriotic songs sung by children and citizens to the tunes of national melodies, adding color to the celebration.

The official told that the mounted police unit of Islamabad Police presented a ceremonial salute during the event, while candles were lit at the Martyrs' Monument to honor the sacrifices of national heroes. Lanterns were also released into the sky, symbolizing hope and unity.

was also accompanied with rally tuning national songs on musical instruments. Faiteha was also offered for the martyred of Operation Marka-e-Haq. The event concluded with special prayers for the prosperity, unity, and defense of Pakistan.

70% of Pakistanis with hypertension unaware of disease: Health experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world observes World Hypertension Day on Saturday, alarming statistics reveal that nearly 70% of people suffering from hypertension in Pakistan remain unaware of their condition.

According to health experts, with approximately 5.5 million men and 5.3 million women affected, the situation has sparked concern among health professionals and departments.

Hypertension affects 18% of Pakistanis over the age of 15. The prevalence is higher in urban areas, standing at 21.6%, compared to 16.2% in rural populations.

However, only a small fraction of patients in the country have their blood pressure under control.

Health expert Dr Fazal Abbas stressed that

hypertension is both preventable and treatable. "Knowing your blood pressure could be the first life-saving step."

He warned that modifiable risk factors including poor diet, inactivity, and stress continue to fuel the disease's spread.

He said regular monitoring of blood pressure and follow-up with a healthcare provider is crucial for managing hypertension.

He said effective management of hypertension can help individuals live longer and healthier lives.

He said early detection and treatment of hypertension can help prevent the development of more severe health complications.

Medical practitioner Dr Mubashar Mushtaq urged people to check

their blood pressure regularly and adopt healthier lifestyles.

He said the key recommendations to prevent from the disease included reducing salt intake, maintaining a balanced diet, engaging in regular physical activity, and avoiding tobacco.

He said managing hypertension can significantly reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, and other serious health problems.

This year's World Hypertension Day is being observed under the theme: "Measure Your Blood Pressure Regularly."

The campaign emphasizes early detection and regular monitoring as critical steps toward preventing complications such as heart disease,

stroke, and kidney failure.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that more than 1.28 billion adults worldwide, aged 30 to 79, live with hypertension — with nearly half unaware of their diagnosis. Known as the "silent killer," hypertension often presents no symptoms until it causes serious damage to vital organs.

In the WHO South-East Asia Region, hypertension affects over 294 million people. Across Pakistan and other nations, government bodies and NGOs are organizing free screening camps, awareness walks, seminars, and social media campaigns to reach broader audiences and encourage preventive health practices.

Punjab Arts Council celebrates Youm-e-Tashakur

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi has organized a dignified flag hoisting ceremony and a solidarity walk on the occasion of Youm-e-Tashakur to commemorate the historic victory of Pakistan's Armed Forces in operation Marka-e-Haq.

Director Information, Syed Ifikhar Ali Shah, and Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain jointly hoisted the national flag, and led the solidarity walk, joined by a large number of artists, students, civil society members, and the general public.

A wave of patriotism and unity swept through the participants, who chanted slogans in favor of Pakistan and paid tribute to the Armed Forces for their valor and commitment to national defense. Syed Ifikhar Ali, in his address said that the

Marka-e-Haq operation is a golden chapter in our military history, demonstrating unparalleled courage and faith. "The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with our forces," he said.

Director Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, also expressed deep gratitude towards the Armed Forces. He emphasized the role of cultural institutions in preserving national identity and instilling patriotic values in the youth through arts and education.

Later, a solidarity walk was organized which began from the Punjab Arts Council and proceeded through double road, attracting widespread attention and participation.

National songs, banners, and flags were displayed, creating a festive and emotional atmosphere. Folk dance party

Minister to Int'l Forum

KABUL (Ariana News): Afgahn Acting Justice Minister Abdul Hakim Sharei, left for Russia on Saturday to participate in the 13th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum. The three-day conference will be attended by ministers of justice, judicial officials and legal experts from various countries. He will deliver a speech on the nature of laws, the need for reforms in international law, ensuring justice and role of IE in international relations.

The Frontier Post

Zulqaidah 20, 1446 — Sunday, May 18, 2025

60-year-old gunned down

MAIMANA (Pajhwok): An individual has been arrested on charges of murdering his grandfather in the Khwaja Sabzposh district of Faryab on Saturday. Police spokesman Maulvi Abdullah said: "Amanullah, 60, a resident of Khwaja Sabzposh, was shot dead by his grandson Minhajuddin inside his shop." He attributed the murder to a family dispute, saying: "The suspect had fled the area, but security forces arrested him from a garden with a weapon."

