

# 

Thursday, March 06, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Canadian FM: Trump's remarks on 51st state 'not a joke anymore'

**Detailed News On Page-08** 

**Armed forces** are not a part of judiciary

**Detailed News On Page-08** 



Smith ends **ODI** career after CT exit

**Detailed News On Page-06** 



Breather for Shehbaz govt

# PM thanks Trump for praising Pak role against terrorism

"We remain steadfast in our resolve and unwavering commitment to combating terrorism," says Premier Shehbaz

Ansar M Bhatti / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has thanked US President Donald Trump for acknowledging and appreciating Pakistan's role and support in counter-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan. In a post on his X handle on Wednesday, he said Pakistan would continue to partner closely with the United States in securing regional peace and stability. His remarks came hours after the US president thanked the Pakistani government for apprehending the "top terrorist" involved in the 2021 Kabul airport bombing. The attack marked a tragic end to America's longest war in Afghanistan, claiming the lives of 13 US service members and around 170 Afghans who were desperately trying to escape Kabul after the Taliban takeover.

Identifying the terrorist as Shareefullah, a top-tier operational commander of Daesh, the prime minister mentioned that the militant was an Afghanistan National and was apprehended in a successful operation conducted in the Pakistan-Afghan border region.

As is well-known, the premier said, Pain counter-terrorism efforts aimed at denying safe havens to terrorists and militant groups the space to operate

Briefs

**Explosion** 

kills 4 in

Khuzdar

Injured and dead bodies

have been transferred to

the nearby Naal hospital

**DNA** 

KHUZDAR: At least four

dead, five others injured ex-

plosion rocked tehsil Naal

of Khuzdar, Baluchistan. Ac-

cording to police officials,

the vehicle parked nearby

the spot of explosion caught

fire soon after the incident.

The police officials further

stated that the injured and

dead bodies have been

transferred to the nearby

Naal hospital. Earlier today,

Pakistan security forces

thwarted terrorist attack on

Bannu Cantt, Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa. According to mili-

tary's public relations wing,

Pakistan security forces

killed 16 Khawarij mili-

tants including four suicide

bombers to foil a cowardly

attack on Bannū Cantt.

NZ thump SA

to set up final

with India

The highly-anticipated final is scheduled

to be played in Dubai on March 9

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Anchoring centu-

ries by Rachin Ravindra and

Kane Williamson, followed

by a combined bowling ef-

fort, led New Zealand to a

thumping 50-run victory

over New Zealand in the

second semi-final of the

ICC Men's Champions Tro-

phy 2025 here at the Gadd-

afi Stadium on Wednesday.

Chasing a daunting 363-run

target, South Africa's bat-

ting unit amassed 312/9 in

their allotted overs despite

David Miller's blitz at the

backend. The Proteas got

off to a shaky start to their

innings as opening batter

Ryan Rickelton (17) was

dismissed by Matt Henry

in just the fifth over with

20 runs on the board.

## Dar speaks Waltz Pak seeking broadbased ties with US

Ishaq Dar also welcomed Trump's decision to retrieve military equipment from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with US National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, sources disclosed. The Foreign Office spokesperson stated that the US advisor conveyed President Donald Trump's appreciation for Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism. Foreign Minister Dar congratulated Waltz on assuming office and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its broad-based relations with the United States under the Trump administration. Reaffirming Pakistan's dedication to counterterrorism cooperation with the US, Dar also welcomed President Trump's decision to retrieve American military equipment left behind in Afghanistan. Both sides expressed their resolve to enhance collaboration in the fields of information technology, energy, and minerals. Additionally, they agreed to continue discussions on trade, investment, climate change, and health as part of a broader agenda in the coming days. - DNA

against any other country. "We remain steadfast in our resolve and unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations," kistan has always played a critical role the prime minister added. In this effort, he said, Pakistan has rendered great

Continued on Page 06

## After Eid PTI to join opp for anti-govt protest

The PTI leader also condemned the expansion of the federal cabinet, calling it a reward for 'turncoats'

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

senior leader Senator Shibli Faraz has announced that the party, along with the opposition alliance, will protest against the government ofter Fidul Fite. In a modic bring from ernment after Eidul Fitr. In a media briefing outside the court in Peshawar, Shibli Faraz stated that the alliance with the opposition is already in the works and that negotiations will be concluded in the coming days. "After Eid, we will all unite to protest against this government," he said. Shibli Faraz criticised the government's one-year tenure, calling ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Powit the "darkest period in Pakistan's histo- er Awais Ahmed Leghari has said the ry." He pointed out that the government government is engaged in negotiations passed several laws, including the PECA with Independent Power Producers law and the 26th Amendment, not through democracy but by using force. "Nothing has media on Wednesday, he said the pribeen accomplished except wasting billions mary objective of these negotiations is of rupees on advertisements," he added. to maintain the integrity of contracts The PTI leader also condemned the expansion of the federal cabinet, claiming it was kistan. The Minister for Power said the a reward for 'turncoats' and 'miscreants.' revision of solar net metering policy is Continued on Page 06

Govt engaged in talks with IPPs to

policy will apply to new installations rather than existing solar systems

**DNA** 

Continued on Page 06

## He clarified that the new net metering

(IPPs) to renegotiate terms. Talking to while ensuring the best interests of Pa-

# **Pak expected to pass first** review of \$7bn IMF loan

IMF team is in Pakistan to meet with govt officials and assess their progress in meeting loan conditions

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is expected to successfully complete the initial assessment of its \$7 billion loan programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as it has taken sufficient steps to boost revenue, according to officials and diplomats cited by a foreign news outlet. Islamabad secured the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) last summer to help claw its way out of an economic crisis. The programme has played a key role in stabilising Pakistan's economy and the government has said the country is on course for a long-term recovery. The News reported on Wednesday that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government has approved a law to tax agricultural income, attempted to sell a stake in state-owned Pakistan International Airlines and taken steps to meet an ambitious tax target, and have presented these developments to the IMF, the people said, asking not to be identified

Delay in audit of state institutions worries IMF

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A delay in the audit process of state institutions has worried the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) Ajmal Gondal told a meeting of the Publics Account Committee (PAC) on Wednesday. The development comes as discussions began this week between the IMF and Pakistan for the first biannual review of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility to address governance and corruption vulnerabilities. While addressing today's meeting, AGP Gondal disclosed that the IMF had expressed its concerns over nearly 600,000 pending audit paras.

Continued on Page 06



#### Government committed to completely eradicate polio

PM appreciated the cooperation of security forces during the polio campaign

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the government's commitment to complete eradication of polio from the country. Chairing a meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday, he praised the timely identification of pono cases and the negative trend in these cases, acknowledging the efforts of all provincial authorities. Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the complete eradication of polio from the country will only be possible through cooperation between the federal and provincial governments.

**Continued on Page 06** 

#### UAE FM calls DPM/FM Dar

DPM/FM extended warm Ramadan wishes to FM, the UAE leadership

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD:Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a phone call from UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan who conveyed heartfelt Ramadan greetings to the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as the leadership and citizens of Pakistan. In return, DPM/ FM extended warm Ramadan wishes to H.H. DPM/ FM, the UAE leadership, and its solidarity with the people of the UAE. The two leaders also discussed the results of the recent visit by H.H. the Crown Prince of the UAE to Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06

All 16 terrorists killed

# Afghan nationals involved in Bannu attack, says ISPR

Displaying unwavering courage and professional excellence, our valiant troops engaged the intruders with precision, eliminating all sixteen terrorists, including four suicide bombers. In this intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers, after putting up a heroic resistance, embraced martyrdom in the line of duty

STAFF REPORT

thwarted a cowardly terrorist attack on Bannu Cantonment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing all 16 militants who attempted to intrude into the facility on March 4, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday. "In this intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers, after putting up a heroic resistance, embraced martyrdom in the line of duty," the military's media wing added. However, in the exchange of fire, five soldiers were also martyred while putting up a heroic resistance, the military's media wing said. As many as thirteen civilians were also martyred and 32 others were injured as a result of destruction caused by suicide blasts during the clash.

Continued on Page 06

#### Gandapur urges RAWALPINDI: Security forces successfully thwarted a cowardly terrorist attack on Ran-Afghanistan issues

Vows to find a lasting solution to security issues in Kurram district

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has stressed that all issues with Afghanistan should be resolved through negotiations. He criticised the federal government for not responding to proposed Terms of References (TORs) for talks with Afghanistan. Addressing the

Continued on Page 06

## US releases \$ 397 million for Pakistan F-16s fleet

The waivers meant those funds should have been allowed to be spent

Foreign Desk

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration released \$5.3 billion in previously frozen foreign aid, mostly for security and counternarcotic programs, according to a list of exemptions reviewed by Reuters that included only limited humanitarian relief. The Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, focused on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, received 17 exemptions worth more than \$30.4 million, the list showed. Also released was \$397 million for a US-backed program in nuclear-armed Pakistan that a congressional aide said monitored Islamabad's use of USmade F-16 fighter jets to ensure they are

employed for counterterrorism operations and not against rival India. President Donald Trump ordered a 90-day pause on foreign aid shortly after taking office on January 20, halting funding for everything from programs that fight starvation and deadly diseases to providing shelters for millions of displaced people across the globe. The freeze sparked a scramble by US officials and humanitarian organizations for exemptions to keep programs going. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who has said all foreign assistance must align with Trump's "America First" priorities, issued waivers in late January on military aid to Israel and Egypt, the top US allies in the Middle East, and for life-saving humanitarian aid, including food.

Continued on Page 06

## **MARCH 2025**

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on: www.centreline.com.pk www.dnanews.com.pl www.islamabadpost.com.pk

🏏 @Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza, G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Continued on Page 06



# Govt to build 500,000 houses in 5 years, pledges CM

During the meeting, the CM directed authorities to rehabilitate and improve 23 previous housing schemes developed by the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) across 19 districts. She also instructed the immediate release of funds to accelerate these efforts

**DNA** 

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the Punjab government is determined to build 500,000 houses in five years for deserving individuals.

The CM chaired a special meeting to review the 3-marla free plot scheme, here on Wednesday. The meeting focused on providing plots to deserving individuals along with financial support to help them construct their homes.

During the meeting, the CM directed authorities to rehabilitate and improve 23 previous housing schemes developed by the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) across 19 districts. She also instructed the immediate release of funds to

accelerate these efforts. Emphasizing the significance of housing for the underprivileged, CM Punjab expressed her deep commitment to the cause, stating, "Providing shelter to the homeless is a major concern. It ing built under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme.

Earlier, DG PHATA briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of the housing initiative. He informed her that loan repayments under the program have begun, with a 100 percent repayment rate recorded so far. He further updated that 9,661 houses are nearing completion across Punjab under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program. CM Punjab directed PHATA authorities to ensure the

#### completion of the target by March. brings me great joy to see homes be-CDA attributed 40pc increase of water tanker price

ISLAMABAD: The Director General (DG) Water Management of Capital Development Authority (CDA), Sardar Khan Zimri, on Wednesday, attributed the increase in water tanker price from 300 to 500 was to cover the rising costs of vehicle maintenance and transportation expenses. Talking to media, he stated that the price adjustment was necessary to cover operational costs incurred during the distribution of water to households through the tanker. He estimated, "the total cost of approximately 4,000 rupees is incurred for each water tanker, covering everything from refilling to delivery," adding that a single tanker, which serves three households, is charged just 500 rupees per delivery. While on the other hand, the residents of Islamabad demanding a more efficient and streamlined water supply system, urging authorities to address longstanding distribution issues instead of imposing additional financial burdens. In reaction to that Zimri explained that the water supply opens every day to all CDA sectors at a specific time, while on the contrary, it is needed for the citizens to use water with extra care.-DNA

#### Large convoy of 225 supply vehicles reaches **Parachinar**

PESHAWAR:To cope with ongoing issues in Kurram District, where communication channels remain disrupted, the government continues its efforts to meet the needs of the local population. In this regard, a major supply convoy comprising 225 vehicles reached Parachinar, said the district administration on Wednesday. The convoy includes essential food supplies as well as support the region. Additionally, under the peace authorities agreement. are actively demolishing bunkers and filling connected trenches, with 272 bunkers already dismantled. The phased process of surrendering weapons and arms to the state has also begun. So far, over 100 miscreants have been taken into custody.-APP

#### Commissioner reviews food prices in Sahulat Bazaar

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi, Engr Aamir Khattak on Wednesday visited Ramadan Sahulat bazaar set up in Allama Iqbal Park Double Road, where he reviewed the prices, availability and quality of essential commodities. According to the details, the Commissioner also conversed with customers, inquiring about the facilities provided in the Bazaar. Additional Deputy Commissioner General gave a briefing on the current and required stock of commodities, saying that efforts were being made by the administration to provide quality and affordable items.-APP

## WSSC lifts 4300 tonnes garbage during cleanliness drive

**DNA** 

Dera Ismail Khan :Water and Sanitation Services Company DI Khan had removed over 4300 tonnes garbage under its special three-week long cleanliness campaign in the On the directions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, the Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) DI Khan had launched the three-week special cleanliness drive under Khyher Pakhtunkh. wa Chief Minister's "Awami Agenda" program with aim to make the city clean and healthy so that the citizens can offer prayers in a clean environment during the month of Ramazan. While talking to APP, , Chairman of the WSSC board of Directors Naimat Ullah Khan said that the purpose of the cleanliness drive was to create a sense of responsibility among Company's Supervisor citizens to keep their environment and surroundings neat and clean.

He said that during the cleanliness drive 16 km major drains and 25 km minor drains were cleaned, while over 4300 tonnes of garbage were removed from the city. Chairman expressed his satisfaction on the performance of the staff and sanitary workers and said that all the available resources will be utilized to provide best sanitation services to the citizens of DI Khan. Chairman said the WSSC-DI Khan has practically proved its claims through hard work and performance, which is commendable. highly He added that besides this achievement, responsibility has come to further improve operational activities and work with full devotion and dedication. The

Abdur Rehman Saddozai said that main objective of this campaign is to improve the quality of sanitation across the city and to highlight the awareness of environmental protection among the people. During the cleanliness drive, special cleaning arrangements have also been made by the WSSC in public places, markets, and other important areas. Apart from this, seminars, walks, and other events were also being organized as part of the campaign to create pub-

The local people have also actively participated in this campaign and are playing their role in the cleaning work. e appealed to the citi-

zens not to throw garbage in drains but it should be placed in designated places so that it could be disposed off easily.

