



Islamabad POST

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Merz seals govt deal bringing end to stalemate

Detailed News On Page-08

Some parties politicising canal project

Detailed News On Page-08

Fatimi vows to enhance coop with Ethiopia

Detailed News On Page-06



For trade talks with

PM: Pakistan to send high-level delegation to US

PM assigns team to devise long-term plan following tariff negotiations in United States

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to dispatch a high-level delegation to the United States for negotiations aimed at enhancing bilateral trade relations and addressing concerns related to newly imposed US tariffs on Pakistani imports. The decision was taken on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during a review meeting held in Islamabad on Wednesday with the huddle focusing on increasing national exports and discussing the Washington's recent tariff measures. The delegation will include prominent business figures and leading exporters, reflecting the government's intent to engage key stakeholders in shaping a mutually beneficial path forward. The PM has tasked the delegation with negotiating the newly introduced tariffs and developing a long-term strategy to safeguard and expand Pakistan's trade interests. Islamabad's move follows Washington's last week announcement of a 29% duty on goods from Pakistan in response to a 58% tariff on US products charged by Pakistan. Pakistani exports to the US, as per a senior official at the Ministry of Commerce, will now face a total tariff of 39%, comprising a 10% baseline import duty and a 29% reciprocal tariff.

Continued on Page 06

Pak mineral potential can benefit both countries

President Trump calls securing diverse sources of materials a strategic priority, says Eric Meyer

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Eric Meyer, a senior bureau official (SBO) for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the US State Department, emphasised the potential of Pakistan's vast mineral resources and said it can bring significant economic benefits for both Islamabad and Washington. According to a statement, Meyer led a delegation to Islamabad to advance US interests in Pakistan's critical minerals sector, enhance economic cooperation, and reaffirm the importance of counterterrorism collaboration. Speaking on the sidelines of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, Meyer emphasised that Pakistan's mineral wealth — if developed responsibly and transparently — holds mutual benefits for both nations. "Critical minerals are the raw materials necessary for our most advanced technologies," he said. "President Trump has made it clear that securing diverse and reliable sources of these materials is a strategic priority. Pakistan's vast mineral potential can benefit both our countries." The US continues to collaborate with international partners and Pakistani stakeholders to foster investment, share technical expertise, and promote sustainable resource management in the minerals sector, he said. Earlier in the day, PM Shehbaz held a meeting with the US team led by Meyer and reiterated his government's wish to work with President Trump.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Jamat-e-Islami led by its ameer Hafiz Naeem Ur Rahman called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. — DNA

Govt working to bring reforms in energy sector

A three-member delegation led by Hafiz Naeem called on Shehbaz Sharif

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A three-member delegation led by Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Wednesday and thanked him for recent decrease in electricity prices. The prime minister informed the delegation that government is working tirelessly to bring long-term reforms in the energy sector. He added that reforms in the energy sector are being designed with the aim of easing the lives of common people.

Continued on Page 06

To guarantee rule of law

Imran backs call to make Pak 'hard state'

Jailed PTI chief says Pakistan should not remain "soft state", where law is not consistently upheld

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Wednesday that incarcerated party founder Imran Khan backed calls for making Pakistan a "hard state", stressing the importance of ensuring equal justice for all citizens. Speaking to a private news channel, Gohar quoted Imran as saying that a "hard state" would guarantee the rule of law and uniform implementation of justice. "Imran said Pakistan should not remain a soft state, where the law is not consistently upheld," he added. The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases from corruption to terrorism, apparently backed the statement made by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir. Last month, the army chief blamed the "soft state" image for the loss of innocent lives amid rising terror activities, asking for how long

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan GDP to grow by 2.5% in FY2025: ADB

ADB reports that Pakistan's economic outlook for FY2025 is stable with growth expected to rise to 3.0% in FY2026

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy is showing positive signs of stability and recovery, with an expected 2.5% growth in real GDP for the fiscal year 2025 (ending June 30, 2026). This growth reflects the impact of stringent macroeconomic policies and progress in key economic reforms. According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2025, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) flagship economic publication, Pakistan's growth

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

US to deny visas to people with anti-Semitic views

DNA

WASHINGTON: United States immigration authorities said on Wednesday they would look at social media accounts and deny visas or residence permits to people who post content considered anti-Semitic by President Donald Trump's administration. Posts defined as anti-Semitic will include social media activity in support of groups classified by the United States as terrorists, including Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthis. The move comes after the Trump administration has controversially cancelled visas for students inside the US, where the first amendment of the constitution guarantees freedom of speech.

PPP slams FIA inquiry on Babar

The FIA had asked Babar to produce documents about his income and assets

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and PPP on Wednesday condemned an inquiry by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on former senator Farhatullah Babar over a "citizen's complaint" alleging "corruption, tax evasion and illicit asset accumulation". Babar had already appeared before FIA's Anti-Corruption Cell in Islamabad a day before the Eid holidays to respond to notice, issued by FIA over a complaint filed by a citizen in Rawalpindi's Morgah locale. FIA had asked Babar to produce documents about his income and assets after the Eid holidays.

US delegation meets COAS

US backs Pak vision for mineral sector growth

The meeting also afforded an opportunity to both sides for sharing perspective on global developments and Pakistan's regional security imperatives



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the United States, led by Mr. Eric Meyer, Senior Bureau Official for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters today. Meeting came in the backdrop of Pakistan's Mineral Investment Forum. Appreciating the first-of-its-kind Forum, the delegation expressed confidence in Pa-

kistan's policy to develop vast untapped mineral wealth through mutually beneficial partnerships. Commenting on the US Administration's priorities where collaboration in mineral development with Pakistan is a core area of mutual interest, Mr. Meyer also expressed interest in Pakistan's steadily improving investment landscape. The meeting also afforded an opportunity to both sides for sharing perspective on global developments and Pakistan's regional security imperatives.

Continued on Page 06

Trump tariffs: China, EU retaliate

Washington's moves 'severely damage the multilateral rules-based trade system', says finance ministry

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China will impose 84% tariffs on US imports, up from 34%, the finance ministry said on Wednesday, hours after similar levies by the United States came into force. US President Donald Trump's latest salvo of tariffs came into effect on dozens of trading partners on Wednesday, including punishing 104% duties on imports of Chinese products.

