



Islamabad POST

Saturday, April 05, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

'One of the greatest', De Bruyne says he is leaving Man City

Detailed News On Page-06

Gilani calls for cementing ties with Uzbekistan

Detailed News On Page-07

Natalie pledges US support for energy reforms

Detailed News On Page-08



PM Shehbaz says

Pakistan stands with Myanmar in a spirit of friendship

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the embassy of Myanmar; the Ambassador of Myanmar appreciates the Prime Minister's gracious gesture



ANSAR M BHATTI/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister visited the Embassy of Myanmar in Islamabad today and signed the Condolence Book, opened by the Embassy in the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025. The Prime Minister was warmly received by the Ambassador of Myanmar H.E. Wunna Han, who thanked the Prime Minister for his visit and also for the relief goods provided by Pakistan for those affected by the earthquake in Myanmar. The Prime Minister conveyed deepest condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan to the Government and people of Myanmar on the tragic loss of precious lives and widespread destruction caused by the earthquake. The Prime Minister also emphasized that in this hour of grief, Pakistan stood with Myanmar in a spirit of friendship and compassion. He admired the courage and resilience of the people of Myanmar in the face of adversity and expressed solidarity for their swift recovery and rebuilding in the days to come. The Ambassador of Myanmar, while appreciating the Prime Minister's gracious gesture, conveyed best wishes for him and the people of Pakistan, from the Myanmar leadership.

PM lauds success of Ramadan Package

He said that under the Package, a first-ever digital wallet was introduced

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, appreciating the effective and transparent implementation of the Ramadan Relief Package 2025, directed the authorities concerned to emulate this model in future government schemes. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the implementation of the Package, lauded the performance of the government's core team and supporting institutions. He said that under the Package, a first-ever digital wallet was introduced, and funds were delivered to the beneficiaries transparently and smoothly. The prime minister said that the Package was introduced countrywide including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and also appreciated the State Bank of Pakistan, Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, National Database and Registration Authority, and other supporting institutions for ensuring transparency in the process. He told the participants of the meeting that complaints received during the execution of the Package would be considered for future planning.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister visited the Embassy of Myanmar in Islamabad. PM was warmly received by the Ambassador of Myanmar Wunna Han. - DNA

Israeli leaders statements expose expansionist policies

Israeli Ministers cannot conceal the genocide committed in Gaza, the total war against the Palestinian people, settler terrorism

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The provocative statements made by Israeli Ministers against Türkiye reflect their current state of mind as well as the aggressive and expansionist policies of the fundamentalist and racist Israeli government. It is worth questioning why the developments in Syria and Lebanon, which hold great promise for peace, stability and prosperity in our region and enjoy the support of the international community, appear to disturb Israel.

Continued on Page 06

Pak passport ranked among weakest in world

Ireland has secured the Nomad Passport Index top spot in 2025

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan passport has once again been ranked among the weakest in the world, according to Nomad Passport Index 2025. The Nomad Capitalist Passport Index evaluates 199 citizenships, providing a deeper, data-driven look at what it means to be a truly global citizen. Each passport is ranked across five key factors:

Continued on Page 06

'No space for terrorists'

Army's top brass vows to thwart 'designs' of proxies

No one will be allowed to disrupt Balochistan peace, nefarious designs of foreign-backed proxies to be thwarted, says army

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Amid rising terror incidents across the country, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's top brass on Friday reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to bringing the "full force of the state" against facilitators and abettors acting on the behest of hostile elements seeking to destabilise the country. The affirmation came during the 268th Corps Commanders' Conference at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, chaired by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Undertaking a meticulous assessment of regional and internal security dynamics, the forum reaffirmed its resolve to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of the cost.

Continued on Page 06

Identity papers restored who heckled Isa

Names of around two dozen Pakistanis belonging to PTI restored to their normal status, say sources

FAISAL SHEIKH

LONDON: The Ministry of Interior has restored the CNICs and passports of around two dozen British Pakistanis whose Pakistani identity papers were cancelled for allegedly attacking former chief justice Qazi Faez Isa. Sources privy to the matter said that names of around two dozen Pakistanis,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Bunkers demolition continues in Kurram

Authorities have hailed the initiative as a major step toward lasting stability in Kurram

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The district administration has intensified efforts to demolish illegal bunkers in Kurram as part of the Kohat peace agreement, with 988 structures already razed in Upper and Lower Kurram. Officials confirmed that 353 bunkers were razed in Lower Kurram, while 635 were destroyed in Upper Kurram. The operation, which is part of the ongoing peace efforts, aims to eliminate all illegal structures that have fueled conflict in the region.

2 terrorists eliminate in Kech dist

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities

DNA

RAWALPINDI: On 4 April 2025, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Buleda, Kech District, on reported presence of terrorists. During conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and after an intense fire exchange, two terrorists were sent to hell. Killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against law enforcement agencies as well as the innocent civilians.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

To further solidify relations

President of Azerbaijan to visit Pakistan on April 26

This high-level engagement comes as a follow-up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Azerbaijan, during which both sides expressed a strong commitment to deepening cooperation in key areas including trade, energy, defence, and regional connectivity

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is scheduled to undertake an official visit to Pakistan on April 26-27, 2025. The visit is being seen as a significant step in further strengthening bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. This high-level engagement comes as a follow-up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Azerbaijan, during which both sides expressed a strong commitment to deepening cooperation in key areas including trade, energy, defence, and regional connectivity. The upcoming visit will include meetings with top Pakistani leadership, where discussions are expected to focus on enhancing strategic collaboration and exploring new avenues of mutual interest. Officials from both countries have described the visit as a reflection of the growing trust and partnership between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, built on shared values and mutual respect.

Committee formed for 'policy response' to Trump's tariffs

Steering committee tasked to negotiate with US as a major trading partner on "as and when" required basis

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has constituted a 12-member steering committee to deal with the reciprocal tariffs imposed by United States President Donald Trump on Pakistani goods, a move that could challenge the country's export competitiveness. "The prime minister has been pleased to constitute steering committee for in-depth analysis and policy responses to recently announced US Reciprocal Tariffs," stated a notification issued by PMO on Friday.

Continued on Page 06

KP won't expel Afghan refugees 'forcefully': CM Gandapur

"We have cultural and historical ties with Afghan refugees," says provincial chief executive

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday announced that no Afghan refugee would be deported "forcefully" from the northwestern region of the country. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the KP CM said: "No Afghan refugee will be expelled by force from KP. We are against such kind of forcible deportation of Afghan refugees." His remarks came at a time when the federal government has started the process of repatriating undocumented refugees and Afghan Citizen Card (ACCs) holders, as the deadline for their voluntary return ended on March 31, 2025. The country has been hosting millions of Afghans for around five decades. Hundreds of thousands of them returned to their country in the last few years but still over 2.1 million are living in KP and other provinces. The Pakistani authorities had set March 31 as the deadline for all the illegal Afghans as well as those who possessed ACC cards to return to their country amid rising incidents of terrorism in the country. During his interaction with journalists today, CM Gandapur said: "We have cultural and historical traditions regarding Afghan refugees,"

Continued on Page 06

Sattar sees room for further Rs 6 power tariff cut

DNA

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leader Farooq Sattar said on Friday his party's efforts led to significant cut in power tariff. Speaking to media, he acknowledged that the prime minister had announced major cut of 12pc to 17pc in power tariff. He said the MQM would ensure another Rs6 per unit power cut. He said the MQM-P, being part of the government, focused on relief for the masses through reduction in power bills and availability of water. He said the industrial sector had got a major relief and businessmen were thankful to the government. Sattar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had promised to address an MQM rally in Karachi. He said efforts would be made to ensure further Rs6 cut in electricity prices for the masses.



SERENA HOTELS

Experience the magical spring season in Gilgit Baltistan








HUNZA SERENA HOTEL | SERENA ALTIT FORT RESIDENCE | SERENA KHAPLU PALACE
GILGIT SERENA HOTEL | SERENA SHIGAR FORT

2.6m families get benefit from Ramadan package: Ahsan

Minister for National Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain, emphasized that the Digital Ramadan Package gave huge relief to the common man and supported 2.6 million families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that Rs 5000 was transferred to each 2.6 million families through 'Digital Valet' in the Ramadan Package 2025.

On the direction of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif a Ramadan package of Rs 20 billion was given to 2.6 million families and this amount was transferred with utmost transparency, the Minister said.

Ahsan Iqbal said this while addressing a Press conference along with Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja here Ramadan, the government has allocated a substantial amount of Rs

20 billion for the Ramadan Package, benefiting deserving people of the country who never benefited from any government program in the past. The Minister said that the government of digital Pakistan achieved a milestone in the economic history of the country and transferred Rs 20 billion to the account of the 2.6 million deserving people. He said that now, these deserving people are connecting with the digital economy, which has also transformed the economic landscape of the country. Ahsan said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and other relevant institutions of the country work like a team in the Ramadan Package and maintain the transparency of the system. Minister for National Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain, emphasized that the Digital Ramadan Package gave huge relief to the common man and supported 2.6 million families. He expressed his gratitude

to all stakeholders involved in the package's successful completion. He also mentioned that the Prime Minister has directed that this digital initiative must be expanded to the other sector of the economy for promoting the digitization in the country. Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that before the holy month of Ramadan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif gave directions for Ramadan Package 2025 and responsibility given to the Ministry of Information Technology for executing the Package of Rs 20 billion to the 2.6 million. She said that through this Ramadan Package 2025, Rs 5000 was transferred to 2.6 million families in a transparent manner, which also promotes the digital economy in the country. Through this exercise, these 2.6 million people are now connected with the formal economy of the country.



ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the hand model surround the tree along the Srinagar Highway as constructed by the CDA for the beauty of Federal Capital.

Derajat 2025 festival to begin in DI Khan today

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The DI Khan's grand cultural, sporting, and recreational festival "Derajat 2025" will formally commence today (Saturday) at 3:00 PM at Ratta Kulachi Sports Stadium in Dera Ismail Khan. The Derajat Festival was being organised by the divisional administration, DI Khan, Directorate of Sports and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority. Arrangements for this purpose have been finalised jointly by the provincial government and district administration of DI Khan. This vibrant festival showcasing traditional and national sports will continue until April 20, attracting thousands of visitors from across the country. The inaugural ceremony will be held at Ratta Kulachi Sports Stadium where visitors can see variety of attractions, including the historic Mela Aspaan, off-road jeep show, pet show, traditional and national sports competitions, guided tours of historical sites, ladies meena bazaar, grand mushaira, Qirat and Naat recitation contests, an art exhibition, and a tree plantation campaign. The opening ceremony will feature an exhibition of valuable livestock from Dera Ismail Khan and surrounding areas, a March Past, parade, Dhol, horse dance, camel dance, dog races, weightlifting, stone lifting, tent pegging, band performances, and a fireworks display will also be held. The festival's major event Off Road Challenge will start from April 17 to 20. More than 120 top racers are expected to participate in 17 different categories.—APP

Maryam stresses for providing basic amenities to citizens

The minister emphasized the importance of transparency in the transport system and timely refunds for overcharged fares to the passengers to restore public trust, especially during Eid

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb on Friday emphasized the importance of providing basic amenities to citizens and ensuring they benefit from government policies. She made these remarks during a meeting focused on development projects and key issues like Eid-ul-Fitr arrangements, reducing electricity rates, and enhancing public services. The minister emphasized the importance of transparency

in the transport system and timely refunds for overcharged fares to the passengers to restore public trust, especially during Eid. She also praised the progress made under the "Sauthra Punjab" campaign and directed improve the drainage and sanitation system in urban areas. Federal Parliamentary Secretary Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry highlighted the reduction in electricity tariffs as a significant step to alleviate inflation and promote industrial activities. The reduced tariffs, ranging from Rs. 7.41 to Rs. 7.59 per unit for domestic and industrial consumers, respectively, aim to provide relief to citizens. "It is a Eid gift to nation", he said while appreciating the decision by the prime minister on electricity rates cut. Chaudhry emphasized the government's focus on providing a quality life for every citizen, extending beyond basic infrastructure like roads, hospitals, and electricity.