Internal displacement:

Afghanistan ranks fifth globally

KABUL (TOLONews): The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reported that Afghanistan, with 4.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), ranks fifth globally in terms of internal displacement.

In its latest report, the center stated that in 2024 alone, 1.3 million people in Afghanistan were displaced due to natural disasters, the highest number in the world. Most of these displacements were caused by floods in the provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan.

The report notes: "Following the withdrawal of foreign forces and the takeover of the government by the Taliban on 15 August 2021, large-scale conflict and the number of associated displacements reduced significantly in Af-

ghanistan. Still, it was home to 4.2 million IDPs by conflict and violence, the fifth largest number globally at the end of 2024."

In an IDP camp located in Kabul's 5th police district, more than 600 families are residing, having fled their home provinces over the past two decades due to war and natural disasters.

Mohammad Yousuf, one of the displaced individuals, told TOLONews: "We came here during Karzai's government because there was war in our area. It has been about twenty years since we took refuge and started living here."

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations said that in 1403 (April 20, 2024 – March 19, 2025), more than 13,000 families were displaced by natural

disasters. Of these, 11,580 families have returned to their original areas after receiving aid.

Ministry spokesperson Abdulmutalib Haqqani said: "Due to droughts and natural disasters, many families were forced to leave their original areas and move elsewhere. In 1403, a total of 13,979 families were displaced, and 11,580 families have returned to their areas after receiving assistance."

Earlier, in September 2024, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed concern over the condition of IDPs in Afghanistan, saying that the country hosts more than 3 million internally displaced people and nearly 6 million refugees living in neighboring and regional countries.

Supreme Leader issues decree

KABUL (BNA): Based on a decree of Amir al - Mominin the "Supreme Leader" several new appointments have been made within the Islamic Emirate's departments.

The Deputy Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, announced that former Samangan Provincial Police Chief Mawlawi Habibullah Shakir has been appointed as Bamyan Provincial Police Chief.

Former Bamyan Provincial Police Chief Sayed Mohammad Hanif Abada has been assigned as Samangan Provincial Police Chief, while former Balkh Intelligence Director Mullah Rahmatullah Nazim has been appointed as Head of Artillery Command at the Ministry of Defense.

The appointments were made in accordance with the leadership's directives for administrative organization within the Islamic Emirate's institutions.

Trade between Afghanistan, Pakistan up

KABUL (Pajhwok): Bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan has surged by nearly 23 percent in April this year, compared to March, report said on Saturday.

The trade between the two countries increased from 97 million US dollars in March to 119 million dollars in April on a month-on-month basis. Pakistan-Afghanistan trade showed mixed month-on-month performance between March and April.

Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increased by 21 percent, from 72 million dollars in March to 87 million dollars in April.

Imports from Afghanistan rose by 28 percent, increasing from \$25 million in March to \$32 million in April.

This rise in both exports and imports led to a total bilateral trade volume of \$119 million in April – marking a 23 percent increase compared to March.

3 killed, 12 wounded in accidents

PUL-I-ALAM (Pajhwok): Fifteen individuals have been killed and injured as a result of two separate traffic accidents in central Logar province, an official said on Saturday.

Police spokesman Maulvi Ahmadullah Anas told Pajhwok Afghan News two women and a child were killed and eight others injured after a car overturned in the Tiri Kotal area of Pul-i-Alam on Friday afternoon.

Also on Friday, he said, a speeding motorbike veered off the road in the Zahidabad area of Mohammad Agha district, leaving four people injured.

The injured were evacuated to the main provincial hospital by security forces and some of them were shifted in critical condition to Kabul for treatment.

Kabul, Moscow move to jack up trade cooperation

KABUL (Pajhwok): Kabul and Moscow have signed five memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on cooperation in transportation, trade, gas exploration and other areas, officials say.

Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and his Russian counterpart Alexey Overchuk inked the MoUs on the sidelines of the 16th Kazan Forum in Tatarstan.

IEA deputy spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat says the agreements cover areas of transport and transit and expansion of trade relations between the chambers of commerce of both countries.

He wrote on X the two sides agreed on cooperation in the exploration, extraction and refining of oil and gas in Afghanistan and the establishment of an industrial-logistical complex.

After the forum, Overchuk told journalists the topic of rare earth metals also came up for discussion at meetings between



Russia and Afghanistan.

