



Islamabad POST

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France Macron to hold summit on Ukraine for European leaders

Detailed News On Page-08

MQM inciting Riots in Karachi, accuses Sharjeel

Detailed News On Page-08



Tim Southee confident in NZ success

Detailed News On Page-06



For diplomacy, economic ties

KP govt to send two delegations to Afghanistan

Barrister Saif nominated as focal person for coordination for KP-Afghanistan dialogue; ToRs finalised

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Revealing a major development on the diplomatic front, Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif on Sunday said that the provincial government would dispatch two delegations to Afghanistan to hold talks with Kabul. As per the terms of references (ToRs), two delegations will be dispatched to Kabul with the first one tasked with creating a conducive environment for talks and handling diplomatic matters whereas the second one will comprise various stakeholders. The development comes against the backdrop of increased terrorist incidents in Pakistan which Islamabad has time again blamed on outlawed groups based in Kabul – something vehemently denied by the Afghan Taliban-led administration. The two nations share a porous border spanning around 2,500 kilometres with several crossing points which hold significance as a key element of regional trade and relations between the people across both sides of the fence. However, the issue of terrorism remains a key issue for Pakistan which has urged Afghanistan to prevent its soil from being used by groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to carry out attacks inside the former's territory. Islamabad's reservations have also been confirmed by a report submitted to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team which has revealed a nexus between Kabul and the TTP with the former providing logistical, operational and financial support to the latter. Furthermore, this is also evident from the statistics compiled by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) which show that KP and Balochistan –

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Levies personnel martyred in attack on Kalat checkpoint

"Terrorists are the enemies of the development and progress of Balochistan," says PM Shehbaz

STAFF REPORT

QUETTA: A levies personnel was martyred while two others sustained bullet injuries after terrorists attacked a security checkpoint in Balochistan's Kalat district. The terrorists fled the scene after retaliatory fire from the brave levies personnel, a spokesperson of the provincial government said, adding that the authorities concerned launched investigations into the militants' attack. The deceased's body and the injured personnel had been shifted to a hospital in Quetta for medico-legal formalities and medical treatment, the spokesperson added. The security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned a terrorist attack on Levies checkpoint in Kalat.

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LAHORE: Chairman PCB, Mohsin Naqvi and speaker Punjab Assembly are present at the ICC Champions Trophy curtain raiser event at Diwan-e-Aam, Lahore Fort. – DNA

Opening ceremony of CT 2025 held at Lahore Fort

Global cricket community closely watching Pakistan's readiness for Champions Trophy, says Mohsin Naqvi

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: A grand opening ceremony for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 was held at the historic Diwan-e-Aam of the Lahore Fort on Sunday night. Addressing the event, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that the global cricket community was closely watching Pakistan's readiness for the cricket tournament. He described hosting the tournament as a "great honor" for the country. Naqvi further emphasised that Gaddafi and National stadiums were revamped in record time to ensure a successful event. The chairman reiterated

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Interactive session with students

Extremists won't be allowed to impose their ideology: COAS

Says bid to create rift between army and public will fail

ANSAR M BHATTI

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir said Khawarij or extremists would not be allowed impose their outdated ideology on the country. The army chief stated this during an interactive session with students of various universities. He said, "We take pride in our religion, culture, and traditions". Gen Asim Munir emphasized the strong bond between the Pakistani people, especially the youth, and the Pakistan Army. He said that the attempts by hostile elements to create a rift between the military and the people have always failed and will continue to fail. As long as the nation, particularly the youth, stands together, the Pakistan Army will never be defeated, he said. "We fight like comrades and that our most important identity is Pakistan," he said. Hitting out at extremists, he said: "What kind of Sharia or religion

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IAEA DG concludes fruitful Pakistan visit: Foreign Office

Rafael Mariano Grossi visited Pakistan on 12-13 February

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi concluded his fruitful visit of Pakistan. According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, Rafael Mariano Grossi visited Pakistan on 12-13 February. During the visit, IAEA DG called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. Discussions focused on expanding

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Briefs

PM, COAS haven't received any letter

The country is now on the right economic path

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain has said neither the army chief nor the prime minister has received any letter from PTI founder Imran Khan. Speaking to the media in Sharaqpur on Sunday, he emphasised Pakistan's long-standing ties with Türkiye. He described the Turkish President's visit as crucially significant, with crucial agreements being signed. "The country is now on the right economic path, while PTI members are in disarray, forming small factions," he remarked. Addressing concerns about PECA, he asserted that it does not target newspapers or TV channels but rather those who spread abuse on social media.

Farooq Sattar accuses PPP of corruption

Farooq Sattar stated that constitutional and legal governance is nowhere to be seen in Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: Muttahida Qami Movement (MQM) leader Dr. Farooq Sattar has accused the Sindh government of using its 61-year rule as a cover for corruption. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Farooq stated that constitutional and legal governance is nowhere to be seen in Sindh. He alleged that the Sindh government continues its oppression, injustice, and criminal negligence under the guise of power. He also highlighted the growing menace of the dumper mafia, stating "Earlier, Karachi had a transport mafia; now, the dumper mafia is roaming free.

Accuses him for youth's dismay

Bilawal calls for getting rid of Imran's politics

"We can't expect any democratic conduct from Imran Khan. We must decide how to run the country," says PPP chairman

NEWS DESK

MUNICH: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has called for getting rid of the politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, saying that the any democratic conduct cannot be expected from the former prime minister. "There is no hope for democratic conduct from the founder of PTI. Pakistan must be cleansed of PTI founder's politics," Bilawal said while speaking to the media in Munich, Germany. The young politician stressed that the PTI founder was responsible for the growing disillusionment of the country's youth with politics. "Generations have passed in establishing consensus, norms and democracy, but Khan Sahab has destroyed everything for his own personal gain," he said. Bilawal emphasised that the country is facing multiple challenges that need to be addressed with a collective approach. "We must decide how to run

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JUI-F slams K-P govt over security alert for Fazl

The spokesperson stated that every attempt to distance the party and its leadership from people would be countered

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) spokesperson has strongly criticised the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government over a letter concerning a security threat to party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. According to JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri, the K-P government's letter regarding the security threat to Maulana Fazlur Rehman is alarming.

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170 deported from 11 countries, 59 offloaded

FIA intercepts four women suspected of being trafficked for forced labour in Saudi Arabia

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Nearly 170 Pakistanis have been deported from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, and several other countries during the last 48-hours, with 24 individuals taken into custody upon arrival in Karachi. According to immigration sources, the Saudi authorities deported 94 Pakistanis within 48 hours on various charges, including blacklisting, begging, drug dealing, illegal residence, working without a sponsor, absconding from employment, and violating contractual agreements. Other deportations included three individuals from Oman, one from Thailand, nine from Iraq, one each from the United Kingdom and Cyprus, four from Indonesia and five from Mauritania on charges of human smuggling. Additionally, two individuals were deported from Qatar due to insufficient travel funds, and one Pakistani was removed from Tanzania. In the UAE, 39 Pakistanis were

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Pakistan condemns attack on UNIFIL convoy in Beirut

The outgoing deputy force commander of the United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) in Lebanon was injured on Friday

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the attack on a UNIFIL convoy in Beirut that resulted in three peacekeepers. Such attacks on blue helmets are flagrant violations of international law for which there must be accountability. Pakistan stands in solidarity with UNIFIL and affirms its unwavering support for UN peacekeeping operations. The outgoing deputy force commander of the United Nations Interim Force

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UN urged to fulfil commitment of shifting Afghan refugees

The minister said, 'Peace is in favour of Pakistan and Afghanistan.' While re-urging the Afghan refugees, he asked them to keep a vigil on anti-state and anti-Pakistan elements

DNA

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions Amir Muqam on Sunday called upon the United Nations (UN) agencies to fulfill their commitment of repatriating Afghan refugees or shifting them to another country as well as resolving the issues of countries hosted them. While addressing the Afghan refugees during his visit to Commissionerate Afghan Refugees Sindh here, he said that the people of third world countries were given shelter in Pakistan, and it was promised that they would be shifted to another country. He said that they must be shifted on war-footing basis. He warned that those Afghans, who were living illegally in the country would have to leave Pakistan. The Federal Minister Amir Muqam

said that around 3 million Afghans had been hosted in the country for many years. He said, 'It is a fact that you will have to go.' He said that all had to play their role to send Afghan refugees back to their country with respect and dignity. He said, 'You and we will also be happy if you return back to your home country.' Muqam said that Pakistan was being sent corpse. He said that the Afghan government should realize the situation. He said that the resources should be used in favour of both the countries. He also urged the Afghan refugees to speak up against the use of Afghan land for Pakistan. He further said that they were also your (Afghan refugees) enemies, who were making things worse. The minister said, 'Peace is in favour of Pakistan and Afghanistan.' While re-urging the Afghan refugees, he asked them to keep a vigil on anti-state and

anti-Pakistan elements. Amir Muqam said that the present federal government struggled and saved the country from becoming default. He said that the government along with coalition partners was trying to pull the country out of challenges. He said that the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) had a vision. He said that inflation had dropped. The Minister said that interest rate was 22 percent a year ago and now it had reached at 12 percent. He also lauded the overseas Pakistanis for sending 25 percent more remittances to Pakistan rejecting a negative agenda against Pakistan by some local elements. He further said that the future of Pakistan was bright. The Acting Commissioner Afghan Refugees Sindh Qaimuddin Ansari and Representative of Afghan Refugees in Sindh Abdullah Bukhair also spoke on the occasion.



HYDERABAD: February 16 - An eye patient rests after undergoing surgery during a free eye camp organized by the Host Lions Club at Police Ground.

'Construction industry vital for economic growth'

LAHORE: Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman said on Sunday that the construction industry was a key driver of Pakistan's economic growth, contributing significantly to GDP and providing employment to millions. Speaking to a delegation of industrialists led by Mian Zahid Iqbal, former VP of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), here, he emphasized that investment, policy support, and modern technology adoption were essential to maximizing the sector's potential. He highlighted the construction industry's role in infrastructure development, including roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and housing, which were vital for economic progress and an improved quality of life. He noted that government initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had spurred construction activity, attracted foreign investment, and boosted related industries such as cement, steel, and engineering services. However, regulatory challenges, outdated technology, and limited financing options continue to hinder growth. Saif Ur Rehman stressed the need for policy reforms, sustainable construction practices, and technological advancements to enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact.—DNA

Dhee Rani registration begins

LODHAN: The second phase of the Dhee Rani program in district Lodhran is in progress for the underprivileged couples. Deputy Director Social Welfare, Nazia Sharif, informed APP here on Sunday said that families could register for the program through cmp.punjab.gov.pk. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has launched the 'Dhee Rani' programme to arrange wedding ceremonies of underprivileged couples and ease the burden on their parents across the province, she added. The new couple would be given Rs100,000 financial support through ATM cards and essential furniture, crockery and clothes. The government will also arrange meals in the wedding ceremony of the couples. People have hailed the provincial government's historical initiative for the underprivileged segment of society, she concluded. Over 3,000 couples will tie the knot under the program in two phases.—APP

KP announces 1627 teachers vacancies for Hazara division

ABBOTTABAD: The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday initiated the immediate recruitment of 16,000 teachers in the education department, with 1627 vacancies available across various districts of the Hazara Division. According to details, 469 positions were vacant in Abbottabad, 223 in Battagram, 295 in Haripur, 90 in Kolai Palis, 79 in Kohistan Upper, 53 in Kohistan Lower, 305 in Mansehra, and 76 in Torgar. The available teaching positions include CT 172, DM (Drawing Master) 94.—APP

