



Islamabad POST

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Alcaraz claims first Monte Carlo title with great win over Musetti

Detailed News On Page-06

West Asia will see no peace until US is out

Detailed News On Page-08



JI announces shutter-down strike on 22

Detailed News On Page-08



Stop cross border terrorism

PM Shehbaz urges Afghan govt to rein in terrorist groups

"It's up to us how we live cordially and in a friendly way," premier tells Afghan Taliban rulers

DNA

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that it's a sad reality that the soil of neighbouring Afghanistan is being used for terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. The PM was speaking to media outside Avenfield flats where he arrived to meet Nawaz Sharif, the ruling PML-N president, who is also in London for two weeks. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was also with the premier. The trio held a meeting in the Park Lane flats and then left for a lunch. PM Shehbaz said: "Afghanistan is our brotherly country and the two countries are neighbours by nature. We have to live as good neighbours. It's up to us how we live cordially and in a friendly way. We have asked the Afghan interim govt several times that the Afghan soil should not be used as per the Doha agreement against Pakistan and its interests." "Sadly, terror groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and other terror groups are operating from Afghanistan. They have killed innocent people inside Pakistan. These sacrifices of Pakistanis will not go in vain. My advice to Afghanistan is to rein in these terrorist groups." The PM said he held great talks in Belarus with its leadership. He said: "We had a great discussion in Belarus about Pakistan and Belarus and the opportunities that exist for both countries. We can benefit greatly from the expertise of Belarus in the area of agriculture." He said: "Allah has given Pakistan huge mines and mineral resources. Belarus has machinery for this area. We visited a factory for this purpose. We hoped that 150,000 skilled Pakistani workers would get jobs in Belarus, we have developed an understanding." When asked about the "Punjab speed," the premier said:

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KP police 'trace' network involved in terrorist attacks

IG Hameed says important evidence collected in both cases, several suspects taken into custody

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed has said that the network involved in the attacks on Darul Uloom Haqqania in Akora Khattak and Bannu Cantt has been traced. Addressing the media in Peshawar, IGP Hameed stated that important evidence have been collected in both cases, and several individuals have been taken into custody in connection with the terrorist incidents. He added that further details will be shared after more arrests are made. A suicide bombing at Darul Uloom Haqqania resulted in the deaths of eight people, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Samiul Haq (JUIS) leader Maulana Hamid ul Haq. In the attack on Bannu Cantonment, security forces killed 16 terrorists,

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RAWALPINDI: A delegation of the United States Congress, led by Jack Bergman calls on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

COAS meets congressmen

Pakistan, US reaffirm commitment to regional security cooperation

General Syed Asim Munir conveyed his appreciation to the delegation for their visit and reiterated Pakistan's desire to further deepen and diversify its longstanding partnership with the United States

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of the United States Congress, led by Honourable Jack Bergman alongwith Honourable Thomas Souzzi and Honourable Jonathan Jackson called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Discussions during the meeting encompassed a range of issues of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on regional security and defence cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of sustained engagement based on mutual respect, shared values, and converging strategic interests. The visiting U.S. lawmakers commended the Pakistan Armed Forces for their pivotal role in combating terrorism and acknowledged

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Pakistan stands as wall against terrorism: Naqvi

US congressmen call for highlighting Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has emphasised the country's role in the fight against terrorism, saying "Pakistan stands as a wall between terrorism and the rest of

Continued on Page 06

PTI outlines new policy for meetings with Imran

Government officials from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) would be exempt from new policy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced a new policy for meetings with its founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, currently in jail, Express News reported on Sunday. In a statement issued after a political committee meeting, PTI said that a five-member committee will be formed to manage and approve the list

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Lahore-Baku direct flight from April 20

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced the launch of direct flights from Lahore to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, starting April 20, Express News reported. According to the airline, two weekly flights will operate on this route, departing from Lahore to Baku every Sunday and Wednesday To mark the occasion, a special event was held in Karachi for travel agents and tour operators, during which detailed information about the new Baku flights was shared with attendees. PIA officials stated that the new route is expected to play a significant role in boosting bilateral tourism and trade ties. They also highlighted the role of travel agents in the success of this initiative. The national carrier reiterated its commitment to making the Baku route a commercially successful venture.

NADRA rolls out new digital security feature

New feature aims to boost security for overseas Pakistanis, especially those living in the United Arab Emirates

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: NADRA has introduced biometric verification to its Pak ID mobile app, aiming to bolster security for overseas Pakistanis, particularly those living in the United Arab Emirates. The app, which allows users to apply for a range of identity documents, including the Smart National ID Card for Overseas Pakistanis, will now require biometric verification when logging in from a new device, NADRA said in a statement. "This new security feature is designed to protect citizens' information and prevent unauthorised access, identity theft, and misuse of Pak ID accounts," the authority added.

Over killing of 8 Pakistanis

Pak hopes for Iran's 'coop' in investigation

According to the FO, Pakistani officials in Iran were in "constant touch" with the authorities there for a probe into the incident and the repatriation of bodies

ALI FURQAN / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday sought Iran's "full cooperation" in investigating the "inhumane and cowardly" killing of eight Pakistani workers yesterday in the neighbouring country's Sistan-Baluchestan province, the Foreign Office said. "Pakistan strongly condemns the inhumane and cowardly killing of its nationals in Iran. We hope for Iranian side's full cooperation in investigating the matter and in timely repatriation of victims' remains," said a press release issued by the FO. The Pakistani nationals were "tragically killed" in Mehrestan Country, located approximately 230 kilometres away from the Pakistan-Iran border, it stated. "All the eight Pakistani who were killed belong to Bahawalpur city of southern Punjab," Iranian officials

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Iran embassy condemns killing of Pakistanis

MUMTAZ BHATTI/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has strongly condemned the tragic killing of eight Pakistani nationals in Iran's Sistan province. In a statement, the Embassy denounced the inhumane and cowardly armed attack, calling it a heinous act of terrorism. "Terrorism remains a persistent scourge and a shared threat across the region," the statement read. "Traitorous elements, often in

Continued on Page 06

Prof Khurshid Ahmed passes away at 93



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Professor Khurshid Ahmed, a prominent scholar, economist, politician, author, researcher, former senator, and founder of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), passed away a short while ago on April 13, 2025, in Leicester, UK, after a prolonged illness. Professor Khurshid Ahmed was born on March 23, 1932, in Delhi. He was a distinguished thinker, politician, economist, author, and researcher with a long-standing association with Jamaat-e-Islami.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan welcomes US-Iran talks

Pakistan commends the Sultanate of Oman for its valuable role in facilitating and hosting these talks

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America that were held on 12 April 2025 in Muscat under the good offices of Oman. Pakistan considers that dialogue and diplomacy will promote peace and stability in the region and

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan hockey team not invited to Azlan Shah Cup 2025: Unpaid hotel bills cited as reason

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In a surprising and disappointing development for hockey fans across Pakistan and beyond, the Pakistan national hockey team has not been invited to participate in the 2025 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup being held in Ipoh, Malaysia. This decision has raised eyebrows, especially given that Pakistan were the runners-up in last year's edition of the prestigious tournament. Sources close to the organizing committee have revealed that the exclusion stems from a financial dispute linked to the 2024 tournament. Reportedly, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) failed to settle hotel bills and associated expenses from their last visit to Malaysia, leaving a sour impression on the hosts and prompting them to reconsider extending an invitation this year. The decision has been taken after the said hotel management brought the matter to the Malaysian government notice. The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup is one of Asia's most respected and long-running international field hockey tournaments. Named after the late Sultan Azlan Shah, a passionate supporter of the sport, the annual event attracts some of the world's top national teams. Pakistan has had a storied history with the tournament. The green shirts have participated in numerous editions, winning it three times and finishing as runners-up multiple times, including last year when they narrowly lost in the final, displaying a resurgence in form that rekindled hopes among

their supporters. According to sources within Malaysian hockey circles and local media reports, the PHF failed to clear accommodation-related dues from the 2024 tournament. The amount, although not officially disclosed, was reportedly significant enough to strain relations between the PHF and the tournament organizers. This alleged financial negligence has now translated into a diplomatic and sporting setback. The organizers, upholding professional standards and financial accountability, opted not to extend an invitation to Pakistan this year—a move that reflects growing frustration with the PHF's handling of logistical responsibilities. "This is an unfortunate but necessary decision. All participating teams are expected to adhere to financial and administrative protocols," said a source close to the Malaysian organizing committee, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We deeply respect Pakistan's hockey legacy, but we must maintain a standard of professionalism for the sake of the tournament's integrity." The news has been met with dismay by players, fans, and former hockey legends in Pakistan. Many see this as a continuation of the administrative crisis that has plagued

Pakistan hockey in recent years, with issues ranging from lack of funding and poor management to declining international performance. This incident has reignited calls for major reforms within the PHF. Critics argue that unless the federation undergoes structural and leadership changes, Pakistan's hockey revival will remain a distant dream. Some sports analysts have urged the government and private sector stakeholders to step in and audit the PHF's operations, ensure accountability, and secure long-term funding for the sport. Beyond the embarrassment, the exclusion from the Azlan Shah Cup is a lost opportunity for the national team to gain valuable international exposure, especially as they prepare for upcoming international competitions and hope to re-establish themselves on the global stage. The PHF has not officially commented on the issue, though internal sources suggest efforts are underway to resolve the matter diplomatically and financially to repair relations with the Malaysian Hockey Federation. Sources reveal that the Government of Pakistan, particularly the Ministry responsible for sports, has taken serious notice of the recent develop-

ments surrounding the national hockey scene. In light of growing concerns, relevant agencies have been directed to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter to unearth the underlying causes and bring the facts to light. Given that the Prime Minister serves as the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), the issue naturally demands his direct attention. The role carries not just ceremonial weight but also moral and administrative responsibility. With the sport facing decline in recent years—marked by poor international performances, financial mismanagement, and internal disputes—the situation now requires more than routine oversight.

of people allowed to meet Khan. The list will be finalised every Tuesday and Thursday and submitted to prison authorities through one of three designated focal persons; Gohar Ali Khan, Salman Akram Raja or Intizar Panjthota. The party warned that no individual outside the approved list will be permitted to meet Khan. Any member defying this rule will be considered in

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Grand Jirga held for peace in Southern KP

In conclusion, it was unanimously decided that every possible effort would be made at the local level to eradicate extremism, restore trust in state institutions, and ensure sustainable peace in the society

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A grand Jirga was held at Chehkan Fort under the leadership of Major General Naiknam Muhammad Baig, General Officer Commanding 40 Division (Al-Burq). The gathering was attended by a large number of prominent religious scholars, spiritual leaders, and tribal elders from Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat, and Tank. Addressing the Jirga, the GOC spoke in detail about the regional security situation, the sacrifices of law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace

and stability, and the importance of promoting the national narrative. He emphasized that it is essential for the public, religious leadership, civil institutions, and armed forces to unite and work in harmony in order to overcome the challenges facing the country. He urged the religious leaders to guide the people in a positive direction and take a firm stand against extremism on the intellectual front. He made it clear that no ideology, movement, or personal interest should be placed above national security and collective progress. The participating scholars and elders

appreciated the efforts of the law enforcement agencies and pledged their full support. The various proposals were also presented during the session. The participants expressed their commitment to spreading the message of peace, unity, and harmony within their respective spheres of influence.

In conclusion, it was unanimously decided that every possible effort would be made at the local level to eradicate extremism, restore trust in state institutions, and ensure sustainable peace in the society. At the end, the GOC presented copies of the Holy Quran to all participants as a goodwill gesture.



LAHORE: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Mohammad Yousuf addressing during interfaith harmony conference at local Hotel.

Court Notice

In the court of Medum Faiza Riaz Civil Judge 1st Class Kharian
Title: Khawar Maqsood
Versus M u h a m m a d Zaman Notice to:
Muhammad Zaman S/o. Imam Din cast Rajput R/o. Radiala Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat.
Suit for Specific Relief
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 18-04-2025, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

In the court of Medum Faiza Riaz Civil Judge 1st Class Kharian

Title: Muhammad Arshad etc. Versus A m j a d Iqbal etc.

Notice to:
Amjad Iqbal, Sajid Javed, Khalid Khan Sons Muhammad Ashraf, Muhammad Afzal Late through Samina Akhtar W/o. Muhammad Afzal cast Pathan R/o. Mohallah Peeran wala Dinga, Shahid Tanveer, Zahid Tanveer S/o. Muhammad Sadiq cast Kashmiri R/o. Dinga, Muhammad Shehbaz, Muhammad Shehzad Sons of Muhammad Ashraf cast Kashmiri R/o. Dinga, Tehsil Kharian. Asif Javed S/o. Javed Akhtar cast Malik R/o. Mubeen town Dinga, Muhammad Saleem S/o. Malik Ghalm Nabi cast Malik R/o. Bikhripura Dinga, Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat.
Suit for Permanent Injunction

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 15-04-2025, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

KP unveils Rs 3t development plan for FY24-25

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government under the leadership of Chief Minister of Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has laid out an ambitious development strategy to expand infrastructure and services across the province. According to CM's spokesperson Faraz Ahmad Mughal, the province has earmarked a massive Rs 3 trillion for development projects for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Of this, Rs 487 billion will be allocated to the merged tribal districts, while Rs 1,628 billion will go to the settled districts. An additional Rs 795 billion has been set aside from foreign aid out of the 1,920 planned development schemes, 534 are designated for the merged districts, 1,331 for other districts, and 55 will be funded through foreign assistance. Further budget allocations include Rs 103 billion for divisional and district-level projects, Rs 32 billion for human capital development, and Rs 33 billion for rural and economic growth initiatives. For the first time in its history, he said, the KP government has achieved savings of Rs 500 billion through efficient planning across various development schemes. Additionally, the duration of projects scheduled to continue into coming years has been reduced to accelerate progress, he added.—APP

PGGA organizes junior guide revel hum aur hamari dunya

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA) National Headquarters successfully organized a Junior Guide Revel. A total of 95 Junior Guides, along with their leaders, from AJK, KP, Punjab, and Islamabad actively participated. The theme of the Revel was "Hum aur Hamari Dunya" (We and Our World). Throughout the event, the participants engaged in en-

and connect with nature, deepening their understanding of environmental preservation.

