



Thursday, May 29, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

King Charles says Canada 'strong and Free as Trump looms

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Youme-e-Takbeer Unites the nation, says Atta Tarar

Detailed News On Page-08



FIFA honours Pak cricketer Shaheen Afridi

Detailed News On Page-06



Trilateral Summit in Azerbaijan

Pakistan desires peace in region, says PM Shehbaz

Türkiye, Azerbaijan presidents reiterate their support to Pakistan during the conference

DNA

LACHIN-AZERBAIJAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated that Pakistan always wanted peace in the region and was willing to discuss all the bilateral issues with India on the negotiation table if India showed sincerity of purpose and cooperation. Addressing the second Trilateral Summit in Lachin city of Azerbaijan, the prime minister referred to the recent aggression of India and said that with Allah Almighty's infinite blessings and kindness, with the support of people of Pakistan, and friendly countries, and resolute response of the armed forces, they emerged victorious. In his speech, telecast live on national TV channels, the prime minister further said that Pakistan wanted peace in the region and that required talks on the table to discuss the issues that needed urgent attention and amicable solution like the issue of Kashmir which should be resolved according to the UNSC resolutions and as per aspiration of the people of Kashmir. The prime minister said unfortunately, India tried to weaponize the Indus Waters Treaty which was a lifeline for the 240 million population of Pakistan that used the water for agriculture, drinking and other purposes. "It is most unfortunate that India tried to threaten to stop the flow of water into Pakistan. This is not possible, this is never possible and will not be possible Insha'Allah. We are making proper arrangements to ensure that India never ever does it," he emphatically maintained. Prime Minister said if India wanted to talk on countering terrorism with sincerity of purpose, Pakistan would be willing to talk to them on this issue as well. "We are the biggest victim of terrorism around the globe and lost 90,000 valuable lives and suffered 150 billion dollars worth of economic losses over the last many decades.

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Prime Minister felicitates Azerbaijan on Independence Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif extended heartfelt felicitations to President Ilham Aliyev and the brotherly people of Azerbaijan on the joyous occasion of Azerbaijan's Independence Day. The Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes in a message stating: "On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, and on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt felicitations to President Ilham Aliyev and the brotherly people of Azerbaijan on the joyous occasion of Azerbaijan's Independence Day. Pakistan deeply values its close fraternal bonds with Azerbaijan—rooted in shared history, mutual trust, and unwavering support for each other." Highlighting the significance of the day, the Prime Minister added: "This year, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate this historic day in Azerbaijan, alongside President Aliyev and our Azerbaijani brothers and sisters." He further expressed confidence in the future trajectory of Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations: "I am confident that under President Aliyev's wise and sagacious

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LACHIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz in family photo of Pakistan-Türkiye-Azerbaijan Trilateral meeting, on 28 May 2025. – DNA

PM pays tributes to leaders, engineers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday joined the nation in celebrating Youme-e-Takbeer by paying tributes to the former prime ministers, scientists, engineers and valiant armed forces who made the country's defence invincible. On X handle, the prime minister said "As the nation celebrates Youm-e-Takbeer, we thank Allah Almighty for His countless blessings and for granting us yet another glorious victory in the face of recent Indian aggression." Twenty-seven years ago, on this historic day, he said then prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan's defence invincible with his bold and courageous decision in 1998 to go ahead with a peaceful

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Imran ready to meet US-based doctors

PTI founder is aware of delegation's presence in country and, the group believes, is ready to meet them

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: As Imran Khan's legal and political fortunes remain uncertain, a group of US-based Pakistani doctors and businessmen is seeking a meeting with him at Adiala jail anytime this week, informed sources have revealed. According to sources, PTI founder Khan is aware of the delegation's presence in the country and, the group believes, is ready to meet them. The specifics of the expected meeting remain unclear, but the visit is part of renewed efforts to re-engage through quiet

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Post-tension scenario

Indian PM promotes provocation over diplomacy: Pakistan

"India's record includes extraterritorial assassinations, occupation of foreign territories, and systematic repression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a strong statement in response to recent remarks made by the Prime Minister of India, condemning the inflammatory rhetoric and irresponsible threats directed toward Pakistan and the region. In a statement shared with the media, a spokesperson for the Ministry said: "It is regrettable, though not entirely unexpected, that the Indian Prime Minister has once again chosen provocation over diplomacy. Rather than addressing the pressing internal issues within India—such as the marginalization of minorities and historical revisionism—he has resorted to dangerous rhetoric, including references to weaponizing water, a shared and treaty-bound resource. This reflects a deeply troubling departure from international norms and reveals the dissonance between India's regional behavior and its global aspirations." The statement further highlighted India's controversial actions both domestically and abroad: "India's record includes extraterritorial assassinations, occupation of foreign ter-

ritories, and systematic repression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). It is ironic that a state actively involved in such activities now attempts to present itself as a victim on the global stage." The Ministry condemned the ideological underpinnings of India's current government, which it described as having "normalized mob violence, promoted hate campaigns, and targeted religious minorities." "While these actions may serve domestic political agendas, they do not withstand international scrutiny nor do they bolster India's credibility as a responsible regional actor," the statement said. Calling for a return to diplomacy and responsible state conduct, the Ministry added: "Pakistan urges India to adhere to the core principles of international law—respect for the sovereignty of neighbors, fulfillment of treaty obligations, and restraint in both language and action. Jingoistic rhetoric may win applause in campaign rallies but poses a serious threat to long-term regional peace and stability." In a message directed to the Indian populace, particularly its youth, the Ministry noted:

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Reshaping Pak-Afghan ties vital for regional stability

The proxy paradigm, born out of the Cold War and intensified during the Soviet invasion, was further entrenched after 9/11. While publicly aligning with the US-led war on terror, Pakistan covertly supported various insurgent factions, betting on a future Afghan dispensation that would favor Islamabad's regional calculus. The result has been devastating: international condemnation, strained ties with global allies, and the rise of homegrown militancy

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: For decades, Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan has been shaped by a security-centric doctrine rooted in fear, rivalry, and a desire for strategic depth. From the Cold War to the post-9/11 era, Islamabad has viewed Kabul not as a sovereign neighbor but as a theater of influence to be manipulated for geopolitical advantage. This doctrine, while seemingly pragmatic to Pakistan's military and strategic planners, has yielded neither peace in Afghanistan nor enduring security for Pakistan. The

proxy paradigm, born out of the Cold War and intensified during the Soviet invasion, was further entrenched after 9/11. While publicly aligning with the US-led war on terror, Pakistan covertly supported various insurgent factions, betting on a future Afghan dispensation that would favor Islamabad's regional calculus. Militancy, extremism, and instability in Afghanistan have spilled across the border, culminating in the rise of groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which now poses a direct and sustained threat to Pakistan's internal stability.