## **PFA** discards 300 sachet banned gutka

MULTAN: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has intensified its inspection drive across food points during Ramadan to ensure availability of safe and hygienic food. Under the leadership of Director Operations Zubair Ijaz, the PFA conducted surprise inspections at renowned restaurants, fat rendering units, and various other food establishments. During the crackdown, authorities confiscated 300 sachets of banned gutka, 50 liters of substandard oil, 20kg of expired bakery items, and 10-kg of expired turmeric powder, all of which were immediately discarded.

As part of its enforcement measures, the PFA imposed fine Rs 345,000 on eight food business owners for violating food safety regulations. Additionally, a fat rendering unit was sealed in Industrial Estate due to the absence of traceability records for processed oil, and 2,200 liters of oil were seized. A bakery on Suraj Kund road was fined Rs. 100,000 for poor hygiene, including the presence of expired food items and pest infestation in the processing area. A fat rendering unit at Chungi No 14 was fined Rs. 30,000 for operating without a food license and producing oil under unhygienic conditions. A renowned restaurant on Abdali Road was penalized Rs. 80.000 for storing food in dirty freezers and using open, unprotected spices. A famous restaurant in Gulgasht was fined Rs 50,000 for using rancid oil in food preparation.-APP

#### KHARIAN: Director Dunya Consultant Mandi Bahauddin Chaudhry Shahzeb Munawar presenting gift to President Kharian Bar Association Chaudhry Mehboob Dhola along with his team at MoU signing ceremony between Dunya Consultant Mandi Bahauddin and Kharian Bar Association. Pakistan: A hidden gem of dates world

DNA

PESHAWAR: Sajjad Khan, a 42-year-old dates vendor from Nowshera District, is finding himself all smiles this Ramadan. A once struggling small business owner, Sajjad is now making the most of the lucrative dates market in Peshawar, where the fruit is flying off the shelves faster than he can stock it. Assisted by his two sons at the Pabbi fruit market, Sajjad's stall is busier than ever, with customers lining up to buy dates before Iftar. "The demand for dates this year has been overwhelming despite their high prices,' said Sajjad, as he carefully measured out Dhaki and Punjgor dates for customers. He added that these

local varieties have seen a surge in popularity due to their exceptional taste and energy-boosting properties. The fact that these dates are more affordable than international varieties like Aiwa or Iranian dates has only added to their appeal. According to Fazal Wahab Khan, Director of Agriculture Research in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan is the fifth-largest producer of dates globally, after Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Pakistan's fertile land and favorable climate have made it an ideal location for dates cultivation, with the regions of DI Khan, Kech, and Panjgur producing some of the finest varieties. "Approximately 60 types of dates are produced in Balochistan alone," said Wa-

hab Khan, explaining that Dhaki dates from DI Khan are especially sought after for their unique flavor. Pakistan currently produces between 550,000 and 650,000 metric tons of dates annually, and with the right financial incentives for farmers. this production could easily increase. Pakistan's dates aren't just popular in local markets-they are making waves in the Gulf states as well. Due to their affordability and distinctive taste, Pakistani dates are quickly becoming a favorite among international buyers. "Demand from the Gulf has increased significantly," Wahab Khan added. While the fruit's popularity is boosting local businesses like Sajjad's, its health benefits are also a key factor in its demand during Ramadan.

## Law ministry extends Intl coop for legal reforms

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Over the past year, the Ministry of Law and lustice has actively advanced international legal cooperation, anti-corruption efforts, and rule of law through high-level engagements.

As per the official document, the law minister met with justice ministers and officials from Qatar, Belarus, Iran, and ambassadors from Turkey, Japan, EU, US, Australia, Azerbaijan, Sweden, and the UN, discussing legal reforms, governance, and human rights. He also led Pakistan's dele-

gation at the OIC Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting in Doha and addressed the SCO Ministers of Justice Meeting, reaffirming regional legal cooperation. The ministry signed MoUs the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to educate lawyers on competition law and with SCBA and the Housing Ministry for lawyer welfare. Engaged with the Implementation Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) & Christian Lawyers Association (CLA) on minority rights protection.

Similarly, it also signed MoUs with the CCP to educate lawyers on competition law and with SCBA and the Housing Ministry for lawyer welfare. Engaged with the Implementation Minority Rights Forum (IMRF). The lawyers have consistently praised the government's legal initiatives, recognizing them as pivotal in strengthening the rule of law, enhancing iudicial efficiency, and promoting equitable access to justice. Following the successful resolution of cases under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction, the U.S. Embassy awarded certificates of appreciation to the Law Ministry for its constant hard work and dedication.

## NBF's museum showcases Pakistan's thriving literary heritage

ISLAMABAD:NBF Book Museum emerged as a beacon of Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, showcasing the nation's most revered literary and intellectual treasures. Since its inception in 2010 and subsequent renovation in 2013, the museum had become a beloved destination for bibliophiles, students, and literary enthusiasts who celebrated Pakistan's vibrant reading culture. With its diverse collection of ancient manuscripts, rare books, and statues of prominent national literary figures, the museum once afforded visitors an engaging and insightful experience. Quranic manuscripts and translations in various languages were placed in the museum, Books authored by renowned Sufi saints, poets, and literary figures. The museum's distinctive features included Book Tree and Book Truck, further capture the attention of visitors. Talking to APP, Managing Director of NBF, Murad Ali Mohmand, highlighted the museum's significance, stating, "This is a unique book museum where visitors can explore ancient Quranic manuscripts, historical literature, and the cultural essence of all four provinces, presented in regional languages. Statues of national heroes and other rare items have been preserved in their original form." He revealed that Quranic manuscripts at the museum were crafted using wood, leather, and cotton, reflecting the craftsmanship of ancient times. "A dedicated corner showcases the heritage of Mohenjo Daro, Harappa, and Taxila, featuring thousand-year-old written scripts that predate the invention of print," he added. Moreover, statue of the celebrated literary figure Mirza Ghalib, along with an intricate depiction of his haveli in Gali Qasim Jaan, Ballimaran in old Delhi, Pakistan's national heroes, with statues and rare photographs of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as well as exclusive publications detailing his life and leadership. Literary icons such as Allama Iqbal, Saadat Hasan Manto, Hafeez Jalandhari, and Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi statues were also placed in the museum, Qasmi's personal belongings, including his mug, glass, pen, and waistcoat-generously donated by his family-were displayed as a tribute to his literary contributions. "One of the museum's most interactive features is the Book Tree, where visitors leave handwritten messages during various NBF events," he told. "This unique initiative reflects the museum's role in promoting a love, peace for literature and intellectual engagement," he shared. According to the MD NBF, the museum had welcomed frequent visits from CSP officers, as well as students and faculty members from educational institutions across Pakistan, who appreciated its beautifully curated environment. "We aim to send a message of peace through this book museum," he added. Visitors had also expressed deep appreciation for the museum's literary ambiance. -APP

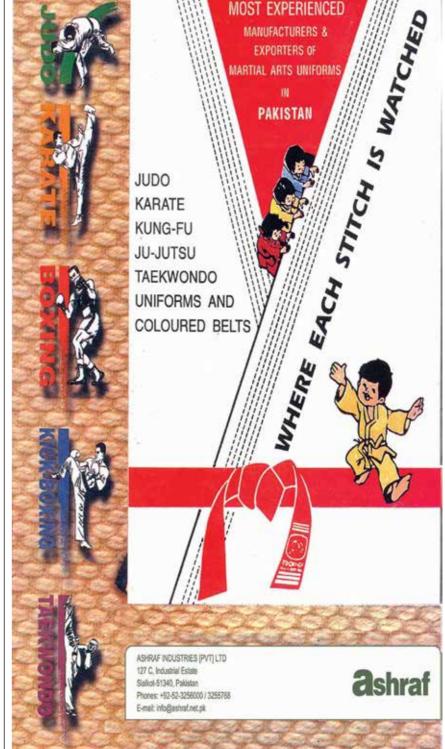
### PNS ASLAT participates in Komodo 25 in Indonesia



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship ASLAT participated in 5th edition of the Multinational Naval Exercise KOMODO-25, organized by Indonesian Navy in Bali, Indonesia. Themed 'Maritime Partnership for Peace and Stability', the exercise brought together navies from approximately 38 countries to enhance maritime cooperation and strengthen regional security. PNS ASLAT is currently on an Overseas Deployment (OSD). The ship's ac-

tive participation in Exercise KO-MODO-25 underscores Pakistan Navy's commitment to international maritime collaboration and its role in promoting peace, security, and stability in the region. The exercise commenced with a grand Fleet Review, where PNS ASLAT, alongside other warships, helicopters, and aircraft from participating nations, showcased naval capabilities and demonstrated interoperability. Prior to the exercise, PNS ASLAT visited Colombo, Sri Lanka. During the port call, the Commanding Officer of PNS ASLAT called on the Commander of Western Naval Area and other senior military officials. Discussions focused on matters of mutual interest, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties in all spheres. The Commanding Officer also conveyed good wishes of Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, to the people of Sri Lanka in general and the Sri Lankan Navy in particular. Pakistan Navy ships are regularly deployed under the Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) to fulfill international obligations for maritime security, ensure freedom of navigation on the high seas, and safeguard global commons. The visit of PNS ASLAT to Sri Lanka and Indonesia will significantly contribute to enhancing naval collaboration between the friendly nations.



#### National Days and Armed Forces Days

#### **MARCH**

March 01/Bosnia National Day

March 03/Bulgaria National Day

March 06/ Ghana

Independence Day

March 12 /Mauri-

tius National Day

March 17/Ireland St. Patricks Day

March 20/Tunisia Independence Day

March 21/Namibia National Day

March 25/Greece National Day

March 26/Bangladesh National Day

March 27/Myanmar Armed Forces Day

### Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott.......051- 2826121 Monal.......0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



#### **Emergency**



Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	.9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.	.5555489
CAA	.9281092



#### Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	onal 4603666

### Denartments

Departments		
CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment F	Board 9270151-3	

#### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Ahsan calls for private sector-led growth to strengthen economy

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that Pakistan was on the brink of a major breakthrough in tourism and hospitality, with its landscapes and heritage sites gaining global recognition

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday emphasized that Pakistan's economic future depended on a shift towards private sector-led growth and a nationwide focus on skill development. Addressing the COTHM Global Convocation here, he said Pakistan must prepare its workforce to meet the demands of a changing global economy and that the private sector must play a central role in driving investment, business expansion, and economic progress. The minister said that no country has achieved sustained growth without the active involvement of the private sector and a skilled workforce. He said Pakistan's economic challenges required a fresh approach where the government facilitates businesses, encourages investment, and equips



skills. He pointed out that while Pakistan has immense potential, it needed structured reforms in education and industry to compete with economies such as Malaysia, Thailand and India. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that Pakistan was on the brink of a major breakthrough

in tourism and hospitality, with its landscapes and heritage sites gaining global recognition. He said despite progress, Pakistan has yet to fully capitalize on this potential due to gaps in infrastructure and skilled human resources.

a security-challenged country to a growing tourist destination was made possible by the sacrifices of the armed forces, but the next phase of development requires strategic investments in human capital and digital connectivity. He said Uraan Pakistan initiative

tiative was focused on strengthening key sectors, promoting innovation, and ensuring that Pakistan's youth are equipped to compete in international markets. He said a strong emphasis was being placed on technical and vocational training, IT education, digital skills, and apprenticeship programs to create employment opportunities and bridge the skills gap. The minister said Pakistanis were already excelling in the global hospitality and service industries, but there was a need to expand training programs, integrate modern technologies, and establish stronger industry-academia partnerships. He said Pakistan's ability to grow economically depended on national unity and a clear economic vision. He said Pakistan, as a nuclear nation with strategic importance,

provided a roadmap for Pakistan's

economic takeoff, aiming to trans-

form the country into a \$3trillion

economy by 2047. He said this ini-

# and a clear economic vision. He said Pakistan, as a nuclear nation with strategic importance, must now shift its focus towards becoming an economic power. RCB to start Surveillance on

encroachment RAWALPINDI:After clearing the encroachments from the main bazaars, the authorities in Rawalpind Cantonment Board (RCB) have decided to launch a continuous follow up mechanism. A surveillance team will be deployed in the bazaars to stop repeated encroachments. The decision has been taken to maintain smooth mechanized and pedestrian flow. The RCB's enforcement cell launched a comprehensive anti-encroachment operation during which a number of main roads and bazaars were cleared of encroachments. The enforcement personnel have destroyed a large number of sheds, concrete encroaches, signboards etc in Tench Bhatta, Range Road, Mughalabad, Kamalabad, Peoples Colony and other areas. "This clean up operation needs a strong follow up to have long lasting effects", said Arshad Khan, Add'l CEO RCB while talking to APP here on Wednesday. Arshad Khan said that additional deployment was being done in the areas, cleared by RCB. He further informed that the personnel would remain in the bazaars hideously to monitor the repetition of encroaching and to report to the RCB's control room for necessary action. "The moving carts and street vendors add to the irregular crowd in the bazaars, the deployment will specially focus on parking and street vending issues", he said. The Additional CEO also informed that the crowd management in Cantt areas was already underway in which issues of congestion, encroachment and parking were being resolved. "There were some complaints from the citizens regarding overcharging of parking fees, which have been addressed", Arshad said adding that no one would be allowed for overcharging of parking fees. On the other hand, the anti- encroachment operation is also continued. The enforcement personnel visited Range Road on Wednesday in which extravagantly contracted sheds and other encroachments were destroyed. -DNA