PAJCCI hails PM massive reduction in power tariff

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has hailed the announcement made by Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Shabaz Sharif regarding massive reduction in power tariff, terming it pro-people and highly favourable for industrial growth in the country. In a press statement issued here on Friday, Senior Vice President PAJCCI, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said decision taken by Prime Minister of reducing prices of electricity unit by around Rs. 7.41 for domestic and Rs. 7.59 for industrial unit each will provide a relief to masses besides giving boost to commercial activities in the country by increasing industrial production and employment opportunities. The decision of slashing electricity prices was very essential and demanded by people and business community as well, Zia added. He expressed the hope that this decision by Prime Minister will bring prosperity in the country through stabilizing economy and increasing export.—APP

Action taken against transporters charging extra fares

MUZAFFARGARH: District administration launched an action against transporters charging extra fares, overloading vehicles and operating without route permits. Motor Vehicle Examiner, Ahmed Hussain checked fares, route permits and fitness certificates on Choubara Road, said the official spokesman in a statement issued here on Friday. Overcharged passengers were refunded on the spot, with strict action was taken against overloaded vehicles. Assistant Secretary RTA Farrukh Bhatti also conducted inspections on different routes and ensured fare refunds.—APP

MPA gives 41 rickshaws among Muslim, Christian families

FAISALABAD: MPA Ijaz Alam Augustine distributed 41 motorcycle rickshaws among Muslim and Christian families at the Catholic Church, Warispora, here on Friday. In collaboration with the financial support of a private organisation, Pakistan Partnership Initiative, the MPA handed over the

rickshaws to people. A US businessman Mike Berkeley, Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Partner Ashraf Mull and others were also present. The MPA said the aim of the initiative is to make the workers financially self-sufficient and provide them with a better future. He also commended the

role of the private sector in making low-income groups financially self-sufficient in the society and said that the Punjab government under the leadership of the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is taking several welfare measures for the low-income people in the province.—APP

Rich tributes paid to ZAB in KP

PESHAWAR: Glowing tributes were paid to former Prime Minister and founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB), on his 46th death anniversary observed with great respect by the PPP workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Friday. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a charismatic and influential politician of Pakistan, faced the gallows 46 years ago on April 4, 1979 with great courage and steadfastness. He chose to sacrifice his life rather than compromise on the rights of the people, the supremacy of the constitution, and democracy. "Death was meaningless for ZAB Bhutto, who gave to Pakistan its 1973 constitution and devoted his entire life to serving the people," said PPP leader Nighat Orakzai while talking to APP. She added that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had never bowed to dictatorial forces and refused to beg for mercy for a crime he did not commit. Orakzai praised Bhutto's courage and determination, highlighting how his life and political career exemplified his commitment to Pakistanis. Professor Dr ZA Hilali, former Chairman Political Science Department at University of Peshawar said that ZAB gave a voice to the poor, earning dignity for Pakistan on both regional and international platforms through his remarkable political stature, intellect, and vision. "Zulfikar Ali Bhutto rejected a compromised foreign policy and successfully united Muslim leaders during the historic Islamic Summit Conference hosted in Lahore in 1974," he said. Dr Hilali also pointed out that Bhutto consistently championed the Kashmir issue at the United Nations and defended the oppressed Kashmiris on all international forums. ZAB's most significant legacy, according to Dr Hilali, was his initiation of Pakistan's nuclear program, which strengthened the nation's defense and ensured its security in the face of external threats. The experts commended ZAB Bhutto for his role as a statesman, reformer, and master of dialogue and acknowledged his ability to unite people across the political spectrum, particularly in the development of the 1973 constitution. His extensive reforms, including those in land, labour, industry, education, healthcare, and legal sectors, brought significant benefits to millions of Pakistanis.—DNA

RCCI for enhancing bilateral trade with Ethiopia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Usman Shaukat, along with Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas and Executive Member Mr. Uzair Zahid Bakhtawari, visited the Embassy of Ethiopia and held a productive meeting with H.E. Mr. Jemal Bekir Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides discussed key avenues for enhancing bilateral trade, sector-specific collaboration, and the importance of mutual information sharing be-



tween business communities of the two countries. The RCCI delegation also emphasized the need for greater facilitation and support for Pakistani

businessmen seeking opportunities in the Ethiopian market. The Ambassador appreciated RCCI's proactive role in promoting international trade

relations and assured full cooperation from the Embassy in creating new pathways for economic cooperation between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Bakhtawari terms US 29% tariff on Pakistani products unjust

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (UBG) Central Core Committee Member Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has strongly criticized the 29% tariff imposed by the United States on Pakistani products, calling it an unjust and discriminatory measure that will negatively impact not only the export sector but also the overall economy. Pakistan exports approximately \$7.26 billion worth of goods to the U.S. annually, and this decision could prove to be devastating for Pakistani exporters. In contrast, India has been subjected to only a 26% tariff, highlighting an unequal trade policy that gives Indian traders an unfair advantage in the U.S. market. This situation is detrimental to Pakistan's economy and demands immediate diplomatic intervention. Speaking to a delegation of the

business community yesterday, Ahsan Bakhtawari stated, "We recommend that the Pakistani government reduce tariffs on U.S. imports to 0%. This move will strengthen Pakistan's position in trade negotiations with the U.S. administration and help mitigate the impact of the 29% tariff imposed on Pakistani products." He further emphasized that if Pakistan can reduce tariffs on U.S. imports by 58%, then the U.S. must also reciprocate by eliminating the 29% tariff on Pakistani goods to maintain trade balance between the two countries. Ahsan Bakhtawari stressed the need for Pakistan to secure a better and more balanced trade agreement with the U.S. in order to further stabilize its exports in the global market. He pointed out that key export sectors such as textiles, sports goods, leather, surgical instruments, and football manufacturing could suffer significant losses

due to this tariff hike. "Pakistan is a leading producer of footballs, and with the upcoming FIFA World Cup, our products hold a prominent place in the global market. If unnecessary tariffs are imposed, Pakistan's export industry could face irreparable damage," he warned. Ahsan Bakhtawari also highlighted that Pakistan's export sector is fully prepared to achieve the 60 billion USD export target under the 'Uraan Pakistan' vision. However, achieving this goal will require a favorable trade agreement with the U.S. that ensures Pakistani products remain competitive in the global market. He acknowledged the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of traders and industrialists and expressed hope that immediate steps would be taken to protect Pakistan's export sector.

Sindh CM vows to protect Sindh's rights

SUKKUR: Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has reaffirmed his commitment to safeguarding Sindh's interests, particularly with regards to the proposed construction of six canals on the Indus River. Speaking to the media here on Friday, Shah emphasized that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is opposed to the project, which he believes will harm the province's water resources. He expressed concern that the media should be aware of the impact of their reporting, as it can shape public opinion. He clarified that no funds have been allocated for the canal project, and the PPP will continue to challenge the proposal. The Sindh CM pointed out that the Punjab government has proposed a Rs 218 billion project to construct new canals, which requires approval from the Council of Common Interests (CCI). Shah emphasized that any water project must be approved by the CCI, as per Article 155 of the Constitution. He also highlighted the water scarcity issue in Sindh, citing that between 1976 and 2022, 27 million acres of water flowed into the sea, while 8.6 million acres were allocated for other uses, resulting in an 11 million acre-foot water shortage. He questioned how the canal project could be feasible in such circumstances. The CM assured that the PPP will continue to protect Sindh's rights and interests, and he is committed to standing with the people of Sindh. He also vowed to bring the perpetrators of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mehr's murder to justice.—APP

KPRA collects Rs 37.37b in 9 months

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) has collected Rs 37.37 billion in the first nine months of the fiscal year 2024-25, reflecting an impressive 41% growth compared to the same period last year. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, KPRA had collected Rs 26.58 billion, marking an increase of Rs 10.79 billion. According to details shared by KPRA's media wing, the authority collected Rs 28.8 billion from the Sales Tax on Services and Rs 8.57 billion from the Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC). Last year, collections from the Sales Tax on Services stood at Rs 22.8 billion, while Rs 3.74 billion was

generated from the IDC, indicating a 26% growth in Sales Tax on Services and a remarkable 129% increase in IDC revenue. KPRA Director General Fouzia Iqbal commended the dedication and hard work of the authority's team, attributing the strong performance to their efforts. "With the same level of commitment and our strategic approach, I am confident that we will surpass this year's target. By the end of June, KPRA will shine like a star with its remarkable performance," she said. She also expressed her gratitude to taxpayers for their trust, confidence, and cooperation, which have played a crucial role in KPRA's achievements.—APP

#الحمد لله - کر دکھایا

گھریلو صارفین کیلئے 7.41 روپے فی یونٹ

صنعتی صارفین کیلئے 7.69 روپے فی یونٹ

سستی بجلی

مشکلات ختم - آسانیاں شروع

وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات
حکومت پاکستان

GovtofPakistan

National Days and Armed Forces Days

APRIL

- April 04/Senegal National Day
- April 07/W. H. O. World Health Day
- April 12/Somalia Armed Forces Day
- April 15/DPR Korea The Day of the Sun
- April 16/Denmark National Day
- April 17/Iran Army Day
- April 17/Syria Independence Day
- April 18/Zimbabwe Independence Day
- April 24/Holy See Anniversary of His Papacy of his Pontificate
- April 25/DPR Korea Armed Forces Day
- April 26/Tanzania National Day
- April 27/Sierra Leone Independence Day
- April 27/South Africa Freedom Day
- April 30/Sweden Birthday of His Majesty
- April 30/Netherlands Birthday of Queen



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

- Rescue (Police).....15
- Bomb Disposal.....15
- Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
- Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
- Motorway Police...9266044
- Motorway Police..9270601-20
- Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

- Edhi Ambulance.....115
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Enquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
- CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

CDA chief vows to transform Islamabad into model capital

Randhawa emphasized the need for transparency, ordering a third-party audit of all CDA projects to ensure accountability and merit-based execution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa chaired a high-level meeting on Thursday reviewing ongoing development projects and outlining new initiatives aimed at making the city a global benchmark for sustainable urban living. The meeting, attended by CDA board members and senior officials, focused on key projects, including the citywide beautification plan, the Spring Plantation Drive 2025, and the upcoming inauguration of Sector E-12. Randhawa emphasized the need for transparency, ordering a third-party audit of all CDA projects to ensure accountability and merit-based execution. He received detailed briefings on ongoing infrastructure and civic projects, stressing the importance of maintaining high-quality standards and strict deadlines. "Every project must reflect excellence in craftsmanship, efficiency, and public convenience," he stated. To address water supply concerns, the CDA



has established the Islamabad Water Agency, tasked with ensuring clean drinking water for residents while planning for future needs. "Our goal is to resolve citizens' difficulties, and this agency will play a crucial role in sustainable water management,"

Randhawa said. The meeting highlighted ambitious plans for the capital's beautification, including horticulture upgrades, landscaping, and a massive tree plantation campaign. The chairman urged corporate entities to support these efforts through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. "We need collective action—businesses, educational institutions, and residents must all contribute," Randhawa said, calling on schools, universities, and families to participate in the Spring Plantation Drive 2025. "A beautiful Islamabad is a shared responsibility. Our youth, in particular, can lead this green revolution." Reiterating his commitment to sustainable development, Randhawa outlined his vision of a city that blends modernity with nature. "Islamabad should be a model of urban planning and environmental stewardship, setting standards for others to follow," he said.

IG Rizvi reviews foolproof security for PSL matches

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired a key meeting on Thursday to review security arrangements for the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in Rawalpindi. A public relations officer told media that during the meeting, it was decided that foolproof security would be ensured for players at their hotels and during movement. All routes will be thoroughly checked by bomb disposal squads and monitored through security cameras. He said quick response teams will remain on high alert throughout the players' movement, while full-dress rehearsals will be conducted before their arrival. He said a command and control center will be established during the matches, and search and combing operations will be carried out in different areas. Close coordination will be maintained among all law enforcement agencies to ensure seamless security arrangements. Similarly, a comprehensive security plan will be devised for various VIP movements during the matches. A traffic management program will also be issued to ensure smooth traffic flow and facilitate the public. IG Rizvi emphasized that security measures would be made foolproof during the PSL. He added that Safe City smart cars, mobile jammers, and surveillance vehicles would be deployed in the convoy to enhance security and ensure effective monitoring. A team of police commandos equipped with modern gadgets will perform squad duty along with the convoy, while Islamabad Police, FC, and CTD personnel will be deployed for route security. Aerial surveillance will be conducted using advanced cameras. In collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA), green belts along both sides of the route are being cleared of bushes to enhance visibility. Islamabad Capital Police will utilize all available resources to ensure the security of both foreign and national players while maintaining law and order throughout the city. The protection of citizens' lives and property remains the top priority of Islamabad Police.