QCD ensures all up to date equipments at Sahiwal Coal Plant

ISLAMABAD: At 1320MW Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, the Quality Control Department (QCD) played a critical role in ensuring that all equipment, systems and processes meet the required standards of quality, performance and safety. Sahiwal Coal Power Plant QCD ensuring all equipment to meet required standards. The department ensured that the plant operates efficiently and safely, minimizing downtime, avoiding failures and adhering to regulatory requirements. Below are key functions and responsibilities of a QCD department in Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, said a press release issued here on Saturday. Sahiwal Coal Power Plant QCD ensuring all equipment to meet required standards. The QCD department evaluated the quality of raw materials and testing equipment before they are used in plant maintenance,

or upgrades. This included verifying certifications, conducting tests of various chemicals and ensuring that materials meet industry standards. Regular testing and calibration of Coal, Water and Oil instruments are conducted to ensure accurate readings and efficient operation. The team ensured the proper functioning and calibration of critical equipment, including analyzers, chromatographs, spectrometers. For Coal, they monitored quality and consistency, ensuring the correct grade and moisture content so that relevant personnel can optimize combustion ratio in order to reduce emissions and enhance efficiency. The team also focused on testing various types of water, which helped preventing scaling, corrosion, or fouling, while also maintaining water quality for processes like cooling and steam generation. For

Oil testing, QCD team monitored fuel quality and recommends the relevant department of any major issues, such as particle contamination, moisture or viscosity problems, which helped to prevent the deterioration of oil and wear & tear of relevant equipment and maintain smooth operation. Through these efforts, the QCD team enhanced overall efficiency, mitigates operational risks, and ensures cost-effective plant performance. The responsibilities of the QCD team extended across multiple areas to ensure smooth operations from pre to post startup. Pre-Startup, the QCD team developed quality protocols, ensured equipment calibration and validation, and conducted initial tests and sampling to ensure readiness and compliance with standards. During Startup, team monitored.—DNA

Mental health affects women more than men

ISLAMABAD: Experts at polyclinic hospital on Sunday warned that women are disproportionately affected by mental health issues, with females in every age group more likely to experience serious problems and emphasized the need for awareness about proper sleep habits and healthy lifestyle to mitigate these issues. In an exclusive conversation with PTV news channel, Federal Polyclinic hospital Islamabad's Spokesperson Abdul Jabbar Bhutto shed light on the alarming increase in mental health issues among women, stating that they are more prone to such problems compared to men. Bhutto stressed the need for raising awareness about the importance of addressing these issues and promoting overall well-being. He advised women to prioritize self-care, including regular exercise, healthy eating and adequate sleep to help mitigate the risk of mental health problems. Mr. Bhutto also emphasized the importance of seeking professional help when needed, and encouraged women to speak openly about their struggles without fear of stigma or judgment. Furthermore, he suggested that families and communities play a vital role in supporting women's mental health, by promoting a culture of understanding and empathy. Adding to Bhutto's comments, Dr. Abbar, a renowned psychiatrist also emphasized that early intervention is key to preventing mental health issues from escalating. "We need to encourage women to speak up and seek help at the first sign of trouble, rather than suffering in silence," he said. Dr. Abbar also highlighted the importance of addressing societal pressures that can contribute to mental health issues, such as gender-based violence, discrimination and unequal access to education and economic opportunities. Dr. Abbar suggested that community-based initiatives can play a crucial role in promoting women's mental health, by providing support groups, counseling services, and education on mental health issues. He also called on media outlets to responsibly report on mental health issues, avoiding stigma and sensationalism, and instead promoting awareness and understanding. Another Psychiatrist Dr. Amina Malik added that mindfulness and stress management techniques can be highly effective in reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression among women.—APP

Pak must leverage Turkey's food market to boost exports

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry regional committee on Food Shahid Imran has said that Pakistan, an agrarian economy with vast agricultural resources, must fully exploit the untapped food import potential of Turkey to bolster Pak export leading to economic growth and strengthen bilateral trade ties. Talking to a delegation of food producers led by Abdul Rehman, here on Sunday, he said Turkey, strategically located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, offers a lucrative market for Pakistani food products due to its growing demand for diverse and high-quality agricultural goods. By leveraging its strengths in producing staples such as rice, wheat, fruits, and seafood, Pakistan can position itself as a key supplier in the Turkish market. To achieve this goal, Pakistan needs to address several challenges, including improving food quality standards, enhancing packaging, and ensuring compliance with international certifications. He said the government and private sector must collaborate to establish robust trade channels, streamline export procedures, and invest in marketing campaigns to promote Pakistani products in Turkey. By tapping into this untapped potential, Pakistan can not only increase its export revenue but also foster stronger economic and diplomatic relations with Turkey, creating—APP

Boating banned in Rawal Dam for public safety

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad on Sunday has imposed ban on all boating activities in Rawal Dam, citing public safety concerns. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Memon, emphasized that the restriction is necessary to protect citizens from potential risks associated with unauthorised boating. The district administration has urged the residents to comply with the ban and avoid engaging in any boating activities in the area. The enforcement of this regulation aims to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of

The ban on boating was imposed under Section 144, which prohibits such activities to ensure public safety. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Memon, emphasized that the restriction is necessary to protect citizens from potential risks associated with unauthorised boating. The district administration has urged the residents to comply with the ban and avoid engaging in any boating activities in the area. The enforcement of this regulation aims to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of

all visitors to Rawal Dam. This move follows concerns over the increasing number of unauthorized boating incidents, which have raised alarms about the potential dangers to public safety. The administration has reiterated its commitment to maintaining order and protecting the well-being of the community. Residents are encouraged to adhere to the guidelines and report any violations to the authorities. The district administration has assured that strict measures would be taken against those who fail to comply with the ban.

Malik for modernizing agriculture for sustainable uplift

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry's former President Iftikhar Ali Malik emphasized on Sunday that Pakistan's future depends on the adoption of modern technologies in agriculture to achieve sustainable economic growth and development. In a statement, he urged the government to prioritize this crucial sector, as agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and food security. He pointed out that despite its importance, the agricultural sector has not reached its full poten-

tial due to outdated practices, poor infrastructure, and insufficient investment. He advocated for policies promoting technological advancements, improved irrigation systems, and access to high-quality seeds and fertilizers. He also called for increased financial support to farmers, particularly smallholders, to mitigate challenges like rising input costs and climate change. He highlighted the need for better market access and value addition to agricultural products to boost exports and revenues. He stressed the importance of public-private partnerships in transforming the

sector, noting that collaboration with the private sector and international organizations could drive innovation and productivity. Iftikhar Ali Malik also underlined the vital role of education and training for farmers, equipping them with the necessary skills to adapt to modern agricultural practices. He said that prioritizing agriculture was not only an economic necessity but also a social imperative, as it impacts millions of livelihoods. By investing in agriculture, Pakistan can secure food, reduce poverty, and pave the way for sustainable development.—APP



TAXILA: People watching a horse performs dance during Orange Festival at Karam Complex, organized by Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in collaboration with Chairman International Relation Committee, Islamabad High Court Bar Association.

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Feb 04/Sri Lanka	National Day
Feb 06/N. Zealand	National Day
Feb 06/Uganda	Army Day
Feb 11//Iran	Revolution day
Feb 16/DPR Korea	National Day
Feb 16/Lithuania	National Day
Feb 18/Gambia	National Day
Feb 19/Nepal	Democracy Day
Feb 23/Uzbekistan	National Day
Feb 23/Brunei	National Day
Feb 23/Guyana	National Day
Feb 23/Russia	National Army Day
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Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
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DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
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Shifa International 4603666



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CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

CEO Murree Brewery luncheon celebrating Pak religious diversity

Bhandara reaffirmed his commitment to fostering interfaith harmony and ensuring that all communities feel valued and included in Pakistan's social and economic fabric

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary and CEO of Murree Brewery, Ispahnyar Bhandara, hosted a luncheon at his residence in honor of religious minority communities. A large number of people from various faiths attended the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, Ispahnyar Bhandara welcomed the attendees and extended his best wishes to them. He emphasized the significant role religious minorities have played in Pakistan's progress and development. Since the country's inception, they have contributed alongside their fellow citizens in various fields and will continue to do so in the future. Bhandara reaffirmed his commitment to fostering interfaith harmony and ensuring that all communities feel valued and included in Pakistan's social and economic fabric.



Pak's renewable energy boom unlocks billions in climate finance

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan stands at a pivotal moment in its fight against climate change, with an opportunity to transform its renewable energy sector into a revenue-generating powerhouse. Dr. Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), has called for immediate and decisive action to integrate renewable energy with carbon credit markets, positioning climate finance as both an environmental necessity and an economic imperative. "Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present reality," stated Dr. Javaid. "The recent climate-induced disasters in Pakistan highlight the direct link between environmental security and economic resilience. We must adopt bold policies and strategic investments to harness our vast renewable energy potential." In line with this vision, PIDE has released a groundbreaking knowledge brief, "Unlocking Climate Finance: Potential Carbon Credits from Renewable Energy," authored by Muhammad Faisal Ali, Research Fellow at PIDE, and Usama Abdul Rauf, Research Associate at RASTA. The brief highlights how Pakistan can generate revenue while combating climate change by tapping into global carbon credit markets. At COP-29, developed nations pledged to increase climate finance to USD 300 billion annually, yet this still falls USD 1 trillion short of what is needed. This financing gap has amplified the significance of carbon markets—a mechanism where corporations and countries offset their emissions by purchasing credits from nations investing in green projects. Pakistan, with its abundant solar and wind resources, has yet to fully capitalize on this opportunity. Despite policy guidelines for carbon trading, only 4.58% of Pakistan's electricity currently comes from renewables—a stark contrast to the country's untapped potential. According to the knowledge brief, Pakistan's solar energy potential exceeds 100,000 MW annually, particularly in the Sunny Belt regions. Expanding renewable energy and net metering could not only reduce reliance on imported energy but also unlock millions of dollars in carbon credit revenues. Consumers in Pakistan already export approximately 481,863 MWh of solar electricity to the national grid. Given an emission rate of 1 ton of CO₂ per MWh, this equates to 475,840 tons of CO₂ avoided annually—a potential revenue of USD 6.1 million at a conservative carbon price of USD 12.90 per ton. Future projections suggest that expanding off-grid renewable energy could increase earnings to between USD 21.5 million and USD 43 million, depending on market pricing mechanisms. With scaled-up investments, these figures could grow exponentially. The knowledge brief urges policymakers, investors, and energy stakeholders to accelerate renewable energy adoption to maximize carbon credit revenues, strengthen carbon credit verification systems to meet international standards, and align with global carbon trading frameworks to secure Pakistan's position in the international carbon market. With the right policies, Pakistan can transform its energy landscape, attract climate finance, and ensure long-term economic resilience. As Dr. Javaid reaffirmed, "PIDE remains committed to providing data-driven policy solutions that align with sustainable development goals and secure Pakistan's energy future."—DNA

Toxic flames

Hidden dangers of open waste burning in twin cities

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Fatima, a mother from Rawalpindi's Dhok Hassu, watches helplessly as her six-year-old son struggles to breathe, his chest heaving with each cough. Every morning, thick smoke from burning waste invades their home, worsening his chronic asthma. "I wake up to this haze every day," she says, her voice filled with helplessness. "My son's condition worsens with every breath," she shared with APP, deeply concerned. For Fatima and countless others in Islamabad and

Rawalpindi, the daily struggle is a fight for clean air and health. These cities, grappling with open waste burning, leave residents to bear the brunt of a persistent problem. Fatima's experience is common. In many low-income areas, poor waste management forces residents to burn trash to clear space or reduce pests. Ahmed, a shopkeeper in Rawalpindi, has his own explanation and justification for the open waste burning, saying, "When garbage collectors don't come for weeks, what else can we

do?" Burning plastics, food scraps, and other waste materials releases a toxic mix of chemicals that harms both the environment and public health. The pollutants from open burning are hazardous. Dr. Ejaz Ahmed, an environmentalist, warns that chemicals like dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter settle into our lungs, bloodstream, and even the food we consume. "The effects are devastating," he says. Pulmonologist Dr. Saira talking to APP highlighted the health crisis, particular-

ly among children and the elderly. "Chronic exposure to polluted air is causing long-term lung damage and even lung cancer," she says. Children, like Fatima's son, are especially vulnerable, and many miss school due to illnesses. Parents struggle with expensive, ongoing treatments. "The damage extends beyond human health. Green spaces in the twin cities are scarred by ash and toxic residues. Waste burning poisons the soil and water. Harmful chemicals are carried by rain into streams.—