Russia, having studied the territory of Afghanistan, had the requisite competency to conduct geological exploration, TASS quoted the deputy premier as saying.

"Afghanistan is interested in bringing its agricultural products, dried fruits

and nuts to the Russian market," the official added.

He promised: "We will help Afghan businesses study our requirements so that they can freely enter our large market. Afghanistan is very interested in it."

Trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$323 million at the end

of last year, Overchuk said, believing there was a significant growth potential.

He opined Russia could exports items and industrial products to Afghanistan. The two nations can jointly develop production facilities within Afghanistan and constructing energy infrastructure there.

Administrative Complex inaugurated in Torkham

KABUL (TOLONews): Abdul Rahman Attash, CEO of the National Development Company, announced at the inauguration ceremony of the administrative complex in Torkham township that major projects will be launched across the country this year.

He also said that the construction of the complex in Torkham township was completed within just 15 days.

"The National Development Company plans to begin major projects this year, and the opening of this administrative complex is a good start for

returnees," Attash added.

Ahmad Jan Bilal, director general of the Emirati Companies Administration, said at the event: "This year, major projects will be implemented by Emirati companies and, overall, under the Islamic Emirate across the country."

The complex was inaugurated at Omari Camp in Torkham with the participation of the acting minister of economy, heads of the National Development Company and Emirati Companies Administration, and local officials.

Acting Minister of Economy Din Mohammad

Hanif, commented: "Completing such a building in just 15 days is a testament to the excellent capacity and talent of the National Development Company."

He also criticized the forced deportation of Afghan refugees by neighboring countries, stating that migrants are being used as political tools.

Hanif said: "At first, neighboring countries welcomed Afghan migrants warmly, but over time, they began to use them as political leverage."

Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, speaking

at the ceremony, said: "Afghan engineers, the National Development Company, and other companies in Afghanistan have the capacity and skills to build such facilities for citizens under challenging and urgent circumstances."

According to the Emirati Companies Administration, the administrative complex was built on approximately 3,200 square meters of land at a cost of 40 million afghanis by the National Development Company. It includes 60 office rooms, a conference hall, and other facilities to serve returnees at the camp.

Refugee township school in Logar province gets building

PUL-I-ALAM (Pajhwok): The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has constructed a new school building in Pul-i-Alam, the capital of central Logar province of Afghanistan.

Shahpur Arab, spokesman for the Department of Education, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the building was constructed in the refugee township of Pul-i-Alam city for a school named Salahuddin Ayoubi.

The project was funded and implemented by UNHCR.

He said the modern, fully equipped facility includes 16 classrooms, five administrative offices, a conference hall, a computer lab, a science laboratory, as well as organized systems for solar power and water supply.

The compound also features a water well, designated handwashing stations, concrete trash bins, a boundary wall, sports fields, green and recreational spaces, concrete and metal water reservoirs, walkways, a ten-unit modern toilet block, a septic tank, and other essential facilities.

According to Arab, Salahuddin Ayoubi Primary School was established two years ago by the Logar Department of Education. Currently, about 700 students are enrolled at the school.



He added that the department, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and with support from several international organizations, plans to renovate approximately 25 school buildings across the province this year.

Abdul Aziz, a resident of the refugee township, expressed his happiness over the construction of the new building, saying it has

provided a much-needed educational facility for local children.

He noted that, before the new building was constructed, students had been studying in open areas under harsh conditions.

According to education officials, out of 283 public schools in Logar province, 70 still lack proper buildings, and around 100 are in need of major renovation.

Muttaqi-led delegation heads to Iran for TDF



KABUL (Pajhwok): Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Maulvi Amir Khan Muttaqi has travelled to Iran at a head of a high-level delegation.

Muttaqi left for the neighbouring country following an official invitation from his Iranian coun-

terpart Sayed Abbas Aragchi.

Hafiz Zia Ahmad Takal, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), wrote on his X handle Deputy Economic Minister Dr Abdul Latif Nazari was also part of the Afghan team.

In addition to attending the Tehran Dialogue Forum (TDF), Muttaqi is scheduled to meet his Iranian counterpart and other senior officials on boosting bilateral ties.

The forum is scheduled to be held on May 17-19, 2025.

Gold prices dip, other rates steady in Kabul

KABUL (Pajhwok): The price of gold declined slightly this week, while rates for other essential commodities remained stable in Kabul, market sources said on Saturday.

Gold down

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said the price of one gram of Russian gold fell from 4,800afis to 4,650afis and the same amount of Arabian gold went down from 6,100afis to 5,900afis.