FPCCI leadership felicitates compensation

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), leadership Atif Ikram Sheikh and SM Tanvir said that the revival of the IPPs agreement has compensated the loss of Rs 3500 billion from the government treasury, due to which a reduction in electricity prices for domestic and industrial consumers has been announced. They felicitated the announcement of a reduction in electricity prices for industrial and domestic consumers by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Shrif and termed it significant for the country's economy. The year 2025 is the year of 'take-off' of the Pakistani economy, and intend to take the country's exports to \$ 100 billion in the coming years. Chairman FPCCI, United Business Group, SM Tanvir expressed these views while addressing the press conference along with President, FPCCI Atif Akram Sheikh, Senior Vice President, Zaki Ejaz, Vice President Quratul-Ain, Chairman FPCCI Capital office, Karim Aziz Malik and Coordinator Capital office Malik Sohail here at FPCCI Capital office Islamabad. Meanwhile, the President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement of a significant reduction in electricity tariffs, terming it an "Eid gift" for the public and industrialists. The government has reduced electricity prices by PKR 7.41 per unit. This move is expected to alleviate the financial burden on industries and address their long-standing concerns regarding high energy costs, he said. President, FPCCI emphasized that the tariff reduction, coupled with the recent decrease in the policy interest rate, will significantly resolve issues faced by industrialists. He credited the Prime Minister's task force for its effective work in facilitating this decision. FPCCI Senior Vice President Saqib Fayyaz urged industrialists to capitalize on this development by boosting exports. He mentioned that 2025 will be a year of economic growth for Pakistan. FPCCI Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer highlighted the Prime Minister's statement regarding the estimated Rs 600 billion losses due to theft within distribution companies (DISCOs). He said that the anticipated privatization of DISCOs is expected to curb these losses. FPCCI officials expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff, Ayed Asim Muneer and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for their efforts. The FPCCI is optimistic about the positive impact of these measures on Pakistan's economy, projecting continued improvement in the coming days.—DNA

Ayaz commends big reduction in electricity tariffs

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement of a significant reduction in electricity tariffs, which will provide major relief to consumers. The cuts include a decrease of Rs. 7.41 per unit for domestic users and Rs. 7.59 per unit for industrial consumers. In a statement issued by the Directorate General of Media of the National Assembly Secretariat, the speaker said that this is a historic public decision of the prime minister and his team. This decision will benefit all consumers without discrimination. Such a big relief to the people after pulling the country out of the economic whirlpool is a historic step. Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq further said that the prime minister's decision will further accelerate economic activities in the country. This decision of the government also brought immediate improvement in the stock market, which is a reflection of the confidence of the business class. The public circles, including the business classes and the business community, have also welcomed this decision.—APP

IRSA releases 63,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 63,000 cusecs water from various run stations with inflow of 66,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1410.62 feet which was 8.62 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16,800 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1086.70 feet, which was 36.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 21,900 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 36,800, 30,300, 16,600 and 6,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 17,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Siddiqui advises Gandapur to stop wasting time on IK's persuasion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui, PML-N's senior leader and parliamentary group head in the Senate, on Thursday advised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to focus on convincing those he intends to negotiate with - rather than spending prolonged Adiala Jail meetings persuad-

ing PTI's founder. While speaking to news channel outside Parliament House on Thursday, Senator Irfan Siddiqui dismissed the idea of convincing PTI's founder as absurd, saying Gandapur should instead persuade those Imran Khan has been unsuccessfully trying to engage with for the past 18 months. He remarked that Imran Khan has been standing on the rooftop for the past year and a half, demanding the

establishment's attention, but the response from the other side remains clear: politicians should engage with politicians. Criticizing the PTI leadership, he dismissed their claims as nothing more than a reflection of the party's internal rifts, stressing that such rhetoric has no bearing on the establishment or the government. He pointed to a recurring trend where those allowed into Adiala Jail seize the

chance to peddle unfounded rumors, merely to exaggerate their own importance. Responding to a question, Senator Irfan Siddiqui remarked that internal conflicts within PTI have escalated significantly. Neither the party nor its founder commands any sympathy anymore—each member is pursuing their own agenda, he said, adding that the party's affairs have now turned into nothing short of a circus.

Kitchen items' prices up by 0.20pc

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), increased by 0.20 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on April 03, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.79 points as compared to 319.14 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed a decrease of 1.99 per cent. The week-

ly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed an increase of 0.28 per cent and went up to 308.66 points from last week's 307.79 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, went up by 0.27 percent, 0.23 percent, 22 percent and 0.17 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 15 (29.41%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 26 (50.98%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major increase

in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included Chicken (7.17%), Potatoes (6.50%), Onions (5.10%), Lawn Printed (0.71%), Tomatoes (0.66%), Gur (0.63%), Mustard Oil (0.61%), Beef (0.52%), Long Cloth (0.32%), Milk Fresh (0.25%), Firewood & Mutton (0.12%) each and Cigarettes (0.08%). The commodities which recorded decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included Garlic (6.11%), Bananas (5.34%), Eggs (4.79%), LPG (0.70%), Petrol (0.33%), Wheat Flour (0.20%), Pulse Mash (0.14%), Pulse Moong (0.13%), Pulse Masoor (0.05%) and Powdered Milk (0.01%). Year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included

, Onions (67.46%), Wheat Flour (31.63%), Tomatoes (20.93%), Chillies Powder (20.00%), Electricity Charges for Q1 (18.92%), Tea Lipton (16.98%), Pulse Mash (13.47%), Petrol (11.89%), Pulse Masoor (11.03%), Rice Basmati Broken (9.64%), Diesel (8.29%) and LPG (0.62%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on year-on-year basis included Ladies Sandal (55.62%), Pulse Moong (27.10%), Powdered Milk (25.74%), Beef (21.10%), Sugar (18.60%), Pulse Gram (17.91%), Vegetable Ghee 1Kg (16.21%), Chicken (15.74%), Vegetable Ghee 2.5Kg (15.66%), Lawn Printed (12.52%), Georgette (10.54%) and Firewood (10.53%).



ISLAMABAD: Apr04-An eye catching view of the different colors of seasonal flowers attracting tourists as the beauty of Capital City is among the top of the list in World.

ASIAN WOK
by MONAL

LUNCH & BGWLS, THE ASIAN WOK WAY!

DELIGHT IN OUR HEARTY CHICKEN, BEEF, OR SEAFOOD GRAVIES, SERVED WITH YOUR CHOICE OF RICE OR CHOW MEIN AND COMPLIMENTARY MINT MARGARITA AND FISH CRACKERS.

Starting at just Rs. 1195 +tax
Available daily from 12 PM to 6 PM

Lower Ground Floor, Mosaic District, I-8 Markaz
0300-5845530 | 051-8840526 | 051-8840527

Briefs

Police arrest murder case PO

RAWALPINDI: The Rawat Police on Friday arrested a proclaimed offender wanted in a murder and attempted murder case. According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesman, accused Muhammad Ali, along with his accomplices, had shot dead Mateen and injured Nabeel due to an old enmity, and was absconding since then. The Rawat Police had registered a case of the incident in July 2023, and employed scientific methods and human intelligence to trace and nab the accused.—APP

Hackers intensify crypto to scams

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In 2024, as digital financial transactions continued to expand worldwide, cybercriminals shifted their focus toward mobile devices and crypto assets. According to Kaspersky's new Financial Cyberthreats report, the number of users encountering mobile banking Trojans rose by 3.6 times compared to 2023, while crypto related phishing detections climbed by 83.4%. Kaspersky antiphishing technologies prevented 10,706,340 attempts to follow a cryptocurrency-themed phishing link, an 83.4% increase over the 2023 figure of 5,838,499. As cryptocurrency popularity continues to grow, the number of attacks is only ever going to get larger. Meanwhile, PC focused malware saw a decline in traditional banking attacks but a surge in crypto asset theft. This data comes from Kaspersky's new Financial Cyberthreats report for 2024. In 2024, online fraudsters continued to lure users to phishing and scam pages that mimicked the websites of popular brands and financial organizations. Banks were the most popular lure in 2024, accounting for 42.6% of financial phishing attempts (compared to 38.5% in 2023). Amazon Online Shopping was mimicked by 33.2% of all phishing and scam pages targeting online store users in 2024, making it the most popular online brand target for fraudsters. Apple's share of attacks dropped nearly 3 p.p. on last year's figure to 15.7%, while Netflix scams grew slightly to 16%. Meanwhile, fraudsters' interest in the Alibaba marketplace increased, its share going up from 3.2% in 2023 to 8% in 2024. Payment systems were mimicked in 19.3% of financial phishing attacks detected and blocked by Kaspersky products in 2024 (19.9% in 2023). Once again PayPal was the most targeted brand, however, the ratio of attacks related to it fell from 54.7% to 37.5%. Attacks targeting Mastercard, on the contrary, nearly doubled from 16.6% in 2023 to 30.5% in 2024.

CPEC-Phase II Road network eases Eid Travel for tourists

According to Malakand Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Nasir Mehmood Sati, more than 700,000 tourists visited Swat and the Malakand division during Eid this week. He said tourists from across the country visited the region, creating a festival-like atmosphere at major tourist attractions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Each Eid season, the Swat Motorway, also known as M-16, serves as a vital transportation corridor, significantly improving accessibility for holidaymakers traveling to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's most popular destinations. With the completion of its Phase II under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the number of tourists is expected to double. This modern expressway has become an indispensable route, facilitating the movement of tens of thousands of tourists to the region's breathtaking valleys and mountain resorts during the festive period, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. According

to Malakand Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Nasir Mehmood Sati, more than 700,000 tourists visited Swat and the Malakand division during Eid this week. He said tourists from across the country visited the region, creating a festival-like atmosphere at major tourist attractions. Travelers from cities such as Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Nowshera, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Lahore visited popular tourist spots in Swat, including Malam Jabba, Madyan, Bahrain, Kalam, Gabin Jabba, and Marghuzar, where they enjoyed the breathtaking landscapes and refreshing climate. In recent years, the 160-kilometer motorway has fundamentally transformed travel patterns, with its state-of-the-art infrastructure

enabling seamless connectivity to Swat Valley's major attractions. It has reduced congestion on traditional mountain roads, provided safer and more comfortable journeys for families, and increased mobility for both domestic and international visitors. The Kareem family from Lahore, talking to Gwadar Pro, shared, "We left home after Fajr prayers and were in Madyan by 9 AM — with time for a proper breakfast! The kids didn't even ask 'are we there yet?' once." Hotel owner Nazir Ahmed noted, "For the first time, we're seeing guests arrive relaxed instead of exhausted. Many are extending their stays because the journey home is now so easy." During peak Eid travel periods, the motorway consistently

demonstrates its value as a tourism enabler, handling unprecedented volumes of traffic while maintaining efficient operations. Its strategic importance continues to grow each year, cementing its role as the preferred gateway to northern Pakistan's most sought-after holiday destinations. It also facilitates access to Swat's tourist spots and improves logistics for agricultural and horticultural exports. The local business community, especially hotel owners, believe that with the Swat Motorway's Phase-II extension, the route will stretch from Chakdara to Fatehpur, providing travelers direct access to key destinations like Mingora (Swat's commercial center), Malam Jabba (the renowned ski resort), and the

breathtaking alpine valleys of Kalam and Mahodand. The expansion will also improve connectivity to Upper Dir and Kumrat Valley through linked highways. While current road conditions beyond Bahrain remain difficult—primarily due to lingering flood damage from 2022—the completion of Phase II promises dramatic improvements. Once completed, Phase II will significantly reduce travel time, encourage greater tourist traffic, and boost local economic growth. Designed as a four-lane motorway (with provisions for future expansion to six lanes), it will feature nine interchanges and eight bridges, ensuring seamless connectivity to Swat's key destinations.

FTO coordinator lauds tariff cut

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Saif Ur Rehman on Friday lauded the tariff cut aligns with ongoing reforms aimed at modernize infrastructure, simplify regulatory processes, and promote energy efficiency. He said the government assured President PFCI Atif Akram Sheikh that service quality and sustainable energy transitions remain priorities, addressing potential concerns about long-term viability, said a news release. He said all stakeholders widely hail this epoch making decision as a timely intervention to revive industrial productivity and enhance export potential. Combined with previous initiatives, it reinforces Pakistan's resolve to achieve macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth. This policy marks a transformative stride toward a resilient, competitive economy, promising renewed confidence among investors and industries alike, he concluded.—APP

Rupee gains 10 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Friday appreciated by 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.46 against the previous day's closing of Rs 280.56. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280.50 and Rs 282.00, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs0.40 to close at Rs 308.34 against the last day's closing of Rs 307.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.91, whereas a decrease of Rs 3.94 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 364.70 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 368.64. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal also decreased by 03 paise each to close at Rs 76.35 and Rs 74.75, respectively.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Women posing for a picture on the occasion of Eid milani party hosted by the High Commission of Malaysia. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the party. —DNA

Export increased by 7.69% to \$24.690b

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country increased by 7.69 percent during the first nine months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year. Exports during July-March (2024-25) were recorded at \$24.690 billion against

\$22.926 billion during July-March (2023-24), according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data. On the other hand, imports into the country went up by 6.33 percent by growing from \$40.054 billion last year to \$42.589 billion during the first nine months of the current year. Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the period under

review was recorded at \$17.899 billion against the deficit of \$17.128 billion last year, showing an increase of 4.50 percent. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports in March 2025 increased by 1.95 percent to \$2.617 billion from \$2.567 billion in March 2024. On the other hand, the imports came down by 2.45 percent by declining from \$4.855

billion to \$4.736 billion, according to PBS data. On a month-on-month basis, the exports from the country went up by 5.10 percent when compared to the exports of \$2.490 billion during February 2025. The imports witnessed a decrease of 1.11 percent when compared to the imports of \$4.789 billion in February 2025, PBS reported.

