

Landslide kills two children
F.P. Report

GHALANAI: At least two children lost their lives and a man was injured when they came under a big chunk of soil in Dawezai Daud Khel area of Mohmand district on Tuesday. Local police said, the victims were buried under a large amount of soil when it slides on them abruptly. Due to the lack of needed machinery and emergency services in the area, residents carried out the rescue operation on their own.

PPP's Waqar wins Senate seat
F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Waqar Mehdi has won the Senate general seat from Sindh with a landslide victory after the seat fell vacant after the death of Senator Taj Haider. Voting took place in the Sindh Assembly - which became the polling station - from 9am until 4pm. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah was the last one to cast his vote.

PM visits ISI HQs; briefed on preparedness

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited the Headquarters of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) where he was briefed on the prevailing security environment, with a particular focus on preparedness for conventional threat in the light of India's increasingly aggressive and provocative posture along Pakistan's Eastern border.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, and the Services Chiefs, commended the Agency's professionalism, strategic acumen, and its critical role in safeguarding national interests, according to a PM Office press release. He also appreciated the Agency for enabling informed national security decision-making under complex and dynamic conditions.

During the briefing, the leadership was apprised of regional security developments and the evolving threat matrix, including conventional military options, hybrid warfare tactics, and terrorist proxies. The prime minister and accompanying dignitaries underscored the imperative of heightened national vigilance, seamless inter-agency coordination, and reinforced operational readiness to deter and decisively respond to any violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He said that entire nation was behind our brave armed forces. "Pakistan Army is one of the most professional and disciplined force in the world," he remarked. The leadership reaffirmed Pakistan's unambiguous resolve to defend the homeland against all threats-conventional or otherwise and reiterated that with nation's full support, the armed forces, supported by all other elements of national power and state institutions, remained fully prepared to uphold Pakistan's security, prestige and honor under all circumstances.

Shehbaz assures USPBC delega-

tion Pakistan open for new foreign investments, improved regulatory framework through SIFC: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif assured the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) delegation that Pakistan is open for new foreign investments and highlighted the government's efforts to streamline the regulatory environment, enhance transparency, and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The prime minister extended a warm welcome to a high-level delegation from the US-Pakistan Business Council, part of the US Chamber of Commerce, during a significant meeting held here and called for stronger economic ties between the two nations, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. The delegation included Charles Freeman, Senior Vice President Asia at the US Chamber, Esperanza Gomez, President of the US-Pakistan Business Council, and representatives from major American firms including Abbott and Apple.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lauded the Council's pivotal role in enhancing economic ties between Pakistan and the United States. He described the Council as a vital platform that promotes partnership, streamlines business connections, and boosts investment in Pakistan. Highlighting the presence of over 80 American companies in Pakistan, PM Sharif stated, "This reflects that Pakistan is a safe and profitable destination for business and investment." He appreciated US firms' contributions to job creation, revenue generation, and export growth, particularly to regional markets. The Prime Minister emphasized the long-standing economic and strategic partnership between the two nations, adding, "We value our decades-old ties with the US government and corporate sector."

He noted that closer trade and investment relations could yield mutu-



al benefits, including enhanced welfare, business profits, and shared prosperity. Underscoring Pakistan's status as one of the largest importers of American cotton, PM Sharif stressed the mutually beneficial nature of the bilateral partnership. He expressed a strong desire to expand collaboration with US stakeholders, especially in the IT sector.

"The economy is on the path to stability," the prime minister asserted, pointing to recent international recognition of Pakistan's economic improvement. He cited Fitch Ratings' upgrade of Pakistan's sovereign credit rating from CCC+ to B-, and the State Bank of Pakistan's recent 1% cut in the policy rate to 11% as business-friendly developments. PM Sharif also confirmed ongoing engagement with the US administration on tariff issues, expressing hope for a mutually beneficial resolution. Members of the visiting delegation expressed keen interest in investing across various sectors in Pakistan.

"Pakistan offers an attractive investment environment," they said, emphasizing their intention to fully capitalize on the available opportunities. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and a number of federal ministers and senior officials, underscoring the importance Pakistan places on its economic partnership with the United States. The prime minister also hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting delegation.

Prime Minister underlines

NIFTAC's pivotal role in dismantling nexus between terrorism, illicit network: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif underscored that National Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre (NIFTAC) would play a pivotal role in uprooting terrorism and its support structures from the country as dismantling the nexus between terrorism, illicit networks, and external sponsorship requires robust and efficient institutional mechanisms.

The prime minister, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, and Services Chiefs visited the newly established National Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre (NIFTAC) here, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. The prime minister formally inaugurated the state-of-the-art NIFTAC Headquarters, which will serve as the central node for coordinating Pakistan's national counterterrorism strategy.

Commending the efforts of all stakeholders involved in operationalizing this vital capability, the Prime Minister described NIFTAC as a quintessential national platform for collaborative threat assessment and response. NIFTAC, a federal institution, integrates over 50 relevant federal and provincial departments and agencies into a unified intelligence and threat management architecture supported by a centralized national database.

At the sub-national level, NIFTAC

is linked to six Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centres (PIFTACs), including those in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan-ensuring seamless coordination from federation to provinces. This integrated framework is designed to harmonize intelligence gathering, analysis, and operational responses across multiple domains. By leveraging the full spectrum of institutional capabilities, NIFTAC will enhance national preparedness, optimise resource utilization, and enable a coherent and timely counterterrorism response.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif directed to convert Karachi-Chaman National Highway (N-25), a critical transport corridor into a high-quality expressway comparable in standards to Pakistan's motorways.

The prime minister chaired a high-level review meeting at the Prime Minister's House to assess the progress on the construction and upgradation of the 790-kilometer-long Karachi-Chaman National Highway (N-25), a Prime Minister's Office news release said. The prime minister emphasized that the project was a cornerstone for the socio-economic development of Balochistan.

"The upgradation of the Karachi-Chaman highway is not just a road project-it's a strategic lifeline for Balochistan's prosperity," he stated. PM Shehbaz mentioned that instead of passing on the recent reduction in petroleum product prices to the gener-

al public, the government has redirected those savings to fund the expressway project. "All provinces supported this move, symbolizing national unity and a shared commitment along the route," he added. During the meeting, strict instructions were issued to ensure top-tier construction standards and timely completion within two years. The PM also directed that environmental safeguards be incorporated during construction and that third-party validation be conducted post-completion.

To ease local traffic and enhance accessibility, bypasses will be constructed around all major cities along the route. Additionally, the prime minister asked the Chief Minister of Balochistan to ensure coordination with relevant departments for timely land acquisition. The meeting was briefed that the expressway will be a four-lane, dual carriageway. Delays in the project had previously been caused by funding shortages, which have now been addressed through the government's new budgetary approach. Construction on the Khuzdar-Mastung section has already commenced, and planning is underway for five segments between Karachi and Khuzdar.

Governor of Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti thanked the prime minister for his dedicated focus on Balochistan's development. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, and other senior officials. Communications Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti joined via video link.

KP CM stresses talks not off table, distances PTI from militants

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Distancing himself from the 'enemies of the state', Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stressed on Tuesday that neither he nor Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan ever ruled out talks with the establishment.

"Imran Khan has always talked about negotiations," the CM said while addressing a seminar, adding that no talks whatsoever were currently underway but hinted it may take time before the next round of parleys. "I've never seen any 'Khalai Makhlooq' nor have I felt any pressure from them," he said, referring to a term often used to hint at the military establishment. "My red line is Pakistan," he added. He made it clear he was not in favour of talks with those who had picked up arms against the state. "I distance myself from anyone who has declared war on the state," he said.

The provincial chief executive further said legal efforts were underway for the release of PTI founder and made it clear that "no one can replace him" in the party. "We are committed to securing his release within the framework of the Constitution and the law," Gandapur said. He also dismissed the notion that US President Donald Trump had ever betrayed the



PTI, and also rejected claims that the military establishment was behind the party's 2014 sit-ins. Gandapur criticised the federal government's attitude towards Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying it was ignoring the province and wanted it to go bankrupt.

Meanwhile, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has achieved another significant milestone in its efforts to empower youth through equipping them with modern information technology skills. Under the provincial government's Youth Employment Program, more than 2,000 young individuals have successfully completed an international standard training in various fields including Artificial Intelligence, Game Development, Cloud Computing, Animation, and Web Development.

Similarly, 180 young individuals have also completed internships

under the provincial Digital Internship Program and have been on boarded in various IT companies and the Information Technology Board. A certificate distribution ceremony for graduates was held here the other day at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar, with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur attending as the chief guest. The event was also attended by provincial cabinet members Meena Khan Afridi and Shafqat Ayaz, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Secretary ST&IT Amjad Ali Khan, and other senior officials of the Information Technology Department, and students.

The Chief Minister distributed certificates among the students who completed the training. It is worth mentioning that, under the Digital Internship Program of the provincial government, over 2,200 young individuals have been onboarded in renowned IT companies, out of which 67% have already secured employment. Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Minister said that providing employment opportunities to youth is one of the core responsibilities of any government. While it may not be possible for the government to provide public sector jobs to everyone, but it can at least create opportunities in the private sector.

Terrorists martyr seven forces' personnel

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, so called 'Baloch Liberation Army' targeted Security forces' vehicle with an improvised explosive device in general area Mach, Kachhi district.

Resultantly, seven brave sons of soil embraced Shahadat. Shuhada include: Subedar Umar Farooq (age 42 years; resident of Karachi), Naik Asif Khan (age 28 years; resident of District Karak), Naik Mashkoor Ali (age 28 years; resident of District Orakzai), Sepoy Tariq Nawaz (age 26 years; resident of District Lakki Marwat), Sepoy Wajid Ahmed Faiz (age 28 years; resident of District Bagh), Sepoy Muhammad Asim (age 22 years; resident of District Karak) and Sepoy Muhammad Kashif Khan (age 28 years; resident of District Kohat).

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorist present in the area, and perpetrators of this heinous and cowardly act will be brought to justice.

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Nefarious designs of India and its proxies operating on Pakistani soil will be defeated by the valiant security forces, LEAs and the brave nation of Pakistan, In Sha Allah.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on a security forces vehicle in Mach, Balochistan's Kachhi district, carried out by the Indian-backed proxy and so-called Baloch Liberation Army (BLA).

Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss, the prime minister paid tribute to the martyred soldiers: Subedar Umar Farooq, Naik Asif Khan, Naik Mashkoor Ali, Sepoy Tariq Nawaz, Sepoy Wajid Ahmed Faiz, Sepoy Muhammad Asim, and Sepoy Muhammad Kashif Khan, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. The prime minister offered heartfelt prayers for the elevation of their ranks in the hereafter and extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

Pakistan will respond on aggression: Tarar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that Pakistan will not initiate conflict with India, but if aggression is directed towards the country, the response from Pakistan's armed forces will be such that future generations will remember it.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Tarar said, "Pakistan has never initiated war, but if anyone dares to attack us, our answer will be unforgettable." He accused India of sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan, saying, "India has been behind terrorist activities in Pakistan for years. Innocent lives have been lost because of its actions. Pakistan continues to make sacrifices in the fight against terrorism."

Tarar praised Pakistan's armed forces, police, and security agencies for their courage. "I pay tribute to politicians from all parties who gave their lives in this fight. Our leaders have shed blood to protect the country," he said. He added that the spirit of sacrifice exists in every part of Pakistani society.

"There is no group or

class in this country that hasn't suffered. Even the politicians in this Parliament have earned their place in history for their bravery," Highlighting growing criticism within India, Tarar pointed to the failure of Indian forces to provide security during the Pahalgam attack. "Even Indians are questioning how nine hundred thousand troops in Kashmir failed to stop the incident. India has also failed diplomatically," he said. Tarar said Pakistan has demanded an international investigation into the Pahalgam incident, increasing pressure on India. "India is now cornered. If it even thinks of aggression, Pakistan's response will make history."

He said that the entire Pakistani nation stands united behind its armed forces. "We are exposing India's lies day by day. During our recent visit to the Line of Control, Indian media had no choice but to cover it."

When they tried to block our social media accounts, we responded with full strength." Tarar recalled a moment with students near the LoC, saying, "A child told me, 'Let us face the enemy too-our chests are ready.' When a nation's

youth, mothers, and daughters show such resolve, it cannot be defeated." Reaffirming Pakistan's stand against terrorism, Tarar warned that conspiracies against the country would fail in the face of national unity and resilience. He said Pakistan is a strong nation that always triumphs when united. "History proves it. Whenever we stood together, we defeated powerful enemies by the grace of Allah."

Attaullah Tarar strongly condemned the terrorists involved in the Jaffar Express attack and exposed their links to Indian state-sponsored terrorism. "I want to call out those terrorists from the floor of the House today-the ones who were given a platform on Indian media. If they had any courage, they would have removed their masks and shown their faces before giving interviews. But they hid behind masks and took shelter on Indian channels," he said. He questioned how Indian media aired footage of the railway track blasts shortly after the incident, calling it proof of Indian involvement. "The trail leads directly to Indian state-sponsored sabotage."

Bilawal condemns accusations, calls for peace in Kashmir

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his address at the National Assembly said that this nation was not born of fear, it was born of struggle. In recent days, the Government of India has unleashed a torrent of accusations following a heinous act in Occupied Kashmir, Chairman Bilawal stated.

Tourists were killed, blood was spilled, it was a tragedy by any measure. Yet, before the bodies had turned cold, New Delhi turned its wrath towards Islamabad, pointing fingers, tightening borders and threatening consequences. Let me make this solemn declaration before the people of Pakistan and the world, Pakistan had no hand in that crime, Chairman Bilawal said.

We do not export terror, we are the victims of terrorism. Terrorism is just not an act on bodies, it is an attack on truth, peace and civilisation itself. What is terrorism? Is it merely the act of a deranged gunman or a bomb in a marketplace? It is the silence of the world when injustice reigns, it is the boot on the neck of the oppressed, it is the bulldozer that razes a home in the dark and it is the curfew that lasts not hours but decades.

Chairman PPP said that India claims to fight terrorism. Let us ask,

how can you fight terrorism while practicing state terrorism in Kashmir? You cannot condemn the bullet while you wield the baton. You cannot speak of law when you break it every day in the valley. You cannot claim moral superiority when your hands are soiled with the tears of mothers, screams of children and the silence of dead men. Pakistan has suffered from terrorism, foreign-sponsored, ideologically-driven and brutally indiscriminate.

We have buried our soldiers and our schoolchildren. We have stood alone while the world averted its gaze. We have fought a menace not only with arms but with ideas, education, economic reforms and unity. I say this to India and the world, terrorism cannot be defeated by tanks alone, it must be defeated by justice. Terrorism cannot just be uprooted by bullets, it must be disarmed by hope, Chairman Bilawal said. "Terrorism cannot be eliminated by demonising nations, it must be defeated by addressing the grievances that give it birth", Chairman PPP stated. Do you wish to end the violence in Kashmir? Then let the people speak. Let there be a plebiscite, not persecution. Let there be ballots, not bulldozers. Let there be autonomy, not annexation. That is the only path to peace. No lie, no bullet, no bang will bury the truth. Kashmir is not India's territory. It is a

promise broken, a wound festering and a people waiting.

Chairman PPP said that India expects the 200 million people of Pakistan to account for the actions of terrorists they are still unable to name, while India has yet to account for Kulbhushan Jadhav, whose name and rank within India's armed forces is on the record. India's accusations that Pakistan is involved in terrorism is stale, based on history and not ground realities, based on fiction, not on fact. India has become the boy that cries wolf in South Asia, Chairman Bilawal said.

Pakistan has proven India's involvement in terror, not only through proxies but through their armed forces, not just on our soil. India's hands are stained from blood from Sri Lanka to Canada and beyond. India must abandon terrorism as a tool of its foreign policy. In order to free this region from terror, India and Pakistan must work together, or else we are dooming future generations to suffer this menace. The Prime Minister's challenge to India for an impartial investigation is a start. Why would a true victim of terrorism shy away from accountability? Unless, they are worried that the world will see that the real blame for the bloodshed in Kashmir lies in Delhi and not in Islamabad.

UNSC urges dialogue to ease tensions between Pak-India

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held closed consultations under the agenda item "The India-Pakistan Question". The meeting was held to discuss the deteriorating regional security environment, heightened tensions between Pakistan and India and the situation in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was convened at Pakistan's request, in view of India's recent unilateral measures and provocative public pronouncements that have significantly increased the risk of military confrontation and threatened regional and international peace and security. During the meeting, the council members expressed deep concern over the growing risk of escalation and emphasized the urgent need for restraint and de-escalation.

The UN Security

Council members called for dialogue and diplomacy to defuse tensions and avoid military confrontation and conflict, and to peacefully resolve issues.

Several members of the Security Council underscored that the long-standing dispute is the root cause of regional instability, and it must be resolved in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Many Council members underlined respect for international law and obligations with reference to the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty by India.

Briefing Council members, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, highlighted India's provocative actions, including its unilateral measures announced on 23rd April and aggressive military posturing. He cautioned that these actions are unjustified and dangerous, and could lead to catastrophic consequences. The Council members were apprised of intelligence indicating an imminent threat of kinetic action by India against Pakistan.

It was made clear that Pakistan remains fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and would exercise its inherent and legitimate right to self-defence as enshrined in the UN Charter in case of any aggression. However, Pakistan reaffirmed that it did not seek escalation. Pakistan categorically rejected India's baseless allegations linking it to the 22nd April attack in IIOJK and highlighted that India's unfounded accusations were made without any investigation or credible evidence. — Agencies

Thousands of Pakistani Pilgrims Deprived of Hajj

KARACHI (PPI): This year, thousands of Pakistani pilgrims were deprived of the opportunity to perform Hajj, allegedly due to the negligence and administrative incompetence of the relevant institutions, said Haji Masood Parekh, Chairman of the Memon Khidmat Forum, who also expressed deep regret over this situation.

Haji Masood Parekh stated that due to the indifference of the government machinery, many eligible and selected individuals have been deprived of performing the great worship of Hajj this year. He said that this is not just an administrative failure but also an injustice to the emotions and intentions of thousands of Muslims.

He emphasized that Hajj is a sacred duty that one gets to perform once in a lifetime, and losing this opportunity due to institutional negligence is an unforgivable act.

Haji Masood Parekh pointed out that those who spent their life savings solely for this sacred duty have faced an extremely distressing situation.

He demanded that the government take strict notice of this incident and take action against all the institutions whose negligence led to this loss.

Haji Masood Parekh urged the government to conduct an immediate investigation into the matter and formulate an effective strategy to prevent such unfortunate incidents in the future so that no Pakistani citizen faces such a situation again.

LHC reserves verdict on school soft drink ban plea

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the maintainability of a petition seeking a ban on the sale and consumption of soft drinks in schools across Punjab.

Justice Faisal Zaman Khan presided over the hearing of the petition filed by a citizen, Azam Butt, through his counsel Rana Sikandar. During the proceedings, the petitioner's counsel argued that soft drinks contain artificial colours and ingredients that are hazardous to children's health. He informed the court that while such beverages have been banned in schools across Sindh, they continue to be widely available in educational institutions throughout Punjab.

The counsel urged the court to direct the provincial government to impose a complete ban on soft drinks in all schools across the province. After hearing the initial arguments, the court reserved its decision on whether the petition is maintainable.

Water blockade a failed tactic: PDP

KARACHI (PPI): Pasban Democratic Party Karachi President Abdul Hakim Qaid said on Tuesday that blocking Pakistan's water is a failed attempt to halt the Green Revolution.

The PDP leader in a statement accused the Indian government of promoting religious extremism. Qaid mentioned that all peace-loving people in India are opposing Modi's conspiracy. According to him, Modi is obsessed with Hindutva, which is a barrier to the economic development of the people of both countries.

He further added that India had been held hostage by Modi's group, and it is time for the Indian people to liberate themselves from this group. Qaid warned that if India escalates the conflict, Hindus will only be remembered in history books, and the responsibility will lie with Modi's group.

He emphasized that Pakistan is a peace-loving country, but its desire for peace should not be mistaken for weakness. The people of Pakistan have the capability to deliver a strong response.

The President of the Pasban Democratic Party stressed that the people of both countries need to bury the false philosophy of hatred that arose from unjust divisions for the sake of development.

Tessori meets Saudi, Emirati & Omani Consuls General

KARACHI (PPI): The Consuls General of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman, stationed in Karachi, held separate meetings with the Governor of Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, at the Governor House today.

During these meetings, discussions were held on bilateral relations and the regional situation. The Governor of Sindh informed the Consuls about the tensions in the region following the Pahalgam incident and expressed Pakistan's stance, condemning terrorism and labeling Indian allegations as baseless.

During the meetings, the Governor emphasized the need for impartial, transparent, and international investigations into the incident to uncover the facts. He praised the positive role of the brotherly Islamic countries and stressed the importance of joint efforts for peace and stability.

According to the Governor of Sindh, Pakistan has made unparalleled sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and condemns all forms of terrorism. He strongly condemned the Indian allegations, stating that they are unfounded and are completely rejected without evidence.

He informed the Consuls General that Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in the region will continue, and he emphasized the importance of working together with brotherly countries.



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Central Chief, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addressing a press conference. —INP Photo

CM reviews progress on ongoing, new health projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has called for a comprehensive master plan for the development of the Nawaz Sharif Medical District, emphasizing the government's firm commitment to strengthening the province's healthcare system through modern infrastructure and advanced medical facilities.

Chairing a comprehensive meeting to review the ongoing and upcoming projects of the Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education (SH&ME) Department, here on Tuesday, the chief minister was briefed on major developments in the health sector. She directed the immediate procurement of state-of-the-art medical equipment for public hospitals to meet modern healthcare needs.

A proposal to establish a School of Paramedics within the Nawaz Sharif Medical District received unanimous approval, while it was also decided that an Institute of Genetic and Blood Diseases would be set up in Nawaz Sharif Medical District. Plans were further approved for setting up specialized units in surgical orthopedics, internal medicine, and rehabilitation as part of the district's expansion.

CM Maryam Nawaz also issued directives for the completion of the Lady Willingdon Hospital project within six months and called for timely measures to expedite the completion of all under-construction health facilities. She emphasized prioritizing projects that are over 60 percent complete to ensure they are finished without delay.

For Rawalpindi Children Hospital, she ordered the immediate release of funds for the medical facility and instructed the appointment of highly qualified doctors for the facility. She further directed that the latest medical equipment be provided on a priority basis, keeping in view patient requirements.

