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UN chief launches 'UN 80 initiative' to strengthen body

Detailed News On Page-08

Nuclear option was never on table, says Dar

Detailed News On Page-08



Mike Hesson white-ball head coach

Detailed News On Page-06



Indo-Pak tensions

Indian PM Modi assertions may trigger escalation

Pakistan remains committed to de-escalation, regional stability

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejected the provocative and inflammatory assertions made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address a day earlier. At a time when international efforts are being made for regional peace and stability, this statement represents a dangerous escalation rooted in misinformation, political opportunism, and a blatant disregard for international law, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement. "This statement also reflects a propensity to fabricate misleading narratives to justify aggression. Pakistan remains committed to the recent ceasefire understanding and taking necessary steps towards de-escalation and regional stability." "This ceasefire was achieved as a result of the facilitation of several friendly countries which contacted us with a message of de-escalation. The portrayal of Pakistan as seeking a ceasefire in 'despair and frustration' is yet another blatant lie." Meanwhile, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, addressing the media outside Parliament House, said that any future dialogue with India must centre around three critical issues: terrorism, Kashmir, and water.

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Total 51 casualties Indian aggression martyrs 40 civilians

11 security forces' personnel also martyred: ISPR

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A total of 51 individuals, including 11 personnel of the armed forces and 40 civilians, were martyred in Indian strikes during the recent military confrontation with the arch-rival, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday. The military's media wing released the updated number of casualties from the "barbaric" attacks, saying that the Indian Armed Forces launched unprovoked and reprehensible dastardly attacks targeting innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly on the night of May 6 and 7. "These barbaric strikes resulted in the martyrdom of 40 civilians — among them 7 women and 15 children — while

121 others sustained injuries, including 10 women and 27 children," the ISPR statement read. In response to this grave aggression, the military's media wing said, the Pakistan armed forces mounted a resolute response under the banner of Marka-e-Haq, delivering precise and notch-up retributive strikes through Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos. A total of 11 personnel of the Pakistan armed forces embraced martyrdom and 78 were wounded while defending the motherland with exemplary valour, it added. ISPR also released the name of the martyred personnel, which is as follows: Pakistan Army: Naik Abdul Rehman, Lance Naik Dilawar Khan, Lance Naik Ikramullah, Naik Waqar Khalid,

Continued on Page 06



RIYADH: US President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman exchange views during US President visit to Saudi Arabia. — DNA

India declares Pak official persona non grata

Two Indians arrested on spying charges

DNA

NEW DELHI: Government of India has declared a Pakistani official, working at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, persona non grata. India on Tuesday declared a Pakistani official posted at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi as persona non grata for engaging in activities inconsistent with his diplomatic role. The Pakistani official has been instructed to leave the country within 24 hours. A formal demarche conveying this decision was issued to the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission.

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US President on Gulf tour

Trump secures \$600 billion Saudi investment pledge

Saudi Arabia's investment commitment includes what US described as largest defence sales agreement between allies

DNA

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump secured a \$600 billion commitment from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to invest in the United States after the oil power rolled out the red carpet for him at the start of a tour of Gulf states. Trump punched the air as he emerged from Air Force One to be greeted by Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who later signed an agreement with the president in Riyadh on energy, defence, mining and other areas. Saudi Arabia's investment commitment includes what the US described as the largest defence sales agreement between the allies, worth nearly \$142 billion. Reuters reported in April that the US was poised to offer the kingdom an arms package worth well over \$100 billion. "I really believe we like each other a lot,"

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Indian High Commission official declared as Persona Non Grata

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has declared a staff member of the Indian High Commission, Islamabad, as persona non grata for engaging in activities incompatible with his privileged status. The concerned official has been directed to leave Pakistan within 24 hours. The Indian Charge d'Affaires was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today for a demarche, conveying this decision.

Junaid Akbar steps down as PAC chair

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: PTI MNA and party president for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Junaid Akbar, has resigned from his post as chairman of PAC. Akbar said that he had handed over his resignation to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, saying the position was a trust given by the party and he was stepping down as per its instructions.

Israeli forces to hit Gaza 'with full force'

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military would enter Gaza "with full force" in the coming days, a statement from his office said Tuesday. "In the very coming days, we are going in with full force to complete the operation. Completing the operation means defeating Hamas."

Pays tribute to martyrs of "Battle of Truth"

Indian arrogance shattered, says PM Shehbaz Sharif

"We not only defended the country with full force but also ensured that the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan remained unscathed"

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paying tribute to the martyrs of Ma'arka-i-Haq (Battle of Truth) said that through the operation Bunyanum Marsoos, the Pakistan armed forces shattered India's illusion of numerical strength and arrogance. The prime minister, in a statement, saluted the families of those who sacrificed their lives for the nation. He paid tribute to five officers and personnel of the Pakistan Air Force and six officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army who were martyred while defending the homeland. "We not only defended the country with full force but also ensured that the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan remained unscathed. The brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan armed forces fulfilled their promise to the nation to protect the motherland," he remarked. He said that the entire nation was proud of its martyrs and their families and that they would never forget the sacrifices of its brave sons.

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Ceasefire with India, result of diplomatic efforts: Tarar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the recent ceasefire between Pakistan and India was the result of diplomatic efforts of various countries. Talking to Sky News, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked US President Donald Trump for playing key role to ensure ceasefire. He said that China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Qatar also played an important

Continued on Page 06

Murder case SC adjourns Zahir Jaffer appeal hearing

Justice Kakar criticises delay culture, urges lawyers to avoid unnecessary adjournments

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of Zahir Jaffer's appeal against his death sentence in the Noor Mukadam murder case until 19 May, following consensus from both parties. A three-member bench, led by Justice Hashim Kakar and comprising Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi,

Continued on Page 06

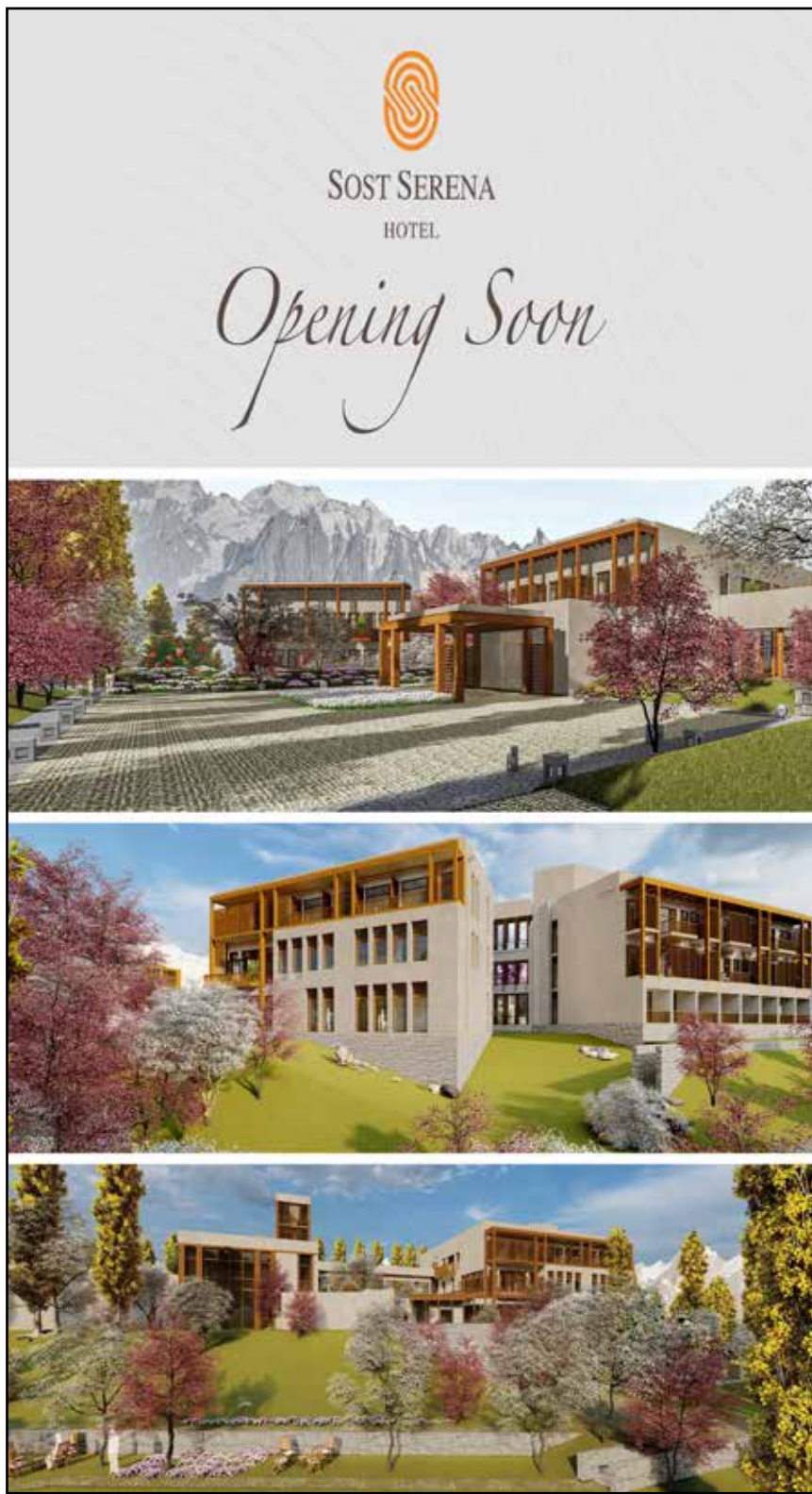
Trump Accepts Bribe of a Flying Palace from Qatar

QAMAR BASHIR

IN what may go down in history as a precedent-setting case of state-level bribery and constitutional evasion, President Donald Trump has accepted what is being described as a "gift" from the Amir of Qatar—a lavishly outfitted Boeing 747-8 jumbo jet reportedly valued at \$400 million. Far from a mere logistical update to the aging Air Force One, this so-called donation is raising alarms about ethics, sovereignty, and national dignity both at home and abroad. Trump's social media declaration—filled with his characteristic bluster, capital letters, and partisan jabs—painted the aircraft as a patriotic solution: saving taxpayer money while upgrading America's presidential fleet. But behind the branding lies an ethical dilemma that cuts to the core of public office: is the President of the United States compromising the integrity of the office by accepting such an extravagant gift from a foreign government? The Boeing 747-8i being offered by Qatar is no ordinary aircraft. Originally manufactured in Washington state and flown under Qatar Amiri Flight—the division of Qatar Airways that serves royalty and high-level officials—the plane features amenities more fitting for royalty than for the head of a constitutional republic. According to an aircraft specification summary posted online by Swiss firm AMAC Aerospace, the jet includes three full-size lounges, two

bedrooms including a master suite with a couch and media center, nine bathrooms, five fully equipped galleys, and a private office furnished with a conference table, bookshelves, a monitor, and an en suite bathroom. The jet's art-deco-inspired interior features L-shaped sofas, recliners, club seating, wood paneling, built-in shelving, and large-screen televisions—some as large as 55 inches. It can carry up to 89 passengers and 14 crew members, and reportedly took AMAC Aerospace two years to complete the custom fittings, creating what has been described as a "palace in the sky." Ironically, what appears to be missing is Trump's signature decorative flourish—gold embellishments—though few doubt such features could be added swiftly. Beyond the opulence lies a deeper constitutional issue. The U.S. Constitution's Emoluments Clause strictly prohibits any sitting president from accepting "any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever" from a foreign state without the express consent of Congress. Trump's team is reportedly sidestepping this clause by having the aircraft first transferred to the U.S. Air Force for official use and later to the Trump Presidential Library Foundation, potentially before his term ends. While this maneuver might pass narrow legal scrutiny, it clearly violates the spirit of constitutional safeguards and fuels long-standing accusations that Trump blurs the line between personal enrichment and public service.

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1200 BHUs, RHCs to be transformed into health clinics

KHANEWAL: Punjab Minister for Law, Communications and Works Malik Sohaib Ahmad Barth said on Tuesday that 1200 Basic Health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) would be transformed into modern health facilities titled as Maryam Nawaz Health Clinics in the first phase across Punjab. He expressed these views during a visit to an under-construction Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic at Shamkot. The provincial minister expressed grave concerns over a theft incident at the under-construction site and ordered the executive engineer buildings to lodge a case and take stern action against those found involved. He said that BHUs and RHCs were being transformed into state-of-the-art health facilities and ordered that the Shamkot health facility should be completed on time. He asked the executive engineer highways and other officials concerned to ensure utilization of quality materials in the scheme. He appealed to people of the areas to protect the public property from criminals pleading that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was spending a huge amount to provide best health facilities at their doorsteps.—APP

KP announces 2 year exemption on mountaineering tax

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a two-year exemption on mountaineering tax to promote adventure tourism and mountaineering in the province. According to the Director General of the Tourism Authority, the tax exemption applies specifically to peaks in the Hindukush mountain range. The decision coincides with the 75th anniversary of the first successful summit of Tirich Mir, the highest peak in the range. In recognition of this milestone, the year 2025 has been declared as the "Year of Tirich Mir." The DG Tourism Authority stated that the mountaineering tax waiver will be effective from 2025 to 2026, and is expected to boost tourism and attract local and international climbers to the region. "This initiative will not only promote mountaineering but also help in enhancing the overall tourism potential of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," the official added.—APP

Alhamra to host grand exhibition

LAHORE: The Lahore Arts Council—Alhamra is set to unveil its most prestigious annual art exhibition, "A New Dawn," on Friday, May 16, at the Allah Bux Art Gallery, The Mall. The grand showcase of imagination and expression combines the creative brilliance of 178 artists across Pakistan, illuminating Alhamra's deep commitment to nurturing the nation's vibrant artistic landscape. Educationist, social activist and CEO of Lahore Grammar School Nighat Yawar Ali will be the chief guest. The monumental exhibition, curated with immense dedication, is a testament to Alhamra's two-decade-long legacy of celebrating visual arts without interruption. All arrangements for the showcase have been finalized. In a heartfelt gesture to uplift emerging talent, the top five young artists of the Alhamra Young Artists Exhibition will each be awarded Rs 60,000, recognising their outstanding contributions to contemporary art. The award ceremony will be held at Alhamra Hall No 3, where brilliance will be acknowledged with reverence and pride. The event will also launch an exclusive exhibition catalogue featuring a curated selection of artworks by participating artists—a print tribute to the country's evolving aesthetic sensibilities.—APP