Afnanullah hails govt's electricity tariff slash

This move aims to address the concerns of all provinces equally and promote a more unified approach to governance, he mentioned

ISLAMABAD: PMLN Senator Dr. Afnanullah Khan Friday commended the government's landmark move to slash electricity tariffs, a bold step that promises to benefit the nation at large and inject new life into the country's economic landscape. In a recent television interview, he revealed that the government, led by the Prime Minister aims to wipe out circular debt within a five-year period, thereby fostering robust expansion in the industrial sector. Senator said this "groundbreaking decision will bring respite to the general public and stimulate economic growth a significant reduction in electricity costs is expected to have a positive ripple effect on various sectors, providing much-needed relief to consumers and businesses alike. The government's decision to reduce electricity prices is a bold step that has never been taken before by any government, he said, terming it a "historic step" that will provide relief to the masses. Responding to a query, Afnanullah clarified that regarding the issue of the canal with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), evidence suggests that they were indeed on board with resolving the matter. Specifically, on July 8, last year, the President had taken steps to address the issue and relevant newspapers had published reports allocating funds for the project. Afnanullah Khan emphasized that if the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) does not agree to continue with the canal project, they have the option to raise this issue in relevant committees, the National Assembly and the Senate. This is because the government is in a coalition partnership and without the PPP's support, progress on the project would be challenging, he added. Khan stated that the federal government is giving equal importance to all provinces and prioritizing the removal of reservations held by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). This move aims to address the concerns of all provinces equally and promote a more unified approach to governance, he mentioned.—DNA

MoC signed to deepen China-Pakistan cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by the institute of Cotton Research of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (ICR-CAAS) and the Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad, in Anyang, Henan, China, aiming to launch comprehensive cooperation in cotton germplasm innovation, pest-resistant breeding, and cultivation technologies. Under the new agreement, both sides will collaborate on germplasm collection and identification, variety improvement fo-

cused on pest resistance, joint breeding and field trials across both countries, and the integration of advanced cultivation techniques. The partnership also aims to strengthen talent exchange and training, contributing to the development of a China-Pakistan cotton technology community. As part of the visit, the Pakistani delegation engaged in in-depth academic exchanges with ICR scientists and toured key research facilities such as the National Key Laboratory for Cotton Bio-Breeding and so on. The experts gained a detailed understanding of China's cutting-edge advancements in insect-resistant gene editing and

cotton germplasm innovation. Dr. Abid Mahmood, Director General Agri. (Research), Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad, hailed ICR's scientific capacity and expressed strong interest in leveraging China's technologies to accelerate agricultural modernization in Pakistan. ICR-CAAS is the only state-level organization for professional cotton research in China. According to the institute, this cooperation serves as a key initiative under BRI, promoting the global application of China's agricultural innovations and offering sustainable solutions for the future of the cotton industry.

PM hailed for significant reduction in power prices

DNA

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 FPC-ICI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that significant reduction in electricity prices across the country by Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif's is a highly laudable step. He highlighted the significant benefits of the reduced electricity prices, stating that it will relieve the public and the business community, make industrial production cheaper, and increase exports by two to three billion dollars. Mian Zahid Hussain said that increased industrialization will

also reduce unemployment, an Eid gift for the nation. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that electricity has been made cheaper by Rs 7.41 per unit for domestic consumers. In contrast, the price of electricity for industries has been reduced by Rs 7.59 per unit. He added that convincing the IMF to agree to such a substantial reduction in electricity tariffs was formidable, underscoring the government's unwavering commitment to this cause. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government should increase pressure on IPPs to further reduce electricity prices, improve the transmission and distribution system, take steps against corruption, stop the theft of electricity worth Rs 600 billion, and encourage renewable energy instead of discouraging it. The business leader stressed that the

government should swiftly eliminate monopolies in the electricity sector, sell off the DISCOS, and implement other necessary reforms. According to the Prime Minister, the government is saving Rs 3696 billion through negotiations with IPPs, which is encouraging. However, he said, we have to advance industrialization, encourage the establishment of new industries, and make a strategy for expansion in old industries so that surplus electricity can be used and the burden of capacity payments can be minimized. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the circular debt has also reached Rs 2393 billion, which is detrimental to the country's economic future. The expensive electricity is a burden for the public and businesses and has been an obstacle to economic development for decades. He

said it is impossible to make electricity cheaper without eliminating circular debt, rooting out electricity theft, stopping corruption, and involving the private sector in the distribution of electricity. He warned that industry and agriculture will not be able to develop as needed until the price of electricity is at par with neighbouring countries, and this sector will continue to impact economic development and competitiveness negatively. Mian Zahid Hussain said that we must reduce dependence on imported fuel, improve the power distribution system, and end mismanagement at the policy level. Otherwise, the economy will continue to suffer the consequences of expensive power. He explained that when power is expensive, the cost of production increases, making it difficult to compete in international markets.



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.

OPD CLINIC

IN-PATIENT ROOMS

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)

MATERNITY CARE UNIT

DIALYSIS CARE UNIT

X-RAYS

HANDICAPED

ENDOSCOPY / CYSTOSCOPY

ICU

24/7 EMERGENCY ROOM

OPERATION THEATRES

DAY CARE SURGERY

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)

DIAGNOSTIC LAB

ULTRASOUND

ECG

OPD

PHARMACY

General Physician Services

Urology

Neurology

Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery

Medicine

Pediatrics & Child Health

Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle

Psychiatry

Gynecology & Women's Health

Plastic Surgery

Nephrology

Gastroenterology

Dermatology & Aesthetics

Ear, Nose & Throat

Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

General Surgery

Cardiology

Ophthalmology

Psychology & Mental Health

Empathic & Caring for everyone

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.

FOR APPOINTMENT: +92 33 47 47 47 01

Pakistan Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad | www.generalpractice.com.pk | @generalpracticeislamabad | +92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474

Gaza: Worst orphan crisis

THE Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) has reported that over 39,000 children in Gaza have lost one or both parents since the onset of the war on October 7, 2023—making it the largest orphan crisis in modern history. In a report released ahead of Palestinian Children's Day, observed annually on April 5, the Bureau also warned that famine and malnutrition are threatening the lives of children in Gaza, with an estimated 60,000 expected cases of severe acute malnutrition. The report also highlighted that Israeli forces have arrested over 1,055 children since the war began—representing a systematic violation of children's rights and a clear breach of international law. As of the end of 2024, children under the age of 18 make up 43% of Palestine's population of 5.5 million, with around 2.38 million children—1.39 million in the West Bank and 980,000 in Gaza. Children under 15 years old account for 37% of the population—about 2.03 million, including 1.18 million in the West Bank and 900,000 in Gaza. In Gaza, children under 18 make up about 47% of the population, compared to 41% in the West Bank. Those under 15 comprise 40.3% in Gaza and 34.8% in the West Bank. The report emphasized that children have borne the brunt of 534 days of war (October 7, 2023 – March 23, 2025), facing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, with women and children making up more than 60% of total casualties. The war has resulted in the deaths of 50,021 Palestinians, including 17,954 children. Among them were: • 274 infants born and killed during the bombardment, • 876 children under one year old, • 17 children who died from cold in displacement camps, • and 52 children who died from starvation or malnutrition. A total of 7,065 children have been injured, including hundreds who lost limbs, vision, or hearing. There were 4,700 amputations, 18% of which—846 cases—were among children, worsening the humanitarian crisis. These children now face a double catastrophe: physical and psychological trauma, compounded by a collapsed healthcare system, the destruction of hospitals, and the blockade on medical supplies and prosthetics. Widespread malnutrition has also worsened bone deformities and hindered wound healing. Additionally, around 7,700 newborns are at risk of death due to severe shortages in neonatal care. With limited access to incubators, ventilators, and essential medications, the lives of these infants hang in the balance. In July 2024, polio re-emerged in Gaza for the first time in 25 years due to plummeting vaccination rates—from 99% to 86%—amid the deteriorating health situation. In response, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with other UN agencies and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, launched three rounds of vaccination campaigns to curb the spread. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report covering November 2024 to April 2025, about 1.95 million people in Gaza are experiencing crisis-level or worse food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+). Of them, approximately 345,000 people are expected to face catastrophic levels of hunger (IPC Phase 5). The PCBS reported that education in Gaza has become a major casualty of the war. Israeli attacks completely destroyed 111 public schools and severely damaged 241 others. An additional 89 UNRWA schools were also bombed or vandalized. The war disrupted regular schooling for two consecutive academic years, halting classes for 300 school days as of January 28, 2025.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 291

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



China, Japan and S. Korea dialogue

IN a world increasingly shaped by fractured alliances, three Asian neighbors—China, Japan, and South Korea—have quietly revived a long-dormant trilateral dialogue. The 13th China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting was held in Seoul recently. Their foreign ministers also met in Tokyo on March 22 for the first time in four years. While no sweeping agreements emerged, this revival is profound and has significant regional and global stability implications. As major global economies and Asia's three most extensive powers, these nations have acknowledged a crucial reality: It is time they take an active role in shaping their regional destiny rather than leaving it in the hands of external powers. The timing of this dialogue is no coincidence. The so-called "Indo-Pacific" has become a hotspot for Washington's competition strategy against China. The US' push to "de-risk" global supply chains and reduce dependence on China has brought allies like Japan and South Korea into a dilemma: lean further into US-led security or prioritize economic integration with China, their largest trading partner. Hence, the trilateral dialogue is a key factor in this complex dynamic. Meanwhile, long-standing tensions have heightened fears of conflict in a region already burdened by history and geographic disputes. China, Japan, and South Korea are signaling their own intent to set their course. They represent a hopeful step toward reclaiming regional agency. The three nations agreed to discuss accelerating negotiations on the trilateral free trade agreement that had been sidelined for years, demonstrating a shared interest in stabilizing supply chains amid the ongoing global uncertainty. They also pledged to deepen collaboration in digital and green economies and enhance local cooperation. These choices reflect a pragmatic approach to a region under immense pressure. Asian stability cannot be reduced to binary options—it requires a delicate balance in which regional cooperation plays a central role. However, reclaiming the cooperation does not imply decoupling from the US. Japan and South Korea remain deeply tied to Washington for security guarantees. Yet there is a growing perception that US strategies prioritize countering China over building proper stability in Asia. While America positions itself as the defender of the "free world," it offers limited solutions to the region's pressing economic change. The stakes are global and regional for China, Japan, and South Korea. Their cooperation is critical in addressing transnational issues such as energy security and climate resilience. Sunday's meeting of economic and trade ministers articulated a vision for international cooperation rooted in regional necessity rather than external influence by emphasizing multilateralism. This matters far beyond Asia. In a world splintered by nationalism and ideological divides, localized solutions open pathways for rebuilding fragmented global governance. Still, trilateral cooperation is still influenced by the US' deeper involvement in the region, which is a significant geopolitical factor. Yet even modest beginnings can carry disproportionate significance. The meeting was about acknowledging a shared truth that Asia cannot rely on outside powers to shape its future.

Discourse of UK national security

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



In theory, this shift could lead to more inclusive and equitable security practices that analyze militarism and prioritize the needs of historically excluded groups.

However, its power-evasive framing often undermines the potential for emancipatory politics within this discourse.

