



Tuesday, May 06, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Trump denies third term ambitions citing constitutional limits

Detailed News On Page-08

Moscow ready to resolve Pak-India differences

Detailed News On Page-08


“Art for Life – Art For Gaza: Nakba continues

Detailed News On Page-06



Pakistan launches FATAH missile Pak wants peace but ready to match any threat, says PM

The Prime Minister conveyed his respectful regards to Supreme Leader Ayatullah Ali Khamenei and warm wishes for President Masoud Pezeshkian. He underscored that Pakistan attached great importance to its historic, deep-rooted fraternal ties with Iran

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, who is on an official visit to Islamabad, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, today.

At the outset, the Prime Minister expressed his sincere condolences to the Iranian side over the tragic explosion in Bandar Abbas that had led to the loss of precious lives and injured hundreds of people. He prayed for those who had lost their loved ones, as well as for the early recovery of the injured. The Prime Minister conveyed his respectful regards to Supreme Leader Ayatullah Ali Khamenei and warm wishes for President Masoud Pezeshkian. He underscored that Pakistan attached great importance to its historic, deep-rooted fraternal ties with Iran. The Prime Minister shared Pakistan's serious concerns over the prevailing tensions in South Asia, as a result of India's provocative behavior since the Pahalgam incident. He categorically rejected any attempts to link Pakistan to the incident, without sharing any evidence. He said Pakistan had offered that an international transparent, neutral and credible investigation be conducted to ascertain the facts behind the Pahalgam incident.

Enemy to get a matching Response: COAS Gen Asim

DNA

RAWALPINDI: DChief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir warned that Pakistan would respond with full military might if its sovereignty and territorial integrity are violated, said a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). His remarks came as tensions in the region simmer following last month's deadly attack on tourists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). New Delhi blamed Islamabad for the April 22 attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people — an allegation Islamabad strongly denied as baseless, sparking a series of heated threats and diplomatic tit-for-tat measures. Islamabad, however, says it has “credible intelligence” that India intends to launch military action, fuelling prospects for war between the neighbours. As per the military's media wing, the COAS, during his interaction with participants of the 15th National Workshop Balochistan at the GHQ, emphasised: “Pakistan seeks peace in the region and beyond, however, if Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity are violated, Pakistan will respond with full force to preserve its national prestige and wellbeing of its people.”

While stating that Pakistan had acted with maturity and responsibility, the Prime Minister said India had, on the other hand, created a media frenzy to divert the world's attention away from the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which remained the root cause of instability in South Asia. He also stressed that India's weaponization of the Indus

Waters Treaty was unacceptable and a redline for the people of Pakistan. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to work closely with Iran for peace, stability, and development in the region. Foreign Minister Araghchi conveyed warm greetings from

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on 5 May 2025. — DNA

NA resolution condemns Indian govt's 'mala fide campaign'

Maulana Fazl walks out of Assembly

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Indian government's “mala fide campaign” to malign Pakistan in the aftermath of Pahalgam attack which claimed lives of 26 tourists, sparking a series of heated threats and diplomatic tit-for-tat measures. The resolution, tabled by PML-N lawmaker Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, rejected all frivolous and baseless attempts to link Pakistan with the April 22 attack in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Meanwhile JUI Chief Maulana Fazl walked out of the Assembly saying there was nobody from the government to take up this crucial issue.

India halts Chenab river water

DNA

NEW DELHI: India has restricted the water flow from the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River and is reportedly considering taking similar measures at the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum River, The News reported citing Indian media on Monday. The hydroelectric dams — Baglihar in Ramban in Jammu and Kishanganga in north Kashmir — offer India the ability to regulate the timing of water releases, Press Trust of India reported quoting sources familiar with the matter. India's decision to suspend the decades-old treaty follows the killing of 26 people, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on April 22.

Media visits LoC

Aggression to be responded forcefully, says info minster

We have repeatedly proven through our actions that we are advocates of peace. We will go to any extent to defend our sovereignty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said that Pakistan had once again made it clear to the world that it was committed to regional peace, however, any Indian aggression will be responded to promptly and forcefully. This he said while talking to international and local media representatives during a visit to the Line of Control on Sunday. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had facilitated the visit of local and international media representatives to the LoC. The purpose of the visit was to expose the false and baseless propaganda spread by India, and to expose Indian propaganda, ground facts were presented to the media representatives. The media representatives were taken to specific places that were declared by India as alleged terrorist hideouts in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. By observing the ground facts,

Continued on Page 06

UNSC to be apprised about false flag operation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to formally apprise the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of the latest developments in South Asia. Pakistan will particularly brief the UNSC on how India's aggressive actions, repeated provocations, and inflammatory rhetoric pose a serious threat to regional and global peace and stability. It will also highlight India's unlawful and unilateral attempt to put the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance—a clear violation of its international obligations. Pakistan will call upon the UNSC to exercise its primary responsibility for the

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Interior Minister meets Qatari counterpart

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi, visited the Ministry of Interior in Qatar's capital, Doha on Monday where he held a significant meeting with Qatari Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations, and ways to enhance cooperation in various fields. Minister Naqvi briefed his Qatari counterpart on the regional security situation, particularly the rising tensions between Pakistan and India. He conveyed Pakistan's principled stance, stating that the country has always rejected any policy of aggression and has offered an independent and impartial investigation into the Pulwama incident so that the world can see the facts and identify the real perpetrators.

SBP cuts down interest rate

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has lowered the key interest rate by 100 basis points (bps), bringing it down to 11% with the change taking effect from May 6, 2025. Explaining the move, the Monetary Policy Committee said, “Inflation declined sharply during March and April, mainly due to a reduction in administered electricity prices and continued downward trend in food inflation.” The committee added that the recent drop in core inflation also played a role. “Core inflation also declined in April, primarily reflecting favorable base-effect amidst moderate demand conditions,” it noted.

Short order this week

SC reserves verdict in military trial case

Justice Aminuddin Khan says that a brief ruling will be delivered later this week

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's constitutional bench on Monday reserved its ruling on the intra-court appeal challenging the verdict that barred the trial of civilians in military courts. The hearing on the appeal has been completed, and a short verdict is expected to be announced within this week. Justice Aminuddin Khan, who is heading the seven-member bench hearing the case, said that a brief judgment will be delivered later this week. During the hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan said that between 3pm and 7pm on May 9, attacks were carried out on 39 military installations. Of these, 23 were in Punjab, 8 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one in Sindh. The entire episode of May 9 was carried out with organised planning. While presenting arguments, the attorney general said that even if the events of May 9 were a reaction, such actions cannot be condoned. “Our country is not an ordinary one; due to its geography,

Continued on Page 06

India may launch attack along LoC: Asif

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned on Monday that India could carry out a military strike at any point along the Line of Control (LoC) as tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours continue to simmer following the attack on tourists in IIOJK. “There are reports that India may strike at any point along the Line of Control (LoC)... New Delhi will be given a befitting reply,” the defence minister said while speaking to journalists in Islamabad. Relations between the two arch-rivals have nosedived since gunmen killed 26 people

Continued on Page 06

Afghanistan's sovereignty is not a threat, it's a regional imperative

Recognizing Afghanistan's sovereignty should not be seen as a concession, but as a fundamental prerequisite for regional peace and stability

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: This is not a hostile critique, but a heartfelt appeal from an Afghan who spent nearly three decades living in Pakistan, someone who has experienced the generosity of its people and understands the complexity of its society. It is a sincere, fraternal, and deeply felt expression of disappointment, one that echoes across Afghan society, especially among its younger generation. For over fifty years, every major political transition in Kabul has been projected negatively by Islamabad through the narrow lens of a self-imposed and consistently failed strategy. This view, marked by suspicion and anxiety, has treated a sovereign Afghanistan as an inherent threat to Pakistan's stability. Yet this perception is fundamentally flawed. It has contributed directly to the rise of anti-Pakistan sentiment within Afghan society and has undermined any prospect of genuine partnership between the two nations. From President Mohammad Daoud's rise to power in the 1970s to the Taliban's return in 2021, all successive Afghan governments have been viewed by Pakistan not as neighboring partners but as potential problems. This mindset,

rooted in a self-defined security doctrine that equates an independent Afghanistan with a hostile one, has badly failed politically and morally. It has left behind a legacy of mistrust, alienation, and missed opportunities for cooperation. A meaningful change must begin with an honest reassessment by Pakistan's policymakers of their long-standing, failed strategies. Recognizing Afghanistan's sovereignty should not be seen as a concession, but as a fundamental prerequisite for regional peace and stability. To break the cycle of instability, the region must transcend entrenched distrust, proxy rivalries, and strategic paranoia. Neighbors must learn to coexist not as adversaries locked in a zero-sum rivalry, but as sovereign states with shared interests in peace, stability, and prosperity. For Pakistan, this requires shedding outdated doctrines of strategic depth and fully embracing Afghan sovereignty without conditions or caveats. For Afghanistan, it means resisting the temptation to mirror Pakistan's realpolitik and instead committing to a foreign policy rooted in transparency, mutual respect, and regional cooperation. True regional stability will not come from manipulation, but from a sustained

Continued on Page 06

Asian Wok
by MONAL

LUNCH & BGWLS, THE ASIAN WOK WAY!

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

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

Lower Ground Floor, Mosaic District, 1-8 Markaz
0300-5845530 | 051-8840526 | 051-8840527

Pak plans high-level trade engagement with Japan:Jam

The Ambassador of Japan AKAMATSU Shuichi, welcomed the proposal for a Business Forum and acknowledged Pakistan's concerns regarding high tariffs, assuring that these issues will be addressed. He reaffirmed Japan's commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a key meeting with the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, AKAMATSU Shuichi on Monday, focusing on strengthening trade relations and addressing long-standing tariff issues. During the meeting, the minister proposed holding a dedicated Pakistan-Japan Business Forum to enhance bilateral commercial ties, said a press release issued here on Monday. Minister Kamal emphasized the urgent need to boost Pakistan's exports to Japan, which have remained stagnant and are significantly lower than imports. In FY 2023-24, bilateral trade stood at \$1.33 billion, with Pakistan exporting only \$194 million worth of goods

to Japan, compared to \$1.137 billion in imports. Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul advocated for entering into a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Japan to ensure fair competition and balanced tariffs. He pointed out that Pakistan faces higher tariff barriers compared to other countries in the region, limiting its competitiveness in the Japanese market. Under Japan's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Pakistan's textile exports face an average tariff of 5.36%, while leather products are subject to an average tariff of 16% under Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs). The Ambassador of Japan, Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi, welcomed the proposal for a Business Forum and acknowledged Pakistan's concerns regarding high tariffs, assuring that these issues will be addressed. He reaffirmed Japan's

commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment. Minister Kamal also stressed the importance of easing business travel through multiple-entry visas and encouraged Japanese investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's textile, leather, surgical, and seafood sectors. He noted that Pakistan's pavilion at Osaka Expo 2025, where it is participating in a Type-C pavilion, has received strong international appreciation. Additionally, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will host a meeting with the Japanese Ambassador and representatives of Japanese companies, to discuss trade and investment opportunities and promote closer economic cooperation. This renewed diplomatic outreach reflects Pakistan's commitment to diversifying its export markets and securing more equitable trade arrangements with key global partners.



ISLAMABAD: UK's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Crackdown on fake arms dealers in Punjab

LAHORE: The Punjab home department launched a crackdown on illegal and fake arms dealers operating under forged documents and sealed several weapon shops in the province. According to a spokesman for the home department, the authorities took action in Lahore, Faisalabad, Chakwal and Attock. The deputy commissioners have been directed to initiate legal proceedings and register FIRs against those found guilty of illegal arms trading. In Lahore, the judicial wing of the home department in collaboration with the district administration sealed Al-Islam Arms & Ammunition on Peco Road. In another case, Haji Zaroli Khan Arms Dealer in Bhaati Gate had their license suspended and shop sealed after it was discovered that a sales agent continued to use the license illegally following the owner's death. Other sealed arms dealers include Mian Khalid & Co, Katchery Bazaar, Faisalabad, Chakwal Armory, Commercial Market, Talagang Road, Chakwal, Sarhad Arms, Marhaba Plaza, Attock and Javad & Co, Katchery Bazaar, Faisalabad. The department has released the names and addresses of these fake dealers and instructed that all sealed shops will remain closed until further notice. It warned that any arms transactions with these suspended dealers would be deemed illegal and those involved would face legal consequences. Home Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal stated that selling weapons on bogus licenses is a serious crime and that all violators will be brought to justice. He added that under the Arms Rules 2023, the department is re-verifying licenses across the province.—APP

Pahalgam attack

Indian intelligence agencies internal orchestration against Pakistan

PESHAWAR: On April 22, 2025, a tragic incident occurred at the famous tourist destination Pahalgam in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) on broad day light where 27 tourists were gunned down under the nose of the Indian military. Like previous false flag operations, the RSS backed Hinduvata Modi regime and its biased media have immediately labelled the attack as "terrorism," blaming Pakistan and Kashmiri freedom fighters. However the leaked documents posted on Telegram have rejected these Indian allegations, declaring Pehalgam shooting was a false flag operation planned by RAW.