Speaker Sindh Assembly, UK Deputy HC discuss matters of mutual interests

The Speaker welcomed the delegation and shared the historic legacy of the Sindh Assembly, highlighting that it was the first legislature to pass a resolution in favor of the creation of a separate Muslim state

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Deputy High Commissioner of the United Kingdom in Karachi, Lance Domm, paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Syed Awaish Qadir Shah and discussed matters of mutual interests, here on Tuesday. On the occasion, Mr. Domm was accompanied by Ms. Huda Ikram, Senior Political Advisor, and Mr. Noam Rosenbaum, Economic Advisor in Karachi Sindh. The meeting reflected the strength of long-standing ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The Speaker welcomed the delegation and shared the historic legacy of the Sindh Assembly, highlighting that it was the first legislature to pass a resolution in favor of the creation of a separate Muslim state. He added that this same Assembly was where the national flag of Pakistan was hoisted for the first time after independence. The Speaker was joined by MPA and Spokesperson of the Sindh Government Ms. Sadia Javed, MPA Mr. Jam Shabbir Ali, Secretary G.M. Umar Farooq, Director General Media Mr. Irfan Ahmed Memon, and Ms. Humaira Kamrullah. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation between the UK and Sindh province, particularly in the areas of trade, education, and public health. The Speaker expressed appreciation for the UK's continued support, especially during floods and humanitarian crises. Both sides shared views on the growing challenge of misinformation and disinformation. They



emphasized the need for public representatives to respond with responsibility and promote social harmony. They also exchanged views on current internal and external affairs. The Speaker appreciated the announcement of a ceasefire and said Pakistan welcomes the decision, hoping it will be honored from the other side as well. He reiterated that Pakistan has always advocated for peace and believes in resolving matters through dialogue. He also spoke about landmark legislation led by the

PPP government, including the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act (2013), Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2013), Sindh Harassment at Workplace Act (2010), and Sindh Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act (2011)—all aimed at protecting women and advancing social justice. The Speaker emphasized Sindh's inclusive social fabric rooted in Sufism, where religious minorities continue to live with dignity and mutual respect. He told about the govern-

ment's commitment to protecting this harmony and diversity. Mr. Domm appreciated developments in Sindh's transport sector. The Speaker, along with MPAs Sadia Javed and Jam Shabbir Ali, highlighted Syed Awaish Qadir Shah's initiatives as former Transport Minister, including the launch of Red Buses and Electric Buses that have enhanced urban mobility. Upon the Deputy High Commissioner's request, the Speaker led the delegation to the historic Old Hall of the Assembly, where

the Pakistan Resolution was passed. The tour continued to the new Assembly Hall, reflecting the province's evolving democratic journey. To mark the occasion, Speaker Awaish Qadir Shah presented Mr. Lance Domm with the Legacy Shield of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, along with a traditional Sindhi Ajrak and Sindhi Cap as tokens of cultural goodwill. The Deputy High Commissioner thanked the Speaker for the warm welcome, meaningful discussions, and gracious hospitality.

Call for creating awareness on child protection laws

DIR LOWER: In line with the provincial government's public welfare agenda, a crucial meeting of the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) was convened here on Tuesday. The session was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Dir Payen, Bashir Khan, under directives from Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan. The meeting brought together key district stakeholders to review and reinforce child protection efforts. Muhammad Tayeb Khan, Child Protection Officer for Dir Payen, presented a comprehensive briefing on the initiatives and progress of the District Child Protection Unit. ADC Bashir Khan emphasized the urgent need to raise awareness about child protection laws, establish dedicated child protection services, and prioritize the identification and rehabilitation of children at risk. He directed all relevant departments to intensify efforts to ensure children's safety and welfare across the district. Discussions also focused on implementing provincial directives, including the registration of orphanages and the installation of CCTV cameras for enhanced monitoring and security. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to addressing challenges affecting children's health and safety, reaffirming the administration's dedication to safeguarding the rights and futures of vulnerable children in Dir Payen.—APP

Jam reviews employment plan for Balochistan's border districts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Development Officer Asiya Perveen briefed Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on a comprehensive plan to create employment opportunities in the border districts of Balochistan. The initiative is part of a special assignment directed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to uplift underserved regions of the province, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The minister appreciated the presentation and noted that with right interventions, employment generation in these remote areas could be significantly enhanced. "We must adopt practical and community-based approaches," he said. Among the key suggestions, the minister proposed that all oil marketing companies should be required to establish their facilities to people. To engage the

youth, especially in low-cost recreational infrastructure, he emphasized the importance of building infrastructure in the sports and recreational sectors. The minister also highlighted the importance of micro-level interventions to improve household incomes and improve livelihoods and support mobility in rural areas. Addressing the mining sector, he pointed out the need to equip local workers with small-scale machinery. Not all mining requires heavy equipment—supporting small operators can open up substantial employment opportunities. He further stressed the role of technical education in building a skilled workforce and called for expansion of training programs in various trades. The minister also identified potential in the export of livestock, fisheries, and dates, and urged the development of enabling infrastructure, including warehouses, slaughterhouses, and cold storages. He suggested these facilities could be

operated by the private sector or local associations to drive economic activity. On industrial development, the minister called for facilitating marble cities and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through soft loan schemes. For women's empowerment, he proposed establishing district-level complexes featuring women chambers, gyms, auditoriums, and training facilities under one roof. The minister directed Chief Development Officer Asiya Perveen to categorize the proposed projects based on priority and prepare them for inclusion in the upcoming Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He further instructed that a more detailed and concrete proposal be prepared within the next few days for submission to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. All the proposals discussed were jointly streamlined by GoB, Commerce and other stakeholders.

Grand ceremony held at KMU on Int'l Nurses Day

DNA

PESHAWAR: A dignified ceremony was held at Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, in connection with International Nurses Day, in collaboration with the UK-based research and training service, SAME RPS. The purpose of the event was to pay tribute to the selfless services, spirit of sacrifice, and professional resilience of the nursing staff in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The event began with a solidarity walk, symbolizing unity with Pakistan's armed forces and reaf-

firming the commitment to national integrity. On this occasion, interviews of local Christian community representatives were also presented. They not only appreciated the services of the nursing staff but also paid homage to the vital role of the Pakistan Army in safeguarding the country's borders. SAME RPS dedicated the day to nurses and the Pakistan Army, recognizing their tireless efforts and valuable contributions. Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Ejaz Hussain, Director of SAME RPS, said that nursing is the backbone of the health-care system, while our

armed forces are the guarantors of national security. He added that the joint sacrifices and services of these two groups inspire the continuation of our educational and welfare activities. He further stated that the aim of this event was not only to promote excellence and professionalism in the health sector but also to express solidarity with all those serving Pakistan. The efforts of SAME RPS were appreciated by various segments of society, and the initiative was termed a positive step toward national unity and the promotion of public health.

ANF arrests 9 smugglers

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting six operations across the country, recovered as many as 148.400 kg of drugs worth more than Rs 156.8 million and arrested nine suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that 12 kg of hashish was recovered from the bag of two accused riding in a passenger bus near Gadani on RCD Road. In another operation, 9.6 kg of hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Burhan Interchange, Attock, and two accused were arrested. As much as 8.4 kg of hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Mandi Mor, Islamabad and two accused were nabbed. Similarly, 2.4 kg of hashish was recovered from two accused riding a motorcycle near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza, Attock. 6 kg of hashish recovered from a vehicle during another operation near Gadani on RCD Road, the accused was arrested. As many as 110 kg of heroin, hidden for smuggling, were recovered in a deserted area of Chaman district. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act, and an investigation has been initiated.—APP

Lecture on 'Role & Functions of Wafaqi Mohtasib' held

Haider said that the people could registered their complaints with the Mohtasib office. He reiterated that the Regional office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib would continue resolving remonstrances of the people

DNA

KARACHI: A lecture on the 'Role & Functions of Wafaqi Mohtasib' was held at the Government Commerce College here on Tuesday. The Senior Advisor, Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)

Secretariat Regional Office Karachi, Syed Anwar Haider addressed the participants. He said that the Mohtasib worked in line with the functions laid down within its jurisdiction. Haider said that the Mohtasib Secretariat inspect, investigate and

redress the grievances of the people. The Advisor said that the Wafaqi Mohtasib was committed to providing relief and justice to the people at their doorsteps. He said that the Regional Office officials act upon complaints and visit offices to inspect

and resolve the issues of the people. Haider said that the people could registered their complaints with the Mohtasib office. He reiterated that the Regional office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib would continue resolving remonstrances of the people.

Saif vows to defeat Indian aggression, terrorism

He reiterated the administration's commitment to utilizing all available resources to uphold peace and security in the region

DNA

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Information, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif declared that Pakistan is fully prepared to counter any hostile actions from India, emphasizing that the nation's armed forces and

law enforcement agencies stand united against external threats. In a statement, he said that the Pakistan Army has already humiliated India by delivering a strong response on the eastern border, and any attempts by India-backed militants to destabilize the western frontier will also be crushed. He accused India

of sponsoring terrorist activities in KP, vowing that such elements will face severe consequences. Praising the bravery of the KP Police, the advisor highlighted their relentless efforts in combating terrorism and foiling enemy plots. He assured that the sacrifices of police personnel in the fight against militancy will not be forgotten.

Referring to the recent attack on police in Peshawar, Muhammad Ali Saif expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs and affirmed that the provincial government will ensure justice is served. He reiterated the administration's commitment to utilizing all available resources to uphold peace and security in the region.

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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 Forced 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



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& Rescue Services.4451122

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Motorway Police.9270601-20

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RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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Met Office.....9250360-6

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TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank


Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak, Nepal pledge regional climate cooperation

The meeting ended on a note of shared purpose, with Pakistan and Nepal pledging to continue working together on environmental and regional issues through diplomatic channels

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan and Nepal reaffirmed their commitment to regional climate cooperation during a meeting between Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik and Nepalese Ambassador Rita Dhital on Tuesday. The meeting focused on regional peace and environmental collaboration, with the visiting ambassador extending an invitation to Dr. Malik to attend Nepal's inaugural regional Climate Dialogue Forum. The event, which will bring together climate ministers from across South Asia and beyond, aims to conclude with a non-binding declaration on climate action. Ambassador Dhital welcomed the recent de-escalation of tensions in the region, calling it "a relief" and noting the "challenging circumstances faced by Pakistan." She also praised the country's leadership in international climate advocacy and environmental protection efforts. During the meeting, Dr. Malik emphasized Pakistan's "longstanding commitment to regional peace and stability," while highlighting the nation's experience as a victim of terrorism and aggression. "Pakistan speaks from a position



of clarity and dignity," Dr. Malik said. "While it earnestly seeks peace, this desire must not be misconstrued as a sign of weakness." Referring to the recent tensions

with India, the minister expressed regret over the loss of life on both sides and blamed the escalation on what he described as "India's failed attempt to assert hegemonic dominance in the region."

"We are happy that peace has now been restored," he added. Both sides agreed that climate change is one of the most urgent global challenges and stressed the need for stronger regional cooperation

to address its impacts. The meeting ended on a note of shared purpose, with Pakistan and Nepal pledging to continue working together on environmental and regional issues through diplomatic channels.

AIOU holds ‘Pakistan Zindabad Rally’

ISLAMABAD:Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized a grand "Pakistan Zindabad Rally," on Tuesday which began at Gate No. 1 and proceeded with great enthusiasm to the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat. The rally was participated by Principal Officers, faculty members, staff, and students in a great number. Participants carried national flags and passionately chanted slogans such as "Long Live Pakistan and the Pakistan Army," expressing their unwavering support for the armed forces. This rally was organized in celebration with the recent historic victory of Pakistan Army over its enemy The primary objective of this grand rally was to pay tribute to the courage, sacrifices, and bravery of the Pakistan Armed Forces and to demonstrate national unity against the nefarious intentions of the enemy. The rally was organized by the University's Employees Welfare Association and was enthusiastically attended by senior university officials, faculty members, staff, and students. Participants carried national flags and passionately chanted slogans such as "Long Live Pakistan and the Pakistan Army," expressing their unwavering support for the armed forces. Registrar Raja Umar Younis in his spirited speech, stated that in the recent conflict, Pakistan gave a fitting response to the enemy, proving that this nation will never compromise on its sovereignty, freedom, and security. He emphasized that the Pakistan Armed Forces – the Army, Air Force, and Navy – demonstrated exemplary coordination and unity, thwarting the enemy's malicious designs and delivering a crushing response. He urged everyone to set aside personal differences and always promote national unity and cohesion. He also extended gratitude to the public and friendly nations, especially China, for standing by Pakistan in difficult times, proving true friendship. Concluding his address, he passionately expressed love for the homeland and led the audience in chanting, "Pakistan Forever Zindabad!" President of the Employees Welfare Association, Sher Asif Satti, while addressing the rally, said that standing alongside the Pakistan Armed Forces is the duty of every patriotic citizen. He stated that we stand as a solid wall against every conspiracy of the enemy. Sher Asif Satti advised his friends and colleagues to adopt unity, cooperation, and hard work as guiding principles for the progress of the country and the institution so that Pakistan may always remain alive and radiant. Dr. Hafiz Tahir Islam, in his vote of thanks, said that with the grace and mercy of Allah Almighty, our armed forces forced an enemy eight times larger to face crushing defeat. He noted that the bravery, skill, and sacrifice displayed by the soldiers of Pakistan's Army and Air Force have been recognized by the entire world. Dr. Tahir Islam added that our commander-in-chief, who is also a Hafiz-e-Qur'an, fulfilled his role and leadership in such a way that he made the entire nation proud.—DNA

Call for relentless crack-down against crime

ISLAMABAD:Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Muhammad Jawad Tariq on Tuesday presided over a high-level meeting to review the prevailing crime situation and formulate strategies for stronger enforcement against criminal elements. An official told APP that the meeting was attended by SSP Investigation, Zonal SPs, and SD-POs, during which the performance of all officers was thoroughly evaluated. DIG Tariq stated that the rising trend in crime would not be tolerated and instructed that those involved in serious and heinous crimes must be arrested promptly and prosecuted with the full force of law. DIG emphasized that officers must apprehend absconding suspects without delay and complete investigations strictly on merit. DIG Tariq underscored the importance of submitting challans with concrete evidence to ensure convictions. DIG Tariq stressed that patrolling should be made more purposeful and impactful, with indiscriminate action against illegal arms displays and land grabbing elements. DIG maintained that the arrest of proclaimed offenders must be ensured and grievance redressal mechanisms should be functional at police station level to resolve public complaints on a priority basis. DIG Tariq warned of strict action against any police officials involved in bribery, corruption, or misconduct, including those already facing complaints. He affirmed that misuse of authority and corrupt practices would not be tolerated under any circumstances.


Lawmakers lauds armed forces unified response to indian aggression

ISLAMABAD:Lawmakers on Tuesday praised Pakistan's armed forces for their effective and united response to Indian aggression, while mocking Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi by calling him "Surrender Modi." Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Hina Rabbani Khar condemned India's aggressive behavior, calling it reckless and against international norms. "India acted irrationally; Pakistan acted responsibly. But our patience was mistaken for weakness," she said. She expressed disappointment over the silence of the international community on India's move to revoke Article 370. He said that US President Donald Trump has acknowledged Kashmir as a disputed territory. She warned against justifying cross-border strikes in the name of counterterrorism. "If such logic is accepted, Pakistan could also justify striking inside India by presenting proof of Indian-sponsored terrorism," she cautioned. PPP leader Abdul Qadir Patel paid tribute to Pakistan's armed forces, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, and the Pakistan Air Force for their brave and united response. He mocked Modi by calling him "Surrender Modi," and said, "Pakistan has shown the world that we want peace, but if war is forced on us, we will respond with full force." He accused India of being behind acts of terrorism in Pakistan and credited the country's nuclear strength to the efforts of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.He also appreciated PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for promoting Pakistan's peace message internationally.—DNA

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FBR registers nearly 2.4 m new taxpayers

ISLAMABAD:Parliamentary Secretary for Finance Saad Waseem Sheikh informed the National Assembly on Monday that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has registered 2,391,566 new taxpayers through the Tax Laws Amendment process. During the Question Hour in the National Assembly, he revealed that by April 29, 2025, the total number of tax return filers had reached 6,594,832. Of these, 106,118 were Association of Persons (AOPs), while 93,749 companies also submitted their tax returns To another question, he informed the house on the taxes collected by mobile phone companies from consumers. From July 2024 to March 2025, mobile companies collected a total of Rs. 84.25 billion in taxes, which were subsequently deposited into the national treasury, he told. In a separate question, Sheikh Saad Waseem also disclosed that the number of Roshan Digital Accounts (RDA) opened by overseas Pakistanis has reached 805,009.—APP

Zero tolerance policy against ‘cheating’ culture

RAWALPINDI:Controller of Examinations, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi, Tanveer Asghar Awan, conducted an unannounced emergency visit to various examination centers in Attock. During the visit, the Controller met with the examination staff and thoroughly reviewed the functionality of CCTV cameras, distribution of question papers, identification of students, and attendance records. He also had a brief interaction with students and gathered their feedback on the examination environment. Addressing media representatives, Tanveer Asghar Awan emphasized that the board's primary objective is to ensure a transparent, impartial, and merit-based examination system. He said that there will be zero tolerance for cheating and any student or staff member found involved in malpractices will face strict legal action. The Controller further mentioned that district monitoring teams are actively reporting on a daily basis, and vigilance squads have been deployed at all examination centers to prevent any illicit activities.

Jazz partners with DynaSys to accelerate IoT-driven innovation

ISLAMABAD:Jazz, Pakistan's top digital operator, has teamed up with DynaSys Networks, a leading Internet of Things (IoT) solutions provider, to speed up the use of IoT technology across important sectors in the country. These sectors include agriculture, energy, transportation, and urban infrastructure. The collaboration will enable real-time data collection, automation, and analytics to drive smarter, more efficient systems nationwide, said a news release . Built on Jazz's extensive digital infrastructure and powered by DynaSys' localized technology stack, the platform will allow public and private sector organizations to deploy intelligent and scalable solutions—ranging from smart irrigation systems and precision farming to

predictive grid monitoring and environmental and fleet tracking. It is a foundational step in reshaping Pakistan's operational backbone through connected intelligence. Asif Aziz, President Enterprise Solutions at Jazz, said: "Pakistan stands at the tipping point of digital transformation, and this platform is a bold leap into the future. At Jazz, we're not just providing connectivity—we're building the systems that will power intelligent, self-regulating cities, sustainable farms, and data-driven industries. This initiative cements our position at the forefront of the digital revolution, and demonstrates how Jazz is turning technology into tangible national progress." Ali Akhtar, Founder and CEO of DynaSys Networks, added: "Our vision is to build technology that truly improves lives—solutions designed with local needs in mind and built to make a lasting impact. Partnering with Jazz

allows us to scale these innovations and bring smart, connected solutions to the forefront of Pakistan's digital transformation journey." As the world moves rapidly toward integrated, data-centric systems, this initiative positions Pakistan to reap the benefits of productivity, sustainability, and resilience offered by IoT. As part of its broader Quantica strategy, Jazz is also positioning this platform as a foundational layer for intelligent infrastructure and data-driven transformation across sectors and industries. With over 100 million customers, Jazz continues its evolution into a digital-first Service Co by powering a portfolio of platforms including Garaj, JazzCash, Tamasha, SIMOSA, FikrFree, and GameNow—with a focus on inclusive, impactful technology. The Jazz-DynaSys initiative marks a significant step toward building smarter, more connected communities and driving Pakistan's digital future.

Briefs

BISP, WFP to strengthen nutrition and education initiatives

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, held a high-level meeting with the World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director, Coco Ushiyama to explore avenues for strengthening collaborative efforts in nutrition and education for BISP beneficiaries. The meeting, also attended by WFP Deputy Country Director Rathi Pala Krishnan and BISP Director General Dr. Asim Ijaz, focused on enhancing the School Meal Programme, development of the Nashonuma Dashboard, data sharing protocols, and repurposing Nashonuma centers into counseling hubs for maternal and child health. Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the need for ensuring the provision of quality Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF) under the Nashonuma initiative, underlining its critical role in combating child stunting and promoting maternal well-being. She also highlighted the importance of expanding health-related initiatives in the newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. WFP Country Director, Coco Ushiyama reaffirmed the organization's commitment to support BISP's efforts and agreed on engaging additional stakeholders to bolster strategic collaborations in the future. —APP

NPO to organize webinar on 'root cause analysis'

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar titled "Root Cause Analysis" on May 15 (Thursday) RCA's task is to identify potential causes, determine which cause or causes are root causes, and address those root causes to ensure the effect (problem) does not happen again, said the NPO document shared here on Tuesday. The workshop will provide information about the root cause and its analysis, the principle of RCA, three basic causes of non-conformance, ISO requirements about RCA, and why RCA is important. The learning outcomes include why RCA is important in solving problems, and five steps to RCA with corrective action. The webinar is designed for everyone doing supervision at all levels, heads of departments, departmental managers, shift in charge, HR managers, middle management, HSE officers, production engineers, warehouse in charge, lab managers, quality managers, managers and executives of all functions. —APP

Business community to get facilitation not harassment

ICCI President calls for broadening tax net without burdening existing taxpayers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Abid Mehmood, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Islamabad, has reaffirmed his department's commitment to facilitating the business community, recognizing its vital role in the economic development of the country. He assured that every possible measure would be taken to resolve tax-related challenges faced by businesses. Addressing a gathering of business leaders during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Chief Commissioner emphasized the ongoing efforts to simplify the tax system through digitization, aiming to improve tax compliance and ease of doing business. He was accompanied by senior tax officials, including Ms. Bushra Jaffar (Commissioner Refund Zone), Naveed Khan Tareen (Commissioner Withholding Taxes Zone), Said Munaf (Commissioner North Zone), and Zafar Jamal Jasra (Additional Com-



missioner, Headquarters) Abid Mehmood highlighted the importance of fostering a relationship of mutual trust between tax collectors and taxpayers, adding that teams would be formed to visit markets, conduct awareness sessions, and assist in filing tax returns. He stressed that the environment of coercion or intimidation has no place in the tax system and reaffirmed that his office remains open to all taxpayers. Special facilitation counters have also been set up for senior citizens and

women to ensure inclusive and accessible tax services, he concluded. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, welcomed the RTO's supportive stance and underscored the need for extending due respect to the business community, which he described as a cornerstone of the national economy. He urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to work in close coordination with chambers to expand the tax base, rather than placing additional burdens on existing taxpayers. Qureshi stressed the impor-

tance of involving the business community in policymaking to build a taxpayer-friendly culture that encourages growth and investment. He added that offering attractive incentives to compliant taxpayers would reduce apprehensions and broaden tax participation. ICCI Executive member Chaudhry Nadeem Ahmed, Ms. Fatimz Azim, Council member Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mohammad Masood Chaudhry, Traders leaders Assad Aziz, Naeem Iqbal, Advisor to ICCI President Naeem Siddiqui also high-

lighted the problems facing the business community concerning the FBR and called for continued collaboration to resolve longstanding tax issues. Prominent attendees included Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Executive Members, Mian Shaikat Masood, Rohail Anwar Butt, Ishaq Sial, Imran Minhas, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Irfan Chaudhry, Mohsin Khalid Malik, Mian Mohammad Ramazan Convener Tax Standing Committee, ICCI members Tehmas Butt, Shahid Zafar and Ahmed Khan.

Media's key role in shaping public opinion, policy: Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized the vital role of media in today's society, and said that it plays a crucial part in keeping the public well informed, shaping perspectives, potentially guiding both public opinion and policy decisions. Speaking at a recent forum on media and democracy, Rehman underscored the responsibility of the press in promoting transparency and accountability. She added that in an era of rapid information flow, responsible journalism is more important than ever to ensure a well-informed public and a healthy democratic process. They act as a bridge between the operation and the general public, providing access to information and insights. However, the media's role can be complex, with the potential to both support and hinder operational objectives. She stated that the Kashmir issue and relevant UN resolutions continue to be overlooked. "We seek peace, not nuclear war. It was Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who made Pakistan a nuclear power, and the credit for advancing missile technology goes to Benazir Bhutto." They always attack under the cover of darkness. She added that the leadership of our forces has clearly presented its position. Nayyar Hussain Bukhari on this occasion, said that during the India-Pakistan war, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari represented the country and it's stance before the international media. "India's stance is not new—back in 1948, Jawaharlal Nehru also went to the United Nations over the Kashmir issue." Even now, when India was given a response, they turned to the United States. The US has played a significant role in this region. Nadeem Afzal Chan said that "Our military made the nation proud. Now political parties must also act in a way that brings pride to the nation." The whole world has realized that Pakistan is a victim of terrorism, not a facilitator of it. We thank the countries that stood with Pakistan during this war. Further, he added, that "I congratulate the nation. The Pakistan People's Party stands with everyone in celebrating a day of gratitude." Pakistan Chairman Bilawal Bhutto led Pakistan's narrative on the international media front. Whether we are in government or not, the President has said full support must be given to the government and the armed forces. Shehbaz Sharif also brought honor to the country during this difficult time. Those defending our borders are our heroes. The defense at the borders was so tight that the enemy was terrified. India tried to show a different map of Pakistan on their media. "Congratulations to the Pakistan Air Force—the falcons—who, with limited numbers, downed several jets, witnessed by all," he said. Indian officials couldn't respond to journalists' questions during their press conference. We saw complete unity in Pakistan. The whole nation stood together. Political parties were united. India had to face the consequences. Indian leaders are now giving speeches to hide their incompetence. For three days in a row, they continued their attacks, beating the drums of war. "We downed Indian jets, yet they targeted unarmed civilians." Attacking unarmed civilians is a crime under international law. The next day, 77 drones were shot down. Their media was playing a Bollywood film. Their media must have been ashamed. —DNA

SECP proposes framework to strengthen industry associations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has released a Consultation Paper on Standard Principles for Recognition and Conduct of Industry Associations, introducing a strategic framework aimed at strengthening Pakistan's financial sector through enhanced self-reg-

ulation. In today's dynamic regulatory landscape, industry associations are increasingly moving beyond their conventional role as advocacy bodies. Globally, they are being recognized as vital contributors to economic development by engaging in policy dialogue, supporting regulatory compliance, and fostering responsible industry practices, said a press release issued here. The proposed framework

sets out a clear roadmap for eligible industry associations to transition into Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) over the next three years. These SROs will be vested with the authority to set ethical standards, monitor industry conduct, enforce compliance, and drive sector-specific initiatives, all in alignment with SECP's overarching regulatory objectives. Key features of the proposal include the man-

datory conversion of trade associations into Section 42 companies under the Companies Act, 2017, ensuring they operate as not-for-profit entities. This aims to enhance transparency, strengthen governance, and uphold financial integrity. The framework also aligns with international best practices, emphasizing diverse and merit-based membership, strong governance, conflict-of-interest safeguards.

Pakistan changed regional power balance in few hours

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Pakistan Business Network Omar Butt stated on Tuesday that Pakistan Army has permanently altered the regional balance of power within a matter of hours. He noted that the humiliation of India's retreat and Pakistan's swift military success have astonished the experts all over the world. Speaking to the business community, Omar Butt said that Pakistan's war strategy has shaken the global power equilibrium. Pakistan has not only shattered India's military pride but also demolished its very foundations of war, leaving observers stunned. He praised the technical brilliance and modern warfare model of the Pakistan Army, led by General Asim Munir, which crushed all of Modi's assumptions and left him disgraced on the world stage. The Pakistan Army has created a new chapter in South Asian military history, he remarked. The business leader further stated that Pakistani soldiers demonstrated unmatched faith, sacrifice, and professionalism, while Pakistani experts decimated India's entire defence network, grounding its air force. Pakistani aircraft patrolled Indian airspace without fear; a total failure of Indian leadership, he noted. The President of the Pakistan Business Network Omar Butt mentioned that Pakistan's success and India's downfall prompted previously silent global powers to spring into action, calling for a ceasefire. Pakistan acted wisely as a responsible nuclear power and limited the war in time, demonstrating strategic wisdom in its military actions. General Asim Munir has shown the world that modern warfare is not just about weapons but also technology, intelligence, and strategy. Victory lies not in numbers but in training, discipline, faith, and technological superiority. Omar Butt added that Pakistan used its military edge not for aggression but for strategic defence, successfully thwarting enemy plans. This triumph has elevated national morale and improved Pakistan's global standing. He emphasised that now is the time to apply the same spirit to Pakistan's economic and industrial policies, underlining the urgency and importance of these measures to make the country invincible militarily and economically. To achieve this, he proposed providing incentives to local industries to boost production and exports, simplifying the tax structure, ensuring ease in energy and raw material supply, replacing complex tax policies with a transparent and business-friendly system, and prioritising exports in IT, agriculture, textiles, and defence equipment. He also suggested that exporters be made more comfortable with refunds, subsidies, and market access, that investor confidence be restored through political stability, justice, and an end to corruption, that youth be equipped with modern technology, entrepreneurship, and vocational training, that university-industry links be strengthened, and that frequent policy shifts be avoided to enable long-term planning. —DNA

Hasrat Mohani death anniversary observed

ISLAMABAD: The death anniversary of famous Urdu poet, journalist, politician, parliamentarian, and a fearless freedom fighter of the sub-continent, Maulana Hasrat Mohani, was observed on Tuesday. Born in 1875 in Mohan, his real name was Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan. Maulana Hasrat Mohani took part in the struggle for independence and was jailed for many years by British authorities. He was also imprisoned for promoting anti-British ideas, especially for publishing an article in his magazine Urdu-e-Mualla. A few of his books are Kuliyat-e-Hasrat, Sharh-e-Kalam-e-Ghalib, Nukaat-e-Sukhan, Tazkira-tul-Shuara and Mushahidat-e-Zindaan. He died on May 13, 1951 in Lucknow. —APP

Meeting held to address issue of damaged fencing

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Communication Engineer Gul Asghar Khan Baghoor on Tuesday said the government had conducted a high-level meeting in February, 2025 to address the issue of damaged fencing on Motorways. He was responding to a calling attention notice raised by the Member National Assembly Ms Asiya Naz Tanoli in the National Assembly regarding the deteriorating condition of safety fencing along the country's motorways and national highways, warning that the poor infrastructure poses a significant risk of accidents. Parliamentary Secretary for Communications further said "Previously, the condition of fencing was not satisfactory, but we have now taken concrete actions. On the M-1 Motorway, for example, 100 percent of the fencing repair work has been completed in the targeted area," said the Parliamentary Secretary. In response to the question, he added that sufficient funds have been allocated for the repair and maintenance of the Lahore-Islamabad M-2 Motorway. —APP

NA passes two private members' bills

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday passed two private members' bills with a majority vote. The approved bills are, the International Examination Board Bill, 2024 and The Ghurki Institute of Science and Technology Bill, 2024. Both bills had been reviewed and approved by the relevant committees before being presented in the House. The bills were passed clause by clause. —APP

Policy in action or progress on paper? gauging MOCC's environmental footprint

More importantly, unqualified staff must be replaced with experienced professionals. Without such bold action, the ministry risks becoming a ceremonial entity—well-armed on paper but toothless in practice

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



PAKISTAN ranks among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change, grappling with recurring natural disasters, including floods, droughts, heatwaves, and deforestation. The country's ecological fragility has turned climate resilience from a policy preference into a national imperative. In this dire scenario, the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) is tasked with spearheading the coun-

try's climate agenda. On paper, it is well-positioned to lead—entrusted with formulating national strategies, overseeing implementation, and coordinating international environmental obligations. A growing body of evidence raises troubling concerns. Is the MOCC merely symbolic, or does it possess the capacity and will to bring about meaningful change? The MOCC was established with a wide-ranging mandate. It is responsible for national climate policy, afforestation drives, air and water quality standards, biodiversity protection, disaster resilience, and coordination across federal and provincial lines. Departments exist to handle forestry, environmental policy, coordination, and biodiversity. But the mere presence of bureaucratic structures does not guarantee functional efficiency. The gap between theoretical capability and real-world performance has become increasingly evident in recent years. One of the MOCC's flagship initiatives, the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program (TBTP), exemplifies this dichotomy. Rebranded as the Upscaling Green Pakistan Program (UGPP), the project was touted as a major step toward ecological restoration. Yet the rebranding has done little to resolve the project's deep-rooted

problems—flawed planning documents, delayed funding, poor governance, and compromised field execution. At the heart of the UGPP is its PC-1 document—the operational and financial blueprint. Despite clear discrepancies, the document has not been revised since 2019. Key changes, such as low labor wages, flat rates for leasing land for nurseries, lack of a clear community engagement strategy, renaming the project and modifying its wildlife components, remain unapproved, reflecting a fundamental failure in administrative due diligence. The absence of updated and accurate planning documentation is not just a technical oversight; it jeopardizes the very integrity of project execution. A flawed PC-1 undermines transparency, hinders provincial alignment, and leaves implementation teams navigating in ambiguity. Perhaps the most debilitating issue lies in the delayed and inconsistent disbursement of funds to the provinces. Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir all report pending financial liabilities from the federal government. The cascading effects are profound, projects stall, workers remain unpaid for months, and critical momentum is

lost. When provinces are left scrambling for operational expenses, the central ministry's credibility erodes, and national cohesion on climate action disintegrates. Field workers—arguably the most vital cogs in the machine—bear the brunt of this neglect. Laborers and forest guards frequently go unpaid for up to six months. This demoralization not only compromises project outcomes but also raises ethical concerns about labor exploitation under a government-backed initiative. An equally troubling issue is the quality of human resources deployed under UGPP. Instead of merit-based recruitment, political patronage and nepotism dominate appointments. Many staff members lack basic qualifications in forestry, climate science, or environmental management. This lack of domain knowledge cripples project execution. Inexperienced employees struggle with species selection, plantation mapping, and site monitoring—tasks that require specialized skills. The situation is further aggravated when senior forest officers are sidelined in favor of politically appointed bureaucrats. Meetings are routinely chaired by individuals with no practical knowledge, fueling resentment within the ranks of

professional forestry personnel. The result is a broken chain of command, where policy-making and ground realities operate in complete disconnect. The Federal Secretary of the MOCC holds a theoretically pivotal role, ensuring inter-departmental coordination, overseeing provincial alignment, and monitoring project outcomes. In practice, position has devolved into a passive, ceremonial role. Rather than driving strategic decisions or holding stakeholders accountable, the office is mired in routine report collection and ineffective meetings. This bureaucratic inertia has become emblematic of MOCC's broader dysfunction. Endless meetings, circular correspondence, and redundant reporting create an illusion of activity but produce negligible results. The appointment of Dr. Musaddiq for Climate Change brought a wave of optimism. An academic with a public profile, Dr. Malik was seen as a potential reformer. Yet, initial indicators suggest he may be falling into the same administrative traps as his predecessors—symbolic gestures over substantive reforms. If Dr. Malik intends to make a meaningful impact, he must pivot from performative leadership to performance-oriented governance. Concrete steps would include launch-

ing internal audits, fact-based publishing annual performance reports, and making surprise visits to project sites. More importantly, unqualified staff must be replaced with experienced professionals. Without such bold action, the ministry risks becoming a ceremonial entity—well-armed on paper but toothless in practice. Pakistan's climate vulnerabilities are not abstract—they are lived realities for millions affected by floods, heatwaves, and droughts. In such a high-stakes context, the MOCC cannot afford to be a paper tiger. Despite its extensive mandate and sprawling bureaucracy, the ministry has so far underperformed on multiple fronts: planning, execution, coordination, and accountability. To transform into a functional force, the MOCC must undertake institutional reforms. Transparency, meritocracy, and field-based feedback mechanisms must become the new norm. Programs like UGPP need to be re-evaluated, not rebranded. And leadership at the top must shift from managing appearances to delivering outcomes. Only then can the Ministry of Climate Change move from symbolic relevance to strategic effectiveness—and truly serve as the vanguard of Pakistan's climate resilience.

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TAPI Gas Project in limbo amid regional tensions

THE much-anticipated Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, once hailed as a beacon of regional energy cooperation and economic integration, finds itself in a state of indefinite limbo. Recent escalations in tensions between Pakistan and India have dealt a serious blow to the feasibility of this already challenged venture, further compounding the difficulties posed by the ongoing instability in Afghanistan. TAPI, designed to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan's Galkynysh gas field to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan, was envisioned as a win-win proposition for all parties. For energy-starved South Asian nations, particularly Pakistan and India, the pipeline promised a steady and reliable source of natural gas to fuel economic growth. For Afghanistan, it offered a potential economic lifeline through transit fees and job creation. However, regional geopolitics have once again overshadowed economic logic. The recent military flare-up between Pakistan and India has exacerbated an already strained relationship. In the current environment of mutual mistrust and hostility, any collaborative economic initiative involving both countries is unlikely to progress. Pakistan's security and strategic concerns regarding India's involvement in the TAPI project are understandable, especially when national interests are at stake. As long as India remains part of the project framework, Islamabad is unlikely to proceed with full commitment. Moreover, the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan poses an even more critical threat to the project. Despite initial optimism following the Taliban's return to power, the country continues to struggle with internal instability, terrorism, and lack of international recognition. These conditions render the safe construction and operation of a cross-country pipeline virtually impossible. No serious investor or stakeholder can be expected to take risks in a region fraught with such uncertainty. Adding to the complexity is Turkmenistan's insistence on keeping India within the project to ensure maximum commercial viability. While the economic rationale is clear—India offers the largest potential market among TAPI participants—this insistence appears to be delaying progress. In light of the changing geopolitical landscape, Turkmenistan may need to reassess its approach. Prioritizing a phased implementation—focusing first on Pakistan and Afghanistan—could be a more practical path forward. While the TAPI gas pipeline remains a potentially transformative project, its success hinges on improved regional security and pragmatic diplomacy. Unless tensions between Pakistan and India ease, and Afghanistan stabilizes, TAPI is unlikely to move beyond paper. It is time for stakeholders to re-evaluate their strategies and seek phased, flexible alternatives that reflect ground realities.



G-14 –a victim of red-tap apathy and land mafia

THE Islamabad Post's recent report on the status of Sector G-14 lays bare the shameful saga of neglect, corruption, and systemic failure that has plagued this sector since its announcement in 2004. After over two decades, the promise of a developed and livable residential area remains largely unfulfilled. What should have been a bustling, well-planned sector in the capital has instead become a painful symbol of state failure and the unchecked rise of land mafias. The heart of the issue lies in Sub-Sector G-14/1, which remains illegally occupied. Despite repeated promises from the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and other relevant bodies, no concrete action has been taken to clear the encroachments. The modus operandi is as old as it is vile: opportunists, often backed by local thugs and corrupt officials, erect illegal structures on government-allocated land. Once established, they demand exorbitant compensation for vacating the premises, in many cases threatening or violently resisting any attempt at eviction. Shockingly, the report alleges that these activities occur in connivance with officials of the Housing Authority—those meant to protect the public interest. Development work has commenced in sub-sectors G-14/2, 3, and 4, but that is no consolation for thousands of allottees of G-14/1 who have waited patiently—some for nearly 20 years—to build a home. Tragically, many have passed away waiting for their plots to materialize into homes. This is not merely a matter of bureaucratic inefficiency; it is a human rights failure. These people were promised land through legal and official channels, paid their dues, and upheld their end of the bargain. The state has not. It is unacceptable that a sector in the capital of Pakistan remains in the grip of illegality and impunity. The land mafia operates openly, secure in the knowledge that the system either fears or favors them. This cannot continue. The Supreme Court of Pakistan and senior government officials must take immediate and decisive action. Land encroachments should be dealt with swiftly, and those found complicit within the Housing Authority must face disciplinary and criminal consequences. Furthermore, the government must expedite the development of the remaining parts of G-14, ensure fair compensation to legal allottees for the delay, and establish a transparent mechanism for oversight to prevent such failures in the future. Urban planning and public trust in state institutions cannot be held hostage by criminal elements and their bureaucratic accomplices. G-14 must not be allowed to become a cautionary tale of how public housing initiatives fall prey to corruption and neglect. Instead, it must be transformed into an example of justice restored and promises fulfilled. The allottees deserve no less. How many more have to die waiting for the home they were promised before action is taken?

Pakistan's response and the global arms game

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The main stakeholders in this global arms bazaar are well known. The United States remains the world's largest arms exporter, commanding over 40% of the total arms sales globally. It is followed by Russia, France, China, and Germany. Israel, though much smaller in size, holds disproportionate influence through its advanced electronic warfare and missile systems. Together, these nations dominate a market worth hundreds of billions of dollars. It seems that the unseen forces that wanted to create a storm in a teacup and achieve the desired results failed miserably