The closing ceremony was graced by the presence of Ms. Wajiha Qamer, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, as the Chief Guest. Mrs. Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training was the Guest of Honour. Mrs. Maria Maud Sabri, National Commissioner of PGGA, warmly welcomed them and other esteemed guests. Mrs.

and contribute to solutions for a better future.

In her address, Mrs. Sabri encouraged the Guides to understand the profound impact of human behavior on the planet, recognize the interconnections among all forms of life, and embrace behavioral changes essential for a sustainable future.

While addressing the gathering, Ms. Wajiha Qamer commended the Pakistan Girl Guides Association for its remarkable efforts in empowering young girls and instilling in them a strong sense of responsibility to



joyable activities designed to teach environmental protection in a fun and interactive way. They also explored topics such as Nutrition, Leadership, and Body Confidence to help build essential life skills. An exciting excursion to the Japanese Park allowed the Junior Guides to observe

Sabri introduced the theme and shared insights into the activities conducted during the Revel. She emphasized that engaging with topics like Nutrition, Leadership, Body Confidence, and Climate Change equips young girls not only to enhance their own capacities but also to recognize global challenges

make a positive difference in the world. Addressing the Junior Guides, she said that they have shown that when given the right opportunities, the youth of Pakistan can rise to meet any challenge and bring about meaningful change.

Muqam announces new team of PMLN culture wing

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam who is also PMLN KP President here Sunday announced names of the new culture wing of the party. He appointed Bibi Saeeda as President PMLN Cultural Wing. Naushaba Bibi has been appointed as Senior Vice President and Hilal alias Sobia Khan as General Secretary. While congratulating the new office bearers of the PMLN KP culture wing, Engr Amir Muqam expressed the hope that the new culture team will play key role in promotion of cultural values. The reorganization of PMLN in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for betterment of its organization structure continues in KP. The new leadership of PMLN cultural wing was announced by Engr Amir Muqam through a notification.—APP

PFC to supply quality furniture to Bangladesh at competitive prices

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that the Council is ready to cater to Bangladesh's expanding furniture market by offering high-quality, internationally compliant products at competitive prices. Chairing a meeting of the Board of Directors held here, the CEO stated that the initiative is aimed at enhancing Pakistan's export footprint while strengthening economic ties with Bangladesh. He underscored Pakistan's longstanding expertise in producing durable and aesthetically pleasing furniture crafted from premium materials by highly skilled artisans. By leveraging cost-effective production methods, PFC aims to offer affordable yet superior furniture solutions, positioning Pakistan as a key regional player in the industry.—APP

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"Our commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction drives this venture," said PFC CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq, highlighting its potential to boost employment, generate foreign exchange, and increase bilateral trade. He noted that this partnership reflects the growing global competitiveness of Pakistan's furniture industry and its ability to meet rising demand for sustainable and budget-friendly options. "This collaboration marks a significant step towards regional economic cooperation and mutual growth," he concluded.

Sialkot surgical manufacturers expand global reach in Shanghai

DNA

SIALKOT: The 91st China International Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF) served as a powerful showcase for Pakistan's surgical instrument industry, with the Pakistan Pavilion consisting of 15 leading manufacturers from Sialkot making a strong impression among nearly 5,000 exhibitors from over 30 countries. The April 8-11 event at Shanghai's National Exhibition and Convention Center attracted more than 300,000 medical professionals and provided a platform for Pakistani firms to strengthen international partnerships. For Muhammad Noman, Sales Director of Durable Hospital Suppliers, this was another successful chapter in an eight-year CMEF involvement story. "At CMEF, we can literally find everything the medical world needs under one roof," Noman explained while showcasing their reusable general surgery tools. "China has emerged as a key trade partner for surgical instruments, with Chinese buyers placing strong trust in

Sialkot's manufacturing quality." Sialkot's surgical instrument cluster continues to demonstrate remarkable manufacturing capabilities supported by its unique competitive edge: a seamless blend of traditional craftsmanship and adherence to modern quality standards such as ISO 13485 and CE certification. This synergy enables the industry to produce a diverse range of high-precision instruments, spanning from general surgical tools to highly specialized devices for areas such as orthopedic and cardiovascular surgery. The industry consists of a multitude of small and medium-sized manufacturers alongside a few large units, predominantly operating on an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) model. Most orders and specifications come from buyers in traditional markets such as Germany, the UK and the US. However, while these established markets remain critical, rising Chinese demand is now reshaping business strategies and driving new growth opportunities. Tayyab Tariq's KT Med Instruments exemplifies this shift. After establishing their Guangzhou office and ware-

house in 2020, they've been methodically building Chinese client networks through regional trade shows. "But CMEF is different," Tariq admitted, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. "The scale here is staggering. We're meeting hospital procurement teams from some second-tier Chinese cities we couldn't previously reach, plus European buyers who also attend this show." For Falk International's Export Manager Hashir Haseeb, the exhibition provided concrete business opportunities. "We're in advanced negotiations with several major distributors and considering establishing a Shanghai office to better serve this dynamic market," Haseeb said, emphasizing the tremendous vitality and potential of China's medical device sector. Fueled by its rising healthcare demand, technological advancements and government support, China's medical device investment sector is poised for greater expansion. Projections indicate the medical device sector will grow from RMB 1.875 trillion in 2025 to RMB 3 trillion by 2030, representing a robust 11.5% compound annual growth rate (CAGR).

Kamal urges parents to get kids immunized in anti-polio campaign

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Sunday said that the eradication of polio virus from environment was the responsibility of authorities working at grassroot levels and his Ministry issued guidelines and help in prevention methods for the same across the country. He said that the new phase of anti-polio campaign would commence from April 21 in the country and he urged the parents to get their children immunized against the polio virus for the healthy and better future of their children. The Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal talking to media persons after chairing a meeting with the officials of anti-polio and two MNAs from Karachi, said that the polio virus did not have any treatment but there were prevention measures to save children from it. He said that currently there were 44000 refusal cases of polio in the country and out of them 34000 cases were in Karachi. He further said that out of 15000 refusals were being reported from Urdu speaking parents and 10000 from Pashto speaking families in the city. The Minister said that only District East of Karachi had 27000 refusal cases of polio out of 34000 cases. He mentioned that the samples of polio virus in the environment had been reported from the entire Karachi district. Kamal said that polio could be prevented through anti-polio vaccination. Refuting the perception of polio vaccination's side or negative effects even any other rumor, he said that the anti-polio vaccination was totally safe and the parents should get their children vaccinated. He said that the anti-polio vaccination was purchased by the UNICEF and it handed over by them to the government. The Federal Health Minister said that he was in contact with all Provincial Health Ministers for the effective health related resolutions.—DNA

APRIL 2025

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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



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Uzbek Tourism Roadshow in Islamabad draws huge interest

Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev of Uzbekistan noted that both nations shared common values, religion, and traditions, with Islamabad and Uzbekistan's ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva united by Islamic civilization and the Sufi tradition

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan held a successful tourism roadshow in the heart of Islamabad, bringing together officials, travel agencies, and tourism industry professionals from both Uzbekistan and Pakistan. The event marked a significant step forward in strengthening the long-standing friendship between the two nations, with a special focus on growing tourism and people-to-people contacts. Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, along with other distinguished guests, attended the event, which was aimed at highlighting the rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage of Uzbekistan while exploring opportunities for collaboration between the two countries. Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev of Uzbekistan delivered an inspiring keynote address, emphasizing the deep-rooted historical ties between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, dating back to the times of Amir Timur and Zahiriddin Babur. He noted that both nations shared common values, religion, and traditions, with Islamabad and Uzbekistan's ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva united by Islamic civilization and the Sufi tradition. Ambassador Tukhtaev underscored the importance of the roadshow as an opportunity to transform these shared connections into tangible business and tourism opportunities. "Tourism is more than just travel. It is a means for people to understand each other, build friendships, and learn from one another. Imagine thousands of Pakistanis visiting the beautiful cities of Uzbekistan, and Uzbeks visit-



ing the landmarks of Pakistan. This will bring our people closer to each other," said Ambassador Tukhtaev. The Ambassador also highlighted

ongoing efforts by the Uzbek government to improve travel conditions for Pakistani tourists, including simplified visa procedures,

direct flights, and growing partnerships between tour operators. Uzbekistan's rich offerings, from UNESCO World Heritage Sites to

natural landscapes like mountains and deserts, were showcased as key attractions for adventure lovers, history enthusiasts.

CDA's cleanliness, plantation campaign on its peak during spring

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is in the federal capital on its peak during the spring season to focus on planting as many trees as possible to enhance the green cover and ensure clean ambiance. Talking to media, an official of CDA told that in line with the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, the campaign would ensure neat and clean environment to the residents of the metropolitan. He said that this year, CDA in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Climate Change will plant one million trees across the city as part of the Spring Tree Plantation Campaign. He urged the residents, civil society, educational institutions, corporate sectors and the private sector not to only cooperate with CDA but actively participate in the Spring Tree Plantation Campaign 2025. The official informed that this year, fruit-bearing trees such as loquat, guava, figs, pomegranates, and other fruit plants will be planted. Similarly, indigenous species like mulberry, citrus, maple leaf, and other varieties will also be included in the campaign. Olive, rubber plants, willow, and other varieties are also part of the Spring Tree Plantation Campaign. He stressed that everyone should join hands and contribute actively to make the plantation campaign a success.—DNA

Cleaner Rawalpindi: A challenging task

HAMZA REHMAN MALIK

RAWALPINDI: Once known for its grandeur and vastness, the Rawalpindi city is presently encountering a challenge of illegal encroachments, making it a congested and crowded metropolis. Conversion of small bazars into mega markets nesting huge shopping plazas has multiplied illegal encroachments and now not only main bazars but adjacent streets have also gone stuffy. The practice goes on with the connivance of shopkeepers, vendors and the municipal authorities as soon after any action against encroachers we again see their mushroom growth within few days. Dr. Eman Zaffar, Assistant Commissioner (City) claims the issue rests with the shopkeepers and the

administration has adopted a multipronged strategy to combat this menace. "Conversion of thickly populated historic Raja Bazar in a pedestrian zone, providing alternate travel routes and consistently conducted anti-encroachment operations is an example," she said. "With these measures we are trying to once again transform this bazar into a spacious area." Highlighting massive crackdown against encroachers, Dr Eman said the administration is all out for successful redressal of this long-awaited issue. However, she emphasized on cognition of civic sense among masses. She termed population hike, increased urbanization and lack of self-responsibility as major issues. "Another complex issue

relating to congestion is that old markets and buildings still host thousands of families at upper floors." "We have to consider the civic dynamics of commercial cum residential areas as the markets are not only shopping hubs but also residential clusters. We require a sophisticated approach to address this situation," she explained. As all tiers of district and cantonment administration are on toes to cleanse Rawalpindi of encroachers, Almas Sabeeh, Assistant Commissioner (Cantt) also mentioned to crackdown on Adiala Road, Chakri Road, Morgah and Girja Road where concrete ramps were destroyed, moveable encroachments confiscated and punitive action was taken against encroach-

ers. "Besides crackdown, we have also started an awareness campaign for shopkeepers, street vendors and building owners to avoid creating hurdles through illegal encroachments" said Almas Sabeeh. As it was a common complaint in the past that encroachers reappear after couple of days of any action, therefore to stop reappearance of soft encroachments, Chief Executive Officer, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board, Ali Irfan Rizvi has applied a 'monitor and action' strategy by deploying RCB Enforcement personnel in bazars ensuring no carts, stalls and other moveable encroachments reappear on roads. "The deployed teams remain present in bazars, check the situation and instantly respond to illegal movement", he said.