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Briefs

Iran says may allow US inspectors

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran on Wednesday said it may consider allowing US inspectors with the United Nations nuclear watchdog to inspect its facilities if a deal is reached with the United States. Iran has long been accused by Western powers of seeking to develop nuclear weapons — a claim Tehran has consistently denied, insisting its nuclear programme is solely for peaceful, civilian purposes. Tehran and Washington have in recent weeks held five rounds of talks focused on the issue — their highest-level contact since the US in 2018 withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal during Donald Trump's first term. "Countries that were hostile to us and behaved unprincipledly over the years — we have always tried not to accept inspectors from those countries," Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami told reporters, referring to staff from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

India doing mock drills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: India is set to conduct large-scale civil defence mock drills from tomorrow (Thursday) in four states along its border with Pakistan just weeks after both countries reached a ceasefire following military confrontation. According to Indian media, mock drills will be held in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Punjab and Gujarat on Thursday evening, authorities said. The Haryana government has also announced a state-wide emergency preparedness exercise titled "Operation Shield," scheduled for May 29 across all 22 districts from 5pm (local time) onwards, aimed at enhancing readiness in the event of crises.

Field Marshal in Baku

Pakistan to further solidify defence ties with Azerbaijan

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and ways to further enhance defence cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan



DNA

BAKU: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), met with Colonel General Hasanov Zakir Asgar Oglu, Minister of Defence, Azerbaijan, in Lachin, Azerbaijan. During the meeting, the two

leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and ways to further enhance defence cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. The COAS appreciated the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and emphasized Pakistan's commitment to strengthening defence ties with Azerbaijan.

Afghan Taliban senior leader issues a strong warning to extremist factions operating under the guise of jihad

Commander Saeed emphasized that "fighting in any country, especially Pakistan, without the explicit orders of the Emir is impermissible." He further stated that those who join various militant factions and carry out attacks in foreign lands "cannot be considered true mujahideen"

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

KABUL: A senior commander of the Afghan Taliban, Saeedullah Saeed, issued a strong warning to extremist factions operating under the guise of jihad, during a passing-out ceremony for police personnel. In his address, Commander Saeed made clear and unequivocal statements against unauthorized militant activities, particularly those targeting neighboring countries, including Pakistan. Commander Saeed emphasized that "fighting in any country, especially Pakistan, without the explicit orders of the Emir is impermissible." He further

stated that those who join various militant factions and carry out attacks in foreign lands "cannot be considered true mujahideen." He clarified that the act of moving from one region to another to carry out attacks does not qualify someone as a mujahid, but rather reflects defiance of both Islamic law and the state authority of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. He strongly asserted that "the right to declare or permit jihad solely belongs to the Emir of the Islamic State—not to any group or individual." Commander Saeed added that if the leadership of the Islamic Emirate has issued an order not to travel to Pakistan for militant purposes, "defying

this command amounts to religious disobedience." He noted that any action driven by personal ego or loyalty to a particular group, and not sanctioned by the state leadership, will be considered "fitna" (sedition) and not legitimate jihad under Shariah. He went on to say that militant factions carrying out attacks in the name of jihad are not only violating Islamic principles but are also disobeying the leadership of the Afghan Taliban. "Such elements are rebels against both Shariah and the Islamic Emirate," he declared. Defense analysts believe that this public statement significantly bolsters Pakistan's internal security narrative and reinforces its diplomatic

position on the global stage. Experts view the Afghan Taliban's stance as a clear message to groups attempting to exploit religious sentiments for cross-border violence, particularly those allegedly supported by Indian proxies. "The so-called jihad of 'Fitnatul Khawarij,' orchestrated on the behest of foreign intelligence such as RAW, is nothing but terrorism against Shariah, the Afghan state, and regional peace," noted senior security analysts. This rare and direct denunciation from within the Afghan Taliban ranks could play a pivotal role in undermining extremist justifications for terrorism, curbing cross-border militancy, and supporting broader efforts for regional stability.

Nawaz govt made Pak defense impregnable on May 28: Muqam

DNA

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for SAFFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here Thursday said that Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN) of former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has made Pakistan defense impregnable after successfully conducting six nuclear explosions on May 28, 1998. Addressing a Youm e Takbeer function here at PMLN Secretariat, Engr Amir Muqam said that the then Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has overlooked international pressure and conducted six nuclear tests at Chaghi mountains in Balochistan in response to five such tests by India earlier in the same month. He said that now no element could cast an evil eye on Pakistan which is the 7th declared nuclear power of world and first of the Muslim Ummah. Engr Amir Muqam

said that Pakistan has given befitting response to India during operation Iron Wall and inflicted heavy losses to the enemy. While paying rich tributes to the political and military leadership for powerful response to India's blatant aggression during Maraka e Haq, Engr Amir Muqam said that spirit of Pakistani nation was historic. He said that Pakistan has showed superiority in all fields against India and several warplanes including Rafale of the enemy were shot down. Engr Amir Muqam said that today was a historic day celebrated through out the country and Azad Kashmir to pay tributes to the then political leadership, military leadership and scientists for making Pakistan defense invincible 27 years ago. He said that a big public gathering will be held at Mirpur Azad Kashmir this evening in connection with Youm e Takbeer. Engr Amir Muqam said that people of Azad Kashmir will participate in

large number in the public meeting and will reiterate to continue their struggle for freedom from India's yoke. He said Pakistan will continue moral, political and diplomatic support of Kashmiris. He said Pakistan was a peaceful country and its desire for peace should not be considered its weakness. Engr Amir Muqam said that road to peace in South Asia was passing through Kashmir and urged international community including superpowers to look beyond trade interests and put pressure on fascist Modi Govt to grant right of self-determination to the oppressed Kashmiris of IIO-JK as per UN Security Council resolutions. He said Pakistan Muslim League has created Pakistan and his party will make it an economic power. On this occasion, full-throated slogans in favour of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Engr Amir Muqam were raised.