ICT admin starts preparations for vibrant spring festival

ISLAMABAD: The district administration is all set to host a colorful spring festival, with preparations in full swing in the Federal Capital. The district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, is ensuring that the event will be a memorable experience for all attendees, said the spokesman of ICT administration here. The festival, scheduled for February 25, 26, and 27, aims to showcase Pakistan's rich culture and provide entertainment for citizens and visitors alike. In a recent review meeting chaired by DC Irfan Memon, the district administration discussed the final preparations for the Spring Festival. The meeting saw participation from representatives of all relevant departments, including Additional Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. The agenda focused on ensuring that every aspect of the event is meticulously planned and executed. One of the key highlights of the meeting was the briefing on the arrangements for the main event. The officials confirmed that all details regarding food stalls have been finalized, ensuring a variety of culinary delights for attendees. Additionally, the festival will feature participation from CEOs of international companies and members of the diplomatic community, adding a global touch to the celebrations. DC Irfan Memon emphasized that the primary goal of the festival is to provide entertainment and recreational opportunities for the citizens. He stated that the three-day event will be packed with activities designed to engage and delight attendees of all ages. The festival will also serve as a platform to highlight Pakistan's cultural heritage, with various performances and exhibitions planned to showcase the country's traditions and arts. The Spring Festival is expected to draw large crowds, and the district administration is working tirelessly to ensure that all logistical and security arrangements are in place. The event promises to be a unique blend of cultural celebration and community engagement, offering something for everyone.—DNA

DIG emphasizes merit-based incentives

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Islamabad Capital Police, Muhammad Jawad Tariq, on Sunday chaired an orderly room to address the concerns of police officers and reaffirmed that the process of reward and accountability will continue to enhance institutional performance. An official told APP that DIG Tariq stated that officers who demonstrate exceptional performance will be rewarded with awards and commendation certificates, while those failing to meet expectations will face departmental action. "Public service delivery is our top priority, and only those who perform will remain part of our team," he emphasized. During the session, officers raised various departmental and personal concerns, including transfer and posting issues. Immediate directives were issued to resolve urgent matters, while pending cases were referred to relevant officials for further action. DIG Tariq highlighted several welfare initiatives for police personnel, including improved housing, medical facilities, and educational opportunities. "My office door is always open for you. If you face any issues, do not hesitate to approach me. We must work together for the betterment of this city," he assured the officers. DIG further stated that the orderly room aims to prioritize the welfare of police personnel, address their concerns efficiently, and boost their morale to ensure better policing in the capital./APP-rzmzkz-APP

Police bust four car lifter gangs

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Islamabad Capital Police, Muhammad Shoaib Khan announced the arrest of 12 suspects from four active car theft gangs during a press conference at the Police Lines Headquarters. An official told APP on Sunday that the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Unit (AVLU) carried out effective operations, leading to the arrest of the accused identified as Muhammad Junaid, Noman, Abdul Rehman, Hamza Iqbal, Babar Khan, Arsalan, Muhammad Jibran, Muhammad Luqman, Muhammad Fayyaz, Shafiq Ali, Arsalan Anwar, and Noman Gulzar.

Call for technology integration in education system

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a recent webinar emphasized the necessity of integrating technology into education, stating that those who fail to adapt will be left behind. They called for the modernization of teaching materials, advanced teacher training, and the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in academia. The webinar, organized by Alliance Pakistan on Sunday, brought together university professors, school and college educators, IT specialists, and policymakers to discuss the opportunities and challenges posed by technological advancements in education. Addressing the Webinar, Dr. Asad Munir from Allama Iqbal Open University remarked that while AI has brought a revolution, it remains a "half-cooked recipe," with many aspects still in the experimental phase. In Pakistan, students are largely misusing AI for plagiarized assignments rather than productive learning.—APP

Pak's education system to be aligned with global standards: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development & special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing quality modern education for Pakistan's youth, emphasizing the need to bring the country's education system up to par with international standards, allowing students to compete globally. We are committed to providing quality education to our youth, enabling them to compete globally and address contemporary challenges," said Ahsan Iqbal while talking to a private news channel. Pakistan is indeed shifting its focus towards STEM education to equip its youth with skills necessary for the 21st century, he said, adding, this initiative aims to promote hands-on learning, critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students. Ahsan Iqbal has reaffirmed that modern education is the key to unlocking Pakistan's global competitiveness and has committed to revamping the country's education system to ensure inclusive and sustainable national development. He emphasized the importance of skill-based education for the youth, saying it is crucial for them to acquire skills that are in demand in the modern job market, enabling them to compete effectively and secure better employment opportunities. "Youth are the greatest assets of the nation and investing in their education and skills development is essential for Pakistan's progress and prosperity," Ahsan Iqbal said. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the government's initiatives for youth empowerment, including the Youth Loan Scheme, Skill Development Programs and the Laptop Scheme, aimed at providing financial support, skills training and digital access to young Pakistanis, enabling them to unlock their potential and contribute to the country's growth.—APP

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Briefs

Use of excessive social media filters can spark depression

ISLAMABAD: Experts warned on Sunday that excessive use of social media filters can lead to depression and anxiety in teenagers, thus emphasizing the need for parents to monitor online activities of their children to foster a healthy self-image of them. In a conversation on a private news channel, a social media expert Muhammad Hussain shed light on the alarming effect of social media on teenagers' health. He specifically highlighted dangers of using these beauty filters by explaining their increasing use can lead to lack of self-esteem, body dissatisfaction and anxiety among teens. Another social media expert warned that using filters on selfies or editing pictures can lead individuals to see unrealistic images, adding that this way they can view themselves as 'perfected' rather than as real people. As a result, users may feel disconnected from their thoughts, emotions, and physical sensations, leading to a distorted sense of self. Hussain emphasized the need that parents and guardians should take more proactive approach and be aware of these risks and should monitor their children's social media activities to mitigate the negative effects. "Teenage girls, in particular are vulnerable to the negative effects of beauty filters on social media," warned Muhammad Hussain, a social media expert. "These filters create unrealistic beauty standards, leading to a distorted view of self-image and a constant feeling of inadequacy," he added. Hussain further emphasized, "The constant need for validation through likes and comments can be damaging to their mental health. It is essential for parents and guardians to have open conversations with their daughters about the risks of social media and promote a positive body image."—APP

'Landa bazaar' thrives as hub for entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: Second-hand market popularly known as 'Landa Bazaar' had undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, evolving into a vibrant hub for entrepreneurial activity that brings buyers and sellers together in a dynamic and thriving marketplace. For small business owners and entrepreneurs, second-hand market had offered a unique opportunity to turn their passions into successful ventures. As a hub for business ventures, second-hand market was breaking down barriers and creating a level playing field for women and men to pursue their business dreams. By providing a physical space for buyers and sellers to interact, it had created a dynamic ecosystem that fosters innovation, creativity, and growth. Kinza, a young and ambitious businesswoman who had been selling vintage clothing and accessories at second-hand market for the past year shared her experience.—APP

FRIA wants better regulatory system to achieve high Ease of Doing Business level

ISLAMABAD: The Ferozepur Raod Industrial Association (FRIA) has asked the authorities to undertake economic reforms and improve the regulatory environment for better Ease of Doing Business (EDB) level to boost foreign investment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run. The FRIA Chairman Shahbaz Aslam stressed the need for reducing cost of doing business, besides evolving a new price control mechanism, as huge taxation, rising oil prices and constant jump in electricity and gas tariffs have lifted the inflation to decades high level in 2024. Shahbaz Aslam said that according to the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report, Pakistan's ranking has fluctuated, reflecting persistent obstacles such as

Myanmar envoy highlights potential for stronger bilateral coop

He also pointed out that both Pakistan and Myanmar offer unique cultural and historical assets—Pakistan with its Gandhara Civilization sites and Myanmar with its religious landmarks—which could serve as a foundation for expanding tourism, especially religious tourism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Myanmar to Pakistan, His Excellency Wunna Han, shared his vision for a stronger, mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries during an interactive session at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). He emphasized the vast potential for foreign investments, trade, and economic cooperation between Myanmar and Pakistan. In particular, he highlighted key sectors such as tourism, Information Technology (IT), and pharmaceuticals where both nations could foster joint ventures and business-to-business (B2B) cooperation. The Ambassador expressed his belief that greater ease of doing business, along with enhanced people-to-people exchanges, could drive significant economic growth. He also pointed out that both Pakistan and Myanmar offer unique cultural and historical assets—Pakistan with its Gandhara Civilization sites and Myanmar with its religious landmarks—which could serve as a foundation for expanding tourism, especially religious tourism. The Ambassador expressed optimism that these efforts would pave the way for increased trade and economic collaboration between the two countries. He committed to facilitating deeper ties between the two nations' Chambers of Commerce and trade bodies, which could significantly benefit both sides. The President of ICCI highlighted Pakistan's diverse export



potential, including sectors such as furniture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, marble, and agriculture. He emphasized the need for Pakistan and Myanmar to address the trade imbalance, encouraging joint ventures that would foster a "win-win" position for both countries. He also stressed the importance of improving connectivity through direct flights, enhancing cultural exchanges, and promoting medical tourism to strengthen bilateral ties. The Senior Vice President of ICCI emphasized the importance of holding a business forum between the two countries

to facilitate better communication and collaboration. He noted that ICCI, as the premier chamber of the capital, is actively working to support business growth and the economic well-being of both Pakistan and Myanmar. Executive Member Fatima Azeem discussed the historic relations between Pakistan and Myanmar and emphasized the need for more exchanges of women entrepreneurs between the two countries. She stressed the importance of these exchanges in empowering women financially and supporting their entrepreneurial growth

on both sides. Executive Member Chaudhry Nadeem Ahmed highlighted the potential for joint ventures in the marble industry, underscoring its significant promise for collaboration between the two nations. Senior Advisor to ICCI President Naeem Siddiqui emphasized the need for medical exhibitions, symposiums, and seminars, along with virtual meetings, to further enhance trade and cooperation between Pakistan and Myanmar. The session concluded with a commitment from all parties to continue strengthening ties

between Pakistan and Myanmar through ongoing dialogue and strategic collaboration. The discussions have set a positive tone for future cooperation, and there is widespread optimism about the potential for increased trade, cultural exchanges, and joint ventures that will contribute to the long-term economic success of both countries. Those prominent among the attendees included Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Executive Members Malik Mohsin Khalid, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Naveed Satti and Waseem Chaudhry.

APBF urges central bank to review policies to facilitate private sector

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has stated that the government has been using taxpayers' money to pay unprecedented returns to the banks, urging the central bank to review its policies to facilitate the private sector, as the massive investment in government papers leave little room for lending to the private sector. The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood suggested that banking in Pakistan could not stimulate the economy. Instead, the banks have been making money by investing in government papers, and the government retires its debt with taxpayer's money. The government has always been quick to impose new taxes for higher revenue collection, but there is no check on spending. He said that the banks' investments in government papers reached Rs26 trillion by December 2024, contributing 57.6 percent to the central government's domestic debt. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said it's not new that the government borrows from banks but the size of banks money has been increasing as domestic debts. The data also showed that the banks had been making record profits by getting high interest rates, like 22 per cent during the entire FY24, while the return on T-bills remained around this rate and sometimes even higher than the policy rate. Moreover, the government borrowing from the SBP also increased by record highs during the period, increasing inflationary pressures on the economy. Ibrahim Qureshi observed that private sector has found no space to borrow from financial institutions, as banks prefer to park their money in risk-free government securities in huge sums. He said that banking money's flow has now directed towards the government papers, which will definitely hit the economic growth adversely, affecting the investment landscape of the country too. The APBF President was of the opinion that the government's shift for borrowing from the central bank to commercial banks will likely result in banks making profits however this would hurt overall economic growth. The State Bank of Pakistan's latest data shows that a low volume of private sector credit uptake means lower domestic investment, hindering business activity and economic growth and promoting unemployment in the country. He added the trend is alarming and a criteria of bad financial management of the country, as all the monetary aggregates tell us a sad story of the failure of the authorities.—DNA

RCCI President calls for COE, industrial policy

RAWALPINDI:— The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), has emphasized the urgent need for a charter of economy to ensure policy continuity and economic growth. RCCI President Usman Shaikat while addressing the All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference (APCCP) in Rahim Yar Khan, urged all key stakeholders to collaborate in formulating a comprehensive industrial policy to tackle economic challenges and promote sustainable development. Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi and representatives from other chambers were also present on the occasion. Highlighting the increasing cost of production, Shaikat stressed that Pakistan's economic and industrial activities have significantly shrunk. "We need a clear and well-structured industrial policy that is developed in consultation with all stakeholders," he stated. He pointed out that Pakistan is currently facing multiple economic challenges, including an energy crisis, and emphasized the necessity of promoting renewable energy and green energy solutions.—DNA

Wani seeks UN Special Rapporteur's urgent attention

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani has sought the UN Special Rapporteur on Extra-Judicial Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Mr. Morris Tidball Binz's urgent attention towards rising incidents of custodial deaths at the hands of Indian forces in disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In his letter addressed to the UN special Rapporteur, the KIIR chairman said that persistent and systematic use of custodial torture by

Indian occupation forces in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) was in violation of fundamental human rights and international law. "Torture in custody remains a tool of coercion, used to extract forced confessions, intimidate marginalized communities, and suppress dissent", the letter said, adding that the practice not only contravenes India's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) but also blatantly disregards the absolute prohibition of torture under the Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), which India has yet to ratify.