African ophthalmologists complete Diabetic Retinopathy, glaucoma treatment course

ISLAMABAD: A group of 18 African ophthalmologists have successfully completed a one-year specialized training program in Diabetic Retinopathy and glaucoma treatment, marking a significant milestone in international cooperation for health-care development among OIC member states. Addressing the certificates distribution ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTECHE emphasized the importance of collaboration among OIC member states in addressing shared challenges in public health. He noted that this initiative was a practical demonstration of COMSTECHE's commitment to building indigenous scientific and medical capacities in OIC countries. It is not just a training program but an investment in the future of eye care in Africa. COMSTECHE, a ministerial standing committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), is chaired by the President of Pakistan and works to strengthen science and technology cooperation among the 57 OIC member states. This training initiative was organized in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank's AFAB program, LRBT, Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust, and the University of Lahore. The participants of the training program received both theoretical knowledge and hands-on training using advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies such as Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), fundus cameras, and laser therapy systems. The program was specifically designed to offer exposure to tools and procedures that are not commonly available in many parts of Africa. The trainees expressed strong appreciation for the opportunity, describing the program as "transformational" and "instrumental" in enhancing their capacity to combat avoidable blindness back home. One participant noted, "This training not only upgraded our clinical skills but also broadened our perspective on how collaborative, locally-led solutions can drive real change." The initiative aligns with global efforts to reduce avoidable blindness through sustainable, local capacity building.—DNA

US Tariff threat sparks wake-up call for Pak's exports: PIDE

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: "Trade is not a zero-sum game. It's about shared value—about building connections that make both economies stronger. These proposed tariffs risk severing those ties," said Dr. Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in a strong statement accompanying a new policy note. "At PIDE, we see this moment not just as a threat, but as a catalyst—for course correction toward a more resilient, diversified, and strategic export future for Pakistan." A storm may be brewing on Pakistan's trade horizon, as PIDE warns that proposed reciprocal tariffs by the United States could have a devastating impact on the country's export

sector. In a stark policy note released on April 13, 2025, the institute cautions that these tariffs could lead to macroeconomic instability, significant job losses, and a critical reduction in foreign exchange earnings. The study—conducted by Dr. Muhammad Zeshan, Dr. Shujaat Farooq, and Dr. Usman Qadir—analyzes the consequences of a proposed 29% reciprocal tariff on Pakistani exports to the US. When added to the existing 8.6% Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff, the total duty could reach 37.6%. The result would likely be a 20–25% decline in exports to the US, translating into an annual loss of \$1.1–1.4 billion, with the textile sector bearing the brunt of the blow. In fiscal year 2024, Pakistan exported \$5.3 billion worth of goods to the United States, making it the country's largest single-country

export market. A significant portion of these exports were textiles and apparel, which already face tariffs as high as 17%. If the proposed tariffs are implemented, Pakistan's price competitiveness would be severely eroded, possibly allowing regional competitors like India and Bangladesh to capture market share. The economic consequences would extend beyond textiles. Major exporters such as Nishat Mills and Interloop may be forced to reduce production, threatening more than 500,000 jobs. Non-textile exports—including leather, rice, surgical instruments, and sports goods—also face increased vulnerability. Despite the risks, PIDE views the crisis as an opportunity for strategic transformation. The policy note encourages Pakistan to take swift and thoughtful action in response.

US urged to reconsider 'Global UGRAD program decision'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on Sunday respectfully requested the US government to reconsider its decision on the Global Undergraduate Exchange (Global UGRAD) Pakistan Programme, believing this program's suspension would impact not just educational opportunities but also national pride. Talking to a private news channel, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed stated that the suspension of the Global UGRAD program might not significantly impact Pakistani students' academic pursuits, as they would return to their universities, it would undoubtedly affect the US's cultural harmony and image. Furthermore, he emphasized that this decision would also tarnish the image of American policies, potentially straining people-to-people relations and undermining the goodwill built through educational exchanges between the two nations. The Chairman HEC mentioned that numerous countries, including Canada are now offering excellent opportunities for Pakistani students, potentially diverting attention and interest away from the US as a preferred destination for higher education. He highlighted that Pakistan itself is committed to providing better opportunities for its students, emphasizing the country's efforts to enhance its education sector and offer quality academic experiences to its youth, thereby reducing reliance on foreign programs.—DNA

TENDER NOTICE

The Rawalpindi Cantonment Board is seeking sealed offers (Single-Stage Two Envelop) on the proposed bidding documents from well-known registered licensed original manufacturers, authorized distributors, suppliers and contractors for Procurement & Installation of MOT HVAC HEPA & Bag Filters and Replacement of Faulty HVAC Compressors & Associated Refrigerant Cylinders & Phase Failure Relays at The Cantonment General Hospital, Rawalpindi. All Firms must be registered with Income Tax, Sales Tax Department and active in the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) tax payers list.

Items	Description of Work
1	Procurement & Installation of MOT HVAC HEPA & Bag Filters
2	Replacement of Faulty HVAC Compressors & Associated Refrigerant Cylinders & Phase Failure Relays.

Terms and Conditions:

- Conditional Bids shall not be accepted.
- For Technical Evaluation, samples of items/equipment may also be requested as needed.
- Technical Specifications can be collected from Mechanical Engineering Department CGH, Rwp. Each quotation must be accompanied by a CDR as bid security equal to 2% of the bid value as per PPRA rules. Quotation will not be accepted without bid security.
- The Quotation should be submitted according to single stage two envelope procedures. Technical and financial bids should be written on the relevant envelopes.
- Bidding Document including details of purchase procedure, bid submission method, bid security, bid term, bid opening, bid evaluation, clearance / Un-acceptance & Performance guarantee etc, can be obtained after payment of Rs. 1000/- on request written on company letter head via Bank Challan in the office of Cantt Board opposite Mall Road Rawalpindi Cantt Saddar (AWT PLAZA).
- Complete profile of Firm which includes Income Tax / Sales Tax, Registration Certificate of Deptt and the bid should reach office of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board on dated 29/04/2025 afternoon 10:00 am & bid will be opened in presence of the authorized representatives on same day at 11:00 am.
- The successful bidder whose rates will be accepted will have to enter into a written agreement with Rawalpindi Cantonment Board at their own cost.
- All goods on delivery will also be checked by the Scrutiny Committee for any defects, fault or deficiency. In case of any defects, fault or deficiency, the supplier company / firm will be bound to satisfy the said committee as per its decision, otherwise bid security will be forfeited.
- Income tax / other taxes will be applicable as per the prevailing rates of the Government.
- The Cantonment Board / Cantonment Executive Officer has the right to reject all quotations before acceptance as per PPRA rules.
- Other terms and conditions (Specifications) can be viewed during the working hours at the Cantonment Board office, these can also be viewed on the PPRA/RCB website.
- Furthermore, in case of any ambiguity or explanation, individual can contact at the following numbers during office hours:

Office Cantonment Board, Rawalpindi Cantt : 051-9274409
Mechanical Engg Department, CGH: 051-9270907
UAN: 051-111-07-07-07

Cantonment Executive Officer
Rawalpindi Cantt
051-9274406

PID/06934/24

Briefs

U.S. envoy attends wedding reception

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United States Acting Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Natalie Baker, attended the wedding reception (Walima) of Abbas Haider, a distinguished Pakistani-American entrepreneur and CEO of the renowned U.S.-based defense firm Aspetto. The event was held in Islamabad and marked a moment of pride for the Pakistani community, particularly for Attock, from where Abbas Haider hails. Abbas Haider is the son of Syed Muhammad Arif Naqvi, a well-known social figure from Attock currently residing in the United States, and the nephew of Syed Raza Haider Naqvi, a senior journalist and Patron-in-Chief from Attock. Abbas Haider has earned a distinguished place in the U.S. through his dedication and achievements. His company, Aspetto, provides advanced defense services to the U.S. government and has become a trusted name in the sector. In addition to his business success, Abbas Haider is also active in academia and policy discourse. He frequently delivers lectures at U.S. defense institutions and universities and has served as a member of the Executive Advisory Board at the University of Mary Washington. The wedding reception was attended by many notable personalities from Islamabad and Attock, including Sardar Faizan Haider (son of the Governor of Punjab), Sardar Ahsan Khan, Member National Assembly Malik Suhail Kamriyal, Member Provincial Assembly Raja Asad, Sardar Muhammad Ali, Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari, former Provincial Minister Col (R) Anwar Khan, former Senator Zafar Ali Shah, former Inspector General of Police Capt (R) Zafar Iqbal, Executive Director State Bank Samar Hussain, Joint Director State Bank Mirullah Khan Marwat, Brigadier Shehzad Tanveer, Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Tarar, Col Shahid Bashir, Wing Commander Saleem Akhtar, Famous Businessman Malik Ejaz Amjad, Chaudhry Abdul Mannan PMLN khushab, Syed Sakawat Shah, Brigadier Muhammad Azam, Brigadier Dr. Haleem, Brigadier (R) Asim Nawaz, former WAPDA Chairman Lt. Gen. (R) Sajjad Ghani, Col (R) Gul Khattak, former Director General NADRA Syed Saqlain Bukhari, former Federal Secretary Sardar Hamid Ali Khan, Malik Tahir Sarfraz, Inspector General of Police Habib ur Rehman, Nawabzada kot Fatah Khan Sultan Tariq, Prof. (R) Qazi Wajahat Ashraf, Malik Hameed Akbar Khan, Dr. Naseeb Akhtar and Dr. Shehzad. The distinguished guest list and the participation of the U.S. Ambassador underscored Abbas Haider's remarkable achievements and the esteem in which he is held both in Pakistan and abroad. The event was not just a celebration of marriage but a proud moment highlighting the global impact of Pakistani professionals.

Postcards offer rare glimpse into pre-partition history of Pakistan

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the IRS, underscored the importance of remaining connected to one's history. He stressed that preserving and understanding national heritage is essential for shaping a more informed and cohesive future

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), renowned historian and scholar Fakir Syed Ajizuddin, OBE, FCA, emphasized the historical significance of postcards as a popular medium of communication during the 19th and early 20th centuries. He noted that postcards allowed people to share their experiences, thoughts, and impressions in a way that was both personal and visually expressive. Reflecting on his latest publication, 'Forgotten Images: Postcards of Pre-Pakistan, 1890-1947,' F. S. Ajizuddin explained that these seemingly simple cards offer far more than brief messages—they serve as enduring historical records. "Postcards not only depict notable landmarks from cities across what is now Pakistan, but also reflect the cultural and social fabric of their times," he said. "Through these images, the book reveals the transformation of cities, commu-



nities, and architectural heritage, while also capturing the everyday, sometimes extraordinary, lives of people during the pre-Partition era." He described the collection as a visual journey through time, highlighting the evolution

of urban spaces through carefully curated postcards representing various regions and cities. Also speaking at the event, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the IRS, underscored the importance of remaining connected to

one's history. He stressed that preserving and understanding national heritage is essential for shaping a more informed and cohesive future. "Instilling a love for reading, along with a spirit of scholarship and inquiry, is vital

for nation-building," he remarked. The session concluded with a lively Q&A, where attendees praised Fakir Ajizuddin's scholarly contributions and his efforts to preserve and promote Pakistan's cultural and historical legacy.

'Youth must be equipped with skills to lead for zero waste Pakistan'

Devcom-Pakistan National Online Consultation suggests waste segregation, reuse and recycling awareness, skill and engagement at an age of 5

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Experts from diverse sectors including education, tourism, government, civil society, and environmental advocacy came together in a national online consultation organized by Devcom-Pakistan under the theme "The Earth Care Pledge – Engaging Youth for a Zero Waste Pakistan" on Saturday. Participants called for innovative and actionable strategies to engage Pakistan's 64 percent youth population in reducing the country's escalating waste crisis. Key recommendations emphasized the need to integrate zero waste principles into school and university curricula, develop youth-led green enterprises, promote digital campaigns, and establish a National Youth Environmental Corps. Panelists also stressed incentivizing waste segregation and recycling

through gamified mobile applications and creating campus-based "Green Ambassadors" networks to advocate sustainable lifestyles in their communities. Pakistan generates an estimated 3.9 million tons of plastic waste annually, with around 65 percent being mismanaged, ending up in landfills, waterways, or burned in the open. Nearly 48,000 tons of solid waste is produced daily in urban centers, much of it comprising organic, plastic, electronic, and construction debris. Only 10 percent of total waste is currently recycled, while the rest burdens the environment, posing significant health and climate risks. Speaking at the event, Munir Ahmed, founder and Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan, said, "With over 140 million young people in the country, we have the largest human capital in our history. If engaged

meaningfully, youth can transform Pakistan's waste crisis into a circular economy opportunity. The Earth Care Pledge is a call for action—not just to reduce waste, but to rethink our consumption patterns altogether." He said Devcom-Pakistan's annual World Earth Day event "The Earth Care Pledge to focus on the launch of Zero Waste Pakistan initiative. A Zero Waste Pakistan is not just a vision—it's a necessity. Through collective action, innovation, and policy reforms, we can break free from plastic pollution and safeguard our environment for future generations. Empowering youth with the concepts of waste segregation, reuse and recycling at source of the waste generation such as homes and institutions will lead the society to a zero waste Pakistan." Participants from Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab

shared regional insights, highlighting the lack of localized waste management policies and limited awareness among youth. Representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change, provincial EPAs, and civil society organizations committed to collaborate on a long-term youth engagement strategy under the Earth Care Pledge initiative. Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, PTDC Managing Director and sustainable tourism expert, said we need to develop skills of the young and school children through curriculum, particle activities. Dr. Sohima Anzak urged for 'innovative idea competition' to reduce waste and recycle at the university and college level every semester. The best ideas shall be given certification and encouragement awards. She also stressed for behaviour change initiatives and leadership skills development for a sustainable environment.