#### Law ministry proposes projects of linking 13 jails with courts

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Law and Justice was informed on Tuesday that the ministry has proposed projects for linking 13 major jails in Pakistan to courts. The Senate body met here under the chairmanship of lawmaker Muhammad Bashir Virk here while the other members, Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and officials from ministry of law and justice were also in attendance. During the meeting, the law ministry also withdrew the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Amendment Bill, which proposed to increase the NAB remand from 14 days to 40 days. The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law approved 5 projects. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that there is a joint session of Parliament on Monday, after which there will be a 10-day session. –APP

# Services' export up by 6.16% in Jul-Jan

ISLAMABAD: The export of various services witnessed 6.16 percent increase during the first seven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to the PBS data, Pakistan earned \$4.748 billion from the export of services during July-January 2024-25 as compared to services' export of \$4.472 billion in July-January 2023-24. The services' imports also increased by 9.15 percent during the months under review and were recorded at \$6.678 billion as compared to the imports of \$6.118 billion in July-January 2023-24. Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit surged by 17.27 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. The services trade deficit was recorded at \$1.929 billion against the deficit of \$1.645 billion in last year.-APP

# Pakistan emerging as global tech hub

Broadband penetration surged by 5%, with over 139 million subscribers benefiting from enhanced connectivity. Policies supporting AI, cloud computing, and digital entrepreneurship are transforming the landscape, empowering startups and freelancers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is rapidly transforming into a global tech hub, driven by record-breaking IT exports, policy-driven innovation, and a thriving digital workforce over the past year. The government's commitment to digital advancement aims to create a more connected, secure, and innovative future for the country. The Ministry of IT and Telecom remains dedicated to positioning Pakistan as a leading digital economy by fostering innovation. expanding connectivity, and ensuring universal access to telecom services. According to official documents, "These efforts are creating a sustainable digital ecosystem, making Pakistan a rising

tech hub." Over the past

year, Pakistan's IT and telecom sector has witnessed remarkable progress, fueled by government initiatives promoting digitalization and innovation. Key achievements during the one year of the government included Pakistan's tech industry earned a record \$3.223 billion in FY 2023-24, reflecting a 24% from the pr year. Broadband penetration surged by 5%, with over 139 million subscribers benefiting from enhanced connectivity. Policies supporting AI, cloud computing, and digital entrepreneurship are transforming the landscape, empowering startups and freelancers. The Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP) drives digital infrastructure

expansion, boosts IT exports, and enhances digital skills. Pakistan has made significant strides in e-governance, cybersecurity, and digital services, further solidifying its position in the global digital landscape. Due to efforts of the government, Pakistan now ranks in Tier 1 of the Global Cybersecurity Index and in the UN E-Government Development Index. The widespread adoption of e-office solutions has reduced decision-making time by 70%, streamlining governance. The launch of the Hajj App and One Patient One ID system has enhanced public service efficiency. Over 600,000 individuals have been trained under DigiSkills.pk, equipping the

workforce with essential digital expertise. More than 166 startups have emerged, generating over 5,000 jobs and attracting Rs. 260 million in investments. The NGIRI program has funded 1,281 projects, driving academic innovation and technological advancements. Over 1,500 certifications were awarded in AI, cybersecurity, and puting, boosting employability. Pakistan is gearing up for 5G with a scheduled spectrum auction and the implementation of the National Fiberization Policy. Other telecom advancements included: Broadband Expansion: The OFC program has provided 4.1 million people with improved connectivity. Regulatory Improvements.-DNA

# Ramazan fervor grips mosques, markets

ISLAMABAD: As Ramazan celebrations continue across the country. Pakistanis remain steadfast in their devotion and prayer, with mosques filled with faithful for saying taraweeh prayers and communities coming together to break their fasts and share in the blessings of the holy month, fostering a spirit of togetherness. According to a report aired on PTV News, a resident of Karachi, Ayesha said "I love the sense of community that Ramazan brings, everyone comes together to share iftar and prayers. "The mosques are so beautifully lit up at night, it's a breathtaking sight", in Islamabad, another resident commented. The report added that the country's mosques and religious institutions are witnessing a significant increase in attendance, with millions of Pakistanis participating in Ramazan-related activities and events. Special iftar dinners are also a highlight of the month, with families gathering at home to share traditional dishes. "We have a big iftar dinner at our house every year, with all our relatives and friends," said a resident of Quetta. "It is a wonderful way to break our fast and spend time together." Many restaurants also offer special iftar deals and buffets, which are popular among citizens. "We go to our favorite restaurant every year for iftar, they have an amazing spread of food," said a resident of Lahore. Mosques are also hosting special iftar dinners, which are attended by hundreds of people. "Our mosque has a big iftar dinner every night, it is a wonderful way to bring the community together," said a resident of Islamabad. In all major cities, shops and markets are preparing special iftar and sehri food to attract citizens. In Karachi Tariq Road and Gulshan-e-Iqbal are offering a wide range of traditional iftar items like samosas, pakoras and kebabs. In Lahore, the famous food street is buzzing with activity, with restaurants and food stalls offering special iftar deals and discounts. In Islamabad, the superstores on Jinnah Avenue are stocked with a variety of sehri and iftar items, including dates, fruits and traditional desserts. In Peshawar, the markets on Chowk Yadgar are filled with the aroma of traditional iftar items like kebabs, haleem, and falooda. In Quetta, the shops on Shahrah-e-Iqbal are offering special iftar deals on traditional Balochi dishes like sambosas, kachoris and dumplings. Around mosques, vendors are selling various prayer-related items, including prayer mats, rozaries (Tasbih) and Islamic books. "I come to the mosque every year to buy a new prayer mat and some rozaries for my family," said a resident of Islamabad. Kids are also excitedly observing their first fasts, known as "Roza Kushai".—DNA

# Atif urges for giving legitimate rights to Diamer-Bhasha Dam victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that legitimate rights should be given to the victims of Dia Mur Bhasha Dams so that the month-long protest can end peacefully.

The MoU signed by the victims with the federal and provincial governments should be implemented. So far some people have received compensation in this regard and the demands of

the remaining people should also be accepted. We will also submit our proposal at the federation level in our budget proposals in the upcoming budget and we will also discuss the issues and proposals related to Bhasha Dam and Bunji Dam. He expressed these views while speaking at an important meeting held at FPCCI Former Vice President FPC-

CI and FPCCI Convener (ICT

& GB) on CPEC Special Eco-

nomic Zone Johar Ali Rakhi

(T.I) said that the agreement

reached between the victims

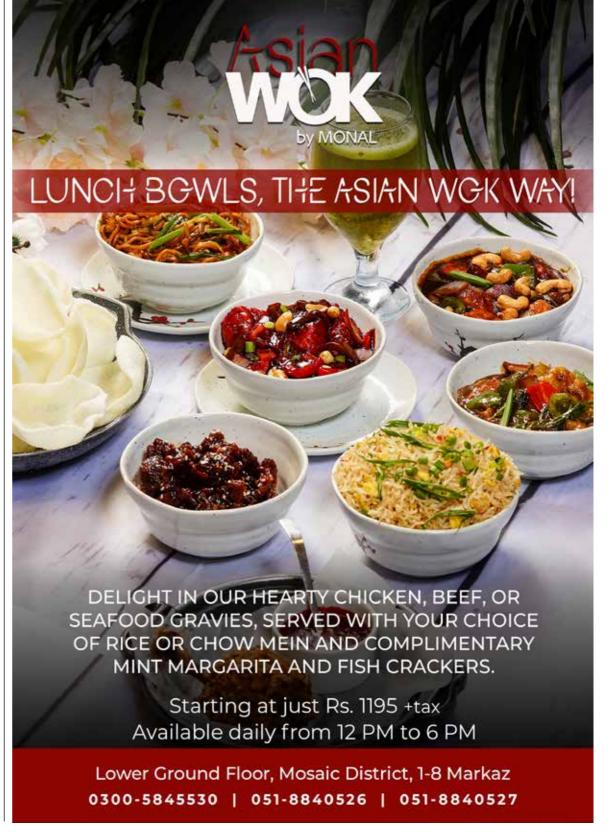
and the government people

awatts of electricity to the system, but the victims have not vet been compensated, which is why they are protesting. Apart from this, the surveys of another Bunji Dam which can generate 7100 megawatts of electricity are in the final stages and this dam comes on the CPEC route where millions of dollars have been allocated for the energy sector. We demand that if the government pays attention to these two dams, the ongoing energy crisis in the country can end.

is now going to be completed

with the construction of the

dam which will add 4500 meg-





**Reduction in** 

inflation rate to nine-

### Briefs

#### Wah Medical College convocation

WAH CANTT:Wah Medical College, in collaboration with the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), has hosted the convocation ceremony for the MBBS session 2020-2024. The prestigious event was held at Wah Medical College, marking a significant milestone in the academic journey of the graduating doctors. Lt Gen Arshad Naseem, HI(M), Surgeon General/ Director General, Medical Services (Inter Services) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Maj Gen Muhammad Kashif Azad, HI(M), Director General (Commercial), POF was the Guest of Honour. Lt Gen Wasim Alamgir, HI(M), (Retd), Vice Chancellor of NUMS, conferred degrees upon the graduates, recognizing them as the future of Pakistan's healthcare system. Maj Gen Abdul Khaliq Naveed, HI(M), (Retd), Principal Wah Medical College shared key milestones in academic excellence, research advancements, faculty development, and infrastructure improvements. Lt Gen Arshad Naseem, HI(M), while addressing the graduating doctors and guests, emphasized the importance of professionalism, research, and patient-centred care in the future medical careers of the graduating doctors. Convocation ceremony was attended by senior faculty members, parents and distinguished guests who celebrated the achievements of the graduates. -APP

# IG reviews security at mosques

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Inspector General (IG) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi visited various areas of the city on Wednesday to review security arrangements at mosques and imambargahs during Fajr prayers. An official told APP that IG Rizvi encouraged officers performing alert duty to ensure the safety of citizens and appreciated their dedication. IG Rizvi said Islamabad Police remain committed to their duty at all times, prioritizing the safety of citizens and ensuring a prompt response to every call, "Protecting places of worship and worshippers is our sacred duty," IG Rizvi emphasized, urging all officers to stay in the field and perform their duties with devotion. IG Rizvi further warned that negligence in duty would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

# Newly appointed cabinet members call on PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held separate meetings with the newly appointed Ministers of State Abdul Rehman Kanju, Talal Chaudhry and Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar. During the meetings, the prime minister felicitated them on joining the federal cabinet and extended his best wishes for their new responsibilities. The cabinet members thanked the prime minister for his trust and support.—APP

# Pakistan successfully hosted multilateral moots, says MOFA

Pakistan actively promoted its positive global image to boost tourism, foster people-to-people connections, and enhance trade and business relations, a report of MOFA highlighted

the incumbent government's one-year performance

#### MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), last year, focused on revitalizing diplomatic ties and expanding engagement globally as the high-level visits and the successful hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization-Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad highlighted these efforts. On the economic front, Pakistan attracted investments through the Special Investment Facilitation Council, with active support from its missions and consulates. "Pakistan remains committed to safeguarding national security and geostrategic interests, including the peaceful resolution of Jammu & Kashmir in line with UNSC resolutions. The country prioritizes strengthening economic and commercial ties with the international community while ensuring the welfare of the Pakistani diaspora and optimizing resources to facilitate them," it was added. Additionally, Pakistan actively promoted its positive global image to boost tourism, foster people-to-people connections, and enhance trade and business relations, a report of MOFA highlighted

the incumbent government's one-year performance. Throughout 2024, Pakistan actively worked to strengthen diplomatic ties worldwide while continuing its political and diplomatic support for the Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine causes at international forums, particularly the UN. Pakistan extended its strong political, moral and diplomatic support for the people of Jammu & Kashmir at all relevant international forums, especially the UN and the OIC. The prime minister highlighted the Jammu and Kashmir issue in his address before the United Nations General Assembly. The deputy prime minister/foreign minister emphasized Pakistan's principled position on Jammu and Kashmir at the 15th OIC Summit held in Banjul, Gambia which adopted comprehensive communique including reaffirming support for the just settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute as per the UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. "Pakistan has consistently provided unwavering diplomatic support to the Palestinian cause, denouncing Israeli aggression and advocating for Palestinian rights at international platforms such as the UN, OIC, and D-8," it said. The prime

minister attended the Arab-OIC Summit on Palestine in Riyadh, while the deputy prime minister/foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment at the 15th OIC Summit in Banjul and the Extraordinary Meeting of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers. Pakistan also participated in the high-level conference on Gaza in Jordan and presented its oral statement at the ICJ regarding Israel's policies in occupied Palestinian territories. Since the start of the Gaza conflict, Pakistan had called for an immediate ceasefire, unobstructed humanitarian aid, and a lasting resolution based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as Palestine's capital. The prime minister conducted official visits to multiple countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, to enhance political, economic, and investment relations. "Pakistan's presence at global summits such as the UNGA, COP29, and the SCO Council of Heads of Government reflected its commitment to international cooperation," the report said. The country also secured a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2025-2026 and led the adoption of a UN resolution against

Islamophobia. "In trade and economic diplomacy, Pakistan expanded its partnerships with key allies, increasing exports, securing foreign investments, and fostering bilateral agreements with regional and global powers. These diplomatic achievements underscore Pakistan's proactive role in global affairs, multilateral cooperation, and economic engagement," it was further added. During the Kyrgyzstan student crisis, the Pakistan Embassy provided 24/7 assistance, coordinated with local authorities, and facilitated evacuations. Following boat tragedies off Greece, Morocco, and Libva. Pakistani missions identified victims and survivors, while the Crisis Management Unit kept families informed.

MoFA launched an online Apostille certificate portal to streamline document legalization. A two-day symposium, "From Gandhara to the World" (May 28-29, 2024), gathered global religious leaders and scholars to promote Buddhist heritage, cultural collaboration, and tourism. Over 50 cultural events worldwide, including fashion shows, Qawwali performances, and Pakistan nights, promoted Pakistan's image.