Fuel

A worker at the Ahmadyar pump station told Pajhwok Afghan News the rate of one litre of petrol remained stable at 59afis and diesel at 55afis.

He added the price of one kilogram of liquefied

gas cost at 48afis.

Food items

Zmarai Safi, head of the Food Traders' Association, said today, as last week, the price of a 49-kilogram sack of Kazakh cost 1,300afis.

Similarly, the price of a 24-kg bag of Pakistani rice remained unchanged at 2,600afis. A 49-kilogram bag of Indian sugar remained stable at 2,500afis and a 16-litre bottle of Malaysian cooking at 1,650afis.

He added one kilogram of African black tea accounted for 400afis and the same amount of Indonesian green tea for 350afis.

Hamid Sufizada, a retailer at Dahna-i-Bagh market, put the retail price of a 49-kg bag of Kazakh flour at

1,350afis, a 24-kg bag of Pakistani rice at 2,650afis and a 49-kg sack of Indian sugar at 2,550afis.

A 16-litre bottle of cooking oil cost 1,700afis, he said, adding one kilogram of black tea accounted for 400afis and the same quantity of green tea for 450afis.

Afghani vs dollar
Haji Mohammad Hussain, owner of the Sadaqat Money Exchange Service, said one US dollar was traded at 70.15afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 245afis.

During the previous week, one US dollar accounted for 70.30afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 240afis. The spike in the afghani value is essentially linked to periodic dollar auctions by the central bank.

Art as hope:

Herat's female artists display talent, resilience

HERAT (TOLONews): A group of young female artists in Herat have organized an exhibition to showcase their creative works.

These artists say their pieces reflect the history of Herat and the capabilities of girls in the province. They are calling on both the public and the government to support artists, especially young women.

More than 70 pieces of art were displayed at the exhibition.

Fawzia Saeedi, the organizer of the event, told TOLONews: "Because of the restrictions created by the current situation, it has become more difficult for Afghan girls and women to express the talents and art they have."

Sabna Noori, a painter, said: "The reason I participated in this exhibition is so that my art and work can be seen, and our talents supported."



Madina Mohammadi, a painter from Herat, said: "Our request is for opportunities to be created so that we can sell our artworks."

Many of these girls turned to art after being deprived of access to school and university. They are now using their creative expressions not only for themselves but also to send a message of hope and encouragement

to other girls and women.

Maryam, a visitor to the exhibition, said: "Events like this can be a source of motivation both for the artists and the public. People can enjoy the artwork and purchase them at reasonable prices to beautify their homes."

For many of these young women, art has become a way to express their emotions and capabilities.



GAZA STRIP: Smoke rising following Israeli strikes, in Jabalia.

Trump is lying when he speaks of peace: Iran

TEHRAN (Reuters): Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused Donald Trump on Saturday of lying when the US president said during his Gulf tour this week that he wanted peace in the region.

On the contrary, said Khamenei, the United States uses its power to give "10-ton bombs to the Zionist (Israeli) regime to drop on the heads of Gaza's children". Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One after departing the United Arab Emirates on Friday that Iran had to move quickly on a US proposal for its nuclear programme or "something bad's going to happen".

Earlier on Saturday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Trump speaks about peace while simultaneously making threats. "Which should we believe?" Pezeshkian said at a naval event in Tehran.

"On the one hand, he speaks of peace and on the other, he threatens with the most advanced tools of mass killing," Tehran would continue Iran-US nuclear talks but is not afraid of threats.

"We are not seeking war," Pezeshkian said. His remarks, said Khamenei, "aren't even worth responding to." They are an "embarrassment to the speaker and the American people," Khamenei added. "Undoubtedly, the source of corruption, war, and conflict in this region is the Zionist regime — a dangerous, deadly cancerous tumour that must be uprooted; it will be uprooted," he said at an event at a religious centre in Tehran, according to state media.

While Trump said on Friday that Iran had a US proposal about its nuclear programme, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas

Araqchi in a post on X said Tehran had not received any such proposal. "There is no scenario in which Iran abandons its hard-earned right to (uranium) enrichment for peaceful purposes..." he said.

Araqchi warned on Saturday that Washington's constant change of stance prolongs nuclear talks, state TV reported. "It is absolutely unacceptable that America repeatedly defines a new framework for negotiations that prolongs the process," the broadcast quoted Araqchi as saying.

Pezeshkian said Iran would not "back down from our legitimate rights". "Because we refuse to bow to bullying, they say we are source of instability in the region," he said. A fourth round of Iran-US talks ended in Oman last Sunday. A new round has not been scheduled yet.

Kim oversees air drills

SEOUL (Reuters): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised drills by the nation's air force and underscored the need for a step-up in war preparation, state media said on Saturday. Kim, who inspected anti-aircraft combat and air strike drills by North Korea's 1st Air Division on Thursday, called for "all units in the entire military" to bring about "a breakthrough in war preparation", KCNA reported.

Footage of the drills on North Korean state TV showed a MiG-29 jet launching a missile, which appeared to be a North Korean version of a Russia-developed mid-to long-range air-to-air missile, said Hong Min, North Korea analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification. So far this month, Kim has overseen a missile test, inspected tank and munitions plants, made a rare visit to the Russian embassy in Pyongyang reaffirming the country's alliance with Russia, and supervised tank firing drills and special operations unit training.

North Korea also slammed the U.S. State Department for placing it on a list of countries that do not fully cooperate with U.S. counterterrorism efforts. Pyongyang has been placed on the list every year since 1997, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said. "The more the U.S. provokes the DPRK with unnecessary and inefficient malicious acts, the further it will escalate the irreconcilable hostility between the DPRK and the U.S.," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, using the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "The DPRK will... take effective and proper measures to cope with the U.S. hostile provocations in all spheres."

Storms kill 21 in US states of Missouri, Kentucky

MISSOURI: At least 21 people have died after tornadoes caused by severe storms swept through the states of Missouri and Kentucky in the United States, officials said. Kentucky governor Andy Beshear on Saturday said on X that at least 14 people died in the storms.

At least seven others were killed in Missouri as authorities launched a search for people trapped in buildings. Kentucky authorities said there were severe injuries when a tornado tore across Laurel County late on Friday. "The search is continuing in the damaged area for survivors," the office of Sheriff John Root said in a statement posted on social media. In Missouri, St Louis Mayor Cara Spencer confirmed five deaths in her city and said more than 5,000 homes were affected. "Our city is in mourning

tonight," she told reporters. "The loss of life and destruction is truly, truly horrific." Another tornado struck Scott County, about 209km (130 miles) south of St Louis, killing two people, injuring several others and destroying multiple homes, Sheriff Derick Wheatley wrote on social media.

Our first responders acted swiftly, even while the tornado was still active, putting themselves in harm's way to provide immediate assistance and care to those injured," he said. The storms, which began on Friday, are part of a severe weather system that has also spawned tornadoes in Wisconsin, leaving thousands of people without power in the Great Lakes region and bringing a punishing heatwave to Texas. A dust storm warning was issued around the Chicago area on Friday

night. The weather service said a wall of dust extended along a 161km (100-mile) line from southwest of Chicago to northern Indiana that severely reduced visibility.

In Texas, a heat advisory was issued for San Antonio and Austin cities, with temperatures at a blistering 95F (35C) to 105F (40.5C). Parts of the southern East Coast, from Virginia to Florida, also battled with heat in the 90s (32-37C). The National Weather Service Office for Austin and San Antonio said humidity over the weekend was expected to make temperatures feel hotter. "There are concerns of heat exhaustion for people that aren't taking proper precautions when they're outdoors," meteorologist Jason Runyen said, advising those affected to take breaks and stay hydrated. — Aljazeera

ATC schedules indictment of suspects

LAHORE: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore has scheduled the indictment of suspects in the Jinnah House attack case for May 24, 2025. According to reports, ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gull conducted the Jinnah House attack case hearing at Kot Lakhpat Jail, where the court proceedings were held under tight security.

During the hearing, the court distributed copies of the charge sheets among 267 accused individuals, setting the stage for formal indictment. Key political figures, including PTI Dr Yasmin Rashid, were present during the hearing, and their attendance was officially recorded.

Other prominent individuals such as Aliya Hamza and Khadijah Shah also appeared before the court as part of the ongoing jail trial. The case revolves around the violent protests and alleged vandalism that took place at the Jinnah House, a significant military installation, last year.

The suspects are facing serious charges under Pakistan's anti-terrorism laws. The upcoming hearing on May 24 is expected to witness the formal framing of charges against all accused, following which the trial will proceed in full swing.

PM phones

(Continued from Page 1)

He said Iran was committed to promote peace and stability in the region. The both leaders also exchanged views on Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations and agreed to enhance cooperation in all areas of shared interest, especially trade, connectivity, security and people-to-people contacts. The Iranian President extended an invitation to the prime minister to undertake an official visit to Tehran which was graciously accepted.