Model College F 11/3 hosts interactive session

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-11/3, organized a thought-provoking and interactive session on "Student Well-Being & Holistic Growth." The event was graced by the honorable Wajihah Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, as the chief guest. While principal Prof. Farah Khan presided the ceremony. The programme commenced with the arrival of the chief guest, followed by a visit to the Omer-e-Rawan Wellness Center. The national anthem and recitation of the Holy Quran set a respectful tone for the day. Principal and staff of the college warmly welcomed Madam Wajihah Qamar to the interactive session. The welcome address highlighted the vision of the college and its efforts to promote mental, emotional, and academic wellness among students. Ms. Wajihah Qamar, in her inspiring address, emphasized the importance of nurturing students' emotional intelligence and resilience alongside academic excellence. She praised the institution's initiative to integrate wellness programs into the educational framework. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Mowadat, who shed light on the scientific and psychological aspects of student well-being. This was followed by an engaging workshop by Ms. Marva and a visit to the workshop session conducted by Mr. Qasim. The event concluded with a campus visit, during which guests interacted with students and faculty, appreciating the college's commitment to creating a supportive and enriching environment for holistic student development. This event marked a significant step towards transforming educational spaces into inclusive, empathetic, and nurturing communities, in line with the goals of modern education—

PTI's false claims could harm country's progress: Ikhtiar

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Affairs Ikhtiar Wali Khan on Sunday criticized PTI, saying the nation can not afford their "false narratives and risky experiments" that could harm economic stability and progress. Talking to PTV news channel, Ikhtiar Wali Khan criticized PTI's misinformation tactics and stated that PTI has been peddling false narratives through social media campaigns, deliberately misleading the nation. However, their deceitful strategies are now being exposed in public, and they will not be given another chance to spread propaganda, he said, adding, the nation is becoming increasingly aware of PTI's misinformation, which will ultimately hold them accountable for their actions, he said. Wali emphasized that PTI's attempts to manipulate public opinion through lies and misinformation would no longer be tolerated. He expressed concerns that PTI seems to be seeking external assistance, while some PTI supporters believe a potential Trump presidency might help Imran Khan's situation due to their previously cordial relationship. PTI leadership is self-centered, prioritizing their own interests over the nation's well-being, he added.—APP

AIOU to hold Education Expo 2025

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has always remained committed to promotion of education and the guidance of students. Continuing this mission, the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has approved organization of the "Education Expo 2025", which will be held on April 16 at the University's main campus in Islamabad. The event is being organized by the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). The purpose of the expo is not only to provide students with information about admissions and educational opportunities in various universities, but also to offer a dynamic platform to showcase their talents and potential.

Pak seeks deeper energy coop with China at ESIE

"Let us pioneer new frontiers in clean technology—not just for our nations, but for the entire region," he further said, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a compelling address here at the 13th Energy Storage International (ESIE) Conference & Expo, Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Federal Minister for Energy called for a new era of clean energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, with a particular focus on energy storage, smart grids, and electric mobility. The event was hosted by the China Energy Storage Alliance (CNESA), Pakistan's Minister for Energy (Power Division). The Minister outlined Pakistan's growing need for robust storage infrastructure to stabilize its grid as

it embraces solar and wind energy. He emphasized opportunities in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH), and rural microgrid solutions. In a strategic appeal to Chinese enterprises, he invited investment in joint ventures (JVs) to localize battery production, smart meter manufacturing, and advanced grid technologies. "Pakistan offers not only a skilled workforce and government incentives but also a market of over 30 million metering points," he said. Awaiz Leghari also spotlighted potential collaborations in EV infrastructure, battery recycling, and integrated smart charging

solutions. With Pakistan's transmission system expansion underway, he noted the critical need for battery-backed grid planning. "To support these initiatives, the government is streamlining regulations, offering tax incentives, and prioritizing land allocation in energy zones," he added. Calling the conference a "beacon of possibility", the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working hand in hand with China. "Let us pioneer new frontiers in clean technology—not just for our nations, but for the entire region," he further said, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro.

PIAF for check on high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit

This is not what the country needs in these unprecedented times of political and economic challenges confronting the nation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) has called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit, as the Pakistan's federal budget deficit projection has been revised to high to over Rs5.4 trillion, highlighting the unending fiscal woes that have pushed the country into a debt trap. The PIAF Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigol, Senior Vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and Vice chairman

Tahirm Manzoor Chaudhry in a joint statement said that the high cost of doing business has been hurting the economic growth and industry, which faced the brunt of a staggering increase in gas prices. Fahimur Rehman Saigol said that the failure to reform the tax system is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government. Expressing serious concern over the high jump in country's budget deficit, Senior Vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal said the revision has been made in light of agreement with the Inter-

national Monetary Fund, which exposed the massive underreporting of expenditures at the time of budget presentation by the finance ministry. This is a highly unsustainable level and has already pushed the country into a situation where debt restructuring seems to be the only viable option. The Vice chairman Tahirm Manzoor Chaudhry maintained that the failure to reform the tax system and increase revenue collection is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government. He said that the privatization commission of Pakistan

is struggling for months to effectively put in place the privatization of loss-making public sector enterprises; notably, the Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines despite the urgency and concern expressed, time and again, by the IMF. The decision-making processes are likely to be driven and influenced more by conflicting self-interests of the coalition partners, watering down the key objectives. This is not what the country needs in these unprecedented times of political and economic challenges confronting the nation.

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Memories of the past

FRIDAYS in the Gaza Strip are no longer what they used to be; a day people awaited for rest, family gatherings, visits, and the delicious food cooked with love. Today, Friday has become a new burden added to the shoulders of the poor, a reminder of what was, and a warning of what will not be. On Friday morning, a reporter from the Palestinian Information Center wandered through the alleys and market, saying: "I searched for the smell of grilling or even a glimmer of joy, but found only silence, weary faces, and empty pockets. The stalls were bare except for a little; everyone was looking, few were buying, and most were just asking." A seventy-year-old man whispers to a vendor: "How much is the chicken today?" The other replies: "Eighty." The old man sighs and says: "We used to buy two, today we can't afford even half of one." He walks away with a pain in his eyes that cannot be expressed, and disappointment accompanying his heavy steps. Nearby, a mother of five stands, counting coins in her hand as if searching for a miracle. Her eyes are lost, looking at the vegetables and then at her children, choosing the cheapest and most filling options. She says: "I no longer count dishes, but bites... any food that fills the stomach and that's it." Even lentils, once considered a refuge for the poor, have become expensive; oil, sugar, rice—everything is now bought with a heavy breath. Some have replaced meat with bread, while others have replaced bread with patience. In the market, no voice rises above the sound of rising prices; no conversation begins without starting with "In the past, we used to buy..." and ending with "Will we eat today?" People are tired, and faces have begun to look alike: pale, exhausted, and hanging in anticipation of relief that does not come. Friday, which was once a small holiday, has turned into a memory of the past; no meat, no chicken, no table gathering loved ones around it. Just heavy silence, pain dressed in dignity, and hearts trembling in fear of tomorrow. One person said: "I no longer miss Friday because my pain renews with it. It reminds me of what I don't have, and what I can't provide for my children." Few words, but they carry the whole story. In this forgotten corner of the world, hunger is no longer an emergency; it has become a permanent reality. Poverty is not just in pockets, but in souls, in children's gazes, in mothers' despair, and in fathers' inability to say: "Today we will eat."

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World's multipolar future

AS the world struggles to make head or tail of Donald Trump's tariff war, perhaps what is missing is an understanding of the nature of power discourses. Global hegemony, when things are going their way, employ positive, inclusive and progressive narratives. But when the odds are stacked against them, their language shifts – hostile rhetoric and fighting words replace optimism, alongside negative depictions of perceived threats and adversaries. Consider the British Empire. After it had collapsed and its global dominance waned, it sought to salvage its legacy by rebranding its former colonies as part of "The Commonwealth" – a term projecting unity and hierarchy. In more recent times, similar strategic language has underpinned American hegemony. Take expressions like "the rule-based international system", suggesting fair multilateralism; "free and open Indo-Pacific", contrasting China's trade practices with Western ideals; "liberal democracy", signifying Western superiority; and terms like "global stability", "economic prosperity", "defending human rights", or "alliance of democracies", all of which sought to legitimise America's central role in shaping the global order. Other terms – equally suggestive but aimed at spelling out supposed threats to the hegemonic system – serve to rally allies against challenges to the hegemon. See "authoritarian threats", "economic decoupling", "global fragmentation", "democracy in decline", "disinformation", and the catch-all for crises of all types: "unprecedented challenges". By critically analysing this discourse, we can contextualise the tariff war and strip away the deliberately misleading connotations. For decades, schools and universities have taught a tidy narrative of modern economic growth. Developed countries, they said, followed a clear trajectory: industrialisation and urbanisation, followed by a shift from manufacturing to a services-based economy underpinned by robust financial institutions. Postcolonial nations were expected to emulate this path. However, for nations born in the aftermath of the second world war and amid the Cold War's ideological divide, the easiest development path to follow was "import substitution". It seemed obvious that these newly independent states would seek economic self-reliance by curbing imports and encouraging domestic production. But this approach quickly faltered. Without the necessary expertise or infrastructure, many nations produced substandard goods, wasting time and resources in the process. So the strategy then gave way to "export-oriented development", whereby countries focused on generating wealth through exports. Yet this, too, came at a cost in the form of dependence on foreign expertise, investment and – often – the very colonial powers they had broken free from. True independence proved elusive. The global economic system was too interconnected to properly sever ties. Those pursuing a clean ideological break – such as socialist states – faced isolation and, eventually, defeat with the Communist Bloc's collapse in 1991. China's economic transformation offers a striking case study in success, however. Under Deng Xiaoping, the country abandoned isolationism for "reform and opening up", following the export-oriented model already adopted by non-communist nations. Its entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001 accelerated its rise as a manufacturing powerhouse, as did its willingness to accept corruption, environmental degradation, and income inequality. Greedy capitalists, drawn by the promise of gigantic profits, eagerly aided China's ascent.

Trump's approach to global conflicts

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Historically, U.S. public sentiment has fluctuated between isolationism and interventionism, from the non-interventionist stance of the 1930s to the aggressive foreign policy of the early 1980s. Contemporary attitudes suggest a complex disposition, wherein Americans favor strategic withdrawal from global conflicts while maintaining a readiness to use military force when necessary. A survey conducted in July of both ordinary citizens and former U.S. policymakers revealed significant public support for military action against China in response...

THE foreign policy stance of former U.S. President Donald Trump reflected a striking duality, oscillating between isolationist tendencies and assertive military posturing. On the one hand, Trump expressed a pronounced skepticism toward foreign interventions, advocating for a reduced U.S. military footprint abroad. His administration sought to cultivate improved relations with Russia, ostensibly in an effort to facilitate an end to the conflict in Ukraine. His "America First" foreign policy doctrine was generally critical of military entanglements, and in his inaugural address, he stated that the success of his second term would be measured by "the wars we never get into." Conversely, Trump simultaneously projected American military strength through both rhetoric and policy. His administration explicitly declared that the United States would intervene militarily in the event of an attack by China on the Philippines, a US treaty ally. Furthermore, Trump issued direct threats against Iran and North Korea while displaying an aggressive stance toward U.S. allies, suggesting, for instance, that Canada could be annexed as a U.S. state and implying potential military action to secure Greenland and the Panama Canal. This apparent paradox—a blend of isolationism and belligerence—could be interpreted as a reflection of Trump's broader unpredictability or a lack of coherence in his foreign policy approach. However, public opinion in the United States also exhibits similar contradictions, as Americans often express a preference for non-intervention while simultaneously supporting military action in specific circumstances. Historically, U.S. public sentiment has fluctuated between isolationism and interventionism, from the non-interventionist stance of the 1930s to the aggressive foreign policy of the early 1980s. Contemporary attitudes suggest a complex disposition, wherein Americans favor strategic withdrawal from global conflicts while maintaining a readiness to use military force when necessary. A survey conducted in July of both ordinary citizens and former U.S. policymakers revealed significant public support for military action against China in response to hostilities in the South China Sea. Even in scenarios where no American casualties were reported, 51 percent of respondents endorsed counterstrikes against Chinese military assets, with this figure increasing to 57 percent when U.S. personnel were killed. Notably, partisan differences emerged, with Republicans displaying stronger support for military retaliation regardless of the administration in power. These findings do not necessarily indicate a widespread public desire for war. Indeed, Trump's first term was largely characterized by military restraint regarding new conflicts. However, they do suggest that in the event of escalating tensions—whether in the South China Sea or with other adversaries such as Iran—public support for military mobilization could be greater than generally assumed. While public opinion does not always dictate U.S. foreign policy, administrations

often remain attuned to public sentiment regarding military engagements. This suggests that hostilities could escalate should adversaries directly engage U.S. forces. Surveys have consistently indicated that the American public prefers a reduced global presence, with a 2025 New York Times poll showing that 60 percent of respondents favored a focus on domestic affairs, including 75 percent of Republicans and 47 percent of Democrats. Meanwhile, a study by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs found that only 17 percent of Americans believed the U.S. had an inherent responsibility to assume a leadership role in world affairs. Despite this, historical patterns indicate that U.S. voters tend to favor more assertive presidential candidates. Political scientist Jeffrey Friedman's research suggests that while Americans often voice opposition to military interventions, they frequently support such actions once undertaken. For example, public disapproval of U.S. involvement in the Balkans during the 1990s gave way to increased approval following President Bill Clinton's decision to bomb Serbia. While military action against weaker adversaries often garners public support, conflicts involving great power adversaries such as China present a different dynamic. To assess public attitudes toward such scenarios, an experimental survey was conducted in collaboration with the Chicago Project on Security and Threats and NORC. The study asked 2,000 American citizens and 700 former policymakers to consider a hypothetical Chinese attack on a U.S. aircraft carrier near a treaty ally. Respondents were divided into two groups: one was informed that 250 U.S. sailors had been killed, while the other was told there were no casualties. Results showed that 51 percent of respondents supported military retaliation in the absence of American casualties, while 57 percent endorsed a counterstrike if fatalities were involved. Partisan distinctions were evident, with 60 percent of Republicans advocating retaliation even in the absence of casualties, rising to 67 percent when American personnel were killed. Democratic respondents were more measured, with 50 percent supporting a counterstrike in the absence of casualties and 57 percent endorsing one when U.S. personnel perished. Importantly, public support for military action was not driven primarily by a desire for retribution. Instead, the predominant motivation appeared to be the protection of U.S. global standing. Among those advocating for retaliation, 53 percent cited the preservation of American credibility as a decisive factor. For Republicans, this figure rose to 63 percent. While the extent to which U.S. crisis behavior influences the actions of other adversaries, such as Iran, remains debated among scholars, the prevailing public perception is that maintaining a reputation for resolve is strategically significant. The American public holds largely negative views of both Iran and Russia, with 81 percent of Americans expressing an unfavorable opinion of Iran and 86 percent holding a