In a broader decision, the CM approved the principle decision to establish cardiology centers in all major cities of Punjab to enhance cardiac care services across the province.

CM Maryam Nawaz thoroughly reviewed all health sector projects and underscored the importance of swift completion, noting that delays not only cause hardship for the public but also increase project costs significantly.

"The people of Punjab deserve access to world-class healthcare. We must ensure timely execution of these projects to avoid cost escalations and public inconvenience," she said.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, SH&ME Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dall and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

PHA begins plantation of Summer flower seedlings

LAHORE (APP): The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Lahore has commenced the plantation of vibrant summer flower seedlings in the city.

A variety of colorful seedlings - white, red, yellow, pink, orange and purple - are being planted along major roads, including Jail Road, The Mall, Faisal Town and Gulberg Road.

Attractive flowers such as Zinnia, Cosmos, Vinca, Portulaca and Periwinkle will adorn the green belts, transforming into full bloom within 30 days.

Director General PHA Muhammad Tahir Wattoo stated that the seedling plantation was being carried out daily to enhance beauty of the city.

In addition to roadways, fresh grass and tree plantation efforts are ongoing in various areas to further beautify the city.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender are invited from well reputed/registered Firms/companies for supply of following items for official use on District & Sessions Judge, Kohat.


S. No.	Item Descriptions	Bid Evaluation Procedure	Specifications	
1	Stationary	Single stage single envelope	Detailed particulars of required items are available in Bid/solicitation documents which can be obtained from the office of B&AA District & Sessions Judge, Kohat during office hours before closing date	
2	Hardware	Single Stage, two envelops		
3	I.T Equipment's			
4	Plant & Machinery			
5	Furniture& Fixtures			

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

All the goods must be offered with standard warranty.Firm shall give warranty in writing on an affidavit highlighted in the bidding documents as per the "warranty offered by the concerned manufactured and after sale services for the equipment's".

- The offered rates should be inclusive of all applicable taxes. Tender Quoted rates will applicable till 30 June 2025.
- The bidder will be eligible for evaluation that are registered with relevant tax authority for STRN, GST, I, Tax Dep/I FBR reputable, Registration Certificates must be attached with the bidding documents otherwise bid will not be entertained.
- All the taxes applicable will be deducted from the suppliers as per relevant rule.
- Bid Security @ 2 % of offered rate addressed to the Additional District & Sessions Judge-VI, Kohat is required to be attached with each item of the tender. Bidding documents & separate bids shall be offered for each item, without call deposit tender shall not be entertained.
- The successful bidder must deposit 8 % performance guarantee of the total amount under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement of Goods, Works and Services Rules, 2014.
- The bidder must submit an affidavit that they are not black listed with any Govt / Semi Govt organization and that the supplied item will be genuine.
- The bidder must provide certificate with clear indications that no information has been concealed, in case distortion of facts are detected it would be sufficient cause to disqualify the bid & will lead toward blacklisting of the perspective bidder.
- The successful bidder will be strictly bound to supply the items according to specifications within 15 days after issuance of supply order. Failure in the supply within stipulated period or below specification shall entail in cancellation of that bid & forfeiture of the Earnest Money/ Call Deposit Return (CDR) and in case of cancellation of Supply Order, new supply order will be issued to next lowest bidder.
- Incomplete application/bid will not be entertained. The committee reserves the right to reject or discontinue the tender proceedings as well as to reject any or all the applications with the reasons. Grounds of rejection to be communicated to the bidders upon requests as per rule 47(1) of KPPrARule, 2014.
- Last date of bidding documents received to this office will be 22nd May 2025 till 10:00 AM. The Tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM. In presence of the bidders or the representative of the bidder.
- Bidders are required to submit their inputs or reservations, if any, regarding the bidding documents including specifications, services, and evaluation criteria in written form to the purchaser's office prior to the pre-bid meeting scheduled to be held in the office of the Additional District & Sessions Judge-VI, Kohat on 13th May 2025 at 11:00 AM.
- Quality shall be as per provided specification & Detail or better than that.
- Quantity can be increased or decreased according to available budget. The Subject purchase will be subject to availability of fund.
- Vendor will be responsible to provide defect free and brand-new items. In case of inferior quality, the performance guarantee may be forfeited.
- The sample of stationary items can be seen from this office during office hours till closing date.
- The sample of items so supplied will be provided to the office of the undersigned in pre-bid meeting.

Additional District & Sessions Judge-VI/ Chairperson Purchase Committee, Kohat.



PUBLIC NOTICE

We are pleased to inform our valued customers and the general public that operations of our bank's following conventional banking branches will be converted into Islamic Banking, Insha'Allah, (subject to issuance of license by SBP). Thereafter, the said branches shall only provide Islamic Banking services. In this regard, the bank is reaching out to our valued customers of the said branches through the issuance of letters to obtain their consent for converting their existing conventional accounts, term deposits, and other facilities into Islamic Banking within a given timeline. However, in the case of customers who would like to continue their accounts/term deposits/facilities on the basis of conventional banking, their accounts/term deposits/facilities shall be transferred to the designated/nearest conventional banking branch of Askari Bank Limited. Details of designated / nearest conventional banking branches of our bank are provided in the below list.

In case, you have any query with respect to the above process, we request you to kindly contact our bank's 24/7 Call Centre at 111-000-787 or visit Askari Bank's website (<https://www.askaribank.com>) for details of Islamic Banking Products & Services.

We look forward to providing you with banking services in line with the Shariah Principles.

Conventional Branches to be Converted to Islamic Banking				Designated / Nearest Conventional Branches		
S.No.	Branch Code	Branch Name	Branch Address	Branch Code	Branch Name	Branch Address
1	024	Abbottabad Branch	Mansehra Road, Abbottabad	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
2	312	Sarwarabad, Abbottabad	Sarwar Mall, Mansehra Road, Abbottabad	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
3	345	Jinnahabad, Abbottabad	PMA Link Road, Jinnahabad, Abbottabad	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
4	253	Komila, Tehsil Dassu	Shop # 1 To 4, Shahroom Plaza, Main Komila, Tehsil Dassu, District Kohistan	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
5	241	Ghari Habibullah	Kashmir Road, Ghari Habibullah, Tehsil Balakot, District Mansehra	099	Muzaffarabad Branch	Kalsoon Plaza, Sathra Road, Jalalabad, Muzaffarabad, AJK
6	125	Haripur Branch	Tareen Mall, Adjacent Bank of Punjab, Opposite Malik CNG Station, G.T. Road, Haripur	183	Gulshan Colony Branch	Commercial Complex, Gulshan Colony, Taxila
7	425	Havelian	Khasra No. 308-314, Ground Floor, Sardar Market, Near Railway Station, Havelian, Tehsil & District Abbottabad	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
8	416	Khalabat Township, Distt. Haripur	Plot No. 135, Thapla Plaza, Main Chowk Khalabat Township, Tehsil & District Haripur	126	Wah Cantt Branch	Sadat Plaza, CB-01, Lalazar, The Mall, Wah Cantt
9	462	Lassan Nawab Branch	Khasra No 167,1705/1193 Main Bazzar, Lassan Nawab, District Mansehra	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
10	198	Sharja Mall Branch, Mansehra	Shop No. 1-2 Ground Floor & 3-4 1st Floor, Sharja Mall, Butt Pul (Karakuram Highway) Mansehra	360	Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad	Sajjad Complex, Upper Adda, Muzaffarabad, AJK
11	170	Shinkhari Branch	Shop No 1-6 Ground Floor, Chaudhry Plaza, Karakuram Highway, Shinkhari District Mansehra	099	Muzaffarabad Branch	Kalsoon Plaza, Sathra Road, Jalalabad, Muzaffarabad, AJK
12	258	Bannu	Mir Atzal Khan Plaza, Outside Lucky Gate, Bannu	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road Peshawar Cantt
13	404	Khano Khel D.I. Khan	Main Kirri Khaisor Adda, Khano Khel Shumali, Chashma Road, Tehsil Paharpur, District D. I. Khan	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road Peshawar Cantt
14	069	Dera Ismail Khan Branch	Kaif Gulbahar Building A. Q. Khan Chowk, Circular Road, D. I. Khan	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
15	463	Kanju Chowk, Swat	Zafar Plaza, Ground Floor, Airport Road Kanju Chowk, Tehsil Kabal, District Sawat	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
16	007	Mardan Branch	City Center, Qazi Bashir Ahmed Road, Mardan Cantt, Mardan	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
17	084	Nowshera Branch	Taj Building Main G.T. Road, Nowshera	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
18	461	Shingak Adda, Parachinar	Totki No. 17, Shah Market, Shingak Adda, Parachinar, Kurram	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
19	014	Chowk Yadgar Peshawar	Bank Square, Chowk Yadgar, Peshawar	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
20	116	University Road Branch, Peshawar	1-5 Ground Floor, 1-6 1st Floor Block-B, Al-Taj Tower, Jahangirabad Main University Road, Peshawar	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
21	313	Hayyatabad, Peshawar	Malik Saad Complex, Sector D-5, Phase 1, Hayatabad, Peshawar	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
22	367	Khyber Bazar Peshawar	Zaman Mansion Sockarno Chowk, Khyber Bazar, Peshawar City	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
23	410	DHA, Peshawar	Plots No. H/COM 1147 - 1154, Ground Floor, F.C Plaza, Commercial Area, Sector B, DHA, Peshawar	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
24	334	Saleh Khana Branch	Ismail Shah Plaza, Village Kotli Kalan Saleh Khana, Tehsil Pabbi, District Nowshera	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
25	245	Swabi	Aman Chowk, Jehangira Road, Swabi	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
26	061	Mingora Branch	Saidu Shareef Road, Makan Bagh, Opposite Park Hotel Mingora, Swat	004	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar	Fakhar-e-Alam Road, Peshawar Cantt
27	452	Tarbelia, Ghazi	Abdullah Plaza, Main Bazzar, Ghazi Tarbelia, Tehsil Ghazi, District Haripur	344	Hassanabdal Branch	Near Lari Adda, Hassanabdal, District Attock
28	216	Industrial Area Branch Hattar	Khurshid Plaza, Phase I/I Hattar Industrial Estate	126	Wah Cantt Branch	Sadat Plaza, CB-01, Lalazar, The Mall, Wah Cantt

CS chairs first meeting on Provincial Action Plan

Emphasizes public engagement and economic revival

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah chaired the first high-level meeting on the Provincial Action Plan at the Civil Secretariat, Peshawar. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Home Abid Majeed, Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed, administrative secretaries, senior officials from law enforcement agencies, and representatives of federal institutions and divisions. All Commissioners, Regional Police Officers, Deputy Commissioners, and District Police Officers participated via video link. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary conducted

a comprehensive review of the province's overall security dynamics, current challenges, and progress on various departmental tasks. Key areas of discussion included counter-terrorism efforts, public trust in state institutions, deficiencies in government infrastructure, and both kinetic and non-kinetic strategies.

The forum also assessed monitoring mechanisms for curbing illegal activities such as hawala/hundi transactions, smuggling, narcotics trafficking, precursor chemical movement, explosive shipments, illegal firearms, cross-border arms trade, and vehicle smuggling. Proposals to strengthen the legal framework, improve forensic science facilities, introduce

court-related interventions, and expedite safe city projects were also reviewed.

In his address, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah underscored the central role of public engagement in shaping effective government policies. "Security is a collective responsibility, and the public remains its most critical stakeholder," he stated. He emphasized that the voices of citizens, particularly expressed in Khuli Kacheris, must be effectively communicated to decision-makers to guide policy formulation.

He urged Deputy Commissioners and District Police Officers to maintain continuous and meaningful engagement with local communities. "Only through regular

interaction can we identify real issues, address public concerns, and build trust. Misconceptions can only be removed when the government answers people's questions transparently and resolves their problems promptly," he added.

The forum was also briefed on the livelihood and economic potential of various regions. The Chief Secretary stressed the need for rapid economic development, particularly in the Merged Districts, to ensure that people experience the tangible benefits of government efforts. "Our goal is to create opportunities and bring about a visible improvement in people's lives. Effective governance must reflect in the economic uplift of our citizens," he said.



PESHAWAR: Participants of the Balochistan National Workshop in a group photo with the Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and Members of Provincial Assembly.

PHC orders Secretary Interior to appear on 15th May

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Dr. Khurshid Iqbal ordered Secretary Interior to appear before the court on 15th May in a petition filed by PTI leader Azam Swati for removal of his name from the Exit Control List (ECL), on Tuesday.

The court had previously ordered the removal of Azam Swati's name from the ECL, but it appears that

the order has not been complied with. The counsel Ali Azeem Afridi advocate informed the court that the petitioner was included in the Preventive National Internal List (PNIL), ECL, and Passport Control List.

The court had directed the removal of Azam Swati's name from these lists and allowed him to travel abroad. While his name has been removed from the PCL and PNIL, it still remains on the ECL.

Justice Syed Arshad Ali observed that the Secretary

of Interior has misinterpreted the court's order, which clearly directed the removal of Azam Swati's name from the lists. The court has adjourned the hearing until May 15th, while ordered Secretary of Interior is required to appear in person.

ASJ rejects bail in murderer case: Additional Session Judge Peshawar Atta Ullah Jan has rejected the bail application of accused Younus, who is charged with murdering his cousin by feeding him poisonous tablets.

The alleged culprit Younus is accused of killing his cousin, Usman, by feeding him poisonous tablets in a drink. The post-mortem report confirms that Usman's death was caused by consuming excessive intoxicants and tablets, according to prosecution.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Atta Ullah Jan rejected Younus's bail application, denying him bail. The court heard arguments from both sides before making the decision.

Prof. Dr. M. Sadiq assumes charge as VC of UET



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sadiq Khattak has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor

of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Peshawar.

He officially assumed charge of his office today,

where he was warmly welcomed by Dr. Khizar Azam Khan, Registrar UET Peshawar, Deans and faculty.

Dr. Sadiq brings with him a distinguished record of academic leadership and outstanding scholarly accomplishments.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sadiq outlined his vision for the university, emphasizing his commitment to taking concrete steps for the well-being of students who are the real product of the university and resolving the university's ongoing financial challenges.

Wasi slams ministers' pay hike

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Abdul Wasi, Ameer Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Central Monday condemned the recent approval of a massive 188% salary increase for federal ministers and ministers of state, terming it a cruel blow to those already facing economic hardship.

In a statement, he criticized President Asif Ali Zardari for signing the ordinance, stating that the move is "like rubbing salt into the wounds" of the 47% of Pakistanis living below the poverty line.

"At a time when the government claims the national treasury is empty, ministers' salaries have been raised from Rs. 200,000 to over Rs. 519,000 per month," Wasi said, "More than unfair, this act is a national embarrassment."

He further noted that while ordinary citizens are struggling to find jobs, food, or access to healthcare, the ruling elite are "looting the public's pockets" through self-serving decisions. Even more alarming, he added, is that the raise is set to take effect retroactively from January 1, 2025.

Tordher meets Tarakai

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: To resolve the energy issues of the Small Industrial Estate Bannu, the Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, Abdul Karim Tordher and Provincial Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai, preliminary agreed in principle, for supplying electricity to the industrial estate through a separate feeder from Akram Khan Durrani College Bannu.

In order to take this matter forward, the Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai, has directed the concerned authorities to do the necessary home work and present him with a draft report.

On Tuesday, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Industries, Abdul Karim Tordher, met with Education Minister Faisal Khan Tarakai in his office and discussed the energy issues of the Bannu Small Industrial Estate.

Officials from the Education Department, Small Industrial Estate Bannu, Akram Khan Durrani College Bannu administration and WAPDA were also present on the occasion.

The Special Assistant stated that only 10 amperes out of 400 available on the separate feeder of Akram Khan Durrani College are currently in use, while the remaining 390 amperes are unutilized.

Due to the load on all other feeders in Bannu, electricity cannot be supplied from there. However, using the college feeder, only 25 units of electricity can be consumed, to be supplied to the industrial estate.

ANP to resist proposed Mines & Mineral Act

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Awami National Party (ANP) central president Aimal Wali Khan has rejected the proposed Mines and Minerals Amendment Act, stating that their struggle is not just about repealing this bill but also about implementing the 18th Constitutional Amendment, on Tuesday.

This he claimed while addressing lawyers at Peshawar High Court (PHC) and emphasized that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have the right to control their natural resources and that the federal government should give them their due share.

He categorically rejected the Mines and Minerals Amendment Act, stating

that it would be a betrayal of the nation if passed. Aimal Wali Khan declared that they would fight for their rights and would not compromise on provincial autonomy.

"Our struggle is not just about repealing the Mines and Minerals Bill but also about implementing the 18th Constitutional Amendment." "We will not accept slavery; we will fight for our rights", ANP president claimed. The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have the right to control their natural resources.

The event was organized by the Peshawar High Court Bar Association president Amin ur Rehman Yousafzai welcomed ANP president along with other

guests. The participants committed to support the struggle for provincial rights and to reject any attempts to amend the 18th Constitutional Amendment. ANP president Aimal Wali Khan demanded that the federal government implement the 18th Constitutional Amendment in letter and spirit. He emphasized that provincial autonomy is a fundamental right of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and that it should be respected.

Aimal Wali Khan called upon the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to unite and support the struggle for provincial rights. He warned that if their demands are not met, they would resort to protests and other forms of struggle.

Anti-Corruption KP holds monthly khuli khachari

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The monthly khuli Khachari of Anti-Corruption Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held at the Directorate of Anti-Corruption Establishment in Hayatabad, Peshawar, under the chairmanship of Musaddiq Abbasi, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption. Similar khuli Khachari were also organized at regional offices, where the public submitted complaints related to corruption.

Speaking at the khuli Khachari, Musaddiq Abbasi stated that the monthly Khuli Khachari held at the Directorate and

regional offices are yielding positive results. Immediate action is being taken on complaints received during these sessions, and efforts are underway to curb corruption in the province. He emphasized that the purpose of these khuli Khachari is to review the performance of anti-corruption officials, prioritize the resolution of public grievances, and ensure the protection of government resources.

He urged citizens to refrain from offering bribes to government departments for their legitimate work.

During the khuli Khachari held at the Directorate of Anti-

Corruption Establishment and regional offices, the public raised complaints against various departments, which were heard in detail.

Musaddiq Abbasi further stated that citizens can register complaints regarding corruption and irregularities via the Anti-Corruption WhatsApp number (0331-9988848) or through the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's online portal, Ikhtiyar-e-Awam Ka. At the khuli Khachari, citizens reported issues such as fake property transfers, tax evasion in transfers, and irregularities in parking contracts, among other departmental concerns.

Balochistan National Workshop members visits KP Assembly

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The delegation of the Balochistan National Workshop visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly for an interactive session. Speaker of the KP Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati, welcomed the participants, accompanied by the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Ibadullah, and other members of the Provincial Assembly.

In his address, the Speaker stated: "We extend a heartfelt welcome to you. Such interactive sessions

are the need of the hour, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between truth and falsehood in today's media and social media landscape."

He added, "All political parties in our province stand united when it comes to the betterment of the region. A prime example is the Mines and Minerals Bill. We do not compromise on the interests of our province."

The Speaker emphasized that democratic dialogue is the only way to address Pakistan's challenges:

"Guns are not the solution to any problem—dialogue and democratic practices are what can truly strengthen us."

He further said, "Pakistan belongs to all—whether someone is in the military, politics, or civilian sectors—we are all Pakistanis and must sit at the same table to make decisions for the country's progress."

At the end of the session, the Speaker presented commemorative shields to the visiting delegation, followed by a group photo

for defense of country from all internal and external threats," said Sikh community leader, Suni Singh while addressing participants in a walk in Hangu district.

"If India shows aggression again like of Balakot, last time we served Abhinandan and this time, the entire Pakistani nation will drink tea in Delhi" said Suni Singh and added that we will raise the green flag in Delhi if war was imposed on Pakistan.

He reiterated that the Sikh community around the world will never be part of anti-Pakistan statements or campaigns, reiterating that Pakistan is sacred land for Sikhs and will give every sacrifice for its defense.

"We will always stand with Pakistan Army and our motherland. Modi is a habit of raising hallow slogans as he can do nothing against Pakistan," said Hasan Khan advocate, member of Hangu peace committee

"The defense of the homeland is not only a national duty but also a religious duty" said Hafiz Abdul Rafi, Religious scholar adding

In the face of any aggression, Pakistan's religious scholars will stand shoulder to shoulder with the state and Pakistan Army and will thwart the nefarious designs of the enemy.

The other speakers said that India has a long history of planning and executing false flags operations against own citizens and later blaming Pakistan.

From the 2007 Samjhauta Express tragedy to the 2019 Pulwama bombing and now

the recent Pahalgam attack, India is using manufactured incidents to foster nationalist sentiment and divert international attention from separatist movements and human rights abuses especially at IIOJ&K.

These negative incidents, masked as patriotic acts and heavily promoted by the pro-government Indian media, has represented a disturbing pattern of Indian state-sponsored terrorism.

They argued that such uncalled for actions by the fascist Modi Govt are not only designed to vilify Pakistan but also to justify internal operations and consolidate authoritarian control within India.

These operations are often carefully timed by the Indian agencies, coinciding with national elections or critical diplomatic events in India to maximize psychological and political impact.

"After Pahalgam shooting, blame was immediately cast on Pakistan, while Indian media launched coordinated malicious propaganda to stir up nationalist fervor and suppress dissenting voices especially in IIOJK," said Manzoorul Haq, former Ambassador while talking to APP.

He cited the Samjhauta Express bombing, which killed 68 people—mostly Pakistani civilians—as an example. Although a 2011 confession from Hindu extremist Swami Aseemanand implicated Indian military officers and RSS terrorists, the investigation was reportedly obstructed, and key witnesses were silenced.

The 2019 Pulwama attack, which resulted in the deaths of 40 Indian paramilitary personnel, was similarly used to galvanize support for India's ruling party ahead of elections, he claimed.

He also referred to the 2023 Rajouri incident, which occurred under media blackout conditions, as another example of a manufactured event used to extend military laws like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Occupied Kashmir.

"These are not defensive measures of India rather was a deep conspiracy against indigenous freedom movement at IIOJ&K," he argued. "They are well designed RAW tactics to maintain the illusion of an external threat, while masking internal unrest."

Professor Dr Ejaz Khan, former Chairman international relations Department at University of Peshawar echoed similar sentiments, stating that peace in South Asia will remain elusive unless these voices are heard and the alleged cycle of manufactured terror is addressed.