Dera, motorway police form joint unit for CPEC' security

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Dera police and Motorway have decided to set up a joint unit to ensure security and safety of passengers travelling on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Motorway. The decision to this effect was taken in a meeting held here with Regional Police Officer Dera range Syed Ashfaq Anwar. According to RPO's spokesman, the meeting was convened on the special directives of the Inspector General of Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfiqar Hameed and was attended by District Police Officer (DPO) Dera, Sahibzada Sajjad Ahmed, SP Motorway Police Atique-ur-Rehman, SP Paharpur, and SDPOs from the Paharpur Circle, along with other senior officers. During the meeting, RPO Dera emphasized that it was a top priority of the police to ensure the security of the CPEC motorway and the safety of its travelers. He was of the view that all available resources should be utilized to fulfill the responsibility. As part of efforts, it was decided that a joint unit comprising motorway and district police would be formed to effectively respond to any emergency situation in a timely manner. Moreover, repair work would be initiated on the fencing along both sides of the motorway to prevent potential accidents and improve overall security. The participants reiterated to make the CPEC Motorway fully secure and ensure uninterrupted traffic flow at all times.—DNA

Commissioner reviews arrangements at cattle market

LAHORE: Lahore Divisional Commissioner (DC) Zaid bin Masood on Wednesday visited the cattle market set up in Halloki to inspect the arrangements ahead of Eid-ul-Adha and ensure compliance with government guidelines. According to a spokesperson, the visit focused on reviewing facilities provided for citizens, traders and sacrificial animals. During the visit, DC inspected various service camps established by the Livestock Department, Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC), Rescue 1122 and other departments. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Wahga briefed him on the overall setup and operational status. Commissioner Zaid evaluated the availability of essential facilities including tents, electricity, water supply, restrooms and clean drinking water. He also interacted with livestock traders and animal owners to get their feedback on the services being provided. Special attention was given to the livestock department's camp, where he reviewed data on anti-parasitic spraying, checked the stock and expiry dates of veterinary medicines and verified the attendance of on-duty staff. He emphasized the need for strict enforcement against illegal cattle enclosures and directed the administration to take immediate and firm action to discourage such unauthorized setups. He instructed officials to maintain zero tolerance in this regard, ensuring that all operations were in accordance with official regulations and standards.—APP

FGP, GBCCI sign MoU to empower youth, women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) and the Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBCCI) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a ceremony held here. The MoU was signed by Muhammad Anwar, Chief Executive Officer of FGP, and Ashfa Ahmed, President of GBCCI, marking the beginning of a transformative collaboration focused on entrepreneurship, climate resilience, and inclusive development in the region. Also in attendance were Dr. Faiz Kakar, Chairman of the FGP Board, Urooj Raza Sayyami, Director of the FGP Board and Farhan Jawaid, Head of Programs at FGP among others. Muhammad Ali, Chairman, Standing Committee on Mines and Minerals of

GBCCI, Ali Akbar, Chairman, Standing Committee on International Relations and Foreign Affairs GBCCI, Ghulam Nasir, Executive Committee member FPCCI, were also present at the prestigious signing ceremony. Highlighting the significance of the partnership, Muhammad Anwar, CEO of FGP, stated, "Our collaboration with GBCCI reflects our firm belief that development must be led by the people it serves. We are investing in GB's greatest asset, its youth and women, by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills, green business models, and climate-smart solutions." He added that this partnership was not just strategic, it's a commitment to building a just and sustainable future for the region. CEO, FGP further said that the MoU outlined a framework for con-

ducting youth and women entrepreneurship trainings, value chain development, and the launch of green business initiatives across GB. FGP would also spearhead a climate resilience program in the region, focusing on agri-based innovation, women and youth empowerment and community-led sustainability solutions. Speaking on behalf of GBCCI, President Ashfaq Ahmed welcomed the initiative and said, "We are proud to partner with Freedom Gate Prosperity in this meaningful alliance. Gilgit-Baltistan is full of entrepreneurial potential, especially among women and youth. Through this partnership, we aim to unlock that potential and support businesses that are not only profitable but also socially and environmentally responsible.—APP

Sindh govt committed to women's health, well-being: Murad

KARACHI: On the occasion of the International Day of Action for Women's Health, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving women's health across the province. In his message on Wednesday, the Chief Minister stated, "This day serves as a reminder to highlight the health challenges women face and to encourage effective and sustained action to address them. A healthy woman is the foundation of a healthy society." Murad Ali Shah emphasized that the Sindh government has launched multiple programmes aimed at enhancing women's health. "A comprehensive maternal and child health programme is underway across the province to safeguard the lives of mothers and newborns by providing them with essential healthcare services," he said. The CM highlighted that 23,185 Lady Health Workers have been deployed throughout Sindh to deliver healthcare services directly to women at their doorsteps. He also pointed out the success of the "National Health Support Programme," which is being implemented with the support of the World Bank. "This programme primarily focuses on improving care for pregnant women, mothers, and newborns to ensure better health outcomes." "The efforts of the Sindh government are proving to be a milestone in the journey towards safeguarding women's health, security, and well-being," the Chief Minister concluded, reiterating his government's resolve to continue prioritizing women's health and empowerment for a stronger, healthier society. Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister (CM), Syed Murad Ali Shah, extended heartfelt congratulations to the nation on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, marking the day as a symbol of Pakistan's defensive sovereignty and national dignity. In his message on Wednesday, the Sindh Chief Minister said, "May 28 is a historic day when Pakistan, in 1998, conducted successful nuclear tests and demonstrated to the world that we will never compromise on our defence." Murad Ali Shah emphasised that Youm-e-Takbeer reflects the nation's unwavering determination, the relentless efforts of its scientists, and the farsighted decisions of its leadership. The CM said that Pakistan's nuclear tests were not merely a technical success but a powerful assertion of sovereignty and a strong message to adversaries. "Today, we salute the sacrifices and patriotism of our great leaders and scientists who made this achievement possible." The Chief Minister concluded his message with a pledge: "We reaffirm our commitment to realising the dreams of our martyrs and visionary leaders. We will continue striving to build a strong, prosperous, and sovereign Pakistan.—DNA

India's aggressive posture threatening regional peace: Masood

MUZAFFARABAD: Former AJK President and senior diplomat Sardar Masood Khan has warned that India's hostile policies pose a serious threat to peace in South Asia and beyond. In an interview on Wednesday, Khan said India maintains a war-like posture under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has declared that any act of terrorism in India or Kashmir will be blamed on Pakistan and met with retaliation. "Pakistan must remain fully prepared to respond to any potential escalation, it would be dangerous to harbor any illusions about the intentions of Indian leadership", he cautioned. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Khan said, has publicly stated

that any act of terrorism in India or Indian-occupied Kashmir will be attributed to Pakistan and met with retaliatory strikes. Sardar Masood Khan provided an in-depth analysis of Pakistan-India relations, the prospects for dialogue, and the prevailing Indian narrative. He stressed that recent tensions have sent a clear signal to the international community that any conventional conflict in South Asia holds the potential to spiral into a nuclear confrontation, with consequences extending far beyond the region. Khan noted that while India persistently accuses Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism, it has never presented credible evidence. Conversely,

he asserted that Pakistan possesses irrefutable proof of India's overt and covert involvement in terrorist activities within its borders—particularly through proxy networks operating in Balochistan and the tribal regions. He reiterated Pakistan's longstanding commitment to resolving all outstanding disputes, including the Kashmir issue, through dialogue—whether via direct bilateral engagement or third-party mediation. However, he lamented that India has consistently avoided serious negotiations. On occasions when it has shown a nominal willingness to engage, it has diverted the discourse toward secondary issues, effectively sidestepping the core dispute.

Referring to the Pehalgam incident, Khan accused India of unjustly blaming Pakistan, heightening tensions, and subsequently committing acts of military aggression. He stated that Pakistan responded with a measured and resolute counteraction, effectively thwarting India's designs. Following this, he added, New Delhi faced mounting diplomatic pressure that compelled it to express readiness for a ceasefire and talks. Yet, it now appears to be retreating from that stance. Commenting on India's proposed "new normal" doctrine, Sardar Masood Khan warned that if India establishes a precedent of blaming Pakistan for every incident and justifying military responses as routine, sustainable

peace in the region would become impossible. He added that if India insists on placing Azad Kashmir and terrorism on the agenda, then Pakistan will equally press for discussions on the future of Jammu and Kashmir and India's destabilizing activities within Pakistan. Highlighting recent military confrontation, Khan stated that India's perceived military superiority has been exposed as a myth. However, he added, Indian leadership remains unwilling to confront this reality. On the subject of U.S. mediation, Khan said Pakistan's effective military response to Indian aggression prompted international stakeholders, particularly the United States, to intervene diplomatically.—DNA



GUJRAT: A grand program was organized in a private setting under the chairmanship of former Punjab Education Minister and President of Gujarat Welfare Forum Mian Imran Masood and organized by Gujarat Welfare Forum to pay tribute to the martyrs of the right-wing struggle. The Chief Guest was (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir) Raja Syed Akram Khan, who presented a shield of honor to the families of the martyrs.—DNA

Mushaal commemorates Youm-e-Takbir

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Peace and Culture Organization Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick and wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, has hailed Youm-e-Takbir as a day of Pakistan's greatness, self-reliance, and defense sovereignty. Mushaal said that May 28, 1998, marked a historic milestone when Pakistan defended its freedom and dignity. Mushaal attributed Pakistan's nuclear capability to its invincible defense force, saying it has given Pakistanis and Kashmiris courage and confidence. She praised the Pakistani forces, describing them as a 'steel wall' against enemies. Initiatives like Bunyan-al-Marsoos, she added, are a continuation of the ideology of Youm-e-Takbir. Despite India's provocations, Mushaal emphasized that Pakistan has always preferred peace. She clarified that Pakistan's desire for peace is not a sign of weakness but a reflection of a civilized state. As a responsible nuclear power, Pakistan has maintained balance in the region, she said. Mushaal said, no force can bend a united nation with sincere leadership. The green crescent flag, she noted, continues to announce Pakistan's sovereignty to the world, symbolizing the nation's strength and resilience.

PPP vows to expose KP govt's 'historic corruption' despite repression

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: President of the People's Trade Association, District Malakand, and senior PPP leader Asfandiyar Khan has condemned the use of tear gas and shelling by security forces on party workers during a peaceful demonstration in Peshawar against alleged corruption by the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. Speaking to media at his residence, Azlan House in Dargai, Asfandiyar Khan termed the state's response "deeply regrettable" and a blatant attempt to suppress democratic dissent. "Such

brutal tactics revive painful memories of the oppression faced by unarmed civilians in Kashmir," he said, adding that both male and female workers were indiscriminately targeted, leaving several injured. He accused the provincial government of resorting to violence in an effort to conceal its misdeeds. "This administration is using force to silence voices exposing its corruption. But the PPP will not be intimidated," Mr Khan stated.

Highlighting the legacy of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, he said the PPP's struggle for democracy, labour rights, and national sovereignty continues. "Inspired by our martyred leaders, our

workers are peacefully mobilising across the province to demand accountability and governance." The PPP leader praised the efforts of party's provincial president, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, and other leaders for initiating the Save the Province campaign a movement aimed at confronting what he called "unprecedented corruption and administrative failure." Asfandiyar Khan demanded the immediate withdrawal of what he described as "baseless and politically motivated FIRs" registered against PPP leadership, warning that such actions would only further galvanize public support against the ruling party.

AJK celebrates 27th Youm-e-Takbeer with fabulous zest

MIRPUR (AJK): Like across Pakistan, "Youm-e-Takbeer" on Wednesday was observed in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) to commemorate the 27th anniversary of nuclear tests conducted on this day in 1998 by Pakistan, in immediate matching response to India who had detonated five nuclear devices a week before. The speakers in special meetings in various parts of AJK including Mirpur and the AJK's metropolis, hosted to celebrate the historic day, renewed the pledge to lend all of the energies to make Pakistan strong and prosperous besides to safeguard inch-after-inch of the motherland by going through shoulder-to-shoulder the valiant armed forces

of the country. The Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) government had announced to observe "Yome e-Takbeer" on official level. On this day, Pakistan emerged as the 7th in the world and 1st Islamic Atomic power by conducting the nuclear tests. The speaker said that strong and prosperous Pakistan in all manners including at defense and economic sectors was the guarantee to the freedom of Kashmir. "People of Jammu & Kashmir will leave no stone unturned to make Pakistan strong, stable and prosperous besides to safeguard the security and defense of the country", they said while addressing ceremonies hosted in various parts of the state. While

reminding about the exceptional significance and historic background of the grand event, they recalled that on May 11, 1998, India with its nuclear tests, had tried to disturb the balance of power in the South Asian region, adding that after conducting nuclear tests, defense of Pakistan became impregnable and the enemies could not dare to look towards it with bad intentions. They observed that now the enemy, through her changed strategy, was trying to weaken the country internally through different cowardly acts. They said that all such nefarious designs of the enemy would be thwarted with full vigor by the nation with complete unity and harmony.—APP

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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

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RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Research institutions termed vital amid vested interests, policy gaps

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In an era where public policy research in Pakistan remains largely underprioritized and often influenced by vested interests, donor agendas, and politically driven narratives, the presence of independent research institutions is a necessity. In this context, for 46 years, IPS has sustained its mission of offering principled, non-partisan, and value-driven research rooted in national priorities and ethical clarity amidst a rapidly evolving policy landscape. This was commemorated during a session at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, marking its 46th anniversary with a reflective and forward-looking direction. The event aimed to reflect on the vision of the Institute's late founder and patron-in-chief, Prof Khurshid Ahmad, IPS' contributions over the years and lay out its future direction in terms of public policy research. The event was addressed by

Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Amb (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Dr Waqar Masood Khan, former federal secretary, finance, Prof Dr Anis Ahmad, founding vice chancellor Riphah International University, Prof Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, founder Gallup Pakistan, Bashir Janmohammad, chairman Westbury Group of Companies, and Ameenah Sohail, energy lawyer. Other

IPS associates also joined the session. Speakers highlighted the Institute's enduring role in bridging policy, research, and stakeholders through research, dialogue, and publications since its founding in May 1979. Participants reflected on the state of public policy thinking in Pakistan, noting that the environment is increasingly shaped by fast-paced global changes, post-

truth narratives, and a growing emphasis on research quantity over quality. They warned that such trends risk compromising long-term national interests unless institutions like IPS continue to provide a platform for value-based, evidence-driven, and contextually grounded policy discourse in a pragmatic manner. Speakers underscored that despite these mounting challenges, they also open space for opportunity, especially for research organizations that maintain intellectual independence, narrative clarity, and strategic foresight. IPS was recognized as a model for such institutions, having sustained a credible and continuous contribution to national discourse for nearly five decades. Khalid Rahman emphasized that IPS' journey reflects not only institutional perseverance but also a deep sense of responsibility toward shaping the nation's intellectual and policy landscape amidst challenges. He reiterated the Institute's commitment to continuing its work as a research-intensive platform and

sustaining its mission with consistency, intellectual rigor, and relevance across changing political and social contexts. Looking ahead, Rahman called for greater support for independent policy research institutions, emphasizing the importance of platforms capable of producing purposeful ideas, nurturing critical discourse, and fostering long-term policy thinking free from short-term political or commercial interests. Ambassador Abrar Hussain elaborated on IPS' vision, which is firmly rooted in Prof Khurshid Ahmad's concept of intellectual self-reliance, ethical scholarship, and public service. He emphasized the need to carry this legacy forward with renewed commitment in light of today's complex governance and research challenges. The event also featured a presentation showcasing the IPS' journey, highlighting major milestones, thematic evolution, recent notable publications, and the expanding engagement with a cross-section of society at national and international levels. #

Pakistan committed to peace but will respond to any aggression: Ayaz

LAHORE: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan remains a peace-loving nation but will give a forceful response to any act of aggression. He was addressing a ceremony held here to mark Youm-e-Takbeer on Wednesday, the anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests conducted on May 28, 1998. Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker paid tribute to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif for making the bold decision to conduct nuclear tests, asserting that this move secured Pakistan's defense and transformed the regional balance of power. "If Nawaz Sharif had not carried out the nuclear tests on May 28, the regional scenario would have been very different today," he said and added, "This day is a symbol of national pride and a reminder of our sovereignty." The Speaker said that modern warfare has evolved beyond conventional methods, referring to recent Indian hostilities including attacks on Pakistan's strategic installations like the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project. "Modi has spared no opportunity to provoke Pakistan, but our armed forces responded with strength and resolve. The nation stands proud of their courage," he added. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed deep respect for the soldiers who risked their lives to defend the homeland. "May Allah Almighty protect the brave young men who stood firm and took bullets for this nation," he said. While emphasizing that Pakistan does not seek conflict, he warned that any future aggression would be met with a decisive and befitting response. "Pakistan will not initiate war. But if war is imposed on us, we will retaliate with full force," he declared. Commenting on recent Indian accusations of cross-border involvement in an attack, he said Pakistan had immediately called for an impartial investigation by a neutral country, which exposed the baselessness of the allegations. "It was a failed conspiracy that backfired. Pakistan's principled and transparent stance was acknowledged globally," he said. "We offered an independent inquiry, our intentions were clear, and our hands were clean," he added. The Speaker noted that Pakistan's armed forces not only defended the country but also defeated the enemy's designs. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and diplomacy, particularly in resolving the Kashmir dispute, and expressed concern over the civilian toll caused by regional tensions. "We don't want war. Pakistan wants to move forward towards a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue," he said. "Today, the Kashmir issue has once again been brought into international focus," he added. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq drew attention to the situation in Balochistan, emphasizing that the people and the armed forces of Pakistan stand united in confronting subversive elements. He strongly condemned a handful of individuals who are acting on foreign directives and receiving funding from India to destabilize the region. Reflecting on his own political journey, he recalled campaigning in difficult conditions and said it had only strengthened his resolve to serve the public. He also praised Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her tireless work. "Despite the challenges, our Chief Minister is working day and night for the welfare of the people. Her leadership is focused on public service and progress.—DNA

CDA Chairman inspects new parking facility near Pak Secretariat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, visited the newly designated parking area near the Pak Secretariat on Wednesday. During the visit, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza briefed the chairman on the progress of the facility, which spans approximately 133,729 square feet and will accommodate over 1,000 vehicles at a time. The project aims to provide relief to government employees, visitors, and staff from nearby offices who have long struggled with parking congestion in the federal capital. Chairman Randhawa emphasized that the initiative reflects the CDA's commitment to resolving urban challenges and improving public convenience. "This project is a model of efficient urban planning and will significantly alleviate parking difficulties for both government offices and citizens," he stated. Officials informed the chairman that construction is progressing swiftly across all sections of the facility, demonstrating the authority's focus on timely execution. Randhawa praised the efforts of the Engineering Wing, noting that such initiatives will enhance civic amenities for Pak Secretariat employees and the general public. The parking facility is expected to streamline traffic flow in the high-density government zone, marking a key step in Islamabad's infrastructure development.

Pak-EPA seals five brick kilns in Islamabad for violating environmental laws

This crackdown is part of Pak-EPA's ongoing efforts to combat air pollution and promote sustainable industrial practices in the Islamabad Capital Territory. Authorities have vowed to continue rigorous monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental regulations

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has sealed five brick kilns operating illegally in sectors H-16 and H-17 of Islamabad for failing to adopt environmentally friendly zigzag technology. The enforcement action was carried out on the directives of Pak-EPA's Director General following multiple complaints and field inspections, an official told APP on Wednesday. The targeted operation revealed that the brick kilns were using outdated straight-fire technology, contributing to severe air pollution and environmental degradation. These practices not only violate national environmental standards but also pose significant health risks to nearby residents and exacerbate smog and air quality deterioration in the region. During inspections, the Pak-EPA enforcement team identified five kilns actively emitting harmful pollutants and issued on-site notices to the violators. Legal proceedings have been initiated under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997. The Director General of Pak-EPA reaffirmed the agency's commitment to strict enforcement of environmental laws, warning that no entity would be allowed to compromise public health or damage the environment. Kiln owners have been directed to immediately transition to zigzag technology—a cleaner alternative that significantly reduces emissions—or face stringent penalties. This crackdown is part of Pak-EPA's ongoing efforts to combat air pollution and promote sustainable industrial practices in the Islamabad Capital Territory. Authorities have vowed to continue rigorous monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.—DNA

ASI Abbasi laid to rest with full honors

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayer of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Sudheer Ahmed Abbasi of Islamabad Capital Police who was martyred in the line of duty, was offered with full honors at the Police Lines Headquarters at late-night Tuesday. An official told APP that the martyred officer was paid salute following the funeral prayer, and his body was sent to his native village, Thulah, Abbottabad, with official protocol. His burial will take place with full state honors in his hometown. He said that the funeral was attended by senior police officers, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, officials and personnel from Islamabad Police, and the district administration. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that ASI Sudheer Ahmed Abbasi was a professional and fearless investigation officer who showed exemplary bravery by confronting dangerous dacoits without regard for his own life. IG Rizvi said that Islamabad Police will take full care of the martyred officer's family and ensure all necessary support. IG Rizvi said that every officer of Islamabad Police is committed to their duty and will not shy away from any sacrifice in the line of duty. IG Rizvi said that three senior SSPs are currently leading the operation to apprehend the culprits involved in the incident.—APP

Tribute paid to scientists

RAWALPINDI: The Private Schools and Colleges Management Association Pakistan organized a dignified ceremony to mark Youm-e-Takbeer, attended by heads of private educational institutions, teachers, and students. Association President Malik Naseem Ahmed addressed the gathering in which he recalled the unforgettable moments of 28th May 1998. "Youm-e-Takbeer is an unforgettable day in our national history when Pakistan sent a clear message to its adversaries that we will never compromise on our sovereignty", he said and added that Youm-e-Takbeer symbolizes our scientific progress, national unity, and defence capabilities. He paid tribute to Pakistani scientists, particularly late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and his team, and the armed forces of Pakistan who made the country a nuclear power.—APP

Ten-Point agenda unanimously approved by NACTE

ISLAMABAD: National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE) has unanimously approved a ten point agenda relating to teacher training, enhancement of educational standards and institutional development. The agenda items were approved after detailed deliberations in its 23rd meeting which was held yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University which was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University and Chairman of the Council, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. Sixteen members from across the country participated in person, while four members joined the meeting online, ensuring their presence through virtual participation. At the beginning, the Council's Secretary, Dr. Shamsa Aziz, presented a ten-point agenda. After detailed deliberations, all agenda items were unanimously approved. The key points of the agenda included: Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, Presentation of the performance report from October 2024 to April 2025, Approval of accreditation awards for various teacher education programs, Approval of provisional/zero-level accreditation certificates, Approval of the procedure for online council meetings, Endorsement of revised national accreditation standards, tools, and procedures, Approval of the budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, Permission to open a new bank account, Approval of the formation of an investment committee, Extension of the office boy's contract. The meeting also emphasized further improving the quality of teacher training, making the accreditation process more transparent and efficient, and aligning organizational affairs with modern requirements. On this occasion, the Council Chairman, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, stated that the Council would only approve matters for which it has legal authority. He stressed that all provinces would be formally taken on board in this process to ensure transparency, harmony, and interprovincial cooperation in decision-making. He further affirmed that NACTE would continue to play an active role in promoting quality and accountability in educational institutions. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to joint efforts for educational development.—DNA

ISSI hosts moot on The future of deterrence ,emerging challenges

ISLAMABAD: As part of the commemoration of Youm-e-Takbeer, the Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar titled "The Future of Deterrence and Emerging Challenges" Lt. General (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, NI(M), HI, HI(M), Advisor National Command Authority (NCA), and former DG SPD, was the chief guest. Distinguished speakers included: Amb. Zamir Akram, Advisor SPD; Air Commodore (R) Khalid Banuri, Senior Advisor Training Rejuvenation and Jinnah Centre for Character and Leadership (JCCL), AHQ Islamabad; and Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, QAU. In his keynote address, Lt. General (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai underscored the emergence of a "new normal" in South Asia's strategic environment following the recent intense escalation-cum-retaliation mini war between India and Pakistan. He highlighted that the four-day conflict, lasting only 87 hours, was a profound test of both conventional and nuclear deterrence, as well as the integration of modern technologies in warfare. While commemorating the 27th anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests, Lt. Gen. Kidwai reaffirmed that Pakistan's nuclear capability remains the cornerstone of its national security, ensuring strategic stability and restoring balance in South Asia. He emphasized that the defining feature of the new strategic reality is the reversal of air superiority in the region. The Pakistan Air Force's (PAF) decisive performance, leveraging advanced Chinese technology and using integrated multi-domain tactics, has established Pakistan as the dominant air power in South Asia. —DNA

MAY 2025

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25 MAY

Briefs

Abbasi
felicitates
nation on
Youm-e-
Takbeer

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, marking the 27th anniversary of the country's historic entry into the ranks of nuclear powers. In a statement, he paid tribute to former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for his courageous leadership in 1998. "On this day, Pakistan became the first Muslim nuclear power by successfully conducting six nuclear tests in response to India's five, under the bold leadership of Nawaz Sharif," he said. He highlighted that the tests were carried out in the rugged mountains of Chagai, Balochistan, despite immense economic pressure, global sanctions, threats and enticing offers to deter Pakistan from responding. "This month also reminds us of the unjust war imposed by India, in which the entire nation once again stood shoulder to shoulder with its armed forces. Our military's bravery turned the tide and India had to face defeat, while Pakistan emerged victorious by the grace of Almighty Allah," he added. He emphasized the pride all Pakistanis should feel in their armed forces and security institutions, saying, "The nation salutes all those who played a historic role in making Pakistan's defense invincible." Hanif Abbasi reaffirmed national unity and resolve, honoring the legacy of those who strengthened Pakistan's strategic capabilities and celebrating Youm-e-Takbeer as a symbol of resilience and sovereignty. —APP

PIPS President
Rana greets
nation

ISLAMABAD: President of the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) Muhammad Amir Rana Wednesday conveyed a heartfelt Youm-e-Takbeer message to the nation, urging India to abandon its hate-filled narrative that threatens to destabilize the region and provoke Pakistan into taking assertive measures. "Our atomic strength gives us the confidence to stand on equal footing with other nations. We expect others to respect this reality and exercise restraint," he said while in fresh conversation with a local news channel. "As a nation with atomic power, we are proud of our capabilities and will not hesitate to defend our interests", he added. "We urge PM Modi to refrain from further provocation and hate speeches, as Pakistan will not hesitate to respond to any aggression." "As Pakistan's atomic and military assets are managed by responsible leaders, India should focus on improving its diplomatic standing rather than escalating tensions," he added. "The international community must be vigilant about India's narratives and activities, as they have significant implications for regional and global security," he further added. —APP

Newly appointed WB Country Director calls on Ahsan

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the minister extending warm wishes to Ms. Bolorma Amgaabazar for a successful tenure and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to deepening cooperation with the World Bank in pursuit of a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready Pakistan

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Country Director of the World Bank for Pakistan Bolorma Amgaabazar called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Wednesday. The outgoing Country Director Najy Benhassine also participated in the meeting, a news release said. Welcoming Amgaabazar, Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the World Bank's continued partnership and acknowledged Benhassine's instrumental role in deepening development cooperation during his tenure. He expressed confidence that this positive trajectory would continue under new WB Country Director Amgaabazar's leadership, especially under the evolving priorities set forth in Pakistan's long-term development roadmap. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that the government has launched the URAAN Pakistan initiative—a comprehensive and future-oriented development framework designed to position Pakistan as a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. He noted that the initiative was rooted in five strategic pillars, known as the 5Es Framework including Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment & Climate Resilience, Energy & Infrastructure, and Equity, Ethics & Empowerment. "The initiative is focused on smart governance, inclusive growth, and public sector transformation," he added. "In today's fast-changing global context, planning must be intelligent and adaptive," the minister said. "URAAN Pakistan is about creating hope, harnessing innovation, and enabling long-term stability through scenario-based planning and institutional reform." He also reiterated the government's intent to revive the Pakistan Development Forum later this year aligned with the framework of URAAN Pakistan, as a platform to foster strategic dialogue between the Government of Pakistan and its development partners. Benhassine welcomed this initiative and suggested timing the forum to align with the World Bank's business planning calendar. Discussions during the meeting included the significance of collaborative planning, federal-provincial coordination, and institutional resilience. The minister underscored the Ministry's leadership during recent national emergencies, including the 2022 floods and the COVID-19 response. He highlighted these examples as successful case studies of integrated planning and swift execution—core principles being institutionalized under URAAN Pakistan. He further informed the delegation that the Planning Ministry was currently leading an extensive consultative process to modernize civil service and improve public sector delivery, aligned with URAAN Pakistan's emphasis on institutional excellence. The World Bank team offered continued support in advancing reforms and strengthening implementation capacity, particularly for large-scale infrastructure and social development projects. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the minister extending warm wishes to Ms. Bolorma Amgaabazar for a successful tenure and reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to deepening cooperation with the World Bank in pursuit of a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready Pakistan.

Dr. Shahzad discuss matters of mutual interest with German delegation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Visiting German Federal Foreign Office delegate Mr. Tobias Krause called on Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem at his residence to discuss matters of mutual interest and regional developments. The meeting reflected the continued engagement and deepening ties between Pakistan and Germany. During the discussion, Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem underscored that Pakistan's response to recent Indian aggression was swift and effective. He emphasized that Pakistan not only reaffirmed its conventional deterrence but also showcased its advancements in modern warfare capabilities and system integration. He stated that Pakistan's narrative, rooted in truth, is being increasingly acknowledged and supported by the international community.

nity. Senator Waseem termed the consistent global highlighting of the Jammu & Kashmir as core issue is a significant diplomatic success for Pakistan. Commenting on recent trilateral talks held in Beijing between the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China, he welcomed the decision to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan. He termed it a strategic milestone for the region, with the potential to stabilize Afghanistan, enhance regional connectivity, boost economic development, and strengthen the collective fight against terrorism. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to furthering bilateral cooperation and promoting regional peace and development.



Efforts to obtain sacrificial animals increased

They are actively bargaining to negotiate better prices and remain hopeful of finding their desired animal in the large cattle markets, where animals of all sizes are available

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As Eid-ul-Azha approaches, the cattle markets are setting up in different specified places of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) including Sanghani, Sector I-15, Bhara Kahu, Lehtrar Road and Islamabad Expressway in view to facilitate the people. At I-15 cattle markets, Abdul Shaqoor, who brought his animals from Arifwala, shared, "We are satisfied with the market setup specially the availability of essential facilities like water and electricity." He emphasized that water is crucial for maintaining the health and vitality of the animals when temperature was at its peak. Moin Khan, the manager of the Mandi, highlighted that the market is spanned over 1,000 kanals and is divided into blocks to streamline management. "We've focused particularly on ensuring the availability of water, electricity, and proper security arrangements," he said. Each trader has been allotted around 150 to 200 square feet of space to conduct business in an organized way, he said, adding that additional measures have also been taken to ensure safety and prevent any untoward incidents. The different sizes of cow, goat, sheep and etc available in this mandi with prices seems high as compare to last year. Sardar Shah, a goat seller from Mi-anwali quoted that the prices of goat varies from Rs 50,000 to Rs. 350,000 according to their specifications. While Muhammad Imran, another seller, who brought their cows from Multan, offered price Rs. 230,000 to Rs. 600,000 etc for their bulls depends on their weight and size. However, residents are enthusiastic about the market's setup, but got frustration over the high prices of both small and big animals. A customer, Abdul Manan, who was looking for a sacrificial animal, said, "The market is impressive in scale, but the prices are shockingly high. A goat of average weight is being sold for Rs. 120,000—significantly more than what I paid last year for a similar one." On the other hand, traders argued that the costs of rising the animals has increased which forced them to increase the prices. Sardar Shah, explained, "Everything has become expensive—fodder, transport, and other essentials. Which, affects the final price of the animals." Despite high prices, buyers are struggling to find suitable animals for the Islamic ritual. They are actively bargaining to negotiate better prices and remain hopeful of finding their desired animal in the large cattle markets, where animals of all sizes are available.

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Senator Tarar reaffirms nation's resolve

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Azam Nazeer Tarar on Youm-e-Takbeer said that this day reflects our nation's firm resolve to protect its sovereignty and promote regional peace. In a message, he said, "Today, as we mark 'Youm-e-Takbeer', we proudly remember the historic moment when Pakistan became the first nuclear power in the Islamic world. This day reflects our nation's firm resolve to protect its sovereignty and promote regional peace. The nuclear achievement of 1998 stands as a symbol of national unity, strength, and the collective determination of our people. It is also a tribute to the leadership that shaped this milestone; initiated under the vision of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed.—APP

Sharmila Farooqi urges for national solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Leader Sharmila Farooqi Wednesday congratulated the nation on Youm-e-Takbeer, highlighting the significance of democratic principles, national unity and constructive dialogue in overcoming the challenges we face, both domestically and internationally. In an exclusive conversation with a local news channel, PPP leader Sharmila Farooqi urged for national solidarity and dialogue on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer, emphasizing that by putting aside differences and working towards a common goal, Pakistan can overcome its challenges and build a stronger future. "We stand united with our armed forces to protect our motherland from any internal or external threat," she said. "She expressed gratitude to the armed forces and past heroes for their determination and bravery in protecting the nation."

Responding to a query about PPP and PTI clash in KPK, Sharmila Farooqi strongly condemned the actions of Ali Amin Gandapur, particularly the steps taken against individuals participating in peaceful protests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She emphasized that restricting people's right to peaceful assembly and protest is unacceptable and goes against democratic principles. The PPP leader expressed concern over the lack of work and initiatives that address the genuine grievances of the people, which often leads to such protests. She reiterated the importance of respecting citizens' rights and engaging in constructive dialogue to resolve issues. The PPP believes in the power of democracy and the sacrifices of our martyrs. We urge PTI to show maturity and prioritize the public interest by uniting for the greater good of our nation.—APP

CC joins nation celebrating Yaum-i Takbeer

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) held a special get-together here on Wednesday to commemorate Yaum i Takbeer, under the chairmanship of its President, Syed M. Siddiq Hasan. On the occasion, ICC's Executive Committee passed a resolution, expressing complete solidarity with the Nation and the country's armed forces in defending the motherland. It was noted with pride that on 28th May, 1998, Pakistan conducted its first nuclear tests in response to India's nuclear tests earlier in the month.—APP



Carnival for a Cause Raises Funds for Underprivileged Students

Carnival for a Cause conducted by Red Maple brought the community together for a fun-filled day dedicated to supporting Rishma Community School, an institution committed to educating underprivileged students. The event featured games, performances, and food stalls, offering entertainment while ensuring that all proceeds went toward enhancing education and resources for the school. With strong community participation, the carnival successfully blended joy with generosity, leaving a lasting impact on young learners.