negative perception of Russia. Additionally, a 2024 YouGov poll indicated that Republicans overwhelmingly support defending NATO allies in the event of an attack. Nevertheless, historical precedent demonstrates that public support for military intervention is contingent upon specific conditions, including clear acts of aggression, the likelihood of success, and the perceived importance of U.S. interests. These factors have influenced past decisions, such as the non-intervention in Hungary (1956), the India-Pakistan conflicts (1965 and 1971), and the Rwandan genocide (1995). Similarly, U.S. involvement in the Syrian civil war was limited to countering the Islamic State rather than broader military engagement. Despite the heightened risk of military confrontation with China, both Washington and Beijing remain strongly incentivized to avoid direct conflict due to the existential risks posed by nuclear escalation. The Cold War precedent suggests that deterrence mechanisms can function effectively even amidst heightened geopolitical tensions. Historically, China has exhibited reluctance in directly confronting U.S. military forces. During the Taiwan Strait crises of the 1950s, Mao Zedong instructed Chinese troops to avoid direct engagement with American forces. In subsequent confrontations—including the 1995 Taiwan missile crisis and the accidental U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999—China opted for diplomatic resolution rather than military escalation. More recently, Beijing's actions in the South China Sea have been characterized by non-lethal measures such as cyberattacks and water cannon use against Philippine vessels rather than overt military aggression. Paradoxically, a demonstrated willingness to employ military force could, in some cases, contribute to regional stability by deterring adversarial provocations. For instance, the Trump administration's explicit commitment to defending the Philippines may have compelled China to exercise restraint. However, given Trump's propensity for bellicose rhetoric, his administration could also have inadvertently increased the likelihood of U.S. military engagement. His apparent personal ambition—particularly his desire to secure a Nobel Peace Prize—may have influenced his strategic decision-making. Nevertheless, his assertive declarations, coupled with an American public that is willing to support military action under certain conditions, suggest that the risk of military confrontation remains tangible. The Trump administration's foreign policy was marked by a complex interplay of isolationism and militarism. While the American public generally favors a reduced international footprint, historical patterns indicate that military intervention enjoys substantial support under specific circumstances. The likelihood of conflict with a major power such as China remains uncertain, yet the underlying factors shaping U.S. foreign policy including public sentiment, strategic credibility, and deterrence dynamics suggest that military escalation remains a possibility should hostilities arise.

Palestine Solidarity Campaign shills for the Zionists

David Miller

The PSC makes four explicit points in its briefing, which I will deal with in turn. which point it would be legitimate. But of course, a Jewish "ethno-state" is no more legitimate in having alleged heavenly assent. It's long past time that we stopped looking back on the Religious anti-Zionists of Hasidic sects like Chabad-Lubavitch, Ger, Bobov, Belz, St Klausenberg - even Satmar, the largest "anti-Zionist" Hasidic dynasty - as potential allies of the liberation of Palestine. They never were and never will be. Take the example of the current Minister of Housing in the Zionist regime, Yitzhak Goldknopf

THE British-based Palestine Solidarity Campaign has taken it upon itself to try and ban me - and other anti-Zionists - from speaking at public meetings up and down the country. In aid of the absurd campaign of censorship, it has tried to pressure and threaten its local branches. I am aware of several attempts to do this. First was the Hastings and Rye group who - to their credit - did not buckle under the pressure to disinvite me and to avoid posting a copy of my speech - or remove it later - on/from the local group website. Next was Bristol, where the local group (and the local Stop the War group) unilaterally withdrew from the Bristol Palestine Alliance in a row, in part over whether I should be allowed to speak at a demo in Bristol. Other elements of the dispute involved objecting to Palestine Action's Huda Ammori and Lowkey as speakers. No doubt there have been other incidents, but the most recent was Chelmsford, where the pressure was so bad that the group unilaterally decided to resign from PSC. The PSC in London attempted to enforce the no-platform position by circulating a briefing they had compiled on things I had said. This was then developed and circulated to all branches and was discussed at a national branch meeting, taking up most of the time allocated for the meeting by all accounts. The document was four pages long, and the purpose of this piece is to respond to the claims made in it. Before we get into details, one thing to bear in mind is that this type of response is due, in part, to the fact that the Left in the UK had been played by Zionists in the anti-racist movement for decades. Genocidal Zionists associated with the Revisionist Zionist movement were involved in the creation of the 'anti-fascist' movement in this country, as I have revealed in earlier reporting. This particular group then (in 1948) affiliated en bloc with Irgun, the group responsible for the King David Hotel bombing and which was involved in 1947 and 1948 in terror attacks against British interests in Palestine and indeed in the UK itself. Since then, the British anti-racist movement has faced the difficulty of accommodating Zionists in order to create a 'united front'. This has been true since the 1970s in Rock Against Racism and the Anti-Nazi League, and it has remained the case ever since in groups like Unite Against Fascism and today's Stand Up To Racism. The problem with allowing Zionists to be involved in leadership positions is that it always comes with a price. That price includes avoiding or soft-peddling the fact that Zionism is a form of racism and adopting a strategy of opposing 'fascism' when the main form of racism in British Society is state and institutional racism against Black people, the Irish, and latterly, especially, Muslims. Jews are not the victims of either state or institutional

racism in the UK today. It is a truly extraordinary fact that the Anglo-Left continues to feel so burdened by appeasing the sensibilities of the genocidaires of the Zionist movement. The PSC makes four explicit points in its briefing, which I will deal with in turn. which point it would be legitimate. But of course, a Jewish "ethno-state" is no more legitimate in having alleged heavenly assent. It's long past time that we stopped looking back on the Religious anti-Zionists of Hasidic sects like Chabad-Lubavitch, Ger, Bobov, Belz, St Klausenberg - even Satmar, the largest "anti-Zionist" Hasidic dynasty - as potential allies of the liberation of Palestine. They never were and never will be. Take the example of the current Minister of Housing in the Zionist regime, Yitzhak Goldknopf. He is the leader of United Torah Judaism, the political party representing most ultra-orthodox Jews. He is a devotee of the Ger Hasidic sect and thus an 'anti-Zionist' who would prefer to die rather than serve in the occupation forces. While simultaneously calling for the end of 'Apartheid' and the occupation, Goldknopf, as Housing minister since 2022, has overseen the largest expansion of settlements in the West Bank in decades. As I said: Jewish supremacists. Do I think that it is something 'inherent' in Jewishness that prevents Jews from joining the struggle for the liberation of Palestine? Well, of course not. We can illustrate this by reference to those Jews who have, in fact, joined the material struggle to destroy settler colonialism. Where, in the Jewish community today, are the equivalents of William Sportisse, a Communist who joined the Algerian struggle for liberation? And where are the equivalents of those better-known heroes of the South African liberation movement Ruth First, Joe Slovo, Ronnie Kasrils? They were all Jews who joined the material struggle against Apartheid. Where is today's anti-Zionist equivalent of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress founded by Nelson Mandela? The PSC briefing continues: Jews can only be considered anti-Zionist if they engage in armed struggle... Miller goes on to set a double standard that non-Jewish anti-Zionists are seemingly not required to meet, asking, "How many Jews have engaged in military action against Zionist targets?" If armed struggle is required for a Jew to be anti-Zionist, but not for someone of any other background, that again implies that they should be treated differently from others and greater demands made of them to prove their commitment to anti-Zionism. This is a deeply problematic approach that divides activists on the grounds of their background. The standard - required of everyone, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, in my view - is material opposition to Zionism. Material opposition does not mean everyone or

every Jew has to pick up a gun to fight Zionism, but it does mean the necessity of fostering resistance consciousness and crucially material action. In other words, I don't think, and have not said, that Jews can only be considered anti-Zionist if they engage in armed struggle. It's frankly amazing that those who want to tone police our movement can pick up on specific posts on X and pretend that they have not seen or deliberately avoid checking if this interpretation is supported by other things that the person has said. I have been talking for at least a year about the need to escalate to material anti-Zionism. I have also laid out what it means in a long article and many posts on X, TikTok, and Instagram. I have repeatedly said that the cutting (material) edge of the anti-Zionist movement is Palestine Action. But, of course, the PSC doesn't want to hear. It has, of course, in any case, been seeking to sabotage the activities of Palestine Action for many months. But it is still legitimate to ask about the role of Jews in the anti-zionist struggle, specifically for one very good reason. Jews, in general, stand in a different material location in relation to non-Jews to the settler project in Palestine, whether in Palestine or outside it. Jews in occupied Palestine have a privileged vantage point on the regime, which allows them access to locations and situations denied to non-Jews. This could be used to subvert the Zionist effort by passing intelligence, engaging in sabotage, or even persuading die-hard Zionist families to leave, among a myriad of other activities. Am I ruling out pacifists from anti-Zionist action, as some have apparently questioned? Well, of course not. Pacifists can very well engage in Non Violent Direct Action. A thousand flowers of NVDA could, in principle bloom: in settlements, at military bases, or at the border attempting to force aid through. In the so called 'diaspora', Jews - unless they have no contact at all with the Zionist movement or organised Jewry (which is almost totally Zionist in nature) - also have a material location allowing them to be of use to other supporters of the liberation of Palestine by supplying intelligence, facilitating sabotage of the Zionist movement, and wearing down the will of Zionists to resist their inevitable defeat. Returning IOF soldiers would find it more difficult to 'hide' in the 'Jewish community' if even 2-3% of British Jews were watching and passing on intelligence on their whereabouts. Jews have this responsibility by virtue of their material location. There is, thus, a special responsibility to help smash Zionism. But as the genocide grinds on, we are all failing in our attempts to stop it. We all bear that responsibility, and we will all be judged for this in the future.

Briefs

PM Shehbaz
urges Afghan
govt to rein...

FROM PAGE 01
"There was Punjab speed and that was for Pakistan. Now its supreme Pakistan speed. We are working under the vision and leadership of Nawaz Sharif and implementing his vision. It's a new Pakistan. It's a progressing Pakistani, advancing and moving forward. This is our destination. We have saved Pakistan from economic default and prayers of the whole nation are involved. We will continue our efforts to protect Pakistan." The premier hoped that the Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad would be a great success. "It has already started and its set to be a historic convention. Overseas Pakistanis will benefit from this. Overseas Pakistanis are coming home for this event."

KP police
'trace'
network...

FROM PAGE 01
while five security personnel also lost their lives. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on March 5 stated that security forces successfully thwarted a cowardly terrorist attack on Bannu Cantonment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 16 militants who attempted to intrude into the facility on March 4. "In this intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers, after putting up a heroic resistance, embraced martyrdom in the line of duty," the military's media wing added. As many as thirteen civilians were also martyred and 32 others were injured as a result of destruction caused by suicide blasts during the clash.

Pak hopes
for Iran's
'coop'...

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had said, adding that they were staying at a car repair shop. A spokesman for the banned outfit, the Balochistan National Army (BNA), claimed responsibility for the incident through a statement issued to the media. However, AFP reported that militant group Jaishul Adl also claimed responsibility for the attack. According to the FO, Pakistani officials in Iran were in "constant touch" with the authorities there for a probe into the incident and the repatriation of bodies. "On the instructions of Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister [Ishaq Dar], our Embassy in Tehran and our Consulate in Zahidan are in constant touch with the Iranian authorities for a comprehensive investigation to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice as well as for prompt repatriation of the victims' remains to Pakistan," the FO said.

Pakistan
stands as...

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the world". The interior minister made the remarks during an important meeting with a delegation of US congressmen. The delegation included Congressmen Jack Bergman, Tom Suozzi, and Jonathan Jackson. During the meeting, detailed discussion was held on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. Both sides also exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and investment. Discussions were also held on security, counterterrorism, and border security.

Prof
Khurshid
Ahmed...

FROM PAGE 01
He served as a member of the Senate from 1985 to 2012 for 22 years, except for a brief hiatus. He also held the position of Minister for Planning and Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission. In 1979, he established the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in Islamabad and served as its Chairman until 2021. He was a founding trustee of the International Islamic University; served as Chairman of the Mark Field Institute of Higher Education in Leicester

Oman Hockey Team's Visit to Pakistan

A promising sign for the revival of Pakistan hockey

High Commissioner of Brunei Kamal Ahmad was the chief guest of the final match, while diplomats from the Malaysian and Oman embassies and General Manager Sales and Marketing Rudan housing society also witness the match



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a refreshing development for the sport, the Oman national hockey team recently concluded a four-match series in Pakistan, marking a significant step towards the revival of international hockey in the country. The tour, which saw Oman play four competitive matches, not only highlighted Pakistan's growing efforts to bring back international sporting events but also gave local fans a taste of high-intensity hockey. Oman played a total of four matches during their tour. While they faced defeat in three games, they managed to secure a commendable win in one, showcasing moments of brilliance and resilience.

The tour was seen as a valuable opportunity for both sides to test their skills and strategies ahead of upcoming international competitions. The series culminated in an exciting final match, where Pakistan delivered a dominant performance to defeat Oman 6-3, played at Naseer Bundha Hockey Stadium Islamabad. High Commissioner of Brunei Kamal Ahmad was the chief guest of the final match, while diplomats from the Malaysian and Oman embassies and General Manager Sales and Marketing Rudan housing society Mr. Rashid also witness the match. President PHF Tariq Bugti and Secretary Rana Muhahid distributed prizes among the players and the winning team. The final match was supervised by international umpire Haroon from Peshawar and Wajahat from

Islamabad. Sohail Janjua served as umpire manager while Syed Zia Shah Secretary Islamabad Hockey Association coordinated the event. The thrilling encounter drew a lively crowd and featured fast-paced action, sharp passing, and clinical finishing from the home side. Pakistan's players displayed strong coordination and attacking flair, signaling positive progress under their current setup. More than just the scores, the Oman team's visit symbolizes a good omen for Pakistan hockey. With international teams willing to tour again, it reflects growing confidence in Pakistan's security and hospitality. This tour adds to the momentum being built to restore the nation's once-glorious status in world hockey. Officials from both sides praised the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie through-

out the series. The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) expressed its gratitude to the Oman team for accepting the invitation and contributing to the promotion of the sport in the region. As Pakistan continues to rebuild its hockey legacy, such tours serve as a much-needed boost – both in terms of international exposure and in reigniting passion among young players and fans alike. The visit of the Oman hockey team could be the beginning of more international fixtures on home soil, paving the way for a brighter future for Pakistan hockey. Quite recently Germany and the Dutch Clubs also visited Pakistan for which credit goes to Khwaja Junaid hockey academy spearheaded by Olympian Khwaja Junaid. The Dutch hockey legend Jan Floris Bovelander is visiting Pakistan in the end of this month.

Rangers delay Celtic title win with last-gasp draw

With Ross McCausland sent off in between those goals for a second yellow after chopping down Topi Keskinen, Barry Ferguson's men had a mountain to climb

WEB DESK

LONDON: Ten-man Rangers kept Celtic waiting to be crowned Scottish champions as the Ibrox side staged an incredible comeback from two goals down to snatch a last-gasp draw with Aberdeen at Pittodrie. A Rangers defeat would have confirmed Celtic's fourth successive title, and it looked highly likely as the Dons raced ahead in the first half with a fine Leighton Clarkson free-kick and Pape Gueye strike. With Ross McCausland sent off in between those goals for a second yellow after chopping down Topi Keskinen, Barry Ferguson's men had a mountain to climb. But Hamza Igamane reduced the deficit in the 49th minute and, in a stunning finale, Ianis Hagi looped the ball into the net in the final seconds. With just one defeat in nine games, Aberdeen took impressive form into this powderkeg fixture and knew a win would have returned them to third place. Rangers, with one eye on the second leg of their Europa League quarter-final at Athletic Bilbao on Thursday, made nine changes and were skippered by former Dons midfielder Connor Barron. The unfamiliar visiting side survived early let-offs when Shayden Morris fired narrowly wide after a great turn then Mats

Knoester volleyed over from a few yards out after great work down the left by Graeme Shinnie. But Aberdeen's pressure told when Clarkson curled a wonderful free-kick into the top corner from 20 yards. And after McCausland's dismissal, Gueye tapped in from close range just before the break to double the home side's advantage. Igamane had the ball in the net for Rangers in first-half added time, but it didn't count as Findlay Curtis was judged to have run the ball out of play in the build-up. The Morocco striker wasn't to be denied, though, as he outmuscled the Aberdeen defence to reduce the deficit early in the second half.

Alcaraz fights back to win Monte Carlo

MADRID: Carlos Alcaraz came from a set down to beat Lorenzo Musetti and win the Monte Carlo Masters for the first time. The four-time major champion produced some superb shots to overcome the Italian 3-6 6-1 6-0 on the clay. It was a competitive match for a set and a half before Musetti, bidding for the biggest prize of his career, began to struggle with a leg injury. The success was a sixth ATP Masters 1000 trophy for Alcaraz - his first since Indian Wells last year - and an 18th title overall. It also gives the 21-year-old a confidence boost before he defends his French Open title in May. "It's been a really difficult week with a lot of difficult situations," Alcaraz said. "I'm really proud of myself how I've dealt with everything. It's been a really difficult month for me on the court and outside. "Coming here and seeing how the whole hard work has paid off, I'm really happy." Alcaraz, as he has done for most of the week, made a wayward start. An early break lead was cancelled out by Musetti, who reeled off four games in a row as Alcaraz sprayed errors off his forehand. Musetti's accuracy won out over his opponent's pacy hitting, with the Italian clinching the set on an outrageous drop-shot winner from behind the baseline. Alcaraz hit 14 unforced errors in the first set, 11 off the forehand alone, but settled quickly into the second. - Agencies

Iran embassy condemns killing...

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collaboration with international terrorist networks, continue to undermine regional peace and stability." The Embassy emphasized that combating terrorism and extremism requires a unified, collective effort from all countries in the region. The ongoing toll of these violent acts has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people in recent decades. The Iranian Embassy's condemnation of the killings has been well-received in Pakistan, with many citizens and analysts affirming that such terrorist attacks will not shake the foundations of the strong Pak-Iran friendship. The relationship between the two nations is deeply rooted in shared borders, religious and cultural affinities, and a mutual commitment to regional stability.

PTI outlines new policy..

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violation of party discipline. If prison officials block any approved visitor, the remaining committee members will protest by meeting Khan collectively. In such cases, PTI said it would file a contempt petition against the officials. The party added that government officials from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) would be exempt from this restriction and may visit Khan at any time without committee approval.

Pakistan, US reaffirm..

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan's enduring contributions to regional peace and stability. They also expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's resilience and the strategic potential of its people. Underscoring their respect for Pakistan's sovereignty, the U.S. Congressional delegation conveyed a strong commitment to advancing broad-based bilateral cooperation, particularly in the domains of security, trade, investment, and economic development.

Pakistan welcomes..

FROM PAGE 01
advance the objective of resolution of differences and disputes on the basis of negotiations and mutual respect. We encourage the parties to continue to follow this path. Pakistan commends the Sultanate of Oman for its valuable role in facilitating and hosting these talks.

Everton's Doucoure dents Nottingham's UCL hopes

Forest third in Premier League standings with 57 points from 32 matches

WEB DESK

LONDON: Nottingham Forest's Champions League qualification hopes were hit by a 1-0 defeat against Everton after Abdoulaye Doucoure scored a 94th-minute winner at the City Ground on Saturday, boosting his chances of a new contract at the Merseyside club. Everton forward Dwight McNeil won possession in midfield after sloppy play from Forest, which summed up their dismal afternoon, and his pass rather fortuitously fell to Doucoure, who swept his shot past goalkeeper Matz Sels. Third-placed Forest stay on 57 points from 32 games, four points clear of Chelsea in sixth position, though the London side have a game in hand. The top five qualify for the Champions League. Everton move up to 14th with 38 points from 32 matches. Forest have been excellent at home this season but failed to create too many alarms in the Everton defence and it was the visitors who left it late but deservedly got the three points.

ICCI chief vows to reclaim Pakistan lost hockey glory

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a compelling demonstration of sports diplomacy and cultural outreach, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a ceremonial dinner on March 12, 2025, in honor of the Pakistan Junior Hockey Team. The event, held in a packed hall that brought together hockey legends, office bearers of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), and the victorious junior team that outclassed Oman 6-1, marked a defining moment in the revival of Pakistan's national sport. His Excellency Fahad bin Sulaiman bin

Khalaf Alkharusi also, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, reinforcing the growing sports and diplomatic ties between the two nations. Addressing an audience that included a galaxy of distinguished sports figures, Ambassador Al-Kharusi praised the enduring brotherhood between Pakistan and Oman, lauding the Pakistani community's invaluable contribution to Oman's development. He recognized ICCI's expanding role as not only a driver of economic development but also a catalyst for

cultural and people-to-people engagement. He specifically commended the Chamber's initiative to use sports as a conduit for soft diplomacy, expressing optimism for enhanced collaboration between the two countries across governmental, business, and societal levels.



Gaza is not just a city; it is a symbol of resistance



TANVEER HUSSAIN

GAZA is, in fact, the name of an ideology. Historically, Gaza has always been the center of Palestinian resistance. Even in the past, conquerors had to pass through Gaza to reach Jerusalem. Gaza is an ancient city that has held significance for all religions. It is mentioned in texts that are over 3,500 years old. The Holy Bible also refers to Gaza multiple times. Palestine was peacefully conquered

during the era of Caliph Umar (RA) and became a part of the Islamic Empire. After the Rashidun Caliphate, this land remained an important part of the Umayyad, Abbasid, and Fatimid empires. During the First Crusade in 1099, the Christians seized Jerusalem and massacred hundreds of thousands of civilians. Eighty-eight years later, in 1187, Salahuddin Ayyubi liberated the Holy Land from Christian control and raised the Islamic flag there. After the Ayyubid rule, the region became part of the Ottoman Empire. When Germany was defeated in World War I, the British sought revenge against their ally, Turkey, by dividing and distributing its territories. As a result, Palestine was split into several parts. Britain took control of Jerusalem and began settling large numbers of Jews there, while the Gaza region remained with Jordan. In November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly committed a historic injustice by ordering the partition of Palestine between Muslims and Jews. Consequently, in 1948, an illegitimate state called Israel was established in the heart of the Arab world on Palestinian land. The Arabs declared war against this oppressive decision. With British support, Israel captured 70% of Palestine. However, Gaza remained a part of Jordan until the 1967 Arab-Israeli

war, in which Israel seized more Arab territories. It captured Jerusalem, the Golan Heights from Syria, and Gaza from Jordan. After Britain, the United States became Israel's patron, making life unbearable for the Palestinians. Arab world fought several wars for Palestine, but each time Israel ended up occupying more Arab lands. In 1993, under the mediation of U.S. President Bill Clinton, the Oslo Accords were signed between Israel and the Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat signed the agreement, which aimed to pave the way for a two-state solution. In 2004, Israel withdrew from Gaza. However, after Hamas's victory in the 2005 elections, Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza, which continues to this day. During this time, Gaza's citizens have suffered severe shortages of food and medicine. Israel blocks most humanitarian aid, and every now and then carries out military operations and bombings, resulting in heavy casualties. Despite this oppression, the determination and resilience of the people of Gaza remain unshaken. In the most recent military offensive, Israel has crossed all bounds of humanity. For the past year, it has conducted carpet bombings that have completely destroyed Gaza's infrastructure. Israeli aggression has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of

thousands of civilians. Homes, schools, and hospitals have been reduced to rubble. The city is facing a severe shortage of food and medicine. Even aid sent by the international community is not reaching Gaza. Relief convoys are forced to wait for weeks at the Egyptian border due to lack of permission to enter. In this horrifying injustice against humanity, the United States is not only supporting Israel but also supplying it with weapons. Every resolution against Israeli aggression in the United Nations is vetoed by the U.S., giving Israel more opportunity to oppress. While what the U.S. and Europe are doing is clearly wrong, the real question is: what are the Muslims doing? It's true that no Muslim country is currently in a position to go to war with Israel. However, Arab nations can use their geographical importance. Israel is surrounded on all sides by Arab countries. By closing their airspace, Arab nations could force Israel to its knees. Israel's only maritime route passes between Egypt and Turkey. If these countries have the courage to block this route, Israel would be suffocated. Unfortunately, the rulers are concerned only with their own interests. Many countries maintain diplomatic and trade relations with Israel. Muslim leaders seek U.S. approval to prolong their rule, and the key to American approval lies in pleasing Israel.

Briefs

Syrian forces
deploy at key
dam under
deal with
Kurds

DAMASCUS: Security forces from the new government in Damascus deployed on Saturday around a strategic dam in northern Syria, under a deal with the autonomous Kurdish administration, state media reported. Under the agreement, Kurdish-led fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces will pull back from the dam, which they captured from Daesh in late 2015.

The Tishrin dam near Manbij in Aleppo province is one of several on the Euphrates and its tributaries in the Syrian Arab Republic. It plays a key role in the nation's economy by providing water for irrigation and hydro-electric power.

On Thursday, a Kurdish source said the Kurdish authorities in northeast Syria had reached an agreement with the central government on running the dam.

A separate Kurdish source said on Saturday that the deal, supervised by the US-led anti-terror coalition, stipulates that the dam remain under Kurdish civilian administration.

Syria's state news agency SANA reported "the entry of Syrian Arab Army forces and security forces into the Tishrin Dam ... to impose security in the region, under the agreement reached with the SDF."

The accord also calls for a joint military force to protect the dam and for the withdrawal of factions "that seek to disrupt this agreement," SANA said.