"Each time there is domestic dissatisfaction or international scrutiny, a new so-called terror attack at Pahalgam occurred—such as in Sarangkot or Poonch—again with accusations against Pakistan and without any evidence," he noted.

He accused Indian intelligence-linked media of shaping the narrative to serve political ends and depriving its masses of credibility Information.



In brief

Two killed over land dispute F.P. Report

TAHTBHAI: Almost two persons were killed and a youth critically injured in exchanged of firing over a land dispute in Thordher area of Takht Bhai, on Tuesday. The injured were immediately shifted to Mardan Medical Complex. The police have registered separate case and started further investigation. According to the incidents, a gunfire broke out between two parties over a land dispute in Takht Bhai's Thordher area resulting in the death of Shahzeb son of Khanzeb while his brother Aurangzeb was seriously injured, while Khan Ghani from the other side was killed. Takht Bhai Police Station registered separate cases on behalf of both parties and started investigation.

Spurious ice cream discarded F.P. Report

ATTOCK: The District Food Authority Attock led by Additional Director General foiled an attempt of selling poisonous ice cream during a surprise check near Hassanabdal on Tuesday. The spokesman told media saying that on a tip off the food experts of District Food Authority Attock headed by Additional Director General Mr Asif Dogar has conducted raid on the unhygienic conditions of three ice cream production units of a branded firm and a bakery. The raiding team also seized 300 kg ice lollies and 300 kg frozen ice cream from the freezers and sealed the spots. The seized items were destroyed besides imposing fine of Rs 650000. They were also imposed fine of Rs 50000 on the charges of unhygienic environment and fungus on the walls of the manufacturing area. They were also using spurious and poisonous sugar in the production of ice cream which was going to be marketed in district and it's around. The spokesman further said that people having any complaint may contact on help line number 1223.

Submission of daily report F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the special directives of Punjab Chief Minister, cleanliness activities under the ongoing "Suthra Punjab Campaign" are being carried out with full vigor across Toba Tek Singh. In this regard, a key meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, which was attended by Assistant Commissioners, representatives of local government bodies and waste management companies, on Tuesday. During the meeting solid waste management companies gave a detailed briefing on the ongoing cleanliness measures. The Deputy Commissioner directed Assistant Commissioners to strictly monitor the campaign and submit daily performance reports to the DC office. He also issued instructions to ensure complete desilting of drains in both urban and rural areas before the onset of rains, and to make the drainage system fully functional ahead of the monsoon season. Emphasizing the importance of timely redressal of public complaints, the Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu urged all departments to remain proactive. He stated that a clean, green and healthy Punjab is a top priority of the government, adding that cleanliness is not merely a campaign but a national responsibility in which every individual must play their part.

ANP rejects proposed Mines and Minerals Bill 2025

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Awami National Party has rejected the proposed Mines and Minerals Bill 2025 with its commitment to strongly resist any move, if is taken by the incumbent PTI provincial and federal governments regarding passage of the said Bill.

In this regard, the ANP district office-bearers along with other senior party leaders held a press conference. They were included district president Imran Mandoori, district general secretary Fazal-e-Rehman Binyameen Khan, the Mardan city Mayor Himayatullah Mayar, Abdul Aziz Khan, Farooq Khan, Haroon Khan and other party key leaders.

The ANP district president Imran Mandoori told journalists that the proposed Mines and Minerals bill-2025 was an open attack over the sovereignty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. "We will strongly resist if the bill is forcibly passed from the KPK provincial assembly as it is question of the future of residents of our province," he vowed.

He alleged that the last government constituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) which was not only comprised of unelected persons but it was also against the 1973- constitution of Pakistan and 18th amendment. The Awami National

Party would go to the last extent both with the purpose to stop the passage of Mines and Minerals Bill-2025.

He said that ANP was going to call All Parties Conference on May 15, on the issue of mines and mineral bill-2025 so as to build pressure on the federal and KPK provincial government to take back the said proposed bill. Besides, he claimed that ANP had also planned to hold its big party meeting in all tehsils of the district to mobilize its workers for anti-government agitation if the rulers did not drop their idea of passing the mines and mineral bill-2025.

Speaking on the occasion, the ANP leader and city Mayor Himayatullah Mayar claimed that he had written a letter to the Mardan based all MPAs of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party to apprise them about their concerns and bad impact on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province specially on rights of Pakhtuns. He pointed out that the importance of mining for economic development of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in its current form, was against the spirit of the constitution of Pakistan.

"This bill isn't just another routine draft it could completely change how Pakistan manages and benefits from its vast mineral wealth. Framed as a

pro-investment reform, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines & Minerals Bill 2025 hides within it some serious gaps and risks. If passed without amendments, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa could become a prime target for foreign exploitation just like Congo or Ukraine - with locals seeing almost no benefit.

Drawing parallels with Congo, Ukraine, and Chile, the below mentioned lays out how those countries' resource-rich regions became zones of conflict, poverty, or corporate capture, he added. While pointing out bad things for KPK province and its dwellers, Mr. Himayatullah Mayar told media-persons that there was no mandatory royalties for the province, no jobs quotas for KP residents, no ownership stake for local communities in the said bill.

Similarly, he blamed that no environmental or ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) standards. He went on to say that the federal government had planned to get centralization over local-powers, adding that it would directly weak the 18th Amendment, which gave provinces control over natural resources. "Decision making panels (tribunals) set up under this bill are dominated by federal appointees, not local representation," he maintained.

JUI Gaza Martyrs' moot to be attended by thousands

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam's (JUI) provincial deputy general secretary and former adviser to the chief minister, Maulana Muhammad Rahim Haqqani has said that thousands from Malakand Division will participate in the Gaza Martyrs Conference in Peshawar on May 11 to express solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Speaking at a press briefing at Timergara Press Club here on Monday, Haqqani said preparations for the event were in the final stages. A large convoy of vehicles will depart from Chakdara at 10 a.m. for Peshawar.

He condemned the killing of over 60,000 Palestinians, including women and children, in the past year due to Israeli aggression, criticizing the silence of the global community and the Muslim

world.

Haqqani called for an immediate nationwide ban on Israeli products and vowed to resist any future attempts to recognize Israel diplomatically. He added that the conference, being held on the call of JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, will demonstrate strong unity with oppressed Palestinians.

PTI LG members' complaint: Local government representatives of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Lower Dir have expressed serious concern over being excluded from key party decisions regarding funds' distribution and the ongoing district-level reorganization process.

The concerns were raised during a meeting held at the Tehsil Council Balambat office, chaired by convener Sheikh Naseeb ur Rahman. Over 40 village council chairmen and local

government representatives from all seven tehsils of Lower Dir attended the gathering.

Participants strongly criticised the PTI lawmakers for bypassing elected LG representatives in party matters and said that such practices were creating disappointment and resentment at the grassroots level. They warned the provincial leadership against imposing decisions without consultation.

The representatives demanded that future decisions particularly regarding district-level organizational restructuring be made democratically, with full input from local government members. A committee was also formed to hold a meeting with the PTI provincial president MNA Junaid Akbar Khan to convey their concerns. During the meeting, participants also called for the immediate release of detained PTI workers and leaders.

Civil Defense Dept commits to dealt with emergency situation

F.P. Report

HABGU: The Civil Defense Department has taken significant steps to ensure public safety in Hangu district. Director Civil Defense, Altaf Hussain, and Deputy Commissioner and Controller Civil Defense, Gohar Wazir, have instructed Civil Defense Officer, Amanullah Shah, to inspect various factories, warehouses, and flour mills in Hangu bazar, on Tuesday.

The Civil Defense Officer emphasized strict adherence to fire safety, emergency exit, first aid, and civil defense principles. It was clarified that any violations would result in action under the Civil Defense Act 1952 and Special Power Rules 1951,



which could lead to imprisonment, fines, or both.

A special team has been formed to conduct daily fire safety inspections in Hangu, Tall, and Doaba. The team comprises Instructor Grade I, Qasim Mahmood, Instructor Grade II, Kamil Saleem, and Instructor Grade II, Afaq Ahsan.

To address regional security concerns and ensure timely warnings in case of potential aerial

attacks, a siren has been installed at the Civil Defense Office in Tall. Additionally, siren installation is underway at the Orakzai Flour Mills in Hangu.

These initiatives aim to protect citizens' lives and property, ensuring preparedness for any emergency situation. The measures demonstrate a proactive approach to public safety and security in the region.

Govt to initiate welfare-oriented projects, says Muqam

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, has expressed his deep connection with the people of Shangla, stating that he owes his success to their love and support. He emphasized that the people of Shangla have made significant sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, setting a remarkable example for the rest of the country.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected cabinet of the District

Bar Association Shangla, Engineer Amir Muqam congratulated the new office bearers and expressed his commitment to working for the welfare of the community. He announced a special grant for the Bar Association, acknowledging its role in raising voices for justice and rights.

The Federal Minister paid tribute to the late Mutawakil Khan, who recently lost his life in a traffic accident. He also condemned India's baseless allegations against Pakistan, emphasizing the country's desire for peace

while affirming the nation's readiness to defend itself if provoked.

Youth electrocuted: A young man from Shangla lost his life after receiving an electric shock while working in a coal mine in Doli, Orakzai, on Monday morning. According to details, Hayat Khan, son of Sarfaraz and a resident of Nareedale Balkani, police station Olandar, had descended into the Jungle Mine for work when a short circuit caused an electric current to pass through him.



LARKANA: Students solving paper during annual examinations for classes 11th and 12th. — F.P. photo

BISEM prepares to conduct inter exams F.P. Report

MARDAN: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Mardan has finalized all preparations for the upcoming Intermediate Annual Examinations. According to an official statement, a total of 3,609 staff members have been deployed to manage the examination process across various centers.

This year, a total of 97,475 male and female students will appear in the examinations from three districts under the jurisdiction of BISE Mardan. These include 24,402 candidates from Nowshera, 28,281 from Swabi and 44,792 from Mardan.

To accommodate the large number of candidates, a total of 299 examination centers have been established across the three districts. The BISE Chairman assured that transparency and a peaceful environment during the examination process will be strictly maintained.

Strict measures have been implemented to prevent cheating and ensure discipline. Mobile phones and smart devices are strictly prohibited inside the examination centers. Additionally, the use of unfair means will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Professor Jahanzeb, an official of BISE Mardan, emphasized that examination staff must maintain professionalism and should not disturb or harass students. Any form of misconduct or abuse will be dealt with strictly.

He added that several anti-cheating strategies have been adopted, including the relocation of examination halls to government schools and colleges for better monitoring. Moreover, the presence of pocket guides and photocopying machines near examination centers has also been banned. Only one inspector will be allowed to visit each examination center per day. Furthermore, male inspectors will not be allowed to enter female examination centers, and the entry of armed security guards into examination centers is also strictly prohibited.

The board expressed its commitment to conducting the exams in a fair, secure, and peaceful environment, ensuring that students can perform to the best of their abilities without any external pressure or disturbance.

Crackdown against outlaws F.P. Report

BANNU: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Bannu asked the subordinate police officials to launch a crackdown on criminals' gangs and miscreants in the areas and focus on improving law and order situation.

While chairing a meeting in his office, he said that special teams comprising competent police officials should be formed to launch result-oriented and successful actions and proclaimed offenders and drug traffickers in the region.

The regional police chief asked the police officials to deal sternly with those involved in display of weapons and aerial firing. He also ordered initiating action against unregistered bikes and motorcars in Bannu district.

Parents demand probe into textbooks crisis

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Education Muhammad Akram Ashraf regarding the distribution of free textbooks in government schools have come under serious scrutiny as students across the district raise alarm over the non-availability of new books. Despite the Punjab government's promise to provide free textbooks to all students, the situation in Hafizabad paints a different picture.

According to students and local sources, more than 70% of the students in government schools have not yet received their textbooks, even though one month has passed since the beginning of the academic session. In contrast, only 30% of students have reportedly been provided books, leaving the majority of learners without essential academic resources.

Students, expressing frustration during protests, shared that their studies are being significantly disrupted. "How are we expected to learn without books?" one student questioned during a media interaction.

District Chairman of Muttahida Mahaaz Asatiza, Riaz Ahmad Tarar, warned of the grave implications of this crisis. "With summer vacations fast approaching, delaying the distribution of books is effectively sabotaging the students' academic progress. This negligence could have long-term consequences on their future," he stated, demanding immediate provision of textbooks to all affected students.

In contrast, CEO Education Muhammad Akram Ashraf has denied the allegations, claiming that books have been distributed to all schools and no institution is lacking resources. However, this statement starkly contradicts the ground reality reported by students, teachers, and parents alike. The situation has sparked widespread outrage and is raising questions about the transparency and efficiency of the education administration in Hafizabad.

As the academic year progresses, the demand for immediate corrective action continues to intensify.

'Kuli Katcheri' held: An open court

(Khuli Katcheri) was held at Kasoki Police Station under the leadership of District Police Officer, where he personally heard the grievances of citizens and issued immediate instructions to concerned officers for swift resolution of their issues.

A large number of local residents participated in the event and openly shared their concerns. Issues discussed included law and order, land disputes, drug trafficking, police behavior, and other matters of public interest.

Speaking on the occasion, DPO Atif Nazir emphasized that the police force exists to serve the public. "Our duty is not just to prevent crime but also to win the

public's trust and ensure the timely delivery of justice. Open courts like this bridge the gap between the police and the people, promoting transparency and accountability," he said.

Police held alleged drug dealer: In a major breakthrough in the fight against drug trafficking, the Vanike Tarar police, under the directives of District Police Officer Atif Nazir, conducted a successful operation resulting in the seizure of a large consignment of narcotics. Acting on a confidential tip-off, the police arrested a suspect and recovered 1500 grams of hashish (Chars) during the raid.

According to the police spokesperson, the operation was carried out by the SHO of Vanike Tarar police station, who, along with his team, launched an immediate action based on intelligence received from trusted sources. The accused, identified as Abu Bakar son of Irshad, belonging to the Taile caste and a resident of Kolo Tarar, was apprehended during the operation. A substantial quantity of hashish was found in his possession, which was confiscated on the spot.

Citizens outraged as Key Schools overlooked in CM's Grant: Following the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's announcement of substantial grants for the construction, renovation, and expansion of classrooms in government schools across the province, widespread dissatisfaction has emerged in Hafizabad over the alleged mishandling of funds by the district education authorities.

Among the most affected are Government Girls Double Section School and Government Elementary School Qila Sahib Singh, two prominent institutions in Hafizabad city, where classroom shortages have reached critical levels due to a consistent rise in student enrollment. With no adequate infrastructure in place, hundreds of students are being forced to study under the open sky, enduring harsh weather and inadequate learning conditions.

The controversy has fueled public calls for accountability, with citizens urging the Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad and senior officials in the Punjab Education Department to investigate the matter. They are demanding that future allocations be made on the basis of need and merit, not personal preferences.

"This grant was meant to uplift the standards of public education in the province, not to serve vested interests," said a local education activist. "We appeal to the provincial government to intervene and ensure that no deserving school is left behind." As public pressure mounts, all eyes are now on the District Administration and Provincial Authorities to take corrective action and restore trust in the government's educational reform initiatives.

Tareen gifts new bus to KFUEIT students

F.P. Report

RAHIM YAR KHAN: In a generous gesture to support higher education and student welfare, Jahangir Khan Tareen has gifted a new bus to Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT), Rahim Yar Khan. The initiative aims to provide improved transportation facilities for the university students.

On the special instructions of Mr. Jahangir Khan, a delegation from JDW Sugar Mills comprising Executive Director Operations Dr. Hasan Iqbal, Technical Director Muhammad Javed, General Manager Admin Muham-



mad Safdar Kanjo, and Personal Staff Officer Abdul Khaliq Kanjo met with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Amjad Azam Khan to formally hand over the bus. A memorandum of understanding was signed during the meeting to mark the handover. Also present at the occasion were Pro Vice

Chancellor Dr. Shehzad Murtaza, Dean Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sagheer, Registrar Dr. Javed Iqbal, and Director Transport Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan. This contribution reflects Jahangir Khan Tareen's continued commitment to educational development and community support.

CPSP regional center Larkana inaugurated

F.P. Report

LARKANA: A grand inauguration ceremony of the first floor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) Regional Center Larkana, was held in which a large number of CPSP Council members attended, on Tuesday.

According to the details, the CPSP newly elected President Professor Khalid Masood Gondal along with Professor Muhammad Shoaib Shafi, Professor Amreen Afzal, Professor Aamir

Zaman Khan, Professor Ghulam Mujtaba, Professor Waqar Alam Jan, Professor Jahangir Khan, Professor Abbas Memon, Professor Mazhar Ishaq, Professor Abdullah Al-Muttaqi, Councilor Professor Hakim Ali Abro, Regional Director Professor Sher Muhammad Sheikh and Controller Professor Amanullah Abbasi were also present.

Police held 9 alleged culprits: Police has intensified operations against criminals across the district and arrested nine alleged criminals from different areas. The arrested suspects include declared, absconding and drug dealers, while the police recovered weapons, hashish, alcohol, stolen valuable mobile phones and two motorcycles from the possession of the suspects, according to the details.

Successful operations by the Nodero police at two different locations, during the first operation, the declared accused Nawab son of Tagil Gopang was arrested in the murder case, while during the second operation.



Japan walks a delicate tightrope between US, China

WASHINGTON (AP): Just as Japan's top trade negotiator traveled to Washington for another round of tariff talks last week, a bipartisan delegation bearing the name of "Japan-China Friendship" wrapped up a visit to Beijing.

A week earlier, the head of the junior party in Japan's ruling coalition was in Beijing delivering a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba addressed to Chinese President Xi Jinping. Details of the letter are unknown, but the two sides discussed US tariffs in addition to bilateral issues. Among all US allies being wooed by Beijing in its tariff stare-down with Washington, Japan stands out.

It is a peculiar case not only for its staunch commitment to its alliance with the United States but also for its complicated and uneasy history with the neighboring Asian giant - particularly the war history from the 20th century that still casts a shadow over the politics of today. "On one hand, they are neighbors and they are important economic partners. There's a lot that connects Japan and China," said Matthew Goodman, director of the Greenberg Center for Geoeconomics at the Council on Foreign Relations. "But on the other hand, I think there are limits to how far they're going to lean into China." While Japan won't walk away from its alliance with the United States, the linchpin of the Asian country's diplomacy and security policies, "it's also true that the tariffs and uncertainty that Trump has created for Japan is really shaking things up in Tokyo," Goodman said.

Last month, President Donald Trump announced a 24% tariff on Japanese goods in a sweeping plan to levy duties on about 90 countries. The White House has since paused the tariffs but a 10% baseline duty on all countries except China, allowing time for negotiations. Still, Trump's 25% tax on aluminum, steel and auto exports have gone into effect for Japan. The tariff moves, as well as Trump's "America First" agenda, have cast doubts among the Japanese if the United States is still a dependable ally, while China is rallying support from tariff-threatened countries - including Japan. When Tetsuo Saito led Japan's Komeito Party delegation to Beijing in late April, China hinted at difficulty in its tariff dispute with the United States, signaling its willingness to improve ties with Tokyo. An unnamed senior Chinese official said his country was "in trouble" when discussing Trump's 145% tariff on Chinese products, according to Japanese reports. Saito's visit was soon followed by that of the bipartisan delegation of Japan-China Friendship Parliamentarians' Union. Zhao Leji, Beijing's top legislator, told the delegation that China's National People's Congress would be "willing to carry out various forms of dialogue and exchanges."

Beijing did not lift a ban on Japan's seafood imports as the Japanese delegates hoped, but it signaled positive signs on its assessment of the safety of the discharges of treated radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Beijing banned Japan's seafood products in 2023, citing those concerns. Ties between Tokyo and Beijing

have long been rocky. In the past several years, they squabbled not only over the seafood ban but also long-standing territorial disputes over the Senkaku, or Diaoyu, islands in the East China Sea, Beijing's growing military assertiveness and violence against Japanese nationals in China - an issue complicated by the nations' uneasy history. Tokyo's closer ties with Washington during Joe Biden's presidency also upset Beijing, which saw it as part of the US strategy to contain China and has lectured Tokyo to "face squarely and reflect on the history of aggression." An imperial power in Asia for centuries, China fell behind Japan in the 19th century when Japan began to embrace Western industrialization and grew into a formidable economic and military power. It invaded China in the 1930s and controlled the northeastern territory known as Manchuria. War atrocities, including the Nanking Massacre and the use of chemical and biological weapons and human medical experiments in Manchuria, have left deep scars in China. They have yet to be healed, though Japan's conservative politicians today still attempt to deny the aggression.

Ishiba, elected Japan's prime minister in October, has a more neutral view on his country's wartime history than the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his two successors. Weeks after taking office, Ishiba held talks with Xi on the sidelines of a leaders' summit. Chinese scholars, however, see Tokyo's recent engagements with Beijing as a pragmatic move to hedge against US protectionism and not a long-term strategy for stability with China.

Scholz vows continued support in last call with Zelensky

BERLIN (AFP): Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed that Germany will keep supporting Ukraine in his final call with President Volodymyr Zelensky, a day before stepping aside to make way for Friedrich Merz. Scholz has been a vocal supporter of Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in 2022. He "reaffirmed Germany's continued and unwavering solidarity with Ukraine," the outgoing German leader's spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said in a statement.

"He emphasised that Germany, in close coordination with European and international partners, will continue to support Ukraine as needed and for as long as necessary." Germany became the second-biggest military backer of Ukraine after the United States, and despite its post-war pacifist tradition sent huge quantities of defence goods to Kyiv.

Scholz however also faced some criticism for dragging his feet on key decisions -- such as sending heavy battle tanks to Ukraine -- and for his refusal to send long-range Taurus missiles that could strike deep inside Russia. Merz has vowed to continue Germany's support for Ukraine when he takes over at the head of a coalition between his conservative CDU/CSU bloc and Scholz's centre-left SPD. Along with other European leaders, he has watched nervously as US President Donald Trump has sought to push Zelensky into making a quick peace deal with President Vladimir Putin, which critics fear would be on Russia's terms.

In call, Scholz also took aim at Putin, saying his "cynical delaying tactics" were hampering efforts to end the war. Scholz noted the Ukrainian president had shown himself willing to accept a 30-day, unconditional ceasefire, illustrating that "no one desires peace more than Ukraine", Hebestreit said. "This must finally be reciprocated by the Russian president," Scholz told Zelensky.