IN the records of human history, the list of wars fought is both long and tragic. While some emerged from genuine conflicts and political disputes, others have been ignited by contrived reasons, often no more than well-rehearsed scripts designed to justify aggression. Throughout time, powers have discovered ways to create pretexts for war to meet their strategic or economic objectives. This seems precisely the nature of the recent confrontation between India and Pakistan. The script was not written in Delhi, nor Islamabad. Rather, its fabric appears woven in foreign capitals, masterminded by figures whose interests lie far beyond South Asia. The present war, though triggered on the border, was planned in boardrooms and war rooms that care little for the people who suffer its consequences. India, once again, played the role of a willing instrument, launching an offensive against Pakistan under the illusion of superiority and with the false hope of quick victory. Yet, the war's true origin lies not in Kashmir or along the Line of Control, but in the discomfort caused by the ever-deepening bond between Pakistan and China. For years now, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has drawn the ire of global players, especially those who once held sway over the military and economic choices of smaller nations. As Pakistan and China began sharing military equipment and technology, a sense of unease spread among those who had long dominated the global arms market. The monopoly enjoyed by Western nations in the trade of military hardware, worth billions annually, had begun to erode. China, with its growing technological capabilities, challenged this dominance, offering competitive, efficient and reliable alternatives. It was a challenge that could not be ignored. Thus, a plan was

hatched. It was decided that China's defense credibility must be tested, perhaps even broken. And what better way than to draw its strategic partner, Pakistan, into a war with its old rival—India? The thinking was that Pakistan, burdened with economic hardships and international pressure, would either refrain from war or collapse under its weight. It would be a war scripted to humiliate, to send a message, and to reset the balance of arms superiority. The main stakeholders in this global arms bazaar are well known. The United States remains the world's largest arms exporter, commanding over 40% of the total arms sales globally. It is followed by Russia, France, China, and Germany. Israel, though much smaller in size, holds disproportionate influence through its advanced electronic warfare and missile systems. Together, these nations dominate a market worth hundreds of billions of dollars. It seems that the unseen forces that wanted to create a storm in a teacup and achieve the desired results failed miserably. In reality, the aim was to promote their respective brands in the arms market, and for this, it was very important to start a war. For them, war was not a tragedy but an exhibition—a battlefield transformed into a marketing showroom. But what followed defied every expectation. Pakistan did not falter. It did not hesitate. Nor did it compromise. Instead, it stood firm, not just for itself, but for its alliance with China. With discipline, strategy, and resilience, it turned the tide of war. The calculated assault, meant to break its will, only sharpened its resolve. Its response was swift, coordinated, and, above all, unexpected. The weapons and systems jointly developed with China performed with striking success. Where Israeli and French technology failed, and Western claims fell short, Chinese-built systems excelled. This war, in truth, became more than a re-

gional conflict. It became a testing ground for global military supremacy. In a matter of hours, the battlefield became a stage on which the reputations of arms manufacturers were weighed. What was to be a humiliation turned into a triumph. The global spectators—those who thought Pakistan would crumble—were forced to step in to contain the situation, not out of mercy, but fear. The plan had backfired. If President Trump had not intervened and called for an end to the hostilities, the war might have shifted the balance of the global arms trade entirely in China's favour. America stood to lose not only political clout, but billions in defense contracts. Now, a new reality is emerging. Nations previously dependent on American, French, or Israeli military technology are reassessing their options. They witnessed a war where the so-called superior technologies faltered, and where Pakistan, with Chinese support, delivered a performance no one anticipated. In doing so, the myth of Western invincibility in defense technology was cracked, perhaps irreparably. India, too, finds itself exposed. Its miscalculation has cost it dearly—not just in equipment, men, and morale, but in credibility. And those who pushed it into war must now reckon with a different outcome than they planned. The trap they laid for others has caught their own foot. It is a reminder of an old adage—that he who digs a pit for another, may find himself at its bottom. This war was not just between two neighbours; it was a war of markets, influence, and technology. And though brief, its implications will be lasting. It has shown that truth cannot be manufactured like weapons, and strength cannot be scripted. The world watched, thinking Pakistan would blink. Instead, it held its gaze, and in doing so, changed the narrative.

Modi reemerges: Humbled, hurt, and unreformed

Qamar Bashir



Perhaps the most overlooked and revolutionary aspect of this confrontation was Pakistan's demonstration of indigenously developed soft warfare capabilities. Pakistan showcased its ability to launch effective cyberattacks, disrupt unmanned aerial vehicles midair, and induce critical errors in India's missile command and control systems. Using precision electronic warfare tools, Pakistan successfully diverted, reprogrammed, and redirected multiple...

WHEN tragedy struck in Pahalgalam on April 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi seized the moment—not for justice or truth, but for electoral gain. Assuming the roles of victim, judge, and executioner, Modi promptly blamed Pakistan without investigation, forensic inquiry, or evidence. In doing so, he shielded India's bloated security establishment from scrutiny and used the incident to ignite nationalist passions just ahead of elections. On May 12, in his first national address since the escalation began, Modi resurfaced to glorify "Operation Sindoor" as a surgical strike on terror. He painted a picture of technological precision, national unity, and decisive leadership. He boasted of eliminating over 100 terrorists and destroying terror camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke, celebrating India's new doctrine of proactive defense. But the actual events bore little resemblance to this narrative. Modi claimed that Operation Sindoor had carved a new benchmark in India's fight against terror, framing it as a new normal. What he didn't admit was the colossal failure of India's intelligence and defense apparatus, and the devastating retaliation India faced from a militarily and economically smaller Pakistan. Instead of acknowledging the risks he plunged the region into—and the global threat such recklessness posed—he offered a hollow narrative that concealed more than it revealed. In reality, India's multi-pronged strikes by air, land, and sea killed no terrorists. They destroyed civilian homes, mosques, and empty fields. No confirmed terrorist casualties were reported. It was a spectacle designed for optics, not justice. Then came the shock: on the very first day of hostilities, six Indian fighter jets, including three much-hyped Rafales, were downed by Pakistan's lean but precise Air Force. A smaller, resource-constrained Pakistan had exposed the hollowness of India's military bravado. Indian forces launched waves of drone and missile strikes, but Pakistan's air defenses stood firm. Retaliatory strikes by Pakistan targeted and damaged Indian military infrastructure, shaking the very myth of India's invincibility. Between his lines, Modi hinted at the scale of Pakistan's retaliation. He admitted that Pakistani forces struck military bases, schools, temples, gurdwaras, and other sites—though framed them

as attacks on civilians. He emphasized that India's air defenses shot down Pakistani drones and missiles, but these assertions rang hollow against the verified losses and visible destruction within Indian territory. What he deliberately omitted was the fact that several Indian missiles misfired and landed within Indian-administered Kashmir and East Punjab, killing and maiming civilians—a damning failure of India's command and control systems. Crucially, Modi ignored how India had to turn to Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United States to plead for de-escalation. While portraying Pakistan as the one seeking ceasefire, it was India—bloodied and embarrassed—that sought mediation. Modi attempted to mask this diplomatic retreat by saying it was Pakistan that "contacted our DGMO" and "begged for peace," but the timeline and international reports suggested otherwise. From May 5 to May 10, the Prime Minister vanished from public view. In those tense days of peak escalation, Modi chose silence. His disappearance was not tactical restraint but a tacit admission of miscalculation. When he finally returned to deliver his May 12 speech, it was less a declaration of victory and more an exercise in damage control. His rhetoric turned to nuclear threats and pseudo-moral posturing. He vowed to respond to future attacks on Indian terms, claimed that India would no longer tolerate nuclear blackmail, and blurred the lines between governments and terrorists. He decried Pakistani officers for offering funeral prayers for those killed, presenting it as evidence of state-sponsored terrorism. Yet, the speech revealed more desperation than dominance. He further championed India's "Made in India" weapons and New Age Warfare capabilities, asserting that the operation validated indigenous defense manufacturing. However, it was evident to the world that India's weaponry failed to protect its skies or maintain strategic superiority. Most ironically, some of those weapons malfunctioned and fell on Indian soil—a bitter embarrassment Modi dared not mention. Perhaps the most overlooked and revolutionary aspect of this confrontation was Pakistan's demonstration of indigenously developed soft warfare capabilities. Pakistan showcased its ability to launch effective cyberattacks,

disrupt unmanned aerial vehicles midair, and induce critical errors in India's missile command and control systems. Using precision electronic warfare tools, Pakistan successfully diverted, reprogrammed, and redirected multiple Indian missiles midflight, neutralizing their threat without conventional interception. Moreover, it identified and targeted high-value military assets in real time using its sophisticated soft skills architecture. This capability—honed quietly over years—has now catapulted Pakistan into the ranks of countries mastering the next-generation battlefield. It may well be the first nation to have demonstrated such multi-domain, integrated, soft offensive capabilities in a live conflict. These assets played a decisive role in establishing Pakistan's air, land, and sea superiority during the conflict, negating India's numerical and technological advantages. One particularly dangerous narrative that Modi had often championed before this conflict—the threat to divert rivers flowing from India into Pakistan—has now been permanently shelved. The harsh lesson taught by Pakistan during this war has ensured that weaponizing water will remain a non-option. The idea of choking Pakistan's lifeline has backfired, permanently. Despite his thunderous declarations, Modi could not undo the most significant outcome of this conflict: the re-internationalization of the Kashmir issue. For years, India had worked to suppress international discourse on Kashmir. But now, thanks to its own aggression, Pakistan gained sympathy, legitimacy, and diplomatic traction. U.S. President Donald Trump once again offered mediation, forcing India to confront the very topic it sought to bury. Operation Sindoor, contrary to Modi's celebratory framing, will be remembered not as a triumph but as a strategic blunder. It exposed the limitations of India's military, the hollowness of its regional hegemony claims, and the perils of using warfare as an electoral tool. India's dream of uncontested regional supremacy has been reduced to rubble. Its myth of military superiority lies shattered. The chest-thumping nationalism that sought to project dominance has instead exposed deep vulnerabilities. From this humiliation, India may take years to recover—if at all. For now, the illusion of the subcontinent's sole superpower has gone up in smoke, replaced by wreckage, remorse, and rhetorical retreat.

Briefs

Indian PM Modi assertions...

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He emphasised that Pakistan has endured immense losses due to terrorism over the past 25 years, yet it continues to face baseless allegations. He declared that both the Taliban in Pakistan and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) act as proxies for India, saying that New Delhi is fuelling terrorism in the region. "We've suffered the most in the global fight against terror," Asif said. He reiterated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had offered cooperation in terror investigations for the Pahalgam attack, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace. Regarding water, Asif criticised India for attempting to politicise the issue and warned that the Indus Waters Treaty cannot be tampered with. "When dialogue begins, it should strictly follow treaty clauses," he stressed.

Indian aggression martyrs...

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Sepoy Muhammad Adeel Akbar, Sepoy Nisar. Pakistan Air Force: Squadron Leader Usman Yousuf, Chief Technician Aurangzeb, Senior Technician Najeeb, Corporal Technician Farooq, Senior Technician Mubashir. The noble sacrifice of martyrs, the ISPR said, is an enduring symbol of courage, devotion, and unwavering patriotism — etched forever in the nation's memory. The military's media wing said that the armed forces, together with the people of Pakistan, pay solemn tribute to the martyred civilians and military personnel, and offer heartfelt prayers for the swift recovery of the injured.

Trump Accepts Bribe of...

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Central to this controversy is the question of conflict of interest—a situation in which a public official's private interests might interfere with their obligations to serve the public good. As an ethical and legal principle, it is a standard used across democratic systems to safeguard transparency and impartiality. By accepting a \$400 million aircraft from Qatar, a nation with clear strategic interests in U.S. military and foreign policy, Trump risks compromising his ability to act in America's interest. Would he be able to negotiate with Qatar as an impartial leader? Would he challenge their positions on defense, energy, or regional security if doing so might sour the goodwill symbolized by this flying monument to privilege? These are not hypothetical concerns—they are urgent ethical questions with serious implications. Even if the aircraft is used only temporarily, the symbolism is damaging. No sovereign nation that values its independence would accept such an extravagant offering from a foreign power without fear of becoming beholden. Trump's acceptance without hesitation—and worse, with pride—signals not strength, but weakness.

Indian arrogance shattered...

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Expressing grief over the martyrdom of 40 innocent civilians, including 15 children and 7 women, as a result of Indian aggression, he said, "We have not forgotten the martyrs of the nation, nor will we do so, and their families will never be left alone." Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated that a Martyrs' Package had already been announced and the state would fully support the martyrs' families. He prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of the martyrs' ranks, patience for their families and early recovery of the injured, and said the operation Bunyanum Marsoos gave a fitting response to India. "Bunyanum Marsoos made it clear to India that it must respect the sovereignty and integrity of other nations in the region.

PSL X to resume to May 17, grand final on May 25

The rest of eight matches of the tournament are likely to be played at the two venues, Rawalpindi and Lahore, instead of the original plans of three venues including Multan before it was suspended on May 8 (Thursday)

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) X will resume on May 17 (Saturday) after a week-long hiatus and culminate with the final on May 25 (Sunday) at the Gaddafi stadium as per the revised schedule announced by the Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi in a tweet on social media platform X Tuesday morning. The rest of eight matches of the tournament are likely to be played at the two venues, Rawalpindi and Lahore, instead of the original plans

of three venues including Multan before it was suspended on May 8 (Thursday). The PSL X was suspended due to unprovoked, blatant act of war by India on May 7 when the Indian Air Force violated Pakistan's sovereignty using standoff weapons, targeting civilian population across international border in various cities including Rawalpindi where the PSL X matches were being played. The unprovoked aggression resulted in 26 casualties and created security situation across the country. In an unprecedented violation of rules of war, the Indian government attacked

civilian targets and even hit the sporting arena of Rawalpindi cricket stadium where PSL X fixtures were being played. The government was obliged to postpone the world's second best T20 franchise league for the safety of the foreign and local players and the foreign broadcast crew. A ceasefire was reached between the two neighboring countries on the intervention of the US President Donald Trump on May 11. In a message Mohsin Naqvi wrote: "HBL PSL X picks up from picks up from where it left off! six teams zero fear. Let the aura take over as we unite and cel-

brate the spirit of cricket. Get ready for eight thrilling matches starting 17th May, leading up to the Grand Final on 25th May. Best of Luck to all the teams." With more details on the rescheduling of the PSL 10 yet to come, the meeting between the PCB and the franchises on Monday evening has reached the decision to resume the league on May 17. With the HBL PSL X final to be played on May 25 means the Pakistan and Bangladesh T20I series, which was scheduled to commence on May 25 in Faisalabad, will not be affected and was likely to be moved a day or two ahead.