While some officials advocate for a critical approach that centers the lives of marginalized subjects

THE discourse surrounding diversity of thought within UK national security policymaking has emerged as a significant area of inquiry, particularly in light of its implications for identity politics, knowledge production and the broader structures of power that underpin national security institutions. This perspective challenges the traditional notion of the bureaucrat as a disembodied thinker who provides a "view from nowhere", an ideal rooted in Enlightenment-era conceptions of objectivity and rationality. In theory, this shift could lead to more inclusive and equitable security practices that analyze militarism and prioritize the needs of historically excluded groups. However, its power-evasive framing often undermines the potential for emancipatory politics within this discourse. While some officials advocate for a critical approach that centers the lives of marginalized subjects, the diversity of thought agenda is more frequently co-opted to reinforce the illusion of objective, apolitical knowledge production. This tendency is particularly evident in the ways Conservative ministers have used the discourse to enforce a narrow version of Civil Service impartiality. By framing diversity of thought as a means to achieve bureaucratic objectivity, these ministers paradoxically stifle critiques of structural inequality and obscure the gendered, racialized and classed power relations that shape national security practices. The codified requirement for bureaucratic objectivity, coupled with the power-evasive character of the diversity of thought discourse, renders it susceptible to being used in ways that legitimize hegemonic approaches to security. Rather than exposing how militaristic and colonial logics arise from and uphold systems of patriarchy, capitalism and white supremacy, the discourse often frames these practices as apolitical and banal. This dynamic is evident in the UK's participa-

tion in the invasion of Iraq, where colonial and militaristic logics prevailed despite the availability of alternative perspectives. The failure of diversity initiatives to prevent such policy outcomes raises questions about their capacity to address the root causes of security practices that perpetuate violence and inequality. Moreover, the inclusion of historically excluded groups, while a necessary step, is insufficient to overcome national security institutions' deep-seated commitment to militarism. Policymakers' uptake of the diversity of thought discourse primarily reflects their institutions' material and ideological investment in a militaristic and colonial notion of national security. This investment renders hegemonic approaches to security invisible and beyond critique, positioning them as natural and inevitable rather than as products of specific historical and social conditions. As a result, efforts to embrace challenge and reform following events such as the Chilcot Inquiry are often limited in scope and impact. The case of the diversity of thought discourse exemplifies a broader pattern in which critical discursive interventions are stripped of their radical content when adopted by powerful institutions. This phenomenon invites us to consider the interests that such institutions serve and the material structures that necessitate particular security practices. If, as scholars of racial capitalism and colonialist argue, the primary function of security is to maintain racialized, gendered and classed processes of capital accumulation and resource distribution, then it is unsurprising that diversity initiatives have failed to produce emancipatory approaches to security. Institutions designed to uphold these systems are unlikely to embrace reforms that fundamentally challenge their raison d'être. The increasing taboo surrounding structural pow-

er analysis within UK policymaking circles further complicates efforts to address these issues. By highlighting how government policies maintain violent inequalities, such analysis threatens the legitimacy of national security institutions and the power relations they preserve. Alternative approaches, drawing on literatures such as racial capitalism and post-, de- and anti-colonial traditions, offer promising avenues for rethinking security. For example, abolitionist scholarship argues that reforms to security institutions often serve to legitimize their role in protecting racial capitalism, advocating instead for the construction of alternative institutions that address the root causes of social inequalities. Taking seriously the concept of situated knowledge requires a fundamental rethinking of how knowledge is produced and utilized in policymaking. This involves not only expanding who is included in decision-making processes but also reconsidering the purpose of knowledge production itself. Alternative knowledge claims, while often ignored or marginalized within existing paradigms, pose a significant challenge to the processes used by the powerful to legitimate their rule. Accepting that objectivity is illusory and that all knowledge is political undermines the liberal conception of a neutral bureaucracy and the power relations it sustains. This shift raises important questions for further investigation: What would it mean for decision-makers to replace objectivity with a conceptualization of knowledge as situated and imbued with power relations? How might policymaking processes premised on justice rather than impartiality function and who would participate in them? Alternative institutions require alternative epistemologies ones that do not deny the entanglement of knowledge with power relations but instead treat knowledge production as a central component of liberator political praxis.

Natural disasters and divine will

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The earthquake caused massive devastation, claiming over 2,700 lives in Myanmar, with thousands injured and missing. Hospitals were overwhelmed, treating patients outdoors. In Thailand, at least 22 died, mostly from a collapsed Bangkok high-rise, with 76 still missing. The quake also damaged homes in China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces and over 300 apartments in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, though major casualties were avoided.

A few days ago, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, 2025, with its epicenter near Mandalay. This catastrophic event caused significant casualties, injuries, and destruction in Myanmar, Thailand, and surrounding areas. The devastation was so severe that it seemed as if doomsday had arrived. People from all walks of life, irrespective of their religion, were left helpless, struggling to save themselves. In such dire moments, the reality of human frailty became evident. The fear of death was visible on every face, and in that fear, the recognition of an absolute, undeniable truth emerged; that Almighty Allah alone is the Supreme Power. The earthquake caused massive devastation, claiming over 2,700 lives in Myanmar, with thousands injured and missing. Hospitals were overwhelmed, treating patients outdoors. In Thailand, at least 22 died, mostly from a collapsed Bangkok high-rise, with 76 still missing. The quake also damaged homes in China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces and over 300 apartments in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, though major casualties were avoided. Infrastructure losses are severe, with over 10,000 buildings, including hospitals and bridges, destroyed in Myanmar. Roads, power lines, and communication networks were crippled, hindering rescue efforts, while Thailand's older, pre-2007 buildings proved highly vulnerable. Over 236 aftershocks, including a 6.7 magnitude tremor, have triggered further collapses. The Quran repeatedly reminds mankind that all natural calamities, whether earthquakes, storms, or plagues, occur by the will of Allah. He controls the heavens and the earth, and nothing happens without His command. In Surah Al-Zalzalah (99:1-2), Allah says: "When

the earth is shaken with its [final] earthquake, and the earth discharges its burdens." This verse signifies that the power to move the very foundation of the earth rests solely with the Creator. No technological advancement, military might, or worldly authority can prevent His decree from unfolding. Throughout history, mighty empires have risen and fallen, yet none could escape the will of Allah. Nations that considered themselves invincible have crumbled into dust. The Quran warns in Surah Al-An'am (6:65): "Say, 'He is the [one] able to send upon you affliction from above you or from beneath your feet or to confuse you [so you become] sects and make you taste the violence of one another.'" This verse reminds us that Allah's punishment can come in various forms, whether through natural disasters or human conflicts, and that none can defy His judgment. The belief that any country, nation, or individual possesses ultimate power is nothing but a delusion. In Surah Al-Mulk (67:16-17), Allah questions: "Do you feel secure that He who [holds authority] in the heaven would not cause the earth to swallow you and suddenly it would sway? Or do you feel secure that He who [holds authority] in the heaven would not send against you a storm of stones? Then you would know how [severe] was My warning." These verses make it clear that no worldly power can withstand the punishment of Allah when it descends. The hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) further reinforce this reality. He said: "The strongest believer is the one who puts his trust in Allah and recognizes that everything happens by His will." (Sahih Muslim) True strength lies not in worldly possessions or military might, but in submission to the Almighty. Oppression and tyranny, no matter how dominant they appear, are short-lived in the grand scheme of Allah's justice.

The Quran reassures in Surah Ash-Shura (42:42-43): "Indeed, the way [of blame] is only against those who wrong the people and tyrannize upon the earth without right. Those will have a painful punishment. And whoever is patient and forgives—indeed, that is of the matters [requiring] determination." This serves as a reminder that those who wield their power unjustly will face divine retribution, while those who remain steadfast in faith will be rewarded. Many throughout history have attempted to challenge divine authority, believing themselves to be invincible. Pharaoh, who declared himself a god, was drowned along with his army. Nimrod, who defied Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him), was destroyed by the smallest of Allah's creations—a mosquito. These examples testify that arrogance and defiance against Allah always lead to downfall. The recent earthquake is yet another sign of Allah's supremacy. It is a warning for humanity to reflect, repent, and recognize that no individual or nation holds absolute control. Power and authority belong to Allah alone. He grants it to whom He wills and takes it away when He wills. In Surah Aal-e-Imran (3:26), Allah states: "Say, 'O Allah, Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honor whom You will and You humble whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent.'" Thus, no one should live under the illusion that they are immune to Allah's decree. The true superpower is not a country or an individual but the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He alone governs life and death, prosperity and hardship, and none can stand before Him when His command is issued. The recent calamity is a reminder for all of humanity to turn towards Him, seek His mercy, and acknowledge His ultimate authority over all creation.

Briefs

PM lauds success of Ramadan Package

FROM PAGE 01
During the briefing on the Package's implementation, it was told that 79% of the funds had been delivered to the beneficiaries. A total of 2,224 employees were deployed, and urgent steps were taken to resolve a total of 1,273 complaints received. It was told that banks and other partnering institutions made 6.2 million robocalls, 178,700 outbound calls, and sent 6.1 million SMS messages to raise awareness about the facility. Besides, the National Telecom Corporation's call center handled 126,839 inbound and 158,551 outbound calls to guide people about the Package. Besides, 1.9 million digital payments were made, and 951,191 digital wallets were used, which was an important step towards the realisation of the Digital Nation Pakistan vision. The participants were told that 823,653 women and 2,541 persons-with-disabilities also used digital wallets to receive funds. Moreover, a comprehensive awareness campaign on the Ramadan Package was conducted through electronic, print, and social media. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema, Ataulah Tarar, and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to PM Haroon Akhtar, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmad, relevant government officials, and representatives from relevant private companies.

KP won't expel Afghan refugees...

FROM PAGE 01
adding that those refugees who wish to leave voluntarily would be provided with resources to facilitate their return with respect. Responding to a question, the chief minister said that the only way forward with Afghanistan is through negotiations. Raising questions over the intentions of the Centre, the KP CM said that they were still waiting for the for the federal government to approve the terms of reference (TOR) to initiate talks with the interim Afghanistan government led by the Afghan Taliban. It is pertinent to mention here that the KP government had planned to send a provincial jirga to Kabul to address the bilateral issues, including the cross-border attacks and use of Afghan soil by terrorists. CM Gandapur said that stability in the region was linked with peace in Afghanistan. He said that PTI had the solution to the menace of terrorism being faced by the country.

Committee formed for 'policy...'

FROM PAGE 01
The 12-member committee includes finance minister, commerce minister, petroleum minister, special assistant on industries, Federal Board of Revenue Chairman, Foreign Affairs Secretary, Pakistan Ambassador to US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Ambassador of Pakistan to WTO Ali Sarfaraz Hussain, former WTO envoy Dr Manzoor Ahmad, Ijaz Nabi, Minister Trade and Investment, Washington DC, and Secretary Commerce. The move came after Trump imposed sweeping reciprocal tariffs on the US's trading partners. The day was termed "Liberation Day" by Trump, who signed an executive order imposing a flat 10% tariff on almost all nations and then additional tariffs on those countries that the US accuses of charging higher levies on American goods. The Trump administration imposed a 29% tariff on Pakistani imports, in addition to a 10% baseline tariff applied to all imports, bring the total tariff on Pakistani products to 39%. In his remarks, President Trump said, "Pakistan has been charging us a 58% tariff on our goods. Hence, we are imposing a 29% tariff on their products." The baseline 10% tariff will apply from April 5, 2025, with the additional 29% reciprocal tariff, starting April 9, 2025.



ISLAMABAD: Leaders of Pakistan People's Party and Workers are offering Fatiha for the departed soul of Former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto during condolence reference at PPP Secretariat in Federal Capital. - Online

'Time to say goodbye': De Bruyne to leave City

While De Bruyne will go down as one of the finest players to play for City, he could have instead spent the bulk of his career at Chelsea after joining club from Belgian team Genk in 2012

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: Kevin De Bruyne says he will leave Manchester City - confirming these are his "final months" with the Premier League champion. The 33-year-old Belgium playmaker, who is out of contract this summer, announced the news in an emotional post on his social media channels on Friday. "Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes. That day is here," he wrote. De Bruyne joined City from Wolfsburg for around \$71 million in 2015 and has gone on to win every major honor with the club, including six Premier League titles and the Champions League. In all he has helped City win 16 major trophies - including the Club World Cup - and established himself as one of the all-time Premier League greats. "This city. This club. These people... gave me EVERYTHING. I had no choice but



to give EVERYTHING back! And guess what - we won EVERYTHING," he wrote. "Whether we like it or not, it's time to say goodbye." City manager Pep Guardiola described it as a "sad day" following the

announcement. "In the Premier League he is one of the greatest midfielders ever to play in this country and I think in this club (there) is no doubt," Guardiola said. "His assists, his goals, his vision in the final

third, that is so difficult to replace." De Bruyne did not say if he would take part in the Club World Cup, which runs through June and July in the United States. There was also no mention in the post about where he wanted to play next. With 118 assists in the Premier League, De Bruyne is second behind Manchester United great Ryan Giggs, who provided 162, on the all-time list. He reached that total in 280 appearances, as opposed to 632 for Giggs. While De Bruyne will go down as one of the finest players to play for City, he could have instead spent the bulk of his career at Chelsea after joining club from Belgian team Genk in 2012. But he grew frustrated after making only two league starts and eventually moved to Wolfsburg in Germany in 2014. There he revitalized his career and convinced City to make him the club's record signing. He has played 413 matches for City in all competitions and was twice named PFA Player of the Year in England. He has scored 106 goals so far.