Continued on Page 06

Nawaz assures 'active role' in addressing Balochistan's issues

PML-N president meets NP chief Malik Baloch, assures him of visiting Balochistan

BUREAU REPORT

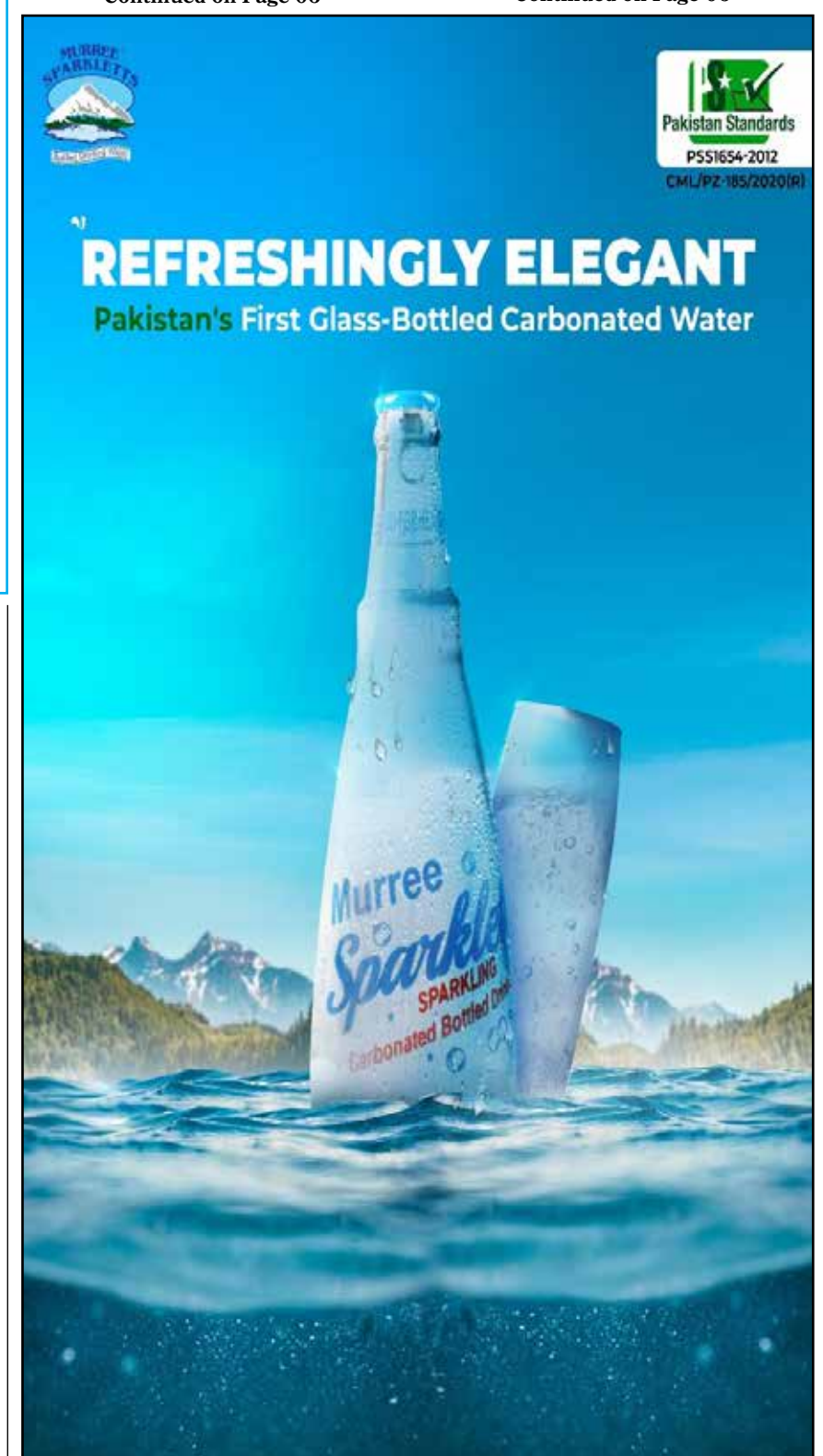
LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday met National Party (NP) chief Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and assured him of playing an "active role" in addressing issues plaguing Balochistan. The NP delegation included former secretary general Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi, MNA Pullain Baloch, NP Vice President and former MNA Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai, provincial president Aslam Baloch, Central Vice President Shahwaz Khan Bizenjo, and NP Punjab President Malik Ayub. Abdul Malik briefed the former three-time prime minister on the current situation in the province, with particular reference to the recent wave of arrests and ongoing protests. Talking to journalists after the meeting, Dr Baloch said the two leaders held a detailed discussion on the situation in Balochistan. "I have requested Nawaz Sharif to play his political role for Balochistan, and he assured me of doing so," he added. Dr Baloch, who also served as former Balochistan chief minister, said that he had invited the PML-N president to visit Balochistan and hold meetings with local political leaders.

Continued on Page 06

PML-N to launch public outreach campaign

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab chapter president, Rana Sanaullah, on Wednesday announced the launch of a public outreach campaign to reorganise and strengthen the party's structure. Talking to journalists outside Jati Umra, Sanaullah, who also serves as adviser to prime minister on public and political affairs, said he would lead the campaign himself and present the ground realities to party president Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. For now, the drive will remain Punjab-centric, he noted, but added that once the PML-N president begins touring other provinces, public rallies will also be held there. The public outreach campaign would be the first since the disputed general elections of 2024. Pakistan staged the biggest election of its history on February 8, 2024, which was extraordinary in various aspects.



Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 295

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2261960 / 051-8488394

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

Zionist's new AI tool

THE Israeli army, in collaboration with US tech giants, is developing an innovative AI tool to analyze, translate, and summarize texts relating to the surveillance data of millions of Palestinian Arabic conversations. Western media reveal that the cyber warfare team of Israeli Military Intelligence is building a large language model (LLM) AI tool for data analysis and text generation. They teach the LLM using large volumes of intelligence gathered about Palestinians living under occupation. The model was successfully trained in the second half of last year and intended to be deployed by June this year. Its main advantage is its ability to quickly evaluate enormous amounts of surveillance data and answer inquiries about specific individuals. The LLM has the potential to extend "Israel's" incrimination and imprisonment of Palestinians. "Israel" is already using smaller language models for this purpose. How did "Israel" gather the espionage data? The Israeli army collected a large volume of private conversations through the US-developed artificial intelligence technology by spying on sensitive pockets and ordinary civilians in the occupied regions. Analysts believe that the US technology upgraded the occupying forces' ability to track down the targets in Gaza and Lebanon. The use of US-made commercial AI models in combat, however, maximizes the risk of increased civilian casualties as well. This aspect of the use of warfare AI tools prompts serious concerns about the impact of AI war technologies on the civilian population. While the US militaries have long hired private companies to create customized autonomous weapons, the recent Israeli wars made these surveillance and combat AI weapons amenable to extensive use, passing over earlier concerns shown about their massive civilian cost. Dr. Nauman Ahmad, an IT and AI specialist in Lahore, tells Al Mayadeen English that at the outset of "Israel's" assault on Gaza, reservists were mass mobilized, and industrial professionals from the private sector began enlisting in the army espionage unit to bring in IA skills that had previously only been available to a tiny number of firms globally. "The reports emanating from media and private tech companies have already confirmed that Israel began making efforts to acquire espionage technology well before October 7; however, the Israeli army started hiring experts from tech giants such as Google, Meta, and Microsoft to establish an espionage dome to intercept Palestinian private conversations and develop language models much after October 2023," he reveals, adding that they were now in the process of compiling and translating a huge amount of espionage data. An investigation by the Associated Press uncovered that the Israeli military has ramped up its deployment of AI technology, incorporating tools from Microsoft and OpenAI, in response to the October 7, 2023, operation. The report highlighted the risk of mass-scale human loss due to inaccurate data or defective algorithms. Although AI systems can accurately select targets, sometimes they make mistakes and blunders stemming from faulty feeding. The findings prompt inquiries into Silicon Valley's involvement in automated warfare and the consequences of technology's role in facilitating unethical and unlawful military actions. The Israeli military's use of AI has surged nearly 200-fold since October 2023, with the volume of data stored on Microsoft servers doubling from that period to July 2024.



US, Russia rapprochement

THE emerging American-Russian rapprochement will cast its shadow over many conflicts around the world, but nowhere will it be more consequential than in Syria. If US President Donald Trump succeeds in putting his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin on a steady and positive course and secures progress in Ukraine, eyes will turn to other areas. These include Syria, where Russian-American cooperation could be transformative for peace and stability in the country, as well as the region. Syria entered a new era after the fall of President Bashar Assad in December. However, the Syrian people's euphoria over their hard-won freedom from an oppressive regime was tempered by the harsh realities of external military and political interference, coupled with economic pressures. The new government, led by interim President Ahmad Al-Sharaa, is facing a myriad of challenges and uncertainties, internally and beyond its borders. While Türkiye's influence in Syria is growing, Israel is also conducting frequent airstrikes deep inside Syrian territory. These actions, which Israeli sources describe as a warning to Ankara, are viewed by many regional experts as provocations that further fragment Syria and threaten its territorial integrity. Israel has already occupied new territories in the Golan Heights and in southern Syria, in addition to the demilitarized zone that was established in 1974. Regional and great power competition is intensifying over Syria, raising questions about the future roles of both the US and Russia. Will they cooperate to stabilize the country or allow it to be used as an arena to settle scores, fracturing the country further and increasing instability? Syria presents a compelling opportunity for Washington and Moscow to work together toward common goals: maintaining Syria's territorial integrity, securing the Syrian-Israeli border, preventing any extremist resurgence, and supporting reconstruction. The stability of Syria is critical for the stability of all its neighbors. Both the US and Russia have forces in Syria. America maintains about 2,000 troops in the country, according to the Department of Defense, supporting the Syrian Democratic Forces in the fight against Daesh. They are based in northeast Syria and in the Tanf garrison close to the borders with Iraq and Jordan. Russia controls two bases, Hmeimim airbase and the Tartus naval base, with the latter giving Moscow its only foothold on the Mediterranean. The future of both Russian and American forces in Syria is in flux. While the US is considering the future of its military presence in Syria, the Russians are in talks with the Syrian interim government and president to keep its forces in the country. Despite being weakened by the war in Ukraine, Russia is not ready or prepared to leave Syria. It is seeking new terms that will preserve its strategic foothold while adapting to the new political order and reality in Syria. Despite its weakened influence in the country, Russia still has cards to play. The Syrian president acknowledged as much when he talked about Damascus' "strategic interests" with Russia. Syria also still needs Russia at the UN Security Council, as a permanent member with influence. However, some see the future of Russia's presence in Syria as related to the ongoing peace efforts over Ukraine. The Washington Institute's Soner Cagaptay sees a presence for Russia in Syria as part of an agreement with Trump, as he said at an Atlantic Council event.

The Ball is in America's Court

Sayed Abbas Araghchi



Looking ahead, two additional facts deserve emphasis. First, President Trump might not like the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the nuclear deal signed in 2015), but it contains one vital commitment: that "Iran reaffirms that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons." Ten years after the JCPOA was concluded — and nearly seven years after the United States unilaterally walked away from it — there is no evidence that Iran has violated this commitment. This has been reaffirmed by U.S. intelligence assessments time and again. Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence...

IN recent weeks, a series of messages and letters have been exchanged between Iran and the United States. Contrary to some interpretations, these communications — at least on our side — have been neither symbolic nor ceremonial. We view them as representing a genuine attempt to clarify positions and open a window toward diplomacy. Regarding Monday's comments by President Donald Trump, Iran is ready to engage in earnest and with a view to seal a deal. We will meet in Oman on Saturday for indirect negotiations. It is as much an opportunity as it is a test. The model of engagement we propose is not novel. The United States itself is intermediating indirect talks between Russia and Ukraine — a much more intense and complex conflict entailing strategic, territorial, military, security and economic aspects. I personally also have the experience of leading indirect talks with the United States. Mediated by the European Union back in 2021, that process — though more convoluted and demanding than direct engagement — proved both possible and productive. Though we did not cross the finish line then, it was mainly because of a lack of real determination by the Biden administration. Pursuing indirect negotiations is not a tactic or reflection of ideology but a strategic choice rooted in experience. We face a significant wall of mistrust and harbor serious doubts about the sincerity of intentions, made worse by U.S. insistence on resuming the "maximum pressure" policy prior to any diplomatic interaction. To move forward today, we first need to agree that there can be no "military option," let alone a "military solution." President Trump clearly recognizes this reality in urging a ceasefire as the first course of action to end the Ukraine conflict. Spending taxpayer dollars on escalating the U.S. military presence in our region, potentially endangering American soldiers far away from home, is not conducive to a diplomatic outcome. The

proud Iranian nation, whose strength my government relies on for real deterrence, will never accept coercion and imposition. We cannot imagine President Trump wanting to become another U.S. president mired in a catastrophic war in the Middle East — a conflict that would quickly extend across the region and cost exponentially more than the trillions of taxpayer dollars that his predecessors burned in Afghanistan and Iraq. Looking ahead, two additional facts deserve emphasis. First, President Trump might not like the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the nuclear deal signed in 2015), but it contains one vital commitment: that "Iran reaffirms that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons." Ten years after the JCPOA was concluded — and nearly seven years after the United States unilaterally walked away from it — there is no evidence that Iran has violated this commitment. This has been reaffirmed by U.S. intelligence assessments time and again. Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence, recently acknowledged that "Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and Supreme Leader [Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei has not authorized the nuclear weapons program he suspended in 2003." We have objections to many aspects of U.S. global policy, and particularly to the West's policies in our region, including its double standards on proliferation. By the same token, there may exist possible concerns about our nuclear program. We proved our readiness to address those concerns when we agreed to the 2015 deal — enabled by mutual respect and equal footing. But even as we remain committed to the JCPOA, our experience of the unwillingness or inability of the United States and the E.U. to fulfill their commitments under the nuclear deal has persuaded many in Iran to insist on guarantees for mutual fulfillment of commitments. Second, there is a serious misconception that needs to be cleared

up. Many in Washington portray Iran as a closed country from an economic point of view. The truth is that we are open to welcoming businesses from around the world. It is the U.S. administrations and congressional impediments, not Iran, that have kept American enterprises away from the trillion-dollar opportunity that access to our economy represents.

Indeed, when the United States agreed to license the sale of passenger aircraft as a part of the JCPOA, Iran immediately negotiated a contract with Boeing to buy 80 planes. To say that the scope for trade and investment in Iran is unparalleled is an understatement. Our proposal for indirect negotiations remains on the table. We believe that if there is true will, there is always a way forward. As recent history has shown, diplomatic engagement worked in the past and can still work. We are willing to clarify our peaceful intent and take the necessary measures to allay any possible concern. For its part, the United States can show that it is serious about diplomacy by showing that it will stick to any deal it makes. If we are shown respect, we will reciprocate it. Military buildups send the exact opposite signal. Mark my words: Iran prefers diplomacy, but it knows how to defend itself. We have never yielded to threats in the past, and we will neither do so now nor in the future. We seek peace, but will never accept submission. The ball is now in America's court. If it seeks a genuine diplomatic resolution, we have already shown the way. If, instead, it seeks to impose its will through pressure, it must know this: The Iranian people respond decisively to the language of force and threat in a unified way. There is a chance for the United States to finally have a president of peace. Whether or not to seize that opportunity is a choice.

— **Sayed Abbas Araghchi is the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

White collar class: Silent suffering segment

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Unlike those from lower-income groups who might receive financial aid or support from charities, the middle class has no safety net. They are ineligible for government subsidies or social welfare programs, as their official incomes make them appear financially stable. In reality, they live paycheck to paycheck, sacrificing personal comforts...

INFLATION in Pakistan has reached an alarming level, affecting every segment of society, but its impact on the middle class, particularly white-collar workers, has been devastating. These individuals, who form the backbone of the country's economy and administration, are facing immense financial strain yet remain silent, bound by societal expectations and personal dignity. Unlike daily wage earners or laborers who can voice their struggles openly, the white-collar worker suffers in silence, unwilling or unable to seek help despite dire circumstances. For the middle class, especially those employed in offices, banks, educational institutions, and various government departments, survival has become a daily challenge. Their incomes remain stagnant while the cost of living continues to rise at an unprecedented pace. Food prices have soared, utility bills have become unbearable, and transportation costs have significantly increased. Despite working tirelessly, they find themselves unable to maintain the lifestyle they once took for granted. One of the most pressing concerns is the education of their children. Quality education, once considered a basic necessity for middle-class families, is now a luxury. School fees, tuition charges, and the cost of books and uniforms have escalated beyond affordability. Parents are forced to either downgrade their children's education by shifting them to less expensive schools or compromise on other essential household needs. The thought of depriving their children of good education weighs heavily on their minds, yet they have little choice. Medical expenses add

another layer of distress. With healthcare costs rising exponentially, even a minor illness can disrupt an entire month's budget. Private hospitals and clinics charge exorbitantly, while public hospitals remain overcrowded and underfunded. Many middle-class families have resorted to self-medication or delaying medical treatments, risking their health due to financial constraints. House rents and utility bills have further compounded their troubles. Many employees, despite working in well-reputed organizations, struggle to pay monthly rent, forcing them to move to smaller homes in less desirable neighborhoods. Electricity, gas, and water bills continue to increase, leaving families with little to spare for other necessities. Despite their hard work and dedication, the fear of financial collapse looms over them.

Unlike those from lower-income groups who might receive financial aid or support from charities, the middle class has no safety net. They are ineligible for government subsidies or social welfare programs, as their official incomes make them appear financially stable. In reality, they live paycheck to paycheck, sacrificing personal comforts and sometimes even necessities to maintain appearances. Their silent suffering is often overlooked, as they do not protest or demand relief, fearing social stigma or professional repercussions. Social obligations add another burden. Weddings, family gatherings, and even religious events demand expenses that they cannot afford but are forced to bear. The pressure to maintain societal status leads many into debt, taking loans

they struggle to repay. The concept of saving for the future has become nearly impossible, with many living in constant financial anxiety, unsure of how they will manage unforeseen emergencies. The psychological impact of this economic pressure is profound. Stress and anxiety have become constant companions of white-collar workers, affecting their mental and physical health. The fear of losing their job, the inability to meet family expectations, and the daily struggle to stretch every rupee lead to emotional distress. Many suffer in silence, unable to share their burden even with close friends or family members. Despite these hardships, the resilience of the middle class is commendable. They continue to work diligently, hoping for better days. Their silent perseverance is a testament to their strength, yet it is also a reflection of a society that has failed to acknowledge their struggles. Policymakers must recognize this hidden crisis and take concrete steps to provide relief to this crucial segment of the population. Controlling inflation, ensuring fair wages, and offering financial assistance for education and healthcare could help ease their burden.

The middle class has long been the pillar of stability for the nation, contributing to economic growth and social progress. If their struggles continue to be ignored, the consequences will be far-reaching. A demoralized, financially strained middle class could lead to decreased productivity, brain drain, and long-term economic stagnation. It is time to address their concerns before their silent suffering turns into a crisis that affects the entire nation.

Briefs

PM: Pakistan to send high-level...

FROM PAGE 01
The US is Pakistan's largest single-country export market, with exports valued at approximately \$6 billion annually, predominantly textiles. Following President Donald Trump's announcement, PM Shehbaz had constituted a 12-member steering committee to deal with the reciprocal tariffs. Meanwhile, initial estimates suggest that the said duties might cost Islamabad between \$500 to \$700 million. Today's meeting, chaired by PM Shehbaz, was attended by Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, as well as PM's Adviser Syed Tauqir Shah, Special Assistants Tariq Fatemi and Haroon Akhtar, Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, and other senior officials. During the huddle, the premier was briefed on the findings of the steering committee and the working group formed to assess the impact of the new tariffs. Various alternative strategies were presented to the forum. Officials informed the meeting that Pakistan's embassy in Washington is in constant contact with the US administration regarding the issue. PM Shehbaz reiterated that Pakistan values its decades-old trade ties with the United States and seeks to further strengthen this strategic partnership. He emphasised that the delegation must ensure all relevant business leaders and exporters are part of the dialogue process. The announcement of Pakistan sending a delegation to the US comes hours after PM Shehbaz

Pak mineral potential can benefit...

FROM PAGE 01
The meeting came on the sidelines of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum which was attended by the US delegation. During their interaction, the PM welcomed US participation at the forum and emphasised that Pakistan's minerals sector presented immense opportunities, encouraging US companies to invest in that priority sector. He underscored the significance of Pakistan-US relations not only in the bilateral context but also for regional peace and security as well as enhanced cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment and counter-terrorism.

Govt working to bring...

FROM PAGE 01
Shehbaz Sharif expressed the resolve to continue his mission of prioritizing public relief and said that Pakistan's journey of progress will continue, despite challenges. Besides, Shehbaz Sharif and Hafiz Naem expressed concern over the international community's silence on Israel's unprovoked bombing and oppression of defenseless Palestinians in Gaza.

Trump tariffs: China, EU...

FROM PAGE 01
Beijing has consistently opposed tariff rises and said on Wednesday it would take "firm and forceful" steps to protect its interests. Its finance ministry later said in a statement that "additional tariff rates" on imports originating in the United States would "rise from 34% to 84%", effective from 12:01 pm on Thursday. "The tariff escalation against China by the United States simply piles mistakes on top of mistakes (and) severely infringes on China's legitimate rights and interests," the ministry said. Washington's moves "severely damage the multilateral rules-based trade system", it added. In a separate statement, Beijing's commerce ministry said it would blacklist six American artificial intelligence firms, including Shield AI Inc. and Sierra Nevada Corp.

Japan Funded Pavement Link Road Project Inaugurated

Ambassador Akamatsu reiterated that Govt of Japan remained committed to supporting the people of Pakistan, in improving their living standards. He expressed his sincere wish that the project would further strengthen the existing friendship between people of Japan and Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On Monday, April 7, 2025, His Excellency, Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan inaugurated a project for the pavement of a link road in the village of Jhandwal, Shinkari, District Mansehra. The project was implemented by Saibaan Development Organization, a non-governmental organization working for vulnerable people in rural areas of Pakistan with the aim of eliminating social disparities. The Government of Japan, through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Program, provided financial assistance of 56,418 USD to this project, for the pavement of a 3,800-foot link road, along with the construction of retaining walls and culverts. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the NGO board members, federal and local government officials, and community leaders, including Mr. Sardar Shah Jahan Yousaf, Parliamentary Leader Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) KP. Saibaan Development Organization, with more than twenty years of experience in rural development, has experience



of implementing successful projects in collaboration with government departments and various donors. This project, funded by the Government of Japan, improves people's quality of life in this remote region by mitigating the peoples' difficulties of traveling in village and nearby areas. The newly paved road provides a safe and reliable route to school for 330 children, while also improving access to healthcare facilities and markets for 2,700 local people. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Ambassador Akamatsu congratulated the NGO for the successful completion of this important project. He emphasized that "the pavement of the link road is not just about building a road—it opens up access to opportunities, connects communities to vital services and creates an environment for further growth." He stressed that this project would contribute significantly to the overall development and betterment of the area. Ambassador Akamatsu reiterated that the Government of Japan remained committed to supporting the people of Pakistan, in improving their living standards. He expressed his sincere wish that the project would further strengthen the existing friendship between the people of Japan and Pakistan.

OGRA crackdown on substandard LPG equipment manufacturers

During the process three LPG equipment manufacturer premises were inspected namely M/s Elite Metal Tek (Private) Limited, M/s Hi-Tek Manufacturing (Private) Limited and M/s Unique Metal Engineering Services Limited

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), in collaboration with the local administration, conducted joint safety inspections of LPG storage tank, bowser and cylinder manufacturing facilities located in the peripheral areas of Lahore during March 2025. During the process three LPG equipment manufacturer premises were inspected namely M/s Elite Metal Tek (Private) Limited, M/s Hi-Tek Manufacturing (Private) Limited and M/s Unique Metal Engineering Services Limited. Violations of technical and safety standards were observed which included the production of oversized LPG bowzers, absence of essential safety systems, uncensored bowzers present on-site, and operations without mandatory registration from the Deputy Commissioner and Civil Defence authorities. As a result, two facilities namely M/s Hi-Tek Manufacturing (Private) Limited and M/s Unique Metal Engineering Services Limited where serious violations were observed were sealed by the district administration. The Authority is initiating regulatory action under applicable laws, which may result in delisting / cancellation of licenses of non-compliant entities. OGRA maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward unsafe, non-compliant and unauthorized manufacturing practices. Surprise inspections will continue nationwide to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulatory compliance in LPG equipment manufacturing. — DNA

ISSI hosts roundtable with Chinese delegation

DNA

Islamabad, April 9, 2025 — The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) today, hosted wide-ranging Roundtable with Chinese delegation comprising senior officials from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and accomplished scholars from China's leading Universities. The participants from Pakistan side included eminent practitioners and academics. The discourse focused on the evolving global order, regional developments, the centrality of China in Pakistan's foreign policy, and ways to strengthen CPEC and the Pakistan-China 'All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership'. It also highlighted the importance of forging robust people-to-people ties through enhanced engagement with youth, media, and academia, and the optimal utilisation of social media platforms. The Chinese delegation was led by

Mr. LEI Xin, Deputy Director General of the Information Center, IDCPC. He was accompanied by DING Hui, ZHU Caiyun, ZHOU Chenyu, Prof. Zhang Jiaotong, HUANG Yunsong, ZHANG Jiegen, and MA Zheng—respected scholars and senior officials from Fudan University, Sichuan University, and Sun Yat-sen University. On the ISSI side, participants included Ambassador Zamir Akram, Ambassador Masood Khalid, Ambassador Naghma Hashmi, Ambassador Babar Amin, Mr. S. M. Hali, Mr. Khalid Banuri, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Dr. Azhar Ahmad, and others.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI emphasized that the Pakistan-China relationship is a unique model in inter-state relations, founded on the principles of mutual respect, mutual trust, and unwavering support for each other's issues of core interest. He reaffirmed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains a central pillar of this partnership, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economic development and regional connectivity. He underscored

Pakistan's pride in China's peaceful rise under President Xi Jinping's visionary leadership and reiterated that Pakistan's strategic partnership with China enjoys national consensus and is vital for regional stability and prosperity. He expressed confidence in the continued strengthening of bilateral ties across all domains, including political, economic, security, and people-to-people exchanges.

In his remarks, Mr. LEI Xin shared valuable insights on the role of the IDCPC's Information Center in supporting the CPC's external engagements. He introduced the center's innovative "one body, two wings" framework—focused on data-driven research, international think tank collaborations, and global media analysis. Mr. Lei expressed sincere appreciation for ISSI's longstanding partnership with Chinese academic and strategic community. He reiterated China's commitment to enhancing exchanges across political, academic, and media sectors, and emphasized the importance of mutual learning and dialogue to strengthen understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Senate Meets Chairman of Bahrain's Consultative Council

DNA

TASHKETN:Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, met with His Excellency the Chairman of the Consultative Council of Bahrain on the sidelines of the 150th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting reaffirmed the enduring brotherly ties and mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral and parliamentary relations between

Pakistan and Bahrain. Chairman Gillani expressed warm wishes to His Majesty King Muhammad VI on behalf of the leadership and people of Pakistan, expressing appreciation for the longstanding historical, cultural, and religious bonds between the two nations. Discussions centered on enhancing parliamentary cooperation, economic engagement, and regional connectivity. Both sides acknowledged the need for regular parliamentary

exchanges, collaboration through joint committees, and knowledge-sharing platforms to deepen institutional ties. Chairman Gillani recalled his previous engagements with Bahraini leadership during his tenure as Prime Minister, which laid the foundation for ongoing collaboration in defence, trade, and labour sectors. He reiterated Pakistan's readiness to strengthen strategic dialogue and cooperation across these fields.

FLSmith to play its part in Pak's vision for sustainable mining

Danish Company has launched training program in Minerals and Mining for Hundred Pakistani Engineers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from FLSmidth, a global leader in sustainable technology and solutions for the mining and cement industries, called on Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz today. The delegation is here in Pakistan to attend the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum. Minister Ali Pervaiz appreciated FLSmidth's commitment to sustainable development and emphasized the government's openness to adopting advanced technologies that align with Pakistan's vision of responsible and sustainable mining. He highlighted that Prime Minister is keen on development of Balochistan that can be achieved by skills development leading to improved employability. FLSmidth's delegation congratulated Ali Pervaiz Malik on Successful Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum.

Pak thump Ireland in Women's WC Qualifier opener

Baig earns the Player of the Match award for her match-winning bowling performance

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Half-centuries from Aliya Riaz and Sidra Amin, followed by Diana Baig's four-wicket haul, powered Pakistan to a 38-run victory over Ireland in the opening match of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday. Put into bat first, the home side could amass a modest total of 217 before getting bowled in 49 overs. The green shirts got off to a shaky start to their innings as their opener Gull Pheroza (four) fell victim to Jane Maguire in the second over with just four runs on the board. Following the early hiccup, Sidra Amin joined Muneeba Ali in the middle and together they launched an astounding recovery by adding 77 runs for the second wicket until the opener perished. Muneeba was also removed by Maguire in the 21st over. She scored 32 off 59 deliveries with the help of four boundaries. Sidra was then involved in another crucial partnership for Pakistan when she put together a 72-run stand with Aliya Riaz, which took their total past the 150-run mark. The anchoring partnership culminated with Sidra's dismissal in the 36th over. She scored 51 off 112 deliveries, hitting three fours. Aliya followed suit just five overs later and walked back after top-scoring for Pakistan with a 58-ball 52, studded with four fours and a six. Her dismissal sparked a lower-order collapse, which saw Pakistan losing all of their remaining six wickets for just 42 runs. Maguire was the standout bowler for Ireland, taking three wickets for just 33 runs in 10 overs, followed by Arlene Kelly and Cara Murray, who bagged two each. Chasing a modest 218-run target, Ireland's batting unit unfolded on a meagre 179 in 44 overs despite notable contributions from their top order.

Under-23 World Squash C'ship matches in Karachi

KARACHI: Under-23 World Squash Championship matches are in progress at Karachi's Creek Club. The mega event is a new competition introduced by World Squash and is being organized by Pakistan Squash Federation under the patronage of CAS PAF, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu as it's President. The prestigious tournament features 34

male and 22 female players from 22 countries including Pakistan, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, France, Hong Kong China, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and United States who are competing for the coveted title from 06-10 April, 2025.

Hosting the Under-23 World Squash Championship will result in Pakistan hosting more high profile international sports events in future enabling vast opportunities for domestic players to compete with the world's best talents. As the patron of sports in the country, Pakistan Air Force has consistently promoted sporting activities at both national and international levels. — DNA

SAPM Fatemi vows support for Pak-Ethiopia collaboration

The Ambassador said the establishment of the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad itself is a manifestation of the Medemer philosophy, which designed to foster synergistic partnerships and collaborative diplomacy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have agreed to enhance cooperation on the multilateral stage to advance mutual interests, peace, and development. To this end, a productive meeting was held between Dr. Jemal Beker, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia, and Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, here at the Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad. The two sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including multilateral cooperation between the two countries to achieve the common goals of peace, prosperity, and sustainable development for the two brotherly nations. They also expressed their resolve to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade, invest-

ment, aviation, technology, and climate change. Ambassador Dr. Jemal, on the occasion, congratulated the SAPM on Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council



in 2025. He briefed the SAPM on political, economic, social and legal reforms driven by the "Medemer" philosophy of PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed, which emphasizes inter-generational collaboration, national unity, and

leveraging collective potential.

The Ambassador said the establishment of the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad itself is a manifestation of the Medemer philosophy, which designed to foster synergistic partnerships and collaborative diplomacy. He reiterated the FDR Ethiopia's commitment to multilateralism, international peace and security, regional integration, and pan-Africanism.

On the other hand, the SAPM acknowledged the role being played by the FDR Ethiopia in ensuring peace and security at regional and international levels, and also lauded its remarkable economic growth under the leadership of Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the FDR Ethiopia. He assured the Ambassador of his full support for further enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries. On the occasion, the Ambassador also presented the SAPM a copy of the Book 'Generation Medemer' authored by PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

Oman beat Pakistan hockey team in 2nd match

DNA

LAHORE: In an exciting and highly competitive second test match, the Oman hockey team secured a remarkable 3-1 victory over the host team, Pakistan, today in Lahore. This win marks a significant achievement for the Oman team as they take a commanding position in the ongoing series. The match, held at the National Hockey Stadium, was full of energy from the first whistle. Oman's disciplined and strategic approach allowed them to dominate much of the match. The Omani players exhibited exceptional teamwork, resilience, and composure under pressure, which ultimately earned them the well-deserved victory. In the first match Pakistan defeated Oman by 4-3 in a tight match. Both teams have arrived in Islamabad to play two matches. The first match shall be played on Friday April 11 at 430 pm while the 2nd match shall be played on Saturday at 430 pm.

US backs Pak vision for mineral...

FROM PAGE 01

Both sides expressed confidence on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed on the need to explore B2B avenues in addition to expanding existing G2G and P2P cooperation for comprehensively strengthening the relationship.

Nawaz assures 'active role'...

FROM PAGE 01

"Nawaz expressed readiness to visit the province, and his visit is expected soon," he noted. He said Balochistan's issues were political in nature and required political solutions. "We strongly condemn the killing of innocent people in Balochistan," he added. Dr Baloch also recalled Nawaz's active political engagement during the 2013 tenure and hoped for similar involvement moving forward. "We told Nawaz that his role is crucial in resolving the situation in Balochistan." The former CM said that Nawaz Sharif and other party leaders welcomed them warmly in line with traditional hospitality.

Imran backs call to make Pak 'hard'...

FROM PAGE 01

they [armed forces] will fill the "gaps of governance" with martyrs' blood. "We need better governance... we should make Pakistan a hard state," he said while addressing a high-level in-camera meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security, which was skipped by major opposition parties, including the former ruling party. The in-camera session came against the backdrop of rising terrorism in Pakistan, including a major terrorist attack on a passenger train in the Mushqaf area of the Bolan district in Balochistan. Dozens of militants, affiliated with the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), blew up a railway track and assaulted the Jaffar Express on Tuesday, carrying more than 440 passengers — who were taken hostage. The security forces, after a complex clearance operation, neutralised 33 attackers and rescued the hostage passengers.

Pakistan GDP to grow by 2.5%...

FROM PAGE 01

rate for FY2025 is projected to remain the same as the previous year (FY2024), which also saw a growth of 2.5%. The growth outlook is being helped by a more stable macroeconomic position helped by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement that began in October 2024. Adherence to the economic adjustment program is critical for building resilience and enabling sustainable and inclusive growth.

Briefs

'Nationalist parties politicising canal project in Sindh'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to PM Rana Sanaullah has accused certain so-called nationalist parties of playing a "dirty political game" over the canal development project in Sindh. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Rana Sanaullah assured that Punjab would not steal a single drop of water of Sindh and stressed that the matter would be resolved through consensus. He criticised nationalist parties for exploiting the issue for political mileage, adding that the federal government was taking serious steps to address the matter amicably. Rana emphasised the need for dialogue among all stakeholders, stating that the resolution of sensitive issue like water distribution lies in meaningful negotiations. He also urged PTT's founder and other political parties and leaders to engage in talk, warning that progress would be impossible without political cooperation. "All parties must come to the table for the greater good of the people," he said, highlighting the importance of fair and undisputed water resources management.

Abbasi seeks plan to outsource 10 trains

DNA

LAHORE: Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi announced that a plan has been sought to outsource 10 trains. Speaking to the media in Lahore on Wednesday, Abbasi said targets had been set for improving railway services. He noted a high demand for freight trains and an increase in revenue from passenger trains. He said that steps were being taken for the betterment of the Railways. Regarding the recent attack on the Jaffer Express, he revealed that modern weapons were used and the terrorists were in contact via satellite from Afghanistan. He criticised Pakistan's loose border control, saying it's the only country where anyone can enter without a visa. The minister stated that illegal foreign nationals would be deported. He condemned a political party that celebrated on the day of the Jaffer Express attack. He vowed that terrorists would be eliminated. He further added that 14 railway schools are being outsourced, and a roadshow will be held regarding eight railway hospitals. Plans for outsourcing 10 trains have also been sought. Abbasi assured transparency in all railway projects, stating that these outsourcing initiatives would save Rs1.5 billion annually. He vowed to transform Pakistan Railways into a profitable institution.

POST-EID GET-TOGETHER AT BRUNEI HC



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Brunei Kamal Ahmad hosted Eid get-together at the new Brunei High Commission. Seen in the picture are Ambassadors of Vietnam, Myanmar, Ambassadors-designate of Thailand, the Philippines, and Charge d Affaires of Embassies of Indonesia and Malaysia. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps is also present on the occasion. — DNA

Civilians' mily trial

SC questions lack of trust on institutions

Do the federation, provinces not have trust on their own institutions, asks Justice Mandokhail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's (SC) constitutional bench on Wednesday wondered what was the issue with giving civilians the right to appeal. These observations were made as the constitutional bench resumed its hearing on a set of intra-court appeals against the October 23, 2023, five-judge order nullifying the trial of civilians by military courts involved in the May 9, 2023 riots. The seven-judge bench was headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan and included Justices Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Shahid Bilal Hassan, Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Musarrat Hilali. The bench had asked the attorney general of Pakistan (AGP) in the previous day's hearing to explain his 2023 statement about granting the right to appeal to those convicted by military courts. The statement made by AGP Mansoor Usman Awan before the SC bench in 2023 came up during the hearing of the

appeals. During a hearing on Aug 2, 2023, the AGP had told a five-judge SC bench that the government was working on legislation to give the right of appeal to those convicted of attacking military installations on May 9. Justice Hilali remarked during today's hearing, "How can you talk about fair and transparent trials, [when] decisions are made in military courts under the shade of Kalashnikovs. What problem will arise if the government gives civilians the right to appeal?" The seven-judge bench had taken up a set of 38 intra-court appeals (ICAs) moved by the federal and provincial governments as well as the Shuhada Forum Balochistan etc against the SC's Oct 23, 2023 verdict. AGP Awan appeared in court and took the position that he had learned from Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman that the court had summoned him. "When a court-martial trial is held, there is a complete procedure. The entire record of how a military trial is conducted is with the court. "If someone is sentenced to death, it

is not implemented until a decision is made on the appeal," he stated. Justice Mandokhel said the judges were discussing the right to appeal since it was a fundamental right. He said fundamental rights were provided for in the Constitution and that was the issue before the bench at this time. The AGP responded that when this matter had previously come up before a full court, the court itself had given three options. Justice Mandokhel responded that those three options were still there and asked AGP Awan to answer whether there was a right to appeal or not. Justice Mandokhel continued, "If someone is given the right to a fair trial, what is the problem? The institution itself is the complainant; how can it hear the case?" "Do the federation and the provinces not have confidence in their institutions? If the courts are abolished, then what will happen?" he questioned. "People trust us only 50 per cent because of our decisions. What will happen if the courts are abolished?" AGP Awan responded that both he and the

judges were a part of the judicial system and needed to fix the system together. Meanwhile, Justice Rizvi noted that "those who conduct trials in military courts would not even know the law of evidence (Qanoon-e-Shahadat), evidence can be misjudged in military courts." Justice Hilali asked the AGP how he could talk about fair and transparent trials when "decisions are made in military courts under the shade of Kalashnikovs. What problem will arise if the government gives civilians the right to appeal?" Justice Mandokhel added here, "We cannot even see the trial records of military courts. Is the government giving the right to appeal or not?" Justice Afghan remarked that a constitutional amendment should have been enacted for the court martial of civilians. Justice Mandokhel reiterated that the matter was not about how serious the crime was. "It may be a serious and horrific crime. If a terrorist also commits a crime, are there fundamental rights or not?" he questioned the state counsels.