It is part of a broader agreement reached in mid-March between Syria's President Ahmed Al-Sharaa and SDF commander Mazloum Abdi, aiming to integrate the institutions of the Kurdish autonomous administration into the national government.—APP

Algeria
protests
detention,
indictment of
consular agent
in France

ALGIERS: Algeria protested strongly Saturday after French prosecutors indicted one of its consular officials on suspicion of involvement in the April 2024 abduction of an Algerian influencer in a Paris suburb. The indictment comes at a delicate time in relations between Algeria and its former colonial power, with Algiers claiming the move was aimed at scuppering recent attempts to repair ties. Three men, one of whom works at an Algerian consulate in France, were indicted Friday in Paris on suspicion of involvement in the abduction of 41-year-old Amir Boukhors. Boukhors, known as "Amir DZ," is an opponent of the Algerian government and has more than a million followers on TikTok.—APP

UK govt to
take control
of British
Steel under
emergency law

LONDON: The UK government said it was taking control of Chinese-owned British Steel on Saturday after rushing an emergency law through parliament to avert the shutdown of the country's last factory that can make steel from scratch. The struggling plant in northern England had faced imminent closure and Prime Minister Keir Starmer said his government "stepped in to save British Steel" with legislation to prevent its blast furnaces going out. At a rare weekend session, parliament approved the law without opposition to take over the running of the Scunthorpe site, which employs several thousand people and produces steel crucial for UK industries including construction and rail transport. The government saw its possible closure as a risk to Britain's long-term economic security, given the decline of the UK's once robust steel industry. Officials were poised to take over the site after the emergency bill passed into law on Saturday evening, according to UK media reports.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Christian devotees holding palm leaves attend a service to mark Palm Sunday in the Federal Capital.

Trump admin's move slammed
to list living immigrants as dead

"This is an outrageous abuse of power," Nancy Altman, president of the advocacy group Social Security Works, said in a statement. "It will not only create extreme hardship, but kill people. Imagine, in one Trump administration keystroke, losing your income, your health insurance, access to your bank account, your credit cards, your home, and more"

WASHINGTON: Civil rights advocates and lawmakers have denounced a reported Trump administration move to classify thousands of immigrants living in the United States as dead in a Social Security database in an effort to force them out of the country. By entering the names and Social Security numbers of roughly 6,000 immigrants into Social Security's "death master file," the administration has revoked their ability to legally work in the U.S. and receive benefits in a bid to get them to "self-deport," several news outlets reported. A social security number is a unique nine-digit number issued by the federal government to US citizens, permanent residents and temporary working residents and used for various official and identification purposes including tracking earnings. The move will also make it impossible for those

affected to use banks or other basic services where social security number is a necessity. It is part of Trump's effort to crackdown on immigrants who entered the United States under programmes instituted by the US president's predecessor Joe Biden. "This is an outrageous abuse of power," Nancy Altman, president of the advocacy group Social Security Works, said in a statement. "It will not only create extreme hardship, but kill people. Imagine, in one Trump administration keystroke, losing your income, your health insurance, access to your bank account, your credit cards, your home, and more." "If they get away with this, it would be no surprise if they then move on to marking their perceived enemies as dead—citizens and non-citizens alike," Ms. Altman added. "This is a total misuse of the dedicated revenue that workers contribute

to Social Security, with every paycheck. Though Trump claimed he wouldn't cut benefits, he essentially is by diverting dedicated monies from their intended purpose of paying Social Security benefits to the immoral purpose of maliciously ruining lives." "The Trump administration's weaponization of Social Security is shocking and unconscionable, and we expect House Republicans will remain silent," the former Social Security Administration (SSA) Commissioner, Martin O'Malley, who served under former President Joe Biden joined in the criticism "If they can, contrary to the law and every regulation and without any due process, mark people inside SSA's database dead who legally entered the country and were legally required to be issued a work SSA number, then they can do that to anybody," O'Malley told CNN. The Washington Post reported that the classification of

thousands of immigrants as "dead" came at the request of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, who—in tandem with other administration officials—is trampling basic rights as she moves to carry out Trump's mass deportation agenda. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a senior fellow at the American Immigration Council, called the Trump administration's scheme "utterly unprecedented" and warned that it "has the potential to cause immense problems for people." "And it's also one with a HUGE potential for error," he wrote on social media. "If the data isn't perfect, people here legally might be effectively declared dead." According to the Post, "among the people being targeted are immigrants who have bona fide Social Security numbers but have lost their legal status in the U.S., such as those who entered under one of the Biden administration's temporary work programs that

have since ended." The immigrants' names were placed in the database following two memorandums of agreement signed Monday by Noem and Leland Duke, the acting Social Security commissioner," the Post reported. "The memos authorize Social Security to place the immigrants in the death file for national security reasons and under the Social Security Act." The New York Times reported that the "initial names" added to Social Security's death file "are convicted criminals and 'suspected terrorists,'" according to internal administration documents, "but officials said the effort could broaden to include others in the country without authorization." The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that undocumented immigrants paid roughly \$26 billion in Social Security taxes in 2022.—Agencies

Syrian
President
Sharaa heads
to UAE on
official visit

CAIRO: Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa will travel to the United Arab Emirates for his second visit to a Gulf state as president on Sunday, Syria's official news agency reported. He will be accompanied by foreign minister Assad al-Shibani, who visited the UAE earlier this year. They are expected to discuss issues of mutual interest, the SANA state news agency reported. Sharaa visited Saudi Arabia in February on his first foreign trip since assuming the presidency in January. His visit to the UAE comes as the new Syrian leadership attempts to strengthen ties with Arab and Western leaders following the fall of Bashar al-Assad in December at the hands of Sharaa's Sunni Islamist group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.—APP

China's Xi
vows to
Prabowo
to deepen
partnership:
Xinhua

SHANGHAI: Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed to deepen his country's strategic partnership with Indonesia in a call with President Prabowo Subianto on Sunday, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. Xi told Prabowo the bilateral partnership had strategic significance and impact globally, as the two exchanged congratulations over the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, Xinhua said. Beijing is trying to persuade other nations to hew to a common line against US import tariffs announced by President Donald Trump. Xi will visit Indonesia's fellow Southeast Asian nations Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia from Monday, aiming to consolidate ties with some of China's closest neighbours as trade tension escalates with the United States.—APP

Shipping
countries
reach historic
deal to cut
emissions,
or pay fee

UNITED NATIONS: After years of intense negotiations, countries have reached a landmark deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions from global shipping, setting mandatory fuel standards and introducing an industry-wide carbon pricing mechanism. The framework agreed during the UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee aims for net-zero emissions from the sector by 2050 and will be formally adopted in October before coming into force in 2027. They will apply to large ocean-going vessels over 5,000 gross tonnage, which collectively account for 85 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions from the marine shipping fleet.—DNA

Budget 2025-26
BMP for encouraging
private sector
investment, growth

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has started consultations on the upcoming budget 2025-26, focusing on issues like boosting trade and industry, reducing the policy interest rate, and lowering GST to stimulate economic growth. FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar while addressing a pre-budget session organized by the BMP here, said the business representatives has been actively involved in finalizing budget proposals and presenting them to the relevant government departments. We are advocating for policies that encourage private sector investment and growth, including reducing the policy interest rate to single digits. Anjum Nisar called for a growth-oriented budget 2023-24 for the trade and industry, suggesting the government to make visible reduction in taxes, helping revive the businesses in the country, urging the government to hold thorough consultations with all stakeholders including the business community on the upcoming federal budget. The Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman said that his group in consultation with business community across Pakistan has compiled budget proposals, which will be sent to the relevant departments and will ask the government to incorporate them in the federal budget as their implementation would address the key issues of trade and industry, facilitate better growth of business activities.—DNA

Indonesia, Egypt upgrade ties to
strategic partnership

Saudi Arabia is advancing efforts to deepen economic integration with Egypt, as over 100 investors gathered in Cairo for a high-level forum to unlock \$30 billion in investment opportunities.

JAKARTA: Indonesia and Egypt elevated their ties to a strategic partnership during President Prabowo Subianto's visit to Cairo, his office said on Sunday. Prabowo and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi signed the joint declaration following their meeting in the Egyptian capital on Saturday, the Cabinet Secretariat said in a statement. "The signing of the joint declaration is an important milestone in diplomatic ties between the two countries, signifying Indonesia and Egypt's strong commitment to elevate bilateral ties to a strategic level," the statement reads. "Through this strategic partnership, Indonesia and Egypt are committed to (strengthening) cooperation in various priority fields. From politics, economy, security, defense, culture and education ties, as well as people-to-people relations." Subianto was in Cairo as part of his multi-day tour to the Middle East and has visited the UAE and Turkiye. This was his second time in Egypt since taking office in October. Egypt was one of the first countries to recognize Indonesia's independence, with the two nations establishing diplomatic ties in 1947. Both Jakarta and Cairo believe that their "strong and historic partnership" will provide "real benefits" for the country and their peoples, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. Egypt ranks third among Indonesia's top export destinations in the Middle East and North Africa, just after the UAE and Saudi Arabia. With bilateral trade volume worth around \$1.7 billion in 2024, Egypt is Indonesia's top trade partner in North Africa alone. Palm oil, coffee beans, and coconut oil are some of Indonesia's main exports to Egypt. "President Prabowo's visit to Egypt is very important. The strategic partnership that resulted from it is quite broad and will be beneficial for the future of both countries," Teuku Rezasyah, an international relations expert from Padjadjaran University in West Java, told Arab News. While trade has been a big aspect of bilateral ties, defense cooperation will likely be a focus of the strategic partnership, he said. "The most likely area of focus will be defense cooperation ... since Egypt has experience in facing different kinds of challenges at the border," Rezasyah said, referring to Egypt's shared land borders with a number of states, including Libya, Sudan, and the occupied Palestinian territory of Gaza. Through the partnership, Jakarta may be seeking to learn more closely from Cairo's experience in dealing with various issues in the Middle East, alluding to Prabowo's ongoing trip to the region that was aimed at boosting Indonesia's role in ending Israel's war on Gaza. A staunch supporter of Palestine, the Indonesian government and people see Palestinian statehood as being mandated by their own constitution, which calls for the abolition of colonialism.—DNA

Tessori opens doors to governor house

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



KAMRAN Khan Tessori, Governor of Sindh since October 2022, has emerged as a dynamic political figure known for his populist initiatives, business acumen, and accessibility. Blending governance with grassroots engagement,

Tessori has redefined the traditionally symbolic role of governor into one of active leadership. A successful entrepreneur before entering politics, Tessori gained prominence through his Tessori Gold brand, establishing a strong presence in Pakistan's jewelry market. His business success laid the foundation for his political journey, particularly within the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), which champions the rights of urban Sindh's Urdu-speaking community. Tessori's tenure has been marked by an open-door policy—he famously declared the Governor House "open for all," symbolizing transparency and accessibility. His humility and respect for political workers have earned him praise across party lines. By presenting himself as a "brother" to the people, Tessori has bridged the gap between the state and

the public. He has launched several initiatives focused on youth empowerment and economic development. The "Governor Sindh Initiative" (April 2024) offers financial support to young entrepreneurs, while programs like Google IT certification (July 2024) and "Launchpad Pakistan"

(March 2025) promote digital skills and innovation. These efforts reflect his belief that entrepreneurship and technology are key to Sindh's progress. Tessori has also addressed Karachi's chronic issues—taking a bold stance against the unregulated "dumper mafia" and advocating for infrastructure

improvements. His support for the private sector was evident during his visit to Indus Motor Company in August 2024, where he praised the "Make in Pakistan" initiative and called for policies that empower businesses. Known for his approachability, Tessori enjoys strong support from political workers, especially within MQM-P. His call for a PTI-MQM-P merger in March 2025 showed his strategic vision for political stability in Sindh. Welfare initiatives, such as public meals during Ramadan 2025, further strengthened his grassroots appeal and online popularity. Kamran Tessori is a rare blend of businessman and statesman—using a largely ceremonial office to drive real change. His focus on youth, business, and urban issues has made a tangible impact. Whether his legacy lasts will depend on sustained progress, but for now, he stands out as a governor defined by action, accessibility, and empathy.



Briefs

Naqvi condemns firing on excise dep vehicle

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has condemned the firing incident on an Excise Department vehicle in the Nowshera. Paying tribute to the two excise officials and the driver who were martyred in the attack, Mohsin Naqvi expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured Sub-Inspector Farooq Bacha. The Interior Minister saluted the sacrifice of the martyred excise officials, stating that officials Iftikhar, Mujahid, and driver Shabbir laid down their lives in the line of duty and achieved the highest rank of martyrdom. Mohsin Naqvi further stated that the government stands firmly with the families of the martyred officials.