Raducanu to skip Billie Jean King Cup qualifiers

'She needs a little space in the calendar to best look after her body,' says Raducanu's representatives

WEB DESK

LONDON: Briton Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from next week's Billie Jean King Cup qualifiers to rest following her run to the quarter-finals in Miami where she needed medical attention during her defeat by Jessica Pegula. Raducanu dropped the opening set and appeared out of sorts while up 5-4 in the second, requiring a medical timeout during which she had her legs and back iced, before the 22-year-old eventually lost 6-4 6-7(3) 6-2. After seven tournaments in the opening three months of the year, Raducanu has opted out of Britain's Group F qualifiers of the premier women's team tournament in The Hague, Netherlands from April 10-12. "She needs a little space in the calendar to best look after her body," Raducanu's representatives told British media, adding that she will also skip the Rouen Open from April 14. Emma Raducanu has struggled with form and fitness problems since her U.S. Open triumph as a teenager in 2021. However, she won four main draw matches in succession in Miami last week, her best run at a tournament since that Grand Slam victory at Flushing Meadows.

Rabada departs for SA amid IPL

The pacer returned to South Africa to deal with an 'important personal matter', Titans say

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Titans' right-arm pacer Kagiso Rabada left for South Africa during the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 due to personal reasons. According to the IPL franchise, the South African pacer left due to an 'important personal reason' and did not provide any update on his return. "Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to deal with an important personal matter," the Titans announced in a statement. The 29-year-old represented the Titans in two matches in the recently-commenced edition of the cash-rich league, taking one wicket for 41 runs in their defeat against Punjab Kings and one for 43 in their 36-run victory over Mumbai Indians. - Agencies

Vaughan warns against giving white-ball captaincy to Stokes

WEB DESK

LONDON: Former England captain Michael Vaughan has strongly opposed the idea of making all-rounder Ben Stokes the country's new ODI skipper, calling it "nonsense" and "selfish." With Jos Buttler stepping down as England's white-ball captain in February, the ECB is yet to announce his replacement. Reports suggest Harry Brook is the frontrunner for the T20I role, while both Brook and Stokes are under consideration for the 50-over job. However, with the intense international schedule, leading in all three formats is virtually impossible for any player. Stokes, who has been an influential leader in England's Test resurgence under Brendon McCullum, is currently recovering from a second hamstring tear in six months. Having retired from ODIs in 2022 to manage his workload, he made a comeback for the 2023 World Cup but has not played white-ball cricket since. Michael Vaughan, speaking at the MCC's Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's, slammed the idea of handing over white-ball leadership to Stokes, given the all-rounder's physical demands and Test captaincy responsibilities. He stressed that while Stokes would



never refuse the captaincy, the board must act responsibly and not put additional strain on him. "In a way, I think it's quite selfish to even consider him. He will say yes because he is Ben Stokes. He will do whatever England ask him to do. Just don't ask him and let him be," Vaughan stated. "He gives absolutely everything, not just when he's playing for England but when he's training. He is all or nothing. It's an absolute nonsense to think that Ben Stokes is going to play white-ball cricket." With a crucial home Test series against India and an Ashes tour of Australia later this year, Vaughan believes England should be prioritizing Stokes' longevity in red-ball cricket rather than burdening him with additional leadership roles.

Spurs' Postecoglou 'not affected' by fans' abuse

TOTTENHAM head coach Ange Postecoglou says he is not affected by the abuse he receives from some Spurs supporters and "will continue fighting". Spurs suffered their 16th defeat in 30 Premier League games this season with Thursday night's 1-0 loss at Chelsea. Postecoglou cupped his ear in the direction of the travelling Spurs fans after substitute Pape Sarr, whose introduction was booed four minutes earlier, scored an equaliser which was later disallowed. Asked whether the abuse from some fans goes too far, Postecoglou said on Friday: "No, I am fine. I don't get affected by that. I will continue fighting my whole career." He added: "I get that they [the fans] are frustrated and angry. At the same time, I understand the criticism towards me. But if anyone looked at the players and said they aren't trying - then I am sorry they are not watching the right game." Spurs are 14th in the table with eight games left - one place above their worst Premier League finish in 1994 - and on course to finish outside the top 10 for the first time in 17 years. With their side trailing at Stamford Bridge, the Tottenham fans chanted "you don't know what you're doing" after booing Postecoglou's decision to replace Lucas Bergvall with Sarr in the 65th minute. But Postecoglou turned towards them and cupped his ear when Sarr appeared to have levelled, before the goal was ruled out following a VAR review for a foul by Sarr on Moises Caicedo in the build-up. Addressing that incident, Postecoglou said: "I made a mistake last night in that I celebrated a goal.

"Since VAR came in here, there were four or five incidents in Scotland and I thought I am not really going to celebrate goals. "I just felt we needed something. Cracking goal from Pape, I heard the fans weren't happy and I felt the need to celebrate and it could be a real momentum shift to finish strong. "My mistake was celebrating a goal, VAR defeated me, I won't be doing that again." Postecoglou said VAR was "killing the game" in his post-match interview.



The two VAR incidents on Thursday evening took just under seven minutes to resolve, contributing to 12 minutes being added on at the end of the match. Caicedo's strike, disallowed for a marginal offside, took just under four minutes to resolve, while Sarr's equaliser took over three minutes. "There was 12 minutes of extra time yesterday, that's not why VAR was brought in," Postecoglou added on Friday. "I am the lone voice. I don't hear anyone else saying it. That's why I am sat here and saying maybe I am disconnected. "When I retire, I will probably watch less football and find another hobby." Despite their struggles in Postecoglou's second season, Spurs retain hopes of ending a 17-year wait for silverware this season in the Europa League. They host the first leg of their quarter-final against Eintracht Frankfurt next Thursday, before the return leg takes place on 17 April. Postecoglou has only won 44 points from his past 39 league matches in charge, stretching back to the end of last season. The Australian, appointed Spurs boss in June 2023 and contracted until 2027, has repeatedly referred to the club's injury list to explain his side's poor form this season. But he said earlier this week that there are "outstanding candidates" who could replace him if he is sacked. Bournemouth's Andoni Iraola, Fulham's Marco Silva and Brentford's Thomas Frank having all been linked with Postecoglou's job.

Identity papers restored who heckled Isa

FROM PAGE 01
belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and based in the UK, have been restored to their normal status and the cancellation and termination process against their identity papers has been dropped, in a decision by the Pakistan government. In early November last year, the interior ministry ordered the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) to immediately identify the "attackers" via the incident's footage and initiate legal action against them. Names of around 23 Pakistani origin protesters were identified, placed on the Passport Control List (PCL) and their CNIC cancelled for allegedly attacking the ex-CJP Isa. A letter was also sent to the British government requesting the extradition of these Pakistanis. The PCL included names of PTI leaders Maleeka Bokhari, Abdullah M Kahloon and academic Rahman Anwar who had taken part in the protest against the former CJP but were not part of the incident when Isa's car was stopped late in the evening.

Israeli leaders statements..

FROM PAGE 01
Israel's simultaneous air and ground attacks on several locations last night (2 April), despite the absence of any provocation or attack against it from Syrian territory, can only be explained by Israel's foreign policy approach that feeds on conflict. Israeli Ministers cannot conceal the genocide committed in Gaza, the total war against the Palestinian people, settler terrorism, the intention to annex the West Bank and the expansionist ambitions behind Israel's attacks on Syria and Lebanon by targeting Türkiye. Israel has become the foremost threat to the security of our region through its attacks on the territorial integrity and national unity of the regional countries. As a strategic destabilizer in the region, Israel causes turmoil and fuels terrorism.

Pak passport ranked among...

FROM PAGE 01
visa-free travel, taxation, global perception, dual citizenship and personal freedom. These criteria reflect the real-world concerns of modern nomads, investors, entrepreneurs and internationally minded individuals. This year, the passport of Pakistan was ranked at 195, with a total score of 32.00. Pakistan has obtained a "Travel" score of 46 as there are 9 countries that Pakistan passport holders can enter without a visa, 33 countries that allow Pakistan passport holders to enter by obtaining a visa on arrival and only four electronic travel authorization (eTA) destinations. The index has assigned Pakistan a "Taxation" score of 20, meaning that "Pakistan allows citizens to relocate to avoid tax". Pakistan is followed by Iraq with 31.50 points, Eritrea with 31 points, Yemen with 30.50 points and Afghanistan with 27 points.

Army's top brass vows to thwart...

FROM PAGE 01
The country has been reeling under increased terrorist attacks targeting law enforcers and security forces since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Pakistan witnessed a sharp increase in terror attacks in January 2025, surging by 42% compared to the previous month, according to data released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), a think tank. KP remained the worst-affected province, followed by Balochistan. In KP's settled districts, militants carried out 27 attacks, resulting in 19 fatalities, including 11 security personnel, six civilians, and two militants.

Briefs

PSX turns bearish, loses 146 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Friday, losing 146.45 points, a negative change of 0.12 percent, closing at 118,791.66 points as compared to 118,938.11 points on the last trading day. A total of 553,668,391 shares were traded during the day as compared to 422,702,593 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs35,492 billion against Rs28,211 billion on the last trading day. As many as 457 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 151 of them recorded gains and 258 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 48 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Cnergyco PK with 61,333,939 shares at Rs 8.29 per share, Bank Al-Falah with 43,523,860 shares at Rs74.37 per share and Bank of Punjab 21,774,098 shares at Rs 11.01 per share. Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 89.27 per share closing at Rs 981.98 whereas runner-up was Ismail Industries Limited with Rs 52.25 rise in its share price to close at Rs 1,852.50. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 100.00 per share price, closing at Rs 9,000.00, whereas the runner-up was Siemens (Pakistan) Engineering with Rs 66.00 decline in its per share price to Rs 1,517.82.—APP

Macron to go near Gaza to show support for ceasefire

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron will go to an Egyptian port near the Gaza Strip next week to highlight concerns over the conflict in the Palestinian territory, his office said Thursday. Macron will go to Arish, 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Gaza, next Tuesday during a visit to Egypt, officials said. Macron will meet humanitarian and security workers next Tuesday to stress his "constant mobilization in favor of a ceasefire," his office said in a statement. Arish is a transit point for international aid intended for Gaza. But food and other supplies have not been able to use the nearby Rafah crossing from Egypt into Gaza since a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was suspended last month. Macron is to go to Egypt on Sunday and on Monday will meet the country's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. Egypt has been a mediator in the Israel-Hamas conflict since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks and Macron will stress "the urgency" of securing a new ceasefire so that Gaza's population is no longer has to bear a "humanitarian catastrophe," Israeli strikes are ended and Israeli hostages in Gaza are freed, the French leader's office said.—APP

Four dead, dozens injured in Russia drone strikes on Kharkiv

KYIV: Russian drone strikes killed at least four people and injured more than 30 in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, authorities said Friday. Russian and Ukrainian forces have stepped up aerial attacks even as US President Donald Trump pushes them to agree to a ceasefire after more than three years of costly fighting. The attack late Thursday targeted residential and office buildings in Kharkiv, causing several fires, Ukraine's state emergency service said on Telegram. "Russian drones attacked one of the districts of Kharkiv. As a result of strikes at residential buildings and an administrative building, four fires broke out," the emergency service said. The city's mayor Igor Terekhov said on Telegram that as of Friday morning, "unfortunately, there are already four dead," with a fourth body "unearthed from under the rubble" in addition to three earlier fatalities.—APP

South Korea's President ousted by court

The court rejected most of Yoon's argument that he declared martial law to sound the alarm over the main opposition party's abuse of its parliamentary majority, saying there were legally justified avenues to address disagreements

SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was ousted by the Constitutional Court on Friday, which upheld parliament's impeachment motion over his imposition of martial law last year that sparked the country's worst political crisis in decades. The ruling caps months of political turmoil that have overshadowed efforts to deal with the new administration of US President Donald Trump at a time of slowing growth in Asia's fourth-largest economy. With Yoon's ouster, a presidential election is required to take place within 60 days, according to the country's constitution. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo will continue to serve as acting president until the new president is inaugurated. "The Constitutional Court's unanimous ruling has removed a major source of uncertainty," Professor Leif-Eric Easley of