# "Caring Kitchen" initiative lights up Ramadan for hundreds in Pakistan

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the first day of Ramadan dawned on March 2, a heartwarming initiative took root in Pakistan, bringing nourishment and hope to hundreds of families. The "Caring Kitchen" program, launched in the country, will provide daily Iftar meals to 400 individuals throughout the holy month. This initiative not only addresses food insecurity but also embodies the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines Ramadan. This year's "Caring Kitchen" initiative is a continuation of efforts that began seven years ago. Saleem, one of the local coordinators of the program expressed his gratitude for the initiative's impact, stating, "I am proud to continue this tradition of service and to see the positive difference it makes in people's lives. It's more than just a meal; it's a reminder that they are not alone, and that their community cares for them." In addition to the meal services, the program extends its support to families facing medical challenges. SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Wednesday that the inflation rate in Pakistan has dropped to a nine-year low, which is a credit to the current government. He said that last month, the inflation rate was 1.5 percent, compared to 2.4 percent in January.

President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Wednesday that the inflation rate in Pakistan has dropped to a nine-year low, which is a credit to the current government. He said that last month, the inflation rate was 1.5 percent, compared to 2.4 percent in January. Mian Zahid Hussain said that according to the official statistics, the inflation rate in urban areas was 24.9 percent in February last year, which has decreased significantly. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that although inflation in the country is at its lowest since September 2015, the people's financial condition is not what it was then. The business leader said that the trend of decreasing inflation is continuing, and soon, the State Bank is likely to reduce interest rates, which will positively impact the economic situation. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government's indicators show a decrease in the rate of price increase. However, the decrease in inflation is insufficient because electricity bills are still out of the people's reach. He underlined that reducing electricity and gas prices is also necessary. The people's purchasing power has also been exhausted. They have been facing inflation and income decline for many years, so something should be done to relieve them. He said the Ramadan package of Rs 20 billion by the federal government and Rs 30 billion by the Punjab government is commendable. Despite the decrease in the trend of increasing prices of goods, people are deprived of the ability to buy necessities of life because they are stuck in a purchasing power crisis. He said that to increase the purchasing power of the masses, new employment opportunities must be cre-

ated, and for this, business

activities must be increased.

Reducing electricity and gas

tariffs and tax rates while in-

creasing taxes and broadening

the tax base is necessary to

increase business activities.



ISLAMABAD: People buy fritters for iftar during the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the Federal Capital.

## First air cargo route between Urumqi and Islamabad starts

tween Urumqi in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Islamabad in Pakistan officially commenced operation, strengthening cross-border logistics between the two friendly nations. The maiden cargo flight departed from Urumqi Diwopu International Airport and landed in Islamabad approximately two hours and 40 minutes later. The route will operate two round-trip flights per week, with a maximum cargo capacity of 26 tons per trip, primarily supporting cross-border e-commerce and the transportation of high-value goods. With the opening of this route, SF Airlines' flights to cities in Pakistan have increased to 3, covering its capital Islamabad and largest city Karachi, and the second largest city Lahore. The operation of multiple international routes has broadened the air logistics channel for China-Pakistan economic and trade exchanges. Beyond doubt, the opening of this freight route is a milestone in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It will inject new impetus into bilateral economic and trade cooperation and enhance the stability of the regional industrial chain and supply chain. CPEC aims to develop into a complete and diversified network covering roads.

As cross-border e-commerce has high requirements for logistics efficiency, this new route will further simplify trade processes as well as enhance logistics. "Fresh agricultural products are a vital category of Pakistan's exports to China. However, the country lacks an efficient cold chain logistics system, resulting in a relative high loss rate during long-distance transportation. A more convenient logistics network enables Pakistan's fresh agricultural products to be shipped to China faster and reduce losses," noted Ren Haiping, Deputy Head of Department of. Strategic Research, China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said in an interview with Gwadar Pro, "thus further deepening bilateral trade ties." "With developed border trade, Xinjiang is an important hub connecting South Asia, Central Asia, South Asia and Russia. Improving Xinjiang's logistics hub function will further drive the Belt and Road economic cooperation and efficiently promote regional coordinated development," Ren added. Trade between China and Pakistan in 2024 hit USD 23.06 billion, an 11.1 percent increase yearon-year, according to data from the General Administration of Customs.-DNA

# Mobilink Bank recognized among 'Top 10 Inclusive Companies'

From empowering employees to supporting customers and championing women across Pakistan, we are driving sustainable economic transformation."

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has been named one of the 'Top 10 Inclusive Companies of the Year' at the prestigious Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Benchmarks (GDEIB) Awards 2025. The Bank secured 14 out of 15 award categories, reflecting its commitment to global DEI best practices and its efforts to accelerate women's social and economic progress in Pakistan. This unprecedented success is

driven by the bank's transformative DEI initiatives, including the Women Inspirational Network (WIN), which promotes gender diversity and leadership development; Humqadam that builds an inclusive and accessible workforce for Persons with Disabilities; MobiCare, an Employee Assistance Program designed to support employees' mental, physical, financial, and workplace well-being; and MobilinkHER, a returnship program for females coming after a career break. Additionally, Mobilink Bank's Inheritance Calculator has been launched to promote financial equity and women's empowerment by ensuring their rightful share in inheritance. Complementing these efforts, the Bank's equal opportunity and safe workplace policies guarantee fairness, respect, and growth opportunities for all employees. The bank has made significant strides in advancing diversity and inclusion, reducing its Gender Pay Gap from 11% in 2023 to 2% in 2024, increasing female hiring from 24% in 2023 to 26% in 2024, and enhancing overall diversity from 13.8%

to 16% during the same period. "These awards affirm our commitment to a society rooted in diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO, Mobilink Bank. "As a future-ready Bank, we strive to create an environment where everyone-within our organization and beyondcan thrive and achieve their ambitions in today's digital world. From empowering employees to supporting customers and championing women across Pakistan. we are driving sustainable economic transformation."

# Rupee sheds 10 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.86 against the previous day's closing of Rs279.76.—APP

General Practice
HOSPITAL

# We Are OPEN

General Practice Hospital is a state-of-the-art healthcare facility offering comprehensive medical services to the community. Our hospital is equipped with advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities, including specialized OPD clinics, an urgent care unit, a modern radiology unit, well-equipped IPD rooms, operation theatres, an on-site laboratory for precise diagnostics, dialysis services, and comfortable inpatient wards. We are dedicated to providing quality, easily accessible, and patient-centred healthcare in a welcoming and professional environment.



We know that seeking medical care can be overwhelming, but you're not alone. With empathy at the heart of our care, we listen, understand, and support you every step of the way. In our clean, premium environment, you'll feel safe, valued, and truly cared for. Book your appointment today and experience healthcare with compassion.

### Behind loud headlines

ECENTLY, some Western media outlets have fixated on a few key challenges within China's economy: the perceived fragility of the property sector, the weight of local government debt and the persistent issue of youth unemployment. But this narrow view obscures a broader and more complex picture - a story of remarkable resilience, ongoing economic transformation and significant potential. While the challenges are undeniable and demand careful attention, they do not define the entirety of China's economic landscape. The property market, while facing headwinds and undergoing a necessary period of adjustment, is not in a state of collapse. Rather, it is experiencing a managed transition. The Chinese government has shifted its focus from the previous era of speculative, rapid growth to a more sustainable model that emphasises stability and affordability. This transition, while challenging in the short term, is vital for fostering a healthier and more balanced property market in the long run. Data emerging this year provides encouraging indicators of a recovery trend. Proactive policy support from the central government, coupled with renewed market confidence, is contributing to a noticeable rebound in housing prices in major urban centres such as Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Goldman Sachs, citing these positive trends, expects China's housing prices to bottom out this year, and market confidence is gradually recovering. This evidence suggests the market is navigating out of its adjustment period. The issue of local government debt, while a legitimate concern in certain regions, must be viewed with a more nuanced perspective. It is crucial to recognise this is not a uniform problem across the entire nation. Many local governments are displaying effective fiscal management, and the central government has established robust mechanisms to provide targeted support. Furthermore, the debt burden should be contextualised within China's economic growth and capacity to generate revenue. The government's strategic focus on infrastructure development, particularly in less-developed regions, while contributing to local debt in the short term, is a critical investment in long-term economic potential. This investment creates jobs, improves connectivity and fosters economic growth, ultimately enhancing the ability of local governments to manage their debt effectively. Youth unemployment, a significant challenge faced by many nations globally, is being addressed in China through a comprehensive, multipronged approach. The government is investing in vocational training programmes, promoting entrepreneurship and working to create more job opportunities in emerging sectors such as technology and renewable energy. It is essential to acknowledge that millions of graduates successfully enter the workforce each year, contributing to China's dynamic economy. Data from last year reveals a stable, gently declining national urban surveyed unemployment rate, with notable growth in service-sector jobs and migrant worker employment. This shows the government's commitment to fostering a robust labour market. Claims that China's policy response to stimulate domestic demand is limited and ineffective are demonstrably inaccurate. Beyond targeted trade-in programmes for specific goods, the government is implementing a wide range of measures to boost consumer confidence, increase disposable income and promote rural revitalisation.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

**Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Deputy Editor: Abid Raza** 

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 268 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960



### 'Common home' with Russia

ET'S face it, Europe as a geopolitical concept is as shaky as an edifice on sand after America, under President Donald Trump, "abandoned Ukraine" and even became Europe's "enemy", to quote the Financial Times. With the Ukraine war marching into its fourth year, Trump spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a cordial phone call about ending the war. US and Russian officials held meetings in Saudi Arabia and Turkey – disregarding Europe and Ukraine in the process - to reestablish relations and discuss peace, on the apparent understanding that there would be no return to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders, no Nato membership for Kyiv, and no American or Nato troops as part of any post-peace arrangement in Ukraine. Trump has refused to condemn Russia as an invader, instead berating Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for not having "the cards" to win the war in a shouting match at the White House, demanding foreclosure on Ukraine's rare earth assets to recoup the alleged war aid to the country. The US has now said it will pause all military aid to Ukraine "to ensure that it is contributing to a solution". European leaders have denounced Washington's U-turn and the drastic manner of its execution. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, for one, sided with Zelensky after his bitter encounter with Trump, praising him for being "fearless". European Union foreign policy chief KajaKallas proclaimed "the free world needs a new leader". Crisis summits have taken place in Paris and London in an effort to form a united European front, with leaders vowing to continue aiding Kiev's war efforts and be part of the peace process, including dispatching European peacekeeping troops if needed after any armistice. Most observers are pessimistic, even defeatist, about Europe. Already in the shadow of a security threat from Russia, it has been caught off guard by Washington's brazen betrayal when it seemingly needs an ally more than ever. But this risks missing the big picture and underestimating Europe's pride as the cradle of modernity, its existential fear of economic impoverishment and determination to avoid a repeat of the calamity of war that ravaged the continent twice in the last century. Beneath the semblance of European impotence intertwined with moral grandstanding and the inevitable prostrations before Washington, serious politicians in Paris, Berlin and London are acutely aware of the perdition lurking ahead. Left alone, the continent will become fragmented, immiserated and marginalised before being reduced to a mere geographical concept. Among those politicians, French President Emmanuel Macron stands out, an indisputable champion of European "strategic autonomy", starting with his outcry over "the brain death of Nato" in 2019. In this column last March, I commented on Macron's controversial dare for Nato countries to send a "strategic surge" of troops to Ukraine. I observed that he "may have presented Washington with a checkmate", that a US failing to cope should let the Europeans "sort it out with the Russians", and "eventually Europe must stand up and be counted as an independent geopolitical player, with Russia (and even Britain) returning to the fold".

# The future of world order

Joseph S. Nye Jr.

Empires themselves depended on both hard and soft power. China was held together by strong common norms, highly developed political institutions and mutual economic benefit. So was Rome, especially the Roman Republic. Post-Roman Europe had institutions and norms in the form of the papacy and dynastic monarchies, which meant that territories often changed governance through marriage and family alliances, regardless of the subject people's wishes. Wars were often motivated by dynastic considerations, though the 16th and 17th centuries brought wars born of religious fervor and geopolitical ambition, owing to the rise of Protestantism, divisions within the Roman Catholic Church and increased interstate competition

serious doubts on the future of the postwar international order. In recent speeches and UN votes, his administration has sided with Russia, an aggressor that launched a war of conquest against its peaceful neighbor, Ukraine. The White House's policy of imposing tariffs on trading partners has raised questions about long-standing alliances and the future of the global trading system, while its withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and the World Health Organization has undercut cooperation on transnational threats.

The prospect of a wholly disengaged, self-focused US has troubling implications for world order. It is easy to imagine Russia taking advantage of the situation to try to dominate Europe through the exercise or threat of force. Europe will have to show greater unity and provide for its own defense, even if a US backstop will remain important. Likewise, it is easy to imagine China asserting itself more in Asia, where it openly seeks dominance over its neighbors. Those neighbors will surely have taken note.

In fact, all countries will be affected, because the relationships among states and other major transnational actors are interconnected. An international order rests on a stable distribution of power among states; norms that influence and legitimize conduct; and shared institutions. A given international order can evolve incrementally without leading to a clear paradigm shift. But if the preeminent power's domestic politics change too radically, all bets are off. Since relations among states naturally vary over time, order is a matter of degree. Before the modern state system, order was often imposed by force and conquest, taking the form of regional empires such as China and Rome (among many others). Variations in war and peace between powerful empires were more an issue of geography than of norms and institutions. Because they were

S President Donald Trump has cast contiguous, Rome and Parthia (the area around modern-day Iran) sometimes fought, whereas Rome, China and the Mesoamerican empires did not.

Empires themselves depended on both hard and soft power. China was held together by strong common norms, highly developed political institutions and mutual economic benefit. So was Rome, especially the Roman Republic. Post-Roman Europe had institutions and norms in the form of the papacy and dynastic monarchies, which meant that territories often changed governance through marriage and family alliances, regardless of the subject people's wishes. Wars were often motivated by dynastic considerations, though the 16th and 17th centuries brought wars born of religious fervor and geopolitical ambition, owing to the rise of Protestantism, divisions within the Roman Catholic Church and increased interstate competition.