Referring to the recent killing of a tribal youth Makhan Din, the letter stated that 25-year-old man hailing from Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir, died by suicide after facing brutal custodial torture by the J&K Police. The KIIR chairman said that custodial torture was not an isolated issue but an institutionalized practice enabled by draconian laws such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and the Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act (UAPA). "These laws provide occupation forces with sweeping powers and blanket immunity from prosecution, fostering a climate of impunity", he added.

Use of excessive social media filters can spark depression in teens

ISLAMABAD: Experts warned on Sunday that excessive use of social media filters can lead to depression and anxiety in teenagers, thus emphasizing the need for parents to monitor online activities of their children to foster a healthy self-image of them. Talking in a conversation on a private news channel, a social media expert Muhammad Hussain shed light on the alarming effect of social media on teenagers' health. He specifically highlighted dangers of using these beauty filters by explaining their increasing use can lead to lack of self-esteem, body dissatisfaction and anxiety among teens. Another social media expert warned that using filters on selfies or editing pictures can lead individuals to see unrealistic images, adding that this way they can view themselves as 'perfected' rather than as real people. As a result, users may feel disconnected from their thoughts, emotions, and physical sensations, leading to a distorted sense of self. Hussain emphasized the need that parents and guardians should take more proactive approach and be aware of these risks and should monitor their children's social media activities to mitigate the negative effects.—APP

Pak's iconic truck art tradition continues

ISLAMABAD: In a nation where art and culture were inextricably linked, Pakistan's legendary truck art had emerged as a vibrant and captivating embodiment of the country's rich creative heritage, reflecting the country's rich history, traditions, and values. For decades, Pakistan's trucks have been transformed into moving canvases. Trucks, lorries, and rickshaws were being reborn as dazzling works of art, adorned with intricate designs, colorful patterns, and poetic calligraphy. Pakistan's truck art had become a cultural ambassador of sorts, captivating the hearts of art lovers and tourists worldwide. This dazzling display of color and craftsmanship was a testament to Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, and a source of pride for the nation.—APP

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Trump's tariff playbook

US President Donald Trump thinks the United States has indefinite "leverage" against key nations, and communicates that sense through highly politicized tariffs. As the penalties are imposed on China, Canada, and Mexico, the EU is also on the radar. However, the reality is much different: these drastic economic measures will prepare the ground for retaliatory steps that will cause more damage to the US economy than this administration cares to admit. Begin with China. It is the second largest economy in the world, and increasing tariffs by 10 percent puts a significant strain on Washington's own domestic audience. The tariffs have fuelled speculation that Trump could complicate domestic efforts to address inflation. Moreover, Trump's America will not be immune to China's prospective countermeasures, which could hit US coal, crude oil, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) commodities. Washington is also looking at a further loss of international credibility at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Look no further than China's complaint at the trade body over US efforts to discriminate against products from a single national origin – China. The US, which has made an effort to sidestep trade rules and regulations to escalate its trade policy, should deal with the same mechanisms that it is keen to undermine. Targeting the European Union (EU) is also detrimental to US interests. Washington is looking at the prospect of its service sector getting dragged into a broad trade war, because Brussels has Silicon Valley giants in its sight. Targeting US 'big tech' means more than just retaliation: it could ensure that the lifeblood of US technological innovation is not immune to the trade war, inviting friction between the hawkish Trump administration and America's corporate elite. While the Trump administration touts these tariff threats as an attempt to protect US interests, EU attacks on US technology giants would confirm that their interests are all but protected. The real pain could seep in once Washington reckons with the wide arsenal of targeted measures at EU's disposal. For instance, the EU's anti-coercion instrument – better known as ACI – could put a full stop on foreign direct investment, and allow the bloc to bar market access for select service sectors. The irony of this misguided tariff war game is impossible to miss: part of Trump's levies are meant to ward off EU action against US technology companies, but they could end up fueling even stricter EU action. By leaving out the protection of intellectual property rights to tightening the noose around big tech's commercial aspirations, an executed trade war with the EU could put the Trump administration's simmering romance with Silicon giants on thin ice. "All options are on the table," said one informed European official to the Financial Times recently. He also made clear that the ACI was the EU's most stringent possible retaliatory measure within the scope of international law. So let's ask ourselves – does all this carry the echoes of an "America First" success story? One that uses tariffs for global dominance and entails zero side effects? Barely.

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Trade war and Sino-French ties

THE dust had barely settled on the recent EU ambassadors' conference in Brussels when the European Union had to respond to US President Donald Trump's announcement of a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium imports, which it denounced. The brewing trade war between the United States and the rest of the world has made an era marked by global power shifts even more volatile. Some warn of the dangers of a "G-zero" world, when no power or group of powers is willing and able to drive a global agenda and maintain the international order. Others predict that Trump 2.0 will accelerate the West-to-East power shift, with China taking up the mantle of global leadership. Yet, relations with France have emerged as a cornerstone of China's ties with the West. France's leadership in Europe, coupled with its diplomacy, makes its relationship with China critical in shaping the future. France holds a special fascination for the Chinese and has historically been a key interlocutor between China and the West. Most of all, France has laid the groundwork for a long-standing relationship that blends pragmatism with strategic vision. The pedigree of independence in French diplomacy can be traced back to president Charles de Gaulle, under whom in 1964 France became the first major Western power to recognise the People's Republic of China. It not only reflected France's desire to assert its independence in a world then dominated by the US-Soviet rivalry, but also heralded a wind of change – leading to China's admittance into the United Nations in 1971, US president Richard Nixon's 1972 visit to China that paved the way for Sino-American rapprochement and detente, and China's integration into the "family of nations". How do France's ambitions as a global leader figure in China-US relations? The bold assertion of this independence resonates in the way Sino-French relations have developed, particularly over the past decade. If China's growing diplomatic ambition and assertiveness became most pronounced under President Xi Jinping, France's diplomacy has been dominated by the ambition of restoring the country's grandeur, justified in terms of French exceptionalism. France has advocated a balanced approach towards China, emphasising the need for "de-risking" while maintaining dialogue and cooperation. While many Western nations find themselves caught between aligning with America's hardline stance and pursuing economic opportunities with Beijing, Sino-French relations reflect a nuanced blend of principled engagement and multifaceted cooperation. French leaders have cast a vision of national greatness embedded in the glory and greatness of European civilisation; enhancing France's stature must be pursued via a broader process of protecting and empowering the European Union, in which France must be a leader. This narrative is appealing for China, which perceives itself as a civilisational state, a view reflected in its foreign policy vision, particularly in the Global Civilisation Initiative. In the Trump 2.0 era, France's emphasis on European "strategic autonomy" has ever more significant implications for EU-China relations. President Emmanuel Macron has argued that Europe must avoid being caught in the binary US-China competition, advocating for an independent and balanced policy.

Trump's war on institutions

Qamar Bashir



Trump has rightly argued that if an unelected judge holds the power to veto presidential orders, it raises serious doubts about the integrity of the democratic system. A president, chosen by the people to enact policies in the public interest, should not have their authority unilaterally obstructed by an appointed judge. Such interference, he contends, undermines the very foundation of democracy, shifting power away from the electorate and into the hands of unaccountable judicial figures

PRESIDENT Donald Trump accused the U.S. bureaucracy of massive fraud, waste, and abuse, citing an investigation led by Elon Musk that uncovered billions of dollars in misused funds. He condemned judges for obstructing his reform agenda, calling their block on his \$3 billion federal grant freeze "intolerable judicial interference." Trump also charged the Pentagon with corruption and financial mismanagement, referencing a 2023 audit that found \$2.1 trillion unaccounted for. He accused USAID of funneling billions into mainstream media as payoffs for pro-Democrat coverage, calling it "too big, too dirty" to ignore. Further, he alleged USAID provided \$697 million to terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and ISIS under the guise of aid and meddled in foreign elections by sending \$15 million to Pakistan's Election Commission to manipulate the 2024 vote, as exposed by journalist Ryan Grim and others. For the first time in U.S. history, President Donald Trump is spearheading an unprecedented effort to uproot not only the entrenched bureaucracy but also the military, federal institutions like USAID, IRS, Pentagon, health agencies, law enforcement, CIA, and FBI, as well as the judiciary and the media. Trump has positioned himself as the only leader who has truly recognized the deep-seated corruption, overregulation, and misuse of tax dollars by these institutions. He asserts that federal agencies have participated in unauthorized commissions and omissions, directed taxpayer funds towards inefficient projects, and established a bureaucratic grip that hinders economic and financial liberty. He argues that instead of fulfilling their duty to serve the public, these institutions—including judges, bureaucrats, politicians, and the media—have formed a corrupt nexus to amass wealth, secure lavish perks, and misuse their power. This unchecked authority, rather than facilitating public welfare, has crippled economic activities through excessive regulations, leading to inflation, soaring unemployment, and an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis. These institutional failures have not only burdened American citizens but also weakened the United States' global leadership in military power, economic dominance, trade, and investment. Once regarded as the world's strongest economy, the U.S. now faces the reality of losing its competitive edge to ris-

ing powers like China, the Middle Eastern economic hubs, and industrial giants in South Korea, Japan, and Europe. While these nations are constructing advanced infrastructure such as highways, airports, and ports, the infrastructure in the U.S. is rapidly deteriorating. A firsthand experience of this decline can be seen in Michigan, where our family arrived in September 2024, only to find crumbling roads, broken highways, and entire neighborhoods—like Hamtramck in Detroit—worse than many underdeveloped countries. Even major airports and subways in cities like New York, which should symbolize American progress, are far inferior to those in rising global economic centers. This visible decay has become a symbol of how mismanagement and corruption have weakened the country from within. President Donald Trump has laid out a powerful argument against the unchecked power of the judiciary, questioning how an unelected, taxpayer-funded judge can override the orders of a democratically elected president. He argues that this authority is often motivated by self-interest—protecting judicial power, safeguarding the bureaucracy, and maintaining strong ties with economic and political elites. Trump has rightly argued that if an unelected judge holds the power to veto presidential orders, it raises serious doubts about the integrity of the democratic system. A president, chosen by the people to enact policies in the public interest, should not have their authority unilaterally obstructed by an appointed judge. Such interference, he contends, undermines the very foundation of democracy, shifting power away from the electorate and into the hands of unaccountable judicial figures. His assertion is rooted in logic: either power must rest with the elected representatives of the people, or the current system is nothing more than an illusion of democracy, controlled by an entrenched elite that serves itself rather than the nation. The very foundation of American democracy is now facing an unprecedented challenge. Instead of functioning as a government of, by, and for the people, the U.S. system has become a battleground where institutions operate with separate mandates and self-serving agendas, often at odds with the will of the public. The bureaucracy—both civil and military—along with the judiciary, has consolidated power to such an extent that elected representatives have been reduced to mere

figureheads, unable to implement meaningful change. As a result, the wealth and power of the country have been diverted away from the general public and into the hands of bureaucratic elites, further deepening economic inequality and weakening the nation. This imbalance has led to a situation where the system exists to sustain itself, rather than to serve the citizens it was designed to protect. The more the bureaucracy tightens its grip, the more the country drifts away from its founding democratic principles. In contrast, nations where government institutions function in harmony—where every pillar of the state aligns itself with the leadership's vision—are proving far more effective in delivering stability, prosperity, and national progress. When leadership sets a course, and institutions work collectively to implement it, these governments are able to build state-of-the-art infrastructure, boost economic growth, and enhance the well-being of their people. The U.S., on the other hand, is witnessing institutional fragmentation, where different branches of government operate in conflict rather than in unison, obstructing national progress instead of facilitating it. This is why Trump's call for systemic reform is not merely about politics—it is about ensuring that power is exercised with accountability, that democracy is truly representative, and that government institutions work for the people, rather than against them. Recognizing these deep-rooted structural failures, President Trump has declared war on nearly all pillars of the state and their subordinate institutions. His agenda aims to dismantle the bureaucratic stranglehold, expose the judiciary's complicity, and challenge the media's biased role in shaping public perception. This is not just a political battle but a fundamental restructuring of how power is distributed and exercised in the country. Trump's reforms are not merely cosmetic changes—they are surgical interventions aimed at breaking the alliance between corrupt bureaucrats, activist judges, and self-serving media elites. Whether he succeeds in his mission or faces unprecedented resistance from these institutions, his presidency has already sparked the most radical political and institutional shake-up in modern U.S. history.