Ewha University in Seoul. "And not a moment too soon, given how the next administration in Seoul must navigate North Korea's military threats, China's diplomatic pressure, and Trump's trade tariffs." Acting Chief Justice Moon Hyung-bae said Yoon violated his duty as president with his December 3 martial law declaration, acting beyond the powers given to him under the constitution and describing his actions as "a serious challenge to democracy." "(Yoon) committed a grave betrayal of the people's trust who are the sovereign members of the democratic republic," Moon said, adding that Yoon's declaration of martial law created chaos in all areas of society, the economy and foreign policy. Thousands of people at a rally calling for Yoon's ouster, including hundreds who had camped out over-

night, erupted into wild cheers on hearing the ruling, chanting "We won!" Supporters of Yoon who were gathered near his official residence reacted in anger. One protester was arrested for smashing a police bus window, the Yonhap news agency reported. The South Korean won was largely unfazed by Friday's ruling, remaining at about 1% higher vs dollar at 1,436.6 per dollar by 0249 GMT. The benchmark KOSPI was down 0.7%, also unchanged from the morning as the expected scenario was for the court to uphold the impeachment bill. The court rejected most of Yoon's argument that he declared martial law to sound the alarm over the main opposition party's abuse of its parliamentary majority, saying there were legally justified avenues to address disagreements. The martial law decree lacked justifi-

cation and was also procedurally defective, Moon said. Mobilising the military against parliament to disrupt its functions was a grave violation of Yoon's constitutional duty to safeguard the independence of the three branches of government, he added. Yoon's ruling People Power Party's interim leader Kwon Young-seo apologised to the people saying the party humbly accepted the court's ruling and pledged to work with the acting president to stabilise the country. Acting President Han Duck-soo, speaking after the ruling, said he would do all he could to ensure an orderly and peaceful presidential election. Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok is expected to convene an emergency meeting with the Bank of Korea governor and financial regulators. The 64-year-old Yoon faces a criminal trial on insurrection charges related to

the martial law declaration. The embattled leader became the first sitting South Korean president to be arrested on January 15 but was released in March after a court cancelled his arrest warrant. The crisis was triggered by Yoon's declaration of martial law, which he has said was needed to root out "anti-state" elements and the opposition Democratic Party's alleged abuse of its parliamentary majority that he said was destroying the country. Yoon lifted the decree six hours later after parliamentary staffers used barricades and fire extinguishers to ward off special operations soldiers who arrived by helicopter and broke windows as they sought to enter parliament, where lawmakers voted to reject martial law. Yoon has said he never intended to fully impose emergency military rule and tried to downplay the fallout, saying nobody was hurt.

US behind cyber attacks against China during Asian Winter Games

BEIJING: The United States and its allies were the main source of cyber-attacks against China during the ninth Asian Winter Games, a foreign ministry spokesperson said, citing a newly released report. The report was released by China's National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center and National Engineering Laboratory for Computer Virus Prevention Technology on Thursday. It disclosed that the information systems of competition and critical network infrastructures in Heilongjiang Province, northeast China, were subjected to a large number of network attacks from abroad. The attacks were traced to countries and regions including the United States, the Netherlands, and Singapore. "We take note of the report and express serious concerns over the malicious cyber activity it has exposed," spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a daily news briefing. He said that the report once again shows that around the world, China is one of the main victims of cyberattacks.—APP

Turkiye-EU economic talks to improve ties

BRUSSELS: The Türkiye-EU High-Level Economic Dialogue held Friday in Brussels marked "a very important and positive step to improve relations between Türkiye and the EU," Turkish Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek told Anadolu. Simsek said Türkiye seeks to strengthen ties with the EU, and the latest round of dialogue began on a positive note, hosted by the European Commission. "The meeting took place in a very constructive atmosphere," he said. The last Türkiye-EU economic dialogue was held in 2019. Simsek said the two sides discussed the economic outlook in Europe and Türkiye, along with challenges facing both sides. He said Türkiye presented its reform plans and disinflation efforts. The EU side shared its perspective on new policy directions amid global uncertainty, Simsek said. "There are important changes in the world, and both the EU and Türkiye are impacted by these developments," he said. He said cooperation was discussed as a way to cushion the fallout from global changes and promote mutual benefits, including engagement in third countries. Revitalizing Türkiye-EU relations was also on the agenda.—APP

South Sudan clashes kill 30

JUBA: At least 30 people were killed when a northern South Sudanese town was briefly overrun by an armed youth group, a local official said Thursday, following a cattle raid. Clashes involving pastoralists and settled farming communities are common in the world's youngest country, but this incident comes as tensions rise over South Sudan's fragile political situation. The attack in northern Ruweng Administrative Area began earlier in the week when a group of armed youth stole lambs before they were scared off by security forces, said Simon Chol Mialith, the local Minister of Information. The following day, he told AFP, the group returned in greater numbers and attacked Abiemnom, and although "the youth and the security forces tried to defend the town, they were overrun by the Mayom armed youth." On Wednesday the South Sudan People's Defense Force (SSPDF) drove the group from the settlement, Mialith said, where calm has now been restored. "The number has risen to 30 people confirmed dead and over 40 persons wounded," he said, without giving further details. Local media reported that some of those killed were members of the armed groups, but AFP was unable to confirm this. The incident comes as forces allied to President Salva Kiir and First Vice President Riek Machar clash across the country, sparking regional concern and threatening a fragile peace deal in 2018 that ended a five-year civil war.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada chairing meeting to discuss the litigation issues on Constantia Lodge Murree .

Pirzada discusses legal disputes on Constantia Estate in Murree

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada Friday chaired a special meeting to discuss the way forward to address the legal disputes on Constantia Estate situated in District Murree. Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Secretary Housing and Works, Additional Commissioner Rawalpindi and other senior officers attended the meeting. This meeting was convened on the directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif to make concerted efforts for the early settlement of litigation issues on the state owned property. Additional Secretary Housing and Works and Additional Commissioner Rawalpindi gave briefings on the property details and occupation status of Constantia Lodge, bearing estate number 43 and 44, situated at Kashmir Point in Murree. It is a high-value evacuee property measuring 4.6-acre. It was appraised that there were three claimants of the property with several encroachments. In the past, the lodge remained under the use of the Foreign Office for accommodation of foreign missions and was also leased to the Brazilian embassy but later it was transferred to Pak PWD in 1999.—DNA

Myanmar military limiting aid in earthquake areas

GENEVA: Myanmar's military is limiting critically needed humanitarian aid for earthquake victims in areas where it sees opposition to its rule, the United Nations human rights office said on Friday. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights also said it was investigating 53 reported attacks by the junta against its opponents since the earthquake struck on March 28, including air strikes, of which 16 came after a ceasefire on April 2. On Friday, the office was made aware of a further eight attacks which it was looking into, it said. A spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling junta did not respond to calls from Reuters seeking comment. The humanitarian situation in earthquake areas, especially those out of the military's control, was catastrophic, UN rights office spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva. The 7.7 magnitude quake, one of the strongest to hit Myanmar in a century, jolted areas home to 28 million people, toppling buildings, flattening communities and leaving many without food, water and shelter. Myanmar's junta says the death toll has risen to more than 3,100 "Limitations of aid is part of a strategy to prevent aid getting to the populations it sees as not supporting its seizure of power back in 2021," said James Rodehaver, head of OHCHR's Myanmar team, speaking via video link from Bangkok. The need for aid was particularly urgent in Myanmar's Sagaing region, and time was working against humanitarian agencies to help those in need, he added. "Air strikes are alarming, shocking and need to stop straight away - the focus needs to be on humanitarian recovery," Shamdasani said.—DNA

Israel expands ground offensive in Gaza city

GAZA: Palestinian Territories: Israel announced the launch of a new ground offensive in Gaza City on Friday, with rescuers saying military operations had killed at least 30 people across the Palestinian territory since dawn. Israel has pushed since the collapse of a short-lived truce in the war with Hamas to seize territory in Gaza in what it has called a strategy to force the militants to free hostages still in captivity. Simultaneously, Israel has escalated attacks on Lebanon and Syria, with a strike in the south Lebanese city of Sidon killing a Hamas commander along with his son, who was also a member of the militant group's armed wing. In Gaza City, the Israeli military said ground troops had begun conducting operations in the Shujaiya area "in order to expand the security zone." Gaza's civil defense agency said that Israeli military operations had killed at least 30 people in the Palestinian territory since dawn. A single Israeli strike on Khan Yunis killed at least 25 people, a medical source at the southern city's Nasser Hospital told AFP. "The situation is very dangerous, and there is death coming at us from every direction," Elena Helles told AFP via text message, adding that she and her family were trapped in her sister's house in Shujaiya. Defense Minister Israel Katz had said on Wednesday that Israel would bolster its military presence inside the Gaza Strip to "destroy and clear the area of terrorists and terrorist infrastructure." The operation would "seize large areas that will be incorporated into Israeli security zones," he said, without specifying how much territory. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the army was dividing Gaza and "seizing territory" to force Hamas to free the remaining Israeli hostages seized in the militant group's October 2023 attack on Israel which sparked the Gaza war. Gaza's civil defense agency said at least 31 people, including children, were killed in an Israeli strike on a school serving as a shelter for displaced Palestinians. Agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that women and children were among the dead, while six people were still unaccounted for in the strike on Dar Al-Arqam School in the Al-Tuffah neighborhood, northeast of Gaza City. "One of the missing was a pregnant woman who was expecting twins," he said. The Israeli military said it had struck a "Hamas command and control center in the area of Gaza City." It was unclear whether it was the same attack that hit the school. "It was like Judgment Day. They bombed us with missiles and everything went dark. We started looking for our children and our belongings but everything was gone. We couldn't find our children," sobbed Raghdha Al-Sharafa, who was among the displaced civilians sheltering in the school buildings. The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said 1,249 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory since Israel resumed intense bombing on March 18, bringing the overall death toll since the war began to 50,609. The Israeli military said Thursday it had struck more than 600 "terror targets" across the Gaza Strip since fighting resumed.—DNA

Senate Chairpersons Pakistan, Uzbekistan discuss prospects of bilateral coop

Both sides expressed satisfaction that the traditional brotherly and friendly ties between the two countries continue to develop in the spirit of strategic partnership

TASHKENT: A parliamentary delegation led by Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani is on an official visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to participate in the 150th Anniversary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), scheduled to be held from April 5 to 9. According to the Uzbek embassy in Islamabad, Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani met with Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Tanzila Narbayeva, on Friday. During the meeting, both sides discussed enhancing inter-parliamentary cooperation, strengthening the legal framework of bilateral relations, and expanding collaboration in mutually beneficial sectors. They reaffirmed their com-



mitment to fostering strategic partnerships and acknowledged the steady development of friendly and brotherly ties between the two nations. Particular emphasis was placed on deepening cooperation in trade, investment, transport, logistics, communications, and information technology. Both leaders underscored the importance of increasing bilateral trade turnover to \$2 billion and advancing joint projects in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, agricultural machinery, and geology. The discussion also covered strengthening inter-parliamentary relations, enhancing cooperation within the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and

activating parliamentary friendship groups. Both sides agreed to establish joint parliamentary oversight mechanisms to ensure the timely and effective implementation of high-level agreements. Chairman Senate Gilani and Chairperson Narbayeva also agreed to develop and implement a Joint Action Plan to enhance cooperation between the upper chambers of both parliaments, aiming to reinforce institutional collaboration and legislative exchanges. The 150th Anniversary Assembly of the IPU will bring together parliamentary representatives from around the world to deliberate on pressing global issues and legislative cooperation.