At the end of the 18th century, the French Revolution disrupted the monarchical norms and the traditional restraints that had long sustained the European balance of power. Although Napoleon's pursuit of empire ultimately failed after his retreat from Moscow, his armies swept away many territorial boundaries and created new states, leading to the first deliberate efforts to create a modern state system, at the 1815 Congress of Vienna.

The post-Vienna "Concert of Europe" suffered a series of disruptions over the following decades, most notably in 1848, when nationalist revolutions swept the continent. Following these upheavals, Otto von Bismarck launched various wars to unite Germany, which assumed a powerful central position in the region, reflected in the 1878 Congress of Berlin. Through his alliance with Russia, Bismarck produced a stable order until Kaiser Wilhelm II fired him in 1890. Then came the First World War, which was followed by the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations, whose failure set the

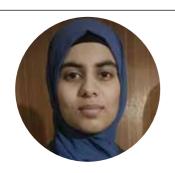
stage for the Second World War. The subsequent creation of the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the precursor to the World Trade Organization) marked the most important institution-building episode of the 20th century. Since the US was the dominant player, the post-1945 era became known as the "American Century." The end of the Cold War in 1991 then produced a unipolar distribution of power, allowing for the creation or strengthening of institutions such as the WTO, the International Criminal Court and the Paris climate agreement.

Even before Trump, some analysts believed that this American order was coming to an end. The 21st century has brought another shift in the distribution of power, usually described as the rise (or, more accurately, the recovery) of Asia. While Asia had accounted for the largest share of the world economy in 1800, it fell behind after the Industrial Revolution in the West. And like other regions, it suffered from the new imperialism that Western military and communications technologies had made possible.

Now, Asia is returning to its status as the leading source of global economic output. But its recent gains have come more at the expense of Europe than the US. Rather than declining, the US still represents a quarter of global gross domestic product, as it did in the 1970s. While China has shrunk the US lead substantially, it has not surpassed the US economically, militarily or in terms of its alliances. If the international order is eroding, America's domestic politics are as much of a cause as China's rise. The question is whether we are entering a totally new period of American decline, or whether the second Trump administration's attacks on the American Century's institutions and alliances will prove to be another cyclical dip. We may not know until 2029.

• Joseph S. Nye Jr., Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, is a former US assistant secretary of defense

## Architects of PIAs destiny Fatima Khalid



Captain Abdullah Baig was another notable figure in PIA's history. A highly skilled pilot, he was among the elite group of PIA pilots cleared for VVIP flights. His achievements included commanding the first PIA flight to enter Chinese airspace in 1963, marking a significant milestone for Pakistan's aviation sector. He also set commercial air route records with...

AKISTAN International Airlines (PIA) has been a symbol of national pride and ambition, with its slogan, "Great People to Fly With," even receiving endorsement from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Despite its celebrated reputation, a mixture of triumphs and struggles marks the airline's history. PIA's "Golden Era" is often romanticized, but its dominance during the 1960s and 1970s was partially due to the lack of competition in the Asian market. While the airline played a pioneering role in aviation, its unique market positioning also influenced its success. Regardless of the challenges and controversies, PIA has left an undeniable impact on Pakistan's identity and aviation sector. PIA's success can be attributed to the individuals who shaped its legacy, from visionary leaders to skilled pilots and engineers. One of the most influential figures in the airline's history was Nur Khan. Born into a Pashtun family in Peshawar, he received his early education at Aitchison College and later graduated from the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun. His career began in 1942 with the Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF), where he flew combat missions during World War II. After Pakistan's independence, he joined the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and quickly rose to prominence. Khan's first tenure as PIA's managing director

(1959-1965) marked the airline's transformation into one of the most respected carriers globally. He expanded PIA's fleet, introduced new routes, and ushered in a period of unprecedented growth and innovation. In 1973, he was again called to revive PIA, which was facing financial difficulties. Under his leadership, the airline introduced state-of-the-art aircraft, including the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 and Boeing 747, expanding its network and capacity. He also facilitated international partnerships, such as assisting in the establishment of Air Malta. His exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence helped solidify PIA's status as a regional aviation leader. Another significant figure in PIA's history is Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Umar Farooq, a distinguished aviation expert. Born in Lahore in 1955, he had a strong military and aviation background. After graduating from the PAF Academy, he served as a fighter pilot, operating aircraft like the F-6, F-16, and Mirage III. Transitioning to PIA in 2000, he quickly ascended the ranks, serving as a captain and later as Director of Flight Operations. His leadership played a crucial role in improving PIA's flight safety and efficiency. He was instrumental in training pilots and received multiple accolades, including the Sitara-i-Imtiaz. Arshad Malik, who served as PIA's CEO from 2019 to 2020, was another key figure in the airline's modern era. Holding a commercial pilot's license and extensive experience in international aviation, he introduced reforms to improve PIA's financial stability and operations. His tenure saw the induction of new aircraft, such as the Airbus A320neo, and the expansion of PIA's route network. However, despite his efforts, the airline continued to struggle with financial challenges and internal resistance. His legacy remains a mix of achievements and

difficulties in implementing necessary reforms. Captain Abdullah Baig was another notable figure in PIA's history. A highly skilled pilot, he was among the elite group of PIA pilots cleared for VVIP flights. His achievements included commanding the first PIA flight to enter Chinese airspace in 1963, marking a significant milestone for Pakistan's aviation sector. He also set commercial air route records with the Boeing 720B and contributed significantly to pilot training. His legacy continues through the Capt. Abdullah Baig Flight Training Wing in Karachi, which provides advanced training for pilots. Captain Shahzada Habibullah, a decorated pilot, further contributed to PIA's success. Born in 1945 in Peshawar, he started his career as a fighter pilot in the PAF before joining PIA in 1978. He flew aircraft like the Boeing 707, 720, and 747, gaining a reputation for exceptional flying skills and leadership. Captain Habibullah was one of the first Pakistani pilots to command the Boeing 747-300 and maintained an impeccable safety record. He also played a significant role in mentoring younger pilots, shaping the next generation of aviators. Throughout its history, PIA has been shaped by the contributions of these extraordinary individuals. From its early years of innovation and growth to its modern-day challenges, the airline remains a crucial part of Pakistan's national identity. While financial struggles and operational difficulties persist, PIA's legacy as a pioneer in the aviation industry endures. The dedication of its leaders, pilots, and staff continues to inspire efforts to restore its former glory.

Email: faatima.abid@gmail.com

Gandapur

urges dialogue...

From Page 01 media at Peshawar High Court, Gandapur warned

that terrorism was resurging due to past political deci-

sions. He also vowed to find

a lasting solution to security

issues in Kurram districts.

Challenging the Punjab gov-

ernment, he claimed KP's

governance outperforms

Punjab's. On renaming the

Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadi-

um, he said the decision

was made based on public

demand but assured he

would follow Imran Khan's

directive on the matter.

### **Briefs**

### **PM thanks** Trump for praising Pak role against...

From Page 01 "The resolve of our leadership and our people remains unflinching, to eradicate the menace of terrorism from our country. We will continue to partner closely with the United States in securing regional peace and stability." President Trump, in his speech during his speech to a joint session of Congress, said: "Tonight, I am pleased to announce that we have just apprehended the top terrorist responsible for that atrocity. And he is right now on his way here to face the swift sword of American justice." After a brief pause and a round of applause, he thanked the government of Pakistan for helping apprehend the "monster" and added that it was "a very huge day for the affected families. "This was a very momentous day for those 13 families, whom I actually got to know very well, whose children were murdered. What a horrible day," Trump, who became the 47th president in January, said. Trump turned his guns onto his predecessor, Joe Biden, and mentioned that the attack occurred during the "disas-

#### Pakistan expected to pass first...

trous and incompetent" with

drawal from Afghanistan.

From Page 01 because the discussions are private. An IMF team led by Mission Chief to Pakistan Nathan Porter is in Pakistan this week to meet with government officials and assess their progress in meeting the loan conditions. If the IMF approves the first review of the loan, the country is in line to receive about \$1 billion as the second instalment of the loan package. The IMF review is being closely watched by investors as a sign of progress in economic reforms. PM Shehbaz told the global lender's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva last month his government plans to submit a plan to boost economic growth after achieving stability. The IMF chief said in an X post the lender was encouraged by Pakistan's strong commitment and reforms

#### Delay in audit of state institutions..

From Page 01 "The IMF has demanded early settlement of audit cases of institutions," Gondal said, adding that there were about 500,000 to 600,000 pending audit paras pertaining to ministries and institutions. He continued that despite the orders of parliament, no chief internal accountant had been appointed. "The financial audit system is flawed due to non-implementation of the rules. "Secretaries and chief financial officers of institutions are not clearing their audits," he said. "There are only chief financial officers in 15 institutions, and none of them have a chief internal accountant."

#### PTI to join opp for antigovt protest

From Page 01 He further stated that the country is 'drowning in debt, and inflation is soaring.' Shibli Faraz also expressed concern over the rising terrorism Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and the ongoing protests in Sindh regarding water rights. "Our alliance is with the opposition, and in the next few days, our matters will be settled with them," he said. "After Eid, we will

#### UAE FM calls DPM/ FM Dar

take to the streets together

against the government.'

From Page 01 reaffirmed their commitment to enhancbilateral cooperation across all sectors.

# Smith ends ODI career after Australia's CT exit

'It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it,' says Smith

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Australia's star batter Steve Smith has announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs) following the team's exit from the Champions Trophy. The 35-yearold played his final ODI in the semifinal against India in Dubai, where he topscored for Australia with 73 runs in a losing effort.

According to a Cricket Australia media release, Smith informed his teammates of his decision to retire from ODIs immediately after the semifinal defeat. However, he will continue to be available for Test cricket and

T20 Internationals. "It has been a great ride, and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said. "There have been so many amazing moments and wonderful memories. Winning two World Cups was a great highlight, along with the

many fantastic teammates

who shared the journey." Smith believes his retirement presents an opportunity for younger players to prepare for the 2027 World Cup. "Now is a great opportunity for players to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup, so it feels like the right time to step aside," he added. "Test cricket remains a priority, and I am really looking



forward to the World Test Championship Final, the West Indies tour in the winter and then the Ashes at home. I feel I still have a lot to contribute at that level." The right-handed batter was a key member of Australia's ODI World Cup-winning squads in 2015 and

2023. He also captained the 50-over side after Michael Clarke's retirement. leading the team in 64 matches, winning 32, losing 28, with four no-results. He briefly resumed the captaincy for the Champions Trophy, stepping in for the injured Pat Cummins.

Commenting on Smith's retirement, George Bailey, the chair of selectors, said: "We fully understand and support Steve's decision to retire from One-Day International cricket. Steve has said on many occasions that he is approaching the remainder of his playing career on a series-by-series basis, a position that hasn't changed and one Cricket Australia supports."

"His record as a batter across 167 games is exemplary, and to leave the format as a two-time World Cup winner cements his legacy as one of the great Australian ODI players. From an NSP standpoint, Steve remains fully com-

mitted to Test cricket and is an integral member and leader within that team," Bailey concluded.

It is pertinent to mention that Smith's ODI career spanned 170 matches, during which he amassed 5,800 runs at an average of 43.28 and a strike rate of 86.96. His record includes 12 centuries and 35 half-centuries, making him the 12th-highest run-scorer for Australia in ODIs.

His highest score of 164 came against New Zealand in 2016. Initially debuting as a leg-spinning all-rounder. Smith also contributed with the ball, taking 28 wickets and completing 90

#### Government committed to completely eradicate...

From Page 01

The prime minister appreciated the cooperation of security forces during the polio campaign. He directed the digitization of all polio data and strict monitoring. The meeting was informed that 42.5 million children were administered anti polio drops in February campaign. As many as three polio campaigns would be run during the first six months of current year. The second and third campaign would be started in April and May.

#### **US** releases \$ 397m for Pakistan...

From Page 01 The waivers meant those funds should have been allowed to be spent. Current and former US officials and aid organizations, however, say few humanitarian aid waivers have been approved. Reuters obtained a list of 243 further exceptions approved as of February 13 totaling \$5.3 billion. The list provides the most comprehensive accounting of exempted funds since Trump ordered the aid freeze and reflects the White House's desire to cut aid for programs it doesn't consider vital to US national security. The list dentifies progr will be funded and the US government office managing them. The vast majority of released funds-more than \$4.1 billion-were for programs administered by the US State Department's Bureau of Politi-

#### Pakistan players slip in final sell out latest ICC ODI rankings With ticket prices ranging from AED 250 Star batter Babar Azam remains in second place with 770 points

**DNA** 

DUBAI: Pakistan players have seen a decline in the latest ICC ODI rankings following their disappointing performances in the recent tri-nation ODI series and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Opening batter, who made a comeback in the ODI format during the tri-nation series, played only one game in the ongoing tournament in Karachi against New Zealand and was ruled out due to injury. His overall performance was underwhelming, leading to a drop in the latest rankings update. He now sits at 19th place, down from 17th, with 621 points. ODI captain Mohammad Rizwan also slipped one place Hall to miss rest of

season with injury

LONDON: Newcastle defender Lewis Hall has been ruled

out for the remainder of the season with a foot injury. The

20-year-old England international sustained the injury dur-

ing his side's 2-0 Premier League defeat by Liverpool in

February. Hall's absence is another blow to Eddie Howe's

side who take on Liverpool in the Carabao Cup final on

Sunday, 16 March, with forward Antony Gordon set to be

banned. Hall is set to "undergo surgery before a period of

rehabilitation with the club's medical team", Newcastle

said in a statement. "Everyone at Newcastle United wish-

es Lewis the very best with his surgery and recovery,'

the club added. Hall has established himself as the Mag-

pies' first-choice left-back this season, making 27 Premier

League appearances. In November he made his England

debut, coming on as a substitute during the Three Lions'

3-0 Nations League win against Greece. Hall has been

among the Premier League's most consistent left-backs

and would have been pushing for a place in new England

manager Thomas Tuchel's first squad, announced next Fri-

day, 14 March. Newcastle are currently sixth in the Pre-

mier League, two points behind Chelsea in fifth and three

points behind fourth-placed Manchester City. On Tuesday

the club announced its latest financial results, with chief

executive Darren Eales saying Newcastle were in a good

position to be "excited" for the summer to try and invest

in the squad. Hall has been one of the more attacking and

creative left-backs in the Premier League this season.