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC

Unity, stability the key goals of Syria's post-Baathist transition

Dr. Gyorgy Busztin

Accountability will also play a critical role in healing societal wounds. Establishing a transitional justice framework, rooted in international norms, is essential to address past grievances without resorting to collective punishment. By holding perpetrators of war crimes and human rights abuses accountable, Syria can begin to rebuild trust among its people. Economic reconstruction stands as an equally urgent priority. Over the last decade, Syria's economy has suffered a catastrophic decline, with its real gross...

THE Baath Party, once a dominant force in the Arab world, has been reduced to a dwindling memory of its former rule, running down its legacy in Syria in the face of the Assad regime's demise. Its collapse, following decades of repression and sociopolitical upheaval, marks the expiration of an ideology that shaped the region, but left a legacy of division and authoritarianism. As Syria begins to navigate its post-Baathist transition, the lessons learned from Iraq's de-Baathification offer a cautionary tale. The dissolution of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party in 2003 led to serious consequences, including institutional collapse, widespread instability and sectarian violence. If Syria is to avoid repeating these mistakes, it must chart a different course: one that emphasizes unity, justice and the integrity of its national statehood. The de-Baathification process in Iraq was swift and indiscriminate. More than 35,000 government employees lost their jobs overnight and thousands of military personnel were dismissed as the Iraqi army was dissolved. This dismantling of state institutions created a power vacuum that fueled anarchy and sectarian divisions and allowed the rise of extremist groups like Daesh. Rather than addressing past grievances, Iraq's de-Baathification actually deepened societal rifts. The campaign disproportionately targeted Sunni communities, perpetuating cycles of violence and mistrust. This experience underscores the importance of pursuing accountability in a manner that promotes reconciliation rather than retribution. Syria's path forward must prioritize inclusivity, justice and a vision for shared prosperity. Central to this vision will be the reform of state institutions, ensuring that

they serve all citizens equitably, regardless of sect or ethnicity. This requires rebuilding governance structures on the principles of merit and fairness, fostering a system that includes voices that have been previously marginalized by decades of authoritarian rule. The scale of the challenge is immense. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as at the end of 2023, 16.7 million people in Syria required humanitarian assistance, the highest number since the onset of the crisis. Additionally, there are 7.2 million internally displaced persons as per the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, reflecting the devastating toll of conflict on the population. These figures underscore the urgency of comprehensive governance reforms and inclusive recovery plans to address the needs of the most vulnerable. Accountability will also play a critical role in healing societal wounds. Establishing a transitional justice framework, rooted in international norms, is essential to address past grievances without resorting to collective punishment. By holding perpetrators of war crimes and human rights abuses accountable, Syria can begin to rebuild trust among its people. Economic reconstruction stands as an equally urgent priority. Over the last decade, Syria's economy has suffered a catastrophic decline, with its real gross domestic product contracting by about 84 percent between 2010 and 2023, according to the Middle East Council on Global Affairs. Estimates of the cost of rebuilding the nation's infrastructure range between \$400 billion and \$600 billion, highlighting the monumental financial resources required for recovery, according to Arabian Gulf Business Insight. This task will demand robust international support, particularly from the Gulf states, which

have demonstrated their commitment to regional stability. Through partnerships and targeted investments, Syria can pave the way for sustainable development, job creation and the reintegration of displaced communities. Moreover, regional and international cooperation is vital. Syria's stability (or lack thereof) will have an effect that extends beyond its borders, impacting the broader Middle East. Collaborative efforts with neighboring countries and global institutions must be prioritized to ensure security and foster a peaceful transition. The UAE's diplomatic leadership, with its emphasis on dialogue and humanitarian initiatives, offers a model for constructive engagement in Syria's recovery process. At the heart of this vision for the future lies the principle of unity. Preserving Syria's territorial integrity is nonnegotiable and fragmentation along sectarian or ethnic lines risks further destabilization, potentially perpetuating cycles of violence. The international community must recognize the critical importance of safeguarding Syria's sovereignty while promoting reconciliation and inclusivity. The end of Baathist rule in Syria offers a historic opportunity to redefine the country's future. By learning from its own past mistakes, along with others in the region, and prioritizing inclusivity, justice and unity, Syria can emerge as a stable and prosperous state. The global community, particularly key regional actors, must rally around this vision. Through collaboration and shared commitment, Syria can transition from a fractured past to a cohesive future that serves as a beacon of hope for the region.

Dr. Gyorgy Busztin is Diplomat-in-Residence at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy.

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KP govt to send two delegations...

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both of whom about Afghanistan — have remained the worst-affected provinces from increased terrorist attacks which witnessed a surge of 42% last month compared to December 2024. Owing to the KP's security situation — including the months-long turmoil in the Kurram region — KP CM Gandapur in September 2024 put out a proposal of holding direct talks with Afghanistan to address terrorism concerns for lasting peace in the restive bordering regions. The announcement, backed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, received flak from the federal government which termed it as a direct attack on the federation. Nevertheless, the chief minister went on to reiterate his stance earlier this month saying that the KP government would send a jirga to the neighbouring country.

Levies personnel martyred...

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The prime minister prayed for the high ranks of shahid personnel and for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude, PM Office said in a press release. The premier also paid tribute to martyred personnel, Ali Nawaz, and prayed for the early recovery of the injured. He said the terrorists were the enemies of the development and progress of Balochistan province and reiterated that terrorists' nefarious designs would not be allowed to succeed. "The Levies personnel has laid down his life for the defence of the country," he said and saluted the martyred personnel for sacrificing his life for the sake of peace in the country.

170 deported from 11...

FROM PAGE 01
deported in the past two days after serving sentences for illegal activities and other violations. Seven of the deported individuals were identified as blacklisted in the Integrated Border Management System (IBMS). Officials confirmed that several deportees had been involved in financial and immigration-related offenses. Meanwhile, authorities offloaded 59 passengers from flights bound for 21 countries, including the UK, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, and Malawi, due to visa and travel documentation issues.

Pakistan condemns attack on...

FROM PAGE 01
(UNIFIL) in Lebanon was injured on Friday after a convoy taking peacekeepers to Beirut airport was "violently attacked", UNIFIL said. The mission demanded a full and immediate investigation by Lebanese authorities and for all perpetrators to be brought to justice, it said in a statement. Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun condemned the attack on Saturday, saying that security forces would not tolerate anyone who tries to destabilise the country, according to a statement from his office. He vowed "the attackers will receive their punishment".

Bilawal calls for getting...

FROM PAGE 01
the country," he remarked. In a reply to a question, he noted that the PPP has always said that all the institutions should work within their constitutional ambit. He added that politicians should also work within their limits. Bilawal stressed that Pakistan must move beyond the politics of Khan to progress. He said the country needed to examine the presumption that the country's progress is linked to whether or not the PTI supreme was in jail. As Pakistan grapples with pressing economic and security challenges.



ISLAMABAD: Senior PML N leader Hanif Abbasi, Olympian Khawaja Junaid, Ambassador of the Netherlands and others giving winners Trophy to the Netherlands Hockey Club. The matches were played under the banner of the Prime Minister Youth Program. Teams from Germany and the Netherlands played matches in Lahore and Islamabad. — DNA

Southee confident in New Zealand's CT 2025 success

Southee highlighted the blend of experience and youthful talent within the squad

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Veteran pacer and former captain Tim Southee expressed his confidence in New Zealand's ability to perform strongly in the upcoming 2025 Champions Trophy slated to kick start from February 19. His optimism stems from the Blackcaps' impressive showing in the recently concluded tri-nation ODI series, which they won by defeating Pakistan in the final. The Blackcaps dominated the tri-series, remaining unbeaten throughout. They secured victories in both group-stage matches against Pakistan and South Africa before clinching the final against the hosts with a six-wicket win. Reflecting on the team's performance, Southee highlighted the blend of experience and youthful talent within the squad. "The way the team have played, different guys have stepped up. It's a good mix between some experienced guys and some exciting young guys with a lot of potential. The experience of this Tri-Nation Series is only going to stand them in good stead for

the tournament," said Southee. "So, taking some momentum into those conditions, it's only going to be a good thing," he added. He emphasised the importance of gaining momentum ahead of the Champions Trophy and becoming accustomed to the playing conditions. The former pacer praised Williamson's composure at the crease, noting that his experience and ability to read the game set him apart from others. "Kane is in good form, it's nice to see him with a couple of scores, he's obviously class. He's not played a lot of one-day cricket for the last few years but to see him come back and have two significant contributions is what we're used to seeing. But it's also pleasing for me now as a fan of the Black Caps," he said. "When he is in the middle, it comes with experience and the way he plays, he just looks in control the whole time. That is what sets those four or five batters apart from the rest. They are able to sum up conditions, sum up moments in games and more times than not, they come out on the right side of things. He brings a calmness to the group,"

he added. Southee also commended Mitchell Santner's leadership, acknowledging his calm demeanor and strategic thinking as captain. "Mitch has done a great job as captain. It's still reasonably new to him but I experienced a bit of his captaincy towards the end of my career. He's very calm, you see that in the way he plays his cricket. "He thinks about the game well and I think he looks to lead with his performances across all three areas. He's one of best fielders, an unbelievably skilful bowler and a more than useful batter so I'm sure he'll be looking to lead in all those three areas." With the absence of both him and Trent Boult, much responsibility now falls on emerging talents like Will O'Rourke and Nathan Smith. O'Rourke particularly stood out in the tri-series final against Pakistan, claiming four wickets. Southee is confident in the young pacer's potential. "It's something different not having Trent and myself at an ICC event but at the same time, it's exciting. These events are great to be a part of and it's in front of these guys now, I'm very excited to see how they go,"

he said. The 36-year-old highlighted O'Rourke's attributes, believing he possesses all the skills necessary for success at the international level. "Will O'Rourke, in the Test game we've seen what he can do. He's still so young but he's got all the attributes that are going to set him up to have a lot of success in international cricket. I'm looking forward to watching him in his first ICC event," he said. He also praised Nathan Smith for his confidence and self-belief, key qualities for thriving at the international level. "Will is a man of few words but certainly listens and wants to get better. Nathan Smith has a real confidence about him, and believes in himself which I think you need at this level," he said. With a strong track record in ICC tournaments, Southee hopes New Zealand can go all the way in the 2025 Champions Trophy. "If you look at the track record of New Zealand in ICC events, they are always there or thereabouts. In a tournament like the Champions Trophy, if you get on a bit of a roll, anything can happen. I'd love to see the Blackcaps there and hopefully lifting the trophy at the end," he concluded.

JUI-F slams K-P govt over security alert for Fazl

FROM PAGE 01

He urged the government to fulfil its responsibilities instead of spreading fear and panic. He also claimed that after the successful peace jirga in Peshawar, the KP government has become anxious. "The government must clarify what measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the JUI-F chief. If it cannot fulfil its responsibility, it should admit its failure. JUI-F workers know how to protect their leadership," said Aslam Ghauri. The spokesperson further stated that every attempt to distance the party and its leadership from the people would be countered. He accused the government of instilling fear among the public by issuing such statements after political gatherings.

Extremists won't be allowed...

FROM PAGE 01

are these Khawarij talking about? We will never let them impose their outdated ideology on our country." He also stated that the brave people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan stand like an iron wall against terrorists. He highlighted that armed forces are still fighting against terrorists on a daily basis. Islam was the first religion to honour women whether they are mothers, wives, or sisters, he said and questioned: "Who gave the Khawarij authority to take away their (women) rights?" "No one can take that away. We will never allow such misguided groups to impose their values on our country," he asserted.

IAEA DG concludes fruitful...

FROM PAGE 01

cooperation between Pakistan and the IAEA, particularly on the peaceful usage of nuclear technology to mitigate climate change. Director General Grossi held formal talks with the Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and the Chairman of the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA). He was briefed on Pakistan's advancements in nuclear science and technology, including its contributions in agriculture, healthcare and energy production.

Opening ceremony of CT 2025..

FROM PAGE 01

PCB's commitment to showcasing Pakistan's rich culture and hospitality to the world, adding that the tournament will reflect the warmth and love of the Pakistani people. Set against the majestic backdrop of Pakistan's rich heritage, the event promised a dazzling mix of cricketing glory and cultural splendor. With esteemed cricket personalities, top officials from PCB, and die-hard fans in attendance, the night promises to be a memorable one.

Eden Gardens to host IPL 2025 opener and final

All ten teams are divided into two groups

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: Eden Gardens, the home ground of IPL 2024 champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), will host both the tournament opener of IPL 2025 on March 22 and the final on May 25. The venue will also stage Qualifier 2 on May 23. This marks the first time in a decade that Kolkata will host the IPL final, having previously done so in 2013 and 2015. The other two playoff matches will take place in Hyderabad, the home ground of 2024 runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Qualifier 1 is scheduled for May 20, followed by the Eliminator on May 21. The 2025 edition of the IPL will feature 74 matches over a span of 65 days, including 12 double-headers. The tournament opener will see KKR take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in an evening match. The action will continue with a double-header on March 23, where SRH will host Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the first game, followed by a highly anticipated clash between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians (MI), both five-time champions. Royals, Delhi Capitals (DC), Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), and Gujarat Titans (GT) will each play three afternoon matches, while the remaining seven teams will play two day matches each. Afternoon matches will continue to start at 3:30 PM IST, as they did last season. A total of 13 venues have been included in the IPL 2025 schedule. Apart from the primary home grounds of all ten teams, Guwahati (Royals' second home), Visakhapatnam (Capitals' second home), and Dharamsala (Punjab Kings' second home) will also host matches.

McClung wins third straight NBA Slam Dunk

NEW YORK: Mac McClung jumped over a car on his way to winning his third straight NBA Slam Dunk contest at the All Star weekend in San Francisco. The 26-year-old, who has played five minutes in one game of NBA action this season for the Orlando Magic, received perfect 50-point scores for his four dunks. In the first round, he jumped over a car that had been parked under the basket with a person holding the ball up through an open sun roof, finishing with a reverse dunk. His second dunk saw him jump over a standing man and turn in the air. McClung's third perfect score involved him dunking a ball from a man spinning on a hoverboard, while at the same time dunking a second ball held by a man standing on a ladder. And the 6ft 2in McClung clinched the title by dunking over 6ft 11in Cleveland Cavaliers player Evan Mobley, who was stood on a small platform. — Agencies

Marmoush nets hat-trick as City humble Newcastle

The victory powers City back into the Premier League top-four

WEB DESK

MANCHESTER: Omar Marmoush scored his first Manchester City goals with a first-half hat-trick to beat Newcastle United 4-0 and fire Pep Guardiola's men back into the Premier League's top four on Saturday. The Egyptian was in scintillating form as City recovered from their late Champions League collapse to lose to Real Madrid 3-2 at home in midweek. The English champions have a mountain to climb when they visit Madrid on Wednesday if they are to reach the last 16 of Europe's elite competition for the 12th consecutive season. But Marmoush's explosion gives some cause for optimism as Newcastle were blown away inside the opening 33 minutes. The match had been billed as a clash between the Premier League's two top strikers as Golden Boot rivals Erling Haaland and Alexander Isak went head-to-head. However, they were both overshadowed as Marmoush announced his arrival at the English game. The 26-year-old scored 20 goals for Eintracht Frankfurt this season before making a £59 million (\$72.6 million) move to Manchester in January. City were keen to add more goal-scoring threats to support Haaland and the early

signs are promising that the Norwegian and Marmoush can dovetail effectively. Guardiola made six changes to freshen up his side during the Madrid doubleheader with Marmoush one of those to come into the side. Ederson was at fault for City's late collapse from 2-1 to 3-2 down against the European champions on Tuesday but made amends with his third assist of the season. Kieran Trippier was caught underneath the Brazilian goalkeeper's booming kick upfield and Marmoush had the simple task to lob the stranded Martin Dubravka. That goal continued City's run of scoring in their last 33 Premier League games against the Magpies. Five minutes later, it was 2-0 when Ilkay Gundogan fed Marmoush inside the area, who cut inside before his deflected effort found the bottom corner. Savinho's pace and trickery down the right was another major positive for Guardiola and he created the third by skipping past Lewis Hall and squaring for Marmoush to fire home from close range. City's fragility at defending leads this season was never seriously tested as the visitors suffered another damaging defeat to their chances of a return to the Champions League next season. Either side of reaching next month's League Cup final, Eddie Howe's men have lost three of their last four Premier League games to slip to seventh.

Real held by Osasuna after Bellingham sees red

The stalemate extends Real's winless run to three matches

LA Liga leaders Real Madrid dropped two points in a 1-1 draw at Osasuna on Saturday in which Jude Bellingham was sent off. The Spanish champions took the lead through Kylian Mbappe before the referee expelled England international Bellingham for apparent dissent towards the end of the first half. Ante Budimir levelled for hosts Osasuna from the penalty spot after 58 minutes as Carlo Ancelotti's side endured a third consecutive league match without victory. Atletico Madrid, second and two points behind the leaders, host Celta Vigo later Saturday, while third-place Barcelona welcome Rayo Vallecano on Monday. Ancelotti made a few rotations with the midweek Champions League play-off second leg clash against Manchester City in mind, with Rodrigo resting and Brahim Diaz given a rare start. Real Madrid controlled the game from the off, moving the ball around too quickly for Osasuna to get a foothold. Vinicius appealed for an early penalty when Alejandro Catena slid in to dispossess him and the ball struck the defender's arm. The Brazilian winger should have put the champions ahead when Mbappe crossed for him, but misjudged the flight of the ball and head-

ed wide from close range. Madrid did not have to wait long for their opener and Fede Valverde created it with a low cross for Mbappe, who produced a clinical finish. It was the in-form French forward's seventh goal in his last five La Liga matches. Osasuna threatened just once in the first half, with a low drive from Aimar Oroz,

which Thibaut Courtois superbly pushed to safety. Vinicius spurned another golden opportunity when Mbappe set him up, before Jude Bellingham was dismissed in the 39th minute. The England international exchanged words with referee Jose Munuera Montero, who then reached for his red card. Madrid have complained heavily



about Spanish refereeing in recent weeks, labelling it "rigged" and they grew further frustrated with Munuera Montero in the second half. Osasuna levelled before the hour mark through Budimir from the spot after Eduardo Camavinga was late on the Croatian striker. Budimir had already shot wide of the post when the French midfielder clattered into the forward, similar to the penalty Aurelien Tchouameni conceded in Madrid's derby draw with Atletico Madrid last weekend. Budimir's penalty was his 13th goal of the season, behind only Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski and Mbappe, on 17, in the standings. Mbappe came close to scoring a second but fired narrowly over and Vinicius had an effort deflected wide after a dangerous incursion from the left. Real Madrid pushed for a winner despite their numerical disadvantage, knowing their title rivals are breathing down their necks. Mbappe had one last chance in stoppage time but Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera palmed away his effort with a strong hand. After playing for nearly an hour with 10 men, Manchester City will hope it takes a toll on Madrid on Wednesday when the sides meet at the Santiago Bernabeu. — Agencies

Briefs

Indonesia
in talks
with UAE
to develop
aluminium
industry

JAKARTA: The Indonesian government is in talks with UAE's Emirate Global Aluminium to develop its aluminium industry, as the Southeast Asian nation seeks to utilize its vast reserves of minerals. Indonesia has rich deposits of minerals like copper and bauxite – the main source of aluminium – and is the world's largest source of nickel. Its government has been working to attract foreign investment to help develop its mineral processing industry. In a meeting with EGA CEO Abdulnasser Ibrahim Saif bin Kalban, Coordinating Minister for Economy Affairs Airlangga Hartarto discussed ways to move forward plans for the Dubai-based company to help aluminium production in Indonesia. "We need to make sure that cooperation in the aluminium sector will have a significant impact on the Indonesian economy, especially for jobs creation," he said in a statement issued on Saturday. Hartarto was at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, where he also held talks with other UAE officials and business leaders. EGA and state-owned Indonesia Asahan Aluminium, or Inalum, have signed several strategic partnership agreements in the last few years, aimed at boosting Indonesia's aluminium production capacity. This includes increasing that of Inalum's North Sumatra smelter by up to 400,000 tons a year. The Emirati company, one of the world's largest aluminium producers, also said it was planning to explore alternative sources of renewable energy in Indonesia to support its aluminium production plans. "With our capabilities and the advanced technology that we use, along with the natural resources potential in Indonesia – we will be able to produce the best alumina in high quantities," Abdulnasser was quoted as saying.—APP

18 dead in
India stampede
in New
Delhi railway
station

NEW DELHI: At least 18 people died during a stampede at a railway station in India's capital late Saturday when surging crowds scrambled to catch trains to the world's largest religious gathering, officials and reports said. The Kumbh Mela attracts tens of millions of Hindu faithful every 12 years to the northern city of Prayagraj, and has a history of crowd-related disasters – including one last month, when at least 30 people died in another stampede at the holy confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers. The rush at the train station in New Delhi appeared to break out Saturday as crowds struggled to board trains for the ongoing event, which will end on February 26. "I can confirm 15 deaths at the hospital. They don't have any open injury. Most (likely died from) hypoxia or maybe some blunt injury but that would only be confirmed after an autopsy," Dr. Ritu Saxena, deputy medical superintendent of Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi told AFP. "There are also 11 others who are injured. Most of them are stable and have orthopedic injuries," she said. Broadcaster NDTV reported three more dead from the stampede quoting an official of another hospital in the city. Those dead were mostly women and children. "I have been working as a coolie since 1981, but I never saw a crowd like this before," the Times of India newspaper quoted a porter at the railway station as saying. "People started colliding and fell on the escalator and stairs" when platform for a special train departing for Prayagraj was suddenly shifted, the porter said. Railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a "high-level inquiry" had been ordered into the causes of the accident.—APP

Taiwan detects 24 Chinese military aircrafts near island

It came after Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said they "opposed any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo (in the Taiwan Strait) by force or coercion"

TAIPEI: Taiwan said it detected 24 Chinese military aircraft near the island on Sunday as a Canadian warship passed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait. It was the first Canadian naval vessel to transit the waterway this year, Taiwan's foreign ministry said, and came days after two US ships made the passage. The United States and its allies regularly pass through the 180-kilometer (112-mile) Taiwan

Strait to reinforce its status as an international waterway, angering China. Beijing has never ruled Taiwan, but it claims the democratic island as part of its territory and has threatened to bring it under its control by force. "The Royal Canadian Navy's Halifax-class frigate HMCS Ottawa sailed through the Taiwan Strait on February 16," Taiwan's foreign ministry said in a statement. "Canada has once again taken

concrete action to uphold the Taiwan Strait's freedom, peace and openness, demonstrating its firm stance that the strait is international waters," it added. Taiwan's defense ministry said on Sunday that 24 Chinese aircraft, including fighter jets and drones, were detected carrying "joint combat readiness patrols" with military vessels around the island. During the Canadian warship's passage, China's military

radioed the ship and warned it to change course, Taiwanese media reported. A US destroyer and an ocean survey ship traveled through the strait starting on February 10, drawing criticism from China's military, which said it sent the "wrong signal and increased security risks." Data published by the Taiwan defense ministry showed 62 Chinese military aircraft were detected near the island

in the 48 hours to 6:00 am local time on Wednesday, coinciding with the US ships' transit. Washington's latest passage through the Taiwan Strait was the first time since US President Donald Trump took office in January. It came after Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said they "opposed any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo (in the Taiwan Strait) by force or coercion." Agencies

Israeli
gunfire kills
woman in
border town

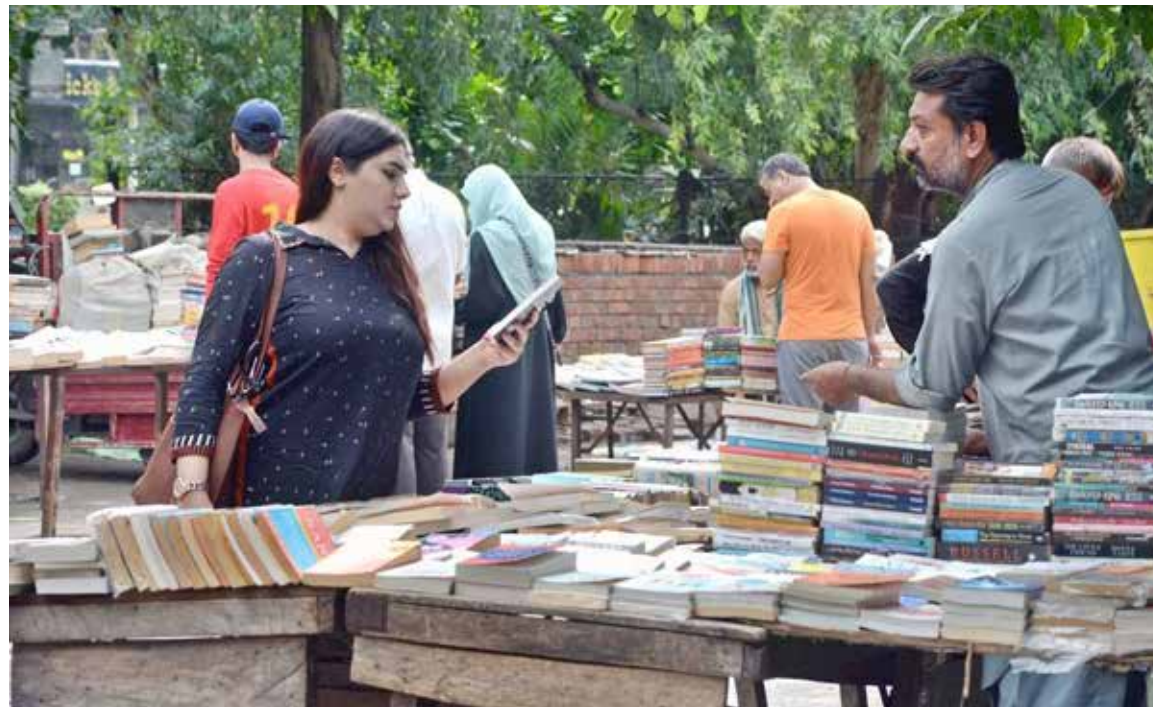
BEIRUT: Lebanese official media said Israeli forces killed a woman in a southern border town on Sunday as residents sought to return home, two days ahead of an Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire deadline. Lebanon's army shortly later urged residents against heading to border areas where its forces had not completed deployment. The official National News Agency (NNA) said that Israeli "occupation forces shot in the direction of Hula neighborhoods after residents entered, leading to the death of a woman and the wounding of other people." "Three citizens were kidnapped by Israeli forces in the town," the NNA added, after earlier reporting that residents had entered by passing a Lebanese army checkpoint and "dirt barriers set up by the Israeli army." A fragile ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah came into effect on November 27 after more than a year of hostilities including two months of all-out war. Under the deal, Lebanon's military was to deploy in the south alongside United Nations peacekeepers as the Israeli army withdrew over a 60-day period. Hezbollah was also to pull back north of the Litani River – about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the border – and dismantle any remaining military infrastructure in the south. The withdrawal period was extended to February 18, after Israel missed the initial deadline. Both sides have accused each other of violations.—APP

Egypt's El-Sisi discusses
Mideast
peace with
World Jewish
Congress
chief

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi told the head of the World Jewish Congress Ronald Lauder on Sunday that the establishment of a Palestinian state is "the only guarantee" for lasting peace in the Middle East. During his meeting with Lauder in Cairo on Sunday, El-Sisi called for starting the reconstruction of war-battered Gaza "without displacing its residents from their land," according to a statement from his office. The Egyptian leader's remarks come as Arab countries are scrambling to come up with an alternative to a controversial plan floated by US President Donald Trump to take over Gaza, redevelop the coastal territory and turn it into the "Riviera of the Middle East." Trump's proposal envisages a permanently resettling Gaza's Palestinian residents elsewhere, including Egypt and Jordan, drawing widespread condemnation from Arab and world leaders.—APP

 Hamas says
Israel strike
kills three
policemen in
Gaza

GAZA CITY: Palestinian Territories: Hamas said an Israeli strike on Sunday killed three police officers near the southern Gaza city of Rafah, a day after Israel and militants carried out a hostage-prisoner swap. The Hamas-run interior ministry initially reported that two officers were killed and a third was critically wounded in a strike while they were deployed in the Al-Shouka area, east of Rafah, to secure aid. The third officer later succumbed to his wounds, the ministry said in an updated statement. The Israeli military said in a statement that its air force struck "several armed individuals moving toward troops in the southern Gaza Strip." A fragile ceasefire that came into effect on January 19 between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has largely brought a pause to more than 15 months of fighting in the coastal Palestinian territory. Since then, Israel has conducted at least one other air strike in Gaza. On February 2, it said one of its aircraft fired toward a "suspicious vehicle" in central Gaza.—APP



LAHORE: People are engaged in selecting and buying old books from the weekly stalls on the roadside of Mall Road.

Two Pakistani students in China
praised for life-saving act

SHANGHAI: Two Pakistani students at Gannan Medical University in China, Yousaf Khan and Muhammad Rafeullah Jawaad, have been lauded for their courageous and benevolent action in saving the life of an elderly man who suffered a sudden medical emergency at a Shanghai railway station. According to a report carried by China Economic Net on Sunday, the incident occurred in the early hours of February 7 at Shanghai Songjiang Railway Station. Yousaf and Jawaad, during their trip to Shanghai, noticed an elderly man lying unconscious on the ground. Recognizing the urgency, they immediately rushed to his aid. Upon assessing the man, they found him unresponsive, with no breathing, a faint pulse, and cyanotic lips – clear indicators of a life-threatening condition. Without hesitation, Yousaf began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while Jawaad assisted by monitoring the man's condition. After four rounds of CPR, the elderly man gradually regained consciousness and began breathing again. The two students remained by his side, ensuring his stability until an ambulance arrived to transport him to the hospital for further medical care. Their swift and professional response earned them widespread admiration from onlookers, police officers, and medical personnel at the scene. Many praised their courage, composure, and medical expertise, which proved critical in saving the man's life. Hailed from the KPK Province of Pakistan, Yousaf and Jawaad are pursuing their bachelor's degrees in clinical medicine at Gannan Medical University in southern China. "The university's focus on ethics and morality has always motivated us to do good deeds. Our medical studies here have equipped us with the knowledge and skills to provide first aid and save lives in critical situations," Jawaad said Yousaf, who performed CPR for the first time during the incident, expressed immense pride and joy at being able to save a life.—DNA

IRS-CVF pledges to
work together on
climate change issues

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the V20 Group of Finance Ministers visited the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) to discuss potential cooperation on pressing climate vulnerability issues. The CVF-V20 Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana with a regional office in Colombo, Sri Lanka and an office in Washington D.C., USA. During the session, Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed, the Managing Director of CVF-V20, provided an insightful overview of the forum's ongoing initiatives aimed at supporting Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP). She highlighted various strategies and frameworks being implemented to enhance resilience and sustainability in the face of climate challenges, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration and financial support. Ambassador Jahar Saleem, President of the IRS, welcomed the delegation in his opening remarks and commended the CVF-V20 team for their significant contributions to the forum. He underscored the commitment of the CVF to amplify the voices of climate-affected communities worldwide, advocating for their rights and needs in the international arena. Ambassador Saleem emphasized the urgency of collective action to combat climate change and foster sustainable development, acknowledging the role of the IRS in facilitating such essential dialogues, discussions, and joint ventures. Mr. Hamza Haroon, Regional Director South Asia, CVF-V20, highlighted the loopholes in the climate change governance in South Asia including Pakistan, and stressed the need to improve the coordination among the stakeholders, and effective collaboration between public and private entities. The team IRS, comprising Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Dr. Muhammad Imran Mehsud, Mr. Syed Imran Sardar, Dr. Anjum Rasheed, and Mr. Talha Tufail Bhatti, emphasized the need to collaborate in addressing climate challenges, and exchange ideas for a joint venture such as research collaboration and climate awareness programs.—DNA

Power sector afflicted by gross
inefficiencies, huge losses: PIAF

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) on Sunday observed that power sector has long been afflicted by gross inefficiency, huge losses, and unstable finances, stressing the need for its restructuring of its debt, long-term reforms and privatization, as the experts have revised economic growth projection downward to 3% for fiscal year 2025, reducing its earlier estimate of 3.2%. PIAF Chairman Faheem Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Chaudhary said that long-term reforms of the power sector was crucial for improving operational effectiveness, and lessening the financial strain on the government. Faheem Saigol said that DISCOs and GECOs in the country's energy sector have historically experienced problems with bad management, corruption and inefficiency. He pointed out that privatization would introduce new resources, know-how, and creative approaches that are frequently absent in government-run entities. Private businesses would enhance customer service, streamline processes, and use better technology, which could result in a more reliable power supply and lower energy losses. Nasrullah Mughal said that investors would provide funds to the sector, which can be utilized to expand the grid, enhance service quality, and upgrade infrastructure. In a country where infrastructure is aging and in dire need of up-gradation, this infusion of capital is essential. Furthermore, private organizations are good at controlling operating expenses and meeting consumer needs, which can lead to more effective and efficient services. "Tahir Manzoor Chaudhary highlighted that privatization was not without its challenges, as the equity and access are issues, particularly in rural or underdeveloped areas, where private companies might be less likely to make investments. It is vital to ensure that privatization does not result in higher energy bills for end users. He suggested that strong regulatory frameworks were necessary to stop monopolistic behavior and safeguard the interests of the broader public. The need to ensure that all residents have access to reasonably priced power must be balanced with the government's pursuit of efficiency. The PIAF leaders said that owing to years of operational inefficiencies, poor management, and financial losses, the power sector was heavily indebted. Due to financial limitations, this debt creates a vicious cycle that exacerbates existing inefficiencies and strains finances further by preventing investment in up-gradation. They explained that structural changes were necessary in the long run to ensure that the sector becomes financially viable. This entails enhancing revenue collection, cutting down on losses, and implementing effective operational procedures. They pointed out that the effective execution of these methods was contingent upon robust governance and open procedures. The issues facing the power sector are not only financial but also managerial. Mismanagement and corruption have been major roadblocks to progress. Faheem Saigol suggested that to ensure accountability and stop financial mismanagement, any plan for privatization or debt restructuring needs to be supported by stringent oversight procedures. "Gaining the public's trust and support requires openness in the decision-making process and clear communication with stakeholders." The PIAF Chief said that financial institutions and development partners could offer best practices, financial support, and technical help to steer the privatization and debt restructuring processes. Their participation would help the reforms gain more traction and draw in more funding. The government must, however, make sure that this support advances sustainable development objectives and is in line with national interests." It is to be noted that the reports have forecast a 4% growth rate for Pakistan in fiscal year 2026. The State Bank of Pakistan has projected real GDP growth in the range of 2.5% to 3.5% for the ongoing fiscal year.—DNA