Cummins, Hazlewood, Green return in Australia's WTC final squad

SYDNEY: Captain Pat Cummins, fellow quick bowler Josh Hazlewood and all-rounder Cameron Green were all named Tuesday in Australia's 15-man squad for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against South Africa at Lord's next month. Cummins (ankle) and Hazlewood (hip and calf) missed Australia's most recent Test series in Sri Lanka because of injury but both have successfully returned to action in the Indian Premier League. Green returns to the squad for the first time since undergoing back surgery in

October last year. Exciting 19-year-old batsman Sam Konstas also gets the nod after being left out of the squad that won both Tests in Sri Lanka and is in line to open alongside Usman Khawaja. Konstas made an explosive start to his Test career against India in December, hitting 60 from 65 balls at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with six fours and two sixes. Hazlewood has taken 18 wickets to be third on the IPL bowling charts since coming back from injury. But he sat out Royal Challengers Bengaluru's last match 10 days ago with

a shoulder niggle. Green is already in England, on a five-match county stint for Gloucestershire, where he has been playing as a batsman only and scored a century in his first game back after surgery. "We are fortunate and looking forward to having Pat, Josh and Cam back in the squad," said chair of selectors George Bailey. "The team finished the WTC cycle with an impressive series victory in Sri Lanka following an equally strong summer in defeating India for the first time in a decade." Cummins' side

could become the first to retain the WTC when they face South Africa at Lord's from June 11, having beaten India in the previous final at the Oval in 2023. The same squad will fly on to the West Indies for three Tests in Barbados, Grenada and Jamaica from June 25. Australia squad: Pat Cummins (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster. — Agencies

PCB appoints Aqib Javed as Director High Performance

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday appointed former Pakistan Test fast bowler Aqib Javed as the Director High-Performance. He has previously served as the interim head coach of the Pakistan men's team. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said, "To strengthen our cricket infrastructure, we are pleased to welcome Aqib Javed as the Director of High Performance. His appointment, alongside Mike Hesson as the white-ball Head Coach, marks a significant step forward in our strategic vision for Pakistan Cricket. "Together, their expertise and leadership will play a pivotal role in the development, evolution and success of our national setup." — DNA



Romanian students earn seven medals at 2025 Asian Physics Olympiad

The Romanian team was led by Prof. Dr. Delia Davidescu from the International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sebastian Popescu from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi

BUCHAREST: The Romanian students who participated in the 2025 Asian Physics Olympiad, held in Saudi Arabia, achieved an outstanding performance by winning seven medals - two gold, two silver, and three bronze - as well as an honourable mention, as Romania participated in the competition as guest country, the Ministry of Education and Research (MEC) announced. 'Two gold medals, two silver, three bronze, and one honourable mention for our country at the 2025 Asian Physics Olympiad, where Romania participated as a guest. Congratulations to: Ionut Stan, International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest - gold medal; Felix Tudose, International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest - gold medal; Mendel Mendesohn, International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest - silver medal; Bogdan Ciocarlan, International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest - silver medal; Mircea Rebenigiu, 'Tudor Vianu' National College of Informatics Bucharest - bronze medal; Andrei Vila, International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest - bronze medal; Ioana Stanoiu, International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest - bronze medal; Teodor Ionescu, 'Mihai Viteazul' National College Bucharest - honourable mention,' reads a message posted by MEC on its Facebook page. The Romanian team was led by Prof. Dr. Delia Davidescu from the International Theoretical High School of Informatics Bucharest and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sebastian Popescu from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. The competition, now in its 25th edition, was held in Dhahran, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the participation of 208 contestants from 28 countries (27 from Asia-Pacific region and Romania as a guest country). — Agencies



NANKANA: State Minister of National Food security and Research Malik Rashid Ahmed Khan visits Nankana to offer condolences to the martyr's family on May 13, 2025. — DNA

PCB appoints Mike Hesson as white-ball head coach

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Kiwi Mike Hesson as head coach of the Pakistan Men's cricket team in the white-ball cricket. Mike Hesson will take over the coaching role on May 26 soon after the final of PSL X on May 25. As per the PCB media release here on Tuesday, Hesson comes in to fill the post after evaluation of numerous applications received against the vacancy, which fell vacant after Pakistan men's team tour to New Zealand in April. Known for his illustrious career as the most successful New Zealand head coach, Mike Hesson took New Zealand Men's team to new heights between 2012 and 2018. As head coach, he led the New Zealand Men's team to finish runner-up at the 2015 ICC men's ODI World Cup. He also served as the head coach of Kenya and other international and domestic teams. He has been working as the head coach of Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Islamabad United since 2023 and took coached them to victory in PSL 9 edition. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, in his welcome note to the incumbent head coach, said "I am pleased to announce the appointment of former New Zealand cricketer and renowned coach Mike Hesson as the white-ball head coach of the Pakistan men's team. "Mike brings with him a wealth of international experience and a proven track record of developing competitive sides. We look forward to his expertise and leadership in shaping the future of Pakistan's white-ball cricket. Welcome to the team, Mike!" — DNA

Ceasefire with India, result of diplomatic...

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role in the ceasefire. The minister said that the US President's second post on X expressed America's desire to resolve the Kashmir dispute. He said it was a good sign that President Donald Trump wanted to resolve the Kashmir issue. To a question about Indus Water Treaty, he said India has not yet stopped the flow of water to Pakistan, as it did not have the capacity to stop the water. At present, the flow of water was continuing as usual, Attaullah Tarar remarked. The minister said that Pakistan had expressed regret and sympathy over the Pahalgam incident.

Trump secures \$ 600 bln Saudi...

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"While energy remains a cornerstone of our relationship, the investments and business opportunities in the kingdom have expanded and multiplied many, many times over," Saudi Investment Minister Khalid al-Falih told a US-Saudi investment forum. "As a result ... when Saudis and Americans join forces very good things happen, more often than not great things happen when those joint ventures happen," he said before Trump's arrival. Trump called the Saudi crown prince a friend and said they have a good relationship, according to a pool report from the Wall Street Journal, adding that Saudi investment would help create jobs in the US.

India declares Pak official...

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The decision comes at a time of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. According to sources, Indian govt has also arrested two Indians from the Indian Punjab, for allegedly spying for the said Pakistani official.

SC adjourns Zahir Jaffer appeal...

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heard the high-profile case. Defence counsel Salman Safdar and prosecution lawyer Shah Khawar were present in court during the proceedings. Safdar requested a postponement, citing the need to submit additional documents. Justice Kakar, however, expressed displeasure over delays, remarking: "Why should we grant an adjournment if you're already present in court?" The judge further criticised unnecessary delays in the judicial system, saying: "In our court, a case is only delayed if the judge or a lawyer dies."

The Systematization of Neoclassical Realism



DR. M. AKRAM ZAHEER

THE emergence and development of neoclassical realism during the 1990s represents a significant intellectual advancement in the tradition of realist theories of international relations. Gideon Rose first systematized the term "neoclassical realism" in his seminal article, "Neoclassical Realism and Foreign Policy Theories," wherein he sought to bridge the gap between neorealism and classical realism. Subsequently, Jeffrey Taliaferro contributed further to this conceptual refinement by classifying contemporary realism into defensive and offensive variants and distinguishing between neorealism and neoclassical realism while identifying areas of overlap. By the time of these publications, neoclassical realism had already matured as a significant trend during the 1990s through the scholarship of a number of prominent American theorists. The designation "neoclassical realism" is logical, as it reflects an effort to enhance the analyt-

ical utility of neorealism by incorporating the theoretical insights of classical realism. Essentially, neoclassical realism represents a synthesis of classical and structural realist traditions. In Theory of International Politics, Kenneth Waltz, the principal architect of neorealism, focused predominantly on the systemic level of analysis, emphasizing the anarchic structure of the international system and the distribution of capabilities (polarity) among great powers as the principal determinants of state behavior. Waltz assumed the functional sameness of states, with survival as their primary objective, thereby dismissing the need for a detailed analysis of unit-level factors. Consequently, neorealism was designed not as a theory of foreign policy, but rather as a theory of international politics, concerned primarily with systemic outcomes such as war, peace and the stability of the international order. However, the limited ability of neorealism to account for variations in state behavior necessitated the introduction of additional variables. Stephen Walt's "balance of threat theory" represents such an innovation, seeking to explain deviations from Waltz's "balance of power theory" by incorporating perceptions of threat, rather than merely aggregate power, into the analysis. In an effort to overcome these limitations, neoclassical realism integrates systemic variables with unit-level factors, aiming to provide a more comprehensive explanation of foreign policy. While systemic conditions remain the primary independent variable, neoclassical realists assert that systemic pressures influence state behavior indirectly, mediated by

domestic variables such as leadership perceptions, state-society relations and national identity. Neoclassical realism consequently addresses the question of why states with similar positions in the international system often pursue divergent foreign policies. Furthermore, neoclassical realism retains the core assumptions of realism, particularly regarding the anarchic nature of international politics and the centrality of power, but also acknowledges that states may pursue objectives beyond mere survival, contingent on internal factors and leadership perceptions. The tradition itself can be bifurcated into offensive and defensive neoclassical realism, reflecting differing expectations regarding the behavior of states under varying conditions. While classical realism and other schools such as liberalism and constructivism had long recognized the relevance of unit-level factors, neoclassical realism formalizes their integration within a realist paradigm. Gideon Rose distinguished between systemic theories like neorealism and what he termed Innenpolitik theories which prioritize internal determinants of foreign policy. Critics of neoclassical realism have accused it of being a "degenerative" research program due to its eclectic borrowing from other paradigms and its dual-level analysis. In defense, proponents of neoclassical realism argue that classical realism itself incorporated unit-level analysis and that the rigid paradigmatic boundaries applied in the natural sciences are neither appropriate nor feasible in the social sciences. Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder are particularly noteworthy for their ap-

plication of the neoclassical realist framework to explain alliance behavior in the multipolar systems preceding the First and Second World Wars. They sought to understand why the balancing behavior predicted by Waltz's neorealism failed in both instances. Their analysis introduced the concepts of "chain gang" and "buck passing." "Chain gang" refers to the phenomenon wherein states are drawn into war due to tight alliance commitments, as exemplified by France's alignment with Russia and Britain's subsequent commitment to France during World War I. Conversely, "buck passing" describes the reluctance of states to commit to balancing against a rising threat, as demonstrated by Britain's hesitance to ally with France against Nazi Germany prior to World War II. Both dynamics, according to Christensen and Snyder, are characteristic of multipolar systems but cannot be adequately explained by systemic factors alone. Instead, they require attention to unit-level variables such as geography, military technology and threat perception. This integration of systemic and unit-level factors epitomizes the neoclassical realist approach, transforming Waltz's international political theory into a more nuanced theory of foreign policy. Nonetheless, dissatisfaction with some aspects of Christensen and Snyder's explanation prompted further theoretical innovation. Randall Schweller, for instance, introduced the "balance of interests" theory as an alternative. Schweller contended that Christensen and Snyder mischaracterized the systemic structure preceding World War II, arguing that it was not multipolar but tripolar. According to Schweller, only

states possessing at least 50% of the capabilities of the leading power qualify as poles, while others are considered middle powers. This reclassification has significant implications, as tripolar systems are deemed more unstable than other forms of multipolarity, thereby increasing the propensity for conflict. Furthermore, Schweller expanded the analysis of balancing behavior by introducing the concepts of status quo and revisionist states. In his view, while status quo states seek to preserve the existing international order and exhibit defensive behavior, revisionist states are dissatisfied with their position and pursue aggressive strategies aimed at revising the order to their advantage. Schweller criticized defensive neorealists like Waltz and Walt for exhibiting a "status quo bias," whereby the possibility of revisionist behavior is systematically underemphasized. Importantly, Schweller highlighted the phenomenon of bandwagoning states aligning with a stronger power rather than balancing against it not as an anomaly, but as a common strategic choice driven by convergent interests. Thus, Schweller emphasized that the choice between balancing and bandwagoning is not dictated solely by systemic pressures, but is also a function of internal state interests and motivations, reinforcing the neoclassical realist insistence on the importance of unit-level analysis. Through these contributions, neoclassical realism not only enriched realist theory but also provided a more empirically grounded framework for understanding the complex interplay between systemic constraints and domestic political factors in shaping foreign policy behavior.

Briefs

Rupee sheds 11 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 11 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.67 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.56. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.20 and Rs 283.70, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs0.35 to close at Rs 313.21 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.86, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.90, whereas an increase of Rs1.10 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 372.17 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 371.07. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 paise each to close at Rs 76.68 and Rs 75.09, respectively. APP

Gold price jumps Rs 3,700 per tola

KARACHI: Gold prices in Pakistan increased on Tuesday in line with their rise in the international market. In the local market, gold price per tola reached Rs344,200 after it gained Rs3,700 during the day.

As per the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGJSA), 10-gram gold was sold at Rs295,096, after it registered an increase of Rs3,173. On Monday, gold price per tola reached Rs340,500 after it lost Rs10,400. Moreover, the international rate of gold also increased on Tuesday. As per APGJSA, the rate was at \$3,258 per ounce (with a premium of \$20), an increase of \$37 during the day. Furthermore, silver price per tola increased Rs71 to reach Rs2,985. Internationally, gold recovered on Tuesday on bargain-hunting after prices dropped to a more than one-week low in the previous session as a temporary US-China truce in reciprocal tariffs lifted appetite for riskier assets and dented bullion's safe-haven appeal. US gold futures were up 0.9% to \$3,255.30. After two days of negotiations in Geneva, US and China announced tariff reductions for the next three months, with US tariffs on Chinese imports dropping from 145% to 30% and Chinese duties on US imports falling to 10% from 125%, leading to a surge in global shares. The US and China had imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on each other last month, triggering a trade war. "There is some value-buying happening on gold at current levels which is helping to prop up the price, despite the generally better outlook for global growth with the US and China on better terms," said KCM Trade Chief Market Analyst Tim Waterer. —APP

PM orders steps to broaden tax net, tech use to prevent evasion

"By the grace of Allah, the national economy is stable and moving toward growth," PM said, and called for collective efforts for country's development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday calling for measures to broaden the tax net, directed the authorities concerned to take strict action against individuals and sectors involved in tax evasion. The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on broadening the tax base and increasing tax revenue, said that the individuals and sectors capable of paying taxes must be brought into the tax net. He also instructed the stringent accountability of officers and personnel assisting the tax evaders, according to a PM Office press release. The prime minister lauded the efforts of the government's economic team for swiftly heading toward achieving FBR's revenue targets for the current fiscal year. He said that expanding the tax net was the government's priority to reduce the tax burden on the common man by lowering their tax rates. The prime minister directed to complete the digital monitoring of cement and other sectors by next month. Besides, the efforts to increase tax revenue from the tobacco sector should be accelerated in collaboration with the provinces. He directed that pending tax-related cases should be pursued effectively.



ly to ensure the recovery of the nation's money. "By the grace of Allah, the national economy is stable and moving toward growth," he said, and called for collective efforts for country's development. During

the briefing, the participants were told that the complete implementation of the Track and Trace System at cement plants nationwide led to a significant increase of billions of rupees in tax revenue. With the

implementation of this system in the sugar industry, tax revenue increased by 35% from November 2024 to April 2025. It was told that tax revenue target equivalent to 10.6% of GDP will be attained as a

result of reforms in the FBR. Federal Ministers Azam Nazeer Tarrar, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarrar, Chairman of FBR, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

57 children in Gaza died from malnutrition since March: WHO

GAZA STRIP: At least 57 children in Gaza have died from the effects of malnutrition since the start of the aid blockade on March 2, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday. Richard Peeperkorn, WHO representative for the West Bank and Gaza, described the current situation as "one of the world's worst hunger crises," caused by deliberate restrictions on humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies. Speaking at a UN briefing in Geneva, Peeperkorn said the entire population of Gaza — around 2.1 million people — is at critical risk of famine after 19 months of war, displacement, and access limitations. Accord-

ing to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 93% of Gaza's population — approximately 1.95 million people — were classified in IPC Phase 3 or higher between 1 April and 10 May. This includes 244,000 in Phase 5, defined as "catastrophe," and 925,000 in Phase 4, "emergency." Peeperkorn warned that if the situation continues, up to 71,000 children under five could become acutely malnourished over the next 11 months. Nearly 17,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are also at heightened risk. The WHO said the crisis is compounded by the collapse of health systems, a lack of clean water, the spread of disease,

and falling vaccination coverage. WHO is currently supporting 19 treatment centres for malnutrition in Gaza, but said supplies are running low. Stocks are only sufficient to treat about 500 children, far below the actual need. Peeperkorn called for an immediate end to aid restrictions, protection of health care infrastructure, the release of all hostages, and a ceasefire leading to sustained peace. Earlier, Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander, who was released by Hamas on Monday during a temporary pause on Israeli attacks, left Gaza. However, Israeli airstrikes resumed shortly after, leaving several Palestinians dead and doz-

ens wounded. Palestinian health officials reported renewed Israeli attacks shortly after Alexander's handover, including an airstrike on a shelter in Khan Younis that killed three people, and tank fire on a school in northern Gaza that killed a woman and wounded others. Since October 2023, nearly 52,900 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, most of them women and children, according to health authorities. A ministry statement said that 33 people were killed in Israeli attacks in the enclave in the last 24 hours, while 94 others were injured, taking the number of injuries to 119,648 in the Israeli onslaught. —Agencies

Turkiye closely monitoring PKK disbandment to secure peace

ANKARA: Türkiye is closely monitoring any attempts to undermine its peace initiative with the PKK, a senior official said Tuesday, following the militant Kurdish group's announcement that it is dissolving and ending its decades-long armed conflict with the Turkish state.