Govt committed to fostering digital ecosystem: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the government of Pakistan was committed to fostering a digital ecosystem that promoted inclusion, empowered women and left no one behind.

In a message on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025, he said, "Through targeted policies, skills development programs, and gender-sensitive digital infrastructure, we are working to ensure that women and girls can actively participate in and benefit from the digital transformation of our society." He said, "On the occasion of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, I extend warm felicitations to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for its leader-

ship in advancing inclusive and equitable digital development worldwide."

"This year's theme, 'Why Gender Equality in Digital Transformation Matters' served as an urgent call to action: to ensure that the benefits of technological progress were shared equally by all members of society, he said adding Pakistan made remarkable progress in narrowing the gender digital divide.

In 2024-2025, eight million more women gained mobile internet access, reducing the gender gap from 38% to 25% ; the highest improvement globally, led by rural women. The prime minister said these gains were part of Pakistan's broader digital transformation. "We have crossed 200 million telecom subscriptions, 150 million broadband users, and 2 million FTTH connections; while our mobile manufacturing grew by 47.46%, and international connectivity was boosted through high-capacity submarine cables.

"Today, Pakistan's mobile ecosystem contributes \$16.7 billion to the economy," he added. He said, "On this important day, I call on all stakeholders to champion gender-responsive digital transformation and continue building an inclusive and empowered digital Pakistan."

Libyan ministers quit

TRIPOLI: Several ministers with Libya's internationally recognised government have resigned in support of the protesters calling for Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to step down. The government late on Friday said a police officer was killed in an "attempted assault" on the prime minister's office as thousands of Libyans marched into squares and various areas in the capital, Tripoli.

"He was shot by unknown attackers and succumbed to his injuries," a statement said, adding that members of a group who mixed with the protesters tried to set the office on fire using Molotov cocktails. Economy and Trade Minister Mohamed al-Hawij, Local Government Minister Badr Eddin al-Tumi and Minister of Housing Abu Bakr al-Ghawi resigned, according to a video released by two of those ministers as well as local media reports.

The government had earlier on Friday denied reports of the ministers' resignations. Meanwhile, in the city of Misrata, protesters gathered in support of Dbeibah and his government. The protests follow a wave of violence in Tripoli in the past week that led to the deaths of at least eight civilians. The deadly clashes started after powerful militia leader Abdelghani al-Kikli, also known as Gheniwa, was killed in an ambush at a military base. — Aljazeera

Israeli strikes kill 146 Palestinians in Gaza

JERUSALEM (Reuters): Israel's air force killed at least 146 Palestinians in new attacks on Gaza over the past 24 hours and injured many more, local health authorities said on Saturday, as the country appeared set to press ahead with a new ground offensive.

Israeli strikes since Thursday have seen one of the deadliest phases of bombardment since a truce collapsed in March. The latest strikes came as US President Donald Trump ended his Middle East tour on Friday with no apparent progress towards a new ceasefire. "Since midnight, we have received 58 martyrs, while a large number of victims remain under the rubble. The situation inside the hospital is catastrophic," said the director of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan Al-Sultan.

Israel's military said on Saturday it is conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops as part of preparations to expand operations in the Gaza Strip and achieve "operational control" in areas of the Palestinian enclave. The escalation, which includes the build-up of armoured forces along the border, is part of the initial stages of "Operation Gideon's Wagons", which Israel says is aimed at defeating Hamas and getting its hostages back.

An Israeli defence official said earlier this month that the operation would not be launched before Trump concluded his visit to the Middle East. United Nations experts warn that famine looms in Gaza after Israel blocked aid deliveries to the strip 76 days ago, with UN aid chief Tom Fletcher asking the Security

New Gaza talks 'without any preconditions' begin in Doha

DOHA (AFP): A senior Hamas official said a new round of indirect negotiations with Israel aimed at ending the war in Gaza started in Doha "without any preconditions" on Saturday. The announcement came as Israel's military launched a new Gaza offensive, saying it was part of "the expansion of the battle in the Gaza Strip" aimed at defeating the Palestinian militant group. "This round of negotiations began without any preconditions from either side, and the negotiations are open to discussing all issues," said senior Hamas official Taher Al-Nun,.