Hussain Khateeb, leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Gillani Group) Azad Kashmir told APP on Monday that Pahalgam is heavily guarded by Indian military, paramilitary forces, and intelligence agencies where all entry points, hotels, and key sites are secured through security checkpoints. In such tightly controlled conditions, he said a critical question arises: "how could unidentified armed individuals manage to enter the area? With the border completely under Indian control, how was such an attack even possible and

how could the accused easily escape? According to a report by the Times of India, he said that an intelligence alert had already been issued prior to the Pehalgam attack, indicating that some suspicious individuals were surveying hotels in the area. Despite this alert, he said there was no police or army presence at the time of incident at Pehalgam and the gunmen equipped with automatic weapons were set free by the Indian forces to kill tourists. Moreover, locals were seen transporting the injured down the hills on mules without first aid, which in itself raises serious questions.—APP

Efforts on to ensure socio-eco uplift through education

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district administration South Waziristan Upper is taking tangible measures to ensure socio-economic development of the area through promotion of quality education among the youth of the area. As part of efforts, the administration is vigorously pursuing a school enrollment campaign to bring maximum children to schools. In this regard, Assistant Commissioner Ladha, Muhammad Shadman Safi, visited Government High School Ladha and addressed a special gathering to highlight the importance of education, urging parents to co-operate and enrol their children for education in order to achieve a bright future. Speaking on the occasion, he said education was a fundamental right of every child and the government was taking serious steps to ensure its provision. He urged parents to play their role in educating their children and to get them enrolled in nearby public schools without delay. He said education was key to evolving a prosperous society where people had access to all basic necessities of life amid peace and prosperity. He said such awareness activities were also being conducted in other parts of the region to equip the country's youth with education for successfully facing the challenges ahead.—APP

LDA seals another 139 properties

LAHORE: Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed another 139 properties during its on-going operation against illegal commercial properties within the LDA controlled areas. On the direction of LDA Director General Tahir Farooq, the Town Planning Wing targeted various city neighborhoods, including Gulberg, Garden Town, Gujarpura, Shadman, Shah Jamal, New Muslim Town, Wahdat Road and Sabazar. The operation targeted properties being used for commercial purposes without any proper authorization or payment of commercial fees.—APP

Bugti lays foundation stone of Sui-Kashmore road project

SUI: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday laid the foundation stone of the Sui-Kashmore Road, calling it milestone towards a new era of development and prosperity in the region. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony held in Sui, Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti said that "the launch of the Sui-Kashmore road would usher a new era of development, uplift of deprived area, and stability for the region". Chief Minister said the project would significantly transform Dera Bugti and surrounding areas by improving connectivity and strengthening the local economy. "The Sui-Kashmore Road is a journey towards development and stability. It will not only improve transportation but also boost trade, create employment oppor-

tunities, and make access to healthcare and education easier for the people," said Bugti. The ceremony was attended by Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Petroleum Mian Khan Bugti, Chairman District Council Dera Bugti Mir Ghulam Nabi Shambani, local government representatives, tribal elders, and a large number of local people. Project officials briefed the Chief Minister and other dignitaries on the scope, timeline, and cost of the road, emphasizing its importance for the region's infrastructure and economy. The road is the first mega communication project in Dera Bugti, aimed at facilitating the transportation of agricultural goods to markets, thereby benefiting local farmers. Highlighting the

government's commitment to uplifting underdeveloped areas, Bugti said that integrating remote regions like Dera Bugti into the national mainstream is a top priority. "We are using all available resources to complete development projects on a priority basis. Our goal is a peaceful, prosperous, and self-reliant Balochistan that contributes significantly to country's growth," he added. He also instructed concerned authorities to ensure timely and high-quality completion of the project and to guarantee that its benefits directly reach the local population. Earlier, the Chief Minister arrived in Sui on a one-day visit where he was welcomed by tribal elders and local people.—APP

KP's revenue collection soars to Rs 41.9b

PESHAWAR: In a major achievement on the path to financial autonomy and economic reform, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded a 40 percent surge in its revenue collection, reaching Rs 41.9 billion during the first 10 months of the ongoing fiscal year. According to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) the increase reflected the province's effective fiscal management under Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and the implementation of the vision for self-reliance and transparency. Compared to Rs 29.9 billion collected during the same period last year, the current figures marked a historic rise in provincial earnings. Two key contributors to this growth were the Sales Tax on Services, which had reached Rs 32.4 billion — showing a year-on-year increase of 27 percent — and the Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC), which surged by a remarkable 117 percent to Rs 9.51 billion. Officials attributed this performance to structural reforms in the KPRA, improved taxpayer compliance, digitization of services, and a focused approach to expanding the tax base, particularly in the services sector. The provincial government had also intensified monitoring and introduced automation tools to curb tax evasion. Looking ahead, the province had set an ambitious revenue target of over Rs 47 billion by June 2025. If achieved, this would set a new benchmark for provincial resource mobilization in Pakistan.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye H.E Irfan Neziroglu called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Our environment is in danger - We need to help

AYESHA KHAN

The environment is everything around us — the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we live on, and the animals and plants we share it with. Right now, our environment is in serious trouble. Many human activities are causing harm to nature, and we need to take action before it is too late. Air pollution is

one of the biggest problems. Smoke from factories, cars, and burning trash makes the air dirty. Breathing polluted air can cause health problems like asthma and lung diseases. Water pollution is another major issue. When we throw waste into rivers and lakes, we not only kill fish and plants but also make the water unsafe for people to use. Another danger is deforestation, which means cutting down

too many trees. Trees are very important because they give us oxygen, help keep the climate cool, and provide shelter for many animals. When forests are destroyed, animals lose their homes and people suffer from changes in weather and air quality. Plastic waste is also a serious threat. Plastic does not break down easily and can stay in the environment for hundreds of years. It harms sea life

and pollutes land. We use plastic in many ways, like bottles and bags, but we often throw it away carelessly. This adds to the growing waste problem. There are many ways we can help. One of the best things we can do is plant more trees. Trees clean the air and bring balance to the environment. We should also reduce the use of plastic and try to recycle things whenever possible. Using cloth bags,

metal bottles, and paper packaging can make a big difference. In conclusion, our planet is facing many environmental challenges. But we still have time to fix these problems if we work together. Every small step counts. Let us all take responsibility and make changes in our daily lives to protect and Earth. It is our home, and we must take care of it for ourselves and for the generations to come.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) For

“CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE PROJECT ESTABLISHMENT OF DAANISH UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD”

1. The Project Management Unit, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Government of Pakistan requests for proposal for the “**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE PROJECT ESTABLISHMENT OF DAANISH UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**”. The consultants may apply who fulfill the criteria mentioned in the RFP available in the office of Project Engineer and on **EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk)**.

2. **RFP document** can be download from EPADS at **(www.eprocure.gov.pk)**. The companies should have valid registration and relevant technical and financial expertise to carry out the said task and no conflict of interest.

3. The interested companies should submit their proposals, complete in all respects, to the office of **Project Director, 1st Floor, Pakistan Manpower Institute, Khayaban-e-Suharwardy, G-7/1, Islamabad** and the Electronic bids must be submitted by using **EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk)** on or before **15-05-2025** at 2:00PM. The envelopes should be clearly marked with “RFP” “**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE PROJECT ESTABLISHMENT OF DAANISH UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**”. Only Technical proposal shall be opened on the same date at 2:30 PM. The bid securing declaration should be placed in the Technical envelop.

4. The Authority reserves the rights of acceptance or rejection of any or all firms / consultants due to their reputation or who so ever fails to fulfill the criteria at its sole discretion. The Authority may disqualify the consultant firms if it is found, at any stage that the information submitted by the firms were false, incorrect or incomplete. Authority can also take penal action against the firms / Consultants or debar the firms / Consultants for future works.

Engr. Aaroon Joshua Das
Project Director, Project Management Unit (PMU)
Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training
1st Floor, Pakistan Manpower Institute,
Khayaban-e-Suharwardy, G-7/1, Islamabad

PID(I)7535/24

National Days and Armed Forces Days

MAY

May 03/Poland National Day

May 06/Bulgaria Armed Forces Day

May 06/UAE Armed Forces Day

May 07/ Kazakhstan Armed Forces Day

May 08/Czech Republic National Day

May 09/European Union National Day

May 17/Norway Constitution Day

May 21/Hungary Armed Forces Day

May 22/Yemen Republic Re-unification Day(National Day)

May 24/Eritrea National Day

May 25/Lebanon Liberation and Resistance Day

May 25/Argentina National Day

May 25/Jordan Independence Day


May 28 /Azerbaijan Republic Day

May 28/Ethiopia National Day

May 31/Brunei Armed Forces Day



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police....9266044

Motorway Police.9270601:20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601:20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831:5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301:7

Holy Family.....9290322:7

PIMS.....9261170:29

Polyclinic.....9218300:09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301:04

Met Office.....9250360:6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151:3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak’s desire for peace must not be taken as weakness:Dar

“Pakistan does not seek conflict. We seek coexistence,” he added, urging for a development-first foreign policy anchored in justice, dignity, and international cooperation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the Regional Dialogue 2025 hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, reaffirmed Pakistan’s unwavering commitment to regional peace and multilateralism, however, he warned against recent provocations and baseless allegations by India, emphasizing that any act of aggression would be met with a firm and proportionate response. As a responsible country among the polity of nations, Pakistan will always look forward to de-escalation but its desire for peace must not be construed as weakness, he said. He further said that Pakistan has and will always condemn terrorism in all its forms. He also condemned the rising Islamophobic rhetoric targeting Muslims in India, including Kashmiris, and questioned India’s move to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, calling it a grave violation of international obligations. He questioned the validity of abeyance as even an option and remarked that Pakistan considers the act of threatening the stoppage of water as tantamount to an act of war. “We will not give up even a drop of water,” he said. He stressed the importance of resolving the core issue of Kashmir which he believed was the fundamental reason behind the recurring bilateral tensions between India and Pakistan “Pakistan does not seek conflict. We seek coexistence,” he added, urging for a development-first foreign policy anchored in justice, dignity, and international cooperation. In his welcome address, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President, IRS, noted that while South Asia faces escalating tensions, climate challenges, and economic uncertainty, there remains a vital opportunity for regional states to collaborate. In the wake of recent Pahalgam Attack, he said that, Pakistan had consistently demonstrated its commitment to de-escalation, extending a sincere offer to participate in an unbiased, transparent investigation into the unfortunate incident. “We have nothing to fear from the truth, and we believe firmly that only through truth can trust be rebuilt,” he added. He also highlighted IRS’ growing role as a premier think tank, supporting evidence-based policy solutions and rigorous debates on issues of regional and global significance.



Gilani stresses for preserving cultural heritage

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday underscored the vital importance of preserving cultural heritage, calling it essential for educating future generations, promoting civilizational understanding, and strengthening social values. He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of CultuRise, a newly launched organization focused on the protection, education, and advocacy of cultural heritage across Pakistan. “It is encouraging to see CultuRise emerge as a modern and revolutionary initiative. Its efforts reflect the collective commitment required to preserve and promote our cultural legacy,” Gilani said. Highlighting the significance of international cooperation, he welcomed the presence of UNESCO representatives and members of the diplomatic community at the event. “Whether it’s Spain’s Alhambra, Hungary’s Buda Castle, or Pakistan’s Mohenjo-Daro and Lahore Fort, these sites are not just national treasures – they are shared human heritage,” he remarked. The Senate Chairman stressed that the responsibility of cultural preservation lies with governments, parliaments, institutions, and individuals alike. “We must all play our role in ensuring that this great heritage is passed on to future generations.” Describing Pakistan’s cultural richness as a “bouquet of civilizations, languages, and traditions,” Gilani traced the nation’s legacy from the ancient civilizations of Gandhara, Indus Valley, and Mehrgarh to the architectural marvels of the Mughal era. He praised the craftsmanship, music, literature, and architectural styles of different regions, calling them “manifestations of national identity and resilience.” However, he cautioned that urban development, neglect, and the pressures of modern life pose serious threats to the country’s cultural foundations. “Preserving our heritage is not just about remembering the past – it is a national duty we owe to our future,” he said. Reaffirming the Senate’s commitment, Gilani vowed to support initiatives that protect Pakistan’s tangible and intangible heritage. He called for investment in education, public awareness, and capacity building to ensure that cultural treasures are preserved and celebrated. “Our heritage connects us with the world through the universal language of art and culture. It can be a powerful tool to promote peace, harmony, and a positive image of Pakistan,” he added. On the launch of CultuRise, Gilani urged the audience to become ambassadors of cultural preservation. “Let us unite to protect the stories, traditions, and masterpieces that define us. In doing so, we will honor our ancestors and inspire pride in the generations to come.”—DNA

Pakistan greatly values friendly ties with Azerbaijan: Harraj

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj on Monday. The Minister welcomed the envoy and said that Pakistan greatly valued its friendly relations with Azerbaijan, said a press release. The Minister appreciated existing cooperation between the two countries and also mentioned that defence ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have much more potential to grow further. While referring to Pakistan’s formidable defence industrial potential and skilled manpower, the Minister offered assurance of cooperation/ collaborations in all mutually agreed/beneficial fields of defence including provision of consultancy services, technical expertise and training facilities to Azerbaijan. Khazar Farhadov in development of defence industry of Azerbaijan and appreciated efforts of Ministry of Defence Production in enhancing ties between the two countries.



Iftikhar for reconciliation in today’s volatile world

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Founder Chairman Pak-US Business Council Iftikhar Ali Malik on Monday underscored the imperative of prioritizing peace over conflict and emphasized the urgent need for reconciliation in today’s volatile world. Malik’s message pivots on redefining strength not through dominance but through reconciliation, said a news release. “Let us not be architects of ashes, for war writes epitaphs in the ruins of nations. True strength lies in the ink of conciliation, the parchment of dialogues, and the signatures of shared humanity. Only then do we plant a forest of peace for generations yet unborn,” he said. His words come at a critical time when global conflicts, regional tensions, and internal strife continue to threaten the stability and prosperity of nations. Stressing that war only brings destruction and endless cycles of suffering, he urged Indian leaders to seek solutions through mutual respect, dialogue, and diplomacy. Malik highlighted how history has repeatedly shown the catastrophic consequences of warfare, not only destroying infrastructures but also tearing apart the social and moral fabrics of societies. “Victory in war is hollow when it leaves only graves behind,” Malik noted. Instead, he advocated for dialogue as the ultimate expression of strength – a tool that binds humanity together beyond borders, ideologies, and differences. Through his epoch-making message, Iftikhar Ali reminded the Indians that real progress and security lie not in military might but in our collective ability to resolve conflicts amicably. The “ink of conciliation” and “parchment of dialogues” symbolize diplomacy and collaborative problem-solving, while “signatures of shared humanity” stress wisdom and tolerance amid diversity. By advocating for a “forest of peace,” he envisions a legacy of stability for future generations. Malik urged South Asian leaders to choose empathy over ego, recognizing that true prosperity lies in wisdom. By embracing dialogue and shared humanity, the region can cultivate resilience, ensuring that coming generations inherit not ashes, but a thriving forest of peace and possibility.

Call for addressing Dam affectees’ grievances

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam here on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to address the grievances of those affected by the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister Amir Muqam emphasized that resolving the legitimate demands of the affected communities remains a top priority for the federal government, said a press release. He said that, under the direct instructions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, significant progress is being made on multiple fronts, including compensation payments, the provision of clean water and sanitation facilities, and the development of educational institutions and other essential infrastructure. The high level meeting underscored the government’s commitment to a transparent and inclusive approach in ensuring the welfare and rehabilitation of the communities affected by one of country’s most significant hydropower projects. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Water Resources, Moeen Wattoo, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan, Chairman WAPDA Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Sajjad Ghani, Secretary Kashmir Affairs, GB and SAFRON Zafar Hasan, Chief Secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan Ibrar Ahmad Mirza, Additional Secretary Kashmir Affairs Kamran Rahman Khan, Joint Secretary of the GB Council Sudheer Khattak, and other senior officials.—APP

Senator Siddiqui honors Pakistani hero

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate and Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, arrived in Istanbul to attend a special ceremony commemorating the centenary of Pakistani freedom fighter Abdul Rehman Peshawari’s death. The event, organized by Istanbul University, paid tribute to Peshawari’s legacy as a valiant warrior who fought alongside the Ottomans against British colonial rule. According to a message received here, the Turkish government extended a special invitation to Senator Siddiqui to deliver a keynote address highlighting Peshawari’s life, sacrifices, and enduring role in strengthening Pakistan-Turkiye ties.—APP

JUDO

KARATE






KUNG-FU

JU-JITSU

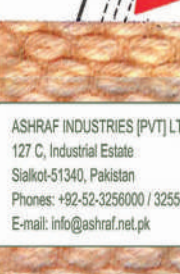




TAEKWONDO

UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS


WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED



MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN



ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3256000 / 3255768
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk



Briefs

SSP orders tightened noose around criminal elements

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Muhammad Shoaib Khan chaired a meeting with officers of City and Saddar Zones and directed them to intensify action against criminal gangs and ensure the arrest of absconding suspects involved in property-related and vehicle theft cases. An official told APP on Monday that the directives were issued during the meeting attended by SHOs of both zones. The session reviewed the overall law and order situation and progress on pending investigations. SSP Shoaib said officers were instructed to compile detailed data of suspects involved in property crimes, particularly those recently released from custody, and to ensure their close surveillance. If any released suspects are found involved in fresh criminal activities, they must be apprehended without delay. SSP Shoaib said police officials must ensure that all under-investigation cases are resolved on merit and that challans are submitted to the concerned courts promptly. He emphasized that the arrest of wanted suspects in vehicle and motorcycle theft cases must be prioritized. SSP said maximum efforts should be made to apprehend proclaimed offenders and tighten the grip around organized criminal groups. "Protection of citizens' lives and property is our foremost responsibility, and any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated," SSP Shoaib added.—APP

Khurram predicts further inflation decline

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad Monday said that inflation has been brought under control, yielding notable benefits to businesses and consumers, and vowed to take additional steps to ensure continued economic stability. During an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Khurram Shehzad attributed the decline in Pakistan's inflation rate to the government's effective policies, stable commodity prices, and prudent fiscal measures designed to alleviate economic pressure. He highlighted that these measures have started to yield positive results, providing relief to the general public and boosting economic stability. Advisor also emphasized the government's commitment to sustaining this momentum, ensuring that the benefits of reduced inflation are felt across all sectors of the economy. By maintaining a stable economic environment, the government aims to foster growth and improve living standards for citizens, he added. Khurram also praised the State Bank's role in controlling inflation, stating that its monetary policies have been instrumental in stabilizing the economy. He mentioned that an upcoming meeting would discuss further measures to decrease inflation, emphasizing that it would be a progressive step towards consolidating economic gains and ensuring long-term stability. He lauded the Prime Minister and the economic team for their decisive actions.—APP

Petroleum Minister engages with CEOs of Pakistan's refineries

The delegation included Zahid Mir-CEO Pakistan Refinery Limited, Irtiza Qureshi-MD PARCO, Adil Khattak-CEO Attock Refinery Limited, Amir Abbasi-CEO Cynergico, Asad Hasan - CEO National Refinery Limited. Secretary Petroleum Momin Agha, Additional Secretary Zafar Abbas, Director General Oil Imran Ahmed were also present in the meeting

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation comprising Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Pakistan's leading refineries called on Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Wednesday. The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration between the government and the refining sector to ensure sustainable energy supply, improve refinery efficiency, and address key challenges facing the industry. The meeting, held at the Ministry of Petroleum, served as a platform for constructive dialogue on critical issues, including refinery upgradation, fuel quality standards, and policy frameworks to bolster the petroleum sector's contribution to Pakistan's economy. Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik reiterated the Government's commitment to facilitating the refining industry's growth while ensuring affordable and reliable energy for consumers. In light of recent border tensions with India, the CEOs of Pakistan's refineries assured the minister of their full operational readiness to meet the fuel requirements of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. They emphasized that all necessary arrangements, including strategic fuel reserves and uninterrupted production capabilities, are in place to support national defense needs in any scenario. Minister Malik commended the refineries for their proactive measures and reiterated the government's full support in ensuring energy security for both civilian and defense sectors. Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized, "The government recognizes the vital role of refineries in Pakistan's energy landscape. We are committed to providing a conducive policy environment to support modernization, improve fuel quality, and en-



sure long-term sustainability. This collaboration is crucial for achieving energy security and economic growth, ensuring a robust and resilient petroleum sector for the future. The refinery CEOs appreciated the minister's proactive approach and shared insights on

operational challenges, seeking government support in upgradation and fiscal incentives. Both sides agreed to maintain regular consultations to drive the sector forward. The delegation included Zahid Mir-CEO Pakistan Refinery Limited, Irtiza Qureshi-MD PARCO,

Adil Khattak-CEO Attock Refinery Limited, Amir Abbasi-CEO Cynergico, Asad Hasan - CEO National Refinery Limited. Secretary Petroleum Momin Agha, Additional Secretary Zafar Abbas, Director General Oil Imran Ahmed were also present in the meeting.

Tax exemptions in tribal areas cost govt billions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that the government must eliminate the tax exemptions currently granted to the former FATA and PATA regions in the upcoming budget. This crucial step is necessary to ensure economic fairness and promote equitable growth across the entire nation. He said that these exemptions, originally intended to promote development in the tribal areas, are now causing a loss of billions of rupees in national revenue. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here

today that many industrialists and smugglers have set up fake factories in FATA and PATA for products like ghee, steel, beverages, and cigarettes. Through these fictitious setups, they import billions of rupees of raw materials tax-free and then sell them in cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. This loophole enriches a powerful mafia while inflicting a massive loss on the national exchequer. Due to these issues, the government decided to end tax exemptions for these areas last year. However, those exploiting these benefits managed to delay the decision by one year. Now, the same groups are trying once again to get an extension. Shahid Rasheed Butt emphasized that the government should not give in to such pressures and

must revoke these exemptions, as they provide no real benefit to the residents of tribal areas. Instead, he said, people with low incomes are being exploited by corrupt businessmen and smugglers. He demanded action against these elements and called for the full recovery of evaded taxes. e further revealed that this mafia registers fake companies using FATA and PATA addresses, while the products and sales are based in other parts of the country. He informed us that by falsely showing production and sales from these tax-exempt areas, the companies escape the tax net, causing the national treasury to lose billions annually. This situation is also unfair to legitimate businesses that pay taxes and struggle to compete with untaxed, illegal products. As

a result, law-abiding companies are discouraged, and the overall economy suffers. The business leader added that although the government announced plans to gradually impose a tax regime in FATA and PATA after integrating into the national mainstream, no serious steps have been taken due to political pressures. Shahid Rasheed Butt urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other relevant institutions to conduct organized crackdowns on fake business activities in these areas so that the tax burden can be fairly distributed across all industries. He warned that if immediate action is not taken, the situation could spiral further out of control, deepening the culture of tax evasion and economic injustice.

Services exports increase by 9.69%

ISLAMABAD: The exports of services during the first nine months of the current fiscal year increased by 9.69 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of the last year. During July-March 2024-25, exports of services were recorded at \$6.235 billion as against the exports of \$5.684 billion during the same period of last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). During the period under review, the services imports into the country grew by 8.74 percent and it was registered at \$8.552 billion as compared to the import of \$7.865 billion in the same period last year. On a year-on-year basis, the services exports from the country grew by 4.89 percent in March 2025 as compared to the exports of the same month of last year. In March 2025, services valued at \$743.32 million were exported as compared to exports of \$708.66 million in the same month of last year. The imports of services into the country also surged by 6.89 percent during the period under review as it was recorded at \$790.14 million against \$907.57. On month on month basis, the services exports also increased by 4.14 percent in March 2025 as compared to the export of \$713.77 million in February 2025. However, the services imports decreased by 0.31 percent in March 2025 as compared to the import of \$973.12 million in February 2025.—DNA

CDNS achieves Rs 23.5b in Islamic investment

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained the annual collection target of Rs 23.5 billion in investment in Islamic finance during the start of the fourth quarter of the Current Fiscal Year, from July 1st to May 2nd, 2024-25. The CDNS has revived the annual collection target and set Rs 40 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year 2024-25, which will lead to growth in the country's Islamic economy. "The National Savings had issued the Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country," the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had achieved the target of Rs 75 billion during the last fiscal year (2023-24) from the Islamic bonds, and that was why it aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector.

"Islamic finance now has a significant role in the global financial sector. A large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he added. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in the CDNS. Given the current market trend in the country, an ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added. Replying to another question, he said that the CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country. He said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th. The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed 100 percent of the annual target.—DNA

Presidential Ord conspiracy to provoke business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that comprehensive tax reforms are indispensable to reposition Pakistan's economy on a sustainable footing. He said that excessive strictness in collecting taxes will harm instead of benefit, as it will discourage businesses. Mian Zahid Hussain said that a large number of taxes is making the system more complex,

while the focus of tax policy should not be only on increasing revenue but also on ease of doing business and global competitiveness. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the current tax structure is complex, non-transparent, and unfair, hurting the business community and making efforts to expand the tax net difficult. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the burden on taxpayers is continuously increasing. At the same time, there is a lack of effective action against tax defaulters, which is discouraging taxpayers and encouraging tax evaders. The business leader added that the Federal Board of Revenue should be given complete autonomy, and

the need for contact between taxpayers and tax collectors should be reduced through automation and digitalisation so that problems like corruption and delays are reduced. Mian Zahid Hussain stressed that the FBR should be free from political interference to perform better, adding that increasing revenues without increasing the tax net is impossible. He noted that much of Pakistan's population is outside the tax net, mainly due to a lack of trust and a complicated tax filing system. The online system should be made easy and transparent for taxpayers, who should be encouraged to join it. Mian Zahid Hussain said that bringing agriculture, property, wholesale, and retail sectors into the tax

net is the need of the hour. Big shopping malls and markets do business worth billions of rupees, but most do not pay full tax. The government should collect data on these sectors and ensure their monitoring through technology. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government and the FBR should increase the consultation process with the business community to include their opinions in the reform process. He warned that increasing the tax net significantly is impossible without establishing an atmosphere of trust. Along with strict measures against tax evasion, it is also necessary to respect and accommodate honest taxpayers, and various programs can be introduced for this purpose.—DNA

General Practice HOSPITAL

We Are **OPEN**

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

OPD CLINICS
 INPATIENT ROOMS
 INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)
 MATERNITY CARE UNIT
 DIALYSIS CARE UNIT
 X-RAY
 MAMMOGRAM
 ENDOSCOPY / CYSTOSCOPY
 ICU

24/7 EMERGENCY ROOM
 OPERATION THEATRES
 DAY CASE SURGERY
 NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)
 DIAGNOSTIC LAB
 ULTRASOUND
 ECG
 OPD
 PHARMACY

General Physician Services
 Urology
 Neurology
 Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery

Medicine
 Pediatrics & Child Health
 Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle
 Psychiatry

Gynecology & Women's Health
 Plastic Surgery
 Nephrology
 Gastroenterology

Dermatology & Aesthetics
 Ear, Nose & Throat
 Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
 Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

General Surgery
 Cardiology
 Ophthalmology
 Psychology & Mental Health

Empathic & Caring for everyone

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

FOR APPOINTMENT ☎ +92 33 47 47 47 01

📍 Pakland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad 🌐 www.generalpractice.com.pk 📧 generalpracticeislamabad@gmail.com 📞 +92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474

What is the likely future of the Ukraine war?

AS the war in Ukraine enters its third year, the prospects for a clear military victory remain bleak for either side. What started as a swift invasion by Russia in February 2022 has evolved into a grinding war of attrition, with devastating consequences for Ukraine, growing fatigue for the West, and significant long-term implications for global geopolitics. From the outset, Russia's goal was to bring Ukraine to heel, potentially toppling its government and halting its westward tilt toward NATO and the European Union. However, Ukraine's resilience, bolstered by billions in military and economic support from the United States and Europe, dashed any hopes of a quick Russian triumph. Still, Ukraine has struggled to reclaim much territory since its counteroffensive stalled in 2023, and it continues to suffer from airstrikes and infrastructure damage that cripple its economy and civilian life. Looking ahead, the most likely future of the war is continued stalemate, punctuated by localized offensives and tactical shifts, but unlikely to feature dramatic breakthroughs by either side. Ukraine's Western allies are increasingly divided over continued aid. The U.S. Congress remains in gridlock, and some European countries are facing growing public resistance to sending more funds or weaponry. Without sustained support, Ukraine will find it difficult to maintain its current level of resistance. For Russia, too, the costs are mounting. Although it has greater manpower and has shifted its economy to a war footing, sanctions have bitten deeply, its international standing has eroded, and internal dissent, though muted, simmers beneath the surface. Yet, for President Vladimir Putin, backing down appears politically impossible. His legitimacy, and perhaps even his grip on power, is now tied to framing the war as a necessary defense of Russian sovereignty against Western encroachment. Diplomatic solutions remain elusive. Peace talks have stalled repeatedly, and neither side seems willing to concede key demands: Ukraine insists on the full restoration of its territory, including Crimea, while Russia demands recognition of its annexations. The war, therefore, is likely to persist in a frozen or semi-frozen state — not fully active on all fronts, but not resolved either — akin to the conflicts in Georgia or even North Korea. The future may also bring a dangerous escalation. Any significant change — such as a major Russian breakthrough or a withdrawal of U.S. support — could shift the war's direction rapidly. Conversely, a political shake-up in Moscow or Kyiv could open space for negotiation. For now, though, both countries are locked in a brutal equilibrium. In the end, the war's long-term outcome may not be decided on the battlefield but in capitals — Washington, Brussels, Moscow, and Kyiv — where political will, public sentiment, and strategic patience will shape the future more than artillery and tanks. What remains certain is that the war will leave Ukraine profoundly scarred and reshaped, regardless of the military outcome, and it will have redefined European security for a generation.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 06

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



SAARC: A regional dream deferred

THE South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), formed in 1985 with great promise, was envisioned as a platform for promoting peace, prosperity, and mutual development among the eight member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Nearly four decades later, the organization remains largely dysfunctional, unable to deliver on its core objectives. Despite being home to nearly a quarter of the world's population, SAARC has not even come close to becoming an effective regional bloc like the European Union or ASEAN. The reasons for this failure are both political and structural. At the heart of SAARC's ineffectiveness lies the enduring rivalry between India and Pakistan. Political hostility, repeated military stand-offs, and zero-sum diplomacy between the two nuclear neighbors have cast a long shadow over the organization. No SAARC summit has been held since 2014, with the 2016 summit in Islamabad indefinitely postponed following India's boycott after the Uri attack. This bilateral antagonism consistently hijacks regional agendas and paralyzes progress on initiatives that require unanimity. Unlike other regional blocs, SAARC lacks strong institutional mechanisms. Its decisions are made by consensus — a model that is difficult to sustain when member states have deep political divides. The absence of a dispute resolution framework further handicaps SAARC. While economic cooperation, people-to-people connectivity, and regional development are the goals on paper, the lack of trust between member states makes implementation virtually impossible. Another reason behind SAARC's failure is its narrow scope and minimal funding. The organization has failed to evolve into a robust institution with the capacity to execute projects independently. Most of its initiatives exist only on paper or in pilot stages. For instance, the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and its proposed successor, SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Area), have not meaningfully increased intra-regional trade, which remains among the lowest in the world — less than 5% of total trade of member states. Contrast this with ASEAN, where members, despite historical disputes, have prioritized economic interdependence and regional integration. In SAARC, by comparison, smaller nations are often caught between India and Pakistan's rivalry, leading them to seek bilateral partnerships outside the SAARC framework — further weakening the organization. Moreover, China's increasing influence in South Asia has led to geopolitical recalibrations. Countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives are forging closer economic ties with Beijing, making SAARC less relevant to their immediate priorities. India, too, has shifted its focus toward other regional groupings like BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), where Pakistan is not a member and hence friction is lower. In conclusion, SAARC's failure is not due to the lack of vision but the absence of political will and regional trust. Unless member states — especially India and Pakistan — choose cooperation over confrontation, SAARC will remain a dormant body. Reviving it requires a paradigm shift: from viewing regional cooperation as a zero-sum game to embracing it as a shared opportunity. Otherwise, the dream of a connected, prosperous South Asia will continue to be deferred — to the detriment of nearly two billion people.

Pakistan's impregnable strategic deterrence

Qamar Bashir



Economically, the gap is stark. India's economy is nearly ten times larger than Pakistan's, and its defense budget—exceeding \$83 billion—dwarfs Pakistan's \$9.6 billion allocation. This difference affects everything from procurement cycles to research and development capacity. On this scale, India scores a full 10, while Pakistan reasonably scores about 3. Finally, the nuclear equation offers one of the most stabilizing forces in the strategic balance.

India is believed to possess around 164 nuclear warheads with the capability to deliver them via air, land, and potentially sea

THE story of Pakistan and India's strategic rivalry is as old as the two nations themselves. Since their creation in 1947, both countries have fought multiple wars, engaged in intense military standoffs, and maintained a constant state of strategic vigilance. While the battles on the field ended decades ago, the competition in defense, deterrence, and doctrine continues in full force. At the heart of this enduring standoff lies a surprising reality: despite being smaller in size, economy, and military resources, Pakistan has managed to establish a credible strategic balance with its much larger neighbor, India. This balance has not only deterred war but has stabilized the region in the shadow of recurring crises. India, with a population exceeding 1.4 billion and an economy nearing \$4 trillion, has clear quantitative advantages over Pakistan, whose population is around 250 million and economy hovers near \$341 billion. On paper, India outmatches Pakistan in nearly every conventional military metric—from troop strength and defense budget to the volume of arms imports and defense-industrial capacity. However, Pakistan, through strategic ingenuity, tactical precision, and smart resource allocation, has achieved what military theorists term as a “kinetic strategic balance.”

To understand how such balance is achieved, especially between asymmetrical powers, one must examine the strategic balance formula developed and widely accepted among military analysts and defense planners. It is expressed as: $\{Strategic\ Balance\} = \frac{M_1}{M_2}$ where “M” represents the overall military capability of each state, derived from multiplying five core factors: $M = F \cdot Q \cdot T \cdot E \cdot N$

In this equation: F stands for force size, which includes not only the number of active duty soldiers but also reserve personnel and paramilitary forces.

Q reflects the quality of weapons and equipment, taking into account technological sophistication, modernity, and battlefield effectiveness.

T represents the training and doctrinal maturity of the armed forces, their readiness, discipline, and capacity to execute strategies under pressure.

E signifies economic capacity—the ability of a country to sustain military operations over time, fund innovations, and manage logistics. N measures nuclear capability, including the size, delivery mechanisms, and credibility of the nuclear deterrent.

Let's apply this formula to India and Pakistan using approximate and normalized scales. India's overall ac-

tive military personnel number around 1.45 million, supplemented by an additional million in reserves and another million-plus in paramilitary units. Pakistan maintains roughly 654,000 active troops, 550,000 in reserve, and nearly half a million paramilitary personnel. On a scale of 1 to 10, India's force size scores a 10 while Pakistan's earns around 6.5.

In terms of weapon quality, India operates advanced systems such as Rafale fighter jets, S-400 air defense systems, and is building up a blue-water navy. Pakistan relies on a diversified mix of Chinese, American, and Turkish platforms, with domestic capabilities like the JF-17 fighter jet and Babur cruise missiles. India's score on this scale would be around 8, with Pakistan close behind at 6.5.

Training and doctrine are where Pakistan edges closer to parity. Over decades of direct and indirect conflict, Pakistan's military has evolved into a highly professional, strategically nimble force. It has effectively adopted doctrines of hybrid warfare, swift retaliation, and nuclear ambiguity. India's larger forces sometimes suffer from organizational inertia, though efforts at modernization are ongoing. On this front, Pakistan may rate an 8, while India scores a 7. Economically, the gap is stark. India's economy is nearly ten times larger than Pakistan's, and its defense budget—exceeding \$83 billion—dwarfs Pakistan's \$9.6 billion allocation. This difference affects everything from procurement cycles to research and development capacity. On this scale, India scores a full 10, while Pakistan reasonably scores about 3.

Finally, the nuclear equation offers one of the most stabilizing forces in the strategic balance. India is believed to possess around 164 nuclear warheads with the capability to deliver them via air, land, and potentially sea. Pakistan holds an estimated 170 nuclear warheads and has developed tactical nuclear weapons like the Nasr missile system to deter India's “Cold Start” doctrine. Both countries score roughly equal in nuclear capability at 8.5 each, though with different strategic philosophies—India embracing “No First Use” and Pakistan maintaining deliberate ambiguity.

When we multiply these normalized scores, India's kinetic military capability index amounts to:

$10.8.7.10.8.5 = 47,600$

Pakistan's equivalent score is:

$6.5.6.5.8.3.8.5 = 9,004$

The final ratio, therefore, is:

$\{47,600\} / \{9,004\} = \text{approx } 5.3$

This 5.3:1 balance heavily favors India in pure kinetic potential. Yet, military history and modern strate-

gic thinking teach us that war is not determined by ratios alone. The question is not just whether one side can win—but whether it can win without unacceptable costs. And it is precisely here that Pakistan has succeeded in establishing deterrence. Its nuclear capability, doctrinal evolution, and war-readiness have made it abundantly clear that any full-scale Indian aggression would invite unbearable retaliation, regardless of conventional superiority.

The long peace since the 1971 war is a testament to this equilibrium. Even the 1999 Kargil conflict, initiated by Pakistani forces, remained limited in scope and quickly drew international mediation. Afterward, both countries adopted more robust postures: India developed doctrines for rapid retaliation, while Pakistan responded with battlefield nuclear readiness. The result has been a tense yet stable balance—volatile at the surface, but deeply anchored in mutual deterrence.

To illustrate this concept more clearly, we can compare it to the relationship between the United States and Canada. The U.S., with a defense budget over \$850 billion and global power projection capabilities, is militarily incomparable to Canada, which spends under \$30 billion and does not possess nuclear weapons. Yet, the two nations have enjoyed peaceful borders and extensive defense cooperation for over a century. Canada does not attempt to match U.S. military capabilities but instead relies on institutional trust, shared values, and alliance structures like NORAD and NATO. It has deterrence not through power parity, but through political and structural integration.

In contrast, Pakistan has no alliance structure with India, no institutional trust, and no history of mutual defense. It must therefore achieve balance through direct capability and posture—especially nuclear. And despite overwhelming asymmetry on paper, Pakistan's strategic deterrence has worked. It has denied India the ability to impose its will militarily without facing existential risks in return.

In the final analysis, strategic balance is less about overpowering an adversary and more about rendering war unthinkable. Pakistan's success in creating this balance—despite economic challenges and numerical inferiority—demonstrates that military deterrence is not reserved for the rich or powerful. It is a function of clarity, innovation, and above all, credibility. The kinetic balance formula, when correctly understood and applied, offers not just a measure of military might—but a blueprint for peace through proportional deterrence.

Weaponizing water: India's dangerous gamble with peace

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The importance of the World Bank lies in its role as a guarantor and neutral third party that ensures both sides adhere to the agreed framework. It also facilitates dispute resolution through mechanisms like neutral expert appointments and arbitration panels. The treaty has survived more than six decades precisely because of this robust structure

HOW wisely it has been said that if you are blessed with a good neighbor, life becomes easy and peaceful. This golden principle is equally true for individuals and for nations. Countries that enjoy cordial and friendly relations with their neighbors tend to progress steadily, ensuring prosperity for their citizens and stability for their governments. On the contrary, when neighbors are hostile or uncooperative, both peace and development remain elusive. Sadly, Pakistan has not been fortunate in this regard. Since its inception in 1947, Pakistan has had to endure a turbulent and confrontational relationship with its eastern neighbor, India—a country that has never truly accepted the reality of Pakistan's existence. From 1948 onwards, hostile winds have continued to blow from across the border. India's attitude has remained aggressive, manipulative, and disruptive, undermining any chance for lasting peace in the region. Despite Pakistan's repeated gestures for peace and regional cooperation, India has always chosen to respond with antagonism. Their efforts to destabilize Pakistan have ranged from military confrontations to hybrid warfare, propaganda campaigns, and even economic sabotage. But each time, by the grace of Allah and through the resilience of our people and armed forces, Pakistan has managed to thwart these designs effectively. Recently, India has once again attempted to stage a poorly-directed drama aimed at maligning Pakistan. While Indian cinema enjoys global recognition, the fictional narratives they create about Pakistan fall flat on the international stage. These narratives, full of distortion and prejudice, are consumed domestically for political mileage but fail to convince the global community, which increasingly sees through the smokescreen of Indian propaganda. The infamous Balakot incident and the capture of Indian Air Force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman

is one such example where India's aggressive posturing was met with a firm, yet mature, response from Pakistan. His swift return, in line with international humanitarian standards, portrayed Pakistan as the more responsible and peaceful actor in the region.

Now, India has turned its attention towards a more dangerous and long-term threat: the suspension or manipulation of the Indus Waters Treaty. Signed in 1960 under the mediation of the World Bank, this treaty is a cornerstone of peace and water security in South Asia. It is not merely a bilateral agreement but a model of conflict resolution that has endured despite three wars between the two countries. The World Bank played a pivotal role not only in brokering the treaty but also in establishing a legal and institutional framework to manage disputes. Under the treaty, India received rights to the eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—while Pakistan was allotted the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—forming the lifeblood of Pakistan's agricultural economy. The importance of the World Bank lies in its role as a guarantor and neutral third party that ensures both sides adhere to the agreed framework. It also facilitates dispute resolution through mechanisms like neutral expert appointments and arbitration panels. The treaty has survived more than six decades precisely because of this robust structure. However, India's recent unilateral actions and threats to block or reduce the flow of water from the western rivers not only breach the treaty but challenge the authority and credibility of the World Bank's mediation. Such behavior amounts to water terrorism and an environmental aggression that could set a dangerous precedent for international water politics.

This act amounts to water terrorism, an alarming and dangerous escalation that can destabilize the region. Pakistan's economy is largely agrarian, with agriculture contributing around 23% to the GDP and employing nearly 38% of the labor force. More than

90% of our agricultural activity depends directly on river water. If this lifeline is choked or blocked, the consequences for Pakistan's food security, employment, and economic stability will be devastating. A country whose backbone is agriculture cannot afford to have its water supplies weaponized by a hostile neighbor. This is not merely a bilateral issue; it is a human rights concern and an environmental hazard, with implications for peace and regional stability. Pakistan must remain alert and resolute. It is imperative that we utilize every available diplomatic channel to raise this issue, particularly highlighting India's violations before the World Bank, the United Nations, and other international platforms. The World Bank must also act impartially and proactively to prevent further deterioration. Silence or inaction at this stage would erode global trust in such treaties and embolden aggressive powers to weaponize natural resources. It must be made clear that any attempt to undermine the Indus Waters Treaty is not just an attack on Pakistan—it is a direct challenge to international law and the moral architecture of dispute resolution between nations. Water is not a weapon. It is a shared resource, a necessity of life, and a sacred trust. If this lifeline is used as a tool of coercion, then Pakistan will be compelled to respond in a language that India understands, not out of aggression, but out of necessity. We have no desire for confrontation. Pakistan has always been a proponent of regional peace, dialogue, and economic cooperation. But peace cannot come at the cost of dignity or survival. India must understand that bullying will not bring respect, nor will aggression yield stability. The path to lasting peace in South Asia lies in cooperation, not coercion; in treaties honored, not violated. Let the Indus Waters Treaty remain a beacon of hope for peaceful coexistence. But if one party insists on extinguishing that light, the consequences will flow far beyond the riverbanks.

Briefs

Pak wants peace but ready to match any...

FROM PAGE 01

the Iranian leadership to the Prime Minister and reaffirmed Iran's commitment to strengthening its relations with Pakistan and also playing its part in bringing peace and stability in South Asia. He also reiterated President Pezeshkian's invitation to the Prime Minister, to undertake an official visit to Tehran during this year. Meanwhile, Pakistan today conducted a successful training launch of the Fatah Series surface-to-surface missile, reaffirming the nation's defense preparedness and technological capabilities. The launch, part of the ongoing Exercise INDUS, was aimed at validating the missile's key operational parameters and enhancing the readiness of Pakistan Army's strategic units. The missile, with a range of 120 kilometers, represents a significant advancement in Pakistan's short-range battlefield deterrence capability. The launch was specifically designed to evaluate and ensure the functionality of the missile's advanced navigation system and its improved accuracy. These features are crucial for precision targeting, especially in dynamic combat scenarios, thereby strengthening the Pakistan Army's ability to engage a variety of targets with pinpoint accuracy. The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) and the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) congratulated all stakeholders involved in the successful test. They commended the high level of coordination and professionalism displayed by the troops, as well as the technical expertise of the engineers and scientists. Both military leaders expressed complete confidence in the operational readiness and technical proficiency of the Pakistan Army, reiterating the armed forces' capability to deter and respond effectively to any form of aggression. They further emphasized that Pakistan's strategic assets are meant solely for maintaining regional stability and ensuring national defense. At a time of heightened security concerns in the region, this successful test highlights Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding its territorial integrity and its ongoing efforts to modernize its defense systems.

Afghanistan's sovereignty is not a threat...

FROM PAGE 01

investment in dialogue and the recognition that security is collective, not competitive. Whether world likes it or not, it must come to terms with the fact that Afghanistan is a sovereign country, with the right to define its own foreign policy and choose its allies, including India. Efforts to isolate Kabul or pressure it into subordination will only further deepen regional instability. Rather than viewing Afghanistan as a perpetual challenge, the world has an opportunity to redefine the relationship, that is grounded in mutual respect, recognition of sovereignty, and constructive cooperation. Such a shift would not only restore bilateral trust but also contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous South Asia. Respecting Afghan sovereignty is not merely a diplomatic courtesy, it is a strategic imperative. Afghanistan's independence is not a threat to Pakistan. It is, in fact, the cornerstone of regional peace and stability.

UNSC to be apprised about false flag operation

FROM PAGE 01

maintenance of international peace and security by taking appropriate measures to address these concerning developments.

Embassy the Netherlands, UNODC join forces for girls' football clinic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in close partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), successfully organized a high-impact football clinic for young girls under the theme "Building Bridges Through Sports." Held at the Football Factory in Islamabad, the initiative exemplified the power of sports in fostering inclusion, resilience, and peaceful communities particularly among youth. The event brought together over 35 football-playing girls, aged 14-18, from Islamabad Model College for Girls (F-6/2) and Islamabad Model College for Girls (I-10/4). The clinic aimed to inspire teamwork, leadership, and mutual respect through structured sporting activities serving as a platform for promoting social cohesion and preventing violent extremism (PVE) at the grassroots level. In his opening remarks, Mr. Troels Vester, UNODC Country Representative in Pakistan, emphasized: "At UNODC, we firmly believe that when young people especially young girls are given meaningful opportunities to participate, to lead, and to shape decisions that affect their lives, they become powerful agents of resilience against the forces of radicalization and violence." Represent-



ing NACTA, a senior official highlighted the importance of youth engagement and gender-responsive initiatives in achieving the goals of Pakistan's National Policy on Preventing Violent Extremism (NPVE). They noted that community-based ap-

proaches particularly those involving sports and education are essential in cultivating peaceful, inclusive societies. Her Excellency Ms. Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, commended the initi-

ative, stating: "Sport has the extraordinary ability to unite, empower, and inspire. We are proud to support efforts that strengthen community ties and offer young people a safe and constructive outlet to thrive." The event featured Ms. Kayanat Bokhari, a professional footballer and youth mentor, who engaged directly with participants, sharing her personal journey as an athlete and encouraging the girls to pursue their goals with passion and perseverance. Her interaction provided a powerful role model for the aspiring players and highlighted the importance of visibility and mentorship in youth development. The Football Clinic was made possible with the collaboration with Football Factory, founded by Faizan Sameer. The clinic included a range of engaging activities such as Freeze Tag with a ball, dribble relays, the Pass & Move Challenge, and small-sided matches. The day concluded with fun challenges including the Crossbar Challenge and Dribble Maze, followed by a group reflection session where participants shared their experiences of inclusion, discipline, and unity, lessons that extend far beyond the football pitch. Through initiatives like "Building Bridges Through Sports," UNODC, NACTA, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands reaffirm their shared commitment to promoting youth empowerment, advancing gender inclusion, and preventing violent extremism through meaningful, community-centered engagement.

SC reserves verdict in military trial case

FROM PAGE 01

we constantly face significant threats," he said. The attorney general informed the court that disciplinary action was taken by the military over negligence in the Jinnah House attack, and three senior officers were retired without pension and benefits. These included a Lieutenant General, a Brigadier, and a Lieutenant Colonel. He further said that dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the performance of 14 officers, who will not be considered for future promotions. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail asked whether any criminal proceedings had been initiated against any officers. The attorney general replied that criminal proceedings would have taken place if a crime had been committed; the disciplinary actions were taken for failing to prevent the May 9 incident. Justice Mandokhail remarked that under the Army Act, criminal punishment must accompany departmental action. The AGP responded that the officers who exercised restraint were the ones subjected to disciplinary action. The court later reserved its ruling on the intra-court appeal against the verdict barring military trials of civilians. At the conclusion of the hearing, the head of the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench, Justice Aminuddin, said that a short order would be announced later this week. Protests broke out nationwide on May 9, 2023, following the arrest of Imran Khan by security forces within the premises of the Islamabad High Court. Some protesters also targeted military facilities, such as the Corps Commander House in Lahore and the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

India may launch attack along LoC: Asif

FROM PAGE 01

on April 22 in an attack targeting tourists in Pahalgam. New Delhi linked Islamabad to the attack without offering any evidence and took a flurry of punitive measures to downgrade ties, including suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, revoking visas of Pakistanis, and closing Wagah-Attari border crossing, among others. Islamabad, in response, ordered the expulsion of Indian diplomats and military advisers, cancelling visas for Indian nationals, with the exception of Sikh pilgrims, and closing the main border crossing from its side. Pakistan also denies involvement in the attack and offered to take part in a credible and transparent investigation. Speaking to reporters today, Asif said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already called for the constitution of an international commission to investigate the incident. "Such a probe would expose whether India itself or any internal group was involved, and clarify the truth behind New Delhi's baseless allegations against Pakistan," he added.

Aggression to be responded forcefully...

FROM PAGE 01

the testimony of the local population, and the conditions themselves, the media got the opportunity to know the truth of these Indian claims. Speaking on the occasion, Attaullah Tarar said India had repeatedly made baseless allegations against Pakistan. "Today we have put all the facts before the international and domestic media", Attaullah Tarar maintained. The minister said that the places that India had been declaring as imaginary terrorist camps were actually areas of the general civilian population. "Pakistan is a responsible state that not only committed to regional and even global peace," Attaullah Tarar said, adding Islamabad always condemns terrorism or terrorist activities in any part of the world. "We have repeatedly proven through our actions that we are advocates of peace. We will go to any extent to defend our sovereignty," Attaullah Tarar stated.

Leverkusen draw hands Kane's Bayern Bundesliga title

BERLIN: Bayern Munich were crowned German champions for the 34th time on Sunday, giving striker Harry Kane his first major trophy, after second-placed Bayer Leverkusen drew 2-2 at Freiburg. Bayern's 3-3 draw at RB Leipzig on Saturday, when the Bavarians came from two goals down to take the lead before conceding a stoppage-time equaliser, meant defending Bundesliga champions Leverkusen needed to win at Freiburg to delay the title party. Leverkusen were two goals down before scoring twice in the last 10 minutes. But Xabi Alonso's side could not find a third, as Bayern reclaimed the title at the first attempt after Leverkusen ended their 11-year reign last season. Alonso, who won three Bundesliga titles as a player with Bayern, congratulated his for-

mer club. "Congratulations to Bayern. It's a deserved championship. They were the more consistent team over the season and they deserve the shield," Alonso told DAZN. Kane, who had never previously won silverware, was among a group of Bayern players who gathered to watch the Leverkusen game in Munich on Sunday. The England captain was suspended for the match at Leipzig but will return this Saturday against Borussia Mönchengladbach at home, where Bayern will be presented with the Bundesliga shield at full-time. Given Bayern's far superior goal difference, Leverkusen's chances of defending their title were already all but impossible. Freiburg's Maximilian Eggestein hit a stunning goal from outside the box before half-time and Piero Hincapié was pressured into scoring an own

goal just after the break. Florian Wirtz netted a spectacular solo goal with eight minutes remaining, carving through the middle of the field before firing the ball in off the post. Jonathan Tah headed Leverkusen level in stoppage time, but the visitors were unable to find the third goal which would have extended their spell as champions. The result left Leverkusen, who became the first team in history to win the title unbeaten last season, eight points behind Bayern with two games remaining. With the faint title hopes gone, Leverkusen's focus will turn to keeping hold of Alonso and Wirtz, who could both be headed for the exit in summer. Alonso has a contract at Leverkusen until 2026 but has been heavily linked with Real Madrid, where he spent five seasons as a player. Wirtz's deal expires

in 2027 but the Germany midfielder is reportedly considering a big-money move to Bayern. Tah, who has already confirmed he will leave the club on a free transfer after a decade in Leverkusen, said: "(We had) too little intensity, we had too few runs in behind. It didn't work today." The Germany centre-back has been linked with moves to Barcelona and Bayern. The late goal meant Leverkusen extended their unbeaten streak away from home to 33 games, equalling a Bundesliga record set by Bayern. The draw keeps Freiburg in fourth, one point clear of Borussia Dortmund, in the final Champions League spot. Freiburg have never played in Europe's top competition. Eintracht Frankfurt were held to a 1-1 draw at Mainz, missing a chance to seal Champions League qualification. - APP

Spurs take control in Europa semi against Bodo/Glimt

LONDON: Tottenham closed in on a place in the Europa League final after Brennan Johnson struck just 38 seconds into their 3-1 win against Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt. Johnson's quick-fire opener was followed by James Maddison's strike before the interval in the semi-final leg at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Dominic Solanke's second-half penalty should have been the end of the tie. But a late goal from Ulrik Saltnes ensured the second leg on May 8 will be a nervous occasion for beleaguered Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou. Postecoglou will also have to sweat on the fitness of Solanke and Maddison after both limped off with injuries. If Tottenham can get the job done in Norway, they will face Manchester United or Athletic Bilbao in the final on May 21, with the tournament winners qualifying for the Champions League next season. United are on course for the final after winning 3-0 in Bilbao in the first leg. "We're in a good position. I thought the players were outstanding. They were everything they needed to be, really calm going forward and maintained the pressure," Postecoglou said. "Bodo/Glimt scored a late goal, so the scoreline didn't totally reflect our dominance. "We have to accept that but if we repeat that performance next week it will be enough for us to get through." An all-Premier League clash in the final would present a fascinating duel between two clubs enduring miserable domestic campaigns. Languishing in 16th place in the Premier League, Tottenham's woeful 5-1 thrashing at Liverpool on Sunday was a club record-equaling 19th defeat in the top flight this season. - Agencies

Volleyball: Sunbirds win SV.League men's championship



JAPAN: Suntory Sunbirds Osaka claimed the inaugural men's title of Japanese volleyball's rebranded SV.League on Monday with a three-set win over JTEKT Stings Aichi in Game 2 of the best-of-three final. The Sunbirds followed Saturday's come-from-behind Game 1 victory with a 29-27, 25-16, 25-22 win at LaLa arena Tokyo-Bay in Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture. The Sunbirds ended the seesaw opening set with a spike by Ran Takahashi after saving three set points. The Osaka-based club kept the momentum going in the next two sets. The SV.League was launched last year with the aim of becoming the world's most competitive and popular volleyball league by 2030. SV.League clubs have lured many big-name players from around the world. The Sunbirds finished the regular season in second place behind Osaka Bluteon, who lost in the semifinals to the fourth-place Stings. - Agencies

'Lucky number seven' for Ruud after beating Draper to clinch Madrid Open

MADRID: Casper Ruud joked seven was his lucky number after claiming the most important trophy of his career in his seventh big final as he beat Jack Draper on Sunday to win the Madrid Open. The Norwegian, a three-time Grand Slam runner-up, earned his first Masters 1000 triumph with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 victory over the Briton in a two-and-a-half hour tussle at the Manolo Santana stadium. Rising star Draper, who will move fifth in the world rankings on Monday above Novak Djokovic, was hoping to add to his Indian Wells title in March but Ruud outlasted him in his third Masters final. "This was my seventh big final if you count them all, so seven is a lucky number, I guess," laughed Ruud. "So it was worth the wait in the end. I've never really been too close in any of the finals when I look back - I've lost the majority of them in straight sets." After his prior struggles on the big occasion, also losing in the 2022 ATP Finals showpiece to Djokovic, Ruud was grateful to triumph in the Spanish capital. "It is a mix somewhat of a relief and happiness and just pure joy," he explained. "I know, based on the last years that I've had on tour, how tough it is to do well at the biggest tournaments, and I've never been able to get over the finish line as a champion, but today I was able to." Draper had been looking for the first clay court title of his career. "Congratulations to Casper on this win, you really deserve it - you were braver than me in the key moments," said Draper. "This sport is brutal but I will keep trying, I think this loss will make me better." The 26-year-old Ruud, ranked 15th, blinked first with back-to-back double faults to give Draper a break for 2-1 in the first set. However in a seventh-game hold the Norwegian upped

his power and showed his quality, hinting at the fight-back which was to follow. Serving for the set Draper was unable to polish off his opponent, who broke to tie the set at 5-5. Ruud held and then broke to claim the first set as Draper mishit a forehand. It was the first set Draper had dropped at the tournament and he ranted aloud to his team to release his frustration. - "Start of my journey" - Draper's tactic seemed to work as he produced his best tennis in a brilliant second set in which he made just one unforced error and let his rasping forehand shine. Draper broke in the seventh game for a 4-3 lead, saved two break points in the eighth and then broke again himself to claim the second set, with his third set point. In the decider Draper saved three break points to hold in the hard-fought third game, which lasted over 10 minutes. Ruud broke in the fifth game and consolidated for a 4-2 lead, with his first title of this stature in sight after 12 ATP titles at 250 and 500 level. The tiring Draper saved a break point in the seventh game despite being docked a first serve for a time violation, and Ruud held for 5-3 to leave Draper serving to stay in the match. The 23-year-old found a second wind and held to love to make Ruud serve it out. Despite never triumphing at this level Ruud powered through his final service game, opening up three match points and taking the first, with Draper sending a reply into the stands to end it. "I honestly feel like I'm at the start of my journey," said Draper. "I'm going to keep on improving and keep on pushing hard and keep these sort of tough moments in my head to keep on driving myself to be better." - APP

"Art for Life - Art for Gaza: The Nakba Continues"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A powerful cultural initiative titled "Art for Life - Art for Gaza: The Nakba Continues" opened at the Silk Road Cultural Center, located at the Sir Syed Memorial Complex, Islamabad. The week-long workshop and exhibition, running from April 30 to May 7, 2025, is being organized by His Excellency Jamal Shah, former Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage, in collaboration with Pakistani and international artists, sculptors, painters, and musicians. This cultural week serves as a humanitarian and artistic response to the decades-long oppression of the Palestinian people, particularly the intensified genocide and ethnic cleansing since October 7, 2023. It seeks to challenge the false narrative propagated by the Zionist movement - that Palestine was a land

without a people - and to reaffirm the enduring presence, identity, and rights of the Palestinian nation. Speaking at the opening, Jamal Shah emphasized the power of art as a universal

language capable of uniting humanity against all forms of injustice, including apartheid, genocide, and violations of international law. He highlighted the workshop's core message:

that the struggle for Palestinian freedom is not just a political cause, but a deeply human one, deserving of global solidarity and artistic expression. Participants from across

the world are contributing their voices through visual arts, sculpture, and music, expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and calling for the upholding of international law, the right

to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Organizers extended heartfelt gratitude to the people, government, political leadership, and armed forces of Pakistan for their unwavering support of the Palestinian cause, echoing the vision and values of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who stood firmly for justice and oppressed peoples. Special thanks were also extended to Jamal Shah for his continuous efforts in blending culture and activism, and for using art as a medium to raise global awareness about Palestine. This initiative not only celebrates artistic freedom but also reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to the struggle of the Palestinian people, reinforcing that the Nakba is not just history - it is a continuing reality that must be acknowledged and addressed.



Briefs

**PSX
witnesses
bearish
trend, losses
11.70 points**

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, shedding 11.70 points, a negative change of 0.01 percent, closing at 114,102.24 points as compared to 114,113.94 points on last trading day. A total of 399,538,878 shares were traded during the day as compared to 372,363,708 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 19.852 billion against Rs 23.285 billion on the last trading day. As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 240 of them recorded gains and 155 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 57 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Power Cement as with 41,339,300 shares at Rs 14.91 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 23,846,954 shares at Rs 1.29 per share and M3o Leaf with 23,586,230 shares at Rs 71.60 per share. PIA Holding Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 480.30 per share closing at Rs 5,283.86 whereas runner-up was Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 288.09 rise in its share price to close at Rs 7,190.36.—APP

**Gold price
increases Rs
7,800 per tola**

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs 7,800 on Monday and was sold at Rs.350,000 against its sale at Rs.342,200 on the previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.6,687 to Rs.300,068 from Rs 293,381 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat increased by Rs.6,130 to Rs.275,072 from Rs.268,942. The rates of per tola silver increased by Rs.43 to Rs.3,425 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.37 to Rs.2,936. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$76 to \$3,316 from \$3,240 whereas that of silver went up by \$0.43 to \$32.43, the Association reported.—APP

**UNSC urged
to ensure self-
determination
right for
Kashmiri people**

MOSCOW: Ambassador of Pakistan to Moscow Muhammad Khalid Jamali has urged the United Nations Security Council to ensure the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir to eliminate the root causes of escalating tensions in the region. "I believe that the root cause of the problem in [Indian] Jammu and Kashmir is the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people, which was promised to them by the international community through various UN Security Council resolutions. This needs to be addressed for a permanent, sustainable and durable peace," he said in an interview with TASS, the Russian state-owned news agency, published on Monday. Asked whether Pakistan was approaching Russia to take part in the investigation into the attack in Pahalgam, the ambassador said, "We are open [to it]. We want this investigation to be conducted and this blame game to stop." "There are incidents from time to time, and without addressing the root causes, Pakistan is blamed for this," Jamali pointed out. He recalled that in connection with the Ukraine conflict, Russia has also always pointed to the need to address the root causes. He said that when political disputes continue for a long time, resentment arises and such incidents are likely to occur. It's always very easy to blame and make someone a scapegoat," he commented. He told the interviewer that Islamabad was in constant contact with Moscow on the issue of settlement between Pakistan and India.—APP

South Asian artist residency program 2025 exhibition opens at PNCA

The South Asian Artist Residency Program 2025 was made possible through the collaboration of the Embassy of Pakistan in Nepal, the High Commission of Pakistan in the Maldives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) proudly announces the opening of the South Asian Artist Residency Program 2025 exhibition, showcasing works created by visiting artists from Nepal and the Maldives following their month-long cultural immersion across Pakistan. The exhibition was officially inaugurated today by a distinguished panel of dignitaries including H.E. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, Ambassador of the Philippines; H.E. Ms. Rita Dhital, Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan; Ms. Aishath Yasmeen, Head of Mission from the Maldives; Mr. Chen Peng, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Mr. Shah Nawaz, Director (South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Mr. M. Ayoub Jamali, Director General of PNCA along with Ms. Mariam Ahmed, the Coordinator & Curator. The exhibition features a powerful collection of artworks inspired by the artists' journey through Pa-



kistan's diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage—including historical Lahore, coastal Karachi, and the majestic northern region of Skardu. Reflecting on their experiences, the artists expressed heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity. Ms. Bidhata KC shared, "One of the most wonderful experiences—Pakistan has always been a source of inspiration for me, especially

through the richness of its artistic heritage. There's a timeless beauty in its art that continues to move me deeply." Ms. Aishath Laisha Saud noted, "The exhibition went smoothly, and everyone present has been very kind. I was nervous, but it's okay." Meanwhile, Ms. Mariyam Barsha Mohamed added, "It was my first residency, and I am very grateful to have had

the opportunity to explore such a beautiful country and to showcase my work." "Each piece represents not merely a visual record but a deeply personal interpretation of Pakistan's multifaceted identity—its historical grandeur, natural beauty, cultural vibrancy, and human warmth," shared the program coordinator and exhibition curator. Ms. Bidhata KC (Nepal) A multi-



disciplinary artist exploring identity and cultural memory through a blend of traditional techniques and contemporary concepts. Ms. Aishath Laisha Saud (Maldives): Known for translating emotional responses through expressive acrylic works. Ms. Mariyam Barsha Mohamed (Maldives): A diverse practitioner capturing storytelling elements inspired by natural environments. During

their residency, the artists explored architectural landmarks like the Wazir Khan Mosque and Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, cultural institutions such as the National College of Arts, the shores of Karachi's Seaview, and the breathtaking landscapes of Shighar Lake, Kachura Lake, Soq Valley, and Sadpara Lake in Skardu. "This exhibition stands as a testament to the power of cul-

tural exchange and artistic dialogue across South Asian borders," the curator added. The South Asian Artist Residency Program 2025 was made possible through the collaboration of the Embassy of Pakistan in Nepal, the High Commission of Pakistan in the Maldives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan: Accelerators of interregional Dialogue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the contemporary world of international relations, the "region-to-region" cooperation format is gaining increasing popularity. Current challenges in the areas of security, sustainable economic development, and social stability require not only the active involvement of nation-states and individual regions but also the advancement of interregional cooperation. This format facilitates the emergence of new trends in the international arena and contributes to the strengthening of multi-level partnerships. One of the most prominent examples of such cooperation is the dialogue between Central and South Asia, which is becoming a significant trend within the broader Eurasian context. The international conference "Central and South

Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities," held in Tashkent in July 2021, served as a starting point, giving impetus to the development of interregional cooperation. The upcoming Termez Dialogue, scheduled for May of this year, promises to mark a new stage in this process. Within the framework of this dialogue, Uzbekistan and Pakistan are expected to play a pivotal role, being regarded as key actors capable of shaping the trajectory of further rapprochement and coordination between the two regions. The interregional cooperation format of "Central – South Asia" has attracted the interest of many major global powers. Originally, the initiative was promoted by the United States as a tool for enhancing regional connectivity. However, following the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Washington's engagement in promoting this format

has notably diminished. Currently, China and Russia are showing significant interest in the initiative, viewing it as a potential instrument for expanding their influence across Eurasia. Nevertheless, their involvement remains largely political and declarative, lacking concrete financial commitments and well-defined projects under the "region-to-region" cooperation framework. India and Iran also support the idea of regional interaction but prioritize maritime transport routes – such as the port hubs of Chabahar and Mumbai – which they perceive as more promising for connectivity than land corridors traversing Afghanistan. In contrast, Uzbekistan and Pakistan have demonstrated the most tangible interest and practical engagement in developing the "Central – South Asia" cooperation format. These two countries have emerged as key beneficiaries of this initiative,

advancing economic and transport projects backed by concrete investments and institutional efforts. In the long term, the depth of their engagement, their political will, and their financial commitment will be decisive in shaping the dynamics and effectiveness of interregional cooperation within the "region-to-region" paradigm. At the current stage, Uzbekistan and Pakistan are demonstrating a notable shift in their foreign policy strategies from geopolitical priorities to geoeconomic ones. Uzbekistan is pursuing a pragmatic and multi-vector foreign policy, aiming for active participation in major infrastructure and logistics initiatives spanning the Eurasian continent. Key projects in which the country is involved include the Middle Corridor, the Belt and Road Initiative, the North-South International Transport Corridor, and the Trans-Afghan Corridor.—APP

UK royals lead celebrations to mark 80 years since WWII end

LONDON: A military parade, fly-past and balcony appearance by the royal family on Monday kicked off four days of UK celebrations marking 80 years since the end of World War II. King Charles III saluted as around 1,000 members of the UK armed forces, joined by NATO colleagues from the US, France and Germany, along with 11 soldiers from Ukraine waving their country's flag reached the end of the procession in front of Buckingham Palace. Tens of thousands defied the damp weather on the Union Jack-lined Mall to watch the parade, which began with Winston Churchill's 1945 victory speech, voiced by actor Timothy Spall. "Do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straight forward and die if need be, unconquered," bellowed Spall, standing in front of Churchill's statue in Parliament Square. The procession culminated in a fly past featuring aerobatic team The Red Arrows and 23 current and historic military aircraft, which the 76-year-old monarch watched from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Charles and Queen Camilla were joined by Princess Anne, Prince Edward, Prince William and his wife Catherine along with their children George, Charlotte and Louis. As European countries gear up to celebrate Victory in Europe (VE) Day on May 8, the war in Ukraine is a reminder "that peace is never to be taken for granted," Charles told the Italian parliament last month "Today, sadly, the echoes of those times – which we fervently hoped had been consigned to history – reverberate across our continent," the king said. It was from the same balcony on May 8, 1945, that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth – alongside daughters princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, and then-prime minister Churchill – greeted tens of thousands of Londoners celebrating what Churchill declared the "day of victory in Europe."—APP

UAE to teach AI in schools from kindergarten

DUBAI: UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid announced on Sunday that artificial intelligence lessons would be introduced for public-school children of all ages starting the next academic year. In a tweet on X, Sheikh Mohammed wrote that the UAE cabinet had approved "the final curriculum to introduce 'Artificial Intelligence' as a subject across all stages of government education in the UAE, from kindergarten to grade 12, starting from the next academic year. "Our goal is to teach our children a deep understanding of AI from a technical perspective, while also fostering their awareness of the ethics of this new technology," he continued. "Our responsibility is to equip our children for a time unlike ours, with conditions different from ours." The step aims to equip students with the essential knowledge and skills to understand AI concepts appropriate for each academic level. UAE Minister of Education Sarah Al-Amiri said this integration of AI into classrooms reflects the "UAE government's future-focused vision," according to a statement on WAM News Agency. The UAE will be among the first countries to introduce AI in school curricula, the statement added.—APP

Yemen's Houthis blame US for fresh strikes

SANAA: Yemen's Houthis on Monday blamed Washington for around 10 strikes in and around the capital Sanaa, as the United States pursues its campaign against the Iran-backed force The Houthi-run Saba news agency said two US strikes had targeted Arbaeen street in the capital, another the airport road, having earlier reported two strikes it blamed on "American aggression" and a series of prior bombardments on Sanaa. The Houthi administration's health ministry said 14 people were wounded in the Sawan neighborhood, according to Saba. An AFP journalist heard loud explosions in the capital, which has been controlled by the Houthis since 2014. The bombardment follows a Houthi strike against Washington's ally Israel, which hit the perimeter of the country's main airport on Sunday. Eight people were wounded in US strikes on Sanaa in late April, according to the Houthis, who also reported strikes in other parts of the country, including their stronghold Saada in the north. The Houthis, who control swathes of Yemen, have launched missiles and drones targeting Israel and Red Sea shipping throughout the Gaza war, saying they act in solidarity with Palestinians.—APP

Lebanon holds first local polls in almost 10 years

BEIRUT: The first municipal elections in Lebanon began on Sunday after a more than nine-year hiatus. Voting is taking place by region, with the first round in the Mount Lebanon districts, including Beirut's southern suburbs. According to the Interior Ministry, 9,321 candidates, including 1,179 women, are running in Mount Lebanon, vying for seats on 333 municipal councils. Voter turnout exceeded 35 percent less than three hours before the polls closed at 7 p.m. local time. President Joseph Aoun highlighted the vote's significance in restoring confidence among the Lebanese people and international community, demonstrating that Lebanon is rebuilding its institutions and is on the right path. The polls are the first of his presidential term and are seen as an indicator of voting trends ahead of parliamentary elections in May 2026. Parts of northern Lebanon will vote next Sunday, May 11, while Beirut and the eastern Bekaa Valley are scheduled to go to the polls on May 18. Voters in the southern regions, severely damaged following clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, will cast their ballots on May 24. Lebanon's presidential vacuum and security developments since October 2023 have affected the civic election process for almost a decade. Authorities last conducted a local ballot in 2016. Polling stations opened in Mount Lebanon, the first governorate to begin the elections, under the personal supervision of Aoun. After two visits to the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior in the morning, Aoun said he had "full confidence in the success of this constitutional entitlement." He said: "What we are witnessing today in Mount Lebanon will motivate the other governorates.—APP

Naqvi visits Oman Police to discuss bilateral coop

Minister Naqvi briefed the Omani Interior Minister on Pakistan's principled stance regarding the recent escalation in tensions between Pakistan and India