The PKK, designated as a terrorist organization by several, announced the historic decision on Monday months after its imprisoned leader called for the group to formally disband and disarm — a move that could bring an end to one of the Middle East's longest-running insurgencies. In making the call, the PKK leader stressed the need for securing Kurdish rights through negotiation rather than armed struggle. Previous peace efforts with the group have failed, most recently in 2015. Given the past failures, a close aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed determination to uphold the current initiative and prevent any disruptions. "We are closely following attempts to sabotage the process and we will not allow anyone to test our state's determination in this regard," Fahrettin Altun, the head of the Turkish presidential communications office said. The PKK initially launched its struggle with the goal of establishing an independent Kurdish state. Over time, it moderated its objectives toward autonomy and greater Kurdish rights within Türkiye. The conflict, which has spilled into neighboring Iraq and Syria, has claimed tens of thousands of lives since it began in the 1980s. —APP

Syria warns Kurds against delay in integrating into state

ANKARA: Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani has warned that postponing the implementation of an agreement between Syria's new administration and Kurdish-led forces in the northeast would "prolong the chaos" in the country. His remarks came as the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, announced it was disbanding, an announcement the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which control swathes of north and northeast Syria, have not yet commented on. The PKK's move is "a pivotal moment" for regional stability, Al-Shaibani told a news conference in Ankara with his Turkish and Jordanian counterparts. —APP

Jordanian and Saudi army chiefs reaffirm military partnership

LONDON: During talks on Monday, Maj. Gen. Yousef Ahmed Al-Hunaiti, chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and his Saudi counterpart, Gen. Fayyadh Al-Ruwali, discussed military cooperation between their countries. They considered ways in which cooperation might be enhanced and expertise shared, and addressed the development of strategic defense partnerships and coordinated efforts to tackle regional and international security challenges. Al-Hunaiti reaffirmed the strong ties between the nations' armed forces, and said that Saudi Arabia is at the forefront of efforts to enhance regional security, the Jordan News Agency reported. Al-Ruwali praised collaborative efforts to strengthen defense and security initiatives, and reaffirmed Riyadh's commitment to tackling regional threats. —APP

EU asks Prague to hold off on S Korean nuclear deal

BRUSSELS: The EU has asked the Czech Republic to suspend signing a deal with South Korean company KHNP to build two nuclear units as it probes whether subsidies distorted competition, according to a letter seen Monday. In the letter, EU industry Commissioner Stéphane Sejourne said Brussels was gathering information to assess if KHNP received "foreign financial contributions" that tilted the playing field in its favour. This was a preliminary move that could lead to the opening of an official investigation. "A contract creates final facts which would jeopardise the Commission's right to carry out its investigation effectively and its ability to ensure that entities take effective remedial action," Sejourne wrote, asking Prague to postpone the signing. —APP

PSX stays bullish, gains 1,278 more points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 1,278.16 more points, a positive change of 1.09 percent, closing at 118,575.89 points as compared to 117,297.73 points on the last trading day. A total of 684,294,646 shares were traded during the day as compared to 732,877,141 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 52.586 billion against Rs 30.382 billion on the last trading day. As many as 462 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 221 of them recorded gains and 194 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 41,734,903 shares at Rs 1.26 per share, Maple Leaf with 41,052,877 shares at Rs 75.92 per share and Sui South Gas with 35,773,773 shares at Rs 32.79 per share. PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 850.88 per share closing at Rs 9,359.63 whereas runnerup was Lucky Core Industries Limited with Rs 97.35 rise in its share price to close at Rs 1,557.37. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 154.22 per share price, closing at Rs 8,911.00, whereas the runner-up Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 90.58 decline in its per share price to Rs 7,074.09. —APP

How Western aid cuts deepen Afghan women's crisis

KABUL: Afghan women entrepreneurs who have carved out spaces of independence for themselves and others, despite sweeping Taliban restrictions, are facing the collapse of their businesses as Western donors abruptly cut the aid they once pledged. The rights of Afghan women have been curtailed since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2021. Barred from secondary schools and higher education, restricted in public places and not allowed to take up most of the jobs, women have been turning to private entrepreneurship to empower themselves and others. Aid from Western countries, which have been pressuring the Taliban to uphold women's rights, has been especially vital in sustaining these female-led initiatives. The sudden reduction in funding, which started with massive US aid cuts since January, has already affected Afghan healthcare and essential services and is now taking a toll on the very group the West once vowed to support. "Women's economic activities have been severely affected by the reduction in international aid. Reduced financial support has led to fewer training and development opportunities, and in some cases international partners that previously provided resources or markets have suspended or ceased their activities," Behnaz Saljoqi, head of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Herat, told Arab News. International humanitarian aid has played a key role in empowering women entrepreneurs by providing not only direct support but also training, networking opportunities, microfinance, access to foreign markets, and sponsorship for exhibitions. "This support not only helped women acquire technical and managerial skills, but also gain greater confidence to participate in the labor market and society. Without this support, many women would not even consider starting a business," Saljoqi said. "If the situation continues or worsens, the working environment for women will become increasingly difficult ... The empowerment process that began in previous years will be reversed." Bahar Anwari, who runs Bahar Canvas Art Gallery in Kabul, is already observing a decline in her business as her usual customers — women — are no longer placing orders. —DNA

South Asia's new godfather

SADAF NOREEN AWAN



KASHMIR Dispute has remained a bone of contention between two Nuclear Powers of South Asia, for which both have fought 3 major wars on claiming its territorial supremacy for decades. To resolve the matter, United Nations has played its role multiple times with numerous resolutions, but the dispute is still undermined putting population of more than 1.6 billion people, about one-fifth of the world's population under the shadow of potential war again under the racist regime of Narendra Modi in India. Recent agitation occurred due the Indian false allegation/blame on Pakistan about Pehlgaam attack in Indian Occupied Kashmir on 22nd April 2025, in which reportedly 26 people were killed including Muslims. Indian Government

despite deployment of 900k army in Indian Occupied Kashmir, was failed to prevail proper means of security for the tourists at the hill station. Moreover, within ten minutes of the incident occurred, Indian Government filed an FIR against Pakistan without any evidence or investigation, which was senseless and baseless. Pakistani political and military leadership strongly condemned the coward terrorist attack at Pehlgaam and offered full cooperation to do a partial and transparent investigation of the matter. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi activated the public by suspending Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 and then made speeches with full of hatred and inflammatory remarks against Pakistan to gain sympathies to win the coming elections. Indian Media, the factory of lies, started false propaganda against Pakistan and started spreading war hysteria in the region. While Pakistan's Chief of Armed Forces Syed Hafiz Gen. Asim Munir warned that any "misadventure" by India would be met with a quick and decisive response. India violated the international borders land and attacked Pakistan with missile strikes at six Pakistani sites like Subhan Mosque in Bahawalpur's Ahmedpur East, Bilal Mosque in Muzaffarabad, Abbas Mosque in Kotli, Umalkura Mosque in Muridke, the village of Kotki Lohara in Sialkot district, and Shakargarh which left

many civilian death and multiple injured, on the night of 6/7 May 2025 and named it Operation Sindoor. The Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project was also bombed by India at the same time. While Pakistan Army defended its land responsibly and timely on land & sky and condemned this act of terrorism and violation of international law. National and International media visited the sites next day along LoC and reported the facts. As for as Indian media is concerned, it tried to hide the facts but International Media reported the facts which clearly narrated Modi's RSS agenda and false propaganda to push the region in war zone. Therefore, our political leadership and our Armed Forces significantly showed a high level of patience and professionalism and elaborated the facts in a press conference with clear evidences. On 9th May 2025, India's war hysteria did not stop and it took a step forward by start sending Israeli manufactured 88 drones in major cities of Pakistan which was rightfully neutralised by Pakistan Armed Forces defence system. With full of hatred, India started attacking its own cities with drones in Amritsar, Pathankot and other places to give a message to the whole world that Pakistan is attacking them in retaliations. While Pakistan's DG ISPR Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhary clearly denied the attacks in Amritsar in a press

conference and gave a strong message by saying that "When we will reply, the whole world would come to know the sound of our reply. He further added that "if you are so fond of Pakistan firing at you, we will fulfil your demand at a time, place and means of our choosing". Next day, a strong bombing thunder was heard in Islamabad on the night of 9th May when India attacked Pakistan's three Military Airbases in Rawalpindi, Shorkot and Mureekay respectively, which further escalated the situation in the region. After a forbearance of three days, Pakistan decided to launch its Operation Bunyan ul Marsoos, name took from verses of Holy Quran. On the morning of 10th May at the time of Fajar, Pakistan successfully attacked and hits India's 26 targets from land and sky and destroyed a storage site of the Brahmos missiles in India's Beas region and the Udhampur airbase as part of its retaliatory operation showed its incredible performance which left the world astonished. With full wisdom and planning, Pakistan Armed Forces defended the motherland Pakistan by cyber hijacking of India's power grid system, Adampur, Udhampur, Pathankot, Suratgarh, Sirsa, Bhatinda and Halwara airfields, the Akhnoor aviation base, Russian's S-400 system in Adampur, Brahmos storage site in Beas, Artillery gun positions in

Dehrangyari, occupied Kashmir's Mankot, Indian posts directly opposite in the Phuklian sector, Rabbtanwali Post, Jazeera Post Complex, Kafir Mehri, Shahpur 3, and Ghadar Top across the LoC with full zeal and zest. Around 5pm, President Donald Trump mediated and asked for a ceasefire on both sides to lower down the temperature of animosity. War hysteria, thrust for blood and conspiracies of the Modi government have been thoroughly exposed on the global stage for all stakeholders. Every state has its own crises like poverty, economic problems and political instability which could be tackled slowly but surely but taking a nuclear state for granted is insane and present a state's immature approach. However, with the blessings of Almighty Allah, Pakistan's both political and military leaderships, united on one front, and Pakistan armed forces with the best policymaking approach defended the country with massive public support, had effectively crushed the nefarious intentions of the enemy. Pakistanis are very proud of our Armed Forces and Pakistan's 25 crore public became frontline soldiers against India. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif announced Youm-Markai-Haq will be observed every year on May 10th for magnificent success in operation Banyan ul Marsoos. Now the foremost thing to note down is the changing warfare

environment in the region. In the 75 years history of India and Pakistan, India always tried to be big hegemonic power (Chaudhary) of South Asia with United States support. While Pakistan, being the sole Nuclear State in all 56 Islamic States, always pinch on India's tail by narrating and showing its strong power in South Asia with China's unwavering support. It is pertinent to mention here that in the modern times, the biggest ever dog fight was observed on the night of 6th & 7th May between India and Pakistan, in which 150 fighter jets took place from both sides. Pakistan was fighting with China's made JF-17 Thunder fighter jets while India used its French made Rafael jets with 4.5 generation with more advance technology. Pakistan shot down India's 6 jets including 3 Rafael which left the whole world witnessing a miracle. With its professional and technical trained pilots Pakistan Airforce won the modern times biggest dog fight with 6-0. CNN World stated 'China has spent Billions on developing military technology. Conflict between India and Pakistan could be its first major test. China has 5.9% share in selling arms in whole world and 63% of their whole manufactured military arsenal are bought by Pakistan like JF-17 jets, Yuan-class submarines, providing second strike capabilities, HQ series air defence system complementing

its strategic depth and P-10 and P-15 cruise and ballistic missiles, enhancing Pakistan's tactical reach. Pakistan's 81% weapons from China and the whole world is looking at China's credibility in the market as Pakistan became the first country to gunned down French manufactured Rafael with China's Jets. China has remained a trustworthy friend of Pakistan when it comes to its sovereignty or territorial integrity in the region. China could not have done such a best representation of their jets as Pakistan did against India and Rafael's shares had gone down in international market. Power is shifting in South Asia as China is emerging as a new power in this multi polar world. America always supported India as an ally against China, but India Pakistan escalation has presented a clearer view about China's advancement in technology and its superiority in the region. India must revise its strategic calculus. As Indian planners assumed of warfare with Pakistan without triggering third party in the region. China would be standing with Pakistan if India dares again to put 1.6 billion peoples lives in danger and tried to turn South Asia in a battleground. Now India must ask itself; it is prepared for a confrontation not just with Nuclear state Pakistan, but with China as well as acting in concert and to lose Indian Occupied Kashmir?

Briefs

Senate election against vacant seat on May 29

DNA

LAHORE: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday announced election to the Senate of Pakistan against a vacant General seat at the provincial Assembly of the Punjab on May 29. The seat fell vacant upon the demise of Senator Sajid Mir on May 3, 2025. According to a notification by the Provincial Election Commissioner on Tuesday, the nomination papers may be filed on May 14 and 15. The names of the nominated candidates will be published on May 16. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on May 17 while appeals against acceptance or rejection of nomination papers will be filed on May 20. The appeals will be disposed on May 22. The revised list of candidates will be published on May 23, while the candidature may be withdrawn by May 24. The polling will held at the Punjab Assembly chambers between 9 am to 4 pm. The nomination papers may be received from the provincial ECP office of 10-Court Street during the office hours.

President pays tributes to armed forces

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that India's blatant aggression had further united and strengthened the Pakistani people, and that the entire nation and its armed forces were always ready to respond to India's hostility. The president, in a statement, paid tribute to those martyred as a result of unprovoked Indian aggression against Pakistan and said that the entire nation saluted the brave sons of the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force who sacrificed their lives for the country's security. "We are proud of the sacrifices of our martyrs. Our brave forces have successfully defended the nation and the country's integrity. Through Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, our brave forces shattered the enemy's arrogance," he remarked. President Zardari said that the people and the brave forces of Pakistan were always ready to thwart any aggression and would give a crushing response to every attack on their national security and sovereignty. He expressed grief over the loss of precious lives, including children and women, during the Indian attacks. He also extended condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and prayed for their patience and strength, and swift recovery of the injured. — APP

Chairman Senate Gilani meets Chairperson Matvienko

DNA

MOSCOW: In a powerful reaffirmation of Pakistan-Russia friendship and shared global vision, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, held an important meeting in Moscow with H.E. Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation. The meeting underscored a renewed commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, expanding parliamentary diplomacy, and advancing a shared agenda for peace, trade, and regional stability. Invited personally by Ms. Matvienko, Chairman Gilani ex-



pressed deep appreciation for the gracious hospitality and conveyed Pakistan's strong desire to elevate the existing partnership. "Pakistan-Russia cooperation today carries global resonance—not only for our mutual prosperity but also for a more secure and stable region," Gilani remarked. He emphasized that such high-level exchanges are instrumental in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, laying the groundwork for enhanced mutual understanding and cooperation. Senate Chairman also extended warm felicitations to the Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and the Russian leadership on the 80th anniversary of Victory Day. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed a wide range of issues, including enhanced parliamentary exchanges, regional security, energy cooperation, and people-to-people linkages. Chairperson Matvienko welcomed Mr. Gilani warmly, acknowledging his enduring role as a statesman and a longstanding friend of Russia. "Bilateral relations were strengthened under Mr. Gilani's premiership and are now soaring to new heights under his chairmanship," she said, while reiterating Russia's interest in deepening cooperation under the MoU signed between the two parliamentary bodies.

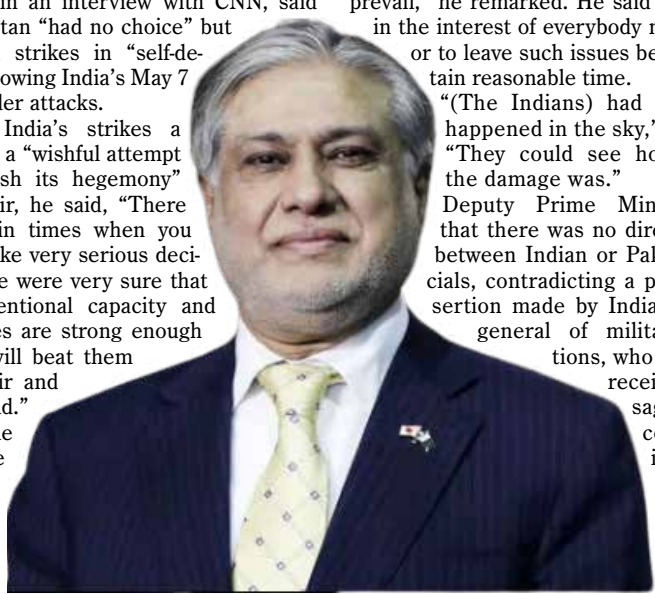
Nuclear option was never on table, says Ishaq Dar

Terming India's strikes a "war" and a "wishful attempt to establish its hegemony" in Kashmir, he said, "There are certain times when you have to take very serious decisions... We were very sure that our conventional capacity and capabilities are strong enough that we will beat them both in air and on ground"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan did not consider deploy-

ing nuclear warheads to strike India when the tensions between the two countries mounted last week. The deputy prime minister, in an interview with CNN, said that Pakistan "had no choice" but to launch strikes in "self-defense" following India's May 7 cross-border attacks. Terming India's strikes a "war" and a "wishful attempt to establish its hegemony" in Kashmir, he said, "There are certain times when you have to take very serious decisions... We were very sure that our conventional capacity and capabilities are strong enough that we will beat them both in air and on ground." While the ceasefire agreement has so far appeared to hold,



Dar told the interviewer that long-term negotiations between the two parties were "not done yet." "We still hope sense will prevail," he remarked. He said that it was in the interest of everybody not to delay or to leave such issues beyond a certain reasonable time.

"(The Indians) had seen what happened in the sky," he added. "They could see how serious the damage was."

Deputy Prime Minister said that there was no direct contact between Indian or Pakistani officials, contradicting a previous assertion made by India's director general of military operations, who reportedly received a message from his counterpart in Pakistan during the talks. Instead, he said that US Secre-

tary of State Marco Rubio passed on the message that India was ready to stop the fighting. He said that Pakistan was looking forward to establishing a path for long-term peace and security that would provide "dignity for both sides."

Calling Kashmir "the root cause of this regional instability" Ishaq Dar called for granting the self-determination right to the Kashmir people. He reiterated that Pakistan was not behind last month's attack in Pahalgam, saying, "We condemn terrorism in all forms and all manifestations." Dar added that he believed US President Donald Trump supported Pakistan's anti-terrorism efforts. "If they didn't believe (in our efforts), they would not have cooperated the way (that they did)," Dar said, pointing to Trump's social media post on "finding a solution" to the Kashmir conflict. However, Dar warned that the already precarious ceasefire could be threatened if the water issue was not resolved in the coming talks, referring to the Indian decision of holding the bilateral Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. Failure to resolve the water issue "will amount to an act of war," Dar added.

Pakistan reserves the right to protect itself: PPP

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari, Deputy President Pakistan Peoples Party, Senator Sherry Rehman and Secretary Information PPP, Nadeem Afzal Chan held a joint press conference at the Central Secretariat, Islamabad on Tuesday. SG PPP addressing the press conference said that Pakistan is a peaceful country but at the same time reserves the right to protect itself. The leadership of the PPP made the defense of the country impregnable. The nuclear capability and the missile technology are the achievements of the party. The Pakistan armed forces deserve commendation for thwarting the nefarious designs of the enemy. The entire nation is behind its armed forces. The PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari presented Pakistan's narrative before the whole world. Bukhari congratulated the entire nation for this victory against the enemy. Now, the ceasefire is in operation so the talks should start. Nayyer Hussain Bukhari said that Modi is hiding his incapability and defeat behind his tall claims. We do not want war but the wish for peace must not be regarded as our weakness. India violated the international laws by attacking Pakistan but did not know that the Pakistani nation is like iron dome. War is never productive and always precious lives are lost in the wars. India had imposed war on Pakistan and we proved that we can defend our sovereignty. President Asif Ali Zardari directed to defend the stance of the gov-

ernment and the state. Our pilots made India to regret this aggression. SG PPP praised the Pakistani media for being objective and informing the public correctly and promptly. The world is aware of the fact that Kashmir is a disputed territory. The international community should now ask India to agree to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the United Nations resolutions. Deputy President PPP, Senator Sherry Rehman said that the Indian media kept spreading the fake news whereas that Pakistani media proved to be very responsible. India imposed war on us and we defended the country successfully. Precious lives are lost in every war. She said that Indian prime minister Modi is surprised with our response. He attacked Pakistan in the garb of Pahalgam incident. Pakistan did not allow India to cross its red-line. We offered an impartial inquiry into the Pahalgam incident. India proved to be a country spreading terror whereas Pakistan is a peaceful country. A serving Indian military officer was caught involved in the terror activities in Balochistan. India lost a lot in a war spanning 87 hours. We believe in dialogue and Kashmir is our priority. Nadeem Afzal Chan said that Modi's speech was a speech of a defeated person. Pakistani nation was gelled together by this war. Our forces made us all proud and united. Now, it is up to every political party to remain united. The way Chairman Bilawal represented Pakistan before the world reminded us of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Pakistan is dealing with terrorism whereas India is busy in spreading terrorism.

PSX tops 120,000 as ceasefire, IMF boost rally

KSE-100 Index climbs to intraday high of 120,067.12 points, up 2,769.39 points, or 2.36%

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The bourse extended its historic rally on Tuesday, pushing the benchmark KSE-100 Index back above the 120,000 mark, driven by the ceasefire agreement with India, the release of International Monetary Fund (IMF) funding, and anticipated tax relief measures in the upcoming federal budget. The momentum continued from Monday's record-breaking session, as investors welcomed improved macroeconomic indicators and diplomatic breakthroughs. "Early trade is showing the continuation of an eye-watering rally yesterday, the mutual funds were aggressively active on the business yesterday, and that trend is expected to continue today. The positive events, such as the IMF approval and a rate cut, had not been factored in due to ongoing tension with India, which are slowly being incorporated," said Ahfaz Mustafa, CEO of Ismail Iqbal Securities. "Another positive will be the fact that reportedly the Pakistani budget is made at Rs290 a dollar, as reported by the newspaper, which indicates tame inflation going forward." The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index climbed to an intraday high of 120,067.12 points, up 2,769.39 points, or 2.36%, from the previous close of 117,297.73.

Azerbaijani FM meets Bahraini Crown Prince

BAKU: As part of his official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The meeting focused on the current state of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Bahrain. The two sides discussed prospects for further developing these ties and exchanged views on regional and international developments. Minister Bayramov expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and voiced confidence that the visit would help further strengthen bilateral cooperation. Both parties hailed the high level of political dialogue between the two nations and stressed the importance of advancing this dynamic through concrete initiatives in areas such as economy, trade, investment, tourism, logistics, and information and communication technologies. The sides also noted with satisfaction that next year will mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Bahrain, underlining the importance of continuing to build on the longstanding principles guiding bilateral cooperation. — Agencies

United Nations chief launches 'UN80 initiative' to strengthen world body

UNITED NATIONS: Amid financial strain and growing global challenges, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is pushing for wide-ranging structural reforms to enhance the world body's effectiveness. Briefing member states in New York on Monday, the UN chief outlined wide-ranging effort to revamp how the UN system operates – cutting costs, streamlining operations, and modernizing its approach to peace and security, development and human rights. "These are times of peril," he said, "but they are also times of profound opportunity and obligation. The mission of the United Nations is more urgent than ever." Launched in March, the UN80 Initiative centres on three priorities: enhancing operational efficiency, assessing how mandates – or key tasks – from Member States are implemented, and exploring structural reforms across the UN system. The conclusions will be reflected in revised estimates for the 2026 budget in September this year, with additional changes that require more detailed analysis presented in the proposal for the 2027 budget.

Guterres said the changes are expected to yield "meaningful reductions" in the overall budget. For example, the departments for political and peacekeeping affairs could see a 20 per cent reduction in staff by eliminating duplication. This level of reduction, he said, could serve as a benchmark across the UN system – while also considering unique factors for each department. Additional examples include consolidating all counter-terrorism work within the main Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), ending building leases and relocating posts away from expensive "duty stations" where cost of living is high. "There might be immediate, one-off costs involved in relocating staff and providing potential termination packages," he said, "but by moving posts from high-cost locations, we can reduce our commercial footprint in those cities and re-

duce our post and non-post costs." The first workstream focuses on efficiencies and improvements, developing a new model that improves consolidation, looks at centralizing services, relocating to cheaper locations, and expanding the use of automation and digital platforms. Guterres said departments at the UN's headquarters in New York and Geneva have been asked to review whether some teams can be relocated to lower-cost duty stations, reduced or abolished. The second workstream involves a review of how existing mandates are being carried out – not the mandates themselves, which are the purview of Member States only. A preliminary review identified more than 3,600 unique mandates for the Secretariat alone. A full and more detailed analysis is now underway. Guterres emphasized that the sheer number of mandates – and the bureaucracy needed to implement them – places a particular burden on smaller Member States with limited resources. — Agencies

'Export-led growth only way forward'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met with a group of leading exporters and businessmen led by Shabbir Dewan, former Chairman of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), as part of the government's ongoing consultative process with stakeholders from the business and industrial community. Speaking during the meeting, the Finance Minister underscored that export-led growth is not just a priority—it is the only viable path forward for Pakistan's economic stability and sustainability. "Every sector of the economy will have to contribute," He said that increased productivity and outward-looking policies are essential if Pakistan wants to break free from the recurring boom-and-bust cycles and avoid returning for what would be a 25th IMF program, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue. He reiterated that the existing protectionist regime must be dismantled to enable market-based competitiveness. "The era of unnecessary protection must come to an end. The Prime Minister is personally chairing meetings to drive this shift," he added. The minister further highlighted that resolving structural bottlenecks—such as high financing costs, elevated energy tariffs, and an overly complex tax regime—is essential for helping the local industry become competitive and lead the country to a productivity and export led growth. He said the government was aiming to prepare the upcoming federal budget as a strategic document—one that aligns fiscal priorities with the broader objective of sustainable, export-driven growth.

'Kill them': Commanded air chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: During the air operation against Indian aggression, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu spoke directly to the pilots via radio and commanded: "Kill them, kill them, don't let them enter even an inch into Pakistan." He was speaking directly to pilots of the 15 Squadron – a unit he once led himself – as they soared into combat in the early hours of May 7. Inside the highly secure and secret command center of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), the mood shifted dramatically as officers watched Indian Rafale jets being struck over Bithanda. The room erupted with chants of "Allahu Akbar." It was a pivotal moment in a rapidly escalating confrontation between two nuclear-armed neighbors. Following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Indian-administered Kashmir – which India blamed on Pakistan – the PAF had remained on high alert.

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