Briefs

EU leaders push for influence at CA summit

SAMARKAND: Top EU leaders were in Uzbekistan on Friday for a major summit with the heads of five Central Asian states, seeking to press their influence and boost ties in the face of Russian and Chinese competition. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has accelerated the region's drift from Moscow's orbit, with major powers to both the west and east sensing an opening. Central Asia is rich in natural resources, on the front lines of climate change and also seen as a key security player as a Muslim-majority region that is trying to contain extremism and shares borders with Afghanistan, Iran, China and Russia. Leaders from the five states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - will meet European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa, head of the European Council. The summit takes place in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand, for centuries a key hub in East-West connections, trade and commerce. Von der Leyen said she hopes the summit will take Brussels' relations with Central Asia "to the next level" and deepen ties in terms of transport, natural resources, water and energy. "In these uncertain times, Europe stands for openness and engagement. For Europe, Central Asia is a partner of choice," she said. Alongside Russia's historic leadership in the region, Turkey, China, the United States and even the likes of South Korea and Japan are all trying to boost their influence. - Agencies

Russia stalls ceasefire talks

MOSCOW: Russia has added new conditions for a ceasefire to a litany of existing ones, prompting United States President Donald Trump to threaten new sanctions against Russian oil. Visiting Russia's newest nuclear submarine, the Arkhangelsk, on March 27, Russian President Vladimir Putin said a temporary administration should be installed in Ukraine to lead the country to elections. Russian officials have been trying to discredit Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy since negotiations began in February, in an apparent effort to undermine Ukraine's position. For example, the Kremlin continued to accuse Ukraine of breaking a ceasefire on energy infrastructure, which Moscow proposed on March 18 and Kyiv has not agreed to. Russian and Ukrainian technical teams have failed to nail down what would be protected under the deal. On Tuesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said he would give his US counterpart a list of energy facilities struck by Ukraine "so that you can present concrete evidence about what the word of the current Ukrainian authorities is worth, if you can call them authorities at all". - Agencies

Pak-US seek joint ventures in oil, gas, and renewables

Natalie Baker commended Pakistan's economic recovery and successful implementation of critical reforms. She congratulated PM Shahbaz Sharif and his cabinet for this success



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Charges d'Affaires US Embassy Natalie Baker met today with Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik to discuss bilateral energy collaboration, sus-

tainable development, and opportunities for enhancing Pak-US relations.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Petroleum, focused on strengthening U.S.-Pakistan partnerships in the energy sector, including renewable energy initiatives, minerals, hydrocarbons and infrastructure

investments. Natalie Baker and Minister Malik exchanged views on critical energy challenges, technological innovation, and policy measures to support Pakistan's growing energy demands, future roadmap for mutually beneficial partnership and sustainability of energy sector.

Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik welcomed the U.S Government's continued partnership. "Pakistan values its strategic relationship with the United States, and aims US to be looked at as a partner in progress," he said. "We are keen to explore joint ventures in oil, gas, and renewable energy to ensure sustainable development and energy affordability for our citizens." The Federal Minister extended his gratitude to the Chargé d'Affaires for personally assuring United States high level delegation's participation in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum happening next week. Mr Eric Meyer, acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia will be attending the Minerals forum, this marks an important visit by a US Assistant Secretary level from state department after a long time. H.E. Natalie Baker commended Pakistan's economic recovery and successful implementation of critical reforms. She congratulated Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his cabinet for this success. She emphasized that United States has positive engagement on security with Pakistan. President Trump recognized contributions of Pakistan under PM Shahbaz Sharif in his first address. Now its time for expanding and transforming this relationship. She assured full support to Pakistan on the path of reforms under Prime Minister shehbaz Sharif. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advancing mutual energy goals and exploring new avenues for U.S.-Pakistan cooperation in the sector.

Pakistan to join China's space station training program

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) Director AKM Shafaat Ali Friday revealed that Pakistan will send two merit-based astronauts for training in China, marking a significant milestone as Pakistan becomes the first foreign country to participate in China's space station training program. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Pakistan has signed an agreement with China to train Pakistani astronauts, with candidates selected based on merit, including PhD holders, experienced pilots and graduates meeting specific physical requirements, he said while talking to a private news channel exclusive interview. He announced that Pakistan has collaborated with China to offer astronaut training to Pakistani nationals, with a focus on selecting candidates with exceptional academic credentials, relevant expertise and adherence to specific physical standards. Shafaat Ali highlighted that China initially reserved astronaut training exclusively for its citizens, but has now extended this opportunity to Pakistan, fostering greater bonding and friendship between the two nations. Director Suparco outlined a rigorous three-stage selection process for aspiring Pakistani astronauts, ensuring only the most qualified candidates are chosen for the prestigious training program in China. The astronaut selection process will be completed by 2026, he mentioned.

PSX crosses record 120,000 point mark

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed satisfaction as the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) surged 1800 points in a single day, reaching a historic milestone, with the KSE-100 index crossing all time high mark of 120,000 point. In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister said that positive direction of the business in Pakistan Stock Exchange reflected growing investor confidence on the government policies. "The government has announced a significant decrease in the power tariffs which will not only give a massive relief to the domestic consumers but also it will be a welcoming sign for the business community and the industrial sector," the prime minister remarked. He noted that during last one year, improvement in business environment and stability in macroeconomic indicators was possible only due to the government's economic policies. He assured that the government was providing all possible facilities to ensure business and investor friendly environment in the country.

Murad vows to protect Sindh's rights

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday reaffirmed his commitment to safeguarding Sindh's interests, particularly with regards to the proposed construction of six canals on the Indus River. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Chief of the Army Staff Gen Asim Munir inaugurated the ambitious Cholistan project to irrigate south Punjab lands on February 15 amid a public uproar in Sindh and strong reservations expressed by stakeholders of the smaller province. The \$3.3 billion Green Pakistan Initiative launched by the federal government aims to develop six canals to irrigate 1.2 million acres of "barren land" in south Punjab, but has encountered strong opposition in Sindh - initially from Sindh nationalist parties, and now the PPP as well. They fear Sindh will lose its water share from the Indus River due to the construction of these canals. In March, the Sindh Assembly also passed a resolution against the initiative. Speaking to the media in Sukkur, Shah emphasised that the PPP is opposed to the project, which he believes will harm the province's water resources. He expressed concern that the media should be aware of the impact of their reporting, as it can shape public opinion. He clarified that no funds have been allocated for the canals project, and the PPP will continue to challenge the proposal. The Sindh CM pointed out that the Punjab government has proposed a Rs218 billion project to construct new canals that requires approval from CCI. Shah added that any water project must be approved by the CCI, as per Article 155 of the Constitution. He also highlighted the water scarcity issue in Sindh, citing that between 1976 and 2022, 27 million acres of water flowed into the sea, while 8.6 million acres were allocated for other uses, resulting in an 11 million acre-foot water shortage. - DNA

Policeman arrested under PECA

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Police have registered a case against an officer under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act 2025 on the allegation of sharing a post against President Asif Ali Zardari on social media. The Sukhan police registered the case on the complaint of ASI Yaqoob. Police arrested Abrar Shah, a senior police officer, who uploaded an indecent post maligning President Zardari on April 2. A few days earlier, a special court sentenced a man to imprisonment and a fine under PECA. According to the order announced by Special Anti-Rape Court's Additional Sessions Judge, the accused was handed 10-year jail term and Rs1 million fine after he was found guilty of uploading objectionable images of a woman on a social media platform. He also blackmailed the victim and extorted money from her. The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing had registered a case against the convict in 2023.

China hits back at Trump tariffs with 34% tax on goods

Beijing says it will impose an additional 34 percent tax on US goods from next week in retaliation for Washington's tariffs

BEIJING: China has announced a slew of countermeasures against tariffs imposed by United States President Donald Trump, including additional tariffs of 34 percent on all goods and curbs on the export of some rare earths, deepening an escalating trade war. Trump on Wednesday announced that China would be hit with a 34-percent tariff, on top of the 20 percent he imposed earlier this year, bringing the total new levies to 54 percent. On Friday, China's Ministry of Finance said the additional tariffs would be imposed from April 10. Beijing has previously imposed tariffs of 15 percent on imports of coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the US in retaliation for Washington's 10 percent levies on Chinese goods. It also announced stiff export controls on key minerals and businesses, limiting what could be exchanged with the US. "The purpose of the Chinese government's implementation of export controls on relevant items in accordance with the law is to better safeguard national security and interests, and to fulfil international obligations such as

non-proliferation," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement. On Friday morning, Trump responded to the slate of retaliatory measures with a fiery social-media post written in all capital letters. "CHINA PLAYED IT WRONG, THEY PANICKED - THE ONE THING THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO DO!" Trump wrote on Truth Social. But China has pushed forward with countering Trump's aggressive trade policies, saying it had opened a formal complaint against the new US tariffs with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Friday. As part of its complaint, Beijing argued the measures violate WTO rules and requesting consultations. "China has filed the WTO complaint with respect to the United States' measures," the Permanent Mission of China to the World Trade Organization said in a statement. Beijing also imposed sweeping export controls to limit the exchange of goods and services with the US. Some pertained to the export of medium and heavy rare earths to the US, including samarium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, lutetium, scandium and yttrium, effective from April 4. Others took aim at US businesses. China added 16 US entities to its export control list, which bans the export of dual-use items to affected firms. Another 11 US firms were included on the "unreliable entities" list, which allows Beijing to take punitive action against foreign entities. - Agencies

Repatriation' of 16,138 Afghans begins in Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: City administration and law enforcement in Karachi on Friday started the 'forced repatriation' of an estimated 16,138 ACC holders, with over 150 so far detained as part of the government's policy to deport all undocumented foreign nationals, officials said on Friday. The interior ministry, in a statement on March 6, stated, "All illegal foreigners and ACC holders are advised to leave the country voluntarily before 31 March 2025; thereafter, deportation will commence wef 1 April 2025." On February 13, the interior minister instructed the Sindh government to initiate the repatriation of all ACC holders to their country of origin under IFRP. As part of the plan, voluntary return until March 31 ended and "forced repatriation" from April 1 has begun. As per the IFRP prepared by the Sindh Home Department a control room has been set up at the department while "holding points" have been set up in Karachi and Jacobabad, with a "transit point" in Sakrand, Shaheed Benazirabad housing a total capacity

of 1,500. The plan added that the main repatriation centre has been set up at Ameen House in Sultanabad in Karachi's Keamari area. South DIG Syed Asad Raza told media on Friday that so far, 162 ACC holders have been brought to the holding facility as some of them were returned or released as being Proof of Registration (POR) holders. "A total of 196 Afghans from different areas were brought to the camp on April 3," the DIG said. "Of those, 20 were released as they held POR. "Similarly, a total of 90 Afghans arrived at the camp on April 4 (Friday), with 10 being released. Thus, a total of 242 Afghans have been brought for repatriation to Afghanistan," he added. DIG Raza said that a joint mapping exercise conducted by the police's Special Branch, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, found a total of 16,138 ACC holders in Karachi, with most of them living in the East and West districts. Giving a breakdown of each district, South police said that there were 11,233 ACC holders in the East district, 2,792 cardholders in the West district, 910 in Korangi, 396 in Malir, 406 in the Central district, 203 in Keamari, 120 in the South district and 78 in the City district.

Trail of death as Israel expands ground invasion

FOREIGN DESK

GAZA CITY: Israel has announced the launch of a new ground onslaught in Gaza City, with rescuers saying military aggression has killed at least 30 people across the Palestinian territory since dawn. In Gaza City, the Israeli military said ground troops had begun pushing into the Shejaiya neighborhood to expand the so-called "security zone" there, claiming that civilians had been allowed to evacuate the area. Initial reports, however, said a Palestinian woman and her daughter were just killed in an Israeli artillery shelling on displaced people in Shejaiya. Gaza's civil defense agency said Israeli military aggression had killed at least 30 people in the Palestinian territory since dawn, adding that the toll was "not final". A single Israeli strike on Khan Yunis killed at least 25 people, a medical source at the southern city's Nasser Hospital said. "The situation is very dangerous, and there is death coming at us from every direction," Elena Halas told AFP reportedly via text message, adding that she and her family were trapped in her sister's house in Shejaiya. Israel has pushed since the collapse of a short-lived truce in the war to seize territory in Gaza. Simultaneously, it has escalated attacks on Lebanon and Syria, with a strike in the south Lebanese city of Sidon killing a Hamas commander along with his son on Friday.

Top Hamas figure killed in Israeli strike

GAZA: At least three people, including a senior figure from the Palestinian resistance group Hamas, have been killed in an Israeli airstrike on a house in southern Lebanon, in the latest blatant violation of a shaky ceasefire agreement with the Arab country. Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television reported that an Israeli drone strike targeted an apartment on Dalaa Street in the Lebanese port city of Sidon, located 48 kilometers (29 miles) south of Beirut. Hassan Farhat, a member of Hamas, and his son were reportedly killed in the airstrike. Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, confirmed the assassination in a statement, pledging that "the path of resistance will continue until the complete liberation of the land of Palestine, and the blood of the martyrs will be the light of the path" for its fighters. "The policy of cowardly assassinations by the Israeli occupation regime against our children and fighters, whether in the occupied Palestinian territories or outside them, will never be able to stop us from continuing the path of jihad and sacrifice," it said. - Agencies

APRIL 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-8488394

MEMBER ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY (APNS)

CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Jemal Bekar Abdula
Ethiopia-Pakistan relations given new dimensions

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE