Eidul Azha likely on June 7 F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has predicted that Eidul Adha 2025 is likely to be celebrated across Pakistan on Saturday, June 7, based on astronomical calculations. According to SUPARCO, the birth of the new moon for the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah will occur on May 27, 2025, at 08:02 am (Pakistan Standard Time).

Frontier Post

Three terrorists arrested F.P. Report

KARACHI: In a joint operation carried out by the Pakistan Rangers Sindh and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), three terrorists of Fitna-ul-Khwarij have been arrested in Karachi. The terrorists were identified as Naimatullah (alias Abid), Muhammad Noor (alias Mani), and Sabirullah (alias Daniyal), were traced in Mehran Town,

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First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C.

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

ZIQAAD 25 1446 -- FRIDAY, MAY 23 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

PRICE. 30

President, PM confer baton of Field Marshal on COAS

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday jointly conferred the baton of Field Marshal upon Syed Asim Munir, Chief of the Army Staff during a special investiture ceremony at President House here.

The prime minister handed over the baton to Field Marshal Asim Munir during the ceremony. Quaid of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Nawaz Sharif, federal cabinet ministers, governors, chief ministers, members of Parliament and services chiefs attended the ceremony.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were also in attendance. In his remarks, the President said, "Today, we are gathered here to honour our valiant armed forces and heroes of the Army, Navy, and Air Force who defended the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland against entire nation is proud of all of you."

"It is a matter of great pleasure for me to confer the baton of Field Marshal upon Chief of Army Staff
Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir
Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military in recognition of extraordinary service to
Pakistan during this turbulent period,

Marshal Asim Munir Swise
leadership, Pakistan's Armed Forces
created an unprecedented level of operational cohesiveness, he remarked. He noted that throughout
three weeks of Marka-e-Haq, Field and with full confidence in his command and character."

t, as resident of Pakistan, here-by promote General Syed Asim Munir to the full rank of Field Marshal and confer the baton of the Marshal and confer the baton of the Field Marshal. As Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, I Pakistani nation, who stood united was more than happy to approve the and resilient in the face of the conferment." The President said, enemy's aggression. "Our brave "Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Armed Forces and citizens presented your military career is forged with a united front and became a solid courage and refined by wisdom, a wall. Our victory was both military



strength and honour at the highest level of our armed forces." Under Field Marshal Asim Munir's wise

Marshal Asim displayed a pragmatic understanding of the need to avoid

unprovoked Indian aggression. The commitment to lead with vision, and moral. The world witnessed our strength, our restraint, and our resilience.

He reiterated that Pakistan was a peace-loving nation and believed in peaceful coexistence. "But our desire for peace must never be mistaken for weakness. We will not tolerate any attack upon our soil, and if needed we will fight for every inch in the air sea, rivers, jungles, and deserts. Any

President Zardari said, "This conferment of the rank of Field Marshal is a national recognition of the Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir's remarkable services to the homeland It is an acknowledgement of his firm leadership in defending Pakistan's

Pakistan to take control of rivers: ISPR DG

ISLAMABAD: (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry warned India that Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). In an interview with Al Jazeera TV, the ISPR DG said that the Pakistan's armed forces gave befitting reply to Indian aggression.

"India will never forget our response," he remarked. He said that the military strategy adopted by Pakistan would be studied for decades to come. He added that Pakistan had successfully thwarted India's objectives in the recent confrontation, claiming the nation's military superiority was evident. "Our armed forces' morale and superiority over India have further deepened public trust and affection towards the military, which now stands as a symbol of pride and honour," he said

The ISPR DG dismissed Indian media's narratives and said that it ran fabricated stories after the Pahalgam attack. "The world saw Indian forces waving white flags at several points along the Line of Control," he added. He said that Pakistan did not respond in the darkness of night like cowards.

our intention to respond, selected 26 targets, and successfully hit all of them," he said. Chaudhry also accused India of launching an information war filled with lies and propaganda. He also criticized India's internal political and social dynamics. — Aljazeera

Pakistan won't be intimidated by use or threat of force

Army top brass vows to decimate all six rivers flowing from Kashmir if it violated the Labor W to Tourist of the Control of the

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff, chaired (CCC) at the General Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

The Forum commenced with Fateha for the martyrs of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos and the heinous terrorist attack in Khuzdar, Balochistan, an atrocity perpetrated through India-sponsored proxies which resulted in the loss of four innocent children and two adults. The Forum unequivocally condemned this barbaric act, noting its deliberate targeting of non-combatants, particularly children, as a reprehensible violation of all norms of humanity and international conduct.

The Forum also paid solemn tribute to all martyrs of Marka-e-Haq who laid down their lives in defence of the nation during India's unprovoked aggression. It reaf-firmed that the sacred blood of the Shuhada shall not go in vain and safety and security of the people of Pakistan will continue to be the foremost priority of the Armed Forces. The Forum extended its felicitations to the Army Chief on his conferment as Field Marshal, acknowledging his strategic foresight, resolute leadership, and enduring contributions to national defence. A comprehensive review of the prevailing internal and external security environment was undertaken, with particular emphasis on the successful conclusion of Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, a decisive chapter of Marka-e-

ing support of the nation, which together repelled aggression with exemplary precision and resolve. The forum acknowledged Pakistan's media and information warriors who stood in step with the State against

ing facts and figures thereby fostering public trust and countering misinformation.

The forum wholeheartedly recognized the spirit and dynamic contributions of the the 270th Corps Commanders' Conference Pakistani youth, whose passion and patriotism rallied the National spirit as well as projection of national narrative. The Forum saluted the political leadership for their foresight and steering the Nation during the Marka-e-Haq with utmost clarity, conviction and resolve.

It was noted that history would recall with pride Pakistan's swift and resolute defensive posture, which neutralized a grave threat within hours of its emergence. Pakistan responded with strategic restraint and operational clarity, upholding both deterrence and moral authority. The Forum reaffirmed Pakistan's unyielding resolve to defend its sovereignty and territorial integri-ty against any act of aggression or misadventure.

Reiterating Pakistan's strategic stance, the Forum declared: "No one can coerce Pakistan through the use or threat of force. The nation will take all measures necessary to safeguard its vital interests." The Forum deliberated in depth on the threat posed by India-backed terrorist proxies operating in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was observed that following its military failure in the wake of the Pahalgam incident, India so called and self-claimed victim of terrorism but actually a perpetrator of terrorism and epicenter of regional instability, has upscaled the use of covert means, employing non-state actors to pursue its destabiliza-"We publicly declared rintention to respond, The Forum lauded the professionalism, The Forum lauded the professionalism, Pakistan will never allow its peace to be compromised by externally sponsored tersynergy, courage, and resilience of compromised by externally sponsored ter-Pakistan's Armed Forces and the unwaver-rorism. The Armed Forces, in close synergy with intelligence and law enforcement agencies, will pursue all proxies and facilitators of terrorism with unrelenting resolve. These hostile elements, trained and financed to incite chaos and fear, will be dismantled and Indian propaganda onslaught, fake news decimated with full force of national will and war hysteria, while accurately portray- and institutional strength, In Sha Allah.

India will never forget defeat: PM

F.P. Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said India would never forget the defeat in the recent "briefest yet most effective war" against India that also falsified those who thought Pakistan lagged behind in conventional war.

'Some thought Pakistan was behind in conventional warfare - this war proved them wrong. Our unity, courage, and faith will lead us to economic progress and ultimate victory... India will never forget this defeat. And Insha Allah, the day will dawn when Kashmir becomes part of Pakistan," he said while addressing a ceremony for distribution of compensation cheques among the families of those martyred in recent Marka-e-Haq - the recent Pakistan-India war. He was joined by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq and Federal Minister Engineer Amir Mugam, who lauded the leadership and valor shown by the Armed Forces and Muhammad Sharif stated that Pakistan's measured, yet forceful military response, to Indian aggression had rewritten and Pakistan's defensive capabilities to the world.

reflected on the recent conflict, triggered by what he May 10, India was pleading described as India's "false for a ceasefire. It was flag" Pahalgam operation, Allah's Will and our soland lauded the unwavering diers' courage that avenged courage of the Armed Forces and citizens of Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, praising (AJK). "A few days ago, national unity and Armed India's baseless accusations over the Pahalgam incident attempted to sabotage Pakistan offered a full international investigation.

But instead of accepting the offer, India launched AJK, resulting in 35 martyrs and 55 injured. We responded decisively individual. downing six Indian jets missiles," he said.

recounted pivotal moments free education for bereaved

IMF lauds Pakistan's economic progress F.P. Report

SLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehba Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed his government's com mitment to fast-track institutional reforms alongside macroeconomic stabilization, asserting that Pakistar was now firmly on the path to economic development ollowing a period of recovery and stability.

The Prime Minister expressed these remarks during igh-level meeting with a delegation from International Monetary Fund (IMF) led by Jihad Azour at the PM' Office. "With the grace of Allah, Pakistan is now mov ng from economic stability toward sustainable growth, Shehbaz Sharif said. He emphasized that the govern ment's top priority was not only to sustain macroeco nomic gains but also to expedite comprehensive institu ional reforms, crucial for long-term resilience.

During the meeting, the discussions focused on the mplementation and progress of ongoing IMF programme n Pakistan. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the economic reforms undertaken by the government and their accruing positive outcomes. The IMF delegation acknowledged the progress made under the reform agenda and assured the Prime Minister of continued suppor from the Fund in Pakistan's efforts for economic stability and inclusive growth. The meeting was also attended by key cabinet members including Federal Ministers Ahsan qbal Cheema and Muhammad Aurangzeb, Secretary inance Imdadullah Bosal, FBR Chairman Rashic Mehmood Langrial, and senior officials.

civilians. Prime Minister the early morning call from Shehbaz now Field Marshal COAS Asim Munir, confirming Indian missile strikes, and the decision to retaliate. This was the briefest yet proven most effective war, where Pakistan defended without harming civilians. Our The prime minister forces led by COAS Asim Munir turned the tide. By past wounds, including the memory of 1971," said the Forces' prowess across land, air, and sea.

Shehbaz Sharif told the regional peace. In response, gathering that the government had announced a comprehensive compensation package for the families of martyrs and the attacks on Bahawalpur and injured with Rs10 million per martyr's family and Rs2-5 million per injured

Besides the families of including their Rafale and martyrs of Armed Forces MiG-29 - and defended would be given Rs19-42 with honour using Al-Fatah million each for housing, full salaries and allowances prime minister until their retirement dates,

of the conflict, describing children, and Rs1 million marriage grant for their respective daughters. amount can equal the lives lost. But it's our duty to support these heroic families with dignity," he said.
"Their reward lies with Allah, and this nation stands indebted forever. reaffirmed also Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmir cause noting that his brother ex Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and all political parties had consistently advocated for Kashmir's right to

self-determination. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam welcomed the prime minis ter and lauded his compas

sionate leadership. "The Rs10 million compensation for the martyrs and Rs2 million for the injured is a commendable step," Muqam stated, also lauding "unmatched" overwhelming spirit in both troops and civilians. The families of martyrs have shown a level of zeal and courage that is nothing short of extraordinary, he

Pakistan kicks out another Indian HC staffer F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Declaring Indian High another Commission staffer as persona non grata, Pakistan has expelled the diplomat asking him to leave the country within 24 hours, the second such expulsion in this month.

The Foreign Office (FO) Thursday summoned Charge d'Affaires Geetika Srivastava and handed her a protest demarche. According to a statement released by the Foreign Office in Islamabad on Thursday, Indian Charge d'Affaires Geetika Srivastava was summoned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A letter of protest was handed over to the Indian Charge d'Affaires, and was instructed to prevent Indian diplomatic personnel from being involved in negative activi-

The statement further said "An official of the Indian Commission Pakistan was declared persona non grata. The Indian official was found to be involved in activities contrary to his diplomatic status The said Indian official was ordered to leave Pakistan

within 24 hours.' A day earlier, India had also expelled a Pakistani official working at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on charges of involvement in espionage. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the staffer at the Pakistan mission has been declared "persona non grata" for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status and that he has been given 24 hours to leave India.

On May 13, India expelled another Pakistani for allegedly official indulging in espionage Following India's action, Pakistan had also expelled an Indian staffer posted at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Tensions between Pakistan and India escalated after the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives. Following which India carried out missile attacks civilian targets in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir on May 7, following which Pakistan destroyed multiple targets including several Indian jet fighter planes in its retaliation.

Thank You for Strengthening Pakistan's Energy Backbone













We commend the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan for resolving the Sales Tax matter impacting oil refineries for this fiscal year.

To permanently resolve, we strongly urge the government to restore the taxable status of petroleum products in the upcoming federal budget, to ensure investor confidence and progress on over USD 6 billion investment in refinery upgrades critical to energy security.















Pakistani Ambassador attends guinness record ceremony



DUBAI: Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, joined a special event at Pakistan Association Dubai (PAD), where a UAE flag made from 24,514 handprints was recognized by Guinness World Records. Consul General Hussain Muhammad also

F.P. Report

The flag, symbolizing unity, featured community.

prints from over 100 nationalities. It was a joint effort by PAD, Emirates Loves Pakistan, and artist Rubab Zahra Ambassador Tirmizi praised the project as a heartfelt expression of community spirit and mentioned a new book by Pakistani author Khan Zaman on Sheiki Zayed's legacy. PAD President Dr. Faisal Ikram thanked all contributors, calling the achievement a proud moment for the

Paramedics at KBM hospital stage protest

F.P. Report

organized under the banner ees continue to struggle of the All Government without any relief," he said. Employees Coordination Pakhtunkhwa, was part of a province-wide campaign lack of salary adjustment forced to expand our demanding fair wage during soaring inflation protest movement," Asif increases for government "an act of hostility towards Khan warned.

PESHAWAR: Paramedical Muhammad Asif Khan, and Class IV staff at President of Nasrullah Thursday against the over the government's priprovincial government's orities. "It is unfortunate He to failure to increase salaries that salaries of parliamen- ment in light of rising inflation. tarians are being increased demonstration, while government employ-

Speaking at the protest, strongly opposed recent pension reforms, accusing the government of attempt Nasrullah Khan Memorial Khan Memorial Hospital, ing to "snatch the last Hospital held a protest on expressed disappointment morsel of bread from pen-

He urged the governto immediately their demands accept which include a salary increase in proportion to inflation and a reversal of Asif Khan criticized the the controversial pension Council (AGECC) Khyber provincial government for reforms. "If our demands its inaction, calling the are not met, we will be

India involved in recent terrorism in Balochistan

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Governor targeting several Indian Haider Khan said that the pride. nation stood united in the Governor said that India face of Indian aggression, demonstrating unwavering solidarity. India is involved in the recent terrorism in Balochistan, Punjab local government institutions are of prime importance in the development of the country. He expressed these views while meeting the under training officers from Punjab Local Government Academy Lala Musa in Governor House Lahore. the training of officers were also discussed in the meet-

Saleem Haider Khan said in the recent terrorism in that India used the Balochistan. Pahalgam incident as an excuse to target innocent ists who play with innocent people and mosques in the human lives will not be fordark of night. He said that given under any circum-Pakistan had categorically stances. denied involvement in the Governor Sardar Saleem Pahalgam incident. The Haider Khan further said that government officials Punjab Governor said that that the institutions of the should create facilities for on the contrary, India con- Punjab Local Government the people, especially the

The

Pakistan Army retaliated by country. He said that the local government system is Punjab Sardar Saleem installations and crushed its the foundation of any dem-Punjab ocratic system. The Governor of Punjal



Various issues including will remember the destruc- said that the PPP believes in tion of Pakistani forces on its soil for many genera- tem so that the public repretions. The Punjab Governor Punjab Governor Sardar said that India is involved

He said that these terror-The Punjab tinued its nefarious activi- have special importance in poor.

the local government sys sentatives can be truly empowered at the grass roots level. He said that the young generation should contribute to the development and progress of the country by staying positive. The Governor of Punjab while emphasizing on public service delivery, said

Police apprehend suspects in fatal shooting

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Two suspects Pakistan Penal Code has involved in the fatal shoot- been registered at Gulshaning of 24-year-old Kamran i-Iqbal Police Station. Abbas during a robbery in Following their arrest, the Gulshan-i-Iqbal on May 14 suspects were found in pose exchange operations during have been apprehended in a session of a motorcycle that police encounter in New had been snatched in Karachi Industrial Area.

identified as Sajjad alias under sections 397 and 34 Sajawal and Nadir, were of the Pakistan Penal Code captured in a firefight with has been filed at Gulistan-ipolice in the early hours on Jauhar Police Station tion, FIA officials seized Thursday. Their identities regarding the motorcycle were confirmed through theft. CCTV footage and other evidence.

of fatally shooting Kamran crimes, including motorcy-Abbas in the head during a cle thefts. Police officials robbery outside a Bank have stated that further Islami branch in Gulshan-i- investigations are under- taking further legal action Iqbal. A murder case (FIR way to identify and appreagainst the suspect.

302/2025) under sections hend their accomplices. 302, 397, and 34 of the

Gulistan-i-Jauhar. A sepa-The arrested individuals, rate case (FIR 28/2025)

Both suspects are known criminals with a history of The suspects are accused involvement in street

FIA arrests accused: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has apprehended a suspect involved illegal currency a raid in Karachi's I.I

Chundrigar Road. The arrested individual identified as Muneeb, was found operating an unlicensed currency exchange business. During the opera-\$13,000 in US dollars from his possession. Muneeb was unable to provide satisexplanations factory regarding the source of the recovered currency. The FIA has initiated an investigation into the matter and is

prayers of martyred offered F.P. Report OKARA: The funeral

Funeral

Home

prayer for Martyr Hafza Kausar, who was a passenger on the bus targeted in a terrorist attack in Khuzdar was held in her native village, Chak 52-2L, Okara. The ceremony was attended by Pakistan Army personnel, political and social figures, local residents, and family members.

The atmosphere in the area was mournful, with every eye tearful. Hafza Kausar, who was residing in Khuzdar, Balochistan with her family for educational purposes, lost her life in this attack.

Hafza Kausar's father Iftikhar, who is employed in the Pakistan Army, stated on this occasion that he is willing to sacrifice everything for his country. He considered his daughter's sacrifice significant for the nation and expressed his determination to make an example out of the terrorists. After the funeral prayer, prayers were offered at Hafza Kausar's grave, and floral wreaths were laid. The local community expressed pride in the Pakistani armed forces and praised the martyr's

Mob attack on hospital sparks outrage

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) today issued a strong condemnation following a violent mob attack on Kohi Goth Hospital in Landhi, Karachi, which left hospital staff assaulted ambulances damaged, and essential healthcare services disrupted.

The incident involved a mob from nearby villages storming the 250-bed facility, targeting staff with sticks and stones, and vandalizing critical infrastructure. This hospital, which offers free medical treatment to the poor and underprivileged, including specialized care for women, is now facing significant operational challenges.

The PMA expressed deen sadness and outrage over what it describes as a "crime against humanity," emphasizing that healthcare facilities are sanctuaries for the sick and injured. They argue that any attack on such institutions is an assault on the fundamental right to health and a disservice to the community.

Three killed in Mardan F.P. Report

MARDAN: Three persons including father and two sons were gunned down over a land dispute in Garyala locality in the limits of Shahbazgari Police station here on Thursday.

officials Shahbazgari Police Station said that the slain persons were identified as Ibad Khan 60, his sons Sheraz 24 and Ali 21. As per the preliminary investigations, the officials said that the deceased persons were working in their agricultural fields when their rivals armed with automatic weapons rushed to the spot and opened indiscriminate firing over them which led to their instant death.

The alleged killers, who were identified as three brothers named Kosar Zawar and Rehmat, fled the spot after committing the triple murdered case. The police had lodged an FIR on the complaint of Farukh Siyar, sister of the victim Ibad Khan, against the alleged killers. The police officials said that they had not only begun further investigations into the triple murdered case but accelerated their also efforts to arrest the alleged killers as soon as possible.

Chief Secretary cracks down on absenteeism

KARACHI: In a decisive move to enforce discipline, Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hyder Shah today conducted an unannounced inspection of various offices within the Sindh Secretariat on Thursday.

ing hours, leading to immediate suspension,

Secretary took corrective measures Khoso received an explanation by issuing show-cause notices to notice. Director General Colleges Naveed Rab Siddiqui, Regional Director the issue, Shah personally signed Colleges Karachi Faqir Muhammad the attendance registers in the Lakho, and Director Private Colleges offices of the absent officers. He Karachi Syed Abdul Qadir Shah. emphasized the critical importance

administrative actions. The Chief Commissioner South Javed Nabi

To underline the seriousness of During his visit, he expressed strong displeasure over the absence of several key officials during work-Deputy as intolerable.

Effective leadership brings down crime and wins public trust: DPO

Saqib Mushtaq

LODHRAN: In a commendable disimproving law and order in District

Under DPO Ali Bin Tariq's direction, the district has witnessed a noticeable decrease in street crime and theft, with recent statistics showing a 70% reduction compared to the same period last year.

Both government officials and 'DPO Ali Bin Tariq has not only strengthened the operational capacity of the police force but also built strong relationships with the commu-Channer, president of the District Bar Association.

DPO Ali Bin Tariq's initiatives, including a crackdown on drug trafficking and the introduction of a digital complaint management system, have enhanced transparency and accountability. Additionally, the successful resolution of several highprofile cases has earned him wide-

Citizens have reported improved response times and a renewed sense of safety, especially in previously play of leadership and community-focused policing, District Police and protected," said a local resident, Officer (DPO) Ali Bin Tariq has highlighting the visible police presdelivered outstanding performance ence and proactive patrolling. As the over the past 30 days, significantly district moves forward, the leadership and dedication of DPO Ali Bin Tariq stand as models of modern and effective policing, driven by integrity, strategy, and public service.

Shortly after DPO Ali Bin Tariq took over, he familiarized himself with the district, leading to changes in some Station House Officers (SHOs) to enhance efficiency. He held meetlocal residents have praised the offi- ings with local traders' associations, cer's focus on intelligence-based members of the peace committee, operations and community policing. civil society representatives, lawyers, and the media to implement effective crime prevention strategies. Ali Bin Tariq also conducted spe-

cial meetings with Investigation nity through regular open courts Officers (IOs) throughout the district (khuli kachehris) and awareness cam- to ensure that case files (challans) paigns," said Malik Allah Nawaz were presented in relevant courts promptly, enabling timely punishment for criminals. He reviewed the Court and ordered further improvements. He also visited a mock exer-Commissioner Lodhran Dr. Lubna

hope for a zero-tolerance policy of martyrs at every level.

against corruption, assurance that false cases will not be registered, and respect for the sanctity of homes (Chadar Char Divari) to prevent police intrusions. They expect that complaints submitted at police stations will be listened to respectfully, with full assistance provided.

Plans are in place to eliminate tout mafias from police stations. Employees who have been posted in the same position for more than security measures at the Sessions three years will be replaced or reassigned to allow new personnel a chance. Direct access for the public cise organized by Civil Defense and to SHOs and the DPO will be Lodhran Police alongside Deputy ensured, and corrupt SHOs will be removed from the district. Furthermore, assistance and empa-The people of Lodhran District thy will be extended to the families

Sindh

announces

summer

vacation

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Edu-

cation Department has

announced summer vaca-

tion for all educational

institutions. According to

the Education Department's

announcement made on

Thursday, the summer

vacation will start from

June 1 and end on July 31.

will be applicable on all gov-

ernment and private educa-

tional institutions. A day ear-

lier, observing the ongoing

extreme heat and an intense

heatwave across Punjab, the

provincial government had

officially announced sum-

mer Vacation for all schools

starting from May 28 and

will end on August 14. The

Department had issued a

notification regarding sum-

mer vacations starting from

May 28 to August 14. From

May 21, the schools' timings

be from 7:30 am t

Education

School

11:30 am.

The vacation directive

Govt to vanish Indian proxies at any cost: Mir

F.P. Report

HUB: Provincial Minister a cowardly act, saying that those involved are India's pet dogs, which are devoid that after suffering a historically humiliating defeat at army on the battlefield, ments. India has lost its senses and like Khuzdar.

ents and families and assure that the Khuzdar attack was roots.

F.P. Report

International Airport.

Following a warm gers. reception, His Excellency He

martyrs will not go in vain. We will not rest until those Agriculture and responsible are sent to hell. Cooperatives Balochistan, He said that the attack on Mir Ali Hassan Zehri, has the children's van was carstrongly condemned the ried out with Indian backrecent terrorist attack on a ing and is a continuation of bus carrying innocent chil- the nefarious agenda of dren in Khuzdar. In his Indian intelligence agenstatement of condemnation, cies in Balochistan. The he described the incident as enemy will not succeed in

made it clear that the brave of humanity. Mir Ali and patriotic people of Hassan Zehri said that, Balochistan will never let Balochistan will never let what kind of bravery or the conspiracies of the Baloch pride is it to target enemy and its handful of on Indian scraps succeed. We will soon settle the the hands of the Pakistani score with these vile ele-

is now trying to destabilize institutions to immediately the peace in Balochistan arrest those involved in the through cowardly incidents incident and make them an one who dares cast an evil Expressing deep sorrow and sympathy with the parents of the martyred chilagainst India's interference example to only the same that strong interference and sympathy with the parents of the martyred chilagainst India's interference against India's i dren, he stated, India and its in Balochistan. He added alongside its courageous allies have attacked our more that this is not a time armed forces in the past and future. Every eye is tearful for silence—it's a time to defeated enemies, it will over the martyrdom of deliver a decisive response once again uproot the canthese innocent children. We to the enemies. Mir Ali cer of terrorism spread by

them that the blood of the planned in India and exe-

He called on security share in the grief of the par- Hassan Zehri further stated India and its allies from its

Ambassador of KSA

visit Sialkot Airport

SIALKOT: Sialkot dialogue was both mean- a move poised to strengthen

the distinct honour of ing, with special focus on economic and cultural rela-

International Airport had ingful and forward-look-

receiving His Excellency enhancing bilateral ties Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al- through aviation connec-

Malkiy the Ambassador of tivity. The Ambassador

the Kingdom of Saudi while appreciating the piv-

Arabia to Pakistan, who otal role of Sialkot's busi-

was graciously welcomed ness community in devel-

upon arrival by the opment and continued suc-

Chairman, Vice Chairman, cess of the airport,

and Chief Executive acknowledged it's high Officer of Sialkot standard of services being

engaged in a cordial meet- about future collaboration

ing with the airport leader- and assured that Saudi

ship, where matters of Airlines (the Kingdom's

mutual interest were dis- national carrier), is actively Arabia.

its objectives,

cussed in a spirit of coop- considering to commence

eration and goodwill. The its operations from Sialkot,

cuted by its pawns in Balochistan. Very soon, God willing, these vile elements will be sent to hell and brought to their rightful He said that after India's defeat in the battle of truth,

its true ugly face has been exposed to the world. The world is cursing India for how it, in the arrogance of Mir Ali Hassan Zehri its supposed military superiority and under the cover of darkness, launched missiles at peaceful Pakistan and started a war. But Pakistan's brave armed innocent children? He said corrupt agents who survive forces responded wisely, shattered India's arrogance, and foiled its plan to ignite war in the region. This proved to the world that while Pakistan desires peace, it will deliver a crushing response to anyexample for others. He also eye on its soil. Mir Ali

air connectivity and deepen

tions between the two

on a positive and promising

note, symbolised by the

exchange of souvenirs/

gifts and sharing apprecia-

tion for the growing part-

nership. His Excellency

was seen off with profound

respect and gratitude,

marking a memorable

moment in the ongoing

friendship between Islamic

the Kingdom of Saudi

Republic of Pakistan and

The meeting concluded

brotherly nations.

Girl found hanging from her dupatta F.P. Report

KARACHI: A 12-year-old girl was found dead hanging from a duppata at the home of her paternal uncle in Surjani Town. According to rescue officials, the deceased has been identified as Mehak Dastgir. The body has been shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for postmortem and legal action.

Surjani Town police station ŠHO Muhammad Ali Shah said that evidence has been collected from the scene. Though the child's family says she committed suicide for unknown reasons, police will investigate the matter thoroughly. Investigation is being carried out from all aspects of the incident and the real cause of death will be revealed only after the postmortem report. deceased's father Ghulam Dastgir told the media at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital that he had left Mehak with his elder brother. On Wednesday afternoon, his brother called him to inform him that Mehak had passed away.

Meanwhile, a high-level meeting was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Karachi Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi, focusing on accelerating the operation against encroachments and discussing various issues.

نمبر0323-9411312 پر رابطه کریں۔

New school to educate 660 children

Sialkot standard of services being

provided to the passen-

He expressed optimism

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In a shining art campus. example of public-private illiteracy in Sindh, Green by Crescent Trust (GCT) has Trust, 660 out-of-school chil- academic Malir, near Education

school, previously operat- villages

now move into a newly constructed state-of-the-

The new school buildcollaboration to combat ing has been constructed Mohammad Shafi which announced a transforma- financed the developtive partnership with the ment, while Khuddam Sindh Education Education Trust donated Foundation (SEF) and the land. SEF will contintwo leading charitable ue to support the project organizations to educate by covering the recurring expenses. dren in the underserved ensuring sustainability belt of District and long-term impact.

The upgraded facility will initially enroll 330 This initiative marks a children from 22 nearby major milestone in GCT's villages, with plans to ongoing mission to pro- double the enrollment to vide quality education to 660 students in two children from marginal-shifts, providing educa-ized communities. The tion up to Class 10. These collectively ing for over a decade in a house a population of modest building in over 10,000 residents, Bakhsu Goth—on land many of whom have had generously donated by a limited access to educabenefactor—will tional opportunities.

The inauguration cere mony of the new school is expected to be a highprofile event, with Sindh Government Local Minister Saeed Ghani likely to preside.

برائے سال 26-2025

ٹینڈرنوٹس برائے کنزروینسی مالیاتی سال 26-2025 ایک سال کی مت کے لیے بی اے ایف میں بیثاور سے کوڑا کرکٹ اٹھانے کے لیے سر بمہر ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں۔ صرف گورنمنٹ رجٹرڈ كنريكرزنيندرجع كرانے كے مجاز مول ع _سربمبرنيندراوى الدمن ونگ كنام 10 جسون 2025 م 10:30 بج تك وصول ك جاكين ك_ شيندراس دن بونت 10:30 بج مح كهو ل ہائیں گے۔ بیس انتظامیرکوت حاصل ہے کہ وہ تکنیکی وجوہ کی بناء برکوئی بھی ٹینڈ رمستر دکرد ہے۔ ٹینڈر کے قواعد وضوابط پرسنیل اسکواڈرن آفس، ہیں پشاور سے حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ مزید معلومات کے لیے فون نمبر 091-9210777 Ext 5037 اور موبائل

آ فیسر کمانڈنگ،ایڈمن ونگ

بی۔اے۔ایف بیس، پشاور



PESHAWAR: Lady Health Workers talking to Provincial Minister for Health Ehtesham Ali after

LHWs end sit-in after successful negotiations with government

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Lady heat conditions by LHWs sit-in protest in front of the initiated formal talks with Assembly after successful The negotiation team negotiations with the included Shaheen Union's provincial government. Provincial President Provincial Minister for Akhtar Bibi, Provincial Health, Ehtesham Ali, General Secretary Ishrat assured demands

the announcement was utes of the meeting would made on Thursday after- be shared within two days. General Secretary of the taken official steps toward

protest held under extreme framework. Pakhtunkhwa the union representatives.

talks, the Health Minister Department. According to details, assured them that the min-

Under the agreed for-Health Workers (LHWs) from across the province, mula, promotions will be protesting women to have ended their two-day the Provincial Minister granted based on seniority return home, acknowledgand a percentage system: ing the hardships they

official documentation to Health the union's negotiation announced the end of the assured the protesting Malik, Rafasiyat Qamar, team and assured that the sit-in, expressing gratitude workers that all their Naeema Bibi, and other summary would soon be to the Provincial Minister demands would be union officials. During the forwarded to the Finance for his cooperation and

He acknowledged the vital role LHWs play in providing health services Ishrat Malik also extended her thanks to the media for noon during a press brief- He also confirmed that the in remote and conflict- their support and covering by Ishrat Malik, health department had affected areas of the age, which she said played province and emphasized a crucial role in bringing Shaheen Union of Lady the promotion and regular-Health Workers. She statization of 12,439 LHWs the government's committeer their demands to the government's attention.

He also appealed to the 40% of LHWs will be pro- endured by traveling from moted to scale 9, while far-flung areas in extreme 30% to scale 9. heat. In response, the The minister presented Shaheen Union of Lady

transparency. General

Government to resolve issues of Galiyat hotel industry

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An important meeting was held Development under the chairmanship of Shahrukh Ali, the Advisor to the Chief from the Culture, Chanzeb, with a representa-Galiyat Hotel Association Culture at the committee room of Authority.

Tourism and Culture Dr. Abbasi, Muhammad Khan, Khyber Department,

on Tourism Pakhtunkhwa Zahid Authority,

Bakhtiar Azeem, and others.

Authority Galiyat Hotel Association tion, food, and recreation officials delegation presented their for tourists while also creat-Finance concerns and demands, ing employment opportuni-Khyber which included the lump ties for the local popula-Revenue sum recovery of excise tax tion. Referring to the clear Excise and from 2022 to 2024, the directives of Chief Minister Taxation Department, and duration of the tourism sea- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali tive delegation of the the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa son, tax rates, and issues Amin Khan Gandapur, he and Tourism related to double taxation. assured that the govern-

the Department of Tourism

The hotel industry was and Culture stated that port to the hotel industry to and Culture. The meeting represented by Sardar there is a deep connection enhance the attractiveness was attended by Secretary Hameed, Waseem Ahmed between the hotel industry of tourist destinations.

Muhammad and tourism, and this sector plays a vital role in provid-During the meeting, the ing quality accommoda-The Advisor for Tourism ment will extend full sup-

Exploring new tourist destinations vital for robust economic development

PESHAWAR (APP): Amid growing tions in KP," he said. tourist congestion at popular destiand Kaghan, the provincial government is now spotlighting lesserknown but equally breathtaking sites to diversify its tourism portfolio for robust rural economic development.

With traditional tourism sites such Nathiagali and Thandyani Abbottabad nearing saturation during peak summer seasons in the province, the KP Culture and Tourism Authority pivoted toward accessibility and visitor experience. unlocking the potential of hidden gems—from the serene Chitral valleys to the untouched beauty of Gabin Jabba, Shahi Bagh in Swat, and Kumrat Dir Upper.

These breathtaking areas, once accessible only to seasoned trekkers and mountaineers of tour groups, are now being developed with ecofriendly infrastructure and modern amenities by increasing the flow of foreign and domestic tourists to

northern KP. In 2024 alone, KP has welcomed over 10 million domestic tourists, driven by interest in the province's natural beauty, lakes/waterfalls and historical landmarks such as the Gandhara civilization sites, Saiful Malook lake and Trich Mir, the highest peak in the Hindu Kush range in Chitral. Building on this momentum, the government is expanding its in northern KP designed to absorb the increasing visitor volume especially during summer.

According to Omair Khattak, GM Investment at KP Tourism Authority, Chair of four Integrated Tourism Zones (ITZs) ie Ghanool (Mansehra), Madaklasht Mankiyal (Swat), Thandiyani (Chitral), and (Abbottabad) are planned with World Bank support. Ghanool and Mankiyal are being prioritized as pilot projects, with budgets of Rs5.5 billion and Rs2.9 billion respective-

"These ITZs, modeled after interand Indonesia, will not only boost Khyber. tourism but expected to reduce tourist load on established hilly starooms for tourist accommodation in

nations of KP like Swat's Kalam and expected to generate up to 200,000 Malam Jabba and Mansehra's Naran direct and indirect job opportunities cated youth to encourage inclusive and attract \$2.8 billion in invest-

> New facilities have been developed at emerging sites including Larum Top and Shahin Bin Shahi in Lower Dir, Broghal and Sorlaspur in Upper Chitral, and Shangla, Samana (Haripur), and Sulatharn (Swat). Road upgrades and visitor centers are being established to improve

Camping pods have also been introduced at scenic locations like Gabeen Jabba, Jazz Banda and Sharan to provide budget-friendly accommodation for families. With daily rates between Rs3,500 to Rs5,000—significantly lower than hotel rates in Naran or Galiyat these pods offer two to four beds, a washroom, a kitchenette, and security provided by tourism police.

Ten more such pods are set to become operational at various sites including Jargo, Sulatanr (Swat), Broghal Valley, and Kalam, with more in the pipeline.

Plans are underway for three new ski resorts in Kaghan, Chitral, and Swat, alongside the much-anticipated Battakundi-Lalazar chairlift and Dir-Chitral cable car project. Waterfalls like Sajkot, Noori, and Jarogo are being upgraded, while tourism landscape with new projects trekking routes and eco-resorts in remote valleys such as Broghal, road conditions and hotel prices Kumrat, and Sheikh Badin are also seeing investment.

> Dr. Muhammad Naeem, former Economics at the University of Peshawar, emphasized the economic significance of developing new destinations that not only spreads tourism footfall but revitalizes rural economies and controls price hikes in established areas.

Habib Arif, Director General, KP Tourism and Culture Authority said the government's Host Tourism Project (HTP) empowers locals by offering interest-free loans of up to national benchmarks in Malaysia Rs3 million through the Bank of

areas such as upper Kalam, Kumrat He informed that these ITZ are and Chitral. Special incentives are being extended to women and edu-

participation, he said. The goal is not just promotion of tourism but rural development," said Zahid Chan Zab, KP's tourism advisor. "Through homestays, craft promotion, and community training we're making tourism a tool for sus-

tainable rural development. In Chitral, the vibrant Kalash Valleys are experiencing renewed interest due to improved roads and digital marketing of cultural festivals. Similar initiatives are fostering growth in remote Kohistan, where eco-lodges and guided treks now

attract nature lovers. With 2025 declared as Tirich Min Mountain Year by the KP Govt, the government allocated Rs180 million for the repair of the Kalash Valley road, reinforcing its commitment to mountain tourism.

As KP positions itself as a premier destination for eco-tourism and adventure travel, its focus on responsible development is crucial donors, International private investors, and local communities are now co-authors of a shared vision where tourism not only entertains but empowers people.

fresh 'Kalam's Mahudhand Lake's tranquility are unmatched," said Noor Khan, a tourist from Peshawar. "But poor need urgent attention.

"Before Kalam visit, I travelled to Kumrat valley where road condition was pathetic and tourists were forced either to hire jeeps on very high rate ie Rs1000 per kilometers while many travelled miles for foot," he said, adding poor waste management, lack of healthcare services and reduced mobile network make communication difficult for tourists.

However, with key initiatives like ITZs, community homestays, and nature-based tourism projects, KP is redefining the travel experience in Pakistan, offering not just a scenic escape, but a deeper connection to Residents can renovate or build culture, nature, and local liveli-

KP government releases Rs. 21 billion for development projects

across the province.

Peshawar City

(ADP), the development opment projects, and Rs. of ongoing projects. of essential development program for merged dis- 100 million for the Higher Under the AIP, Rs. 3.76 initiatives aimed at tricts, and the Accelerated Education Department.

Implementation Program Additionally, Rs. 312.3 billion has been dis-improving infrastructure bursed. This includes Rs. and public services

(KP) government has Finance Department has earmarked for water Department, Rs. 250 milreleased over Rs. 21 bil- issued Rs. 16.93 billion resource projects. lion through the Finance under the Provincial ADP. Department for various The allocations include Department has also affairs, and Rs. 1 billion development projects Rs. 430 million for agri- released Rs. 1 billion for each for road and water culture, Rs. 870 million the These funds are part of These funds are part of the Provincial Annual and sanitation, Rs. 280 Development Program million for health development and completion

million has been allocated 500 million for the throughout the region.

R (APP): The According to official for road construction, Pakhtunkhwa sources on Thursday, the while Rs. 2.84 billion is

development of resource projects. ing salaries, utility-based ment reiterated its comschemes, and completion mitment to timely funding

lion for health, Rs. 379.9 Finance million for domestic

billion has been dis- improving infrastructure



PESHAWAR: Focal person of Pakistan Federal Forum on Women Health Nazish Hayyat addressing

KP govt didn't submit response PHC adjourns hearing on Sher Afzal Marwat's plea

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional court that numerous cases Justice Asadullah and Justice government has not submit-Jamshid adjourned hearing on He stated that he is not Member National aware of the details of the Marwat plea seeking can- him. cellation of FIRs registered ernment failed to submit its ning from pillar to post for chairman, and the current ple are unfit for the posireport, on Thursday.

The petitioner Sher bail from the courts. He Afzal Marwat informed the Sahibzada ism, and the provincial has ted its report yet.

Assembly Sher Afzal FIRs registered against

After the hearing, Sher ble people can lead a Wali's demand for the against him till 26th June Afzal Marwat told the protest movement for the removal of the PTA chair-26, as the provincial gov- media that he has been run- release of the PTI founding man, saying that such peo-

not making any decisions.
Sher Afzal Marwat criti-

expressed frustration with

intentions rather than compromising.

He stated that only capaa year and a half, seeking leadership is not up to the

the provincial government's acknowledged his personal bench Peshawar High were registered against him inaction, saying that it is differences with Aimal Court (PHC) comprising after 9th May 2023 vandal- not making any decisions. Wali but condemned the Wali but condemned the incident with PTA chaircized the PTI leadership, man. He said that the PTA saying that they are making chairman has disrespected decisions based on bad the committee, and the army chief should take notice of the allegations made. He supported Aimal

Stakeholders discuss Child **Protection Prevention Framework**

F.P. Report

approach to prevent violence against children in any form was highlighted Protection in a high-level stakehold- UNICEF thanked all the ers' consultation on the development of a National Child Protection Prevention Framework (CPPF). The consultation was jointly organised by Save the Children and UNICEF on Thursday and

and civil society organizaconsultation. He shared that than prevention. the session is part of the Protection Framework Deputy Chief Commission

the context of KP and the PESHAWAR: Urgent need measures taken by the collaborative provincial government to improve the situation. Soĥail Ahmed Child Specialist participants for their support and valuable input.

Following that, child rights expert Rabeea Hadi gave an overview of the current situation and existing protection mechanism. She said that while Pakistan brought together represen- has existing child protectatives of provincial child tion laws, enforcement protection mechanisms, remains weak, and there is international organisations a lack of standardized prevention mechanisms across the country at both federal In his opening remarks, and provincial level. The Project Manager Save the participants were of the Children M Azam Kiyani view that current responses briefed the participants are often reactive, focusing about the objectives of the on victim support rather

She said that said that series of consultations held CPPF aims to bridge these across the country to gaps by developing a struc-finalise the Child tured framework that inte-Prevention grates primary (communi-(CPPF). ty-based prevention), sec-Speaking on this occasion, ondary (targeted interven-Ijaz and tertiary (long-term ed the landscape of the recurrence)

The Framework will also establish key performance indicators and monitoring framework to assess and improve child protection efforts and will ensure regional adaptability by integrating the framework into long-term child protection policies, endorsed by provincial and regional authorities. The Framework will also have special focus on strengthening intercollaboration agency among government institutions, law enforcement, social welfare bodies, and civil society to standardize prevention efforts nation-

After an extensive group work, the participants gave their feedback on proposed Protection Prevention Framework (CPPF) targeting three key risks including child labour, child marriage, and violent discipline or physical and humiliating punishment. The discussion centered on strengthening preventive measures to reduce cases of KPCP tion for at-risk children), violence against children and improving inter-agency Muhammad Khan present- recovery and prevention of coordination to ensure enhance child protection prevention effective child protection

child protection issues in strategies. She shared that and prevention mechanisms.

The participants identified that all the issues related to child protection are exacerbated by poverty, lack of education and awareness, population, weak monitoring mechanisms and legal system and limited access to facilities. Participants stressed the need for stronger interventions to prevent children from being forced into labour, child marriage and provide them with protected environment. They highlighted Pakistan's widespread child protection challenges, emphasizing that despite national and international commitments, millions of children remain vulnerable to violence, neglect, and abuse, exploitation. The consultation underscored the necessity of shifting from reactive approaches to a prevention-focused framework that addresses root causes and reduces harm before it occurs

The stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to working collectively to

Consultative meeting held with industrialists and traders at the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce

PESHAWAR: Under the supervision of Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Finance and Interprovincial Coordination Muzzammil Aslam, a consultative meeting was held at Sarhad Chamber of Commerce ahead of the upcoming budget. The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister for Excise Mian Khaliq ur Rehman, Special Assistant to CM for Industries Abdul Karim Tordher, Secretary Excise Khalid Ilyas, Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) Fauzia Iqbal, Additional Collector Abdur Razzaq khan and officials from the Revenue department. Cabinet members of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce, along with traders, industrialists, and investors, participated in this special consultative meeting. Advisor Finance Muzzammil Aslam stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is financially dependent on the federal government for 93 percent of its budget, and the province itself collects only 7 percent of its total revenue. He noted that revenue collection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is lower compared to other provinces

He further mentioned that the provinces are also under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has increased both tax and non-tax revenues in the current fiscal year. Muzzammil Aslam announced that Rs. 2 billion has been released for the Peshawar Safe City Project and assured that all legitimate concerns of traders and industrialists would be addressed.

He said that last year, the property rental tax was reduced from 16% to 10%, and taxes on educational institutions have been fixed at a very low rate. Similarly, the property transfer tax was brought down from 6.5%to 3.5%, and vehicle registration fees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are lower than in other provinces. Provincial Excise Minister Mian Khaliq ur Rehman said that a universal number plate scheme has been launched for vehicle registration, and every Tuesday will be observed as Open Day by the Secretary Excise, during which public issues will be addressed.



In brief

Forest fire control strategy directed F.P. Report

BUNER: Deputy Commissioner Buner has taken notice against destruction of valuable trees, medicinal herbs animals, birds, and insects due to forest fire incidents across the district in the last one month. DC Kashif Qayyum has called a meeting in which ADC Relief Syed Akram Shah, DFO Forest, Deputy Warden Civil Defense, AD Local Tehsil Government District Gagra Emergency Officer Rescue participated. He expressed his anger over the absence of DD Local Government and Wildlife and termed the measures taken by DFO Forest to prevent and extinguish the fire as unsatisfactory and issued instructions that forest fires will not be tolerated under any circum-stances. DC devised strategy in this regard, to make the task force more active, all departments in each sub-division under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners, including the Village Council Secretary and volunteers would be involved in this national cause. He has said in two words that the relevant departments should identify those who set fire to the mountains register FIRs against them and discourage this trend in every case and protect precious forests, plants, animals, birds and

Agri dept arranges training F.P. Report

KARAK: Agriculture (Extension) Department Karak has arranged a training program on Saffron cultivation and its look-after in Karak district the other day. District Director Agriculture (Extension) Dr. Jan Karak, Muhammad, delivered a special, comprehenve and informative lecture on saffron cultivation, look-after, production and disease management. The training was largely attended by the field staff and local farmers associated with saffron cultivation. Director Former Agriculture President Model Farm Service Center Nizam Khan, while delivering a lecture on the impor-

tance of agriculture, appreciated the steps taken by the department on saffron cultivation and other agriculture related activity in the Agriculture district. Officer Kashif Aqeel, in his lecture on saffron, provided information and experiences to the participants about the experimental and incentive plots of saffron planted in Karak district. The training program covered topics such as saffron cultivation and maintenance techniques, methods for increasing its production, disease prevention and economic benefits of saffron cultivation. This training program will not only become a source of promotion of saffron cultivation and provision of information to farmers about its look-after and production, but also encouraged them to adopt various new trends and techniques and methods to increase saffron pro-

Elimination of encroachments F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Officer (CO) Municipal Committee Kamalia Ali Raza said that illegal encroachments will not be tolerated under any circumstances because these people repeatedly violate the law. He further said that according to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, we are continuous taking action against illegal encroachments.

KKKUK VC honored with HEC best researcher award



Prof. Muhammad Tahir Khalily, esteemed Chancellor of Khushal Khan Khattak University, has been awarded the prestigious Best Research Award in the field of Social Sciences at the 10th Higher Education Commission (HEC) Best Research Awards ceremony. The event, held today in Islamabad, recognized outstanding contributions to

The award was present-

research across various dis-

ciplines.

merit-based process. Prof. Dr. Ahmad technological era and reiterated HEC's commitment

faculty, administrative offi- knowledge and research." cers from numerous universities, and distinguished staff of KKKUK have guests from across extended their heartfelt Pakistan.

highly respected figure in remarkable achievement, Pakistan, renowned for his which further solidifies expertise in clinical psy- the university's commited by Chairman HEC, Prof. chology and his significant ment to academic excel-Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, who contributions to research. lence and groundbreaking congratulated all the recipi- He also brings extensive research.

ents and emphasized the administrative experience selection from various organizations.

Upon receiving the accohighlighted the importance lade, He expressed his of research in the current immense pride. "This is a proud moment for Khushal Khan Khattak University,' to supporting faculty and he stated. "I am committed universities nationwide. to working even harder in The ceremony saw a signif- the field of social sciences icant gathering of senior to contribute further to

The entire faculty and congratulations to the Prof. Dr. Khalily is a Vice Chancellor for this

Cancer patient appeals for financial assistance

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Roshan Ali, a member of the Tablighi Jamaat from Kamach in ever book fair, which was a Circle Najeeb Ullah. Shangla, has made a heartassistance to support his treatment for cancer. Roshan Ali and his child are both battling the disease, and their family is

due to the severity of his condition, which has affected one of his legs. The family is struggling to make ends meet, and they are in urgent need of financial support to cover medical expenses.

In his appeal, Roshan Ali has reached out to philanthropists and charitable organizations, requesting assistance to help him and his child receive the necessary treatment. He has provided his contact information, hoping that those who can help will reach out to

The situation is particularly challenging for Roshan Ali's child, who has also been diagnosed with cancer. The family is finding it impossible to afford the treatment and medication required to manage the child's condition.

Roshan Ali has provided his contact information for those who wish to reach out and offer assistance. It is hoped that his appeal will be met with kindness and access the treatment he so desperately needs.

resounding success. The students themselves and

inaugurated by beginning of the fair.

a student's life. He noted with social media and other responsibility of educators. non-academic activities, books remain a vital source announced of knowledge and inspiraand to focus on their stud-

Educated nation a collective sibility of preparing the region. nation's children for future

Abs challenges through quality education. Addressing an introductory meeting of head teachers from the a prayer (Fatiha) for the late Chakesar sub-division, he SS Kifayatullah and teacher stated that only by working Sharifullah, who tragically generosity, enabling him to with sincerity and passion passed away in a road acci-

University of Shangla we will be accountable in hosts first book fair: The both this world and the University of Shangla hereafter. The meeting was recently organized its first- also addressed by ASDEO Aurangzeb Khalil high-

felt appeal for financial event was arranged by the lighted the need for modern and purposeful education featured a wide range of aligned with contemporary books on various subjects. demands, to ensure national The book fair had multi- progress. He stressed that if ple stalls showcasing books teachers fulfill their duties facing severe financial dif- on different topics, which with dedication and treat were appreciated by stu- every student as their own Roshan Ali's situation is dents and faculty members child, they will not only dire. He is unable to work alike. The book fair was fulfill their professional Vice responsibilities but also Chancellor Professor Dr. help produce capable lead-Sardar Khan, who was the ers, scientists, engineers. chief guest at the event. He doctors, and responsible cut the ribbon to mark the citizens who can contribute to the nation's develop-During his address, Dr. ment. He acknowledged the Sardar Khan emphasized government's provision of the importance of books in facilities in public schools and emphasized that creatthat while young people ing a conducive learning today are often engaged environment is now the

Importantly, that Elementary and Secondary tion. He encouraged stu- Education Department has dents to prioritize reading extended the school admission campaign until May 30. He urged all teachers to work tirelessly to ensure responsibility: that every out-of-school Sub-Divisional child in the sub-division is Education Officer (SDEO) enrolled. He also made it Aurangzeb Khalil empha- clear that there would be no sized the collective respon- compromise on duty in the

Absenteeism will be strictly dealt with, and no leniency will be shown The meeting also included can we earn the pleasure of dent while on duty a day Almighty Allah; otherwise, earlier.