Freed Palestinian inmates set prison
garb ablaze on return to Gaza

KHAN YUNIS: Palestinian Territories: As Palestinian inmates released by Israel stepped off the buses that took them to the Gaza Strip, some flashed a victory sign and swiftly set fire to sweatshirts they were made to wear in prison. Images broadcast on Israeli media before their release under a ceasefire deal with Hamas showed rows of Palestinian prisoners wearing the sweatshirts emblazoned with the Star of David, the logo of Israel's prison service and the Arabic phrase "we do not forget and we do not forgive." The white sweatshirts could be seen on the ground wreathed in orange flames at the prisoners' reception point in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis, an AFP correspondent said. The growing blaze sent plumes of black smoke skywards

over the crowds greeting the released inmates. In previous releases under the Gaza deal, Palestinians were let out with plain grey prison tracksuits that did not bear any inscriptions. The vast majority of prisoners released on Saturday, in exchange for three Israeli hostages, were Gazans taken into Israeli custody during the war, according to the Palestinian Prisoners' Club advocacy group. The Gaza-bound convoy, facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, dropped off jubilant prisoners who threw victory signs and waved at the crowd welcoming them. Other Palestinians freed Saturday were serving life sentences over attacks against Israelis, with some of them deported upon release. Hamas, the Palestinian group

whose October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the war, and ally Islamic Jihad both condemned the Israeli prison service sweatshirts, calling them "racist." Ibrahim, 61, a freed prisoner who declined to share his last name, said he was sad to see the extent of the destruction wrought by the war in Gaza. He said he had left "prison and suffering," but the Gaza Strip – for years under a crippling Israeli-led blockade – was "the largest prison in the world." He said he had been arrested in northern Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp, and still did not know why he was jailed for nine months. Abd Abu Zayra, another freed prisoner, told AFP he had Hamas to thank for his release, a moment "of joy and victory mixed with sadness and tragedy." "We pray that the

war ends and that all prisoners are released," he said. The buses inched forward through the dense crowd, dropping off prisoners one after the other. Paramedics taking the freed prisoners to hospital for check-ups were overwhelmed by the sea of relatives and friends who had gathered to greet them. Muhammad Zaqout, director of Hamas-run Gaza's health ministry, said medical examinations would be conducted for each prisoner. He said many have suffered "torture" and neglect in jail. Tariq Haniyeh, a 22-year-old Gazan, told AFP he had come to Khan Yunis to welcome his relative Loay Haniyeh a year after his arrest at a refugee camp near Gaza City. "It's a great joy to see the prisoners freed, but I'm very sad because I still have other relatives who are still detained," said Tariq Haniyeh. He said his family was still in mourning after the deaths of 21 relatives during the war, including distant cousin Ismail Haniyeh, the former Hamas chief killed by Israel in Tehran in July 2024. Unlike Ismail Haniyeh, Tariq said his relative Loay, had "no connection to any Palestinian faction, and they (Israel) arrested him like thousands of others, without reason." Those in the last buses, too excited to wait, began their reunion from the bus windows. One man stood on the shoulders of another to kiss a prisoner from the window. A child was hoisted in the air to be embraced. Some stood on their toes to try to reach the hand of a loved one, while some prisoners still on the buses grabbed the microphones of journalists to start recounting their journey.—DNA

Briefs

Dozens killed in Mali illegal gold mine collapse

KÉNIÉBA: More than 40 people, mostly women, were killed after an illegal gold mine collapsed in Mali on Saturday. The collapse took place near Kéniéba, in Mali's western, gold-rich Kayes region. The victims had climbed into open-pit areas left by industrial miners to look for scraps of gold when the earth around them caved in, a gold miner's union leader told Reuters. This is Mali's second deadly mining accident in three weeks, after at least 10 people were killed when a mining tunnel flooded late in January. Reports of the exact number who died in Saturday's accident are conflicting. A local police source told the AFP news agency that 48 people were killed in the collapse, while the head of an industry union told Reuters there were 43 victims. "Some of the victims fell into the water. Among them was a woman with her baby on her back," the local police source told. - Agencies

Israeli attack killed 3 officers in Rafah

WEB DESK

RAFAH: Israel's military has killed three Palestinian police officers near the southern Gaza city of Rafah in a "treacherous" drone attack which Hamas says is a serious violation of the ceasefire agreement. The Gaza Interior Ministry said in a statement that the drone attack targeted officers securing the delivery of aid trucks coming from the Karem Abu Salem crossing to the main road leading to the southern Gaza city. Previous reports said two police officers were killed and one was critically wounded. According to an updated statement, the third officer later succumbed to his wounds. In a statement, Hamas said it "condemns this crime and calls upon the mediators and the international community to compel the occupation to stop targeting the police force, which is a civil apparatus." It said that the regime's hesitation in starting negotiations to implement the second phase of the ceasefire confirms its lack of seriousness in adhering to the agreement.

GB CM demands share under NFC Award

DNA

GILGIT BALTISTAN: Gilgit Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan on Sunday demanded that the region should be given its due share under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. He made these remarks at a presser where he said the region should be allocated share in the NFC Award. CM also demanded financial agreements with the area as reached with Azad Kashmir. "Gilgit Baltistan will not be required subsidy if the region is given a due share in the NFC scheme," he said. Khan said the region would receive around Rs250 billion if given funds as part of NFC formula.

EU village festivities draw public praise and criticism

The situation was especially strenuous for elderly attendees, women, and families with young children, many of whom were visibly struggling with the long walk. Adding to the chaos, the primary roads leading to key locations, such as the Pak Secretariat, Marriott Hotel, Minister's Enclave, and Judges Enclave, were completely choked due to the overflow of traffic caused by the event



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Thousands of participants gathered at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) to enjoy the vibrant "EuroVillage" festival, organised by the Delegation of the European Union in collaboration with the EU Member States. The event provided a unique opportunity for the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to immerse themselves in European culture and heritage through music, food, and interactive experiences. In her welcome remarks, Riina Kionka, the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan noted, "We celebrate the diverse cultures and identities that enrich Europe, forming the foundation of our shared values and our relations with the world, including Pakistan. Together, we are stronger, and our partnership in development, trade, and political engagement reflects this commitment." This was EU ambassador's last Euro Village event as she is scheduled to leave Islamabad in this summer after completing her term in Pakistan. In its sixth edition, EuroVillage offered an afternoon of culture, music, and culinary delights. The festival

featured a variety of engaging activities, including information displays from the EU and Member States, live performances, fun games, and an array of food options. Visitors had the chance to connect with the Team Europe, learn about the diverse areas of collaboration between the European Union and Pakistan. The festival also showcased the positive impact of the EU on Pakistani communities. Attendees explored development cooperation booths, where beneficiaries shared personal stories illustrating how EU initiatives enrich their lives. This hands-on engagement emphasised the message that the EU and Pakistan are "Stronger Together" through their partnership. The event also featured live performances by both European and Pakistani artists and performers, including Farhan Saeed. The EuroVillage festival was co-organised by the diplomatic missions of the European Union alongside those of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, and Spain. The celebration of culture and partnership at the EuroVillage highlighted the bond between Europe and Pakistan, reinforcing a shared commitment to mutual development and cooperation under the

spirit of "Stronger Together." This year's EuroVillage festivities were once again overshadowed by significant administrative shortcomings, particularly regarding parking arrangements. Visitors encountered severe challenges due to the unavailability of parking spaces near the venue, forcing many to park their vehicles approximately two miles away. Consequently, attendees were required to reach the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) on foot, creating significant inconvenience. The situation was especially strenuous for elderly attendees, women, and families with young children, many of whom were visibly struggling with the long walk. Adding to the chaos, the primary roads leading to key locations, such as the Pak Secretariat, Marriott Hotel, Minister's Enclave, and Judges Enclave, were completely choked due to the overflow of traffic caused by the event. Given that this was an open invitation event, the organizers should have anticipated the increased number of visitors and planned accordingly. Dedicated parking spaces could have been pre-allocated in nearby areas to accommodate attendees. Additionally, a shuttle service could have been arranged to transport visitors from

these parking areas to the venue, ensuring convenience and alleviating traffic congestion. To avoid similar situations in the future, organizers must adopt a proactive approach by coordinating with traffic authorities, utilizing effective crowd management strategies, and prioritizing visitor accessibility. These measures would not only enhance the overall experience but also reflect a higher standard of event management. The first EuroVillage event was held at Lok Virsa, followed by one at the Convention Center and a few at the PNCA. From the public's perspective, the Lok Virsa experience was far superior to the subsequent venues. However, if the event remains open to all, even Lok Virsa would struggle to accommodate the growing number of attendees. In such circumstances, the Sports Complex is a suitable venue for hosting these events without causing significant inconvenience to visitors. It offers ample parking and large open areas where participating countries can set up their booths. Alternatively, the event could be made a private affair. This approach would allow visitors to better enjoy the delicacies and entertainment provided by the participating countries

Sharjeel accuses MQM of inciting riots in Karachi

PPP leader alleges that MQM, unable to assert dominance through intimidation, was now trying to provoke unrest

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon has accused the MuttahidaQaumi Movement (MQM) of attempting to incite riots in Karachi by exploiting recent incidents, Express News reported. Reacting to a press conference by MQM-Pakistan leader Dr Farooq Sattar, Memon said on Sunday, "Farooq Sattar and other MQM leaders must understand that making baseless accusations will not elevate their stature. For decades, the people of Karachi suffered under MQM's coercive and violent politics." He alleged that MQM, unable to assert dominance through intimidation, was now trying to provoke unrest. "MQM has always used tragedies for political gain. Farooq Sattar's statements are based on lies, hypocrisy, and baseless allegations," he said.

IRS-CVF pledges to work together

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the V20 Group of Finance Ministers visited the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) to discuss potential cooperation on pressing climate vulnerability issues. The CVF-V20 Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana with a regional office in Colombo, Sri Lanka and an office in Washington D.C., USA. During the session, Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed, the Managing Director of CVF-V20, provided an insightful overview of the forum's ongoing initiatives aimed at supporting Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan (CPP). She highlighted various strategies and frameworks being implemented to enhance resilience and sustainability in the face of climate challenges, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration and financial support. Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the IRS, welcomed the delegation in his opening remarks and commended the CVF-V20 team for their significant contributions to the forum.

Emmanuel Macron to hold summit on Ukraine war for EU leaders

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Ukraine had not been invited to any meetings between Trump and Russia

NEWS DESK

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has reportedly called an emergency summit for European leaders to discuss Ukraine as President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to begin peace talks. Trump said last week that he expects to hold several meetings to negotiate an end to the Ukraine war. "We ultimately expect to meet," Trump said from the Oval Office. "In fact, we expect that he'll come here, and I'll go there, and we're going to meet also, probably in Saudi Arabia. The first time we'll meet in Saudi Arabia." Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelensky said that Ukraine had not been invited to any meetings between Trump and Russia. "It is strange to hold a meeting in such format before we had consultations with our strategic partners," Zelensky said Saturday at the Munich Security Conference. Macron has reportedly responded to the news by calling European leaders to an emergency meeting in Paris, according to several outlets. "I'm very glad that President Macron has called our leaders to Paris," Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said at the Munich conference on Saturday, according to Politico. Sikorski said the meeting would involve discussions about the implications of Trump's actions "in a very serious fashion."

"President Trump has a method of operating which the Russians call razvedkaboymem - reconnaissance through battle. You push and you see what happens, and then you change your position... And we need to respond," he said. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the summit will be a "once in a generation" national security moment. Macron had previously expressed a willingness to work with Trump when Trump was elected in November. "Congratulations, President @realDonaldTrump," Macron wrote at the time. "Ready to work together as we did for four years. With your convictions and mine. With respect and ambition. For more peace and prosperity."

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- ENDOSCOPY / COLONOSCOPY
- ECG
- DAY EMERGENCY ROOM
- OPERATION THEATRES
- DAY CARE SURGERY
- NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)
- DIAGNOSTIC LAB
- ULTRASOUND
- ECG
- OPD
- PHARMACY
- General Physician Services
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- Dermatology & Aesthetics
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- Urology
- Pediatrics & Child Health
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- Neurology
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