Here's how his stats measure up: 34 chances created -

fourth highest with Ipswich's Leif Davis (48) highest 33

successful crosses - third highest with Fulham's Antonee

Robinson (36) highest Four assists - joint third highest

with Robinson (10) the most 1,121 successful passes - sec-

ond behind Man City's Josko Gvardiol (1,556) 118 passes

into box - fifth highest with Davis top on 148. - Agencies

to 21st, with 616 points, due to recent setbacks in the format. Imam-ul-Haq maintained his 32nd spot, while the injured Saim Ayub dropped two places to 37th with 572 points. Vice-captain Salman Ali Agha currently sits at 46th, while no other Pakistan batter is ranked in the top 100 ODI batters. India opener Shubman Gill retains the No.1 ranking for ODI batters, with teammate Virat Kohli moving up to fourth following his Player of the Match performance against Australia in the Champions Trophy semi-final in Dubai. Star batter Babar Azam remains in second place with 770 points, while South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen holds third place with 760 points. In the ODI bowling

rankings, Pakistan's leftarm pacer Shaheen Afridi maintains his ninth spot despite struggling with expensive spells during the Champions Trophy clashes against New Zealand and Out-of-form Haris Rauf dropped two places from 22nd to 24th with 553 points, while Naseem Shah slipped one place to 43rd. Abrar Ahmed also fell in the rankings, now sitting at 50th. New Zealand's Matt Henry has climbed to third place in the bowling rankings with 649 rating points, behind Sri Lankan spinner Maheesh Theekshana (first) and South African tweaker Keshav Maharaj (second). Indian seamer Mohammed Shami's resurgence in the Champions Trophy saw him jump three spots to 11th

with 609 rating points. South Africa's Marco Jansen climbed nine spots to 18th, while England's Jofra Archer made a significant leap, rising 13 places to share the 19th position. Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai has reached new heights, becoming the top-ranked all-rounder in ICC ODI rankings. His impressive Champions Trophy campaign, which included a maiden five-wicket haul against England and a half-century against Australia, propelled him to the No.1 all-rounder position, dethroning teammate Mohammad Nabi, who now sits in second place. Omarzai rose two spots, achieving a career-high rating of 296 points.

# Tickets for CT within minutes

for general admission to a staggering AED 12,000 for Sky Box hospitality, the total revenue generated is estimated at AED 9 million (approximately PKR 685 million)

DUBAI: The tickets for the highly anticipated ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final, scheduled for Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium, were snapped up in record time, selling out within 40 minutes of release. Yesterday, India secured their place in the final after a thrilling victory over Australia, where Virat Kohli once again delivered on the big stage. The Men in Blue now await the winner of the second semi-final between South Africa and New Zealand, which is currently being played in Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. With ticket prices ranging from AED 250 for general admission to a staggering AED 12,000 for Sky Box hospitality, the total revenue generated is estimated at AED 9 million (approximately PKR 685 million). The rapid sellout of the tickets speaks volumes about the excitement surrounding the final of the Champions Trophy 2025, as fans from across the world prepare to witness one of cricket's biggest showdowns. The Dubai stadium management confirmed the rapid sellout, attributing it to the immense excitement surrounding the tournament's grand finale. The seating breakdown reflects a diverse pricing structure: General Admission (15,000 seats): AED 250-500, bringing in around AED 5.6 million. - DNA

# 'Couldn't see ball through tears', says Emma Raducanu

LONDON: Emma Raducanu says she "couldn't see the ball through tears" and could "barely breathe" after being targeted by a stalker during a match two weeks ago. The Briton hid behind the umpire's chair two games into her second-round defeat at the Dubai Championships in February. A man who "exhibited fixed behaviour" was removed from the stands and subsequently given a restraining order by Dubai police. Speaking for the first time since the incident, Raducanu told a small group of reporters: "I saw him in the first game of the match and I was like, 'I don't know how I'm going to finish'. "I literally couldn't see the ball through tears. I could barely breathe. "I was like, 'I need to just take a breather'." Raducanu shot to worldwide fame when she won the US Open as an 18-year-old in 2021. She told BBC Sport the incident "could have been dealt with better" but that lessons have been learned. "Since that incident I have definitely got increased attention and greater security," the 22-year-old said. "All we can do is look at what happened and react to it in a better way, in a more positive way, rather than looking back and blaming the situation. "Now it is being dealt with better, so for me that's important. "I'm always now very aware and not necessarily doing things on my own any more. "I'm always with someone and always being watched." Raducanu was followed to four tournaments by the same man, who approached her near the player hotel in Dubai the day before her second-round match with Karolina Muchova. He gave her a letter and took her photo, which understandably un-



nerved Raducanu, who had been aware of his presence at tournaments in Singapore, Abu Dhabi and Doha in preceding weeks. Although she reported it to a member of her team, the information was not passed on to the WTA or the tournament until the following day, leaving security staff with just a few hours to prepare. After taking a week off, Raducanu decided to return and play at Indian Wells. "They were very emotional weeks, because it had carried on for a few weeks before," Raducanu said. "It was quite tiring. I took a week break when I got home in England and I then decided to come here." Having decided to make the journey to Indian Wells - one of the biggest events outside of the four majors - Raducanu has been surprised by how much happier she has been feeling since arriving in California.

From Page 01 under consideration. He

cal-Military affairs, which

oversees arms sales and

military assistance to oth-

er countries and groups.

Govt

engaged in

talks with...

clarified that the new net metering policy will apply to new installations rather than existing solar systems. He said the government has consistently promoted renewable energy. Earlier, The government claimed to have secured about Rs1.571 trillion in savings in future payments to a total of 27 independent power producers (IPPs) through negotiations so far, while another 'unwilling' producer would have to undergo a forensic audit.

# **PSG's post-Mbappe era, no 'clans' and foreign stars'**

All-conquering form of a rejuvenated PSG would have seemed unlikely at the start of season PARIS: Rarely in the past decade and

a half of Qatari ownership have Paris St-Germain entered the spring with this kind of confidence. On Saturday evening, the runaway Ligue 1 leaders wasted little time in dismantling a Lille side who also had a midweek Champions League tie to look forward to, scoring four goals in what manager Luis Enrique would later call the team's "best half of the season".

Victory against Les Dogues, who could only muster a consolation goal through Jonathan David 10 minutes from time, was more than simply a dress rehearsal before Liverpool's visit to the French capital on Wednesday for the first leg of their last-16 tie.

Lille, who have notably beaten both Real

and Atletico Madrid in Europe this season, were swept aside as PSG continued their seemingly inevitable march towards completing an unbeaten campaign on home soil. The all-conquering form of a rejuvenated PSG would have seemed unlikely at the start of the season. While the post-Kylian Mbappe era arguably started midway through last season, given that the France captain was mostly spared for high-profile matches at that point, replacing his output and leading role remained the major uncertainty on the eve of the new campaign. That task was made all the more pressing by the absence of a centre-forward in name

during most of the autumn. Portuguese international Goncalo Ramos was sidelined for three months with an ankle injury, while Randal Kolo Muani was progressively phased out of the team, eventually culminating in his loan move to Juventus this winter. Initially, it was Bradley Barcola, from the left wing, who took up the mantle by scoring 10 times in the first 11 league games of the campaign.

Having carried over his goalscoring form to international duty amid Mbappe's absence from Les Bleus, the 22-year-old was looking increasingly at ease in carrying the now-Real Madrid man's responsibilities for club and country. His form only faintly translated to Champions League fixtures, though, as was the case for the rest of the team. Successive false-nine experiments, notably involving Kang-in Lee and Ousmane Dembele, were proving mostly ineffective as the team registered just one win in the first five European matchdays. The team's league stage campaign, branded by Enrique "unjust" given the tough draw they faced, was stunted by an inability to capitalise on their dominance in possession in most matches. A disastrous early exit in January was an increasingly credible prospect, until the pieces of the Spaniard's plan finally began to fall into place. The Parisians' free-scoring run since January has included 18 goals in four European encounters, a figure admittedly inflated by Brest's unfortunate collapse in their play-off tie. Leading the reversal in fortunes has been Dembele's newly found confidence in front of goal, with the 27-year-old finally realising the potential of



his talent. The France international, despite arguably being the face of the club with Mbappe gone, has scarcely been given any kind of preferential treatment.

His reinvention has been all the more unlikely given what was an ostensibly fraught rapport with his manager only a few months ago. He was notably dropped for the trip to face Arsenal in October, for arriving late to training, a move which Enrique later branded more recently as "the best thing I've done to him". After a needless sending off in the defeat by Bayern Munich, Dembele was again relegated to the bench for the following league games. Tensions were eventually appeased, though, as the former Barcelona player worked his way back into the team and claimed the unlikely false-nine role as his own.

With 18 goals across all competitions since the turn of the year, the 27-year-old has scored more in two months than any single season of his to date. While his talent has seldom been called into question, Dembele has, virtually overnight, managed to erase the erratic decision-making, which plagued the first decade of his career. "It's a bit of everything. It's down to my positioning, but also a change in mentality," the forward told the Ligue 1 broadcaster on Saturday night. Dembele's purple patch has also been aided by the team of young talents around him suddenly clicking into gear. The pivot away from buying established names hasn't necessarily meant a decrease in activity in the transfer window, though. - Agencies

#### Afghan nationals involved...

From Page 01

"On 4 March 2025, a cowardly terrorist attack was attempted on Bannu Cantonment by Khwarij elements. The assailants sought to breach the cantonment's security; however, their nefarious designs were swiftly and decisively foiled by the vigilant and resolute response of Pakistan's security forces,' the ISPR said. It said that the attackers, in their desperation, rammed two explosive-laden vehicles into the perimeter wall. However, the valiant troops engaged the intruders with precision, eliminating all sixteen terrorists, including four suicide bombers in a display of unwavering courage and professional excellence. The military's media wing said that multiple suicide blasts resulted in the partial collapse of the perimeter wall, causing damage to the adjacent infrastructure.

# Business / World



### Briefs

#### PSX turns bearish, loses 490 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 490.04 points, a negative change of 0.43 percent, closing at 112,253.76 points as compared to 112,743.80 points on the last trading day. A total of 263,963,740 shares were traded during the day as compared to 206,851,125 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs13.731 billion against Rs11.337 billion on the last trading day. As many as 431 companies transacted their shares in the stock market,165 of them recorded gains and 197 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 69 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Pak International Bulk with 53,572,239 shares at Rs.9.58 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 23,567,256 shares at Rs.1.34 per share and Power Cement with 10,979,264 shares at Rs.10.94 per share.—APP

#### Gold prices increase by Rs.700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs 307,000 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs 306,300 on previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.601 to Rs.263,203 from Rs. 262,602 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went up by Rs.551 to Rs.241.278 from Rs. 240,727. The prices of per tola silver increased by Rs.54 to Rs.3,369 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.46 to Rs.2,888. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$5 to \$2, 921 from \$2,916 whereas the prices of silver in interna tional market increased by \$0.52 to \$32.32, the Association reported.-APP

#### HRC, IOM sign deal anti-humantrafficking project

RIYADH: The Saudi Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed an agreement to implement the third phase of the project aimed at enhancing mechanisms to combat human traffick ing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The agreement seeks to strengthen the existing partnership, build on progress made in previous phases, and address emerging challenges in the fight against human-trafficking crimes. The agreement includes a program to support human-trafficking victims, facilitate voluntary return and reintegration and develop tools to prevent potential exploitation in supply chains, as well as national capacity-building programs in this field. The agreement also seeks to enhance monitoring mechanisms and data collection, while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the joint victim assistance fund. President of Human Rights Commission and Chairwoman of National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, Dr. Hala bint Mazyed Altuwaijri said the agreement strengthens national efforts that prioritizes protection and support for victims. She highlighted the Kingdom's partnerships with international organizations to unify response efforts against human trafficking through a comprehensive approach. Altuwaijri emphasized the multiple human-rights collaborations between UN bodies and Saudi Arabia, including combating human trafdemonstrating ficking, the leadership's commitment to cooperating with various international organizations to leverage best international practices. IOM Director-General Amy Pope commended the partnership between the organization and the HRC. -APP

# Ktrade, Jazzcash partner to make stock trading accessible to people

By integrating KTrade into Pakistan's most widely used digital wallet, this partnership will bridge the financial literacy gap, encourage responsible investing, and support Pakistan's vision of expanding retail participation in capital markets

#### DNA

BARCELONA: KTrade, Pakistan's most popular and best-rated investment platform, has joined forces with JazzCash, the country's leading digital financial service, to democratize stock trading and investment for millions of Pakistanis. This landmark partnership was announced at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) with a formal signing by Ali Farid Khwaja, Chairman of KTrade, and Murtaza Ali, President of Jazz-Cash, in the presence of Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz and Chairman of Mobilink Microfinance Bank. This collaboration is set to redefine stock market accessibility in Pakistan by integrating KTrade's seamless trading experience within the JazzCash app. With over 13 million active JazzCash users, this partnership removes key barriers to entry, allowing individuals to open stock trading accounts, deposit funds, trade stocks, and manage investment portfolios-all without a separate brokerage account.

Currently, less than 0.15% of Pakistan's 240 million people actively invest in stocks, highlighting a significant opportunity to expand financial inclusion. With growing digital adoption and progressive regulatory support from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), this initi-



ative is a game-changer in unlocking retail investment opportunities. Ali Farid Khwaja, Chairman of KTrade, commented: "At KTrade, our mission is to make investing simple, accessible, and re-

warding for everyone. Partnering with JazzCash enables us to bring stock trading to millions of Pakistanis, many of whom have never had access to retail investing before. This collaboration is a major

step toward financial empowerment, allowing individuals to grow their wealth effortlessly through a secure trading experience." By integrating KTrade into Pa-

tal wallet, this partnership will bridge the financial literacy gap, encourage responsible investing, and support Pakistan's vision of expanding retail participation in capital markets.

kistan's most widely used digi
Syedaal visits

Pakistani embassy

# Deep concern for civilians in Gaza as aid crossings remain shut: UN

NATIONS: UN humanitarian officials warned Tuesday that the continued closure of key border crossings into Gaza is putting civilian lives at risk, just as they begin to recover from months of war, deprivation and hunger. Speaking to reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that the Kerem Shalom, Zikim and Erez crossings had remained closed for cargo for the third consecutive day, severely restricting the flow of humanitarian supplies into the devastated enclave. "The Israeli authorities have rejected our attempts to collect humanitarian supplies that crossed the Kerem Shalom border crossing before its closure," he said, citing the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). "Given the huge needs in Gaza, keeping the crossings closed will have devastating consequences," he added, underscoring that Member States and those with influence must use all available means to ensure the ceasefire holds. Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), warned on Tuesday that Israel's decision to halt aid should be reversed. "Humanitarian aid must continue to flow at scale similar to what we have seen over the past six weeks when the ceasefire began. This brought respite and relief to people in need," he said in a post on the platform X. He noted that the vast majority of the people in Gaza rely on aid for their "sheer survival", adding that water, medical care and electricity were essential to complement basic food assistance. "Aid and these basic services are non-negotiable. They must never be used as weapons of war," Mr. Lazzarini stated. Despite the restrictions, UN agencies and humanitarian partners on the ground are working to sustain aid operations across the Gaza Strip, Dujarric said. On Monday, the dialysis unit at Al Rantisi Children's Hospital in Gaza City resumed services on Tuesday, alongside a 25-bed in-patient unit. Paediatric services also resumed at the Indonesian Hospital in North Gaza. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 29 child patients, along with 43 companions, were evacuated from Gaza to Jordan via Israel for specialized medical treatment. This marked the first WHO-supported medical evacuation to Jordan since the ceasefire began in January. Inside Gaza, WHO has also provided hygiene and sanitation supplies to thousands of women and girls, warning that the lack of access to clean water and sanitation could worsen mental health conditions for those who have been displaced. In the West Bank, Israeli military operations in Jenin have escalated, leading to more displacement and destruction, Mr. Dujarric reported. Israeli forces ordered residents in one part of Jenin city to evacuate their homes, displacing about 30 families "including at least three, who had been displaced previously," he said. He added that Israeli forces used bulldozers, damaging infrastructure and causing power outages, while intensified access and movement restrictions to and from the city were also observed.-DNA

# Pakistani embassy in Bangkok AMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasir visited the Pakistani Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of High Commissioner Rukhsana Afzaal. During the visit, the High Commissioner and diplomatic officers provided a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan-Thailand relations, according to a news release received on Wednesday. High Commissioner Rukhsana Afzaal highlighted that the Pakistani community in Thailand currently numbers around 5,000, a significant decline from the past, when it ranged between 100,000 to 150,000. She noted that Pakistan and Thailand have historically enjoyed strong bilateral relations, which continue to strengthen over time. A key issue discussed during the meeting was the plight of over 500 Pakistanis, including women, stranded at the Thailand-Myanmar border. The High Commissioner informed the Deputy Chairman that these individuals had been lured with job offers but were later abducted and forced into labor. Expressing deep concern over the matter, Syedaal Khan emphasized that these Pakistanis are their compatriots and will not be left helpless under any circumstances. He reaffirmed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's policy that no Pakistani should travel abroad illegally and assured that those facing hardships would be brought back home with dignity and respect.-APP

# Trump hails 'unstoppable' America in return to Congress

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump declared that the "American dream is unstoppable" Tuesday in an address to Congress met with Democratic hostility as he touted radical policies and hailed billionaire adviser Elon Musk. With Musk, the world's richest person, among those attending the primetime televised address, the 78-year-old Republican said after less than two months back in power he is "just getting started." "America is back," he declared. Almost every line got loud applause from Republican Party members, including on two occasions when Trump singled out Musk, who stood up to salute the Congress. But protests also began within minutes. One Democratic congressman, Al Green, was ordered ejected because he refused to stop heckling, claiming Trump has no mandate to dismantle healthcare programs, and shaking his walking stick at the president. Other Democrats silently held up placards including "False" and "Musk steals" and "That's a lie!" The president hailed his first six weeks, vowing to press on with his polarizing bid to reshape the US government and end the Ukraine war - whatever the cost. However, in what often sounded more like a campaign speech than an address to the whole nation, he made no attempt to reach out to opponents. He got big cheers from supporters on pronouncing that his culture war on diversity programs and transgender rights meant "our country will be woke no longer." Trump also set out his vision on the economy - even as the trade war he launched against Canada, China and Mexico is prompting jitters on world markets and threatening to raise prices at home.-APP

# Deep Seek transformative approach to global innovation

alyst for technological democratization and global collaboration. "Open-source AI represents more than just a technological strategy - it's a transformative approach to global innovation," said Zhou Hongyi, a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and founder of Chinese cybersecurity company 360 Security Group, at this year's Two Sessions, according to a report carried by China Economic Net on Wednesday. Open-source AI fundamentally challenges the traditional closed technological ecosystems. "First and foremost, open-source will triumph over closed-source systems," Zhou asserts. He highlights DeepSeek, an open-source AI model, as a prime example of this paradigm shift. Within a short span, DeepSeek transformed from an unknown entity to an industry standard that companies and developers worldwide are eager to adopt. The open-source approach creates a unique ecosystem of collaborative innovation. "By going open-source, nechanism is created where companies and developers naturally choose to build applications on top of the platform," Zhou explains. While a company like DeepSeek might not directly monetize its technology, the returns are substantial: global talent, including developers, engineers, professors, and doctoral students, contribute to improving the technology, creating what Zhou describes as a "biological big bang" of technological development. One of the most compelling aspects of open-source AI is its potential to level the technological playing field. "For many countries lacking financial resources and technical expertise, opensource models like DeepSeek provide an opportunity to develop their own foundational AI models," Zhou notes. This model breaks through national boundaries and technological barriers, fostering an open and inclusive innovation ecosystem where all countries can participate equally in AI development. The approach has already shown remarkable success. Major Chinese tech companies like Baidu, Tencent, and the three telecommunications operators have integrated open-source models. Internationally, companies such as NVIDIA, Microsoft, and Amazon, initially skeptical, have begun incorporating these models into their ecosystems. At the international level, China has been proactively championing open-source AI as a model of global cooperation. December, China and Zambia co-chaired a meeting of the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-building at the UN headquarters. Representatives from over 80 countries and some UN agencies attended, expecting the Group to boost AI capacity building cooperation, governance, and close the digital divide. This vision extends beyond technological competition - it represents a new paradigm of global cooperation, where technological advancement is seen as a shared journey rather than a zero-sum game.-DNA

# Pakistan showcases its rich tourism potential at ITB Berlin

icant impact on the global tourism stage at ITB Berlin 2025, the world's leading travel trade show. The event, which began on Wednesday, saw Pakistan's vibrant participation, underscoring its dedication to showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and adventure tourism opportunities to international audiences. Jointly organized by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Green Tourism Private Limited (GTPL), along with provincial tourism departments and the private sector, Pakistan's strong presence at the event highlighted the nation's commitment to becoming a key player in global tourism.

BERLIN: Pakistan made a signif-

The Pakistan Pavilion, spanning 100 square meters, was formally inaugurated by Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany Saqlain Syedah in a grand opening ceremony. The commercial win , Frankfurt,fully supported in planning & execution of the event, which played a crucial role in facilitating business engagements and promoting Pakistan's tourism industry. The high-profile Pakistani delegation, representing both public and private sector stakeholders, actively engaged with global tourism professionals, highlighting the country's rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and adventure tourism opportunities. The delegation included 13 private sector companies, two provincial tourism departments, Sindh. Gilgit-Baltistan—alongside

PTDC, TDAP, and GTPL. Among the distinguished attendees were Syed Zulfigar Ali Shah, Minister for Tourism, Sindh Tourism Development Corporation (STDC), and M. Ghulam Muhammad, Minister for Tourism, Tourism Department of Gilgit-Baltistan and Lt. Gen Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat MD of GTPL, who represented their respective organizations. Speaking at the inauguration, Ambassador Saqlain Syedah said "Pakistan is a land of unparalleled beauty, diverse landscapes, and centuries-old heritage. Our participation in ITB Berlin 2025 reflects our commitment to positioning Pakistan as a top travel destination. We are eager to strengthen partnerships and welcome the world to explore the immense tourism potential our

country has to offer." Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, in his response emphasized Pakistan's tourism vision, stated "Pakistan's presence at ITB Berlin 2025 is a strategic effort to enhance our international visibility and attract global tourists. Through meaningful collaborations and networking, we aim to showcase Pakistan as a must-visit destination on the world tourism map." Throughout the day, the Pakistani delegation actively participated in B2B meetings, networking events, and presentations, engaging with international tourism stakeholders to foster collaborations. A dedicated side event on March 5 is set to further promote business opportunities and enhance industry linkages. Additionally, Pakistan will be repre-

sented in the "Cultural Diplomacy" session, scheduled to take place on March 5 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at CitvCube Level 3 | M2. This session will provide an opportunity to highlight Pakistan's cultural heritage and its role in international tourism diplomacy. Pakistan's successful participation in ITB Berlin 2025 reaffirmed its dedication to enhancing its global tourism presence, attracting investment, and inviting travelers from across the world to experience the country's unmatched travel destinations. The Pakistan Pavilion received an overwhelming response from trade visitors, tour operators, media representatives, and social media influencers. The country's participation in ITB Berlin 2023 and 2024 laid the foundation for this year's stronger.—APP

# Siddiqui,Rahman discuss Pakistan,

## Bangladesh trade ties

ISLAMABAD: Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui on Wednesday met with Secretary Commerce of Bangladesh Mahbubur Rahman here. In the meeting, both sides discussed various aspects of bilateral economic and trade relations and expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum of these relations. They also discussed prospects of further enhancing these relations in the coming days.-APP

#### Rain, snow offer hope in Japan's worst wildfire in 50 years

OFUNATO, Japan: Japan battled its worst wildfire in half a century on Wednesday in a region hit by record-low rainfall, as wet weather gave hope for some relief. The blaze around the northern city of Ofunato has raged for more than a week, killing one person and forcing nearly 4,000 residents to evacuate their homes. It has engulfed about 2,900 hectares - around half the size of Manhattan - making it the largest wildfire since at least 1975, when 2,700 hectares burnt in Hokkaido. Columns of white smoke billowed from a mountain through the rain and snow on Wednesday, AFP reporters saw. More wet weather was forecast through Thursday. "The fire was like nothing I've seen before. It was towering and spreading fast," said Mitsuo Otsubo, 85, who fled his home to stay with a relative. "It didn't rain or snow at all this year... Thank goodness it rained today though. I can only hope it will help contain the situation," the seaweed and scallop farmer said. Japan endured its hottest summer on record last year as climate change pushes up temperatures worldwide. Ofunato received just 2.5 millimeters (0.1 inches) of rainfall in February – breaking the previous record low for the month of 4.4 millimeters in 1967 and well below the average of 41 millimeters. Makeshift tents were being set up at a city hall where around 270 people were taking shelter, with bottles of water and food supplies spread out on tables. "Fires are the scariest disaster, because they spring from one place to another, so you don't know where to run,' 69-year-old evacuee Fumiko Tanaka said.—APP

#### Food exporters delegation concludes successful 10-day visit t o China

LAHORE: A delegation of food exporters from South Punjab returned on Wednesday after completing a successful 10-day visit to China. Shahid Imran, convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's regional committee on food, and leader of the delegation, informed the media here that the group, consisting of prominent exporters, visited 10 cities across China to explore trade opportunities and strengthen bilateral ties in the food sector. During their trip, the delegation participated in business-to-business (B2B) meetings and toured key food markets and processing units. Shahid Imran noted that Chinese counterparts were impressed with the quality and competitive pricing of Pakistani food products, particularly Zia snacks, which had gained popularity in international markets. The delegation also discussed potential partnerships and joint ventures with Chinese companies to enhance export volumes and optimize supply chains. The primary aim of the visit was to showcase Pakistan's diverse range of food products, including snacks and processed foods, to potential Chinese buyers and investors. The delegation expressed hope that the visit would lead to a boost in Pakistan's food exports to China, one of its largest trading partners, and open new avenues collaboration.-APP



# Islamahar POST



#### THURSDAY, MARCH 06, 2025 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

### **Briefs**

#### **Amjad** assumes charge as **Punjab AG**

**DNA** 

LAHORE: Punjab Advocate General Amjad Pervez, has officially taken charge of his office. Upon his arrival, law officers and staff welcomed him with flowers. Speaking on the occasion, Amjad Pervez expressed gratitude to the Punjab government for their trust and vowed to take steps for the betterment of the institution. He assured that courts would be assisted in accordance with the constitution and law. He also praised his predecessor, Khalid Ishaq, calling him a professional lawyer and noted that he himself is also recognised as a professional in the field. It is worth mentioning that the Punjab government had issued a notification of Amjad Pervez's appointment as Advocate General Punjab a day earlier. Amjad Pervez is known as an expert in criminal, NAB, and constitutional cases. The position became vacant after former advocate general Khalid Ishaq was appointed as a judge of Lahore High Court.

#### PTI Senator stopped at Peshawar Airport

#### **DNA**

PESHAWAR: PTI Senator Faisal Javed was stopped at Peshawar Airport on Wednesday while attempting to board a flight to Saudi Arabia for his Umrah pilgrimage, despite having received permission from the Lahore High Court (LHC). According to reports, Faisal Javed was scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia for Umrah when immigration officials at the airport prevented him from boarding his flight He was booked on a Saudi-bound flight when the authorities allegedly removed him from the plane.