Syria's Sharaa meets UAE counterpart

CAIRO: Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa met with his United Arab Emirates counterpart in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, the Syrian leader's office said, making a second visit to a Gulf state as the country's new Islamist rulers seek to reassure foreign partners they will create an inclusive political system. Sharaa, who met President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was accompanied by Foreign Minister Assad al-Shibani. Syrian state news agency SANA said earlier on Sunday that Sharaa and Shibani were expected to discuss issues of mutual interest with Emirati officials, without giving details. Sharaa visited Saudi Arabia in February on his first foreign trip since assuming the presidency in January. The new Syrian leadership is seeking to strengthen ties with Arab and Western leaders following the fall of President Bashar al-Assad in December at the hands of Sharaa's Sunni Islamist group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. Abu Dhabi has been a fierce opponent of Islamist groups across the region, including in Egypt, Sudan and Libya. It has said in the past that extremism and terrorism were a major concern in Syria following the fall of Assad. Western countries are also watching Syria's leaders closely to ensure they create an inclusive government, maintain order in a country fractured by civil war and prevent a resurgence of Islamic State or al Qaeda. - Agencies

Cop gunned down in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: A policeman was shot dead on Sunday in Karachi's Ranchor Line area over what appeared to be personal enmity, police said. According to a statement issued by the Karachi Police Office (KPO) today, constable Muhammad Ayub - posted at the Chakiwara police station - was shot dead after unidentified suspects opened fire on him near Ghousia Biryani. Later, the constable was taken to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries and further investigation was under way, the KPO said. Karachi Additional Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Javed Alam-Odho took strict notice of the policeman's murder and sought an immediate report from the senior superintendent of police (SSP). While expressing condolences to the bereaved family, the AIGP issued instructions to take effective steps for suspects' immediate arrest and a transparent investigation into the incident. He also assured the family of all possible cooperation. Speaking to Dawn.com, South Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Syed Asad Raza said that the deceased was moved to Civil Hospital Karachi, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Jl announces nationwide strike in solidarity with Palestinians

Hafiz Naem addresses political parties, questioning their silence on Gaza

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced a countrywide wheel-jam strike on April 22 to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine as tensions and violence continue in Gaza. Addressing a massive rally in Karachi, JI Ameer Hafiz NaemurRehman urged Muslim leaders across the globe to take decisive action and stand with Palestinians in the face of Israeli aggression. Thousands, including women and children, gathered on Shahrah-e-Faisal for the "Million March" organized by Jamaat-e-Islami to pay tribute to the martyrs of Gaza and protest against ongoing Israeli atrocities. Speaking at the event, Hafiz Naem said, "The UN Charter has been thrown into the river. Terrorists rule the world, and Zionist forces will not spare Muslim rulers either. The time has come for the 56 Muslim countries to unite and fulfill their responsibility." He called on Pakistan's Prime Minister and Army Chief to play a leading role in advocating for Palestine, while urging all political parties in the country to stop aligning with Israeli interests and instead condemn Israeli aggression and support the Palestinian cause. "The spirit of jihad cannot be



suppressed by hollow slogans," he said, further recommending that all Muslim countries convene a military summit to discuss collective defense strategies. Hafiz Naem directly addressed political parties including PML-N, PPP, and PTI, questioning their silence on Gaza. "Raise your voice for the people of Gaza. Condemn Israel. Why don't you speak up for the oppressed? History will not forgive you."

He also called on the public and politicians alike to clarify their stance on the boycott of Israeli products. "By buying their goods, we are only strengthening them," he said. "Why does the idea of jihad disturb you? You cannot crush the spirit of resistance with lies." Lamenting the lack of genuine leadership, he said, "This government does not represent us. We must change the system. Even the children of Karachi should

march for Gaza. Students from every university must take to the streets." Hafiz Naem concluded by emphasizing the need for unified, bold actions against oppression and urged people to stand on the right side of history. Karachi traffic police issued a detailed traffic diversion plan ahead of Jamaat-e-Islami's Gaza Million March scheduled for Sunday at 4pm on Shahrah-e-Faisal. JI leader Munem Zafar Khan appealed to the public to participate in large numbers to show support for the people of Gaza. To manage traffic flow and avoid inconvenience, citizens were urged to use alternative routes as the main artery was expected to be heavily congested. The traffic police had recommended the following diversions: From Avari/Saddar to Airport: Take the FTC to Korangi Road route, or use Sindh Muslim to Allah Wali Signal and proceed via University Road. From Airport to Saddar: Use Drigh Road to Rashid Minhas Road for a smoother commute. From Karsaz: Commuters should use the Baloch Colony Bridge and connect to the Expressway. Authorities requested the public's cooperation and patience during the rally. The Karachi Traffic Police deployed personnel across key junctions to facilitate movement and ensure safety.

BD issues arrest warrant for British MP

DHAKA: Bangladeshi authorities have issued an arrest warrant for the British MP and former Labour minister Tulip Siddiq. The country's ACC has been investigating allegations Siddiq illegally received land as part of its wider probe of the regime of her aunt, Sheikh Hasina, who was deposed as prime minister in August. The Hampstead and Highgate MP, who quit as economic secretary to the Treasury in January, was named in the arrest warrant alongside more than 50 others. Lawyers acting for Siddiq denied the charges, which they said were "politically motivated". The ACC had not presented any evidence or informed Siddiq about an arrest warrant, the lawyers added. The UK lists Bangladesh as a 2B extradition country - meaning clear evidence must be presented before ministers and judges make a decision. The ACC is examining claims Sheikh Hasina and her family embezzled up to £3.9bn from infrastructure spending in Bangladesh. The investigation is based on a series of allegations made by Bobby Hajaj, a political opponent of Hasina.

Pakistan will not retaliate against Trump tariffs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has stated that Pakistan has no intention of retaliating against the tariffs imposed by the Donald Trump administration. In an interview with the British news channel, the finance minister acknowledged that Pakistan is indeed concerned about the Trump-era tariffs as they have created an atmosphere of uncertainty. "We all need to think about how to move forward in this new world order, and I believe it is essential to engage in dialogue on this matter," he said. Responding to a question, Muhammad Aurangzeb clarified that if the question is whether Pakistan plans to respond with countermeasures, the answer is no. Addressing concerns over Pakistan potentially suffering amid the ongoing US-China trade tensions, the finance minister noted that the United States has long been a strategic partner in trade and other sectors, but relations with China are equally important for Pakistan.

Pakistan-UAE bilateral trade surpasses \$10.9 bln in 2023-24

He reported that remittances from the Pakistani expatriate community in the UAE totaled \$6.7b in 2024 and are expected to surpass \$7b 2025

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's trade with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) exceeded \$10.9 billion during the fiscal year 2023-24, highlighting the robust economic partnership between the two nations, according to Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Tirmizi. The two countries have steadily deepened their economic ties in recent months. In January 2024, Pakistan and the UAE signed agreements exceeding \$3 billion, covering collaboration in railway development, special economic zones, and critical infrastructure projects. The UAE remains Pakistan's third-largest trading partner - after China and the United States - and a key source of foreign investment. Over the past two decades, Emirati investments in Pakistan have crossed the \$10 billion mark, according to data from the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking to UAE state news agency WAM, Ambassador Tirmizi detailed the breakdown of the \$10.9 billion trade volume, which includes both goods and services. He reported that remittances from the Pakistani expatriate community in the UAE totaled \$6.7 billion in 2024 and are expected to surpass \$7 billion in 2025.

In terms of goods trade, the total reached \$8.41 billion in FY 2023-24. Pakistan's exports to the UAE surged by 41.06% to \$2.08 billion, while imports from the UAE declined by 14.45% to \$6.33 billion. This shift led to a 28.28% reduction in the trade deficit - a notable improvement in bilateral trade balance. In the services sector, trade rose to \$2.56 billion, reflecting a 20.54% year-on-year increase. Between July 2024 and January 2025, goods trade continued to grow by 21.63%, with a 7.53% rise in Pakistani exports, indicating sustained economic momentum. "These figures not only reflect the strength of our bilateral trade but also underscore the vital role of the Pakistani diaspora in supporting Pakistan's economy," Tirmizi noted. The ambassador also shared that 19 Emirati companies are currently operating in Pakistan, with the UAE investing heavily across key sectors such as communications, IT, tourism, oil and gas, banking, real estate, housing, and services. Among the notable developments, major UAE firms like Abu Dhabi Ports and DP World have entered agreements to enhance Pakistan's port infrastructure, including projects linked to the Karachi Port Trust and supporting railway connectivity. "These investments highlight the UAE's deep-rooted commitment to Pakistan's long-term economic growth and regional connectivity," Tirmizi added.

At least 34 killed in Russian attack on Ukraine's Sumy

Ukraine's president calls for a global response to the attack that killed and wounded more than a hundred people

FOREIGN DESK

KIEV: A Russian ballistic missile attack on the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy has killed at least 34 people and wounded more than a hundred, according to officials. The death toll is expected to rise, according to emergency services. Two missiles struck the heart of the city at about 10:15am (07:15 GMT) as people gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday, the first day of the Christian Holy Week, according to officials. In a social media post, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the death toll included two children. He added that dozens were wounded in the "horrific" attack. "It is crucial that the world does not stay silent or indifferent. Russian strikes deserve nothing but condemnation," Zelenskyy said. "There must be pressure on Russia to end the war and guarantee security for people." There was no immediate comment by Russia. Videos posted from the scene on official channels showed bodies on the ground amid debris and smoke around central Sumy.

China calls on US to 'cancel' tariffs

The exemptions will benefit US tech companies like Nvidia and Dell, as well as Apple, which makes iPhones and other premium products in China

BEIJING: China on Sunday called on the United States to "completely cancel" its reciprocal tariffs after Washington announced exemptions for consumer electronics and key chipmaking equipment. "We urge the US to [...] take a big step to correct its mistakes, completely cancel the wrong practice of 'reciprocal tariffs' and return to the right path of mutual respect", a commerce ministry spokesperson said in a statement. A notice late Friday by the US Customs and Border Protection office said smartphones, laptops, memory chips and other products would be excluded from the global levies President Donald Trump rolled out this month. Beijing's commerce ministry said the exemptions were a "small step" by Washington and China was "evaluating the impact" of the decision. It came as retaliatory Chinese import tariffs of 125% on US goods took effect on Saturday, with Beijing standing defiant against its biggest trade partner. The exemptions will benefit US tech companies like Nvidia and Dell, as well as Apple, which makes iPhones and other premium products in China. Most Chinese goods still face a blanket 145% levy after the country was excluded from a 90-day tariff reprieve. - Agencies

Israel strikes last functioning north Gaza health facility

Calling the attack a continuation of the "fascist" occupying regime's "long series of atrocities" in Gaza, Hamas said the Israeli military acts with impunity under "blatant US cover" and amid the inaction of international accountability bodies

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: Israeli forces launched a devastating attack on Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital, the last functioning medical facility in the north, destroying the hospital's emergency unit, main entrance, and a critical facility housing medical oxygen for intensive care patients. Following the Sunday attack, critically ill patients have been left stranded on the streets as the largest remaining functioning hospital in northern Gaza is now out of service, according to reports. Razan al-Nahhas, the emergency doctor in Gaza, said at least three people, including a 12-year-old boy with a head injury, have been reported dead following their forced evacuation from the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. "He was on oxygen, as were the two other patients, and the family basically walked with them to a nearby hospital, a very small facility with no capacity for the number of patients head their way. And they [the patients] arrived dead," said al-Nahhas, who is in the city of Deir el-Balah. "There's so many patients on the streets. Some mats have been made out to Al Shifa at this point. But I can't even imagine the scene of patients and their family members scattered in the streets, trying to find their way to a place for medical care. I'm certain that many of them will not make it." Al-Nahhas said many of those at al-Ahli have severe injuries. "The majority of patients that are admitted to this hospital are patients that are victims of these traumatic, explosive injuries, unfortunately," she said.

West Asia will see no peace until US is out

ANTALYA: The West Asian region has been "manipulated" by Britain, France and the United States over the past century, says American economist Jeffrey Sachs, stressing that the strategic area will see no peace until the United States is out. Sachs made the remarks at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2025, Turkey, where renowned economists and global affairs experts annually deliver critiques of flawed US foreign policy in West Asia. "This region (West Asia) has been manipulated by Britain, France and the US for 100 years since the Treaty of Versailles," Sachs said, referring to a peace treaty signed at the end of World War I by the Allied Powers and Germany in the Palace of Versailles, France. "It will not have safety or peace until the US is out of this region. If you think your big friend US is going to do your bidding and help you get your way." The American economist pointed to the divisive policies adopted by the West in the region over the years and said, "Empires divide to rule. They're not doing the bidding of Syria or Turkey or Lebanon or anybody else. You are calling the US to balance Iran and think that this is going to work out well? It's not going to work out well...You don't need the US to pull the chestnuts out of the fire." - Agencies

Petroleum prices 'likely' to go down by over Rs 8

Diesel rate may see a reduction of Rs7 per litre, say oil companies sources

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Petroleum product prices are expected to decrease by over Rs8 per litre in the upcoming fortnightly review on April 15 amid fluctuations in oil rates in the international markets, sources within oil companies told Geo News. Hinting at relief to consumers reeling amid skyrocketing inflation, the sources said the petrol price likely to drop by up to Rs8.27 per litre, whereas the diesel rate may see a reduction of Rs7 per litre. Likewise, a Rs7.47 per litre drop is expected in kerosene oil and a Rs7.21 per litre decrease in light diesel rate, they added. This would be a major drop in petroleum product prices in Pakistan following a downward trend in global oil rates. Last month, the federal government announced a Re1 per litre cut in petrol prices for two weeks. Following the cut, the petrol price was fixed at Rs254.63 per litre, reflecting a decrease from Rs255.63. However, the government kept the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) unchanged at Rs258.64 per litre. The federal government had previously maintained petroleum prices on March 15 for the fortnight. Petrol is mainly used in private transportation, small vehicles, rickshaws, and two-wheelers. Higher fuel prices significantly impact the budgets of the members of the middle and lower-middle classes, who primarily consume petrol for commuting. On the other hand, a significant portion of the transport sector relies on high-speed diesel. Its price is considered inflationary since it is predominantly used in heavy goods transport vehicles, trucks, buses, trains, and agricultural machinery such as tractors, tube wells, and threshers. The consumption of high-speed diesel particularly contributes to the increased prices of vegetables and other food items.

Advertisement for SERENA HOTELS. The ad features a decorative background with floral patterns and the text "Experience the magical spring season in Gilgit Baltistan". Below the text are several images showing different hotel buildings and scenic views of the region. At the bottom, the ad lists the following locations: HUNZA SERENA HOTEL | SERENA ALTIIT FORT RESIDENCE | SERENA KHAPLU PALACE | GILGIT SERENA HOTEL | SERENA SHIGAR FORT.