"Hamas will present its viewpoint on all issues, especially ending the war, (Israel's) withdrawal and prisoner exchange." Prior rounds of negotiations have failed to secure a breakthrough on ending the war, and a two-month ceasefire between the sides fell apart when Israel resumed its operations in Gaza on March 18. The renewed fighting came after Israel imposed a total aid blockade on the territory that UN agencies warn has created critical shortages of food, clean water, fuel and medicines. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz credited the intensified campaign with bringing Hamas back to the table. "With the opening of Operation 'Gideon's Chariots' in Gaza, which is being led by the IDF (Israeli army) command with great force, the Hamas delegation in Doha announced a return to negotiations on a hostage deal — in contrast to the recalcitrant position they had taken up until that moment," he said. Negotiations for the release of the captives held in Gaza have been ongoing, with the latest talks taking place in Doha. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said this week he had instructed a negotiating team to head to the Qatari capital.

Council this week if it would act to "prevent genocide".

Trump on Friday acknowledged Gaza's growing hunger crisis and the need for aid deliveries, as international pressure grows on Israel to resume ceasefire talks and end its blockade of Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on May 5 that Israel was planning an expanded, intensive offensive against Hamas as his security cabinet approved plans that could involve seizing the entire Gaza Strip

and controlling aid.

Israel's declared goal in Gaza is the elimination of the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas, which attacked Israeli communities on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and seizing about 250 hostages. Its military campaign has devastated the tiny, crowded enclave, pushing nearly all inhabitants from their homes and killing more than 53,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities.

UN chief repeats rejection of Israeli-US aid plan for Gaza

NEW YORK CITY: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has repeated his rejection of a joint Israeli-US plan to bypass his organization in delivering aid to Gaza. The UN chief's comments came two days after satellite imagery revealed construction of new aid distribution centers in the enclave. Guterres was speaking on Saturday at the annual Arab League summit in Baghdad, where the situation in Gaza dominated the agenda.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Al-Sudani said in his opening speech at the summit: "This genocide (in Gaza) has reached a level of ugliness unparalleled in all conflicts in history." As well as Gaza, the UN chief also drew attention to events in the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and Libya. He opened his speech by praising Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit and said that the UN hopes to "further strengthen" its partnership with the league.

"I am alarmed by reported plans by Israel to expand ground operations and more," he added, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unimpeded flow of aid to the enclave. Since March, Israel has implemented a total blockade of humanitarian aid entering Gaza in a bid to step up pressure on Hamas. The latest Israeli plan to allow third parties to deliver aid aims to ensure deliveries reach the

right people, the country's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, has said.

However, Guterres has repeatedly rejected the Israeli plan. "I emphasize that the UN will not participate in any so-called aid operation that does not adhere to international law and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality," he said on Saturday. The UN chief also highlighted the situation in the West Bank, where settler annexation and the building of illegal settlements has escalated.

"Annexation is illegal. Settlements are illegal," he said. Guterres highlighted next month's high-level conference on the Palestinian issue, co-hosted by Saudi Arabia and France, as an "important opportunity." He said: "The world, the region — and, most of all, the people of Palestine and Israel — cannot afford to watch the two-state solution disappear before our eyes."

On Lebanon, Guterres praised the "stated commitment by Lebanese officials to ensure a state monopoly over weapons." It comes as the UN's peacekeeping force in the country, UNIFIL, works in tandem with the Lebanese army to seize Hezbollah arms caches in the country's south. In neighboring Syria, a political process "based on the key principles of Security Council resolution 2254" will "safeguard the rights and partici-

pation of all Syrians regardless of ethnicity and religion, and ensure their protection," Guterres said.

The UN chief also welcomed the Houthi-US ceasefire mediated by Oman that was reached earlier this month. "The trajectory of violence must cease as we work for a negotiated Yemeni-led political settlement," he said. Guterres said he was "very grateful" to the Arab League and African Union for "the excellent coordination meeting that we managed to have yesterday" on the situation in Sudan.

"In Libya, we are actively engaging with national and international actors to end the confrontation between armed groups, to preserve the independence of key oversight institutions, to address the obstacles preventing national elections, and set the course for long-term stability and prosperity — in line with the Libyan people's needs and aspirations," he said. The Arab League is a "vital partner" in these efforts, he added. "Despite the enormous challenges, let us draw lessons and hope from here in Baghdad. Working in unity and solidarity, we can help resolve conflicts and build a future of peace and prosperity," Guterres said. "That is the shared goal of the Arab League and the UN, and I look forward to continue to deepen our partnership together." — Arab News

Trump to speak to Russian, Ukrainian leaders tomorrow

ISTANBUL (Reuters): US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would speak to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine on Monday following talks between the two sides at which a Ukrainian official said Moscow's negotiators voiced new demands before a ceasefire could be agreed.

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies preparations were underway for a conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump. The talks in Turkey on Friday were the first time the sides had held face-to-face talks since March 2022, weeks after Russia's full-scale invasion of its smaller neighbour.

A senior Ukrainian official familiar with the talks said Russian negotiators demanded Ukraine pull its troops out of all Ukrainian regions claimed by Moscow before they would agree to a ceasefire. Trump, writing on Truth Social, said he would speak with Putin to discuss stopping the war at 10 a.m. Eastern (1400 GMT) on Monday. He said he would speak afterward with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and various members of NATO. "Hopefully it will be a productive day, a ceasefire will take place, and this very violent war, a war that should have never happened, will end." Trump had offered to travel to Turkey for the talks while in the Gulf last week if Putin would also attend, but Putin sent a team of negotiators instead. The president has been pressuring Putin and Zelenskiy to agree to a ceasefire in the more than three-year-old war.

The Kremlin declined to comment on the terms that Russia had put forward at Friday's meeting. The talks lasted only one hour and 40 minutes and yielded an agreement to trade 1,000 prisoners of war on each side. The two countries have not specified when that would happen. Zelenskiy called on Saturday for stronger sanctions on Moscow after a Russian drone killed nine bus passengers in the Sumy region of northeastern Ukraine. "This was a deliberate killing of civilians," he said. "Pressure must be exerted on Russia to stop the killings. Without tougher sanctions, without stronger pressure, Russia will not seek real diplomacy."

Russia, which denies targeting civilians, said it struck a military target in Sumy. Its defence ministry said Russian

Kremlin says Putin-Zelensky meeting possible only after agreement

MOSCOW (AFP): The Kremlin on Saturday said a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky would be possible only after both sides reach an agreement, a day after Moscow and Kyiv held their first direct talks in more than three years, which did not result in a truce. The morning after the talks, a Russian drone attack on a minibus carrying evacuated civilians in the eastern Sumy region killed nine people and wounded five, local authorities said. "Yesterday, as on any day of this war, there was an opportunity to cease fire," Zelensky wrote on social media following the attack, adding that "Russia only retains the opportunity to continue killing".

He reiterated his call on Ukraine's allies to step up sanctions on Moscow. "Without stronger sanctions, without stronger pressure on Russia, there will be no real diplomacy there," the Ukrainian president said. The first direct talks since the spring of 2022 — shortly after Moscow's full-scale invasion that February — between Ukraine and Russia in Istanbul resulted in a concrete agreement to exchange 1,000 prisoners each.

Ukraine's top negotiator, Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, said the "next step" would be a meeting between Zelensky and Putin. Russia said it took note of the request. "We consider it possible, but only as a result of the work and upon achieving certain results in the form of an agreement between the two sides," the Kremlin's spokesman said. Russia's top negotiator, Vladimir Medinskiy said that Moscow and Kyiv would "present their vision of a possible future ceasefire", without saying when.

The Kremlin said that first the POW swap must be completed and both sides need to present their visions for a ceasefire before fixing the next round of talks. "For now, we need to do what the delegations agreed on yesterday" in Turkiye, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding that "this, of course, means first and foremost to complete a 1,000 for 1,000 swap". The head of Ukraine's military intelligence Kirillo Budanov told broadcaster TSN he hoped the exchange would happen next week and that he saw no hurdles to the swap.

troops had captured another settlement in eastern Ukraine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke by telephone with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and said he welcomed the "positive role" of the United States in helping to secure a resumption of talks between Russia and Ukraine. A Russian foreign ministry statement quoted Lavrov as saying contacts would continue. The US State Department said that during the conversation Rubio welcomed the prisoner exchange agreement and emphasised Trump's call for an immediate ceasefire.

Ukraine and Western governments, including the US, have demanded Russia agree to an immediate, unconditional ceasefire lasting at least 30 days. But the Ukrainian source said Moscow's negotiators had demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson and

Luhansk regions of Ukraine, with a ceasefire to take place only after that. The source said that and other demands went beyond the terms of a draft peace deal that the United States proposed last month after consultations with Moscow. Peskov declined to comment on the Ukrainian account, saying talks should be conducted "absolutely behind closed doors".

He said the next steps would be to carry out the prisoner exchange and conduct further work between the two sides. Peskov said it was possible that Putin could meet Zelenskiy, but only if "certain agreements" were reached, which he did not specify. Zelenskiy had challenged Putin earlier in the week to meet him in person, an offer the Russian leader ignored. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said his country, after hosting the talks, was resolved to continue its mediation role.