In a statement to the media, Javed revealed that the Lahore High Court had granted him permission to perform Umrah and had ordered that his name be removed from the Pakistan Exit Control List (PNIL). He claimed that despite pre-

senting the court's order at the airport, immigration officials, specifically from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), refused to allow him to travel, citing a violation of the court's ruling. "I had a flight scheduled for 3:00 PM today, but I was not allowed to travel," Faisal Javed stated. "I showed them the court order, but they ignored it. The FIA officials disrespected the judicial instructions.

#### FIA searches Armaghan's house

#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A team of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) reached the house of Mustafa Amir murder case prime accused Armaghan for search. The FIA team comprises of senior officers and other personnel to search the house in presence of police officials. The FIA had got search warrants of the residence yesterday. The investigation agency's team has recovered 18 more laptops and electronic equipment from the house. An expensive Audi car, owned by accused Armaghan, has also taken into custody by the FIA.

The FIA team preparing an inventory of the items taken into custody by the agency. The car allegedly purchased with money laundering receipts. The FIA's anti-money laundering cell has said that the ceased car will be made part of the probe. The FIA team has summoned a truck to lift the car from the residence of the accused. An anti-terrorism court on Tuesday extended physical remand of accused Armaghan in Mustafa Amir murder case for six days. Armaghan and co-accused Sheeraz were produced before the ATC for hearing of high-profile murder case.

# Armed forces are not a part of judiciary: SC judge

Justice Mazhar remarked that two objections are raised to the military court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD:Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar on Wednesday observed that the Armed Forces are not a part of the judiciary, and no judicial decision has stated that a military court is part of the judiciary. Justice Mazhar gave the observation during hearing of intra-court appeal against trial of civilians in military. The justice is a part of seven-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court which comprises justices Amin-ud-din Khan, Hassan Azhar Rizvi, MusaratHilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Shahid Bilal Hassan. Counsel for former office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Abid Zuberi argued that the military court is part of the executive. Justice Mazhar asked him what is the duty of the army? How can you declare it a part of executive?

Advocate Zuberi submitted that the duty of the army is to fight on the border. Justice Mandokhail remarked that the duty of the army is to defend the country. He remarked that two objections are raised to the military court. One is that military trials are not impartial. The other is that those who are conducting the trial, lack legal experience. Justice Mazhar asked him whether he considered the military court as the judiciary? If your reply is in the affirmative, then the results will be different. Justice Munib did not write the military court as the judiciary. The justice observed that the Army Act provided a complete procedure for military

## LHC summons Punjab govt, Pemra officials

The court adjourned the hearing until March 13, 2025

#### BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday summoned representatives from the Punjab government and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) regarding petitions filed against the controversial Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2025. Justice Farooq Haider presided over the hearing, where the federal government submitted its responses to the petitions. However, the Punjab government and PEMRA failed to provide their replies, drawing the court's criticism, Express News reported. During the proceedings, a lawyer representing the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) requested additional time to submit their response, but Justice Haider warned that the law would take its course if the court's queries remained unanswered by the next hearing. The court adjourned the hearing until March 13, 2025. The government strengthened Peca with new amendments to tackle fake news and unlawful online content. The proposed Electronic Crimes Prevention (Amendment) Act 2025 introduced severe penalties, including up to three years in prison and fines of Rs2 million for spreading disinformation. Last week, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the original draft of the recent amendments to Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) was very strict, but his party suggested many changes to dilute it, Express News reports. In an interview after addressing the Oxford Union, the PPP chairman stated that the PPP has always been against the original draft of Peca law, adding that former prime minister Imran Khan was the first to try such a harsh legislation.

trials. It prescribes a procedure that protects fundamental rights. If the procedure is not followed then the law is redundant. Advocate Zuberi said that General Zia-ul-Haq conducted a military trial of FB Ali and

set him free in 1978. Justice Mandokhail remarked that the general did what FB Ali wanted to do. Later, the court ordered a short break. When the hearing resumed, Advocate Zuberi argued that the court has declared in

its decision that civilians cannot be tried by court martial for civil crimes. Military courts are not part of the judicial system formed under the Constitution. Only those people can be tried in military courts who are part of the army. Under Article 10A and Article 4, a court martial of civilians is not permissible. Article 8's sub-clause 3A does not apply to the accused under Section 2D.

Justice Mazhar remarked that the word "other persons" has also been used in subclause 3A of Article 8. Advocate Zuberi said that under Article 10A, a military trial cannot be held. Justice Muhammad Mazhar questioned him how will you try cases involving conspiracy. Justice Mandokhail observed that the words "military court" is not mentioned in Section 2D, the clause provided that there will be a trial, it is not written which forum the hold the trial.

Zuberi submitted that the law was amended to include the crime of attack on military installations in the list of crime to be tried by military court. Justice Rizvi observed that the attacks are continuing. Yesterday there was an attack in Bannu Cantt. Justice Mandokhail remarked that if there is evidence, the anti-terrorism courts also hand down punishments to the criminals. Justice Mandokhail remarked that the word "court martial" has been used in the law, not military court. Justice Mazhar said that no court decision has declared that the military court is a judiciary. Later, the court adjourned the hearing until tomorrow. Lahore Bar counsel Hamid Khan will present his arguments as Advocate Zuberi concluded his submission.

#### Malala makes first visit to hometown

**DNA** 

SWAT: Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai on Wednesday visited her hometown Barkana in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shangla district for the first time since being shot by the Taliban in 2012. Malala was shot in the face by the Pakistani Taliban when she was a 15-year-old schoolgirl, amid her campaigning for female education rights. Her activism earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, and she has since become a global advocate for women's and girls' education rights. Her most recent visit to Pakistan was in January when she spoke at a summit in Islamabad on girls' education in Muslim nations and emphasised that women living under the Taliban system were in a "gender apartheid". Malala, who belongs to Shangla, has been living in the United Kingdom since October 2012. Nobel laureate on Wednesday met her family members in Barkana and visited their ancestral graveyard. She also met with her uncle, Ramazan, who recently underwent surgery in Islamabad after suffering from heart problems. SHO Amjad Alam Khan told media that she arrived in Barkana via helicopter and was accompanied by her father.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Leghari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

## US and Israel reject Arab alternative to Trump's plan

#### WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Israel has rejected a plan put forward by Arab states for the reconstruction of the devastated Gaza Strip on Tuesday, presented as an alternative to US President Donald Trump's widely condemned proposal to take over the territory and displace its people. Shortly after a summit of Arab leaders in Cairo, the Israeli foreign ministry said the reconstruction plan "failed to address the realities" of the situation following Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel, which led to Israel's 15-month-long war in the territory, killing over 60,000 Palestinians. "Hamas' brutal terrorist attack, which resulted in thousands of Israeli deaths and hundreds of kidnappings, is not mentioned, nor is there any condemnation of this murderous terrorist entity," the foreign ministry said. The US, Israel's closest ally, also rejected the plan, saying the proposal "does not address the reality that Gaza is currently inhabitable and residents cannot humanely live in a territory covered in debris and unexploded ordnances".

"President Trump stands by his vision to rebuild Gaza free from Hamas", National Security Council spokesperson Brian Hughes told. "We look forward to further talks to bring peace and prosperity to the region." he added in his statement. Tuesday's Arab League summit in Cairo - which came a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated his support for Trump's proposal - offered an alternative with the adoption of a "comprehensive Arab plan". It announced the establishment of a trust fund to pay for the territory's reconstruction, and urged the international community to back it. "All these efforts are proceeding in parallel with the launch of a political track" towards Palestinian statehood, it added, an ambition that Israeli leaders have opposed. The proposal would see a Gaza reconstruction plan which would cost \$53 billion. It also seeks to avoid displacing Palestinians, which has been called forb y Trump and endorsed by Israel. The summit also called on Palestinian representation to be unified under the PLO, an umbrella group that is the dominant political force within the Palestinian Authority - and which excludes Hamas.

### **Calling someone 'Pakistani' not** offence to religious sentiments

Derogatory terms used to describe Muslims may be in poor taste but not offensive, rules Indian Supreme Court

#### Foreign Desk

NEW DELHI: The Indian Supreme Court has ruled that calling someone "Pakistani" or "Mivan-Tivan", derogatory terms that are used to describe Muslims, may be in poor taste but does not amount to the offence of hurting religious sentiments. On February 11, while closing a case against a person accused of using the two terms against a government servant. the bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observation, reported Indian media. In the sub-divisional office in Jharkhand's Chas, the complainant used to be an Urdu translator and acting clerk for Right to Information.

Hari Nandan Singh, the person accused in the matter, had sought information under the Right to Information Act from the additional collector. The complainant was directed by an appellate authority to personally provide the information sought under RTI to Singh. According to the complainant, when he visited Singh's home to hand over the information, Singh allegedly

abused him by making a reference to his religion. Moreover, according to the court order, Singh also allegedly "used criminal force against him while he was discharging his official duties, with the intention of intimidating and deterring him from performing his duties as a public servant".

Under sections of the Indian Penal Code for hurting religious sentiments (section 298), insult with intent to provoke breach of peace (504), criminal intimidation (506), assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharging duty (353) and voluntarily causing hurt (323), a first information report (FIR) was filed against Singh. However, Singh filed an application for discharge under Section 239 of the Code of Criminal Procedure after the charge sheet was filed. On charges deemed to be groundless, this provision allows magistrates to discharge accused persons. The magistrate ruled that there was material available on record for framing charges against Singh in March 2022. Citing lack of evidence, however, Singh was discharged by the magistrate for criminal intimidation and voluntarily causing hurt. Singh's challenge to the magistrate's order was dismissed by the sessions court and the Rajasthan High Court. Additionally, the Supreme Court ruled that because there had been no assault, the High Court should have discharged the appellant under section 353.

#### Canadian FM slams Trump's Canada remarks

OTTAWA: Canada's Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly has told the British media outlet she takes US President Donald Trump's remarks on making Canada the 51st state of his country "very seriously". "This is not a joke anymore," Joly told Newsnight. "There's a reason why Canadians, when they go out on a hockey game, are booing the American national anthem... We're insulted. We're mad. We're angry." Her comments come after Trump imposed 25% tariffs on products entering the US from Canada on Tuesday. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called that a "very dumb thing to do" and announced retaliatory tariffs. However, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Trump would "probably" announce a deal to reduce tariffs on Wednesday. In response, Joly told that "at the end of the day, the only one that really takes a decision is President Trump". She said no Trump administration secretaries had contacted their Canadian counterparts on Monday or Tuesday about tariffs. Trump announced 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico on 4 February, but delayed implementation until 4 March. Canadian energy imports face a 10% tariff. Ontario Premier Doug Ford implemented a 25% surcharge on electricity exports to three US states, and if tariffs escalated. - Agencies

## Bilal bin Saqib appointed as chief crypto advisor

#### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has appointed Mr. Bilal Bin Saqib MBE as the Chief Advisor to the Finance Minister on the Pakistan Crypto Council to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to embracing technological advancement while ensuring sound policy measures that support the national economy, digital transformation, and a secure, transparent financial system for all. Bilal Bin Saqib, recognized by Forbes, is a Web3 investor, strategic advisor, and thought leader in the blockchain space. Mr. Saqib was included by Forbes in their 30 under 30 list and has been acknowledged by King Charles III, the late Queen Elizabeth II, and the Mayor of London for his efforts for the community. He was also the recipient of the 1632nd Points of Light Award, awarded by the British Prime Minister to recognize change makers in the country. He received his MBE (Member of the British Empire) in 2023 for contributions to the National Health Service in the UK. In this pivotal role as the Chief Advisor to the Finance Minister on the Pakistan Crypto Council, Mr. Saqib will lend his great knowledge and experience to Pakistan's efforts to integrate cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies into its financial ecosystem while ensuring the development of a robust regulatory framework for digital assets in alignment with global best practices. Additionally, he will advise the Finance Ministry on exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance government efficiency, optimize decision-making processes, and drive innovation in public sector operations. Mr. Saqib's appointment marks a significant step forward in Pakistan's commitment to embracing the transformative potential of digital currencies, ensuring financial security, mitigating risks, and effectively assessing the impact of cryptocurrencies on Pakistan's economy. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed the appointment of Mr. Bilal Bin Saqib and the crucial role his vast expertise and innovative vision was likely to play in guiding Pakistan's position in the rapidly evolving digital economy.



Clinical Measurements

(Height, Weight, Blood Pressure & Pulse)

**Visual Acuity** 

Lipid profile

FBC

**Liver Function Test** 

**Kidney Function Test** 

Bone profile

(Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphate)

**Urine analysis** 

**Thyroid Function test** 

Stool Occult Blood

Post Examination Review by Doctor

**ULTIMATE MEN HEALTH** 

**SCREEN ADD ON** 

Prostate tumour marker (PSA)

(including Prostate)

ound Abdomen & Pelvis

**Clinical Measurements Visual Acuity** Lipid profile HBA1C FBC **Uric Acid** 

**Liver Function Test Kidney Function Test Urine analysis** 

#### **ULTIMATE WOMENS HEALTH SCREEN** ADD ON

**Breast Ultrasound/ Mammogram Ultrasound Abdomen & Pelvis Cervical Smear** 

## **Ovary Tumor Marker**

Main Clinic, F-6/3 Islamabad

G-6 Markaz, Islamabad, Pakistan

# **Thyroid Function test**

Stool Occult Blood Vitamin D **Ferritin Folate** Vitamin B12 **Medical Report Post Examination Review by Doctor** 

**Medical History and Physical** 

**Examination by Doctor** 

**Clinical Measurements** 

**Visual Acuity** 

Lipid profile

FBC

**Uric Acid** 

**Liver Function Test** 

**Kidney Function Test** 

**Bone profile** 

Urine analysis

**ECG** 

Magnesium, Phosphate)

ht, Weight, Blood Pressure & Pulse)

atic Clinic, Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad, Pakistan

Karachi Clinic, Pakistan

Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com