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Monday visited headquarters of Oman Police and Customs, where he was warmly received by Lieutenant General Hassan bin Mohsen Al Shuraiki, Chief of Oman Police and Customs. Minister Naqvi held an important meeting with Lt. Gen. Al Shuraiki, during which they discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in policing, counter-terrorism, and anti-smuggling efforts. Both sides agreed to strengthen mutual collaboration and communication to combat drug and smuggling mafias, said a press release issued here. The Omani police chief praised the contributions of the Pakistani community to Oman's development and economic strength. Minister Naqvi expressed gratitude to Lt. Gen. Al Shuraiki for assuring solutions to the visa-related issues faced by Pakistani nationals. He also offered training programs in Pakistan for Omani police, coast guards, and customs officers, stating: "We have excellent academies and are ready to provide training." He extended an invitation to Lt. Gen. Al Shuraiki to visit Pakistan. Speaking on domestic reforms, Minister Naqvi revealed, "We have cancelled passports of 50,000 individuals involved in various crimes. They will be barred from traveling abroad for five years." He emphasized that joint efforts with Oman will be made to curb illegal immigration and assured full assistance in repatriating Pakistani prisoners from Omani jails. "Oman and Pakistan are bound by deep-rooted, brotherly, and historic ties," said Lt. Gen. Al Shuraiki. "We are ready to closely coordinate with Pakistan on drug control and anti-smuggling measures. Minister Naqvi's practical proposals are commendable," he added. During his visit, Minister Naqvi met with members of the Pakistani community, notable figures, and diplomatic officials in Oman. He briefed the diaspora on Pakistan's principled stance regarding the regional situation, reiterating that "Pakistan is a peace-loving country and desires lasting peace in the region. However, our brave armed forces are always prepared to respond to any misadventure with full force." "Peace is our desire, but those who mistake it for weakness are misguided," he added. "Today, every child of Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with our armed forces." The Pakistani community welcomed the minister's stance and lauded his engagement. Minister Naqvi attentively listened to their concerns and personally noted down each issue. On the spot, he issued directives to the Director General of the Ministry of Interior for prompt resolution of the raised matters. The community expressed appreciation, stating: "Many ministers came before, but none took such practical steps to resolve our issues. You have won our hearts by taking immediate action." "Your visit has given us real hope," the community added. Minister Naqvi emphasized, "Pakistanis abroad, including in Oman, are our pride. Their issues are our own, and resolving genuine problems is my responsibility. From now on, no issue related to FIA, NADRA, or the Ministry of Interior will remain unresolved." "You are ambassadors of Pakistan abroad. Raising the national flag high should be your top priority," he urged.—DNA

Call for boosting PR, UAE freight sector collaboration

Railways minister meets UAE envoy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi met with Ambassador of United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Alzaab on Monday. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between Pakistan Railways and UAE in the freight sector, said a news release. During the meeting, the UAE envoy expressed interest in a long-



term agreement between Karachi Gateway Terminal, a subsidiary of AD Ports Group, and Pakistan Railways for the development and operation of dedicated freight train services. This proposed partnership aimed at providing a significant boost to Pakistan's freight transportation capacity. The UAE's cooperation will help increase Pakistan Railways' market share in the freight sector, enhance its multimodal transport capabilities and contribute to the modernization of its freight services.

Both the parties agreed to move forward with negotiations to finalize the framework for this collaboration. This partnership will pave the way for improved connectivity and operational efficiency, enabling Pakistan Railways to better serve the national and regional logistics market. The proposal reflects the UAE's commitment to investing in Pakistan's infrastructure, further enhancing the economic ties between the two nations.

Briefs

India starts
work on hydro
projects

NEW DELHI: DIndia has begun work to boost reservoir holding capacity at two hydroelectric projects in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), sources with knowledge of the matter told media, after fresh tension with Pakistan led it to suspend a water-sharing pact. The work represents the first tangible step by India to operate outside agreements covered by the Indus Waters Treaty, unbroken since 1960 despite three wars and several other conflicts between the nuclear-armed rivals. Last month, however, New Delhi suspended the pact that ensures supply to 80% of Pakistani farms after an attack in IIOJK killed 26, and it identified two of the three assailants as Pakistani. Islamabad has threatened international legal action over the suspension and denied any role in the attack, warning, "Any attempt to stop or divert the flow of water belonging to Pakistan ... will be considered as an act of war". A "reservoir flushing" process to remove sediment began on Thursday, carried out by India's biggest hydropower company, state-run NHPC Ltd, and authorities in IIOJK, the three sources said. The work may not immediately threaten supply to Pakistan, which depends on rivers flowing through India for much of its irrigation and hydropower, but it could eventually be affected if other projects launch similar efforts. — Agencies

RCCI
concerned
over tax
laws Amend

DNA
RAWALPINDI: The business community across Pakistan has expressed serious concern over the promulgation of the Tax Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, terming it a direct violation of business autonomy and a blow to investor confidence. In a statement, RCCI President Usman Shaukat voiced strong opposition to the sweeping powers granted to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) under the new Ordinance. "We categorically reject the arbitrary and coercive provisions introduced through this Ordinance," said Mr. Shaukat. "Allowing tax officers to be stationed at markets and business premises is an outright infringement on business freedom and will lead to increased harassment under the guise of documentation and compliance." One of the most alarming aspects of the Ordinance is the authority given to the FBR to recover tax liabilities by directly withdrawing funds from a taxpayer's bank account if their appeal is rejected by the High Court or dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Forces kill
8 khwarij

DNA
RAWALPINDI: On 4-5 May 2025, eight Khwarij were killed during multiple engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. An IBO was conducted by the Security Forces in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly, three khwarij were sent to hell. In another IBO, conducted in South Waziristan District, two Khwarij were successfully neutralized by the security forces. However, during intense fire exchange, one brave son of soil, Naik Mujahid Khan (age: 40 years, resident of District Kohat) having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat. Two more engagements took place between own troops and khwarij in Khyber and Bannu Districts, resulting in killing of three khwarij. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against the security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians.

President, Chinese envoy
discuss regional tensions

The Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed the enduring and time-tested friendship between China and Pakistan, describing the relationship as one of "ironclad brothers" who have always supported each other in challenging times



ISLAMABAD: China's Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Jiang Zaidong, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, Mr Jiang Zaidong, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The meeting discussed matters of bilateral importance, with a particular focus on the ongoing situation between Pakistan and In-

dia in the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident. During the meeting, President Zardari expressed concern over the recent irresponsible and aggressive rhetoric by the Indian Government, saying that such actions threaten regional peace and stability. The Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed the enduring and time-tested friendship between China and Pakistan, describing the relationship as one of "ironclad brothers"

who have always supported each other in challenging times. He thanked President for sharing Pakistan's perspective, and emphasized that China would always support Pakistan to achieve the common desire of both countries to secure peace and stability in South Asia. The President conveyed his deep appreciation and gratitude to the Chinese Government for its consistent support, which has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times.

Trump denies third
term ambitions citing
constitutional limits

He had previously stated that he was "not joking" about seeking a third or even fourth term, later claiming these statements were meant to provoke the media

CENTRELINE REPORT

WASHINGTON: "I'll be a two-term president. I always thought that was very important," says US president during recent interview. United States President Donald Trump has finally addressed the rumours regarding his potential presidential bid in the 2028 election and put them to rest. Speaking in an interview with NBC's Meet the Press that aired on Sunday, Trump dismissed suggestions of seeking a third term in office as he stated that he will adhere to the two-term limit set by the Constitution, the BBC reported. "I'll be an eight-year president, I'll be a two-term president. I always thought that was very important," said Trump during the interview. These remarks follow a history of comments where

President Trump had appeared to entertain the possibility of staying in office beyond two terms. He had previously stated that he was "not joking" about seeking a third or even fourth term, later claiming these statements were meant to provoke the media. Adding to the speculation, merchandise bearing "Trump 2028" has been sold by his organisation. In the recent interview, that took place at his Florida residence, the 78-year-old Republican president acknowledged that he has received numerous requests to consider remaining in office. "So many people want me to do it," he said, just days after marking the first 100 days of his second term. Despite these apparent calls for him to stay, Trump conceded that a third term is likely not possible under the current legal framework. "It's something that, to the best of my knowledge, you're not allowed to do. I don't know if that's constitutional that they're not allowing you to do it or anything else," said.

PTI stands united
with army against
Indian aggression

India's Pahalgam propaganda aimed at deepening Pakistan's political divide, turning PTI against army: sources

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's intelligence sources reveal that following the Pahalgam incident, India launched a blame campaign against the country with an apparent aim of creating a rift between the military and the public. These informed sources said the Indian propaganda effort was designed to deepen political divisions within Pakistan, with the expectation that supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) would also turn against their own military and its leadership. The conspiracy aimed to exploit the Pahalgam attack to drive a wedge between the people and the armed forces. "India has failed miserably in its malicious attempt," a senior official told The News, adding that the Pakistani nation, as always, stood united behind its armed forces. The source said India had anticipated that PTI's social media would join New Delhi's anti-army and anti-Asim campaign, but this did not materialise. Like other political parties, the PTI leadership condemned India's baseless accusations and affirmed that the nation stands united in the face of any foreign aggression. Indian media has been targeting Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir more than any of his predecessors, which is part of Modi government's conspiracy. India Today published an article containing a raft of allegations against the army chief. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, when contacted, said the PTI stands behind its army against India without any ifs and buts. He said the nation stand united against India. He explained that the PTI's boycott is against the government's briefing as our stance was that APC should be convened in view of the seriousness of the issue including the suspension of the Indus water treaty by India, which is an "act of war".

Moscow ready to resolve
Pakistan-India differences

It was stressed that Russia is ready to act for a political settlement of the situation resulting from the act of terrorism of April 22 in the Pahalgam area of Kashmir valley, in the event of a mutual desire on part of Islamabad and New Delhi

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke to his Pakistani counterpart on Sunday and offered Rus-



sia's help in resolving tensions between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, the foreign ministry said.

"Particular attention was paid to the significant rise in tension between New Delhi and Islamabad," the ministry said in a statement, referring to Lavrov's conversation with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. "It was stressed that Russia is ready to act for a political settlement of the situation resulting from the act of terrorism of April 22 in the Pahalgam area of the Kashmir valley, in the event of a mutual desire on the part of Islamabad and New Delhi," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted on Telegram. Lavrov's conversation with Dar took place two days after he spoke with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar and also called for a settlement of differences between the two neighbouring countries. Suspected militants killed at least 26 people in last week's attack on a mountain tourist destination in the Pahalgam area of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir valley. The Muslim-majority region has been the focus of several wars, an insurgency, and diplomatic standoffs. Russia has been India's largest weapons provider for decades and New Delhi and Moscow have had close ties since Soviet times.

UN chief
calls for
restraint' in
India, Pak
standoff

DNA

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged nuclear-armed foes Pakistan and India to exert "maximum restraint" and step back from the brink of war as tensions between the South Asian neighbours soared. Relations have reached "a boiling point," Guterres told reporters, warning it was "essential to avoid a military confrontation that could easily spin out of control. Now is the time for maximum restraint and stepping back from the brink." Here is the transcript of his message. "Tensions between India and Pakistan are at their highest in years. I deeply respect and am profoundly grateful to the Government and people of both countries – and their significant contributions to the work of the United Nations, not least UN peacekeeping. And so it pains me to see relations reaching a boiling point. I understand the raw feelings following the awful terror attack in Pahalgam on 22 April. I once again strongly condemn that attack and extend my condolences to the families of the victims. Targeting civilians is unacceptable – and those responsible must be brought to justice through credible and lawful means. It is also essential – especially at this critical hour – to avoid a military confrontation that could easily spin out of control.

Romanian far-
right candidate
wins 1st round

ATHENS: Far-right candidate George Simion won the first round of Romania's presidential election re-run Sunday by a large margin. Simion, the candidate of the Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR), received more than 40.2% with over 98% of the votes counted, according to the Romanian Permanent Electoral Authority. He was followed by the centrist mayor of the capital city of Bucharest, Nicusor Dan, with over 20.8%. Fellow Centrist Crin Antonescu of the ruling Social Democratic Party was third with nearly 20.5%. As no candidate garnered the 50%+1 required majority to be elected, the country will hold a second round of elections on May 18. — APP

NOW IN PAKISTAN

**Invisible Braces
Dental Implants**

**Dr. Abrar & Associates
DENTAL SURGEONS**

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.
e-mail: abrar_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693