Romania braces for wave of disinformation

BUCHAREST (Reuters): Romania faces a wave of online disinformation ahead of a presidential election runoff this month in which the hard-right looks poised for victory, election observers and analysts say. Hard-right eurosceptic George Simion secured 41% of the vote in first round, just five months after another far-right candidate, Calin Georgescu, unexpectedly came first in a ballot that was later annulled due to suspicions of Russian meddling.

Simion will now face Bucharest mayor, Nicusor Dan, an independent centrist, in a May 18 run-off in the European Union and NATO member state. Moscow has denied that it was behind a surge in activity on TikTok and other social media platforms late last year favourable to Georgescu. The Kremlin said he had been arbitrarily thrown out of the race. The Romanian authorities and TikTok both say they have put measures in place to counter disinformation online. However, the European Commission has opened formal proceedings against TikTok over its suspected failure to limit interference in last November's vote. Sorin Ionita, a political analyst, noted the prevalence of inauthentic social media networks backing political parties, which is reminiscent of the situation before the canceled election when TikTok accounts surged. "These are bots definitely," he said of non-political dormant accounts that appear to belong to a lady with a nail salon, or someone who comments on football or cars, and which suddenly begin to post political content and get thousands of views. OpenMinds, a tech company focused on countering authoritarian influence, said its investigation found that 24% of Romanian-language Telegram channels are spreading what it called Kremlin-backed disinformation.



MANILA: Decommissioned Philippine Navy BRP Miguel Malvar (PS-19) takes on water before sinking while being positioned as vessel target prompting the cancellation of a live-fire drill as part of a joint US-Philippines military exercises called Balikatan or "shoulder to shoulder" approximately 30 nautical miles west of San Antonio, Zambales, Philippines.

Ukraine drone attack shuts Moscow airports, says Russia

MOSCOW (BBC): Russia says Ukraine has launched an overnight drone attack targeting Moscow for the second night in a row. All four of the capital's major airports were closed for several hours to ensure safety but later reopened, Russia's aviation watchdog Rosaviatsia said on Telegram.

Moscow's mayor, Sergei Sobyannin, said on social media at least 19 Ukrainian drones had been destroyed before they reached the city "from different directions". He said some of the debris had landed on one of the key highways into the city, but there were no casualties. Ukraine has not yet commented. But the mayor of Kharkiv said Russia had also carried out drone strikes in the city overnight, as well as in the Kyiv area.

As well as in Moscow, the governors of other Russian cities, including Penza and Voronezh, also said they had been targeted by drones overnight. Unconfirmed reports by Russian military bloggers suggested windows of an apartment in the south of Moscow were smashed. It is the second night in a row that Russia has reported a drone attack by Ukraine, Russia's defence ministry said it had destroyed 26 Ukrainian drones overnight. Since Russia's full-scale

invasion of Ukraine more than three years ago, Kyiv has launched several drone attacks on Moscow. Its biggest attack in March killed three people. It comes after reports of fresh attempts by Ukraine to cross into Russia's Kursk region.

Kyiv said it had hit a drone command unit in the Kursk region near the Russian village of Tyotkino, according to the Ukrainian general staff. In April, Moscow said it had regained control of the entire region, nine months after a Ukrainian forces launched a surprise invasion. Kyiv insists it still has soldiers operating across the border. Also in Kursk, Russian officials reported an electrical substation in the town of Rylsk lost power after being damaged in an attack by Ukraine. Two transformers at the substation in Rylsk had been damaged, according to acting governor of the Kursk region, Alexander Khinshtein, in a post on the Telegram messaging app.

He added two teenagers had been injured by shrapnel from the blast. Multiple Russian military bloggers also reported that Ukrainian forces had attempted to cross into the village, posting images - as yet unverified by the BBC - of vehicles broken through tank traps on the border. Ukrainian forces fired missiles over

the border and crossed minefields in special vehicles, according to the bloggers. "The enemy blew up bridges with rockets at night and launched an attack with armoured groups in the morning," blogger RVvoenkor said according to Reuters news agency. "The mine clearance vehicles began to make passages in the minefields, followed by armoured vehicles with troops. There is a heavy battle going on at the border."

In a statement, Ukraine said: "Nine months after the start of the Kursk operation, Ukraine's Defence Forces maintain a military presence on the territory of Russia's Kursk region." While there has been no official response from Moscow, some military bloggers have also published maps showing opposing forces attempting to cross the border in two places towards Tyotkino - near where the drone command unit that was hit. Meanwhile, in Sumy - around 12km across the border from Tyotkino in north-eastern Ukraine - local authorities urged people to evacuate from two settlements, Reuters reported. Ukraine originally made its surprise incursion into Kursk in August 2024 to create a buffer zone and protect Sumy and surrounding areas, while also hoping to use it as a bargaining chip in future negotiations.

US and Philippine forces cancel ship-sinking drill

MANILA (AP): A World War II-era Philippine navy ship to be used as a target in a combat exercise by American and the Philippine forces accidentally sank hours before the mock assault, prompting the drill to be cancelled, US and Philippine military officials said.

The BRP Miguel Malvar, which was decommissioned by the Philippine navy in 2021, took on water while being towed in rough waters facing the disputed South China Sea and sank about 30 nautical miles (55 kilometers) off the western Philippine province of Zambales. Nobody was onboard when the ship listed then sank, the Philippine military said. American and Philippine forces would proceed with other live-fire maneuvers off Zambales despite the premature sinking of the Malvar. The ship was built as a patrol vessel for the US Navy in the 1940s and was transferred to Vietnam's navy before the Philippine military

acquired it, Philippine navy Capt. John Percie Alcos said.

"It's an 80-year-old dilapidated ship and it wasn't able to withstand the rough seas," Philippine Lt. Col. John Paul Salgado told The Associated Press. The ship-sinking exercise was planned in an offshore area facing the hotly disputed Scarborough Shoal, which has been closely guarded by the Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships. The Philippines also claims the fishing atoll, which lies about 220 kilometers (137 miles) west of Zambales. Chinese and the Philippine forces have had increasingly hostile confrontations in the waters and airspace of Scarborough in recent years.

The cancelled ship-sinking drill would have been the third to be staged by the treaty allies in recent years. It was supposed to be one of the highlights of largescale annual military exercises by the United States and the

Philippines from April 21 to May 9 with about 14,000 US and Filipino forces participants. Called Balikatan, Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder, the combat drills have increasingly focused on the defense of Philippine sovereignty in the face of China's growing aggression in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety. Mock battle scenes which have been staged so far, including the retaking of an island from hostile forces, have reflected assurances by the Trump administration, including by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, that the US would abide by its treaty commitment to defend the Philippines in case Filipino forces come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea. US, Australian and Philippine forces practiced retaking an island from hostile forces in the coastal town of Balabac in western Palawan province, which faces the South China Sea.

Japanese forces and British marines joined as observers of the combat exercise, which 'showcased the growing interoperability and cohesion among partner nations in maintaining regional security,' Salgado said. "The Trump administration is trying to keep the pressure on China through its support to the Philippines," Grossman said, but added that it's unclear "just how sustainable this commitment will be given that the Trump administration seems less hawkish on China than its predecessors." China has vehemently opposed such exercises involving US forces in or near the South China Sea or Taiwan, the island democracy, which Beijing claims as a province and has threatened to annex by force if necessary. US and Philippine military officials, however, have insisted that the combat exercises were not designed with China in mind but serve as a deterrence to acts of aggression in the region.

S Korea's Hanwha Ocean targets US Navy orders

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean aims to boost its revenue from overseas military vessels to around 4 trillion won (\$2.91 billion) by 2030 and hopes to pick up more repair orders from the US Navy, a senior executive told Reuters.

The Asian country is a major global shipbuilder and trade talks with the US on tariffs brought up possible cooperation in the sector after US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to restore US shipbuilding. Hanwha Ocean, formerly Daewoo Shipbuilding, is one of the largest shipbuilders in the world with an order book of \$31.43 billion as of the end of March. It acquired a US shipyard in Philadelphia last year to expand in the market.

Its naval ships business, which has built dozens of submarines and surface vessels used by the South Korean Navy, has won two orders from the US Navy since last year to repair and overhaul its ships for the first time. "I think we may be the biggest shipyard in the world that has taken on these maintenance, repair and overhaul orders from the US Navy," said Steve SK Jeong, head of the Naval Ship Global

Business at Hanwha Ocean, days after US Secretary of the Navy John Phelan visited its shipyard.

"It is not very profitable, but learning the process of working with the US Navy is valuable, which will help if we win newbuild orders." Hanwha Ocean hoped to win a double-digit number of US Navy maintenance and repair orders before 2030, Jeong said. Trump has vowed to spend "a lot of money on shipbuilding" to restore US capacity, and cited concern over how his country has fallen behind in an industry that is also dominated by China.

Still, US laws can make it harder for foreign shipyards even if they have US operations. They are prohibited from building US Navy vessels, due to the Byrnes-Tollens Amendment of the US Department of Defense Appropriations Act. Hanwha Ocean's Philadelphia Shipyard is trying to get a licence that clears it to build US Navy vessels, but transplanting cutting-edge manufacturing processes honed from competition with other South Korean and Chinese shipyards is not as simple as bringing in some automated welding machines, Jeong said. "I think the US shipbuilding industry hasn't had

to compete very much. Facilities are old, and there's a shortage of technicians," Jeong said.

"We are looking to modernise facilities, train and equip workers, and bring in our manufacturing process that can build the same ship in, I think, two-thirds the time or less as that of a US shipyard." Jeong said the company is investing in South Korea to use existing facilities and expand naval ship capacity to build five submarines and three surface vessels at the same time by 2029, from two submarines and two surface vessels now. Despite building 17 submarines for the South Korean Navy since 1987, Hanwha Ocean has only actively competed for overseas orders in the last few years as South Korea's low birthrate and shrinking military-age population risk cooling local demand.

It is competing to export submarines to Poland and Canada, a frigate to Thailand as well as knocking on the door in markets in the Middle East, South America, North Africa and Southeast Asia, to build up a sustained flow of orders that would bring foreign sales to 4 trillion won by 2030, Jeong said. That would be about four times the size of its 1.05 trillion won of revenue in 2024.

Taiwan president calls for end to 'false' news about US forex talks

TAIPEI (Reuters): Taiwan's president called for an end to "false" news about talks with the United States on foreign exchange rate policy, after the Taiwan dollar surged against the US dollar on speculation Washington had asked for it to appreciate.

The Taiwan dollar and appreciated strongly against the greenback on market speculation that the US had asked Taiwan to allow its currency to appreciate as part of the tariff talks, and is at a more than two-year high. After Taiwan's central bank and Office of Trade Negotiations issued denials that tariff talks in Washington last week had involved the topic of foreign exchange, President

Lai Ching-te took the unusual step of weighing in with a video message.

Taiwan's trade surplus with the United States is because of soaring demand for the tech products the island specialises in, like semiconductors, and Taiwan has never been listed by Washington as a currency manipulator, Lai said. "Precisely because the cause of the Taiwan-US trade deficit has nothing to do with the exchange rate, the exchange rate issue will naturally not be mentioned in negotiations between Taiwan and the United States," he added. "Therefore, I would also like to ask malevolent people to stop deliberately spreading false information," Lai said, without

offering any names.

Taiwan's economy is doing well and people should have confidence, he added. "I would also like to ask all my good friends to share what I have reported, and to share the correct information with your friends and family." The government said that Taiwan had concluded its first round of "substantive" tariff talks with the United States, describing the atmosphere as frank and cordial. It did not mention exchange rate issues. Speaking to reporters at a hastily arranged news conference, the exasperated sounding central bank governor Yang Chin-long repeatedly said there had been no exchange rate talks with the United States.

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Navarro still up to his anti-China tricks

PETER Navarro, the White House's top trade advisor, is no stranger to controversy, or to deception and lies in pursuit of his agenda.

In September 2023, Navarro was found guilty on two counts of contempt of Congress due to his role in promoting claims of election fraud and his alleged involvement in a plan to delay Congress' certification of the 2020 election results. While serving as trade advisor during Donald Trump's first term, it was revealed that he fabricated a fake "China expert" named "Ron Vara" — a play on his own last name — to support his call for the US to wage an aggressive trade war against China. "When Navarro describes himself as ruthless, unscrupulous and a liar, he should be taken at his word", a commentary in Los Angeles Times said in June 2022. So it should come as no surprise that he is again resorting to lies in an attempt to attack China, this time in a bid to disrupt the cooperative relations between the United Kingdom and China.

In an interview with The Telegraph on the weekend, he accused the UK of becoming a "compliant servant of communist China", and warned that it was at risk of having its blood sucked dry by Beijing. The UK government must resist "string-laden gifts" from Beijing and avoid becoming a "dumping ground" for goods that China can no longer sell to the US, Navarro said.

His remarks come at a time when the US is finding itself increasingly isolated as a result of the tariff war it has launched against China and the rest of the world, which in no small part has been driven by Navarro's long-discredited advocacy for such offensive protectionist measures.

This is not the first time Navarro has tried to pressure countries to choose a side by means of anti-China fearmongering. In February he claimed Australia's aluminium sector is controlled by Chinese entities. An allegation that Canberra refuted by saying it had no basis in fact. Yet the US administration values Navarro's hard-line anti-China stance and aggressive trade policies not his allegiance to the truth, so Navarro has the license to say whatever he likes so long as it aligns with the administration's aims.

His bloodsucking vampire rhetoric will no doubt appeal to the China hawks in Washington, but nothing could be further from the truth, especially given exchanges in all fields between China and the UK have been gaining momentum since the Labour government took office in July 2024.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has said his country is committed to building a "consistent, durable and respectful" relationship with China, and high-level British officials including Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves have made high-profile visits to China in recent months as part of the UK government's drive for "pragmatic reengagement" with Beijing. In fact, Reeves made it clear earlier this year that a healthy relationship with China is "squarely in our national interest", as "reengagement with China" would deliver a boost of up to 1 billion pounds (\$1.32 billion) for the British economy.

The UK is China's third-largest trading partner in Europe, as well as the country's third-largest investment destination and third-largest source of foreign investment from Europe, while China is the UK's largest trading partner in Asia. In 2024, bilateral trade reached \$98.36 billion, marking a year-on-year increase of 0.4 percent, a hard-earned result given the downward pressure on world trade. And, as of July 2024, two-way investment between China and the UK stood at \$57 billion.

Navarro's statements are often provocative. But they are geared to overcoming his lack of empirical evidence and his failure to provide a comprehensive analysis of the consequences of his proposed policies. It is actually quite remarkable that Navarro, the so-called architect of the White House's tariff policies, is still peddling his mendaciousness in the corridors of power, even after his approach to trade and economic policy has so thoroughly compromised the US economy.

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The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



Israel's claim to protect Syria's Druze is a smokescreen

Osama Al-Sharif

ISRAEL will use any excuse to divide and weaken the region. That is the end game, precisely what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believes is the way to hammer together a new Middle East. The geopolitical fallout from the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel has provided him and his fellow fanatics with a golden opportunity to accelerate the process whose outcome would be a greater Israel that is the region's uncontested superpower: a "Pax Judaica."

Whether it is Iraq, Syria, Lebanon or Libya, Israel's new generation of leaders — ultranationalists aligning themselves with ultra-religious extremists — believe that for Israel to become a regional hegemon, it must destroy the concept of multiethnic and multireligious nation states. The objective is for Israel, a primarily Jewish state, not to be the exception. For that to happen, it must fragment all nation states that stand in its way and create multiple ethno-noreligious statelets in their stead. These statelets can then ally themselves with mighty Israel.

In their view, such a scenario can work best in Lebanon and Syria, with their diverse ethnic and religious minorities. The concept of partition and independence has been considered by minority groups in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria at various stages since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Israel has used minority groups in the region to challenge and upset the existing nation-state structure, leading to or contributing to bloody civil and sectarian wars.

It is, therefore, ludicrous and quite cynical for Israel to threaten and attempt to destabilize the new regime in Syria using the pretext of protecting a minority group there — in this case, the Syrian Druze. It has used recent clashes between state security and

Druze activists to issue a stern warning to President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and his government. That warning came in the form of an airstrike close to the presidential palace in Damascus last week.

Last December, Israel did not need an excuse to send its tanks into the 1974 buffer zone in the Golan Heights, days after the fall of Bashar Assad. Israel was not provoked or attacked, yet its army took over the remainder of the Syrian Golan and ventured deeper into parts of southern Syria, attempting to reach Suwayda, a province that the Druze predominantly inhabit.

Netanyahu and his extremist government partners made it clear that Israel was in Syria to stay. Its air force carried out multiple strikes against key Syrian army targets, including airports, air defense batteries and naval bases. Israel's invasion and aggression were deliberate and part of a larger scheme.

One does not need to look further for Israel's real motives in Syria than Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, whose Religious Zionist Party is a major partner in the far-right coalition. At a pre-Memorial Day event in the West Bank last week, Smotrich declared that Israel would only stop fighting following the partition of Syria and the displacement of "hundreds of thousands" of Palestinians from Gaza.

Regardless of Israeli claims and warnings, the new regime in Damascus has the obligation and responsibility to assure minority groups that they are part of one Syria that is for all its citizens.

That is the only way it can restore national unity and ensure the territorial integrity of Syria. So far, the regime has come under severe criticism for the bloody events that took place in March in Syrian

coastal towns, where a significant number of Alawites live.

Accusations of sectarian infighting have been reported elsewhere in Syria. The new government in Damascus must safeguard all Syrians, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

So far, Al-Sharaa and his Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani have been saying the right things: underscoring national unity, distancing themselves from sectarian rhetoric and calling for Israel's withdrawal from Syrian territory. In a speech at the UN last week, Al-Shibani said: "We have repeatedly announced our commitment that Syria will not constitute any threat to any of the neighboring countries or any country around the world, including to Israel."

Israel is the clear aggressor in the case of Syria. Its claim that it is intervening to protect Syria's Druze is both deceitful and ironic. The Syrian state protects its citizens and not any foreign country. Israel's approach is neocolonial at heart.

One only has to look at Israel's record in the treatment of its own minorities — non-Jewish citizens — to expose the hypocrisy and fallacy of its claims. While its Declaration of Independence mentions legal equality for all citizens, significant disparities undermine the country's Palestinian, Druze and Bedouin populations. These disparities manifest themselves across multiple areas of public and private life, creating disadvantages for approximately 21 percent of Israel's citizenry. These disparities appear in the country's economic, social and political inequalities, mainly affecting Palestinians and Bedouins.

Perhaps Israel's most discriminatory piece of legislation is the so-called Nation-State Law of 2018,

which marked a significant constitutional shift by formally defining Israel as "the national home of the Jewish people," without counterbalancing language about equality for all citizens. The law downgraded Arabic from an official language to one with "special status." For many non-Jewish citizens, particularly the Druze, who serve in the military, this law formalized their perception of second-class citizenship.

A closer look at the disparities and segregation opens debate about the education system, in which Arab schools receive lower per-student funding than Jewish schools. The criminal justice system represents another area of inequality for Palestinian citizens, who are subjected to heightened police interventions, while experiencing inferior responses to intracommunity violence. This has contributed to a dramatic disparity in crime rates, with Palestinians accounting for 60 to 70 percent of murder victims, despite being only 21 percent of the population.

There are other issues in the social, economic and political fields, in which Palestinian, Druze and Bedouin minorities in Israel provide evidence of discrimination and inequality. Of course, one can always point to Israel's apartheid system in dealing with more than 5 million Palestinians under brutal military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel's track record in dealing with minorities is dismal, to say the least. Syria's minorities should be aware of the dangerous game that Israel is trying to play, whose final objective transcends any local community interest or well-being.

Syria's Druze have overwhelmingly rejected Tel Aviv's overtures. However, Israel's determination to fulfill its grand desire will not be easy to stop. What it fears is a united Syria along its border.

Washington's extreme tariff strikes will backfire

Peng Delei

IN the world of geopolitics, "maximum pressure" is fast becoming shorthand for "maximum miscalculation". The United States, in its latest attempt to strong-arm China, has unveiled a new round of tariff hikes and scrapped the longstanding duty-free threshold for small packages shipped from China. The result is the highest tariff wall in the history of Sino-US trade. It's impressive in scope, if not in strategy.

Behind these moves lies a persistent delusion: that the United States has long been short-changed by global trade. Acting on this grievance, Washington is wielding tariffs like a hammer, hoping every economic challenge is a nail. But in doing so, it is chipping away not at China's economic resolve, but at the very foundations of the global system it once helped build. Flouting World Trade Organization rules and reneging on hard-won commitments, the US is undermining the rules-based multilateral trade order and accelerating the erosion of global economic stability.

This strategy is not just

short-sighted — it's self-sabotaging. For every tariff slapped on Chinese goods, there's a ripple effect across global supply chains, many of which still flow through Chinese ports, factories, and innovation hubs. Yes, the damage to Chinese companies is real — but it's also diminishing. China has been here before. And every time Washington pulls this stunt, the world gets a little better at working around it.

What the US has grossly underestimated is China's capacity to weather economic storms. With the world's most comprehensive industrial system and unparalleled supply chain integration, China's economy has what strategists might call "strategic depth". It's hard to outmaneuver a country that produces nearly everything, and usually at scale. More important, China has resources — both natural and technological — that are essential to industries Washington cares deeply about. For instance, rare earth minerals.

Indeed, in rare earths, the US faces a paradox: It

wants to decouple from China, but its defense and tech industries still depend heavily on Chinese exports. That's the economic equivalent of trying to fly without wings.

Meanwhile, China has been busy future-proofing its trade strategy. The days of heavy dependence on the US market are over. China's exports to the US dropped from 19.2 percent in 2018 to 14.7 percent in 2024, while its trade ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the European Union, the Belt and Road partners, and Latin America have deepened dramatically. For five straight years, China and ASEAN have topped each other's trade charts, and in Latin America, China is now the second-largest trade partner and third-largest investor. This diversified portfolio functions like a financial hedge: It spreads the risk and blunts the blow of any single market's tantrums.

Domestically, China is leaning into its own market muscle. With a vast and growing market, rising consumption and a hefty gov-

ernment push, the country is building what might best be described as a "shock-absorbing economy". Add in the AI-powered rise of cross-border e-commerce, and you've got a trade machine that's not just surviving the pressure — it's evolving under it.

So what has the US gained by turning up the heat? Certainly not leverage. If anything, its actions have pulled back the curtain on an increasingly aggressive economic nationalism — one that's less about protecting workers than about asserting dominance. The trouble is, coercion doesn't play well in the 21st century. As China has repeatedly made clear, threats and pressure aren't the way to engage with a sovereign nation. You can't bully your way into a balanced trade relationship, and you definitely can't tariff your way into economic supremacy. In the end, Washington's maximum pressure campaign isn't just failing — it's boomeranging. And the harder it pushes, the more obvious the truth becomes: you can't win a trade war when you've already declared war on trade itself.

False flags and flawed fighters: The unraveling of India's strategic approach

Nabiha Nur

INDIA'S quest of air superiority by acquiring Rafale jets, which were marketed as a revolutionary military equipment, has instead revealed deeper cracks in its defense strategy. The expectation was that these jets would tilt the regional power dynamics in India's favor, providing a clear edge over its adversaries. Yet in reality, they have instead become a blatant example of misplaced priorities and over reliance on imported assets over operational readiness.

On the flip side, India has shifted the blame towards France for not providing the necessary source codes in order to adapt the jets for localized warfare scenarios. India's repeated failure to secure the source codes for its advanced aircraft, such as the Mirage-2000 in the past and now the Rafale jets reveals a lingering vulnerability in its defense strategy.

Back when IAF was humiliated in 2019, completely failing to achieve its intended objective after Pulwama-Balakot incident, a mission that missed its target and led to loss of MiG-21 to Pakistan's Air Force during retaliatory engagement. BJP leaders and military spokesmen alike claimed that "If we had Rafale jets then, things would have been different." This nationalistic justification led to an \$8.8 billion arms deal with France under which India purchased 36 Rafale fighter jets from Dassault Aviation, branding it as a crucial step toward air dominance and military modernization.

However, on the night of April 29-30, 2025 four Rafale jets launched from Ambala Airbase in a much anticipated "strategic show of force" which

By successfully jamming the Rafales without firing a single missile, Pakistan achieved more than just a tactical win and handed India a significant blow to its military pride. Beyond the tactical setback, the event became a symbol of Pakistan's growing military sophistication and its ability to subvert India's superiority in the region. India removed Deputy Air Chief Marshal Sujet Pushpakar Dharkar from office just seven months into his appointment when he expressed his deep dissatisfaction with his pilots' ability to handle Rafale jets. Before him, Lt. Gen. M.V. Suchindra Kumar, Commander of the Indian Army's Northern Command, was dismissed following his role in the mishandled Pahalgam operation. These abrupt removals one after another exposes widening rifts between their senior military officials and political leadership. Since the Indian government is so hell bent on silencing those who voice concerns about reality on ground, over time, this approach will weaken their military's ability to adapt, innovate, and address the vulnerabilities, putting national security at greater risk. The aerial failures coinciding with the Pahalgam false flag incident, have also sparked alot of controversy, with many believing that it was framed to rally domestic support, discredit Kashmiris, and justify their aggressive Indian military deployment in various parts. From the widely questioned Pulwama attack in 2019 to the theatrics of the Balakot airstrike, these events used not just to address threats, but to rally emotions and fuel nationalism.

ended up in an embarrassing retreat when mid-flight the jets were effectively neutralized by Pakistan's advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) systems, forcing them to retreat and make emergency landings in Srinagar.

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The Rafale fiasco, the false flags, and the leadership upheavals are all signs of Indian military in crisis, one that needs more than just weapons or political slogans to regain its credibility. Behind the image of strength lies a troubling reality, as India continues to chase illusions of air superiority, its strategic approach is at greater risk in becoming an empty shell, one that is formidable in appearance, but hollow at its core.

Many Pakistani defense analysts have pointed out that behind India's growing reliance on foreign military technology lies a more deeper concern about whether the country can truly hold on its own in a modern battlefield without having developed the tools and capabilities from within. As Pakistan builds strength from within, India continues to chase military superiority

through imports yet remains technologically dependent and strategically exposed. Their media frequently exaggerates achievements while downplaying setbacks rather than offering an objective evaluation of India's military preparedness. In this way, their public is fed a version of events that elevates national pride while concealing the deeper, more systemic problems within India's defense infrastructure. The incident alone has sent shockwaves through India's defense community. Now one must ask whether this could prompt India to invest more heavily in its own indigenous defense technologies? Moreover, the psychological impact on Indian military personnel and policymakers was very much profound, as it called into question the reliability of their most advanced fighter jets. Now, how will the Indian military restore confidence in its forces after this embarrassment? Unless India acknowledges its shortcomings and stops hiding the truth, silencing dissent, and engaging in a blame game, the country risks facing similar setbacks in the future, gradually chipping away it's military's credibility in the eyes of the world.

Making food a political issue throttles Gaza lives

IN a world where 757 million people face chronic hunger, and 45 million children suffer from wasting due to acute malnutrition, Gaza stands out as unique. War, drought, earthquakes, and other natural disasters are responsible for starvation in other places. Gaza is the only territory where a hostile foreign power illegally occupying Gaza is deliberately depriving the population of food, water, fuel, and medical supplies. Weaponising food is prohibited under international law.

Last week the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held five days of hearings on how Israel is violating its international legal obligations as the illegal occupier of Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank. Envoys addressing the hearings focused on Israel's 60-day total blockade, the longest closure Gaza has faced so far.

It is not known when and how aid deliveries will resume. Israel is, reportedly, trying to design a means of delivering food packages directly to Gazan's 2.3 million people. This would ensure Israeli control and exclude the involvement of international aid organisations. They are sharply critical of the two-month blockade and the resumption on March 18th of bombing and ground attacks in Gaza which have killed more than 2,300 and injured 6,000 Palestinians, the majority women and children.

The ICJ hearings, mandated by the UN General Assembly, included submissions from 49 nations and organisations. Among the most telling interventions came from the director of legal affairs at Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry Mohamed Saud Alnasser. He stated, "Less than a year ago, the court heard that Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territory, including its settlement practices, its continued occupation and its annexation of parts of that territory are flagrant violations of international law that must be brought to an end as a matter of urgency."

He added, "Sadly, but predictably, Israel chose to ignore the court's ruling, showing it considered itself above the law".

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tions" since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7th, 2023.

During the first two days of the hearings, speakers were highly critical of Israel's actions. On the third day, however, a US State Department legal adviser, Joshua Simmons, expressed disagreement by saying that Israel need not work with UNRWA, the UN agency which is the main provider and conduit for aid deliveries in Gaza. He said there is "no legal requirement that an occupying power permit a third state or international organisation to conduct activity that would compromise its security interests."

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Israel has banned cooperation with UNRWA as Israel claims 19 of UNRWA's 13,000 staff participated in Hamas' attack.

International humanitarian agencies have castigated Israel and launched appeals for its friends to exert pressure to allow live saving aid to flow immediately. Britain and France have called upon Israel to lift the siege and blockade, and ceasefire and US President Donald Trump said on April 25th he had told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to allow food and medicine into Gaza. Israel has replied that the blockade would continue until all 59 of the Israeli captives of Hamas are released. Israel accuses Hamas of diverting aid, which both Hamas and aid agencies deny.

Before the ongoing war, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said agriculture accounted for "approximately 10 percent of Gaza's economy, with more than 560,000 people relying entirely or partially on cropping, herding, or fishing for their livelihoods."

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Michael Jansen

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malnutrition. "Not a drop of water, not a grain of wheat" has entered Gaza since March 2nd, UNRWA spokeswoman Juliette Touma told the BBC. In an e-mail to Gulf Today she said that supplies entering during the ceasefire "are running out quickly. It's been two months of a tight siege; Gaza is a place that is highly dependent on imports from outside. Every day, Gaza needs 500-600 trucks of supplies (commercial and humanitarian)." She called for an end to the blockade and aid to flow to "match the unprecedented need."

International Committee of the Red

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He added, "This situation must not — and cannot — be allowed to escalate further."

World Health Organisation (WHO) head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called the Gaza situation "catastrophically bad. We are breaking the bodies and minds of the children of Gaza." His deputy Michael Ryan told reporters, "We are starving the children of Gaza. We are complicit." He continued, "As a physician I am angry. It is an abomination...the current level of malnutrition is causing a collapse in immunity." Ryan warned that cases of pneumonia and meningitis in women and children could increase.

On April 25th, the World Food Programme (WFP) delivered the last of its stocks of flour to bakeries and rice, lentils, tomato paste and tinned vegetables to kitchens which have prepared hot meals. WFP director Cindy McCain told US public radio, "There's nothing left. There's no place to go for food anymore."

She added, "Food is not political. And to make food political is something that is unconscionable, number one, but number two, it just shouldn't happen."

In its annual report released last month Amnesty International wrote, "Israel's relentless military offensive on the occupied Gaza Strip intensified the longstanding humanitarian crisis caused by Israel's 18-year unlawful blockade of Gaza." After Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007, Israel besieged, blockaded, and waged war on Gaza in 2008-2009, 2012, 2014, 2021 and 2024-2025. These wars have not only killed Gazans and devastated the Strip but also deprived them of stability and a decent standard of life and diminished their physical and psychological resistance to trauma and deprivation.

On February 8th this year, the British medical journal The Lancet published a study by Michel Guillot, Mohammed Draid, José H C Monteiro Da Silva, and Ismail Lubbad who reported that life expectancy fell steeply during the first year of the war that began in October 2023.

They found life expectancy fell by more than 30 years during the first 12 months of the war, nearly "halving pre-war levels" of the mid-seventies for both men and women.

For the slow-growing British economy, the

How Africa should negotiate with Trump

IN a recent interview, Fox News anchor Bret Baier asked Felix Tshisekedi, the president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, how his government would balance continued ties with the US — including the negotiation of a critical minerals deal — with its deepening relationship with China. Tshisekedi responded that China's influence is not so much "waxing" in Africa, as America's influence is "waning."

Tshisekedi is right. In 2000, the US was Africa's largest trading partner; today, China's total trade with Africa is more than four times larger than that of the US. Two US-Africa Leaders Summits have been held, in 2014 and 2022, and there is no date for a third, though Congress passed legislation late last year that would compel President Donald Trump to convene a summit this year and every two years thereafter.

Meanwhile, China is preparing to convene its 10th summit with African leaders, through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, in 2027. A Gallup poll published last year showed that, for the first time, China's approval rating in Africa (58 percent) had surpassed that of the US (56 percent).

Speaking to Baier, Tshisekedi pointed out that his country would be "very happy" to see a renewed US commercial presence there. But Trump's trade policies could have the opposite outcome. And persistent reports that the Trump administration plans to reduce the number of US embassies and consulates in Africa will only add to this decline in influence.

For the last 25 years, the cornerstone of America's commercial relationship with Africa has been the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a nonreciprocal trade agreement that allows more than 6,000 African products into the US without duties or quotas. Between 2001 and 2022, African members of the agreement exported more than \$100 billion of goods to the US. The trade was always supposed to be one-way, but that does not mean it did not benefit US companies — such as Levi's, Gap and Walmart — and consumers.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act was designed to help Africa transform its manufacturing base, thereby shifting the basis of its relationship with the US from aid to trade — a goal that

one might expect the Trump administration, which has slashed foreign aid programs, to support. Participation was conditioned on African governments' promotion of political pluralism, good governance and economic liberalization. And studies have shown that trade with the US increases value-added production, labor productivity and labor demand in Africa.

However, early last month, Trump introduced "reciprocal" tariffs on many African countries, with some of the African Growth and Opportunity Act's strongest performers facing the highest rates: Lesotho (50 percent), Madagascar (47 percent) and Mauritius (40 percent). Meanwhile, the 17 African countries that are ineligible for the benefits of the act, mainly due to poor governance, were effectively rewarded with far lower tariffs.

Trump suspended most of these tariffs almost immediately, opening a 90-day window to strike new trade deals. And, to some extent, he is getting what he wanted, with African Growth and Opportunity Act countries scrambling to salvage their preferential access to the US market. Lesotho, for example, granted Trump ally Elon Musk's Starlink a 10-year license to operate its satellite network in the country.

Nonetheless, Trump's tariffs are unlikely to deliver quick wins for the US. Already, African trade ministers have agreed to fast-track policies that will promote trade within the continent, as well as to diversify exports to reduce their countries' dependence on particular foreign markets. Add to that the shuttering of the US Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the closure of Voice of America and the lapse of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and America's footprint in Africa is shrinking fast.

But there is a way for Africa to leverage the US administration's interests to the benefit of both sides. Trump's top priority in Africa is securing access to critical minerals. This makes countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo — which boasts the world's richest copper deposits and four of the world's five largest cobalt mines — as well as Gabon, Zambia, South Africa and even Chad, strategically important. The US is already in talks over a

minerals deal with Kinshasa

and others. The only problem is that China is far ahead of the US on this front. Chinese state-owned companies and banks control 80 percent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's cobalt production and as much as 90 percent of the world's supply is refined in China, whereas the US produces less than 1 percent. This imbalance drove former US President Joe Biden's administration to develop the Lobito Corridor initiative, aimed at expanding the 800-mile rail line that extends from the Angolan port of Lobito on Africa's Atlantic coast through the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of the Congo to Zambia.

This initiative — for which the Trump administration has signaled its support — will upgrade African infrastructure by establishing partnerships between the US, African governments, African-led financing agencies such as the Africa Finance Corporation and the EU. But African countries must do more to ensure that any critical minerals agreement provides a real boost to their economies, especially by insisting that some value-added production occurs on the continent.

To complement access to Africa's critical minerals, the US should also commit to processing them and adding value on the continent — for example, making cobalt into battery precursors before export. Since Chinese companies have shown no interest in doing this, such an exchange would position the US as a more valuable partner, thereby ensuring its long-term access to these vital resources. Given that Africa has all the minerals needed for production, spread across more than 10 countries in Central and Southern Africa, the development of local processing capabilities would also be consistent with the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Africa and the US are both seeking to strengthen their manufacturing sectors, but this is not a zero-sum game. On the contrary, by agreeing to help strengthen Africa's industrial capabilities, the US could gain greater access to resources that its own industry needs, reverse the decline of its commercial influence on the continent and contribute to the revival of wider, mutually beneficial trade. This could lead to more balanced current accounts, just as Trump desires.

Perfect storm brings UK and EU together

IT is too early to predict the outcome of this month's all-important EU-UK summit, but there has already been a sea change in terms of more cordial language and a spirit of cooperation between the two sides that has buried the toxicity of the dreadful Brexit years.

While the time that has elapsed since the UK left Europe has helped to heal some of the wounds, it is the decisive UK general election victory last year of the more pro-European Labour Party — combined with the dangerously chaotic new US administration's far-reaching implications for European security, prosperity and values — that has hastened the London-Brussels rapprochement.

In the years since Brexit, the necessity for a new kind of UK-EU partnership has become obvious to both sides. This will not be one that opens old wounds by floating the prospect of Britain returning to the EU, or even to the single market, anytime soon, despite about 55 percent of British voters consistently expressing in opinion polls their support for rejoining the EU. Support for staying out is about 40 percent.

However, last week's success for the anti-European and anti-immigration Reform UK party in the local elections, and its winning another seat

in Parliament by way of a by-election, is a warning sign that Labour's declared reset of relations with Brussels must remain incremental, target specific areas of cooperation and bear tangible fruit for people up and down the country before any conversation about readmission to the EU can take place.

According to a leaked draft agreement, the UK-EU interlocutors preparing for the forthcoming summit are on the path to signing a formal declaration that commits to "free and open trade." In a snub to the Trump administration's declared trade war, this is a clear sign of trying to avert, or at least mitigate, the looming recession that is the consequence of Washington's protectionist policies.

If, until very recently, the drive for resetting relations with the EU was more about economics, securing borders from illegal immigration and scientific and cultural cooperation, the return of Donald Trump to the White House and the president's recent spat with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has shifted the center of gravity to defense and security.

In the face of Russia's expansionism and the sense that, at present, the US is no longer a reliable ally with regard to winning the war in Ukraine or in the bigger picture of

the defense of Europe as a whole, the UK and the EU have already accelerated their defense cooperation measures and have immediately eased their fiscal restraints on military spending budgets. Germany and Poland are leading this approach,

derived from geography,

If, until very recently, the drive for resetting relations with the EU was more about economics, securing borders from illegal immigration and scientific and cultural cooperation, the return of Donald Trump to the White House and the president's recent spat with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has shifted the center of gravity to defense and security. In the face of Russia's expansionism and the sense that, at present, the US is no longer a reliable ally with regard to winning the war in Ukraine or in the bigger picture of the defense of Europe as a whole, the UK and the EU have already accelerated their defense cooperation measures and have immediately eased their fiscal restraints on military spending budgets. Germany and Poland are leading this approach, but France and the UK are not far behind. The public show of support for Ukraine and for Zelensky personally by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron, who convened a summit to respond to the new and threatening situation, was an important turning point in the continent's determination to develop a common foreign and security strategy to match external threats. Common interests derived from geography, history, enemies and shared values are almost self-evident, but it is also the conscious efforts to improve the general atmosphere between London and Brussels that is creating the conditions for close cooperation. Much of this is due to Britain's current prime minister being the most Europe-friendly since Tony Blair and can be felt in the manner of his engagements with other European leaders. For the slow-growing British economy, the issue of trade is crucial, even if under the pressing circumstances defense is topping the agenda in discussions with Europe. However, it is also a trickier issue in terms of the concessions Europe would expect it to make. In trade, figures rarely lie and, as a bloc, the EU is the UK's largest trading partner, accounting for 41 percent of its exports and 51 percent of its imports. Meanwhile, for the EU, the UK is the second-largest trading partner, which makes the need to lay to rest any residue of bitterness and resentment that might still linger among EU officials over Brexit. The circle that must be squared in the negotiations leading to this month's summit is how to offset the damage Brexit has inflicted without being seen or suspected of toying with the idea of readmitting the UK to the EU by the back door, especially when it comes to freedom of movement.

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Pakistan, US to further strength economic ties, highlighting partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the United States on Tuesday announce the strengthening of long-standing strategic and economic partnership, marked by recent high-level engagements and a mutual commitment to enhancing trade and investment linkages.

The US Chamber of Commerce and the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) had productive meeting with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kaml Khans, said a press release.

The Charge d'Affaires (CDA) of USA in Islamabad Ms. Natalie A. Baker also accompanied the delegation. The USPBC delegation was led by Charles Freeman, Senior Vice President of US Chamber of Commerce.

Minister Jam Kamal said that visit of USPBC will further cement economic relations between the two countries and appreciated the role of USPBC over the

past two decades in advancing US commercial engagements with Pakistan, actively working to increase trade and investment flows and creating opportunities for businesses for both nations.

The Commerce Minister said that Pakistan valued the United States as its largest export destination and deeply appreciated this strategic trade relationship. Efforts are underway to address trade deficit and market access issues through a comprehensive strategy involving relevant stakeholders.

The recent 90-day pause in reciprocal tariffs is seen as a significant opportunity for constructive engagement and building a sustainable, mutually beneficial road-map.

US Cda Ms. Baker appreciated positive developments in agricultural trade, such as the resumption of soybean exports from the US to Pakistan, demonstrate the strength of

the partnership and the ability to find practical solutions and it encourages avenues for deeper agricultural cooperation and trade diversification.

Enhanced cooperation in the cotton sector was also a key area for mutual growth, given Pakistan's textile industry's demand for high-quality cotton and the US's position to meet this demand. The Commerce Minister assured that Pakistan is committed to creating a predictable and conducive trade environment for US businesses and investors, upholding transparent, rules-based, and fair-trade practices.

The government of Pakistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif, is dedicated to establishing the best working relationship with the United States, particularly in trade and investment, to ensure progress on bilateral and multilateral levels. The Commerce Minister highlighted that

Pakistan's economy was showing positive trends with major macroeconomic indicators stabilizing. The government has undertaken focused reforms to improve 'the ease of doing business', making it more predictable and transparent. These reforms include reductions in policy rate and inflation, lower electricity prices for businesses, and a commitment to policy consistency and regulatory transparency.

Charles Freeman of US Chamber appreciated the warmth of government of Pakistan, which is fully committed in facilitating businesses and looks forward to continued dialogue and technical cooperation to support economic growth and job creation in both countries.

The visit of the US-Pakistan Business Council delegation from May 5-7, serves as a valuable platform for dialogue, partnership-building, and opportunity creation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing high-level meeting on certified seed availability.

Ensuring availability of quality, certified seeds to farmers top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level meeting on the availability and regulation of rice and cotton seeds was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain.

The meeting focused on assessing the current stock of certified seeds, addressing malpractices in the seed market, and reviewing measures to improve seed quality and agricultural productivity.

Minister was briefed that the total cotton seed requirement for the upcoming season is 53,796 metric tons, while more than 50,000 metric tons are already available, ensuring no shortage of cotton seeds for farmers across the country.

The minister expressed serious concern over the malpractices in the sale of seeds, particularly the rampant availability of non-certified seeds in the market.

It was revealed that several companies are involved in facilitating the sale of such substandard seeds.

In response, the ministry has banned 392 companies found guilty of distributing uncertified and fake seeds.

Emphasizing the importance of local seed development, the minister stated that efforts are underway to minimize the import of seeds and improve the quality of indigenously produced varieties.

"Through the widespread use of certified seeds, we can significantly enhance the yield per acre and bring sustainability to our agriculture sector", he added.

Rana Tanveer expressed concerns over the smuggling of seeds from India, which is being openly advertised on social media platforms and said that the ministry is working closely with law enforcement agencies to take strict action

against those involved in this illegal activity.

To counter the issue of volatile price fluctuations, the minister stressed the need to boost agricultural productivity through better seed quality and farming practices. He also informed the participants that the National Seed Development Authority has been established to monitor seed quality, prevent the sale of fake seeds, and enforce stringent regulations.

Under new regulations, seed companies will now be registered for a period of five years, after which extensions will be granted based on performance and compliance with quality standards.

The minister reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to protecting farmers' rights, ensuring food security, and transforming the agriculture sector through transparency, regulation, and innovation.

Court Notice

In the court of sidra jalal civil judge-III/Ilalqa Qazi Matta district Swat. Case #.4/12c2. Institution 02/12/2024. Next Hearing date 19/05/2025. Mst. Madina VS Inamullah. Notice to defendant. (2) Shamsir khan,(4) Faisal khan Minor sons Muhammad khan.(7) Sabir s/o Muhammad Khan r/o Bar shawar Tehsil Matta district Swat. Whereas the above named defendant cannot be served in ordinary manner it is therefore proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court on 19/05/2025. at 8.30 am. Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you. Issued today on 03/05/2025. under my signature and seal of the court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Abdul Haleem Civil Judge V/Ilalqa Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 202/1.Institution 2024. Date of hearing. 17/5/2025. Case Title: Muhammad Akbar etc VS Mst Sarafa etc.Notice to no. 4.Azam Khan. 6.Muhammad Ajaz sons of Peer Khan resident of Bampokha tehseel Gadezai/Salarzai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 17/5/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Abdul Haleem Civil Judge V/Ilalqa Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No. 235/1. Institution 4/11/ 2025. Date of hearing. 21/5/2025. Case Title: Fazal Qayum VS Wazir Khan.Notice to no.2. Sahib Zara Khan daughter .3.Sher Khan. 4.Siyad Khan.5.Azad Khan sons of Ajon Khan resident of Leganai tehseel Gadezai /Salarzai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 21/5/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Javeria Sartaj Khan Additional District Judge II /Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal. No. 137/13. Institution. 16/11/2023. Date of hearing. 22/5/2025.Case Title: Azizullah etc VS Maraj Khan etc. Notice to No. 4/5.Imran Khan s/o Mst Nadara late d/o Mst Gul Misra widow of Esa Khan resident of Rega tehseel Gagra district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will /shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 22/5/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the court of sidra jalal civil judge-III/Ilalqa Qazi Matta swat. Case#. 78/1. Institution 28/06/2024. Next Hearing date 16/05/2025. Adalat khan VS Ali khan. Notice to defendant :- (9) Nawab khan,(5) Manawar khan s/o Chara,(22) Mst: Zaniba daughter Chara,(26) Abdullah s/o Abdur Rasool,(27) shah Bahadar khan s/o Bahadar khan,(24/2) Amir Ali,(24/2) Humayun,(24/3) Mst :- Seema bi bi,(24/4) Mst :- Dolat sons, daughters Hukam jana,(35/1) Bakht sherwan,(25/2) Mst:- Sultan Begum,(35/3) Mst :- Mst Jan Taj daughter Sanobar r/o Bara Bama khela Tehsil Matta district Swat. Whereas the above named defendant cannot be served in ordinary manner it is therefore proclaimed or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court on 16/05/2025. at 8.30 am. Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you. Issued today on 02/05/2025. under my signature and seal of the court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Jawad Bin Dawood Civil Judge II. Alalqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No 19/1. Institution 27/7/2025. Date of hearing. 16/5/2025. Case Title: Hasan Basri etc VS Ahmed Shah etc.Notice to no.2. Muhammad Zaman. 3.Bakht Zaman sons. 5.Mst Gulzbea.6.Mst Bakhtzbea daughters of Fazal Dad Shah.15. Ebrahim Shah s/o Laldad Shah resident of Bazargay tehseel Gadezai /Salarzai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 16/5/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Commerce Minister discusses tariff changes with APSEA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zain Mahmood, Chairman of the All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association (APSEA), along with his team, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss key issues facing the edible oil industry, particularly the need for tariff changes on soybean and canola imports to support domestic production.

The Coordinator to Prime Minister on Co-

mmerce Rana Ihsaan Afzal, and Secretary Commerce, Jawad Paul were also present during the meeting, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Mahmood emphasized the importance of protecting and promoting local farmers by introducing appropriate adjustments in tariff structures.

He noted that revising import tariffs could incentivize the cultivation and

processing of oil seeds within Pakistan, thereby strengthening self-reliance and reducing dependence on imports.

The Chairman APSEA also proposed various measures to increase the production of oilseeds, including sunflower, soybean, and canola, to reduce the country's import bill and make the local industry more productive.

Minister Jam Kamal

Khan assured the delegation of the government's full support. He reiterated the Ministry of Commerce's commitment to policy initiatives that enhance local agricultural value chains and industrial sustainability.

The meeting reflected the government's continued engagement with industry stakeholders to develop trade policies that align with national economic goals.

Chairman OGDCL 's book ‘Seat 1C’ launched in Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) Zafar Masud's book titled "Seat 1C: A Survivor's Tale of Hope, Resilience, and Renewal" was launched on Tuesday at a well-attended ceremony hosted by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

The event was inaugurated by President IPRI, Lieutenant General (Retd) Majid Ehsan, HI(M). The book, which chronicles Masud's miraculous survival in a plane crash five years ago, offers a deeply personal reflection on life, trauma, and recovery.

The panel discussion featured the author Zafar Masud, editor Syeda Amna Hassan, and academic Dr. Khurram Ellahi Khan. The event was moderated by Mr. Muhammad Shoaib.

Speaking at the event, Zafar Masud said, "I wrote this book primarily for myself, but it contains life



lessons that can be beneficial for everyone." He noted that Seat 1C explores not just his experience of survival, but also broader themes such as mental health, tradition, courage, arrogance, and survivor's guilt.

As the author and chief guest, Mr. Zafar Masud shared his thoughts and experiences centered on the importance of life and what happens before death. The memoir begins with the

crucial 30 seconds before the crash-a moment the author describes as a time of self-accountability and clarity. "In those 30 seconds, you are accountable to yourself. The way you live your life is the way you will experience those moments," Masud reflected. Zafar Masud also dismissed the belief that the location of his seat-Seat 1C-played a significant role in his survival.

The launch event was

attended by members of the diplomatic corps, academics, policy professionals, journalists, and representatives from civil society. Participants described the memoir as deeply human-centric, filled with introspection and universal lessons.

Seat 1C offers more than a survival narrative-it is a meditation on how moments of crisis can illuminate the meaning of life and the value of resilience.

Pakistan's 200-strong business team boosts ties at Iran Expo 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 200-member delegation of Pakistani businessmen participated in Iran Expo 2025, marking a pivotal step toward enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation as the exhibition showcased key sectors, including food and beverages, agriculture, industry, handicrafts, pharmaceuticals, and petrochemicals, fostering economic collaboration and creating new business opportunities between the two nations.

The trade delegation, led by Aamir Khan Jankhel, included representatives

from various Pakistani chambers of commerce and industry. Iran Expo 2025—held at Tehran's Permanent International Exhibition Center—marked its seventh edition as an export-focused international event, themed 'A Gateway to Global Trade.' Delegates hailed the expo as a milestone in strengthening Pakistan-Iran economic ties.

The exhibition is considered one of the most important annual events in Iran's economic and political arena. Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of

the Iranian Organization for Trade and Development, says that in addition to the exhibition, the "Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit" is one of the main economic and diplomatic opportunities of the year 2025.

The exhibition is regarded as one of Iran's most significant annual economic and political events. Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the Iranian Organization for Trade and Development, noted that alongside the expo, the 'Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit' stands as a key

diplomatic and economic opportunity for 2025.

The exhibition brought together over 800 Iranian companies and more than 2,500 foreign business representatives from 39 countries. Notably, the secretaries-general of three major international organizations - the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the OIC, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) - attended as special guests, underscoring the event's global significance. Aamir Hussain Jankhel highlighted the strong Pakistani business delegation's participation and productive discussions on expanding bilateral trade opportunities.

He noted significant progress in engagements not only with Iranian counterparts but also with international business leaders, particularly in advancing joint trade and investment initiatives. Jankhel commended the Iranian government and exhibition organizers for their exceptional arrangements, extending his congratulations for the successful event.

HONG KONG (AFP/ APP): The dollar rose in Asia on Tuesday fuelled by hopes for trade deals to avert Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, while equities were mixed as investors await the Federal Reserve's latest policy decision.

Oil also staged a comeback after tanking on news of an output hike by key producers that came despite growing concerns about demand and the outlook for the global economy.

While no agreements have yet been reached with the White House, there is optimism that governments are making progress in averting or tempering the US president's eye-watering levies, which have sent shivers through world markets.

Sentiment was given a lift by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who told CNBC that the administration had been approached by 17 countries and offered "very good" trade proposals.

He also said there could be "substantial progress in the coming weeks" with China, which has been hit with tariffs of 145 percent.

Trump has imposed lower duties of 10 percent on goods from most other countries, along with 25 percent levies on specific items like steel, automobiles and aluminium.

Hopes for deals have seen Asian currencies rally against the dollar, with Taiwan's unit up around seven percent this

month, while South Korea's won, the Malaysian ringgit, Indian rupee and Thai baht have also seen healthy gains.

The greenback was barely moved against the yen, euro and pound.

The gains have led some to speculate governments are allowing for an appreciation of their currencies as part of negotiations with Washington.

"The factor many talk about is whether these countries with historically 'weak' and heavily managed currencies are now appealing to Trump through the currency channels and are now allowing for an appreciation of the currency as part of the trade negotiations," said Pepperstone's Chris Weston.

"If these Asian nations are indeed opting for a currency revaluation, it could be a significant development not just in driving the dollar lower, but also in the trade negotiation process and accelerate the idea of trade deals."

Equities were mixed, with Hong Kong and Shanghai advancing as investors returned from a long weekend. Singapore, Manila and Jakarta also rose along with London.

But Sydney, Taipei, Mumbai, Bangkok, Paris and Frankfurt slipped. Wellington was flat.

Traders brushed off losses on Wall Street, with the S&P 500 snapping a nine-day winning streak and film studios hit by Trump's warning of

new tariffs on all films made outside the United States.

Focus turns to the Fed's policy announcement Wednesday, with expectations it will stand pat on interest rates, even as Trump continues to push for more cuts. While data last week showed that the US economy contracted in the first quarter, strong jobs and services sector figures suggest there is still some resilience.

Name Correction

My correct name is Muazen Khalil while mistakenly written in my Govt. & non-Govt. documents along with passport as Muazen please make the required correction as Muazen Khalil S/o Arshad Ali R/o Sufed Dheri Peshawar.

Public Notice PDA

The public at large is informed that Ifikhar Ali S/O Mamoor Khan is the owner of Plot No. 3B/II-52-10 M, Zone 3 RMT Peshawar. He is transferring the ownership of the said plot via a duplicate allotment letter. If any person, attorney holder, or any financial institution has any objection to this transfer of ownership/sale, he/it should contact the undersigned on the given phone number after publication of this advertisement within 15 days. Otherwise, a transfer of ownership will be issued, and later on, no claim shall be entertained. Housing officer (RMT/HO) Ph:03005875733 Regi. Model Town Zone 3/4, PDA Peshawar.



In brief

Cricketer dies of cardiac attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): A young cricketer, Aleem Khan passed away after suffering a cardiac attack during an ongoing Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Cup match in Bannu. According to official sources, Aleem Khan collapsed suddenly on the field, surely a shock for the local cricket community. Despite immediate medical treatment, he could not survive. Late Tuesday night, Khan was laid to rest following funeral prayers with family, friends and fellow cricketers in attendance. PCB Domestic Cricket Director Abdullah Khurram Niazi expressed deep sorrow over the loss. In a statement, Niazi offered heartfelt condolences to the grieved family, praying for divine mercy for the deceased. The local cricket fraternity mourns the loss of a talented young player with an abrupt end to his cricket career.

Ewan announces retirement

PARIS (AFP): Australia's five-time Tour de France stage winner Caleb Ewan announced his retirement aged just 30 on Tuesday declaring the past two seasons had "taken a significant toll on my relationship with the sport". Ewan, who recorded 65 career victories including 11 across the Tour de France, Giro and Vuelta, had begun his first season with Ineos in good shape. The combative sprint specialist had won the first stage of the Settimana Internazionale di Coppi e Bartali and then the second stage of the Tour of the Basque Country in April. However, on Tuesday he brought down the curtain on his 11 year career. "After much thought, I've decided to retire from professional cycling, effective immediately," he said in a statement on the British team's website. "The last few years haven't been easy but in 2025 I found something again — not just legs, but belief — thanks to the INEOS Grenadiers.

Argentina's footballer Galvan dies

Buenos Aires (AFP): Luis Galvan, who played in every match in Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning campaign, died on Monday aged 77, the Argentinian Football Association (AFA) announced. Galvan had been in hospital in Cordoba for several weeks with kidney problems. Galvan formed a rock hard central defensive partnership with captain Daniel Passarella that laid the foundations for the Argentina side that lifted the World Cup trophy for the first time. Two goals from the tournament's leading scorer Mario Kempes and one from Daniel Bertoni saw off the Netherlands 3-1 after extra-time in Buenos Aires. "The Argentine Football Association, through its President, Claudio Tapia, mourns the passing of Luis Galvan, a defender who won a World Cup with the Argentine national team in 1978, and expresses its condolences to his family and loved ones," read an AFA statement. Galvan, who played the majority of his club career for Talleres de Cordoba, making over 250 appearances for them, also played at the 1982 finals. Like many of the 1978 side, age had caught up with him in the 1982 title defence -- Diego Maradona about the only new face in the line-up -- his 34-year-old legs unable to cope with second round opponents Brazil and Italy, who beat the champions 3-1 and 2-1 respectively.



MUNICH: Harry Kane of Bayern Muenchen vies with Joshua Kimmich of Bayern Muenchen during a training session at on May 06, 2025 in Munich, Germany.

Naila Kiani aims to climb Kanchenjunga in Nepal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Naila Kiani, a prominent mountaineer from Pakistan is in Nepal preparing to climb Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain at 8,586 meters. According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, this expedition is a crucial part of her goal to summit all 14 of the world's peaks that rise above 8,000 meters. Naila Kiani is currently making her way to the Kanchenjunga base camp, a journey that will take her seven days. She has already successfully climbed 11 of the 14 highest peaks including famous mountains like Everest and K2,

making her the first Pakistani woman to achieve this milestone. Her attempt to summit Kanchenjunga not only brings her closer to completing her 14-peak challenge but also highlights her commitment to inspiring others. "Each mountain has its own challenges, but my motivation to represent Pakistan keeps me going," Kiani stated. She expressed gratitude to the Bard Foundation for their support in her climbing journey. Kanchenjunga is known for its difficult terrain and unpredictable weather but Kiani remains hopeful for a successful summit, aiming for a weather window at the end of the month.

Kiani is recognized for her outstanding achievements in mountaineering and was awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian honor, last year. She is also an aerospace engineer, a competitive boxer, a mother of two, and a co-founder of an AI startup. Additionally, she runs her own travel and expedition company, Naila Kiani Adventures, which focuses on eco-friendly treks and community building. As she prepares for her Kanchenjunga climb, Kiani continues to inspire many, proving that with determination and resilience, one can overcome any obstacle.

Windies drop Hetmyer for tour of England & Ireland

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, (Agencies): Batter Shimron Hetmyer has been left out of West Indies' one-day international squad to play England and Ireland this month. Left-hander Hetmyer, currently playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and one of West Indies' most high-profile players, featured in the Windies' 2-1 win over an understrength England last year. He missed a series against Bangladesh that followed through illness and was replaced by 27-year-old Amir Jangoo, who made a debut century in the third match. West Indies play a three-match one-day international series in Ireland from 21-25 May, before matches in England on 29 May, 1 June and 3 June. Three T20s against England follow from 6 June. It will be the first white-ball series for England since Harry Brook was named permanent white-ball captain. There is no place in West Indies' squad for Nicholas Pooran, who has not played an ODI since 2023. The touring party is largely the same as the one that beat England, with batter Shai Hope captain, and Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales and Shamar Joseph among the seam bowlers. Former Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien will work with Hope's side during the Ireland leg of the tour. "These matches form a critical component towards the 2027 World Cup and there are signs of the team building consistency following the series sweep against Bangladesh and the win over England late last year," said coach Darren Sammy. "We expect the conditions to be challenging but we are creating a culture and mindset which emphasize playing the brand of cricket that is taking us closer to some of our overall objectives."

West Indies squad: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd.

Ronaldo's son gets first Portugal Under-15s call-up

LISBON (Agencies): Cristiano Ronaldo's eldest son has been called up to the Portugal Under-15s squad for the first time. The 14-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo Jr is at Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia with his father, who signed for the Pro League club in December 2022. Portugal great Ronaldo, 40, posted a picture on social media of his son's name on the national team squad list along with the message, "Proud of you, son".



Ronaldo Jr has been called up for a youth tournament, external in Croatia between 13-18 May, with Portugal scheduled to play Japan, Greece and England. Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo Sr is still a Portugal international and has scored 136 goals for his country - a world record in men's football. The 40-year-old captained Portugal to their first major title at Euro 2016, although he had to agonisingly watch the majority of the final from the sidelines after suffering an injury in the 25th-minute. Ronaldo also led his national side to the Nations League title in 2019.

In March, Ronaldo scored but missed a penalty as Portugal dramatically beat Denmark to reach the Nations League semi-finals. The ex-Manchester United forward has four other children - twins Eva and Mateo, 7, Alana Martina, 7, and Bella, 3. Ronaldo Jr's career so far Ronaldo Jr's youth career has played out in tandem with his father's journey around the world - featuring in the academies of Real Madrid, Juventus, Manchester United and Al-Nassr. Reports claim, external he scored 58 goals in a season during his time with

Italian giants Juventus. He played alongside Wayne Rooney's son, Kai, in the youth set-up at Manchester United when Ronaldo Sr returned for a second stint at Old Trafford. Videos of the teenager striking Ronaldo Sr's iconic 'Siu' celebration have gone viral while playing for Al-Nassr. Although he has been called-up by Portugal's under-15 side for next month's tournament, Ronaldo Jr is also eligible to play for his country of birth - the United States - or Spain due to residency when his father turned out for Real Madrid.

National women's T20 tourney kicks off tomorrow

KARACHI (APP): The National Women's T20 Tournament will begin on Wednesday (tomorrow) in the metropolis. The 18-day tournament will see five teams including Challengers, Conquerors, Invincibles, Stars and Strikers, competing against one another with each team playing eight matches with a total of 22 matches slated to take place till 24 May. The T20 matches will be played at the National Bank Stadium and Oval Ground, with first ball of each match to be bowled at 3pm. The opening day will

see Strikers competing against National Women's One-Day Champions Stars at the National Bank Stadium, while Conquerors will take on Invincibles at the Oval Ground. The teams finishing second and third on the points table will face off in a Qualifier on 22 May, with the winner advancing to meet the top-ranked team in the final on 24 May at the National Bank Stadium. A total of 80 cricketers will participate in the tournament, which carries a prize pool of over three million rupees. The champions

will receive Rs1.5 million, while the runners-up will take home Rs1 million. Pakistan national team captain Fatima Sana will lead Conquerors, while opening batter Gull Feroza will captain Strikers. Muneeba Ali, the only Pakistan woman batter to score a T20I century will lead Invincibles, while all-rounder Rameen Shamim will lead Challengers. Sidra Amin, who was Pakistan's top run-getter in the recently concluded ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier, will lead Stars.

Swiatek struggling with 'perfectionism' ahead of Rome



ROME (AFP): Iga Swiatek, who is still looking for her first title of 2025 as she prepares to defend her Rome title, on Tuesday blamed her quest for perfectionism for the difficulties she has been experiencing this year. Although she has reached at least the quarter-finals of each tournament she has contested this season, the Pole has yet to win a title or even reach a final. "This year I feel like I am struggling a bit more with my perfectionism," said the world No.2 at a press conference. "I have a love-and-hate relationship with my perfectionism. These clay

court tournaments, I just try to reflect on how I see my game and how I also saw previous seasons. "The thing is, I only remember the good stuff because I was winning titles and everything. "I'm making decisions that are not really good at the moment because I just remember how it felt in previous tournaments. "I assume it's going to go in, and then I make mistakes. It's not the same, I'm confused." In 2024, Swiatek won five titles, including three in a row on clay -- Madrid, Rome and the French Open at Roland Garros.

This year, however, she has yet to reach a final, falling at the semi-final stage at the Australian Open, Qatar Open, Indian Wells and Madrid where last week, she was routed 6-1, 6-1 by Coco Gauff in the semi-finals. "The match with Coco for sure wasn't good," said Swiatek. "I had trouble focusing. I wasn't moving well. I think everything kind of built up at one moment. That's why the score was like that." The 23-year-old, however, hit a pragmatic note with regard to the Gauff thrashing as she continues the build-up to the French Open where she will be looking for a fifth title in six years. "It's just like one day," she said. "You can't judge everything by it. I'm continuing the work that I've been doing. I trust the process. We'll see on the next one. "I'm proud of the consistency. Still I feel I'm as consistent as I was previous years. But for sure I also want to win some tournaments. That's the goal."

Knicks comeback stuns Celtics in semi-final opener

NEW YORK (Agencies): The Boston Celtics suffered a shock defeat against the New York Knicks while the Oklahoma City Thunder were beaten by the Denver Nuggets in the first games of their Conference play-off semi-finals. The Celtics, the reigning champions, were on the wrong end of an 108-105 overtime defeat at home in the opening match of their Eastern Conference best-of-seven series. Jalen Brunson and OG Anunoby each scored 29 points for the Knicks, who fought back from being 20 points behind during the third quarter. "This team has fought all year, and been a pretty good road team," said Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau. "It's one game. There's a lot of

emotional highs and lows in the play-offs, but no matter what happens you have to keep moving forward." Brunson missed a lay-up with three seconds left in regulation while Jayson Tatum, who was the joint-top scorer for the Celtics with 23 points, missed a long-range effort at the buzzer with the score at 100-100 before the Knicks sealed the win in overtime. "We left some of their good shooters open," said Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla. "There's detail stuff that we have to be better at." Game two in the series will be played at 19:00 local time (00:00 Thursday BST) in Boston on Wednesday. The Thunder, who finished top of the Western Conference,

were beaten 121-119 by a visiting Nuggets side inspired by Nikola Jokic and Aaron Gordon. Jokic registered 42 points, 22 rebounds and six assists for the Nuggets, while Gordon - after Chet Holmgren missed two free throws for Thunder - went up the other end and scored a game-winning three-pointer in the closing seconds. Gordon finished with 22 points and 14 rebounds. Denver were 13 points behind at one stage of the fourth quarter but ended it with a 19-6 run to go 1-0 up in the series. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander top scored for Thunder as he tallied 33 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. "I didn't think our execution was as clean as it can be," said Thunder coach Mark

Daigneault. "But we'll learn from it. It's a series."

Game two of the series will take place at 21:30 local time Oklahoma on Wednesday.