Arshad Khan challenges CNIC blocking

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has issued notices to the federal government and other officials on the plea of Arshad Khan, a tea vendor who became social media sensation almost a decade ago, challenging blocking of his CNIC and passport. Arshad Khan, who belongs to Mardan, shot to fame in 2016 when his photo went viral on Instagram. Khan's counsel Barrister Umer Ijaz Gilani pleaded that the government's move to block CNIC and the passport was unlawful and unconstitutional. The lawyer said the government's move had tarnished the reputation of his client, who has been a celebrity ever since his photo at his tea stall went viral. He said NADRA's demand that Arshad Khan present pre-1978 proof of residency was based on mala fide intent and lacked legal justification. He said Khan's family had a documented citizenship history. He said the government's action was a clear-cut violation of Khan's rights to livelihood, dignity, and lawful treatment.

Yemen conducts new retaliatory strikes

SANA'A: Yemen's armed forces have conducted new airstrikes on US and Israeli targets in retaliation for Israel's US-backed campaign of genocide in the Gaza Strip. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Yemeni army said it "carried out a military operation against an Israeli military target in Occupied Yaffa [Tel Aviv], using a drone called 'Yaffa.'" According to the statement, the Yemeni forces also conducted a drone attack against the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier in the north of the Red Sea. The army said it will continue the retaliatory operations in support of the oppressed Palestinians until the Gaza war ends. Since October 2023, Yemeni forces have carried out scores of operations in support of the war-hit Gazans, striking targets throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to targeting Israeli ships or vessels heading toward ports in the occupied territories. — Agencies

Pakistan, US vow to strengthen ties in counterterrorism coop

Highlighting the economic opportunities, Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that American companies could benefit greatly from the vast investment prospects in Pakistan's mineral sector

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Eric Meyer, Senior Official from the U.S. Department of State and head of the visiting American delegation, during his trip to Pakistan. Acting U.S. Ambassador Natalie Baker, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, and Interior Secretary Khuram Agha were also present at the meeting. The

two sides held detailed discussions on Pakistan-U.S. relations, matters of mutual interest, and avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation. Eric Meyer condemned the recent terrorist attack on the Jaffer Express and expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent lives, offering condolences to the affected families. Highlighting the economic opportunities, Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that American companies could benefit greatly from the vast investment prospects in Pakistan's mineral

sector, especially through the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum. He emphasized that the visit of the U.S. delegation would mark an important milestone in boosting economic collaboration between the two countries. Eric Meyer expressed keen interest in the investment opportunities presented under the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025. The discussions also focused on strengthening cooperation in counterterrorism, anti-smuggling, and anti-narcotics efforts.

BERLIN: Germany's conservatives under Friedrich Merz have reached a deal with the Social Democrats to govern Europe's biggest economy, five months after the previous government collapsed. Merz, 69, said their agreement sent "a strong and clear signal" to Germans and the EU that Germany "will get a strong government capable of action". The two sides have been under intense pressure to put an end to Germany's political limbo since Merz's Christian Democrats won federal elections in February. Germany has been buffeted by economic turbulence caused by President Donald Trump's trade tariffs, and recent opinion polls suggest the far-right, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany has now overtaken Merz's party. Merz, 69, may have to wait until next month for the new parliament to elect him as chancellor, but should have no problem with a 13-seat majority. Announcing the coalition deal, he said the parties had worked very

Germany's Merz seals govt deal

hard over the past few weeks, but "ahead of us we have a strong plan to bring our country to the forefront again". Merz promised the next government would reform and stabilise Germany and that the rest of Europe would be able to rely on the country. The parties had already signalled their urgency last month, when they pushed through significant reform of Germany's strict debt rules. The changes will mean the new government will be able to plough significant investment into the military and the country's crumbling infrastructure. Included in Wednesday's agreement are a series of measures to "control and largely end irregular migration" and impose border controls, aimed at addressing one of the big concerns of voters in the February election. — Agencies

Pak warns of consequences of use of military AI

Ambassador Asim said that the use of AI in the military domain presents security, operational, technical, ethical, normative, and legal challenges, particularly concerning compliance with International Humanitarian Law

DNA

NEW YORK :Pakistan has drawn the global community's attention to the increased security threats posed by the proliferation of military AI technologies, particularly autonomous weapons, warning that their use could trigger new arms races and destabilize global and regional security. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, in his national statement during the General Debate of the United Nations Disarmament Commission 2025, stressed the need to prevent AI from fueling an arms race, which could threaten global peace and security. "The scale and novelty of AI's military implications require a multifaceted, holistic and multilateral response. We believe that the United Nations should play a central role in international response to challenges associated with AI in military domain," he stated. Ambassador Asim said that the use of AI in the military domain presents security, operational, technical, ethical, normative, and legal challenges, particularly concerning compliance with International Humanitarian Law. He advocated prioritizing the consolidation of the efforts over

selective approaches and fragmentation, adding that the United Nations provides the best universal platform for these discussions to ensure legitimacy and inclusivity with equitable participation of all Member States. Recalling the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) in 1978, he stated that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority of the UN Disarmament Commission since its inception. The Pakistan UN envoy, however, noted a clear lack of progress on nuclear disarmament. He said that on the other hand, hundreds of billions of dollars are being committed to nuclear modernization programs. He added that we are witnessing unprecedented increase in military spending in recent memory, fueling ever-increasing arms race, which is now turbocharged by technological advancements. Ambassador Asim underscored Pakistan's deep concern on the discriminatory policies followed by certain countries in the nuclear domain. He added that resultantly "the global security environment continues to deteriorate. The relentless pursuit of power and geopolitical competition has intensified in recent years, taking us further away from this important international priority."

APRIL 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Daily
Islamabad POST

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