Students compelled to attend classes in open air

District

Department,

Education

ditioned offices.

edly working from air-con-

vide temporary arrange-

has drawn criticism from

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Amid the ongoing intermediate examinations in Hafizabad, thousands of students enrolled in government high and higher secondary schools are being compelled to under the blazing sun due to the unavailability of classrooms. This situation has raised serious concerns among parents and education advocates about student welfare and administrative priorities.

According to reports, classrooms in several government schools across Hafizabad have been designated as examination centers, further exacerbating an already critical shortage of space in these institutions.

extreme heat and humidity. conducive learning environ-Several incidents of stu- ment. dents fainting due to heat

Students exhaustion were reported over delay in distribution yesterday, with eyewitness- of papers: Students across es attributing the cause to the district appearing in the prolonged exposure to the ongoing FA/FSc examinasun without adequate shel- tions expressed deep fruster or cooling arrangements. tration over delays in the attend classes outdoors Despite these dire condi- distribution of question tions, officials from the papers and the denial of Education compensatory time to comincluding plete their exams. The issue Chief Executive Officer has sparked concern among Muhammad educational stakeholders Akram Ashraf, were reportwho are calling for immediate corrective measures.

According to reports, a The lack of contingency significant amount of time, planning and failure to pro- ranging from 10 to 15 minutes, is routinely lost during ments such as tents, fans, or the distribution of exam alternate classroom spaces papers, particularly at female examination centers. local residents and civil However, students are not society. Many are question- granted additional time to As a result, regular academing the department's commake up for the delay, leavic activities are being con- mitment to student welfare, ing many unable to comducted in the open, expos- urging immediate interven- plete their papers within the ing young students to tion to ensure a safe and allocated time frame.

Court convicts rapist for death penalty Syed Waliullah Shah

PESHAWAR: District and Sessions Judge (D&SJ) Nowshera Muhammad Asif convicted Ab Dar, for death penalty and imposed a fine of one million rupees for raping and killing a minor girl named Awaiz Noor. The incident occurred nearly five years ago, where the accused raped the 7-yearold girl and then threw her into a water tank, resulting in her death, on Thursday.

D&SJ ordered that in case of non-payment of fine, the convict will undergo one month of rigorous imprisonment. Seven years of imprisonment and a fine of one million rupees.

D&SJ ordered payment of two hundred thousand rupees to the legal heirs of the deceased. In case of non-payment, the convict will undergo six additional months of imprisonment.

The accused had filed an appeal in the Peshawar High Court, which was later remanded back to the Nowshera District and Sessions Court for further proceedings. After completing the evidence and hearing the arguments, the court upheld the sentence.

Advocacy events organized F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: The students were sensitized to promote peace and to play their due role to counter extremism through theaterbased advocacy events organized in the City University and Sciences, Peshawar last

day.

The Society for Human

Disputes' Aid Rights and Prisoners' Aid (SHARP) under AMAN-KAAR project, initiated the activities as part of its continuous efforts to support societal cohesion, youth empowerment and peace building. The initiative was supported by the European Union, collaboration with UNODC and NACTA.

The events held using the powerful medium of theater, the performers conveyed key messages on nonviolent communication, critical thinking, and the importance of empathy in addressing polarization and misinformation. The performances were followed by interactive dialogue sesfacilitated by SHARP Project manager Zahid Usman and Theatre Director Safeer Ullah Khan.

These sessions offered students and faculty a safe space to explore issues of peace building, social justice, youth leadership, and resilience. community Participants were deeply moved by the narrative, with many expressing renewed commitment to fostering peaceful coexistence in their communities.

Launched in 2025, the AMAN-KAAR initiative has actively engaged youth across districts including Peshawar, Swat, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Sukkur, Larkana, Khairpur, Usta Muhammad, and Islamabad, using participatory theatre as a powerful tool for advocacy and posi-

tive behavioral change. The project's core objective is to mobilize young people as ambassadors of peace, equipping them to promote inclusive narratives, foster empathy, and build cohesive communities through creative expression, dialogue, and civic engagement.

DRC's role hailed F.P. Report

MARDAN: Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) held a meeting with Dispute Resolution Council members at City Police Station, on the directives of District Police Officer Mardan. The meeting was attended by DRC Chairman Ihsan Ullah Bacha along Alamzeb Khan and other members.

SDPO Zahid Alam Khan oraised the services of DRC members, saying that they play a key role in resolving disputes and issues of the public. He stated that DRCs assisting and support to citizens without any discrimination, reducing the burden on police stations and courts, and resolving public disputes easily, which is commendable.

All bunkers demolished in Kurram

F.P. Report

PARA CHINAR: Implementation on the historic Kohat Peace Agreement is actively underway to establish permanent and durable peace in the tribal district of Kurram. As per the Kohat Agreement, almost all bunkers in Kurram have been demolished and in the next phase, the collection of large-scale arms has been started.

In light of the Jirgas, held with the parties in the Kurram district few days back, the last date for the collection of large-scale arms has been set as May

According to the notice issued by the Deputy Commissioner Kurram Ashfaq Ahmed Khan in this regard, the public and all the parties have been asked to return their large arms in the relevant arms centers by the 31st of this month, otherwise, in case of recovery of arms, not only the arms will be confiscated by the government but also action (imprisonment and fine)

Arms Act. No excuse will be

will be taken under the

arms within the stipulated and institutions. period.

advisor Katcheri': Advisor of the Ombudsman Federal has in collaboration with the district administration, held 'Kuli Katcheri' in Tehsil Lachi Kohat district on Thursday. The court beside others was also attended by the Tehsil Chairman Lachi Muhammad Ehsan, Assistant Commissioner

general public. Most of the issues and complaints presented in the open court were related to the drinking water, gas and

Lachi Salman Yousaf, heads of federal depart-

ments, TMA Lachi and the

electricity. Explaining the aims and objectives of the open court, Mushtaq Jadoon said that there is no fee for filing a complaint with the Federal Ombudsman nor there is a need for a lawyer, but each case is decided within 60 days. He said that the public can approach the acceptable in this regard, he Federal Ombudsman Office

as responsible citizens by case of complaints related depositing the large scale to the federal departments

Jadoon said that the pub-Federal ombudsman lic should be informed held 'Kuli about the progress of the issues and complaints presented in the today open Regional Office Peshawar, court through WhatsApp. Mushtaq Ahmed Jadoon He further said that the public can also present their problems on WhatsApp at any time apart from the open court.

Tehsil Chairman Muhammad Ehsan, while welcoming the holding of the open court by the Federal Ombudsman, said that the problems of gas and electricity in Tehsil Lachi are very serious and require immediate solution. He expressed the hope that this court will reduce them to some extent. Referring to the problem of drinking water, he said that we have done a lot of work in this regard and Inshallah, this problem is expected to be resolved to great extent in the next 2 months.

Earlier, Monitoring Officer of RTS Commission Pakhtunkhwa Israr informed the participants in detail about the activities related to the pubwarned. Therefore, the public services of the RTS lic should prove themselves WhatsApp at any time in Commission.

DPO lauds media role in promotion of peace

F.P. Report

WANA: District Police Officer (DPO) Lower Waziristan Khan Khel on Tuesday paid a special visit to the Wana Press Club. During the visit, he held an interactive session with local journalists and acknowledged the crucial role media plays in promoting peace and stability in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, DPO Khan Khel commended the journalist community for their responsible reporting and active involvement in highlighting key public issues. He emphasized the importance of media as a bridge between the public polio field staff were hon- mony, which was attended and law enforcement, noting that sustainable peace appreciation for their out-health officials. Speaking cannot be achieved without mutual trust and col-

laboration. consider the media not just as observers but as key partners," the DPO stated.

addressing the challenges faced by the region." The meeting concluded

with a mutual consensus to strengthen cooperation media through regular dialogue, positive engage-ment, and a shared commitment to serving the people. The DPO assured full support and open access to information within legal boundaries to ensure transparency and build public

Polio staff awarded with certificate of appreciation: In a ceremony held at the office of Additional Commissioner Khalid Qayyum Shah, police officers and the recent anti-polio drive Khalid Oavvum in the region.

critical role played by the police in ensuring the safeseek their guidance in Khan, SI Haji Israr Khan cation team.

(LO), SI Usman Khan (SHO Wana City), SI Sadiq (SHO Toi Khullah), and Nizam Muharrar), who were laudbetween the police and ed for their strategic and effective security arrangements.

In addition to the law enforcement officers, several frontline polio workers received accolades for their dedication in reaching children under five at their doorsteps with life-saving polio drops. These health workers served across various union councils of Wana and were commended for their tireless efforts.

Com Net Officer Amir Abbas Wazir presented the certificates during the cereored with certificates of by local dignitaries and standing contributions to on the occasion, ADC praised the collaborative "In our efforts to restore The event, organized efforts of the District and maintain law and order under the auspices of Health Officer Dr. Israr in Lower Waziristan, we COMNet, highlighted the Ahmad, Polio Officer Amir Abbas, **FSMO** Hameedullah, ty of health teams during Representative Dr. Ismat 'We will continue to work the campaign. Those recog- Khan Wazir, and other closely with journalists and nized included DSP Rahim members of the polio eradi-

Anti-polio vaccination preparation reviewed

HANGU/ ORAKZAI: Commissioner Kohat Syed Motasim Billah Shah has visited Orakzai and Hangu districts to review the arrangements for the antipolio campaign starting May from Commissioner Kohat reviewed the micro-plans prepared for the anti-polio campaign in detail and expressed satisfaction over the ongoing arrangements.

implementation at all levels on its construction quality.

are essential to eradicate a the country. During his visit, Mr. Shah also inspected various areas of Hangu and Naryab Dam. He closework on development proj-

Highlighting the imporfetal disease like polio from tance of the anti-polio campaign, the Commissioner Kohat Division appealed the parents to vaccinate district, including examina- their children below the age tion halls, Government of 5. He added that a polio-Higher Secondary School free Pakistan is our national Muhammad Khawaja, a dream, which can be realroad under construction in ized only with the coopera-Kahi, Doaba Hospital, tion of the people and the Animal Husbandry Kahi effective performance of institutions. He directed all ly reviewed the ongoing the concerned departments to utilize all their capabiliects and directed the ties and resources to make Commissioner Kohat authorities concerned to the anti-polio campaign a declared that a comprehen- complete the projects in success so that every child sive strategy and effective time without compromising is protected from the dead-

Plantation a key for fight against climate change

F.P. Report LARKANA: A social organi-

zation Sindh Green Foundation (GSF) in collaboration with Daeem Social Welfare organized an event titled 'Climate Change Solution through Tree Planting, Possible" at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Girls College in the city. Addressing the event, Sindh Green Foundation President Zulfiqar Ali Magsi, College Principal Samina Naz Abro and others said that climate change is increasing due to lack of trees, due to which agricultural crops and

gardens are being destroyed due to high-speed winds and storms in the country, due to which human lives, wildlife and aquatic life are being affected and the temperature is increasing day by day due to climate change. Mohenjo-Daro excava-

tion work resumes: A team hunger strike organized by

of experts under the supervi- the committee at the city's gist Dr. Mark Kinase has resumed excavation work at Mohenjo-Daro, a worldfamous tourist site in Sindh's Larkana district, which will continue until May 31 of this month.

The excavation team is part of this effort. Deputy Director of Archaeology Madam Zahida Qadri told the media that in 1950, British foreign expert Sir Mortimer Wheeler excavated the SD area, DK area 75 years ago, during which the ancient defensive wall of the ancient city of Mohenjo-daro was revealed.

Civil society movement demands protection of hospitals from quacks: It has continued for 121 days through the platform of the Hospital Bachayo Committee". Despite the symbolic

sion of American archaeolo- central Koto Moto Chowk, not a single person of the Sindh Health Department has come to the citizens to solve the problems of the hospital. On this occasion talking to

the media, the Chairman of "Hospital Bachayo Committee" Muhammad Hayat Tunio, Hubdar Mirjat, Zulfiqar Ali Magsi and others protested and said that we are facing problems such as lack of basic facilities, lack of expert doctors in the hospital established for the convenience of the people of Shahdadkot, complete lack of cleanliness inside the hospital, release of employees assigned to the hospital through the visa system, open corruption in the budget of millions of rupees received by the appointed Medical Superintendent Dr. Israr







GAZA STRIP: A boy gestures as displaced Palestinians collect portions of cooked food at a charity

NK defectors urge UN to hold country's leader accountable

United Nations that the country's leader must be held accountable for gross human rights violations.

Gyuri Kang, whose family faced told the General Assembly that three of her friends were executed - two for watching South Korean TV dramas. At the high-level meeting of the 193member world body, the two women, both now living in South Korea, described the plight of North Koreans who UN special investigator Elizabeth Salmón said have been living in "absolute isolation" since the pandemic began in early 2020.

Thousands of North Koreans have fled the country since the late 1990s, but the numbers have dwindled drastically in recent years. Salmón said North Korea's closure of its borders worsened an already dire human rights situation, with new laws enacted since 2020 and stricter punishments, including the death penalty and public executions. In another rights issue, she said, the deployment of North Korean troops to support Russia in its war against Ukraine has raised concerns about "the poor human rights condiand the government's widespread exploitation of its own people."

Kim, who escaped starvation in North tion" enables it to keep the population Korea in 1999, was sent back from under surveillance and it exploits the China and fled a second time, told the work force through a state-controlled system that finances its expanding nuclear program and military ven-tures, Salmón said. North Korea's UN Ambassador Kim Song called the persecution for her grandmother's allegations that his country violates religious beliefs, fled the North dur- human rights "a burlesque of intrigue ing the COVID-19 pandemic. She and fabrication" and insisted that tens of millions of North Koreans enjoy human rights under the country's socialist system. He accused the West of being the bigger violator, through racial discrimination, human trafficking and sexual slavery. But the two and using them as cannon fodder to defectors and human rights defenders detailed numerous abuses.

Kim, who said her father died of starvation, told UN diplomats that after making it to China across the Tumen River the first time, she, her mother and sister were sold for the equivalent of less than \$300 to a Chinese man. Three years later, they were arrested and sent back to the North. In 2002, they escaped again across the river. Kang, who was banished to the countryside as a 5-yearold because of her grandmother's religious beliefs, said she became the owner of a 10-meter (33-foot) wooden fishing boat and escaped on it in October 2023 with her mother and aunt. She said she was lucky to have tions of its soldiers while in service, access to information about the out-

The North's "extreme militariza- which she said she found "so refreshing and more credible than North Korea state propaganda," though she knew being caught could mean death.

'Three of my friends were executed, two of them in public for distributing South Korean dramas," Kang said. "One of them was only 19 years old. ... It was as if they were guilty of heinous crimes." She expressed hope that her speech would "awaken the North Korean people" and help them "to point in the direction of freedom." Kim accused North Korea of sending soldiers to fight in Ukraine without them knowing where they were going make money. "This is a new and unacceptable form of human trafficking," she said. Kim called for the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, to be investigated and held accountable by the International Criminal Court.

Addressing the world's nations. she said: "Silence is complicity. Stand firm against the regime's systematic atrocities." Sean Chung, head of Han Voice, who spoke on behalf of a global coalition of 28 civil society organizations, called on China and all other countries to end forced repatriations to North Korea. He called on UN member nations to urge the Security Council to refer North Korea to the International Criminal Court, and to impose and enforce sanctions on "every official and entity credibly side world and to have been given a USB with South Korean TV dramas, Korea's atrocity crimes."

Deportations to South Sudan appear to violate court order, US judge says

not let a group of migrants government's

hearing said that while he the tarmac once it lands. airplane to turn around, that on where they hold them," cials could be held in crim- ment marked a new clash they violated his previous ary and deportation of migrants to administration in its efforts countries other than their to implement Trump's calls own before they could raise for mass deportations as any concerns that they part of his hardline immimight face torture or perse-gration agenda. cution there.

tion that my preliminary Boasberg in Washington, learned that nearly a dozen injunction order has been last month found "probable Elianis Perez, a lawyer with criminal contempt for vio- flown to South Sudan, nation, which a lawyer for the US Department of lating his order halting

eral judge ordered the en route to the African Trump administration to nation must remain in the custody being flown to South Sudan pending a further hearing. leave the custody of US He said the Department of immigration authorities Homeland Security, which after saying they appeared oversees US Immigration to have been deported in and Customs Enforcement, violation of a court order. could comply with that US District Judge Brian order in a myriad of ways, Murphy in Boston during a including keeping the hastily arranged virtual migrants on the plane on was not going to order the "I'm not going to limit DHS was an option the US Murphy said. "If they want Department of Homeland to turn the plane around, Security could employ to they can." The agency did comply with his order. not respond to requests for Murphy warned that offi- comment. The developinal contempt if he found between the federal judici-Republican order barring the swift President Donald Trump's

jurist, US Another Democratic President Joe gang who had no chance to has warned that the coun-Alliance, said Biden, said any migrants challenge their removals. try's spiraling political cri-logic."

Trump's deportations of a 1798 law historically used his administration for seekand sent to a third country. Murphy issued a prelim-

designed to ensure any migrants being sent a third country were provided due process under the US Constitution's Amendment and a "meaningful opportunity" to raise any fears for their safety. In whose conditions have long the Murphy, an deportations of alleged been dangerous even for Realmuto of of former members of a Venezuelan locals. The United Nations Immigration

inary injunction on April 18

BOSTON (Reuters): A fed-covered by the injunction The US Supreme Court sis could reignite the brutal maintained a block on civil war that ended in 2018. Among the migrants Venezuelan migrants under on the plane was a Vietnamese man who was only in wartime, faulting being held at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Texas. ing to remove them without Perez during hearing said adequate due process. The the man had been convicted class action lawsuit before of murder, and a top lawyer Murphy was filed after the with the Department of Department of Homeland Homeland Security said the Security in February plane had at least one rapist instructed immigration offi- on it, too. The Vietnamese cers to review cases of peo- man's spouse had emailed ple granted protections his lawyer saying that he against being removed to and 10 other individuals their home countries to see were believed to have been if they could be re-detained deported to South Sudan. The group also included nationals of Laos, Thailand, Pakistan and Mexico, the

spouse said. "Please spouse wrote. "They cannot be allowed to do this.' Fifth Lawyers for the migrants said an attorney for another individual from Myanmar likewise had been notified a motion filed, a lawyer for he was being sent to South "I have a strong indica- District Judge James the plaintiffs said they Sudan. Yet Perez said the man was instead flown to migrants held at a detention Myanmar. She could not violated," Murphy told cause" to hold officials in facility in Texas were being explain the change in destimigrants, been dangerous even for Realmuto of the National

Japanese farm minister resigns following gaffe over rice

Japanese farm minister Taku from a boom in tourism. Eto resigned after remarks he made this week about rice inappropriate remark at a triggered a firestorm of crititime when citizens are suflenge to Prime Minister after handing in his resigna-Shigeru Ishiba's embattled tion at the prime minister's government.

since media reports exposed reported comments he made at a Environment weekend political fundrais- Shinjiro Koizumi would ing party that he had "never replace him. The doubling of had to buy rice" thanks to rice prices from a year ago gifts from supporters. The has become a top concern comment led to a frenzy of for Japanese voters, long criticism from voters, accustomed to years of already angry about the his- deflation and suffering from torically high price of the stubbornly low inflationstaple food due to a poor adjusted wages.

(Reuters): harvest and elevated demand

"I made an extremely office. Public broadcaster Eto has been in hot water NHK and other media that former Minister

taken steps since March to accepting Eto's resignation. tame prices by releasing rice He added that he had yet to from its emergency stock- decide on Eto's successor. pile, but the moves have had Social media lit up with cism from voters and law-makers, posing a fresh chal-prices," Eto told reporters retail prices rising again in both Eto and Ishiba, with little impact. Data showed angry comments directed at the week through May 11 one user responding, "then after falling for the first time quit", referring to the prein 18 weeks. That has mier's apology for naming increasingly led to retailers Eto to the post. Eto's deparand consumers seeking out ture cheaper, Attacking Eto for being ahead of key upper house tone-deaf and Ishiba for inielections in July. His Liberal tially refusing to sack him, Democratic Party and its opposition parties had coalition partner Komeito agreed to consider submit- lost their majority in the ting a no-confidence motion more powerful lower house against the farm minister. "I in a snap election Ishiba

The government has Ishiba told reporters after threatens foreign rice. already-shaky grip on power bear full responsibility for called in October shortly making the appointment," after taking office.

China to give \$500m to WHO in next five years

International

GENEVA (Reuters): China will give an additional \$500 million to the World Health Organization over five years, an official told the World Health Assembly, as the UN agency seeks extra funding to offset the expected loss of its top donor, the United China's of the State Premier Council Liu Guozhong made the announcement in a speech in Geneva.

The world is now facing the impacts of unilateralism and power politics bringing major challenges to global health security... Multilateralism is a sure pass to addressing difficulties," Liu told delegates. The WHO has already revised down its 2026-2027 budget by 21% to \$4.2 billion due to its financial difficulties, caused mainly by the Trump administration's

The new budget set to be decided by the assembly will increase countries' mandatory fees by 20% over the next two years and will make China the new top state donor. It was not immediately clear if the \$500 million donation from China already included that fee increase.

EU curbs 3 pro-Kremlin activists

BERLIN (Reuters): The European Union announced sanctions against three pro-Russia activists whose activities promoting the Kremlin's agenda inside Germany were first revealed in a Reuters investigation in 2023. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Elena Kolbasnikova and her husband Max Schlund have been organising pro-Kremlin rallies in Germany to urge Berlin to abandon its military support for Kyiv.

In the sanctions listing, the EU said both Kolbasnikova and Schlund, who also goes by the name of Rostislav Teslyuk, had taken part in "destabilising activities". It said Kolbasnikova had promoted "violent acts" committed by her husband including organising car rallies to "intimidate Ukrainian minors" who were seeking refuge in Germany. The list- US Secretary of State Trump's call said he was fleet. Kirill Dmitriev, the ing said the couple had close ties with, and were financialsupported

Rossotrudnichestvo, Russian government cultural

promotion agency. The sanctions mean any assets the three targeted including a activists associate Russian Kolbasnikova and Schlund have inside the EU will be frozen, and they will be barred from entering any of the bloc's member countries. On a public Telegram group run by both Kolbasnikova and Schlund, the pair denounced the sanctions. PEOPLE WHO FIGHT FOR PEACE ARE BEING SUBJECT TO SANC-TIONS," they wrote. "IDIO-When reached by phone for comment, Schlund told the Reuters reporter to "fuck off" before hanging up. Reuters first reported on the couple in 2023, detailing how they were at the centre of an effort in Germany to turn public opinion against the German government's continued support for Ukraine. In its report, Reuters revealed how the couple had received plane tickets from a Russian cultural promotion body that is part of Rossotrudnitschestwo to travel to a forum for civil society activists in Moscow that was co-organised by the Russian government. Kolbasnikova and Schlund left Germany last year after they said authorities there had barred them from re-

entering the country. The sanctions listing said criminal investigation against the pair over their alleged support for proseparatists in Russian Ukraine's Donbas region was ongoing. Reuters in 2023 also reported that the couple had donated funds to a Russian army division fighting in Ukraine, and that it had used the money to purchase walkie-talkie radios, headphones and telephones. In the same listing, Europe also imposed sanctions on Andrei Kĥarkovsky, a Russian citizen residing in Germany who is a member of a Cossack organisation endorsed by the Kremlin. In the 2023 report, that Reuters wrote Kharkovsky provided security for Kolbasnikova and Schlund at pro-Moscow rallies they held in Germany.

Gaza aid plan & why UN doesn't like it (Reuters): A US-backed has said a few aid groups monitoring and aid entry

New US-backed

organization aims to start work in the Gaza Strip by the end of May overseeing a new model of aid distribution in the Palestinian enclave, but the United Nations says the plan is not impartial or neutral, and it won't be involved.

Aid deliveries in Gaza will be overseen by the USbacked Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which was established in February in Switzerland, according to the Geneva commercial registry. The foundation intends to work with private US security and logistics firms - UG Solutions and Safe Reach Solutions according to a source familiar with the plan. A second source familiar with the plan said the GHF has already received more than \$100 million in commitments. It was not immediately clear where the money was coming from.

working with Israel to enable the GHF to start work, acting US Ambassador to the UN Dorothy Shea told the Security Council earlier this month, urging the UN and aid groups to cooperate. Israel has said it will allow the foundation's work without being involved in aid deliveries. According to military aims. It makes starvation a bargaining ing among the aid community earlier this month, the foundation would initially operate from four "secure distribution sites" that could each serve 300,000 people with food, water and nygiene kits. Israeli officials have said those hubs would be in Gaza's south. The private US companies would transport the aid into Gaza to the hubs where it would be then distributed

have agreed to work with the GHF. The names of those groups are not yet

Israel has agreed to reach a distribution site, the foundation has said. The foundation has asked Israel's military to identify "locations in northern Gaza capable of hosting GHF operated secure distribution sites that can be made operational within 30 days.' GHF has also said it would not share any personally identifiable information of aid recipients with Israel. The United Nations says the US-backed distribution plan does not meet its longheld principles of impartiality, neutrality and inde-pendence. UN aid chief Tom Fletcher has said time should not be wasted on the alternative proposal. In a deliveries to resume under briefing to the Security the existing distribution Council, he explained what model - with five trucks Senior US officials were was wrong with the Israel-initiated plan: "It forces further displacement. It exposes thousands of peo-

> İsrael stopped all aid deliveries to Gaza on March 2 after accusing Hamas of stealing aid, which the Palestinian milithe release of all remaining hostages taken during an October 2023 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli talthe war, which Gaza

mechanism" for Gaza. It was swiftly rejected by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who said it risked "further controlling and expand the number of dis- callously limiting aid down tribution sites and find to the last calorie and grain ways for aid to get to civil-ians who are unable to sure had been growing on Israel to allow aid deliveries to resume. A global hunger monitor last week warned that half a million people face starvation about a quarter of the population in the enclave - and US President Donald Trump acknowledged that "a lot of people are starving in Gaza." Amid the stalemate over Israel's plan, Washington backed the newly-created GHF to oversee aid distribution. The GHF then announced last week that it aims to start work in Gaza by the end of May.

In the meantime, Israel has allowed limited aid entering Gaza, which Fletcher described as "a drop in the ocean." The UN said it has received Israeli ple to harm ... It restricts aid approval for about 100 sto only one part of Gaza, more aid trucks to enter while leaving other dire needs unmet. It makes aid Gaza. Throughout the conflict, the United Nations has described its humanitarian operation in Gaza as opportunistic - facing problems with Israel's military operation, access restrictions by Israel into and throughout Gaza and looting by armed gangs. But the UN has said its aid distants deny, and demanding tribution system works and that was particularly proven during a two-month ceasefire, which was abandoned by Israel in mid-March. Israel would first inspect lies. That assault triggered and approve aid. It was then dropped off on the by aid groups - not the private companies, the first 53,000 people. In early where it was picked up by source said. Israel's UN April, Israel proposed what

US expects Russia offer soon

Marco Rubio said he ready to work with head of Russia's Direct expected Russia to present Ukraine on a "memorana Ukraine ceasefire outline dum" outlining a possible within days that will show roadmap and different Washington, attacked the if it is serious, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Moscow of buying time. President said that Pope Leo XIV Donald Trump spoke separately by telephone to Zelensky and Russia's Vladimir Putin, after Vatican," according to her now opposed new sanc-Russian and Ukrainian office. Rubio insisted to

their first direct talks on the conflict in three years. Putin has consistently rejected proposals for a 30day truce put forward by Kyiv and its Western allies. But Rubio said that Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov indicated they would present their own terms "maybe in a number of days, maybe this week hopefully." The Russians will offer "just broad terms that would allow us to move towards a ceasefire, and that ceasefire would then allow us to enter into detailed negotiations to bring about an end of the conflict," Rubio said. He said that the presentation will "tell us a lot about their true intentions."

"If it's a term sheet as possible." that's realistic and you can work off of it, that's one that we know are unrealis-

positions on ending the move, saying: Minister Giorgia Meloni upcoming between the parties at the officials met in Istanbul for critical lawmakers that Putin "hasn't gotten a single concession" from Trump. But Russia has also not indicated any new

flexibility since Trump took office in January with vows to end the war through dialogue. "It is obvious that Russia is trying to buy time in order to continue its war and occupation," Zelensky said in a post on social media. Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told Rubio that Putin's refusal to go to Istanbul despite the stated willingness Zelensky and Trump to it's in Russia's interest to carry out this war as long

The European Union formally adopted its 17th thing. If it makes demands round of sanctions on Moscow, targeting 200 tic, I think that will be vessels of Russia's so- closer.

Investment Fund and lead economic negotiator with war. And Italy's Prime politicians and the media are making titanic efforts to disrupt the constructive was willing "to host dialogue between Russia upcoming discussions and the United States." Rubio said that Trump for tions for fear that Russia would no longer come to the table.

Moscow appears confident, with its troops advancing on the battlefield and Trump ending Western isolation of the Kremlin. The memorandum mentioned by Putin "buys time for Russia,' Russian political analyst Konstantin Kalachev said. "The cessation of hostilities is not a condition for it, which means that Russia can continue its offensive," Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and has since destroyed swathes of both of the country's east, killed tens of thousands meet showed "he believes and now controls around one-fifth of its territory. People who spoke to AFP both in Kyiv and Moscow were skeptical about prospects and peace thought the Putin-Trump call had not brought them

Russia is only playing for time in Ukraine peace talks: Germany

BRUSSELS (Reuters): Brussels. "Putin is clearly war to the end if we do not German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius accused President Russian Vladimir Putin of not really being interested in peace in Ukraine, saying he was only playing for time in talks with the United States. Europe needs to increase the pressure on Russia's energy sales, Pistorius added.

"We have seen massive (Russian) attacks again in recent days ... These speak louder than the lip service (to the peace process) we have heard for so long,' meeting of EU defence and understood that he will will act in accordance, foreign affairs ministers in carry on with his colonial she said.

playing for time, unfortunately we have to say Putin is not really interested in peace." Russia and Ukraine imperialist fantasy by are set to start negotiations after Putin spoke to US President Donald Trump, but Putin said the process would take time. After Trump briefed them on his join the bloc in increasing Russia by imposing more call, European leaders sanctions, especially on agreed to increase pressure on Russia through fresh sanctions. Ahead of meet-Foreign French Minister Jean-Noël Barrot accused Putin of hypocrisy. "I believe that when Vladimir Putin continues

to uphold his hypocritical

'Let us push Vladimir Putin to put an end to his adopting (EU) sanctions that are truly dissuasive. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the United States needed to pressure on Russia. "We all agreed and said ... that if they don't agree to unconditional ceasefire, like Ukraine has agreed over 60 days ago, there will be strong action," Kallas said ahead of the meeting. "And that is what we want to see from all the parties Pistorius said before a language, everyone has who have said that they

put a stop to it.

The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

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Managing Editor Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar. Peshawar Office: 0300-9009001
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Focus on amicable, secure neighborhood

AKISTANI Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar's three-day visit to China, which started on Monday, apparently aims to reaffirm that his country's relations with China are ironclad amid the high tensions between Pakistan and India.

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi and other Chinese officials on Tuesday, Dar thanked China for its firm support for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and vowed to further deepen the all-weather strategic partnership between China and

The Chinese side reiterated that it has always taken China-Pakistan relations as a diplomatic priority and is willing to deepen cooperation and promote the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Despite this, those thinking Islamabad is trying to leverage its relations with Beijing to steer the situation in South Asia so that it develops in its favor are misreading the situa-

That Wang stressed China will, as always, firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity in his meeting with Dar does not mean it has altered its objective and just stance.

As Wang said, China welcomes and supports Pakistan and India in properly handling their differences through dialogue, achieving a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire and seeking a fundamental resolving of their differences. This is in the fundamental and longterm interests of both sides, conducive to regional peace and stability, and also the general expectations of the international commu-

Dar's visit goes far beyond bilateral economic scope, as strengthening regional security and anti-terrorism cooperation is high on the agenda, and the core mission of his visit is to carry on the momentum of bilateral development cooperation.

During Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China in February, Beijing expressed its readiness to work with Islamabad to upgrade the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor cooperation, and help Pakistan consolidate its development foundations and unleash its development potential.

So deepening pragmatic cooperation related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is high on the agenda of Dar's visit. During his meeting with Wang, the two sides pledged to double down on their cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, energy and mining, human resources development, as well as counter-terrorism and security.

The development of China-Pakistan relations is to promote the common development of the two nations and bring tangible benefits to the two peoples. It does not target any third party, and will help fill in the development gap of the region, which is necessary to eliminate the soil for terrorism, the spark for the recent India-Pakistan conflict.

China adheres to the principle of goodneighborliness and friendship, supports a comprehensive ceasefire, and is willing to provide assistance in maintaining regional stability.

India and Pakistan are both important neighbors of China, neighbors that cannot move away from each other. In that sense, it is good to see that Pakistan and India have agreed to withdraw troop reinforcements deployed during their recent conflict back to their peacetime positions by the end of May.

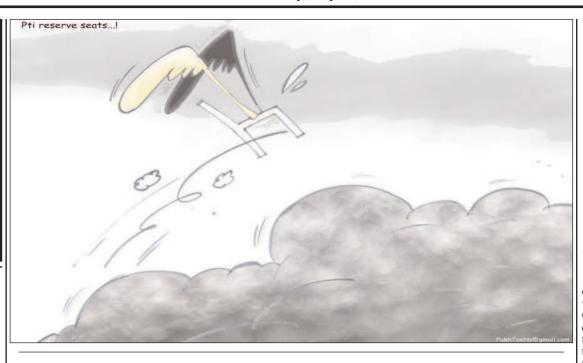
But it should also be seen that the two sides still lack basic political mutual trust, and the prevalent jingoism in India is not conducive to easing the tensions.

China strongly urges both India and Pakistan to act in the interest of peace and stability, exercise calm and restraint, and take concrete actions to consolidate the ceasefire. They should create more favorable conditions for political settlement of their disputes through peaceful means and refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions.

Allowing the tensions to escalate between two nuclear countries in a region that is home to more than 2 billion people will only risk disaster for the whole world. Both countries should realize that terrorism is a common enemy of humanity, and regional chaos will benefit no country.

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US and Europe must reshape their bonds at this time of crisis

Khaled Abou Zahr

OR almost two decades, Barack presidency, we have been in the region. Media reports reading about America's have mentioned the mod-"pivot to Asia." This is a ernization of bases in This is what we are now focus from Europe and Philippines. Moreover, the front: murmurs of escalathe Middle East to Asia, US is reinforcing strategic tion, for which NATO and funding by 2029. Despite with the declared objective of countering China's and the Quad, focusing on unprepared. growing influence. On the advanced capabilities and ground, it has not quite joint military exercises. A sending European troops in defense spending level been visible. But this is major upgrade to the US- case of a lasting peace across Europe continues to changing. The US is on Japan security alliance is agreement — as UK Prime be a major challenge. This the path of shifting strate- also underway, enhancing Minister Keir Starmer indishold be a priority to supthe path of shifting strate- also underway, enhancing gic resources from command structures and Europe to Asia. This is crisis response coordinapart of the agenda for tion. month's NATO Summit. This real change major shift is taking place puts Europe and the at a difficult time for these declarations also light of the current situation transatlantic alliance on a Europe, as war still rages in seem to hold the possibility in Ukraine, Europe will new dynamic. How will Ukraine. If we read European nations adapt between the lines to this change?

capabilities. This potential the US. reduction of US troops in US Department of Defense billion for the Pacific showing that he can act
Deterrence Initiative, surresponsibly. And what typireceived a budget allocaexcluding funds Ukraine.

Obama's tary exercises and training strategic repositioning in

Needless to say, this French The US is now actively notice a feeling of abandon-planning the reallocation of ment by the US or even, for its military resources from some, betrayal. This is an Europe to the Indo-Pacific. extremely exaggerated Its objective is to counter reaction and potentially China's growing military dangerous for Europe and

The situation resembles Europe will be discussed a father telling his pamwith its NATO allies. The pered son that it is time for him to stand on his own has enacted this shift and is feet. The main risk is the increasing defense spend- son seeing this as a rejecing in the Indo-Pacific. It tion instead of a construchas significantly increased tive action. The immediate its budget allocations: in reaction is often to prove fiscal year 2023, Congress something to his father, appropriated about \$11.5 rather than to himself,

for the same fiscal year, Europe may rush into an domestic product. for escalation, rather than tak-

Asia, which remains a vital

cated — or the possibility of deploying postconflict "reassurance forces," as French President in terms of defense and

a real deterrence. This is why it is important for the US and Europe alliance — to reshape their bonds and strategic objecit is positive to see be within its focus. European countries conprove to the US that it can ing beyond the mooted tar- Europe must

ing the time to build credi- Poland, which spent 4.1 overreacting, while taking The Pacific funding aims ble deterrence against percent last year. Lithuania greater responsibility for its to enhance missile defense Russia. Such a path threat- and Denmark have also security and engaging more systems, radars and space ens not only European stasensors and increase milibility but also the US' percent this year. However, Indo-Pacific.

many others, especially in Southern Europe, struggle to meet even the current NATO target of 2 percent of GDP. In March, the Commission European shift in Washington's Guam, Okinawa and the seeing on the Ukrainian launched its "Readiness 2030" initiative to mobilize some progress, significant gaps remain and achieving Despite the mention of a unified 3.5 percen

> Emmanuel Macron stated, security capabilities. In of sending troops should need to expand its military the conflict continue. While industrial capacity. The cur-European officials, we supporting Ukraine will rent production levels are remain a European priority insufficient to replenish in this scenario, such a stockpiles, maintain readidecision would be a grave mistake at this stage. What emerges from this current mess and respond to any sudden conflict scenarios. This is the only way to process among European establish Europe's strategic eaders is the wish to prove autonomy within NATO the US wrong, instead of And it is something Rus taking the time to establish has already put in place. And it is something Russia

The Europeans should also be aware of what is happening in the Indoand for the future stabil- Pacific and have a strategy ity of the transatlantic and an objective to engage with allies there. Japan South Korea, Australia and tives, especially during this India are all European time of crisis. To start with, allies, so this region should

Europe and the US must passing the initial request cally follows is a reckless vinced of the need to remain loyal to the transat-of \$6.1 billion. In compari- and catastrophic misstep. the European In this case, there is a spending, with some even new challenges. But it is ence Initiative real risk that, in trying to taking their defense spend-time to turn the page and gradually tion of about \$3.7 billion handle its own defense, get of 3.5 percent of gross build and assert its deter rence capabilities. This This is the case for requires Europe to avoid

35 years since unification, Yemen is more divided than ever

Nada AlTaher

that Yemen's conflict of the Yemeni riyal. is merely a symptom of the Middle East's that clarifies and limits the wider geopolitical issues. role of the PLC's members Others might say it is a while strengthening the cause in itself, or a contributing factor. But one would go a long way to thing can be agreed: 35 resolving these issues. It years since its unification would help to improve govbetween the northern and ernance on the ground and southern halves of the the ability to provide basic Ottomans and the latter

than ever. In 2014, the Houthis -atribal militia and religious group from northern Yemen's poor, mountainous Saada region that had evolved into a major political and military force took over Sanaa, the counthe militants, with backing from Iran, removed Yemen's internationally recognised government and went on to expand their rule

to most of Yemen's north,

where more than half of the

British - the country

remains more fragmented

country's population lives. This remains the situation today, even after a Saudi-led military coalition helped take back swathes of land from the Houthis in a multi-year war and prevented the rebel group from conflict; Yemen's presentday divisions are multi-lay-

ered and multi-faceted. Presidential Leadership Council acts as the executive body of Yemen's internationally recognised govsecret. Earlier this month,

 Γ could be argued as the decline in the value

Constitutional reform government as a whole country – the former once services and provide a bet-controlled by the ter quality of life for people who have escaped Houthionce controlled by the run areas to government-

held territory. In the meantime, the Houthis continue to fire ballistic missiles towards Israel and ships in the Red Sea that they claim are linked to Israeli commercial interests, ostensibly in protest at its unrelenting offensive in Gaza. Yemen's government has long been try's capital. In doing so, cut out of attempts to reach peace deal with the Houthis, whether in 2023 when Saudi Arabia brokered a roadmap for a permanent ceasefire or, more recently, President Donald Trump announced a deal to end American air strikes on

Houthi-held territory. Yemen's situation is becoming even more complex with a secessionist Transitional Southern Council that not only calls overrunning the entire for the south's independ-country. But this is not a ence – a return to Yemen's ence – a return to Yemen's simple, good versus evil pre-1990 partition – but also holds three out of the PLC's eight seats.

A silver lining could be eight-member seen if the situation in Yemen were clearer and even if bad – at least stable. But it's not. Matters have become worse, with US ernment. Led by Rashad Al and Israeli forces targeting Alimi, the PLC was supvital facilities like the port and Israeli forces targeting posed to unite an otherwise of Hodeidah, a lifeline for divided anti-Houthi front. millions of Yemenis who But tensions within the rely on the humanitarian council are a poorly kept assistance that flows through it. Such attacks prime minister Ahmed bin have put Yemen's already Mubarak said he was step-ping down after a little response at further risk, humanitarian

An eight-member Presidential Leadership Council acts as the executive body of Yemen's internationally recognised government. Led by Rashad Al Alimi, the PLC was supposed to unite an otherwise divided anti-Houthi front. But tensions within the council are a poorly kept secret. Earlier this month, prime minister Ahmed bin Mubarak said he was stepping down after a little more than a year in office, blam-

ing challenges he faced in making "necessary reforms" to state institutions. With different council members having strong military representation on the ground, the PLC has become a tool for exerting power rather than governance. This is largely down to the absence of a proper legal framework regulating the PLC's operations and defining its members'

relationship to one another. The ambiguity surrounding the group's exact functions and authority on the ground has inevitably resulted in allegations of overreach and corruption against some of the forces under its members' control. The result of this is a fractured government incapable of asserting itself against militarily and politically against the Houthis' formidable forces.

Trump visit a long-overdue recognition of Gulf's transformation

US President Donald able. Trump's trip to Saudi transformation. some may focus solely on aspects, business Trump's public acknowledgement of their progress sends a vital message that change in these traditionalour eyes.

first term, all the Gulf countries, not just the moving at an unstoppable Kingdom, have made remarkable progress. The economic growth, technological advancements, business development, innovation, gradual yet meaningful emergence of youth leadership, increased participation of women in faced. It is increasingly society, and the region's active in global diplomacy growing engagement on the and is positioning itself as a global stage are all a testa- trusted mediator and peacement to the progress occur-

ring in the region. instance, Arabia's Vision 2030 is a supported by the vast numcomprehensive progressive bers of students returning agenda that is reimagining after years living and studythe Kingdom's future in the ing abroad. most transformative way. numbers of Saudi and Since its announcement, Emirati students have been the country has witnessed studying at universities sweeping changes — across the globe, the majorsweeping changes women are becoming an ity of whom are supported integral part of the reform, by government-sponsored participating in sports and scholarships. These years holding leadership posi- abroad plant important tions in both the public and seeds of change. But real and breadth of these ship that has a clear vision is extremely important for region is very eager to reforms are simply undeni- and places trust in its youth, those Muslim nations strug-

Similarly, Arabia, the UAE and Qatar the UAE has positioned as a critical driver of last week was significant itself as the region's leader national development. not only for the sake of in innovation, space explobusiness deals and show- ration, renewable energy casing diplomatic engage- and now artificial intelliment, but also for bringing gence. It was the first Arab long-overdue recognition nation to send a probe to to a region that is going Mars and has built a worldthrough a tremendous class ecosystem for startups While and global business. Anyone visiting the UAE for the first time gets the feeling that they have travelled into the year 2050, with all the cutting-edge technology integrated into ly conservative, Muslim daily life. Beyond just the nations is not only possible, skyscrapers and sprawling but it is happening before city skylines, there is also a sense of safety, a thriving Since Trump's 2017 visit business environment and a to Saudi Arabia during his growing economy, which reflects a country that is

Qatar, for its part, successfully hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup, showcasing its modern and forwardlooking image to billions of people around the world despite the scrutiny it maker in regional conflicts.

The notable changes Saudi across the Gulf region are Significant

these countries present themselves in international organizations such as the UN displays great openness, confidence and clarity. Their evolving policies and positions signal a gencommitment to progress and reform, and through engagement and on the ground.

However, despite all these positive changes, there has still been skepticism. In Washington and beyond, the instinctive reaction is to question the sincerity and sustainability of these reforms. The Gulf states are usually seen through the outdated lenses of oil wealth, conservatism and authoritarianism. The progress and changes they have been making are too often dismissed as cosmetic or strategically self-serving. The assumption that these countries are incapable of genuine reforms or that they are somehow incompatible with modernity has long overshadowed their efforts, raising questions about their authenticity and sustainability. But this progress is also conse-

world. Today, when radical Islam remains a threat exploited by extremists to advance divisive and isolating agendas, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar offer a ation of the progress that is private sectors. While some change can only take root different vision, one of bal- underway and help to challenges remain, the pace when paired with leader- ance and coexistence. This amplify a story that the

quential, not only for the

recognizing gling to reconcile faith with their potential the demands of the 21st century. They have shown leadership and a willing-In addition, the way ness to support those eager to move away from radical

A notable example o this is Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia last week when he met with the Syrian leadership, a meeting facilitated by the Kingdom. His announceare clearly visible both ment of the lifting of sanc multilateral tions was a major and wel comed development. Saud Arabia's facilitation to help Syria reintegrate into the regional fold with an emphasis on rejecting extremism in favor of stability and peace reflects the direction these countries

are advocating. Trump's visit, and the accompanying media coverage, helped to lift the long-hanging curtain of doubt and skepticism. His public acknowledgement that these reforms are being driven from within is very important. It affirmed something that many in the region have long been waiting for: respect for their

It is also important to stress that such recognition should not be dismissed as political rhetoric or folded into domestic critiques o Trump.

It is time for the interna tional community to recogcountries themselves but for the broader Muslim nize it not with suspicion but rather with the respect i deserves

Such acknowledgmen and recognition may well contribute to a broader understanding and appreci share with the world

reforms" to state institutions. With different council members having strong military representation on the ground, the PLC has become a tool for exerting power rather than governance. This is largely down legal framework regulating the PLC's operations and defining its members' relationship to one another. The ambiguity surrounding the group's exact functions and authority on the ground has inevitably resulted in alle-

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the forces under its members' control. The result of this is a fractured government incapable of asserting itself against militarily and polit-

ically against the Houthis' formidable forces. This has knock-on effects for the PLC's ability to provide effective governance for the people living in its territories. În Aden, the interim capital, the halls of Yemen's government have remained largely empty as officials fail to hold the meetings needed to move the country forward. Outside, streets are frequently filled with protesters calling for better services and a higher standard of living. There is The city is often without power – a potentially deadly outcome in Yemen's scorching summer heat, in which temperatures can they see as an overall wors-

ening quality of life as well

more than a year in office, worsening people's lives blaming challenges he further still, fuelling their anger and deepening rifts between them and those in power. Meanwhile,

Yemen's enduring poverty and even as conflicts continue to rage in Gaza and Sudan, funding is dwindling for humanitarian to the absence of a proper relief efforts. In February, World the Organisation's country office appealed for \$57.8 million to reach more than 10 million people with emergency health assistance.

Yemenis who have lost faith in their respective rulers - whether in Houthi or government-controlled areas - are now looking elsewhere for hope. Talks between the US and Iran about a new nuclear agreement are continuing and experts believe that Iran could make concessions, including pulling its financial and intelligence support to the Houthis in exchange for sanctions relief. The declaration of the Republic of Yemen on May 22, 1990, was a decisive moment for the country. But the optimism that greeted this new start has long since faded. Whether Yemen's conflict is the cause of some of today's problems in the Middle East, or simply a reflection a lack of reliable electricity. of them is a moot point for ordinary Yemeni civilians who, once again, have fallen victim to decisions made by local and regional powers, when all they really exceed 40°C. Protesters need is food on the table, have also focused on what hospitals to treat them and a nation they can call home.

— The National

World leaders have a huge new problem: Trump's Oval Office smackdowns

Tr'S the new Hunger dull affairs. Press Stephen Collinson poolers are rushed in to hear each leader efit of one man — Elon

President Donald Trump. strong relationship between South African President the Cyril Ramaphosa was the Sometimes reporters get to latest leader to become a throw in a few questions MAGA prop Wednesday, as before they are herded out Trump lectured him on to await a formal press confalse claims that White ference later in the day. South African farmers are the victims of a genocide.

two

The Oval Office is now

Vance often sits on the

more crowded and rowdier.

White House sofa along-

countries.

Foreign leaders now enter the hallowed lair of those barriers of decorum the US president — who that the president left in runs press conferences like place in his first go around. they're WWE cage matches at their peril.

Trump's dressings-down are a metaphor for a US foreign policy that is erratic, politicized and awash in conspiracy theories. As Ukraine and Jordan also found out, the more vulnerable a country, the more hostile a reception they tend to get.

Giving the growing political risks of appearing in the Oval Office, it would not be surprising if some leaders reconsider what was once a coveted invitation but is now a political trap. This could have diplomatic consequences, with Global South nations like South Africa now looking more to China than the US.

Ramaphosa knew what was coming. He was joined by his White agriculture minister in the new multiracial coalition government. Trump's friends the South African major champion golfers Ernie Els and Retief Goosen were also drafted

But that didn't stop killings White Afrikaners.

legacies of South Africa's frontline troops, why he years of minority rule. But wasn't wearing a suit to as Ramaphosa explained, show respect. no systematic

inquisition

JD Vance in February. shocker. While rattled, he rather than outright anger to disrupter. He returned to the president's ambush. He office determined to tear patiently tried to explain down global political and

ed, and they happen to be off. What better way can White, and most of them there be to demonstrate happen to be farmers," Trump said. "I don't know how you explain that."

With most presidents,

Stephen Collinson

Oval Office take-down by mouth platitudes about the Musk. The South African- Oval Office visitors are demands to annex Canada room with Ramaphosa on Wednesday after complain- themselves too much. ing on X about discrimination against Whites in South Africa.

Musk's views also got an This has changed in airing during a visit to the visit, and waxed on about places that are never for Trump's second term, Oval Office by British how this was a great honor sale," he said. "Having met which has shattered even Prime Minister Starmer, when Vance com- had a similar invite from over the course of the camwere free speech crack- Starmer is not known as a downs in the UK on natural politician, and he American-owned firms. Starmer, schooled by his unusually deft performhis weekly appearances at ance. side Cabinet members wait- Prime Minister's Questions

The most successful tility for Trump without debasing maple leaf flag.

tech got top marks at home for

French

that was dominated by hosover born mogul was in the those who dole out praise by wrapping himself in the

Carney tried talking to With a theatrical flour- Trump in terms the real ish, Starmer pulled out a estate-magnate-turnedletter from King Charles III president would underinviting Trump for a state stand. "There are some Keir since Trump had already with the owners of Canada plained about what he said the late Queen Elizabeth II. paign ... it's not for sale, won't be for sale ever."

When Trump said "Never say never." Carney turned to the cameras and the True North and President mouthed, "Never, never."

Every Oval Office meeting now takes place in the haunting shadow of the brutal inquisition of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky by Trump and Vice President JD Vance in February. Ramaphosa seemed to have learned from that shocker. While rattled, he reacted with bemusement rather than outright anger to the president's ambush. He patiently tried to explain the

facts to Trump — not that it made any difference. "They're being executed, and they happen to be White, and most of them happen to be farmers," Trump said. "I don't know how you explain that." With most presidents, Oval Office photo-ops are dull affairs. Press poolers are rushed in to hear each leader mouth platitudes about the strong relationship between the two countries. Sometimes reporters get to throw in a few questions before they are herded out to await a formal press conference later in the day. This has changed in Trump's second term, which has shattered even those barriers of decorum that the president left in place in his first go around. The Oval Office is now more crowded and rowdier. Vance often sits on the White House sofa alongside Cabinet members waiting to pounce. This is an unusual role for the veep. During the Obama administration, then-Vice President Joe Biden often shunned the spotlight at the back of the room. Trump's visitors must run the gauntlet of the MAGA media pack look ing, like the president, for viral moments. During Zelensky's visit, one such reporter asked the

president, who wears a military-style field jacket to honor frontline troops, why he wasn't wearing a suit to show respect. Many deep problems remain in South Africa since the end of apartheid and years of corrupt and chaotic leadership by the African National Congress after President Nelson Mandela stepped down. It's safe to say none of those issues were helped at all by Trump's antics. But that was clearly not the point. The president's Oval Office shows are about signaling to the MAGA base — apparently, in this case, its White nationalist elements.

During the Obama adminis-Trump dimming the lights tration, then-Vice President and rolling out a multime- Joe Biden often shunned dia show of right-wing the spotlight at the back of propaganda about South the room. Trump's visitors Africa. "Death, death, must run the gauntlet of the death," he said, as he dis-MAGA media pack look-"Death, death, must run the gauntlet of the played articles about the ing, like the president, for viral moments. During Zelensky's visit, one such The question of more reporter asked the presiequitable land ownership is dent, who wears a militaryone of the most complex style field jacket to honor

Many deep problems attempt to wipe out a com- remain in South Africa munity based on race or since the end of apartheid ethnicity — the definition and years of corrupt and of genocide. And most vic- chaotic leadership by the if they leave Trump nursing Prime Minister Giorgia tims of violent crime are African National Congress after President Nelson Mandela stepped down. It's President was clearly not the point. Volodymyr Zelensky by The president's Oval Office United States.

Trump and Vice President shows are about signaling to the MAGA base -Ramaphosa seemed to apparently, in this case, its have learned from that White nationalist elements. Trump's brand is based

the facts to Trump — not trading systems that boostthat it made any difference. ed US power but that he They're being execut- says are ripping Americans 'America first" strongman credentials than berating foreigners on TV?

time in the a very, very long time."

Trump's ritual humiliation of his visitors means world leaders now have a we paid. We paid 60% of complex new dimension to the total effort," Macron their prep work. They must consider how

home. If they fail to stand Office showdown. But he up to Trump, they will look was careful to leaven his weak. If they push back own statements with a large hard, they might get a helping of "Dear Donalds."
domestic boost — like Another leader vying to

avoid being trapped on ing now takes place in the safe to say none of those camera while Trump says the advantage of being some point" — perhaps haunting shadow of the issues were helped at all by or does something that among friends. of Trump's antics. But that underscores their relative weakness compared to the of Ukraine, she was on sen-

Jordan reacted with bemusement on being an outsider and a refugees from Gaza. Such make sure Trump fully an influx could topple understood a point about balance and the monarchy spending. itself. Yet Abdullah also he couldn't rebut his host.

supplicant. After he was Oval Office photo-ops are cle seems to be for the ben-gratitude, he spent weeks Mark Carney. After all, he

ing to pounce. This is an in the House of Commons, Emmanuel Macron created unusual role for the veep. made short work of the the second-term playbook complaint. "We've had free for correcting Trump's wild speech for a very, very long falsehoods when he laid his United hand on the US president's Kingdom and it will last for wrist when he falsely on a tirade about how claimed Europe would get back aid it has poured into Ukraine. "No, to be frank,

> Macron seemed to be they will come across to relishing the high-wire quite what might happen their electorates back political act of the Oval with Trump.

> Another leader vying to Zelensky — but could dam- be the bridge between age their national interests Europe and Trump is Italian white envelope bearing the And leaders must try to populist who often visits visit to the White House. Void being trapped on Mar-a-Lago, Meloni had Leo was heard to say "at

> But as a strong supporter take up the offer. In February, for exam- smoothed with slick politi- seem to be in a rush. Maybe ple, King Abdullah of cal skills. At one point, that's because it's almost Jordan looked deeply Meloni interrupted her own inconceivable to envision uncomfortable as Trump interpreter and assumed pressed him to accept translation duties herself to Catholics as God's repre-Jordan's fragile political Italy increasing defense

And she curried favor by dent that they could "make Zelensky was another the West great again."

No foreign leader faced two kicked out of the White as much domestic pressure Americans on the planet in House for reacting angrily in the Oval Office as the storied office would be Sometimes, the specta- to Vance's demands for Canadian Prime Minister something to behold.

Trump, however, had the host's prerogative of the last word — another hazard for world leaders visiting the Oval Office. He went unfair it was that the US bears much of the cost for defending Canada militarily, then told the press to leave. Carney couldn't get a word in edgewise.

Leaders never know

Which brings us to Pope Leo XIV.

Vance was at the Vatican last weekend for the pontiff's inaugural mass and handed over an impressive presidential seal that con-Meloni. As a right-wing tained an invitation for a referring to his intention to

But the former Robert sitive ground that she Prevost of Chicago didn't inconceivable to envision the man viewed by Roman sentative on Earth willingly submitting to the Oval Office bear pit and Trump's somewhat secular rhetoric.

Any visit is likely to folknew his country depends adopting the Trumpian ver- low intense negotiations on US aid for security, so nacular, telling the presi- with the Vatican about protocol.

But the spectacle of the famous most - CNN simply have no choice but

UK's tight immigration controls could also keep out workers

Gavin Esler

THEN I need to get to London's H e a t h r o w Airport at an awkward hour, I call a taxi company owner who is a migrant success story. He is from Iraqi Kurdistan and now runs several small businesses. If he is free, he drives me himself.

We have had long conversations about migration. He left Kurdistan as a teenager and began a very, very long through Turkey. through arrived in Britain with nothing. Nowadays he of the country's troubled enriches our country through his hard work.

conversations about various government initiatives to "control" migration - initiatives that sometimes sound as likely to be successful as planning to "control" the weather. US President Trump, Donald instance, promised to 'build a wall and make Mexico pay for it".

to leave their homeland and somehow get round the migration barriers. Mr Trump's second

forcible arrests deportations of supposedpromising a hostile environment for newcomers. In Britain, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a new "get tough" policy. Opinion polls suggest it has gone down well with He half the electorate while that show that the UK others are angry at echoes past on immigration con-

meant that "I am filled

a migration expert to define the "problem" of migration, the response was clear. It wasn't that Britain is a racist country. It wasn't even the numterm has begun with bers. For most British people, I was told, the most visible flashpoint "illegal" migrants, issue is the small number of boats run by criminal gangs bringing migrants across the channel from France. This is understandable. British people are right to be outraged by pictures on television does not seem to be in control of its own borders.

Those pictures also Our conversations In 1968, the MP Enoch provide a great photocome to mind when I hear Powell – a man with opportunity for the likes ambitions to become of Mr Farage and his antiprime minister - told a migrant campaigning. He Conservative party audi- is often photographed on ence that immigration of the English coast near workers mostly from the Dover complaining that Caribbean and South Asia the government has "lost control", even if the small with foreboding; like the boats are a tiny part of the Roman, I seem to see the migration figures. The River Tiber foaming with highest number of much blood". This classi- migrants crossing the Former German chan- cal reference to the channel in small boats cellor Angela Merkel Roman poet Virgil and was 45,774 in 2022. Of once said "Wir schaffen the inflammatory course criminal gangs inflammatory course criminal gangs

das" – meaning "we can prospect of some kind of trafficking in human misdo it" – when there was race war effectively ery have to be stopped, In the UK, Nigel Farage's latest political vehicle, the Reform UK party, did well in recent local elections although - an important caveat - most English voters can't be bothered to turn out for local council elections. The results, therefore, tend to be skewed towards those who are energised to vote, and immigration is a great energiser. In various democracies, so many governments have tied themselves in knots over promises to limit immigration, stop the boats, build the walls, and so on - but often without much success. Like my Kurdish friend, many migrants simply have no choice but to leave

their homeland and somehow get round the migration barriers. Mr Trump's second term has begun with forcible arrests and deportations of supposedly "illegal" migrants, promising a hostile environment for new-comers. In Britain, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a new "get tough" policy. Opinion polls suggest it has gone down well with half the electorate while others are angry at echoes of the country's troubled past on immigration control. In 1968, the MP Enoch Powell – a man with ambitions to become prime minister – told a Conservative party audience that immigration of workers mostly from the Caribbean and South Asia meant that "I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see the River Tiber foaming with much blood". This classical reference to the Roman

poet Virgil and the inflammatory prospect of some kind of race war effec-tively ended Powell's ambitions. Mr Starmer this month offered his own prophecy on migration, namely that without controls, "we risk becoming an island of strangers – not a nation that walks forward together". We shall see how effective these new controls are over the next few years. But British people remain sceptical, especially after 14 years of failed migration policies and promises of the erstwhile Conservative government.

an enormous influx of ended Powell's ambi- but net (legal) migration migrants. One result was tions. the rise of resentment and the German far right. offered his own prophecy

Belgium, Netherlands, France, Italy and now the UK have also seen the rise of far-right political parties energised hottest issue to enrage voters.

local elections although – an important caveat most English voters can't government. be bothered to turn out for local council elections. Theresa May promised "a tend to be skewed towards those who are energised to vote, and immigration is a great

energiser. In various democracies, so many governments have tied themselves in knots over promises to limit immigration, stop the boats, build the walls, and so on - but often without much success. Like my Kurdish

Mr Starmer this month on migration, namely that without controls, "we risk strangers – not a nation that walks by migration as the together". We shall see in low-paid jobs often In the UK, Nigel few years. But British homes and in the health Farage's latest political people remain sceptical, service. Another island vehicle, the Reform UK especially after 14 years nation, Japan, tightly conparty, did well in recent of failed migration poli- trols immigration but the cies and promises of the

ment for illegal immithe workforce for often low-paid jobs were then filled by other migrants, many of them from India, friend, many migrants Pakistan and Africa. When I recently asked

in 2023 was, as mentioned, 20 times greater, at 900,000.

The Starmer plan will try to make migration to becoming an island of the UK more difficult. It will attempt to get a grip. forward But it will also leave gaps how effective these new done by migrants, includcontrols are over the next ing social care, in nursing falling birth rate and ageerstwhile Conservative ing population mean that one in 10 Japanese citi-As home secretary, zens is over the age of 80.

So which problem do The results, therefore, really hostile environ- British policymakers want to solve? Is it the grants". Migration went number of newcomers? Is up. Then-prime minister it arresting boat traffick-David Cameron promised ers and other criminals? net migration falling to And above all, will tight fewer than 100,000 a immigration controls also year. It peaked at about mean keeping out hard-900,000. Britain also left working young people the EU. That meant fewer who – like my Kurdish EU migrants, but gaps in friend - enrich the UK through their skills and determination? Real solutions are dif-

ficult, while political promises glide off the

One planet, all species living in harmony

inextricably linked with objectives for 2050. the natural world, and

ing global temperatures.

around the world, from 2030. the deepest oceans to the tallest mountains, nature the world's increasingly is under immense threat. fragile ecosystems will Biodiversity is in serious require decline, with species enhanced efforts and going extinct at a faster accelerated actions. To rate than any time in his- this end, China's contin-

ATURE is the idency — paved a path to servation systems, and of better safeguard the plan-strengthening legislation civilization and et and promote coexishumanity's most pow- tence with nature. It set erful ally. From the air 23 specific targets to be we breathe to the food achieved by 2030, alongwe eat, our lives are side four long-term While some progress

by extension, all other has been made toward living things which, like achieving these goals, us, depend on it for sur- there is still much work to be done. Since 2020, Natural habitats are for example, protected not just home to count- areas have increased by less species critical to less than 0.5 percent maintaining the delicate globally. This leaves a balance of the planet's land area roughly the size ecosystems, but also act of Brazil and Australia as carbon sinks, protect- combined, and at sea an ing us against climate area larger than the change. Forests alone Indian Ocean, to be desabsorb nearly 16 billion ignated in order to meet tonnes of carbon dioxide the global target of proannually, while regulat- tecting 30 percent of terrestrial, marine and However, currently, freshwater spaces by

Sustainably protecting significantly ued pursuit of an "eco-Against this backdrop, logical civilization" has the historic Kunming- been an important com-Global mitment. Indeed, during Biodiversity Framework the 14th Five-Year Plan - agreed to at the 15th (2021-25) period, China target. Conference of the Parties has made significant Biological Diversity in natural resource manage-2022 under China's pres- ment, establishing con- hand in hand with cli- ority.

country's landmass.

for protected areas, mate action as two sides Another way to do this which currently account of the same coin. Healthy is through financing. for 18 percent of the ecosystems provide some Currently, there is a \$700 Moving ahead, it will nature-based solutions gap to protect and restore be critical to accelerate for both climate adapta- nature. momentum by building tion and reducing emis-

Beate Trankmann of our most effective billion annual funding that Α

on this work and further sions. China's announce- economy could generate unlocked for broader expanding conservation ment that its new nation- more than \$10 trillion in impact. efforts to increasingly al climate action plan to annual business value

planet. By adopting integrated financing mechanisms and approaches comprehensively tackle development challenges, increasing nature-positive resources can

Between 2022 and Sustainably protecting the world's increasingly fragile ecosystems will require significantly enhanced efforts

and accelerated actions. To this end, China's continued pursuit of an "ecological civilization" has been an important commitment. Indeed, during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, China has made significant strides by improving its natural resource management, establishing conservation systems, and strengthening legislation for protected areas, which currently account for 18 percent of the country's landmass. Moving ahead, it will be critical to accelerate momentum by building on this work and further expanding conservation efforts to increasingly larger areas to reach the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's 30 percent target. In doing this, we must recognize that biodiversity conservation goes hand in hand with climate action as two sides of the same coin. Healthy ecosystems provide some of our most effective nature-based solutions for both climate adaptation and reducing emissions. China's announcement that its new national climate

action plan to be submitted later this year will include all sectors of the economy and all gases is therefore a

critical step, and presents an opportunity to synthesize efforts by including biodiversity as a key priority. Another way to do this is through financing. Currently, there is a \$700 billion annual funding gap to protect and restore nature. A nature-positive economy could generate more than \$10 trillion in annual business value and create 395 million jobs by 2030. Realizing this, however, will require a reorientation of financial systems away from siloed funding vehicles, and toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals — our global blueprint to ensure the future of both humans and the planet. By adopting integrated financing mechanisms and approaches that comprehensively tackle development challenges, increasing resources can be unlocked for broader impact. Between 2022 and 2024, the UN Development Programme promoted more than \$870 billion in investments toward the SDGs. In particular, our SDG Investor Maps and SDG Impact Standards have helped identify areas where investment opportunities align with sustainable development needs, and ensure

that such investments are clearly linked to measurable social and environmental outcomes.

ty conservation goes biodiversity as a key pri-

larger areas to reach the be submitted later this and create 395 million 2024, Biodiversity tors of the economy and this, In doing this, we must an opportunity to synthe-

Kunming-Montreal year will include all sec- jobs by 2030. Realizing Development Programme however, will Framework's 30 percent all gases is therefore a require a reorientation of critical step, and presents financial systems away ments toward the SDGs. to the UN Convention on strides by improving its recognize that biodiversi- size efforts by including cles, and toward the UN Investor Maps and SDG

promoted more \$870 billion in investfrom siloed funding vehi- In particular, our SDG Sustainable Development Impact Standards have ary new technologies and Goals — our global blue- helped identify areas

of both humans and the tunities align with sustainable mental outcomes.

Fund announced by launched last year, proservation efforts. However,

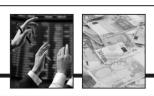
accelerating financing at goals. the speed and scale needed will require global, end, the 4th International around the world in reforming domestic and international financing and catalyzing greater tainability. It will also be an opportunity for large creditor countries to confor the protection of

nature. Finally, with the rapid emergence of revolutioncutting-edge

print to ensure the future where investment opportools, it will be critical to harness the transformadevelopment tive potential of these needs, and ensure that advancements and direct such investments are them toward developclearly linked to measur- ment challenges, includable social and environ- ing biodiversity protection. Innovations like Similarly, the artificial intelligence Kunming Biodiversity offer ways to process vast amounts of environ-China in 2021, and mental data, identify critical patterns and break vides an international down silos that have trafinancing vehicle for ditionally hindered condeveloping countries to servation. UNDP has access additional funding supported more than 50 needed to advance con- countries in using AI to align national policies further with global biodiversity At UNDP, we look for-

ward to continue buildcollective efforts. To that ing on our decades-long partnership with China in Conference on Financing strengthening biodiversifor Development in June ty protection to advance will be a critical opportu- progress on the SDGs nity to unite countries and promote harmony with nature. We can still protect the

planet through meaningful, decisive action, but it investments toward sus- must happen now, and it must happen collectively. The stakes have never been higher, but together sider debt repurposing to we can and must turn free up more resources ambition into impact to create a more inclusive and sustainable future for all life on Earth — one in which nature and humanity will not only coexist, but also thrive.



SCCI calls for elimination of double taxation, amends

PESHAWAR: In its proposals for the Khyber Pakh- granted by constitution. tunkhwa Fiscal Budget for 2025-26, Sarhad Chamber the maximized provincial of Commerce and Industry hydel power utilization thhas urged the provincial rough early execution of trgovernment to abolish dou- ansmission lines and addble taxation, especially ing 80-85 megawatt elecproperty tax, easing process tricity into the grid station. of KPRA audit, reduction in ratio of Sale Tax on called for proactive measelimination of anti-business the city. actions and make legislaappropriate amendment recently introduced by and to present a businessfriendly budget.

SCČI asserted deletion of harsh coercive provi- islation for institutionalizsions in the law governing ing provincial departmentbusiness and industry in the based on the Dispute provincial Fiscal budget Resolution Council mecha-

financing through Bank of community in the forum. the Khyber, taking serious note over advance to provincial government to deposit ratio 0.9 percent incorporate SCCI proposals advance against 16 percent in the upcoming provincial provincial deposit, calling budget 2025-26. for pragmatic steps for ease

Thursday stressed that inn-

the 17th All Pakistan Cha-

Pakistani products.

urgent need to strengthen through

The chamber asserted

Furthermore, it has Services, bringing reforms ures for maintenance of law in trade and business-relat- and order and reduction of ed institutions, and com- the heavy burden of various plete abolishment of provincial taxes, war-footprovincial Infrastructure ing initiatives for comple-Development Cess on tion of the northern bypass export, curtailing tax/fees and Ring Road, underpassof property registry and es on identified locations in

The chamber called for tion, reforms through immediate withdrawal, provincial government Godown Act 2025. provincial

The SCCI called for legnism with representation of It also emphasised provision of subsidized SME stakeholders and business

It has been asked by the

Ahead of the presenta-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mi- said. "The individuals who ic institutions and align

The minister stressed the

He said that Pakistani

competition now take place

technological

nister for Planning, Deve- generate foreign exchange

lopment and Special Init- are the true earning power

ovation and industrial pro- importance of equipping

ductivity were essential dr- chambers of commerce

ivers of sustainable economic growth of any country. with training programs to mic growth of any country.

The minister, addressing their export capabilities.

mbers Presidents Confer-ence here, also called for an global market access

Pakistan's export sector, advancement, observing

praising the quality of that modern warfare and

of our products, our export volume remains low," he must reinforce our academ-

"Despite the high quality in the realm of innovation.

iatives Ahsan Iqbal on of Pakistan's economy.

Innovation, industrial productivity

key to sustainable economic growth

ply on priority basis to Pakhtunkhwa Budget for Muqtasid Ahsan, along industrial consumers as per Fiscal Year 2025-26, these with traders, manufacturproposals were presented ers, and importers and during a joint meeting with exporters in a large number Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Min- present in the meeting. ister on Excise and Taxation Khaleequr Rehman,

> Nazeer, Advisor to Khyber issues being faced by Pakhtunkhwa government on Finance Muzammil Aslam, SACM on industries Abdul Karim Khan here at the chamber SCCI

Khan presided over the meeting. The chamber Senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar sized that the upcoming Haji Muhammad Afzal, Malik Niaz Ahmad, Fuad Engr Maqsood Ishaq, Anwar Pervez,

Muhammad Faizi, former SVP SCCI Imran Khan Mohmand, president Executive members Abbas Fuad Azeem, Aftab Iqbal, Nasir, Hassan Zahiddin, Ishfaq Ahmad, Junaid Altaf, Sabir Ahmad Bangash, Sajjad Zaheer, to Saifullah Khan, Ziaul Haq amendments in harsh laws, Sarhadi, government senior officials, IAP president

ment in line with our

national income.

standard of living.

Business

SCCI president in his opening remarks apprised KP Minister for Revenue participants' number of

amendments in relevant laws and policies, taxation president Fazal Moqeem measures to provide maximum relief to the business community in the provincial budget for FY 2025-26 The chair also empha-

Khan, former presidents provincial budget should be made business-friendly and avoid imposing any new tax and incentivizing the Faiz industries and businesses.

He said the business community wants to pay taxes but imposition of double Rabia Basri, taxation is unbearable.

Later, the provincial ministers and advisors of the KP government agreed with proposals and assured the SCCI and stakeholders make policies as per constitution limits and also incorporate Ayub Zakori, SVP Haris the business community Mufti, former vice presi- proposals in the upcoming dent Shuja Muhammad, provincial budget 2025-26.

The minister assured the

ommendations to the prime

minister, reiterating the

Commending the coun-

e-Haq, he said, "Pakistan is

a peace-loving country with no aggressive designs. Yet,

them with industry needs to achieve economic develop-

Ahsan Iqbal said the government's commitment

people would have to pay to creating a conducive

taxes if they want to fulfil environment for private

He pointed out that a sig-try's recent accomplish-

He said the tax evaders the world has witnessed the

must be held accountable to resilience and self-reliance

avert the burden from the of our people. Our defense

nificant portion of national ments and historic victory

income is consumed by against India during Marka-

their dream of a European sector growth.

repayment, and

stressed the need to tackle

tax evasion head-on.



Chamber's shield to Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Finance Muzammil Aslam.

Romanian ambassador visits SCCI

SIALKOT Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Dan Stoenescu visited Sialkot Chamber Commerce and Industry (SCCI), here on Thursday.

Senior Vice President (SVP) SCCI Waseem Shehbaz Lodhi warmly welcomed Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Dan Stoenescu.

The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral economic ties and explore trade and investment opportunities between Romania and the Sialkot business community.

Discussions revolved around promoting collaboration in key export sectors, facilitating B2B linkages, and identifying areas for mutual cooperation in trade, technology, and innovation.

The Senior Vice President (SVP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Waseem Shehbaz Lodhi highlighted Sialkot's strengths in sports goods, surgical instruments, leather products, and textiles, expressing keen interest in fostering a mutually beneficial trade partnership.

The meeting was attended by the Sialkot business community.

KARACHI: An Environ-Airport

The meeting focused on cleanliness and bird hazard prevention measures ahead

It was decided that Friday and Eid sermons in nearby masjids would include messages on cleanliness and the dangers of bird-aircraft colli-

Authorities directed the immediate launch of a public awareness campaign in nearby residential areas, hotels, restaurants, pamphlets, continuing the practice followed in previ-

Minister pledges continues reform help

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fed- ic stability, a decline in business confidence was eral Minister for Finance inflation and expectations and Revenue, Senator of better business condi-Muhammad Aurangzeb, met today at the Finance Division with a delegation from the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), led by President

Yousaf Hussain. The meeting focused on the latest results of the OICCI's Business Confidence Index (BCI) Survey -Wave 27, conducted nationwide during March and April 2025, said a release

issued here on Thursday. The OICCI delegation presented the findings of the survey, which showed a marked improvement in in business sentiment, overall business confidence across the country.

The index rose significantly by 16 percentage points, moving from a negative 5 percent in the previous wave conducted in October–November 2024 to a positive 11 percent in Wave 27.

This positive shift was observed across multiple sectors and was largely attributed to macroeconom-

tions in the coming months. The Manufacturing sec-

tor led the improvement, with business confidence increasing from negative 3 percent to positive 15 percent. The Retail and Wholesale sectors followed, showing a recovery from negative 18 percent in the previous wave to a positive 2 percent in the latest

The Services sector also demonstrated consistent growth, rising from 2 per-

survey

cent to 10 percent positive.
The Finance Minister welcomed the upward trend viewing it as a strong indicator that the country's economic trajectory is stabiliz-

He acknowledged the importance of maintaining a conducive environment for investment and emphasized the government's focus on supporting private sector growth and ensuring long-term macroeconomic

resilience.

seen as a reflection of broader reform efforts and collaborative engagement between the government and key economic actors.

noted that business confidence improved over the past two years, with the latest surge highlighting the resilience of Pakistan's business sector and its optimism in tapping into future growth opportunities.

The survey's findings also underscored increasing trust in the government's economic direction and reform measures.

In response, the Finance Minister affirmed that the government would continue to take necessary actions to sustain this positive momentum.

Policy consistency, transparency and proactive engagement with stakeholders, including OICCI members, were identified as central elements of the government's approach to strengthening investor confidence and improvement in economic stability.

SNGPL's shareholders approve highest ever 75% cash dividend



LAHORE: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines lion, translating into earn-Limited (SNGPL) conings per share (EPS) of Rs. vened its 60th Annual 29.92. This marks a sub-General Meeting (AGM) of stantial increase from the shareholders on Thursday. previous year's profit after

oved the annual audited and EPS of Rs. 16.66. financial statements for the achieved its highest ever 7.50 per share (75%) for the profitability, recording a year ended June 30, 2024 est disallowance in 18 General Meeting (AGM).

29,843 million and a profit after tax of Rs. 18,977 mil-The shareholders appr- tax of Rs. 10,564 million

The shareholders also The Company final cash dividend of Rs.

the Board. They also approved the re-appointment of (Corporate Affairs)/Com-M/s. A.F. Ferguson & Co., pany Secretary, were also Chartered Accountants, as external auditors for the financial year 2024-25. A notable achievement

during the year was the significant Unaccounted for Gas attended the meeting via fiscal year ended June 30, approved the highest ever (UFG). Overall UFG losses video link. Senior Managdropped from 5.15% to ement of the Company was 4.93%, leading to the low- also present at the Annual

years. Through proactive field interventions, the adoption of technology, and stringent monitoring protocols, the Company saved over 1,269 MMCF of gas, reinforcing its commitment to operational efficiency and environmental stewardship.

A detailed interactive session with the shareholders was held. A number of suggestions were noted and the shareholders were responded to their satisfaction. Saadat Ali Khan, Chair

the meeting, While Ms. Faaria Rehman Salahuddin, Ahmed Chinoy, Directors, Faisal Iqbal, DMD (S), Saqib Arbab DMD (Ops), Kamran Akram, Chief Financial Officer and Imtiaz Mehmood, SGM present in person. While Amer Tufail, Managing Director, Tariq Iqbal Khan, Muhammad Ramzan, Ms. Saira Najeeb Ahmed and reduction in Zafar Abbas Directors

15.46% drop in bird hit incidents F.P. Report

mental Control Committee (ECC) was held at Jinnah International Karachi, where it was revealed that bird hit incidents decreased by 15.46% in 2024 compared to 2023, with a further declining trend observed in 2025.

of Eid-ul-Azha.

sions.

and shops through the distribution of informative ous years.

Airport management directed relevant stakeholders to ensure thorough cleaning of garbage collection points and identify bird-attracting hotspots in

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 778 points

100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Thursday, losing 778.41 points, a negative change of 0.65 percent, closing at 119,153.04 points as compared to 119,931.46 points

on the last trading day.
A total of 589,772,649 shares were traded during the day as compared to 667,685,585 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.813 billion against Rs 26.624 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 466 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 195 of them recorded gains and sustained losses, whereas the share price of 42 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 42,770,156 shares at Rs 4.71 per share, Bank Makramah with

3.77 per share and Ghani of Rs 281.96. Global Holding with 27,642,592 shares at Rs 16.71 per share.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 1,658.12 per share closing at Rs 18,239.28 whereas runner-up was Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited with Rs 475.61 rise in its share price to close at Rs 10,938.05.

Colgate-Palmolive (SBP). (Pakistan) Limited wita maximum nessed decrease of Rs 34.87 per share price, closing at Rs 1,306.95, whereas the runner-up Otsuka Pakistan Limited with Rs 33.42 decline in its per share price to Rs 300.77.

Rupee sheds 10 paisa against US Dollar

The Rupee on Thursday depreciated by 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the

(SLAMABAD (APP): The 28,172,037 shares at Rs the previous day's closing

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood Rs 282.65 and Rs 284.15, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 02 paisa to close at Rs 319.36 against the last day's closing of Rs 319.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

The Japanese ven went up by 2 pasia and closed at Rs1.97, whereas an increase of Rs 0.75 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 378.82 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 and 02 paisa to close interbank trading and at Rs 76.79 and Rs 75.19, closed at Rs 282.06 against respectively.

SAPM chairs meeting to discuss tariff issues in auto parts industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Spe- parts industry. cial Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Indu-together key stakeholders, stries and Production Haroon including Akhtar Khan on Thursday from PAAPAM (Pakistan chaired a meeting to discuss Automotive Parts and tariff issues related to the auto Accessories Manufacturers),

The meeting brought representatives

officials from the Federal Paul, said a news release. Board of Revenue (FBR), the Ministry of Industries and Production, Saif Anjum, and Secretary Commerce Jawad

Haroon Akhtar Khan Engineering Development underscored the govern-Board, the Secretary of the ment's commitment to addressing the industry's concerns, stating that grievances of the auto parts industry

provide a detailed analysis of the level of protection the industry requires to remain competitive and sustainable. اطلاع عام علم على المعالي ومطلع كيا جاتا ہے كه بلاث نبر 180 بيكرنبر 1-2 ، رقبہ 10 مرله

would be formally presented before the Tariff Policy Board. He directed PAAPAM to

In line with the Prime LAHORE: Minister's directives, incentives would be provided to those industries that demonstrate increased productivity. This step aims to encourage growth and enhance the per-

formance of the sector. However, auto parts manafacturers expressed concerns that the proposed 15% customs duty could have a negative impact on the industry's development and overall competitiveness.

Paragon Overseas Education holds AGM



Paragon Overseas Education, operating with 31 branches across 27 cities in Pakistan, held its annual general meeting (AGM) at a private hotel in Lahore. The AGM was attended by over 450 individuals from Pakistan, along with more than 70 officials from international

universities worldwide.

These officials represented

institutions such as Queen's

University,

Bangor year. Anglia, University, Canad West, and various other universities from the UK, USA, Australia, and Canada.

Atif Aslam, Director of Operations and Linkages, welcomed the participants and presented the company's performance. He stated that the company, which started with one office in 2019, now Alhamdulillah comprises 31 offices and

The program concluded

with the CEO of Paragon, Usama Naseer, announcing three upcoming projects. On this occasion, he stated that Paragon will be opening its offices in various countries under the name "Paragon Global." Additionally, they are launching a significant project in Lahore under the name "JAADA SCHOOLS," has facilitated the admis- which will offer O Levels Ulster sion of over 2500 students education to children.

منكه الياس ولدخان ولى سكنه محلّه تيرا بى ، ذاك خانه يو نيورشي ، اچيني پايان مختصيل وضلع پشاور كا مون _ درينونت بقا تكي عقل ومهوش

حواس خمسہ وبلا تر غیب غیری کے حلفا بیان کرتا ہول کہ من حالف کے والد متوفی خان ولی ولد مقبلی کی وفات مورخه 2023-05-01 طبعی طور یر ہوئی ہے۔متوفی خان ولی کے شرعی وقانونی وارثان درج ذیل ہیں۔1۔ مساۃ بسرین (وخرّ) ،2-مساة شازیه(وخرّ)،3مسمی الیاس(پیر)،4مسمی حزب الله(پیر)،5مساة گلنازا(وخرّ)،6ممساة صائمه (وخرّ)،7_مساة عاليه بي بي(وخرّ)،8مسمى محمه بلال(پير)،9مسمى جاويدخان (پير)،10مساة سدره بي بي (وخرّ) لبذا بیان حلفی ہذا کی روشنی میں وراثت انتقال درج بالا کسان کے نام درج تصدیق کیا جاوے۔

بیان حلفی بابت وراثت

مندرجہ بالا بیان میرےعلم ویفین کےمطابق درست وصیح ہاں میں کوئی امر پوشیدہ نہیں رکھا گیاا ور نہ ہی کوئی غلط بیانی کی گئے ہے۔ الرقوم: 03-09-2024

الياس ولدخان ولي مرحوم شاختى كارد نمبر: 9-17301-7724143

اطلاع عام علم علم علم الناس كومطلع كيا جاتا ہے كہ پلاك نبر 128 بيكارنبر 4-8 ، وقبه ليك كال 1267 کیف الک الدورات کا دوانت کا الک الدورات کا دوانت کا کا کا الک الدورات کا دوانت کا کا دوانت کا کا دوانت کا کا دوانت تابنده خان (وخر ان)ان كى حيثيت سے ظاہر مو يكے بيں نے مذكوره اف كى ليكل هيئركى درخواست كزارى بيدا كركسى ادار، فرم، الیک ماری می کودنی امترانی و با میدار کاروری این کی سیختی مهریش می از می می میری مهریش می میریش میریش می این م کی می بان و الاری و نیم روه بو یا کون دیگر شس ایت این کی نیم ارتشان افغان کا دارت فاهم کر را با بیانا و دو و 15 یع کے اعراد اعد با امتراک آفیم UADA کوبات سیختر مین امور بر برحیث و سادار کر سی میسودت ويكر فدكوره بلاث كاليكل حيرًر ثر أسفركر كروار ثان كي نام ثر أسفركر ديا بائے گا۔اور بعد میں کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

واقع فیز KDA-II کوہائ کے مالک قلب عباس ولدخان رضا کے وفات کے بعد ناورہ سے جاری شدہ لیٹر آف ایڈ منسٹریشن کی روح سے مساۃ مہتاب جان (بیوہ)وحید رضا (پسر) جبکہ نازیہ عباس ـ زہرہ عباس ـ شائستہ ناز (دختران)ان کی حیثیت سے نا برہو میں ہیں۔ ظاہرہو میں بین نے ذکورہ بااٹ کی ایکل حمیری درخواست گزاری ہے۔ اگر کسی ادارے، فرم جھن یا بینک کوکئی اعتراض ہو یا فدکورہ لا شيكسى كے حق مهرييں موياكس كے پاس ڈاگرى وغيره موياكوئى يگر مخض اپنے آپ کوقلب عباس کا وارث ظاہر کرنا چاہتا ہوتو 15 يوم كاندراندر بإؤسك آفيسر UADA كوباث في تحريرى طور پر محد شوت رابطه كري _ بصورت ديگر فدكوره پلاث كاليگل

و پیداری در این در این می در این در در در در دارد دارد با در ایند هیر فرانسفر کر کے دار دان کے نام فرانسفر کر دیا جائے گا۔ اور ابعد میں کوئی عذر قائل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ ماروعروهان برواده منجسانب: مسائوسنگ آهیسر اربن پسریسا ڈیویسلپسنٹ انہار تی کوهسات





French Open odds against Djokovic as time running out for record 25th Slam

there is one tennis player 24-times Grand Slam claim a record-breaking matches on clay under his champion Novak 25th Grand Slam could be belt before Paris. Djokovic.

38-year-old Open semi-finals back in exit. January before retiring

and has not lifted a trophy ing a reason.

his hardest yet.

"(It is) kind of a new Serbian's bid for a fourth reality for me, I have to with his coach Andy French Open crown looks say, trying to win a match Murray after only a few more unlikely than in or two, not really thinking months working together. many years, with Djokovic about getting far in the struggling for form since tournament," Djokovic appointed fellow former world number his run to the Australian said after his early Madrid

He was expected to jumpstart his clay cam-Since then Djokovic, paign in Rome before who has 99 tour titles to returning to Paris, where his name and is in the twi- he won Olympic gold last light of a glorious career, year, but he skipped the has reached only one final Italian Open without givended abruptly last week Margaret Court on the all-

After two early losses surprise wild card for the titles and one losing final who knows how to beat in Monte Carlo and Geneva Open this week, in the odds when they are Madrid, it was clear that what looks like a last-ditch stacked against him, it is Djokovic's attempt to attempt to get some more now officially over as

> News of the wild card came as Djokovic split form and future.

one Murray ahead of this year's Australian Open and uncertainty over his the Serb said at the Qatar chances of reaching the Open in February that he last major goal in his would continue working illustrious career: adding with the Scot for an indefinite period.

with the Djokovic-Murray time winners' list.

Sports

Their partnership is Djokovic heads towards the French Open in a cloud of uncertainty over his

The world number six has struggled to assert his dominance after winning three out of the four Grand Slams in 2023.

There is even more that elusive 25th record Grand Slam to his collec-



DALLAS, TEXAS: Tyler Seguin #91 of the Dallas Stars scores a goal past Stuart Skinner #74 of the Edmonton Oilers during the first period in Game One of the Western Conference Final of the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs at American Airlines Center in Dallas. Texas.

Duckett sparkles with century as England punish Zimbabwe

Ben Duckett scored a rapid clouds in the afternoon. century on his home ground as he punished Zimbabwe's reached his century from

his side to 295 for one at tea fours as he drove and cut on the opening day of the the one-off four-day test at attack. Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Thursday.

was caught at cover by Ben and slapping the short ball Curran off the bowling of Wessly Madhevere, having put on an opening stand of 231 with Zak Crawley in 41.3 overs.

Crawley, who has been short of test runs in recent times, will resume after tea on 93 from 139 balls, along with Ollie Pope, who has 49 from 46 deliveries.

Zimbabwe's military medium pace, coupled with an inability to create pressure through a consistent line and length, allowed

not do nothing.

(Reuters): England opener from behind overcast

Left-hander Duckett tame seam attack to help exactly 100 balls with 15 wayward visiting

He added two sixes before he was out to anothing conditions would force Duckett smashed 140 er innocuous delivery, from 134 balls before he rocking onto the back foot

There would be no let-up for the visitors when Pope came to the crease as he raced along at more than a

run a ball.

Zimbabwe captain Craig Ervine won the toss and put England into bat, hoping the cloudy and cold morn-

an early breakthrough. England in more than 20

opportunity for the southern Africans to gauge themselves as the hosts prepare for the series against India before the Ashes Australia.

England handed a debut to seamer Sam Cook as well as a return to the test arena, after a two-year injury-enforced absence, Zimbabwe's first test in for fellow fast bowler Josh



Tennis enters final stage ISLAMABAD (APP): The and initially led 4-1, and pinpoint cross-court nals): Muhammad Shoaib 37th edition of the OGDCL Muzammil displayed winners. However, Yahya & Muzammil Murtaza beat National remarkable resilience. He regained control, taking the Ahmad Nael Qureshi and Tennis bounced back to win the second set 6-3 and domi-Saqib Hayat 6-1 7-5; Championships has entered second set 6-3, showcasing nating the third set 6-1 to Barkatullah & Yousaf secure his place in the final. Khalil beat Abdullah Adnan its final stages after a week powerful serves and precise

Federal Cup National Ranking

of competitive and highenergy matches here at the line shots. PTF-SDA Tennis Complex.

semifinals, top seed lead 3-0, at which point battle for national ranking M.Junaid Khan 6-1 6-2, Muhammad Shoaib Aqeel retired due to supremacy. Tomorrow Abdul Basit beat Haziq Muhammad cruised into the final with fatigue, handing Muzammil a commanding perform- a place in the final. ance, defeating Yousaf In the Junior 18 & Khalil 6-1, 6-0.

cross-court and down-the-

In the deciding set, In the Men's Singles Muzammil broke early to

halil 6-1, 6-0. category, the match of the The second semifinal day featured an exciting witnessed a major upset as clash between Muhammad Men's Singles (semifi- Boys 14&U 3rd seed Muzammil Yahya and Rayyan Khan nals): Muhammad Shaoib (semifinals): Murtaza overcame veteran Khalil. Youngster Rayyan, 2nd seed Aqeel Khan hailing from Peshawar, Muzan (WAPDA) in a gripping stunned the 2nd seed Yahya Aqeel three-set battle. Although Aqeel took the first set 6-3 aggressive shot-making Men

The finals of the 37th & Saifullah Khan 6-3 6-4. OGDCL Federal Cup Junior 18&Unde promise thrilling encounters as top-ranked players Tomorrow Abdul Basit beat Haziq Ladies Singles final will be Arejo 6-0 6-1, M.Haziq played between Mehaq In the Junior 18 & Under Khokhar and Noor Malik 6-1 6-3, Muhammad Yahya Boys 14&Under beat Rayyan Khan Khalil 2-Singles Finals at 9am.

Boys 14&Under Singles (semifinals): Shayaan Afridi beat Rashid Ali 4-1 beat Yousaf Khalil 6-1 6-0, Muzammil Murtaza beat 3 Ageel Khan 3-6 6-3 3-0

Girls 12&Under Singles (final): Khadija Khalil beat Men's Doubles (semifi- Umer Shahnoor 4-1 4-0.

Singles

(quarterfinals):

Muhammad Salar beat

Aasim beat M.Talha Khan

Pacers beat Knicks in overtime after late comeback

NEW YORK (BBC): The Indiana Pacers overturned a 17-point deficit in the fourth quarter before beating the New York Knicks in overtime to win the opening game of their NBA Eastern Conference finals series 138-135.

Jalen Brunson ended the night with 41 points for the Knicks and helped them to lead 69-62 at half-time.

The hosts continued to pull away and were 14 Garden. points clear with two min-

point shot on the buzzer.

Momentum remained as they recorded a famous other team had control. victory at Madison Square



'I'm so proud of the utes and 51 seconds left to resilience of this group, we've shown it all year. However, Indiana scored We've had to win in so six straight three-pointers - many different, random, five by Aaron Nesmith - unique ways and we just before Tyrese Haliburton kept going, kept fighting, forced overtime with a two- and man, that's fun,' Haliburton told TNT.

"It ain't over until it's counted for two.

over, until it hits zero. That's a hell of a win. But I really do think there's a lot for us to improve on.

Haliburton thought he had won the game in regulation time when attempting a three-pointer - even "We played a lot of 'choke' celebration - but with the Pacers in overtime games where it felt like the replays showed his toe was on the line and it only

It is the fourth time the Pacers have won from being 15 points or more behind during the post-sea-

'There's obviously a dispointment when you fall short," said Knicks head coach Tom Thibodeau.

'We got to be ready for game two, and that's all you look at. So, the disappointment, we've got to turn that into more determination.'

The second game of the best-of-seven series takes place in New York at 01:00 BST on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Gilgeous-Alexander - who Oklahoma Thunder to victory over the mimicking Hall of Famer Minnesota Timberwolves Reggie Miller's infamous in game one of the Western Conference finals - has been named as the NBA's Most Valuable Player for

Amorim offers to quit if Man United board want new boss

BILBAO (Reuters): Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim said that he was confident he was still the right man for the job after the club's woeful Europa League loss to Tottenham Hotspur, but would quit with no compensation if the

Amorim and his men had hoped to salvage something from a woeful season that has them languishing 16th in the Premier League with one game remaining. Instead, Brennan Johnson bundled in a first-half goal in a 1-0 win that clinched Spurs a spot in the Champions

League next season -- leaving United out of European football entirely. 'In this moment, I am not going to be here defending myself, it is not my style," Amorim told reporters. "I cannot

do it, it is really hard for me. 'So I have nothing to show to the fans and say 'I'm going to improve because of this, I have these problems,' I will

"In this moment, it is a little bit of faith. Let's see. I'm always open, if the board and the fans feel that I am not the right guy, I will go the next day without any conversation about compensation. Missing out on the Champions League is costly with co-owner Jim Ratcliffe estimating the financial benefit of

qualification between 80 and 100 million pounds (\$107 - \$134 million) in broadcast, matchday and commercial "It is tough for a club like us not to be in the Champions League but now we have to deal with that with a differ-

ent plan, even with the market," Amorim said. "But that means we have more time, more time to think and work durng the week and to be better in the Premier League. This will be our focus.

'I know it's going to be tough, I know we lost to an English team, I know the pressure of the fans is going to be really short in the next season. But I guarantee you I will not quit, I will not go away, so I am really confident. United played like a team more afraid to lose than one focused on winning on Wednesday, particularly in the first

half, which proved costly as terrible defending led to Spurs' goal. United fared better in the second half and threatened to equalise in the dying minutes with Rasmus Hojlund,

Alejandro Garnacho and Luke Shaw all forcing terrific saves.

Tottenham beat Man United to lift first trophy in 17 years

BILBAO, SPAIN (BBC): son's Champions League. Tottenham ended their 17year wait for a trophy as battle between the two Brennan Johnson's first- lowest-placed teams ever half goal was enough to to contest a European beat Manchester United in final, for the losers, there the Europa League final.

Victory means underfire head coach Ange head at Spurs.

he would "never be a tions over his ability to clown" in his pre-match make them competitive address, brought smiles following their worst seaand unbridled joy to the son since the 1973-74 relefaces of the 15,000 offi- gation campaign. cial, and many unofficial,

San Mames Stadium. But the Australian will

In addition to following qualifying for next sea-

was no silver lining. Manchester

coach Postecoglou has fulfilled a Amorim will send his side promise to deliver silver- into the final Premier ware in his second season League game of the season Postecoglou, who said Sunday with huge ques-

Tottenham fans in Bilbao's backing of the ownership Victory may not save Mason Mount ahead of Postecoglou from a Spurs Alejandro Garnacho in an exit in the coming weeks. attacking role did not work. And with skipper leave as a hero after join- Bruno Fernandes unusualing Bill Nicholson and ly subdued, United lacked Keith Burkinshaw in win- the guile to drag themning a European trophy selves back into the game with the north London once they had fallen

They came close to an the lead of Newcastle and equaliser with a Rasmus dramatic late save to keep two Crystal Palace in making Hojlund header, following out Luke Shaw's header. this a season of glory for Guglielmo Vicario's error, clubs who rarely, if ever, that was acrobatically with some debate over win a trophy, Tottenham cleared off the line by a £100m windfall after through the second half.

As had to happen in a

Ruben against Aston Villa on

Amorim enjoys the but his decision to pick behind.



The goal was scruffy, will care about that.

sides, but no-one at Spurs

On a night of clear tenwhether Johnson got the sion and nerves, evident are also set to benefit from Micky van de Ven midway last touch - and was totally from both sides from the floated over his cross as But once the ball hit Shaw in keeping with the tepid first minutes, and afflict- the first-half ticked to its at close quarters, the Vicario then made a domestic seasons of these ing even the most experi- conclusion, Johnson got Manchester United goal-

always likely to require a first touch. little bit of luck to claim

victory.

underperforming enced performers, it was ahead of Shaw to get the

It wasn't a particularly good touch and looked When Pape Matar Sarr unlikely to trouble Onana. that they could save them-

Johnson lunged at the ball a second time. Whether he got there was debatable. But the damage was done. Onana already couldn't keep it out.

keeper was scrambling.

Up to that point, Tottenham had not had a shot on target. They were not to have another. It didn't matter a jot. In his 100th game as

got his second season trophy, just as he did with South Melbourne and Brisbane Roar first English club to win a yards. It was off target. European competition had become the latest to do so, beating a English opponent for the second time dying embers of injury after overcoming Wolves time, Vicario turned away in the 1972 Uefa Cup a decent header from subfinal. Postecoglou also won the Asian Cup two years after becoming Australia boss - and the Scottish championship in

both seasons with Celtic. stoppage time signalled brought hope for United selves in a European final, just as they did so famously back in 1999

But those days are long gone. Even more

heroes in the form of Rio Ferdinand and Wayne Rooney, both present in Bilbao this week, can only lament what their old club has become.

Where there used to be invention and danger, now there is just poor decision making. It starts at the top Spurs boss, Postecoglou of the club but was evident on the field deep in stoppage time when, with Bruno Fernandes on one in side and Amad Diallo on Australia, Yokohama F the other, Leny Yoro Marinos in Japan and decided he was the best Celtic in Scotland. The option to shoot from 25

Hojlund scooped header over the bar. Amad was dangerous and in the stitute Joshua Zirkzee.

But there was no great belief. Garnacho hooked the last chance into the

side-netting.
United will have no The seven minutes of European football next season for only the second time since English clubs were readmitted by Uefa in 1990. They will play in the Carabao Cup in

In brief

FIA holds session

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) organized an awareness session at NICON College, Rawalpindi, to educate students and teachers about the dangers of illegal migration and human trafficking. FIA officials shared real-life stories and warned about fake job offers abroad. They advised students to always verify such offers through official government sources before making any decisions. The session was part of FIA's ongoing campaign to protect young people and the community human smugglers. At the end of the session, students asked questions and promised to spread the message among their friends and

236,487 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 236,487 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 268,593 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1469.15 feet which was 67.15 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 149,200 cusecs and 140,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1151.00 feet, which was 101.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 43,026 cusecs and 20,120 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 186,347, 113,268, 61,807 and 25,010 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 40,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 11,730 cusecs eleased from River

Australia Day celebrated ISLAMABAD (APP)

Chenab at Marala.

The Australian High Commission hosted its annual Australia Day in Spring reception in Islamabad, celebrating the strong and growing connections between the people of Australia and Pakistan. This year's event focused on the theme of people-topeople ties, brought to life through a vibrant mix of cultural experiences. Guests were welcomed by kangaroos painted in Pakistani truck art style, the sounds of native Australian birds, and digital displays highlighting the natural beauty of Australia's six states and two territories. In his remarks, High Commissioner Neil Hawkins emphasized the deep roots and bright future of the bilateral relationship. "This relationship is powered by people, he said. "From the Baloch cameleers who shape helped Australia's outback, to the more than 100,000 Pakistanis who now call Australia home, and the 20,000 students currently studying in Australia—our ties are living, growing, and rooted. deeply Hawkins highlighted over four decades of cooperation in agricul

ture and water manage-

ment, as well as long-

standing defence col-

laboration. He also

pointed to Australia's

continued support for

climate resilience, edu-

cation, and gender

equality in Pakistan

through grassroots part-

nerships. "Ours is a relationship built on

cooperation and shared

experience—scientists

tackling salinity togeth-

er, girls playing cricket,

alumni shaping Pak-istan's future," he said.

This friendship is not

just official—it's about

connections between ordinary people.

ICT admin conducts crackdown against professional beggars

federal capital and detained 23 individuals from the Blue Area.

The operation is part of a broader effort to discourage street begging and involve citizens in reporting such

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, in a recent operation, the district administration officials detained 23 people from the Blue Area. The group included 8 women, 5 children, and 10 taken into custody and transferred to local police stations. This operation comes

under the orders of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, who has asked for increased action across the capital. The anti-begging campaign aims to control the growing presence of street beggars, especially in spaces like the Blue Area, money. where such activities are

ectives on Pakistan: A

Photographic Journey"

Arts (PNCA) on Thursday

capturing the essence of

Pakistan's vast cultural tap-

estry from snow-capped peaks and ancient Buddhist

relics to vibrant tribal festi-

vals and bustling urban life.

rated by the Federal

and

Aurangzeb Khichi, present-

ed a compelling visual nar-

the work of renowned and

Schneider, Luke Myers,

story-of landscapes, peo-

Each frame told a

From the majestic

and Shahzad Ahmad.

mainstream lens.

Minister for

natural beauty.

Curated by

Heritage

The exhibition, inaugu-

National Council of the spectrum.

National

Culture,

opened at the Pakistan geographical and cultural

district administration of tifying and reporting beg-Islamabad on Thursday gars. He encouraged resiment of passersby, and misintensified actions against dents of Islamabad to use of public areas. professional begging in the inform the administration through the official DC the district administration is helpline if they see individuals begging anywhere in

> that the district administration can respond quickly.

The campaign has been law. gaining pace, especially in women, 5 children, and 10 number of beggars appears men. All of them were to be on the rise. The authorities are focusing on areas like shopping centers, to become a regular means markets, traffic signals, and begging is common.

begging are part of organized groups. These networks often include women on roadsides or outside street begging will not only commercial public and commercial approaching people for

administration The Deputy Commithese groups from public begging as a front for other ssioner has also appealed to spaces can help reduce activities.

Exhibition opens at Pakistan

National Council of Arts

ISLAMABAD (APP): An of Takht-i-Bahi to the representation of Pakistan's

exhibition titled "Persp- unique celebrations of landscapes, heritage, and

Featured locations also

included Deosai National

Park, Shigar Valley, Gojal

Gaben jaba, and Karachi's

I have seen many photo-

work displayed here is mar-

exhibition brought together office and associated insti- represented narratives.

Anita avours. PNCA deserves

ple, traditions, and places the occasion. He praised

tutions stand available to

emerging photographers support such creative ende-Amir Khan, Anita avours. PNCA deserves 25 in Gallery 2, PNCA,

often hidden from the the exhibition as a vital cul- art lovers, cultural enthusi-

Karakoram to Rawal Lake power to transcend lan- the eyes of those who have

in the heart of Islamabad, guage and geography. This journeyed far and wide to and from the heritage site exhibition is a beautiful frame its essence.

tural initiative and said,

Clifton coast.

Federal

Kalash and Derajat, the people. PNCA remains

exhibition spanned a rich committed to supporting

in Upper Hunza, Lower Hunza, Skardu, Swat's is diversity. This platform

Aurangzeb Khichi, who tures. It was a valuable

graced the event, remarked, opportunity to provide an

graphic exhibitions, but the bring fresh perspectives."

artists for bringing the field for over 16 years

appreciation for promoting Islamabad. A Pakistani culture." Director Photography W

Jamali, was also present on at 10:00 am.

General PNCA, Ayoub will also be held on May 23

"Photography has the explore Pakistan through

To support this effort, planning further operations in other parts of the city. These will be carried out DC Memon said that with the help of police public cooperation is essenteams and social welfare tial to make the campaign officers. In some cases, successful. He urged citi- children found begging are zens to report the presence handed over to child proof beggars without delay so tection institutions. Adults, particularly repeat offenders, are dealt with under the

Officials have clarified central areas where the that the goal of the campaign is not just to detain beggars but to break the system that allows begging of income. The administrabusy intersections where tion wants to discourage professional beggars while Officials say that most of offering support to those in the individuals involved in genuine need through government-run shelters and support programs.

According to the district and children, who are seen administration, reducing buildings, improve public order but also help in identifying those who need real support. It will also discourage believes that removing criminal elements who use

such artistic expressions

and heritage.'

Minister try's landscapes and cul-

that celebrate our diversity

highlighted the inclusion of

is diversity. This platform

beautifully captures the many shades of our coun-

opportunity to the artists to

Luke Myers spoke about

The exhibition will

The exhibition invites all

asts, and storytellers to

25 in Gallery 2, PNCA

Curator Mariam Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain

cutting ribbon during opening ceremony of a workshop.

Minister commends Secretary on his retirement

ISLAMABAD Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Thursday paid tribute to Secretary Housing and Works Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash for his exemplary services.

Speaking at a farewell ceremony held in the Committee Room of the Ministry upon the retirement of Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash from the government service, the minister lauded Dr. Bangash's dedication, professionalism and significant contributions during his tenure.

"Your hard work and commitment have left a lasting impact on the Ministry," he said.

In response, Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash expressed heartfelt gratitude, acknowledging the minister's leadership and support.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of a souvenir to Dr. Bangash in recognition of his service. Shahzad Khan

Bangash officially retired on May 22 after a distinguished career of over thirty years in public service.

diversity, resilience and speaks for itself". Capital to get "We are thankful to the Amir Khan, active in the world-class Ahmed, Director Visual essence of Pakistan under shared his dedication to Arts Division at PNCA, the one roof. As a minister, my capturing Pakistan's under*public library*

ISLAMABAD Islamabad will soon have a state-of-the-art public library in F-9 Park, equipped with digital facilities, a children's play area, and research labs.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday. The library will follow

international standards, featuring an e-library, digital indexing, co-working spaces, and a social zone. It will also house over 500,000 books and include conference halls for events.

"The design must meet global benchmarks, with all modern amenities to ensure visitors face no difficulties," said Randhawa.

with national and international libraries.

Islamabad's nursery and developing a theme park, safari park, and golf club in F-9 Park to boost tourism.

cultural and educational hub for the capital.

Australian HC urges young professionals

ssioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, said that Australia was proud to support young Pakistani professionals through various scholarship educational programmes.

He said, "Investing in Pakistan's future and helping the young Pakistani professionals to come to Pakistan to shape future of their country' In an exclusive interview

with the APP, the High Commissioner said that scholarship program is one of the most important ones - there are long-term and short-term scholarship programmes for young profes-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The "This relationship is powfrom each other." Australian High Commiered by people," adding, He said Austr "From cameleers who helped build climate resilience, educa-Australia's outback, to the tion, and gender equality than more Pakistanis who now call Australia home, and the communities. 20,000 students currently studying in Australia—our

ties are living, growing, and deeply rooted." the High Commissioner ent from the European said, like Pakistan, climate cows as they are used to hot change is also a big prob-lem for Australia: "We have floods and we have droughts".

With shared experiences, he said, "We can come up with solutions and cope with the challenge of clionals. mate change." He said, sectors, and the Neil Hawkins said, "We can help and learn ing defence ties

He said Australia's support continues to strengthen through grassroots partnerships that uplift Pakistani

Hawkins said, "We are exporting Australian cows to Pakistan as these are very popular here. "The Replying to a question, Australian cows are differweather conditions and give good milk, he added.

The High Commissioner also highlighted the enduring cooperation of more than 40 years of working together to build resilience in the agriculture and water sectors, and the longstand-

FIA cracks down on human smuggling

Federal a nationwide crackdown the gang.

(Khuli Kachehri) to address against organized criminal

In Karachi, the FIA public complaints related to networks involved in Corporate Crime Circle human smuggling, immihuman smuggling, fake arrested Muhammad gration fraud, and corrupidentity documents, and Nadeem, involved in tion. illegal currency exchange. hawala/hundi and illegal Citizens

(CTW) arrested three suspects belonging to an and 11,900 US dollars. international gang accused of issuing fake Pakistani ID cards, machine-readable passports, and Saudi work visas to Afghan nationals.

The arrested individuals Muhammad Alam Zeb, Asif Khan, and Haroon Rasheed — allegedly issued dozens of fraudulent documents, with Alam Zeb alone facilitating visas for 31 Afghan nationals, and Haroon Rasheed for 58.

Investigations are underway into the possible vide a valid explana involvement of NADRA the recovered funds.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The and passport office offi-Agency (FIA) has launched to arrest more members of

The illegal operation was reportedly run from Dubai, using local agents and riders. Nadeem confessed to working for two Dubai-based agents and led authorities to a second raid on a jewelry shop.

Separately, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle Karachi arrested another suspect, Muneeb, from Chundrigar Road, recovering 13,000 US dollars. He was operating an unlicensed currency exchange and failed to pro-

D (APP): The and passport office offi-Investigation cials. Raids are continuing Director Abdul Qadir to arrest more members of Qamar held an open court

In Islamabad, the FIA currency exchange. Acting aged to report wrongdoing, Counter-Terrorism Wing on intelligence, FIA recov- and the Director assured ered over Rs. 71 million immediate legal action.

He stated that FIA's doors are always open for public support and emphasized zero tolerance for human smugglers.

'Victims of human trafficking will be given full legal support, and the criminals will be made an example," said Qamar.

Citizens praised the FIA's ongoing efforts and expressed full confidence in the agency's leadership.

FIA continues to conduct operations across the country to dismantle criminal vide a valid explanation for networks and ensure the

ITP holds free medical camp in Capital

ISLAMABAD Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) in collaboration with a private organization organized a free medical camp for professional and assess their health and

objective of the camp was sary. to ensure smooth traffic flow and reduce the numidentifying

fic rules and road safety.

(APP): health issues.

He said specialist doc-

He said traffic police potential accident prevention meth- paign.

Chief Traffic Officer tors conducted important (CTO) Captain (retd) Syed medical examinations, Zeeshan Haider said that including blood pressure, the protection of citizens' blood sugar, eyesight, lives and property is the heavy vehicle drivers to hearing, and mental stress top priority of ITP. CTO assessments. Based on the Zeeshan emphasized that raise awareness about traf- reports, several drivers driver health assessments were given medical advice and awareness campaigns An official told APP on and referred for further directly contribute to Thursday that the primary treatment where neces- reducing traffic accidents and ensuring public safety.

He said similar initiaofficers also briefed driv- tives will be organized in ber of road accidents by ers on traffic laws, safe the future as part of ITP's educating drivers and driving practices, and ongoing road safety cam-

He directed authorities to digitally link the library Additionally, the meeting discussed upgrading

The project aims to provide membership facilities for citizens, making it a key

ANF arrests 11 smugglers RAWALPINDI (APP): The 74 ecstasy pills weighing Anti-Narcotics Force, con- 130 grams were recovered

ducting six operations across the country, recovered as many as 106.530 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 10.8 million and arrested 11 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Thursday.

He informed that 2 kg of heroin was recovered from parcels being sent to the UK at the cargo shed of Islamabad International Airport, and three suspects Goth Road, Karachi, and a were arrested. As many as suspect was arrested.

from a parcel sent from the secret compartments of a UK at the courier office in Chaklala, Rawalpindi.

Similarly,60 kg suspects were arrested.

În another operation, 37.2 kg of hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Jamali Bridge on Sohrab

As much as 4.8 kg of hashish was recovered from vehicle near Kam Bridge on Islamabad Expressway, of and three suspects were hashish was recovered from arrested. On a tip-off, 2.4 secret compartments of a kg of hashish was recovvehicle near Shamkot Toll ered from the possession of Plaza, Khanewal, and four an accused near Sahianwala Interchange, Faisalabad.

Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are

HEC hosts 10th best research award

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sciences, Biological Scie- National University of have been conferred, set- cation's impact, Dr. Ahm- able technology contribu-Higher Education Commission (HEC), hosted on Thursday the 10th HEC Best Research Awards ceremony to celebrate the exceptional achievements of Pakistani researchers and faculty in various fields.

During the ceremony, graced by Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed as chief guest, HEC conferred a total of nine awards, three each in the categories of Best Publication, Best Researcher, and Best Young Researcher across three broad disciplinary domains of Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities, Law, Education, Management, Public Policy; Physical Sciences, Engineering, Technology, Computer Science, Statistics, Mathematics; and, Life

Veterinary Agriculture, Sciences. The awards comprised Rs. 1 million for the 500,000 for the Best Resethe Best Young Researcher. Prof. Dr. Abdul Majid

from University of Gujrat, Prof. Dr. Jawad Abbas from University of Central Punjab, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid from Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission of Pakistan (PAECP) have The Awards.

Akram

(NUST) Islamabad, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Qayyum Pakistan. Rao from the University of archer, and Rs. 500,000 for of Sahiwal, Dr. Muhammad contributions of Pakistan's state-of-the-art research Information Technology University Lahore, and Dr. Massab Umair National Institute of Health Sciences have been awarded the Best Young

from Shifa Tameer-e-Millat ed by faculty members of ensure its prosperity. This Pakistani university gradu-University (STMU) Islam- higher education institu- nation deserves to be a ates and scholars and the your efforts. We are proud abad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad tions. Over the past nine prosperous country." from ceremonies, 279 awards

Researcher Awards.

Qasim Mehmood from academic and research facilities and a thriving community towards the research ecosystem. socio-economic developfrom ment of the country. He investment is bearing the Health emphasized the need for fruit. He said that while determined efforts to Pakistan's research output inspire researchers to con- is high, there must now be a tribute meaningfully to focus on 'impact'. It is pertinent to mention Pakistan, as he underlined won the Best Publication here that the HEC Research that, "our existence lies in that nations only succeed Awards Programme was the existence of Pakistan." Researcher Awards have launched in 2009, aiming to He added that, "We are combining been clinched by Prof. Dr. recognize and reward out- indebted to our motherland Muhammad Tahir Khalily standing research conduct- and must do our part to He proudly shared that the

academic recognition in ment, through HEC, has stressed that it is critical to injected a massive amount Addressing the ceremo- into the sector, with over Publication, Rs. the Punjab. Likewise, Dr. ny, Chairman HEC Dr. 400,000 scholarships tion, collab-00 for the Best Rese- Waris Ali from University Mukhtar Ahmed lauded the awarded and a enabling commitment.

He maintained that the

The Chairman affirmed when they work in tandem, knowledge, innovation, and patriotism. Discussing higher edu- ships are making remark-

nces, Health, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology ting a strong precedent for ed said that the govern- tions to the country. He sustain the contributions through continued innovation, collaboration, and

> He informed the audience that 279 awards have been presented over the last nine cycles of the HEC Research Awards. He said that the 2024 call received an encouraging response, as a total of 151 applications were received.

> cants stood eligible, while review. He concluded while paying homage to the academia and researchers, saying: "Pakistan recognizes your efforts. We are proud

The convenors of the scrutiny committees also expressed their views and shed light on the transparency and fairness in the the rigorous evaluation process. They also highlighted the effective use of HEC's Research Grants Management System (RGMS). The ceremony was

organized by the Research & Innovation Division of HEC, which plays a pivotal role in strengthening the research ecosystem of the He added that 130 application country. R&I Division connects academia with indus-43 were shortlisted for try and promotes the development of high-impact, technology-driven solutions to address national priorities. A large number of Vice Chancellors, faculty members and researchers attended the event.

1 killed, 3 hurt in collision

JALALABAD (Pajhwok): An individual has been killed and three others have been injured as a result of a traffic accident in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Thursday. Police spokesman Syed Taib Hamad told Pajhwok Afghan News a passenger bus and a truck collided in the Pir Bagh area of Surkhrod district Thursday morning. He said a man was killed while three others suffered injuries in the collision. The injured were evacuated to hospital.

The Frontier Post **FGHANISTA** Zulqaidah 25, 1446 — Friday, May 23, 2025

184 tankers sent back

KABUL (Pajhwok): 180 tankers of low-quality fuel were denied entry at ports in Farah, Nimroz and Balkh last month, MoF said on Thursday. MoF said it denied entry to 184 fuel tankers at customs in Nimroz and Farah provinces last month. Eight petrol tankers were sent back from Hairatan customs, 115 tankers of diesel, four tankers of petrol in Nimroz, 55 tankers of diesel in Farah customs, one tanker of diesel and another tanker of gas in Torghondi customs were rejected.

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

'War-weary Afghans deserve compassion'

KABUL (BNA): The Amir tant advice to the partici- and benefit to the general al-Mu'minin (Hafizahullah) pants. He emphasized that public. stated during a one-day responsibility is not a priviseminar for municipal offilege or honor, but rather a cials that the people of trust, a burden that rests Afghanistan have endured heavily on one's shoulders, immense suffering due to and a duty to uphold the prolonged wars, and now rights of the people. they are deserving of mercy and compassion.

released today by the incumbent upon you to pro-Presidential Palace, Amir tect the rights of the people al-Mumineen participated in accordance with Islamic in and delivered a speech at principles and to serve a one-day educational and them sincerely. reformative seminar held in Kandahar for municipal Amir authorities. The Mayor of stressed that the funds of Kabul was also in atten- the municipalities are, in dance at the event.

Momineen praised the they provide for public municipalities across the money must be used in pleased with your service country and offered impor- ways that bring happiness and dedication."

"You now bear the d compassion. responsibility for serving According to a statement the people," he said. "It is

Addressing the mayors, Momineen fact, the people's money, In his remarks, Amir ap their rightful dues, which

Towards the conclusion of his speech, Amir al Momineen reiterated that started the construction of 9 the people of Afghanistan have suffered deeply due to many years of war, and districts of the province. now, more than ever, they are entitled to mercy and compassion. "Treat the people kindly," he urged. "Assist them, do not use force or coercion against them, and do not burden them with pressure. Work harder to ensure the cleanliness and maintenance of the cities, safeguard public property and the nation's wealth, stay away from negligence, remain steadfast in Sharia, and know efforts and services of all services. He urged that this that the people are greatly

NANGARHAR (BNA): The Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Department of Nangarhar province has agricultural water networks in the Goshta and Kama

Nine agri

irrigation networks to

be built

Zakerullah Zaki, the Government and Social Coordination Officer of the Nangarhar Agriculture Department, told Bakhtar News Agency that this project is being implemented under the Rapid Water Resources Rehabilitation Program, with nearly 3 million Afghanis in funding support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in the Goshta and Kama districts.

He added that upon completion of this project, nearly 1,800 jeribs (about 360 hectares) of dry and barren land will be irrigated and made ready for agriculture.

He noted that during the implementation of this project, employment opportunities will also be provided for thousands of local residents.

Additionally, Mawlavi Mohammad Wali Mohsin, Head of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in Nangarhar, called the implementation of this project a positive step towards water resource management in his remarks. He urged supporting organizations to also provide necessary training to farmers in the mentioned districts regarding the value and management of water for more effective project implementation.

Groundwater

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Japan Times, in a report titled "Afghan capital losing race against water shortages," stated that the situation in Kabul is clearly

The report, citing information and perspectives om several experts, mentioned that if no action is taken regarding Kabul's groundwater, there will be no groundwater left in Kabul by 2030. It said that population growth has outstripped urban planning, and climate change

Japan Times notes that up to 80% of Kabul's groundwater is contaminated and more than 100,000 unregulated wells extract water in the city, which are frequently drilled deeper.

Groundwater can be recharged, but more is drawn each year than is replenished in Kabul, with an estimated annual 76experts say, according to

Afghan Mines Minister tours Iran's steel plant



KABUL (BNA): Mullah during an official visit to plant's operations and expre-full cooperation to facilitate Hidayatullah Afghanistan's Minister of also met with the provincial and Petroleum, governor. Mines inspected Mobarakeh Steel Company, Iran's largest that Mobarakeh Steel execu- Badri welcomed the pot- laboration in mi iron ore processing facility, tives briefed Badri on the ential partnership, pledging resource development.

Badri, Isfahan province, where he

ssed keen interest in investing in Afghanistan's untapped mineral reserves, par-Ministry of Mines stated ticularly iron ore deposits.

Iranian investment in mining sector. Isfahan's governor reciprocated by emphasizing stronger bilateral col-

Otunbayeva and Omari discuss security situation



first deputy interior minister has discussed the security situation in Afghanistan with UNAMA head.

In a statement, the Min-

Omari met with United Nations Assistance Mission country. in Afghanistan chief Roza Otunbayeva on Thursday.

It said the meeting took deputy interior minister and both sides discussed security in Afghanistan.

various topics, especially the security situation in the According to the state-

ment, the meeting emphasized bilateral cooperation istry of Interior wrote first place at the office of MoI for greater stability and

may run dry by 2030

deteriorating.

below-average precipitation.

Silk farming industry sees significant revival in Herat

HERAT (TOLOnews): The section of the Herat silkworm Herat Agriculture, Irrigation, and and Irrigation, said: "In the Livestock said that the silk past, due to the problems in farming industry has signif-icantly improved in the try had declined. Now, province this year.

than 6,000 boxes of silkworms have been distributed to farmers and villagers by various institutions this year.

the markets.

Directorate of Directorate of Agriculture more institutions and the According to officials Agriculture Directorate are from the directorate, more working to further develop

this industry."
Ahmad Shah Qawami, deputy head of the Herat Silk Farming Union, told TOLOnews: "About 5,500

It is said that each box of silkworms can yield up to engaged in collecting ten kilograms of cocoons. The price of each kilogram ing silkworms in Zindajan of cocoons ranges between district. Silk farming is an role in improving their eco-1,000 to 1,500 afghani in industry that engages the nomic conditions. entire community, from

time, a family with four to five boxes of silkworms can earn 50,000 to 60,000 afghani.' Seventy percent of the activities in this industry

are carried out by women, and the main center of silk farming in Herat is Zindajan district. The process of cocoon of money."

Silk farming and weavproduction, from beginning

to harvest, takes about a month. Farmers say the industry has played a vital

cultivation is labor-intensive and puts a process takes about a burden on women; howevmonth, and during this er, it is economically beneficial. If the cocoons are purchased and exported, it would be good and would help people economically."

Nisar Ahmad, another farmer in Herat, said: "Silk farming has a good and legal income in 10 to 20 days. We work day and night and earn good amount

ing are ancient industries in Herat which according to local officials, have a history of over two thousand years. Thousands of people Abdul Qadeer Esmati, in several districts of Herat, Fahim Fayez, the head seven-year-old children to one of the farmers, told especially Zindajan, are of the bird, fish, and insect eighty-year-old elders. The TOLOnews: "Silk farming engaged in this industry.

Mirwais Hospital launches new departments

Hospital in Kandahar say section. that, in addition to beginning the construction of an Munawar, the head of the oxygen production plant, Kandahar five new departments have Hospital, been inaugurated at the month, 41,000 patients

over the past month, ments 41,000 patients from Hospital." eleven provinces have hospital.

Abdul Qayum Ayubi, the chief physician at Mirwais laparoscopy, ultrasound, compared to the past. echocardiography,

(TOLOnews): Officials at and we resolved the issues the Mirwais Regional in the medicine storage

said: were registered and treated They also reported that across various depart-Mirwais

Currently, the hospital received treatment at the provides health services to patients in 11 units and 34 departments.

Regional of patients said that the Kandahar added that Hospital, told TOLOnews: medical facilities at the efforts are also being We have activated the hospital have improved Rahmatullah Rahmati, a medical staff.

K A N D A H A R endoscopy departments, resident of Kandahar, told TOLOnews: "The hospital has now expanded. In the past, its services were not Munawar Ahmad very good, but now it operates at about seventy Regional l: "Last percent satisfactory level and we hope it will improve even more." Abdul Qadeer, a resi-

dent of Uruzgan who came to Kandahar, said: "My father has a heart disease and is hospitalized here. I am satisfied with the hospital services.'

Officials at Mirwais Meanwhile, a number Regional Hospital in accelerated to increase the million-cubic-meter deficit, capacity of the hospital's

OCHA warns of negative impact as US shifts disaster policy

KABUL (Pajhwok): The United States Agency for difficulties and obstacles. suspension of the US forprograms in Afghanistan about \$54 billion.

has a negative impact as dealing with natural disasters to its State Department's refugees division.

After returning to the humanitarian programs in White House, US President Afghanistan. Donald Trump issued an assistance for 90 days for stockpiling more than 90 percent of events, especially natural Act foreign aid contracts for the events, has encountered State

International Development eign aid for humanitarian (USAID), equivalent to

The United Nations recently Washington hand- Office for the Coordination ed over responsibility for of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) said suspension of US foreign aid has had widespread impacts on

Recently, executive order suspending explained with the cessa-US foreign development tion of aid, the process of items and review. Trump canceled preparing for various

negative impacts on programs related to health services, mine clearance,

Afghanistan, the report

Reuters reported the US State Department has transresponding to natural disasters abroad, previously handled by USAID, to the Department's Bureau of Citizenship and

Immigration Affairs. Department

Delays in aid have had in various countries to cooperate Department's Citizens and Immigration cash assistance, and food in Division in responding to natural disasters.

Recently, Trump explained the budget cuts to USAID and its aid prograferred responsibility for ms around the world have had a "devastating" impact.

"We've spent a lot, it's a huge, huge problem that's going on in many countries. There are a lot of problems. The US is always being According to reports, the asked for money, no one

Media as a teacher: Education initiative in Afghanistan

KABUL (Pajhwok): Some students, calling for their expansion.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information and Culture also emphasized increasing such programs.

school curriculum content. These programs are followed not

only by girls who have been barred from attending school but also by a large number of other students.

Students' accounts of educational media programs

Mohammad Elias, a 16-year-old tenth-grade student at the private "Mashal Jawidan" high school in Kabul, sits in front of the television at 3 p.m. every day—not to watch cartoons or entertainment shows, but to attend a lesson.

He is working hard to pursue his

lofty dreams. At 2:50 p.m., Elias places his math notebook on the table and picks up the TV remote. He has to be ready ten minutes before the start of his favorite show—Maktab-i-Tamaddon, which airs daily on the private Tamaddon TV channel.

He says: "I watch the Maktab-i-Tamaddon program on Tamaddon TV. It's a very good program, and I

watch it every day. He believes such programs are effective in raising students' knowledge and urges his peers to make use

of these televised lessons. Elias is not the only one benefiting from these educational media programs-thousands of other boys and girls also follow them.

teachers, and experts have welcomed says: "Tamaddon TV broadcasts are educational programs aired by certain good lessons for us. My mother media outlets in the country and are encourages me to watch this pro-

She, who hopes to become a doctor in the future, calls on the Islamic Emirate to allow all girls to attend Recently, several visual and audio school so that Afghan girls, like girls media outlets, as well as YouTube in other countries, can be adorned channels, have begun focusing on with the jewel of knowledge and edu-

Continue education: Lida's struggle for learning

Lida Rezayee, a resident of Dashti-Barchi area in Kabul, is another fan of educational programs on media. She says that during the political transition in August 2021, she was a sixth-grade student at Zainab Kobra High School.

home, I started thinking and looked for a solution. That's when I found out about online lessons on TV." She explains that in the beginning,

She adds: "After being confined to

when she started online learning, power outages and internet cuts created problems.

However, now that she follows the Maktab-i-Tamaddon program on Tamaddon TV, her problem is resolved, as the program is broadcast three times a day.

Rozita Momenzada, another viewer of the program, is happy that such educational shows are being broadcast and says more such programs should be introduced.

She also turned to online classes after lessons beyond the sixth grade were halted for girls.

She says: "At first, I had no experience. I wondered—how would it go? Would it be effective? Would I on social media. Many people are learn anything? But I had no choice working hard in those spaces

Hadisa Salehi, another student, but to try online lessons, so I started." Rozita says she has gained good results from online lessons.

She concludes: "My message to both boys and girls is to make use of educational media programs, always study, and continue learning. I also urge the government to reopen our girls' schools so we can continue our education."

All interviewees welcomed the educational programs broadcast by media and called for their continuation and expansion. Experts[†] views on educational

programs Abdullah Kakar Nisari, an education expert, says that learningregardless of how it is delivered—is extremely important. Broadcasting

educational content through audiovisual media is very beneficial. He says: "After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of online education became clear to the world. We live in the 21st century and must adapt ourselves to the circumstances and make effective use of technology." According to him, online or media-based educational programs are both economical and

accessible, and they are not limited by time or place. Mahbubullah Meanwhile, Moahad, another education expert, praises the broadcast of educational content via audio and visual media, as it significantly enhances students'

knowledge.

He adds: "Recently, a number of media outlets, both audio and visual, have launched several educational programs, and on the other hand, online schools have been established

While he says that online education can never fully replace in-person teaching, he acknowledges that in the current situation, where girls are banned from attending schools, it can be very effective. He emphasizes that if such pro-

grams are properly managed, students can continue their education effec-

One of these programs

Maktab-i-Tamaddon is one of these educational programs broadcast by the private Tamaddon TV channel. It has gained a large following among both male and female students.

Mohammad Rahmati, the manag-

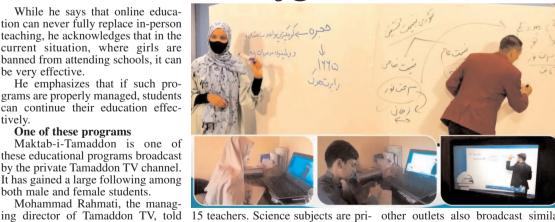
Pajhwok Afghan News that the sta-

tion launched its first educational program around twelve years ago. He said: "We had a program called Ham-Sanfi (Classmate), maybe 10 or 12 years ago, which had many viewers. In that program, we taught school subjects, mainly science subjects, and

had many viewers in the provinces back then. He explains that based on the experience from Ham-Sanfi, in March 2022, following the ban on girls attending school above grade six, they launched a new educational

program called Maktab-i-Tamaddon. He adds: "The aim of this new educational program was to ensure that those who, for any reason, are deprived of school could still have access to quality academic knowledge. We used a better teaching method, higher quality, and selected very capable teachers.

He explained that Maktab-i Tamaddon, which is broadcast on TV and YouTube, covers school subjects from grades 7 to 12 and is taught by



oritized, and each subject is taught for about six months. According to the source, the program is aired daily from 8 to 9 a.m., 3

4 p.m., and 10 to 11 p.m. Teachers' view Nargis Rahmati, one of the teachers in Maktab-i-Tamaddon, says she

has been teaching biology for the past three years. She previously taught at private schools and notes that teach-

person teaching and somewhat more difficult. Mohammadi, another Hojat teacher in the program, said he has been teaching basic concepts in various courses for 14 years and is now involved in teaching in the Tamaddon

ing online is very different from in-

V program. He praised the experience of online teaching and said they had used it successfully during the

COVID-19 pandemic as well. Other media outlets involved

other outlets also broadcast similar educational programs.

View of the Ministry of Information, Culture

Khabib Ghafran, spokesman for the Ministry, also considers the broadcast of educational content through media to be effective and a critical need, urging media outlets to expand such efforts to raise public

knowledge He stated that currently, about 10 media outlets, mostly TV and radio stations, have been broadcasting edu-

cational and instructional programs. He added: "The goal of the Ministry of Information and Culture this year and in the coming years is to explore how we can make media more specialized, scientific, and educational—especially educational, scientific, and social programs.

Such programs greatly affect the minds, understanding and create awareness, so it is essential that media outlets producing such content In addition to Tamaddon TV, be highly professional, skilled, and TOLO TV, Arman Radio, Arezo committed so that the people can ben-Radio, Lemar, Killid Radio, and some efit as much as possible.

ISLAMABAD: US Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan, Ms Natalie Baker called on Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Zardari House.

were still a "trickle" compared with the

needs of the population in Gaza, where

security concerns, food aid has also not yet

reached the northern part of Gaza, where

thousands of civilians are also under siege

Israel would allow an unconditional flow

of aid to the Gaza Strip," he said, adding that the UN has been demanding at least

500 food trucks be allowed into the terri-

tory daily after more than 80 days of a

complete blockade. On Wednesday, the

UN said it was trying to get the desperate

ly needed aid as quickly as possible into

the hands of Palestinians amid delays

because of fears of looting and Israeli mil

itary restrictions and strikes. Palestinians

have been scrambling for basic supplies

after weeks of near-total isolation, with Israel's blockade leading to critical food

and medicine shortages, and fears of a

According to the UN, half a million

people, or one in five people in the Gaza

Strip, are facing starvation while the entire

population continues to face a critical risk

of famine. Pope Leo XIV described the

situation in Gaza as "worrying and painful" and called for "the entry of suffi-

In recent days, Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu announced that

Israel is days away from implementing a

new aid system in Gaza that has come

under heavy international criticism. He

said Israel later plans to create a "sterile zone" there, free of Hamas, where the pop-

ulation, which has repeatedly evacuated and relocated throughout the war, would

be moved and receive supplies. Gaza's

health ministry said at least 3,509 people

on Gaza in October 2023, according to

The question here remains whether

our correspondent said.

widespread famine.

cient humanitarian aid".

experts warn of a looming famine. Due to

Israeli strikes kill 51 Palestinians in Gaza

— aid groups collect limited supplies

GAZA: Israeli attacks on Gaza have killed "resumed operations", he said, citing dozens of Palestinians since dawn, med-Gaza's media office. "This has been a sigical sources said, as limited supplies of nificant logistical step forward," Abu humanitarian aid trickled into the Azzoum said, but noted that the supplies Palestinian territory after Israel eased its

Medical sources told Al Jazeera that at least 51 people were killed in Israeli attacks on Thursday, including 25 in Gaza City and northern areas of the Strip. At least 10 people, including nine members of the same family, were killed in an Israeli attack that hit an area housing displaced people in the al-Baraka area of ??Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa report-

Five people were killed in an Israeli attack on the Bakhit family home in the as-Saftawi area, in northwest Gaza, Wafa reported. In Beit Lahiya on the northern edge of the enclave, a tank shell hit a medicine warehouse inside Al-Awda Hospital and set it ablaze, the health ministry said. Rescue workers had been trying to extinguish the fires for hours, it added. Tanks are stationed outside the hospital, medics say, effectively blocking access to the

The attacks come as aid groups collected humanitarian supplies carried by about 90 trucks that have entered Gaza since Israel began allowing limited goods in earlier this week, the United Nations said on Thursday. Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Humanitarian agency OCHA, said the trucks that entered carried medicine, wheat flour and nutrition supplies.

Aid groups face significant challenges distributing the aid because of insecurity, the risk of looting and coordination issues with Israeli authorities, Laerke added. The Gaza Government Media Office said late on Wednesday that 87 aid trucks were allocated to international and local organisations to meet "urgent humanitarian needs". Al Jazeera's Tarek Abu Azzoum, reporting from Deir el-Balah, said the food trucks have been killed since Israel resumed entered on Wednesday and "successfully strikes on March 18. At least 53,655 have off-loaded" at designated UN distribution been killed since Israel launched its assault

Since then, some bakeries have Palestinian health authorities. — Aljazeera

CS KP takes steps to improve governance **Syed Adnan**

PESHAWAR: In an effort to promote good gover-nance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah has initiated a series of effective reforms across multiple government departments. These reforms are aligned with the vision of the Chief Minister, aiming to provide improved public services and ensure a more transpar-

ent administrative system. Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah has prioritized enhancing administrative efficiency, eliminating corruption, and ensuring the prompt delivery of services to the public. Under his leadership, performance monitoring systems have been introduced in key departments including health, education, and local government. Officers have been directed to strictly follow office timings, and several significant changes have already

observed. Sources reveal that the core objective of these changes is to make government institutions more and responsive. active Special focus is being placed on addressing public complaints at the district level, with accelerated efforts for timely resolu-tion. The Chief Secretary has also conducted visits to various districts to personally review the performance of local administra-

These initiatives reflect the practical implementa tion of the Chief Minister's vision to establish a clean, transparent, and citizenfriendly government. Analysts believe that if these reforms continue, Pakhtunkhwa Khyber could soon emerge as a model province in terms of good governance.

Saif: Start with Nawaz, not Imran F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Barrister Dr. Saif, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, has called for immediate polygraph tests of all politicians who own properties abroad. He asserted that Imran Khan has no foreign assets or properties and has already been declared "Sadiq and Ameen' (truthful and trustworthy) by the Supreme Court of

In a statement released from his office, Barrister Dr. Saif specifically named Nawaz Sharif, stating that his during silence recent Pakistan-India tensions raises questions and warrants a polygraph test. "The first polygraph test should be of Nawaz Sharif," he empha-

sized. He further said that the added.

Imran willing to initiate dialogue for sake of country: KP CM

RAWALPINDI, PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Thursday said that the restoration of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) mandate is not merely a party concern, but a necessity for the country's democratic stability.

Speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail following a meeting with PTI founder Imran Khan, Gandapur claimed the incarcerated leader was willing to initiate dialogue "for the sake of Pakistan." Briefing the media, CM Gandapur stated, "This was my first meeting with the party founder in two months. I updated him on governance matters and the upcoming budget. Imran Khan said, 'The darkest hour is just before dawn' and warned that a state cannot be run through force."

He cautioned that if party leaders are denied access to Khan, PTI would reconsider its cooperation with the government, including on key issues like compliance with IMF conditions. "Let every institution perform its constitutional duty — we stand by the words of unified stance," he asserted. Calling for expedited judicial proceedings, the KP CM said, "The cases against Imran Khan are politically motivated. We demand that they be heard in court and dismissed on merit." Criticising the suppression of dissent, he added, "It is easy to criticise with a microphone in hand, bullets — our goal is not to endanger our workers, but to protect them."

Reiterating the party's resolve, the

and our demand is justice. We will ensure our leader's release by all legal

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, stated that the provincial government is working on multiple small and large-scale projects to fully utilize the province's hydropowprojects is a key priority for the government, and the required financial resources will be provided on a priority basis for this purpose. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Energy and Power Department on Thursday. Relevant cabinet members, the Additional Chief cials attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress so far made on the projects being carried KP chief minister declared that the PTI out under the Annual Development founder remains unwavering and has Program by the Energy and Power reappointed him to lead the protest Department. The concerned officials laws and regulations be ensured during movement. "Our fight is constitutional, gave a detailed briefing on the financial the project's implementation.

and physical progress of these projects. The Chief Minister directed that financial progress on these projects must be ensured at 100% by the end of the current fiscal year. He also instructed that physical progress on these projects be ensured in accordance with the set targets. Ali Amin Gandapur stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has considerable hydropower potential; timely and quality completion of ongoing hydro power projects is essential to fully benefit from it. On this occasion, the Chief Minister directed that measures be taken to supply electricity from the under-construction Balakot Hydropower Project to local industries. He also emphasized ensuring significant progress on the solarization project, stating that solar-ization is a flagship initiative of the current provincial government. He instructed that any obstacles hindering progress on the project be removed promptly and that strict compliance with prevailing

Friday, May 23, 2025

and political means," he concluded. our leader, and they reflect the party's er potential. Timely completion of these but difficult to serve the people. We Secretary for Planning and protested peacefully and were met with Development, and other concerned offi-

KP govt imported finance minister from Karachi: PHC

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Acting Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice SM Attique Shah has granted interim bail to former speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, restraining authorities from arresting him, on

PHC granted interim bail to Asad Qaiser for 20 days. The court also directed the authorities to provide details of the cases registered against him. The lawyer informed the court that the petitioner wanted to appear in court but feared arrest. The lawyer stated that 15 cases had been registered against

During the hearing, Acting Chief Justice SM Atique Shah asked Asad Qaiser about his plans for the province's youth. Asad Qaiser replied that he is raising his voice in the National Assembly for the people. The Chief Justice emphasized the importance of providing IT training to the youth, citing the example of a neighboring counry that exports IT services worth \$840

billion. The Chief Justice stressed that the government has a responsibility to provide IT training to the youth, given that 70% of the population is young. Asad Qaiser informed the court about the colleges and universities he had established in Swabi and his efforts to raise the voice of the people in the assembly.

In the meantime, the acting Chief Justice remarked that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has imported finance minister from Karachi as seems that the province lacking financial experts. Similarly, PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Oaiser petition seeking details of the tive on the judiciary. cases registered against him. The court

Court stops adverse action against Law Dept employees

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Naeem Anwar and Khursheed Iqbal has stopped any adverse actions against 163 employees who were recruited in the Law Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and sought a response from the government regardng the cancellation of their appointments, on Thursday.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the employees who were ppointed as computer operators, junior clerks, drivers, naib Qasids. howkidars and sweepers in the Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights Department. The petitioners applied for various posts in the department and qualified in the written tests and interviews. Based on merit, the selection committee recommended their appointments, and they were issued appointment letters on February 12, 2021. However, their appointment leters were canceled without any reason, which led them to approach the eshawar High Court. The court ordered their reinstatement on March 12 021. Some unsuccessful candidates challenged the appointments in court and the Peshawar High Court directed the National Accountability Bureau NAB) to investigate the matter. NAB submitted its report, and the provincial inspection team also conducted an inquiry, highlighting some irregularities. However, the petitioners claimed that they were selected based on merit and experience. The petitioners' counsel argued that the inquiry committee's recommendation to cancel the appointments was beyond its manate. The committee's task was to investigate and recommend action agains the selection committee members, not to cancel the appointments.

details of the cases.

Former Speaker Asad Qaiser said that the Prime Minister had made a India to participate in TV shows. Asad Qaiser countered that if PTI leaders have appeared on Indian TV shows, they have done so to present their viewpoint. Asad Qaiser stated that the government is trying to undermine national unity. He criticized the treatment of the PTI founder in Adiala Jail, saying that it is unlawful and that no one is allowed to meet him. He also expressed con-Justice Farah Jamshid heard Asad cerns about the influence of the execu-

innocent lives. He emphasized that PTI's stance on drone attacks is the same as that of its founder. He directed statement that PTI leaders are taken to the provincial government to take measures to prevent drone attacks. Asad Qaiser announced that PTI would soon launch a protest movement for the release of its founder. He said that the party had postponed the movement due to the Indian attacks but is now consulting with its allies to plan a new strategy.

Asad Qaiser questioned the legitimacy of the current government, saying that it is a product of Form 47 and that the Prime Minister is sitting in power without a clear mandate. He Asad Qaiser condemned drone emphasized that the government is granted him protective bail and directed attacks in Pakistan, saying that they are not functioning in the best interests of the federal government to provide unacceptable and result in the loss of the country.

Indian decision to suspend IWT an act of war: NA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution calling on the government to strongly condemn India's unilateral decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) terming it a clear violation of the agreement and an act of war.

The resolution, moved by Federal Minister for Water Muhammad Resources Mueen Wattoo, said, "This House is of the opinion that government should take immediate steps to condemn India's unlawful and unilateral declaration to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance in blatant violation of the Treaty, which clearly

amounts to an act of war." Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani condemned the Khuzdar terrorist attack that claimed innocent lives, including children. He further alleged that India was involved in sponsoring terrorism inside Pakistan. The lawmaker criticized Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for suspending the treaty and accused him of acting with a hostile mindset.

Aijaz Jakhrani warned that stopping Pakistan's water supply was like declaring war and said Pakistan would not accept such aggression. Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Muhammad Iqbal Khan also condemned India's actions and called on the international community to take notice. He said the Indus Waters Treaty was vital for Pakistan and must be protected at all

Iqbal Khan also condemned the school bus attack Khan Bugti joined in con-demning the Khuzdar attack, calling it a terrorist act. JUI-F MNA Shahida Begum also was informed that 39 cases expressed deep sorrow over of intending Hajj pilgrims the incident and extended who were unable to perform by pilgrims sympathies to the families of the pilgrimage due to illness replacements.

Senate passes explosives (Amendment) Bill 2025

F.P. Report

SLAMABAD: The Senate on Thursday passed the Explosives (Amendment) Bill 2025, introducing strict penalties for unlawful manufacturing, storage, posses ion, sale, transport, import, or export of explosives with punishments ranging from three to seven years in orison, fines from Rs. 500,000 to Rs. 20 million, or both

The Explosives (Amendment) Bill, 2025, introduced y Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Faza Chaudhry, aimed to amend the Explosives Act, 1884 and was presented to the upper house of Parliament According to clause four of the bill, a new clauses 54 and 5B are inserted as ""5A. Offences of minor and major violations. – (1) Where a licensee commits no minor violations which are non-malicious, he shall be iable to an administrative penalty not exceeding hal million rupees.

(2) Where a licensee commits minor violations which re malicious, he shall be liable to an administrative enalty not exceeding one million rupees.

(3) Where a licensee commits major violations which re non-malicious, he shall be liable to imprisonmen not exceeding three years or a fine not exceeding ter nillion rupees or both.

(4) Where a licensee commits major violations which re malicious, he shall be liable to imprisonment no exceeding seven years or a fine not exceeding twenty nillion rupees or both.

(5) Whoever commits any act involving the manufac uring, storage, possession, procurement, sale, transport mport, export or use of explosives without any licence under this Act and rules made thereunder shall be liable the punishments provided for in the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

The offences under this Act and under the Explosiv ubstances Act, 1908 shall be tried by the Anti Terrorism Court established under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997." According to the statement of objects and reasons, the proposed amendments to the Explosive Act, 1884, seek to transfer the subject of "Explosives from the provinces to the Federation and modernize th aw in light of evolving technology. The term "emul sion" has been added to include newer forms of explo sives. Section 4 has been amended to define offence such as illegal possession, deliberate explosions, viola tions, and malicious intent, with enhanced penalties to prevent pilferage throughout the supply chain.

the victims.

The National Assembly also passed the Off the Grid in Khuzdar, blaming India for Captive Power Plants Levy supporting the attackers. Bill 2025 with a majority PML-N lawmaker Mian vote. The bill was presented vote. The bill was presented by Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik.

The National Assembly

have been accommodated by replacing them with other willing individuals During the session Parliamentary Secretary for Religious Affairs Shamsher Ali Mazari responded to a calling attention notice raised by MNA Shagufta Jumani and others regard-

ing alleged injustices faced

and their

polygraph tests

Pakistan.

people of Pakistan effectively conducted a polygraph test of both Imran Khan and the Sharif family through their vote on February 8, 2024. "How can a fake government with a fake mandate subject Imran Khan to a polygraph test? Such a regime is even capable of fabricating the results," he added. Dr. Saif demanded polygraph tests for all those who filed false cases against Imran Khan, stating that it would expose all lies and political conspiracies. He also called for polygraph tests of the entire Sharif family. He strongly criticized the current rulers, labeling them as a mafia imposed on the country. They are looting the national treasury with both hands and building properties abroad while showing no concern for the people of

Pakistan," he said.

Iran warns will hold US responsible for Israel attack

TEHRAN (AFP): Iran include warned it would hold the Trump's friend and globe-United States responsible for trotting negotiator, and any Israeli attack on its atom- Michael Anton, the head of ic facilities, on the eve of a new round of nuclear talks between Washington and involved in technical details, Tehran. The warning came according to a source familiar after CNN, citing unnamed US officials, reported on sticking point in the negotia-Tuesday that Israel was making preparations to strike The 2015 deal with Iran, Iranian nuclear sites despite the ongoing US-Iran talks. "We believe that in the

event of any attack on the nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Zionist regime, the US government will also be involved and bear legal Foreign responsibility," Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a letter to the United published on "Iran strongly Nations Thursday. warns against any adventurism by the Zionist regime and will respond decisively to any threat or unlawful act by this regime," Araghchi

warhead.

Rubio,

Secretary of State Marco

Wednesday before Congress,

again said that the Trump

administration would insist

on no enrichment. "Iran can-

not have an enrichment capa-

bility, because that ultimately

makes them a threshold

from sweeping sanctions imposed in 2018 by Trump,

which include penalties on

Iran is looking for relief

testifying

The nuclear talks, which began on April 12, are the highest-level contact between the long-time foes since the United States in 2018 pulled out of a landmark deal between Iran and during nuclear power," Rubio said. world powers, President Donald Trump's first term in office. Oman, which has mediated the talks, said that a fifth round will take place in Rome on Friday.

The US delegation will export of petrol. Rubio,

Steve Witkoff, questioned by a lawmaker, suggested that the United States would maintain sanctions over Iran's developpolicy planning at the State Department who has been ment of ballistic missiles, a topic that was not addressed explicitly under the 2015 agreement. "There are sancwith arrangements. A key tions related to terrorism, sanctions related to their baltions has been enrichment. listic missiles programme, and the like. Those sancwhich was negotiated by fortions, if they're not part of the mer president Barack deal, they'll remain in place, Obama, allowed Iran to he said.

enrich uranium at low levels Rubio did not comment on the CNN report, but said it solely for civilian energy. The Islamic republic currently was no secret that Israel has enriches uranium to 60%, far been studying military above the 3.67% limit set in options. Israel the 2015 deal but below the sworn enemy — has been threatening to use force 90% needed for a nuclear against Iranian nuclear sites Trump, who has vowed to but has faced resistance from Trump. On Thursday, Ali improve on the Obama deal, said last week on a trip to Mohammad Naini, Qatar that he believed Iran spokesman for Iran's Islamic had agreed to key conditions Revolutionary Guard Corps, and that his diplomacy would warned of a "devastating" avoid military conflict. US response in case of an Israeli

attack.

reported.

"If the delusional Zionist regime commits a foolish act and launches an attack, it will definitely receive a devastating and decisive response in its small and vulnerable geography," said Naini, according to ISNA news agency. Also on Thursday, the Iranian army's ground forces unveiled three new drones, adding two reconnaissance and one kamikaze all countries to prevent them drone to its arsenal, the offifrom purchasing Iran's key cial IRNA news agency

No new direct Russia-Ukraine peace talks scheduled

MOSCOW (AP): Russia and Ukraine have no direct peace talks scheduled, the Kremlin said Thursday, nearly a week after their first face-to-face session since shortly after Moscow's invasion in 2022 and days after US President Donald Trump said they would start ceasefire negotiations "immedi-

ately."

"There is no concrete the next agreement about the next meetings," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "They are yet to be agreed upon." During two hours of talks in Istanbul on May 16, Kyiv and Moscow agreed to exchange 1,000 prisoners of war each, in what would be their biggest such swap. Apart from that step, the meeting delivered no significant breakthrough.

Several months of intensified US and European pressure on the two sides to accept a ceasefire and negotiate a settlement have yieldlittle progress. Meanwhile, Russia is readying a summer offensive to capture more Ukrainian land, Ukrainian government and military analysts say.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier this week that Moscow would "propose and is ready to work with" Ukraine on a "memorandum" outlining the framework for "a possible future peace treaty.

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar. Managing Editor Jalil Afridi. Phone 0300 9009001