In brief

IRSA releases 132,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 132,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 188,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1444.30 feet which was 42.30 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 95,300 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1137.00 feet, which was 87.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 43,500 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 95,000, 59,200, 37,800 and 9,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 37,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

6 caught for gambling

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Race Course Police on Tuesday caught six accused red-handed for allegedly gambling on cards with amount at stake. The accused included Umar, Asif, Shahid Abbas, Shahid Iqbal, Jamil and Hafeez, the Rawalpindi Police spokesman said. Besides the bet amount of Rs 73,890, five mobile phones and playing cards were also recovered from the accused, he added. Superintendent of Police Potohar Division Talha Wali directed the Westridge Police to prepare the challan against the accused with solid evidence so that they are sentenced by the court. He said the police would continue efforts for the elimination of the menace gambling from society as it was the root of other social evils.

Five suspects arrested

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Rawalpindi Police continued actions against drug suppliers without letup and netted five more suspects with more than 4 kilograms charas and 500 grams ice on Tuesday. According to the police spokesman, the Naseerabad Police recovered 500 grams ice from accused Shan Mahmood. Similarly, the Ratta Amral Police arrested accused Gufraz, recovering 1.7 kg charas from his possession. Likewise, the Gujar Khan Police held accused Waqas with 1.2 kg of the contraband item. The Jatli and Kahuta Police also nabbed accused Shahbaz and Rizwan respectively on the recovery of 560 grams and 550 grams charas from them.

Murder case accused held

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawat Police on Tuesday arrested an accused wanted in a murder and attempted murder case. According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesman, accused Faisal, along with his accomplices, had shot dead a person and injuring two others, including a passerby, over a personal grudge. The Rawat Police registered a case of the incident in November 2024 and used all means including human intelligence to nab the accused Faisal. Efforts to arrest his accomplices were underway, the spokesman said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain meet with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. —INP Photo

Foreign policy must align with development goals: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized the need to align Pakistan's foreign policy with national development goals to achieve sustainable progress and global prosperity. He made these remarks while addressing the flagship conference "Foreign Policy for a Better Future: Aligning Diplomacy with Development Goals" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad. Highlighting the strategic shift in Pakistan's foreign policy toward a "geo-economic vision," Governor Kundi said the new focus prioritizes regional connectivity, trade, and

sustainable partnerships.

He stressed that an effective foreign policy, guided by economic and developmental objectives, can contribute significantly to human development, peace, and economic well-being. The event was attended by Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies, along with national and international delegates, experts, and scholars.

Kundi underlined the geographical significance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, describing the province as a vital bridge between South and Central Asia, positioning it as a key player in regional development.

Praising the conference,

the Governor echoed the foreign policy principles of Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, particularly the notion of friendship with all nations.

He stressed the importance of international partnerships that benefit youth, women, and marginalized communities. Governor Kundi also called for investments in education, rural infrastructure, climate-resilient agriculture, and gender equality.

He highlighted the need to align national strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which, he said, would enhance access to international funding and technology.

World Asthma Day observed to raise awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Asthma Day was observed on Tuesday to raise awareness about asthma and improve care for patients around the world.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Amir Muqam said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used these accusations as a cover to continue suppressing Kashmiris and to prevent Pakistan from offering moral, political, and diplomatic support to them.

He said that Pakistan stands united, backing its army, and pointed out that Modi's accusations were a way to distract from his own government's weaknesses.

Amir Muqam praised the resolve of the Pakistani people, stating that every citizen is a soldier, and that India would have to fight the entire nation if it came to that. He also reiterated Pakistan's offer for a transparent investigation into the recent incident but noted that India has not responded.

He criticised India's habit of blaming Pakistan after every incident, calling it a tactic to divert attention from their failures. Amir Muqam also condemned India's ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK, noting that for the past 77 years, Kashmiris have faced brutal oppression, with over 100,000 deaths, 7,000 killed in custody, and thousands of homes destroyed. He highlighted that many innocent Kashmiris are still imprisoned, urging the world to take notice of these atrocities.

The minister praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar for raising the

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Indian allegations against Pakistan, a tactic to oppress Kashmiris: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Amir Muqam, on Tuesday called India's allegations against Pakistan an "excuse" to further oppress the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Speaking in the National Assembly, Amir Muqam said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used these accusations as a cover to continue suppressing Kashmiris and to prevent Pakistan from offering moral, political, and diplomatic support to them.

He said that Pakistan stands united, backing its army, and pointed out that Modi's accusations were a way to distract from his own government's weaknesses.

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The minister praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar for raising the

Kashmir issue forcefully on international platforms. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue supporting Kashmiris in their just struggle for self-determination.

Muqam strongly condemned India's propaganda and accused the Modi government of trying to divert global attention from its internal issues through baseless accusations against Pakistan. He also declared that India's efforts to isolate Pakistan on international forums were failing and that India's support was dwindling both abroad and within the country.

The minister emphasized that Pakistan can counter any propaganda or aggression, and that the nation would remain united to confront any threat. "If a critical test comes, every single citizen will stand together to protect Pakistan," he added.

Pakistan ready to respond any Indian aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights Saba Sadiq, on Tuesday said that country's defence is invincible and in very safe hands, and added its people, leadership, and armed forces are fully prepared to face any external threat.

Addressing the National Assembly, she said the entire nation from the government to citizens' stands united with the country's brave armed forces.

Speaking about the Pahalgal incident, she said that the attack was a result of security lapses by Indian intelligence agencies and also termed the incident as a failure of the Modi government. Saba said Indian government was spreading false propaganda for political gain.

Parliamentary Secretary

praised the role of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, and other leadership, crediting them with ensuring Pakistan's defence remains firm and well-prepared. She said that any act of aggression would be met with an appropriate response.

Saba also stated that Pakistan's foreign policy has helped it gain positive recognition internationally, in contrast to India, which she said stands isolated in the international community.

Parliamentary Secretary said that India is a terrorist state, who is committing severe human rights violations on innocent Kashmiris at Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). On

the other hand, our forces and jawans are rendering matchless sacrifices fighting against terrorism. More than 90,000 security personnel and law enforcement officials in Pakistan have sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism, she added.

Saba said women in Pakistan are ready to contribute to national defence just as women leaders like Fatima Jinnah and others have played in the past. She said Pakistani women stand with the armed forces, ready to support the country in any time of need.

She reiterated that Pakistan's leadership and citizens are ready to respond to any misadventure from India. The message, she said, is clear: Pakistan will defend its land at all costs.

PMYP to launch revolutionary youth education model

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to equip young people with diverse career opportunities, the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) has planned for a groundbreaking of 'education model' that combines vocational training with professional fields.

The innovative programme, set to establish new benchmark in Pakistan and Asia, aims to provide students with practical skills in areas such as driving, carpentry, electrical work, and more, alongside professional training in nursing, accountancy, engineering, IT, and sports.

The model seeks to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and

practical skills, enabling students to excel in their chosen careers. By offering a wide range of vocational and professional training options, PMYP hopes to empower young people with the skills and confidence needed to succeed in an ever-evolving job market.

According to PMYP officials, the programme is designed to cater to the needs of the industry, ensuring that students are job-ready and equipped with the skills required by employers.

The initiative is expected to benefit thousands of young people, providing them with a platform to launch their careers and

contribute to the country's economic growth.

The PMYP's revolutionary education model is set to revolutionize the way young people approach education and career development.

By providing a unique blend of vocational and professional training, the programme is poised to produce a new generation of skilled and confident professionals who will drive Pakistan's progress.

With its innovative approach and commitment to youth empowerment, PMYP's education model is a significant step towards building a brighter future for the country's young people.

PEMRA holds pre-bid conference for DTH licenses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has organised a successful pre-bid conference at its Headquarters in Islamabad for the award of Direct-to-Home (DTH) licenses in Pakistan.

The conference provided potential applicants with a comprehensive briefing on the eligibility criteria, bidding methodology, and the overall licensing process, said a news release. On the occasion, a panel of senior PEMRA

officials, including EDG (Licensing-Broadcast) Wakeel Khan, DG (DTH) Rahat Ali, DG (Operations-Distribution) Nasir Ayub, and Director (Operations-Broadcast), Umair Azim addressed numerous queries raised by the participating prospective bidders.

Participants lauded PEMRA's initiative, recognizing it as a "highly positive step in growth of media industry." During the conference, participants also requested an extension to

the deadline for the submission of applications.

In a news release, PEMRA highlighted the considerable market potential for DTH services in Pakistan, emphasizing its capacity to attract significant investment and generate substantial employment opportunities across the country. The advertisement for the award of DTH licenses was published on April 20, 2025, and the current deadline for the submission of proposals is May 20, 2025.

RDA demolishes infrastructure of four housing schemes

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Enforcement Squad, on the directives of the Divisional Intelligence Committee, had taken action against four illegal housing schemes and demolished their illegally constructed infrastructure.

According to the RDA spokesman, the RDA Task Force accelerated its ongoing operation against the illegal housing schemes and took action against Nishan-e-Mustufa / Ample Living, Countryside Farm Houses, Agro Park and Green Lake City located in Mouzas Bagga Sheikhan, Chak Beli Khan, Ratial, Ralla Gujran and Kuri Khuda Bakhsh Road. The

Enforcement Squad removed site offices and demolished boundary walls, road infrastructure, kerb stones and footpath of above mentioned illegal housing schemes.

The operation was conducted on the special instructions of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Aamir Khattak, under the supervision of Director General (DG) RDA Kinza Murtaza. The DG RDA said that the crackdown against illegal housing societies would continue without any discrimination. She advised the citizens not to invest in illegal housing schemes and to visit the RDA website, www.rda.gop.pk, to get information about legal and illegal housing projects.

Siddiqui honors Peshawari's legacy, Türkiye Friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Irfan Siddiqui, parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate, on Tuesday highlighted the deep-rooted historical bonds between Pakistan and Türkiye, paying tribute to freedom fighter Abdul Rehman Peshawari for his heroic role in Türkiye's War of Independence and describing him as a living symbol of the two nations' unbreakable brotherhood.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 100th death anniversary of Abdul Rehman Peshawari - Pakistan's revered hero of the Turkish War of Independence - Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, commended Türkiye for preserving the legacy of the freedom fighter who played a pivotal role in their independence struggle.

PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui participated in commemorative events honoring Abdul Rehman Peshawari's centenary on the special invitation of the Turkish government and Istanbul University.

The joint ceremony, organized by Istanbul University and Yunus Emre Institute, paid tribute to the Pakistani hero's pivotal role in Türkiye's independence movement.

In his address, Senator Irfan

Siddiqui thanked the organizers and praised the special ceremony held to mark the centenary of Abdul Rehman Peshawari, noting that even after a century, the Turkish nation still honors this courageous man who cherished both Pakistanis and Turks.

He noted that during his multiple visits to Pakistan, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has consistently highlighted the deep-rooted ties between the two nations. On these occasions, he fondly recalled Abdul Rehman Peshawari, honoring his profound love and unwavering devotion to Türkiye. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also commended Abdurrahman Peshawari for his active role in the struggle for Türkiye's freedom.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, distinguished guests—including Prof. Dr. Khalil Toqar (Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madrasa-tul-Islam), Prof. Dr. Mujeebuddin Sehrai (Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University), Prof. Dr. Yousef Khushk (Vice Rector of Istanbul University), Prof. Dr. Gulsom Aq, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey Yousuf Junaid, and Vice Governor Hassan Gozin—highlighted the centuries-old bond between Pakistan and Turkey. They paid tribute to Abdul Rehman Peshawari and other revered figures, acknowledging their sacrifices,

unwavering struggle, and profound love for the Turkish people.

The speakers honored Abdur Rahman Peshawari as an ideological icon—fearless, resolute, and unwavering in his convictions. They emphasized that his contributions remain etched in history, forever cherished by the Turkish people. His legacy, they noted, continues to inspire generations in the pursuit of freedom and independence.

Prior to the ceremony, a Pakistani delegation led by Senator Irfan Siddiqui held a meeting with the Deputy Governor of Istanbul and the Vice Rector of Istanbul University. Senator Siddiqui expressed profound gratitude to the Deputy Governor for Türkiye's unwavering solidarity with Pakistan during times of challenge. He specifically acknowledged President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's steadfast support during recent regional tensions, noting his clear affirmation of standing with Pakistan and endorsing its stance.

On behalf of the Pakistani government and its people, Senator Siddiqui extended sincere appreciation to President Erdogan and the Turkish government, conveying these sentiments through the Governor of Istanbul for their resolute backing of Pakistan.

3 killed, 33 wounded

AIBAK (Pajhwok): Three people have been killed and 33 others, including women and children, injured when a passenger bus overturned in northern Samangan province, an official said on Tuesday. Police spokesman Hasmatullah Rahmani told Pajhwok Afghan News the accident took place when a 580-type passenger bus veered off the road and overturned in Kaftar Khana area of Khulom district on the Aibak-Mazar-i-Sharif highway Tuesday morning.

The Frontier Post

Zulqaidah 08, 1446 — Wednesday, May 07, 2025

Seminary student killed

SHEBERGHAN (Pajhwok): An individual has been killed as a result of a traffic accident on the Shiberghan-Mazar-i-Sharif highway in northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Tuesday. Police spokesman Qari Abdul Sattar Syed Halimi said the accident took place when a corolla-type vehicle hit a youth and killed him in Line Gas area. The victim identified as Mohammad Zubair was a student at Kalta Shah village's madrasa in Aqcha district.

New township being built for returnees near Gardez



GARDEZ (Pajhwok): Construction work has been initiated on a township for returning refugees at a cost of 800,000 US dollars in southeastern Paktia province, officials announced on Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Maulvi Abdul Salam Hanafi told a ceremony in this regard that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has provided initial assistance to the returnees and has set up temporary

camps in various provinces of the country.

He said the new township was being built on 1,000 acres of state-owned land in the Rabat area, near the provincial capital, Gardez.

Acting Minister of Urban Development and Housing Hamdullah Noman strongly criticised the forced deportation of Afghan refugees by Pakistan and Iran, saying these actions violated all international principles.

He said efforts were underway started in several provinces to allocate land on a township scale for permanent housing of returning refugees.

He added that each family would receive one biswa (approximately 125 square metres) of land per household member.

He further explained that the new township in Gardez will include 890 plots, commercial markets, a hospital, recreational parks, and other essential facilities.

The project is being financed by Qatar's Women's Association and the Red Crescent, at a total cost of around 800,000 US dollars.

Deputy Minister for Refugees and Repatriation, Kaleem-ur-Rahman Fani, called on neighbouring countries to stop mistreating Afghan refugees, stating that such actions are unacceptable.

He also urged ordinary Afghans to support returning citizens alongside the government.

Saifur Rahman, who was forcibly deported from Pakistan's Kashmir region, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he left all his belongings behind and was expelled by force. He said that receiving a plot of land today for shelter would help solve many of his problems.

The deadline for the expulsion of undocumented Afghan refugees from Pakistan ended on March 31.

Since then, numerous Afghan families are forcibly sent to their homeland on a daily basis.

54 houses built for flood-hit families

JALALABAD (Pajhwok): Dozens of residential houses have been constructed at a cost of nearly 115,000 US dollars for flood-affected families in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province.

The houses were established with financial support from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the natural disaster management department said in a statement.

The statement added a total of 54 houses had been constructed for flood-hit families at an overall cost of 114,745 US dollars.

Munir Ahmad Munib, a representative of the DRC, recalled the organisation had previously reconstructed 307 houses in Achin and Spin Ghar districts.

He reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to carrying out further infrastructure development and emergency relief projects in the future.

\$15.2m carpets exported last year: MoCI

KABUL (Pajhwok): Afghanistan exported carpets worth more than 15 million US dollars to different countries last year, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) said on Tuesday.

Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesman for the ministry, said more than 3,630 metric tonnes of carpets, costing 15.2 million dollars, were exported during the solar year 1403.

He said the carpets were exported to Pakistan, Australia, Iran, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, the Netherlands, the US, India, Canada, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Carpet-weaving is one of the oldest and most important handicrafts in Afghanistan, rooted in the culture and art of its people.

Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan trade reached \$66m

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce announced that Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan recorded \$66 million in trade during the past solar year (1403).

Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesperson for the ministry, emphasized that \$7 million of this figure represents Afghan exports, while the remaining amount was imports.

Afghanistan's main exports to Kyrgyzstan include aluminum and copper utensils, pressure cookers, carpets, fruits, and various vegetables.

Jawad further stated: "Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan traded goods worth \$66 million during 1403, of which \$7 million were exports from Afghanistan and \$59 million were imports."

The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) said Central Asian countries are viable trade alternatives for Afghan exporters, and spoke of joint efforts to boost trade with the region.

Khanjan Alokozay, a board member of ACCI, told TOLOnews: "Our trade with Central Asia is increasing day by day. It continues through the usual routes of



Hairatan and Sher Khan Bandar. These are our only viable corridors—despite some challenges, we are compelled to use them."

Abdul Haseeb Safi, an economic affairs analyst, remarked: "The more we can strengthen commercial ties with neighboring and regional countries, the more it benefits Afghanistan."

Kyrgyz media also recently reported that Kyrgyzstan exported \$11.5 million worth of petroleum products to Afghanistan during the first two months of this year, January and February.

Rashid urges continued global support for youth

KABUL (Pajhwok): Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Information and Culture has urged the international community to continue supporting the Afghan youth in areas of education, higher education, employment and skills development.

Maulvi Mohammad Yunis Rashid issued the call at a meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director (Programme) Andrew Paul Saberton, MoIC said in a statement.

Rashid emphasised that the international community must maintain its assistance in enhancing educational opportunities, vocational training and healthcare services for Afghan youth.



He noted that such support was vital for helping young people in Afghanistan in combating challenges such as illegal migration, unemployment, and other socio-economic difficulties, enabling them to contribute responsibly to national development and the well-being of society.

The statement quoted the UN official as saying that

this was his first visit to Afghanistan and that he intends to discuss UN Population Fund (UNFPA) projects with relevant Afghan institutions.

He assured the Deputy Minister that the United Nations would continue its operations in Afghanistan and would strive to present a positive image of the country to the global community.

100 educational buildings in Kapisa need renovation, repair

KAPISA (TOLOnews): The buildings of more than 100 educational institutions in Kapisa province, which were damaged due to past conflicts or natural disasters, are now in need of renovation and reconstruction.

The Kapisa Department of Education reported that many of these institutions—including schools and religious madrasas, are located in the districts of Tagab, Alasay, and Nijrab.

Mohammad Farid Haqqani, the head of the Kapisa Department of Education, speaking at a ceremony held to mark the upgrade of a school in

Tagab district, stated: "The lack of proper school buildings is a serious problem that has weakened the educational process. Similarly, the absence of clean drinking water and basic school supplies such as chairs remain among the major challenges for students."

Some teachers in Tagab district also emphasized the need for attention to various educational needs, especially upgrading some secondary schools to high schools, hiring qualified teachers, and providing educational materials.

Mohammad Javid, principal of the Mohammad

Aman Shaheed School in Tagab, said: "There was severe overcrowding among students, and it was a crucial need for our secondary school to be upgraded to a high school."

Another teacher, Norkhoda Waziri, noted: "We collected 600,000 Afghans from the community, including contributions from those living abroad, and used that money for this school."

Tagab district, located north of Kabul, witnessed some of the heaviest fighting during the previous government. Some residents of the district say that

due to these conflicts, many educational institutions and health centers were either destroyed or seriously damaged, and now require urgent reconstruction.

Hedayatullah, a tribal elder in Tagab, stated: "Traces of war can still be seen on the walls and buildings near schools. You can see this destruction with your own eyes."

According to data from the Kapisa Department of Education, the buildings of 76 additional schools and religious madrasas in Tagab, Alasay, and Nijrab districts require comprehensive reconstruction.

Russian companies considering investment in gold, emerald mines



KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum announced that several Russian investors have expressed interest in investing in Afghanistan's mineral resources.

During a meeting with the deputy minister of policy at the ministry, the Russian company representatives stated their intention to invest particularly in

gold panning and emerald mining in Afghanistan.

Homayoun Afghan, spokesperson for the ministry of mines and petroleum, said: "During the meeting, discussions were held regarding investment opportunities in Afghanistan's mining sector. The heads of Russian companies presented information on their capabilities, operations, and

experience in the mining field, and expressed a strong interest in investing in Afghanistan's mines, especially in gold and precious stones, particularly emeralds."

The Afghanistan Chamber of Industries and Mines emphasized that the country's diverse mineral reserves present a significant opportunity for both

domestic and international investors. Investment in this sector could not only create employment but also contribute to the growth of Afghanistan's economy.

Sakhi Ahmad Paiman, first deputy of the Chamber of Industries and Mines, stated: "Russia, in particular, is actively engaging with Afghanistan and intends to invest in the mining sector. If they possess the experience and invest properly, mineral processing should take place inside the country. Afghanistan's emeralds, lapis lazuli, and gold all have a strong global market. This is an opportunity that, if realized, could generate jobs for our people."

On the other hand, some economic experts believe the government should create more facilities and incentives to attract greater foreign investment in Afghanistan's mining sector.

Mohammad Karim Azimi, an economic analyst, told TOLOnews: "The government should implement effective incentive

packages to attract foreign investors. This would not only encourage investors but also ensure mutual commitments are in place so these visits translate into real actions rather than empty promises."

Previously, the Economic Deputy Office of the Prime Minister reported that 415 billion Afs have been invested in exploration, extraction, and processing of 21 major mines in Afghanistan. Preliminary studies estimate Afghanistan's untapped natural resources to be worth approximately \$3 trillion.

GHAZNI CITY (Pajhwok): A number of residents of southern Ghazni province have urged the caretaker government to complete long-delayed work on the building of the main provincial hospital, a project that began nearly two decades ago.

Construction work on the 300-bed hospital had been launched in 2008 by the Housing Construction Enterprise. However, the project was halted midway for different reasons.

Available data indicates that around 77 percent of construction was completed before the suspension of work on the scheme.

About a year ago, the National Development Company pledged to complete the remaining work

within six months. Despite this commitment, progress stalled again after 90 percent of the building was constructed.

Local residents want the authorities to resume and complete the remaining work without further delay.

Abdul Hadi, a resident of Ghazni City, the provincial capital, said: "Once completed, this hospital will not only serve the people of Ghazni but also benefit nearby provinces by offering essential healthcare services."

Zaitullah, another inhabitant, recalled: "Seventeen years ago, construction work began on provincial hospitals across the country, including Ghazni. Many of the buildings have deteriorated, while ours is

still unfinished."

Currently, services of the Ghazni Provincial Hospital are being provided in two small buildings originally established for drug treatment. The buildings lack the capacity a provincial hospital should have and the facilities needed to meet the community healthcare needs.

Meanwhile, Public Health Director Dr. Mohammad Zairak assured work on the project would resume soon.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News construction work had been paused due to cold weather, but would restart shortly. He added 49.5 million afghans from the national budget had been earmarked for the remaining work.

Man killed in family land dispute

JALALABAD (Amu TV): A young man was killed and another wounded during an armed dispute within a family over land inheritance in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, local sources said Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday, May 5, in the Doheli area of Behsud District, where a family

argument reportedly escalated into violence.

According to residents, the victim, identified only as Bilal, was fatally shot, and his brother sustained injuries after a dispute with their maternal uncles over the division of inherited land.

"The brothers were arguing with their uncles over

their mother's inheritance rights when the shooting happened," one local resident told Amu TV, requesting anonymity for safety reasons.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Taliban officials in Nangarhar had not commented on the incident.

Land and inheritance disputes are a recurring

source of deadly violence in Afghanistan, where legal ambiguity, lack of land documentation, and weakened judicial structures often leave such conflicts unresolved. These disputes frequently turn violent in rural areas, where community elders or armed factions may act as de facto authorities.

Climate change threatens livelihoods in Daikundi

NEILI (Pajhwok): Climate change has inflicted a devastating impact on central Daikundi, a mountainous province in Afghanistan.

Once fertile and productive, its lands are now dry and cracked, and its farmers—who once relied on predictable weather and steady rainfall—look to the sky in vain.

Their hopes for a successful harvest diminish with each passing day.

In a province where agriculture is the primary livelihood, erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and unseasonal temperature shifts have created severe challenges.

Fruit trees, once a symbol of sustenance and economic stability, have withered. Crops have been lost

to unexpected frosts and scorching heat, leaving farmers grappling with uncertainty and hardship.

Farmers: Watching livelihoods fade

Mohammad Akbar Haiderif, a local farmer, expressed his despair to Pajhwok Afghan News. "In the past, water was abundant. We didn't even need irrigation schedules—we watered our crops whenever necessary. Winters brought heavy snow, and spring rains followed. But now, there's no sign of snow or rain. This year, neither season delivered the precipitation we need."

He gestures to the dry, crumbling soil beneath him. "Our only hope this year was our fruit trees. But almonds and other fruits

were destroyed by untimely cold. The land that once fed us now weighs us down."

Haiderif explained that farming has always been central to the people of Daikundi, who rely on God—and the fruit of their labor—to survive. But declining rainfall and erratic weather have placed their livelihoods in peril, and meeting even basic family expenses has become a challenge.

He called on the government to take action and implement sustainable strategies to combat climate change.

Another farmer, Shayar, shared his concerns with a heavy heart. "We used to have many springs and water sources, but now they've all dried up. No

matter how hard we work, we can't find enough water to irrigate our crops. In the past, a farmer could easily harvest 500 seers of wheat. Now, with this drought, we can barely get 50."

According to Shayar, poverty is rising rapidly, and if the situation does not improve, mass migration from Daikundi may be inevitable.

Experts: Climate change now a crisis

Environmental expert Arif Muzhda describes the situation as a "disaster."

"Reduced rainfall and dried-up springs have severely impacted agriculture and livestock," he said. "In the past, most wells and springs had sufficient water. Today, many have gone completely dry."

He emphasized the broader implications of these changes: economic instability, declining health standards, and potential displacement. "Climate change affects the entire ecosystem. Droughts, irregular rainfall, and temperature extremes increase the risk of pests and crop diseases. People are under immense economic stress."

Muzhda stressed that while Afghanistan has contributed little to the global causes of climate change, it is among the countries suffering the most severe consequences.

He warned that some parts of Daikundi could become uninhabitable within the next decade if current trends continue.

Districts such as Miram-

or, Shahrstan, Neili, Pato, Bandar, and Khedir are at high risk of running out of drinking water. He urged authorities to implement adaptation strategies—such as planting drought-resistant crops, greening arid zones, and improving soil resilience—to help the province withstand worsening conditions.

Officials acknowledge the crisis
Mohammad Ebrahim Sharifi, head of Daikundi's Environmental Protection Department, noted that the province is particularly vulnerable due to its central, landlocked geography.

"Untimely rain, drought, temperature fluctuations, floods, avalanches, and pests—all these are consequences of climate change," he explained. "More than 50 percent of water sources have dried up."

While exact data is not available, assessments show rainfall in the 2024–2025 hydrological year has declined by 40–50 percent compared to last year. This decline, coupled with shifting precipitation patterns, has slashed crop yields and devastated the agricultural economy.

Disaster management: Local and international efforts

Ali Anwar Faheem, head of coordination and public relations at Daikundi's Disaster Management Department, confirmed that rainfall had dropped to an unprecedented low this year.

"In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the National Disaster Management Authority, we've conducted assessments in most parts of the province," he said. "Our findings confirm that Daikundi is among the provinces most affected by climate change."

Faheem added that these findings have been shared with national and international organizations to attract support for intervention projects. The department, within its limited capacity, is focusing on preventive measures and providing emergency aid.

He also noted that long-term disaster risk reduction projects are underway, with the support of national and international organizations.

Israel hits Yemen’s main Sanaa airport in airstrike

SANAA (Reuters): The Israeli military carried out an airstrike on Yemen’s main airport in Sanaa on Tuesday, its second attack in two days on Houthi fighters after a surge in tensions between the group and Israel. Three people were killed in the strike, according to Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV.

Israel warned people to leave the area around Sanaa International Airport before Tuesday’s attack, which it said targeted Houthi infrastructure and “fully disabled the airport”. Witnesses later reported four strikes in the capital. Tensions have been high since the Gaza conflict began, but have risen further since a Houthi missile landed near Israel’s Ben Gurion Airport on Sunday, prompting Israeli airstrikes on Yemen’s Hodeidah port on Monday. “A short while ago, IDF (Israel Defence Forces) fighter jets struck and dismantled Houthi terrorist infrastructure at the main airport in Sanaa, fully disabling the airport,” the Israeli military said. “The strike was carried out in response to the attack launched by the Houthi terrorist regime against Ben Gurion Airport. Flight runways, aircraft, and infrastructure at the airport were struck.”

Three airport sources told Reuters that the strikes targeted three civilian aeroplanes, the departures hall, the airport runway and a military air base under Houthi control. The Israeli military said the airport had been “a central hub for the Houthi terrorist regime to transfer weapons and operatives”.

In a statement carried by al-Masirah, the Houthis said: “The operations of our armed forces will continue and the support by Yemen to Palestine will only end with the end of the aggression and siege against Gaza.” The United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen Hans Grundberg said on X that the latest hostilities “mark a grave escalation in an already fragile and volatile regional context”.

An official at Yemen’s flag carrier Yemenia Airways told Reuters that three of its aircraft were destroyed according to an initial assessment. Separately, President Donald Trump said the US would stop bombing the

Oman announces US-Houthi ceasefire deal

WASHINGTON (AFP): The United States and Yemen’s Houthis have reached a ceasefire agreement, mediator Oman announced Tuesday, saying the deal would ensure “freedom of navigation” in the Red Sea where the militia has attacked shipping. “Following recent discussions and contacts... with the aim of de-escalation, efforts have resulted in a ceasefire agreement between the two sides,” said Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi in a statement posted online, adding that “neither side will target the other... ensuring freedom of navigation and the smooth flow of international commercial shipping” in the Red Sea.

Earlier on Tuesday, President Donald Trump said that the US will stop bombing the Houthis in Yemen after the Iran-aligned group agreed to stop interrupting important shipping lanes in the Middle East. In an Oval Office meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Trump announced the Houthis have said that they no longer want to fight but did not elaborate on the message. “They said please don’t bomb us any more and we’re not going to attack your ships,” Trump said. The Houthis have been firing at Israel and at shipping in the Red Sea since Israel began its military offensive against Hamas in Gaza after the Palestinian militant group’s deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. The US president said Washington will take the Houthis’ word that they would not be blowing up ships any longer. Tensions have been high since the Gaza war began, but have risen further since a Houthi missile landed near Israel’s Ben Gurion Airport on Sunday, prompting Israeli airstrikes on Yemen’s Hodeidah port on Monday. The Israeli military carried out an airstrike on Yemen’s main airport in Sanaa on Tuesday, its second attack in two days on the Houthis after a surge in tensions between the group and Israel.

Houthis after the group agreed to stop interrupting important shipping lanes in the Middle East. In an Oval Office meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Trump announced that the Houthis no longer want to fight but did not elaborate on the message.

“They said please don’t bomb us any more and we’re not going to attack your ships,” Trump said. There was no immediate response from the Houthis. The US president said Washington would take the Houthis’ word that they would not be blowing up ships any longer. The Houthis have been firing at Israel and at shipping in the Red Sea since Israel began its military offensive against Hamas in Gaza after the group’s attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

The Houthis say they are doing so in solidarity with the Palestinians and have pressed on with attacks in response to Israel expanding its military operations in the Gaza Strip. The Houthis said on Sunday they would

impose a “comprehensive” aerial blockade on Israel by repeatedly targeting its airports. Sixty per cent of Yemenis live under the control of the Houthis, a resilient group that withstood years of Saudi-led bombing during the country’s devastating civil war.

The Houthis are part of Iran’s “Axis of Resistance” against Israeli and US interests in the Middle East, which also includes Hamas and Lebanon’s Hezbollah. While Israel has weakened those groups by assassinating top leaders and destroying military infrastructure since the Gaza conflict began, the Houthis are still a force to be reckoned with. The Israeli strikes around Hodeidah on Monday killed four people and wounded 39, the Houthi-run health ministry said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had vowed to retaliate after the missile launched by the Houthis landed near Ben Gurion Airport and led to European and US airlines cancelling flights.

Reserved seats review: PML-N, ECP counsel face the heat in SC

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan’s 13-member constitutional bench has accepted the review petitions challenging its earlier verdict on reserved seats for hearing, issuing notices to all parties concerned.

The bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan, included Justices Jamal Mandokhail, Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Musarrat Hilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Aqeel Abbasi, Shahid Bilal Hassan, Hashim Kakar, Salahuddin Panhwar, Aamir Farooq, and Ali Baqar Najafi. During the proceedings, PML-N counsel Haris Azmat argued that reserved seats were allocated to a party that was not even a respondent in the original case.

Justice Ayesha Malik questioned the basis for review, reminding that these concerns had already been addressed in the earlier judgment. Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar asked whether the objection was to the full judgement or just the majority opinion, to which the counsel replied that their disagreement was with the majority verdict.

Justice Aqeel Abbasi, in a sharp exchange, told the counsel that the court ruled according to the constitution, and repeated that review jurisdiction was limited. He added, “Are you now here to educate the Supreme Court?” and urged the counsel to stick to Article 181 and present legal grounds for review. Justice Ayesha Malik asked, “Was the judgement on reserved seats implemented?” Haris Azmat responded, “I am not sure.”

Justice Ayesha Malik objected, “You are standing before the court and say you’re not sure?” The bench also grilled the Election Commission of Pakistan’s (ECP) lawyer, Sikandar Bashir Mohmand, on whether the ECP had complied with the original decision. The lawyer admitted to only partial compliance, prompting Justice Ayesha Malik to criticise the ECP’s “pick and choose” approach.

Justice Aqeel Abbasi questioned whether contempt proceedings should first be heard before the ECP could request a review. Justice Ayesha Malik questioned how the ECP could be a party to the review, saying, “You weren’t even a proper party in the original case. Your atti-

tude was like a political party’s, and now you seek a review of a verdict you didn’t implement?” Justice Jamal Mandokhail remarked pointedly: “Are we to punish the nation for one party’s mistake? If something came to the Supreme Court’s notice, should we ignore it?”

Justice Hashim Kakar added, “If the ECP didn’t follow the ruling, how can we guarantee they’ll follow it in the future?” Justice Mandokhail remarked, “Forget the case — where are you taking the Supreme Court? If we sentence someone to death, should they just wear the noose and say that’s enough?” Justice Malik questioned the admissibility of the ECP’s review petition.

Justice Abbasi asked, “If we proceed with contempt, will you be in a position to argue your review?” Eventually, 11 judges voted in favour of admitting the review petitions, while Justices Ayesha Malik and Aqeel Abbasi dissented. The court adjourned the hearing until Wednesday, stating that the pending contempt petitions would be heard simultaneously.

Pakistan accuses India of altering Chenab River flow

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday accused India of altering the flow of the Chenab River, one of three rivers placed under Pakistan’s control according to the now suspended Indus Waters Treaty.

This major river originates in India but was allocated to Pakistan under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, signed by the two nuclear powers. India suspended the treaty following a deadly attack in Indian-occupied Kashmir on April 22 that killed 26 people.

Islamabad warned that tampering with its rivers would be considered “an

act of war”. “We have witnessed changes in the river (Chenab) which are not natural at all,” Kazim Pirzada, irrigation minister for Punjab province, told. Punjab, bordering India and home to nearly half of Pakistan’s 240 million citizens, is the country’s agricultural heartland, and “the majority impact will be felt in areas which have fewer alternate water routes,” Pirzada warned. “One day the river had normal inflow and the next day it was greatly reduced,” Pirzada added.

In Azad Kashmir, large quantities of water from India were reportedly released on April 26,

according to the Jinnah Institute, a think tank led by a former Pakistani climate change minister. “This is being done so that we don’t get to utilise the water,” Pirzada added.

The gates of the sluice spillways on the Baglihar dam in Indian-occupied Kashmir which lies upstream of Pakistan’s Punjab “have been lowered to restrict water flow ... as a short-term punitive action”, a senior Indian official has told The Indian Express. The Indus Waters Treaty permits India to use shared rivers for dams or irrigation but prohibits diverting watercourses or altering downstream volumes.

Top Hamas official says Gaza truce talks no longer of interest

GAZA (AFP): A senior Hamas official said Tuesday the group was no longer interested in truce talks with Israel and urged the international community to halt Israel’s “hunger war” against Gaza. “There is no sense in engaging in talks or considering new ceasefire proposals as long as the hunger war and extermination war continue in the Gaza Strip,” Basem Naim told AFP.

He said the world must pressure the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to end the “crimes of hunger,

thirst, and killings” in Gaza. The comments by Naim, a Hamas political bureau member and former Gaza health minister, come a day after Israel’s military said expanded operations in Gaza would include displacing “most” of its residents.

On Monday Israel’s security cabinet approved the military’s plan for expanded operations, which an Israeli official said would entail “the conquest of the Gaza Strip and the holding of the territories”. Nearly all of the territory’s residents inhabitants

have been displaced, often multiple times, since the start of the war sparked by Hamas’s October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

Gaza has been under total Israeli blockade since March 2 and faces a severe humanitarian crisis. Israel’s military resumed its offensive on the Gaza Strip on March 18, ending a two-month truce. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in a radio interview on Tuesday called Israel’s plan for a Gaza offensive “unacceptable”, and said its government was “in violation of humanitarian law”.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari cutting cake to commemorate 80th anniversary of victory of Great Patriotic War of Russian Federation at Russian Embassy.

President for expanding coop with Russia

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to further expand bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation in the areas of trade, investment, technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 80th Anniversary of Victory of the Russian Federation in the Great Patriotic War, President Asif Ali Zardari highlighted the growing momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations and expressed confidence that recent high-level interactions between the two countries have laid a solid foundation for deeper engagement and greater understanding. “I am confident that the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Russia will continue to grow stronger,” the President said, adding that both nations have “immense potential to expand cooperation in trade, investment, technology, and people-to-people contacts.”

The President extended warm congratulations to President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government, and the people of Russia on the occasion, saying that the Victory showed the strength and resilience of the Russian people, as well as their strong commitment to peace and prosperity. He noted that people from the Indus Valley—modern-day Pakistan—had also played a critical role in defeating Nazism as part of the British Army.

Recalling his 2011 visit to Russia, President Zardari acknowledged President Putin’s efforts to promote Pakistan-Russia friendship. He described Russia as a “key global power” and highlighted its role in promoting regional peace and stability, especially its role in de-escalating tensions between Pakistan and India. The President also reaffirmed the commitment to building bridges of understanding and cooperation between Pakistan and Russia, besides urging the need to work together for a better future for the region and the world.

Saif flays violence on PTI leaders

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor Information Barrister Dr. Saif has strongly condemned the violence against elected representatives and PTI’s central and provincial leadership outside Adiala Jail. He termed the incident a peak of fascism and a failed attempt to suppress the voice of the people.

Dr. Saif emphasized that the nation is under threat from within and urged for urgent national unity and solidarity in the face of current challenges. He said that Maryam Nawaz, blinded by her hatred for Imran Khan, has lost her senses, and with the Sharif family at the helm, Pakistan needs no external enemy.

Criticizing the judiciary’s silence, he called on the courts to break the chains of the 26th Amendment and take suo motu notice of the injustices.

He further stated that Maryam Nawaz is misusing the Punjab Police against PTI and warned that she should only inflict as much oppression as she can personally endure.

Germany’s Merz elected chancellor

BERLIN (AFP): Germany’s conservative leader Friedrich Merz won on Tuesday a nail-biter second vote in parliament to become chancellor after he lost the first round in a stunning early setback. Merz, 69, scored an absolute majority of 325 against 289 in the secret vote in the lower house of parliament. He takes over at the helm of a coalition between his CDU/CSU alliance and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) of the outgoing chancellor, Olaf Scholz.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was set to appoint him as post-war Germany’s 10th chancellor later Tuesday, along with his cabinet, before Merz is due to visit Paris and then Warsaw on Wednesday. His victory caps a long ambition to lead Europe’s biggest economy, which was first foiled decades ago by party rival Angela Merkel who went on to serve as chancellor for 16 years. Merz’s eventual victory on Tuesday was bittersweet as the initial defeat — the first such outcome in Germany’s post-war history — pointed to rumblings of discontent within his uneasy coalition.

The unprecedented first-round loss was “a bad start” for Merz and “shows that he cannot fully rely on his two coalition parties,” wrote analyst Holger Schmieding of Berenberg Bank. “That will sow some doubts about his ability to fully pursue his agenda, damaging his domestic and international authority at least initially.” The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) especially cheered the heavy political blow to Merz, who has vowed to restore stability in Berlin after half a year of political turmoil. “Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election,” AfD co-leader Alice Weidel said earlier, calling the first-round result a

“good day for Germany”.

The first secret vote was expected to be a formality but turned to disaster for Merz when he failed to muster the required absolute majority, falling short by six votes. The early setback for Merz stunned Germany and set off frantic crisis meetings in the Bundestag. Merz has vowed to revive the ailing economy and strengthen Berlin’s role in Europe as it responds to rapid change since US President Donald Trump returned to power.

Trump has heaped pressure on European allies, complaining they spend too little on NATO and imposing tariffs that are especially painful to export power Germany. CDU parliamentary leader Jens Spahn had emphasised the urgency of a new government taking office, given the economic and geopolitical turbulence. “The whole of Europe, perhaps even the whole world, is watching this second round of voting,” Spahn said before the second vote, urging MPs to “be aware of this special responsibility”.

Merz, who boasts a strong business background but has never held a government leadership post, said on Monday: “We live in times of profound change, of profound upheaval... and of great uncertainty.” And that is why we know that it is our historic obligation to lead this coalition to success,” he said. To take over as chancellor, Merz needed an absolute majority of 316 votes. But in Tuesday’s first vote, he only won the backing of 310 MPs, with 307 voting against him. Capital Economics analyst Franziska Palmas argued Merz’s initial setback “does leave Merz severely weakened and suggests that hopes for more stability in German politics may be disappointed”.

Pakistan, Afghanistan agree on contacts for peace

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed on the importance of maintaining high-level contacts for fostering long-term cooperation to promote peace and security in the region and beyond.

The understanding to this effect was reached during a telephonic conversation between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar and acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Amir Khan

Muttaqi.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the pace of progress made by the two sides in bilateral relations since the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister to Afghanistan on 19 April 2025, with a focus on trade, connectivity, economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and reactivating political consultative mechanisms.

The Deputy Prime Minister also briefed the Acting Afghani counterpart on recent provocation and

illegal and unilateral measures by India against Pakistan. He reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to peace and safeguarding Pakistan’s sovereignty. On the occasion, the Afghan Minister appreciated Pakistan’s proactive steps to ease trade and facilitate travel. He also extended an invitation to the Deputy Prime Minister to visit Afghanistan again. Muttaqi also conveyed prayers and best wishes for the government and people of Pakistan.

PHC imposes ban on glacier cutting

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising the Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Waqar Ahmad has imposed a ban on glacier cutting in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and directed the relevant Deputy Commissioners to submit a report, on Tuesday.

The petitioner, Tariq Afghan, alleged that glacier cutting is being carried out illegally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and ice is being sold in markets.

The counsel Sajeed

Afridi advocate highlighted that glacier cutting is posing serious threats to the environment and is a violation of the Environmental Protection Act 1997 and 2014. Justice Ijaz Anwar observed that the government seems to be unconcerned about the issue, and agricultural land is being destroyed while housing societies are being built.

However, Justice Waqar Ahmad emphasized that the government should have imposed a complete ban on glacier cutting, and the Forest Department should

have monitored the situation. The lawyer suggested that the government should enact legislation to protect glaciers, as has been done in Argentina and Tajikistan. The court directed that action should be taken against those involved in illegal glacier cutting, and the practice should be stopped immediately. PHC ordered provincial government and relevant Deputy Commissioners to implement the ban on glacier cutting. The court directed relevant Deputy Commissioners to submit a report in this regard.

Naqvi meets Qatari PM

DOHA: Pakistan’s Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, in Doha, where they held detailed discussions on Pakistan-Qatar relations, bilateral cooperation on Tuesday.

The meeting also addressed the ongoing tensions between Pakistan and India, particularly in the wake of the Pahalgam false flag operation. Mohsin Naqvi briefed the Qatari leadership on Pakistan’s firm and principled stance regarding Indian aggression and emphasised the serious threat to regional peace posed by India’s baseless accusations and actions following the Pahalgam incident.

The interior minister reaffirmed Pakistan’s offer for an impartial international investigation, stating, “This offer strengthens our principled position. The world must know who masterminded the attack, who the real culprits are, and who benefitted from it.” Mohsin Naqvi warned that India used the incident as

a pretext to target the Indus Waters Treaty, which he described as “Pakistan’s life-line”.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stressed, “We desire lasting peace in the region but will not remain silent in the face of aggression.” In response, the Qatari prime minister emphasised the need for diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions, saying, “We support a policy of de-escalation in the region and hope diplomatic initiatives will help lower hostilities.” — Agencies