ISLAMABAD: Khazar Farhadov, wife of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, actively participated in Carnival for a Cause, an event hosted by Red Maple Montessori.



FE&PT and Chinese sign a MoU to modernise vocational institutes

The MoU was signed here by Shafiq Hussain Khokhar, Director General Admin & Finance of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), and Song Jianying, Chairman & CEO of Tang International's Pakistan Subsidiary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (FE&PT) and China's Tang International Education Group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upgrade 20 vocational institutes in Karachi. This partnership aims to enhance infrastructure, establish IT and smart labs, and create Centers of Excellence across Pakistan. Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. The MoU was signed here by Shafiq Hussain Khokhar, Director General Admin & Finance of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), and Song Jianying, Chairman & CEO of Tang International's Pakistan Subsidiary. The signing ceremony was overseen by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister for FE&PT, and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong. "Pakistan stands at a decisive moment," said Dr. Siddiqui while addressing the ceremony. "With a youth population comprising nearly 65% of our total—around 150 to 180 million—we have both a profound challenge and a unique opportunity. Properly trained, our youth can not only uplift our own nation but also become a global skilled workforce." Highlighting the broader vision behind the initiative, Dr. Siddiqui added, "The friendship between China and Pakistan is exemplar, which is a sign of stability and prosperity for the region. To strengthen this bond further, educational and developmental goals must be achieved. We are focusing on massive training efforts across the country, especially in slum areas around major cities." Ambassador Jiang Zaidong discussed China's experience and willingness to collaborate for the betterment of Pakistan's youth. "The basic guidelines or principles of the human resources cooperation between China and Pakistan is to turn the population bonus into talent or skilled workforce bonus," he stated. "Pakistan has a very good base because you have 240 to 250 million population and among which 64% of them are under 30-year-old, so that is very remarkable population bonus." Ambassador Jiang also shared insights into China's approach to employment and vocational training. "China was actively promoting the employment through various ways, and about 50% of the undergraduates find satisfactory jobs upon graduation, which... is very high figure."

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na and Pakistan is to turn the population bonus into talent or skilled workforce bonus," he stated. "Pakistan has a very good base because you have 240 to 250 million population and among which 64% of them are under 30-year-old, so that is very remarkable population bonus." Ambassador Jiang also shared insights into China's approach to employment and vocational training. "China was actively promoting the employment through various ways, and about 50% of the undergraduates find satisfactory jobs upon graduation, which... is very high figure."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s Azerbaijan visit

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent visit to Azerbaijan marks a significant step forward in Pakistan’s regional diplomacy and economic outreach. The visit, punctuated by warm diplomatic gestures, high-level meetings, and promising economic announcements, is a strong indication that Pakistan is looking eastward for strategic alliances and economic partnerships. Azerbaijan, a country that has consistently stood by Pakistan on key international issues, especially Kashmir, has once again shown its deep-rooted fraternal ties with Islamabad. During his visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the Azerbaijani leadership for their unwavering support, particularly during Pakistan’s tense standoff with India in recent weeks. In the diplomatic wilderness that followed the revocation of Article 370 by India in 2019, Azerbaijan was among the very few countries – notably alongside Türkiye – that openly supported Pakistan’s principled stance on Kashmir. This support was not only a testament to the strength of bilateral relations but also underscored a shared commitment to justice, sovereignty, and the rights of oppressed peoples. Beyond political solidarity, the most tangible outcome of the visit was Azerbaijan’s announcement to invest \$2 billion in Pakistan across various sectors. This is a landmark development and a reflection of Azerbaijan’s confidence in Pakistan’s economic potential. As Pakistan grapples with economic challenges, including dwindling foreign direct investment, a burgeoning trade deficit, and a need for energy diversification, such investment commitments are timely and deeply encouraging. The Prime Minister’s participation in the trilateral forum – alongside Türkiye’s President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan – further highlights the evolving regional dynamics. The Pakistan-Türkiye-Azerbaijan triangle is fast becoming a bloc of strategic cooperation rooted in shared history, cultural affinity, and mutual economic interests. This trilateral engagement offers a platform to jointly address issues of regional connectivity, trade, security, and diplomacy in a multipolar world where regional blocs are gaining importance. Pakistan must now ensure that this goodwill is reciprocated with action. Facilitating Azerbaijani and Turkish investors, offering them streamlined business processes, and ensuring a secure and welcoming environment is critical. Bureaucratic red tape, inconsistent policies, and a lack of investor confidence have long plagued foreign investment in Pakistan. It is imperative that special economic zones and investment protection frameworks be strengthened to honor the trust our friends have shown. Moreover, Pakistan can benefit by learning from Azerbaijan’s post-war reconstruction and energy management experience. Cooperation in sectors like renewable energy, information technology, infrastructure, and logistics can bring real economic dividends. In conclusion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to Azerbaijan is a diplomatic success and an opportunity to turn long-standing friendship into robust economic and strategic collaboration. The onus is now on Islamabad to capitalize on this momentum and create lasting partnerships that benefit the people of all three brotherly nations – Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Türkiye.

Pakistan’s First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 29

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PTI’s latest offer – a tactical retreat or a bid for political reconciliation?

IN a move that has stirred intense debate across Pakistan’s political spectrum, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has extended what appears to be an open-ended offer to the government and the establishment. The message, delivered through the public statement of Imran Khan’s sister, Aleema Khan, is straightforward yet loaded with implications: “Tell us what PTI should do so that Imran Khan can be freed.” This unusual and striking appeal has raised eyebrows and triggered speculation about PTI’s current strategy and its future direction. Some critics have interpreted this statement as a sign that PTI has finally bowed before the establishment – a party that once prided itself on resisting “political engineering” is now seemingly seeking accommodation. To its detractors, this is seen as a humiliating U-turn. Yet others term it a well-thought-out tactical maneuver – a temporary retreat to ensure Imran Khan’s release, after which the party will regain its footing and confront its opponents head-on. Aleema Khan’s message is important not just because of its timing but also because of the shifting political realities. The courts are set to hear appeals regarding Imran Khan’s sentence on June 5. There is strong speculation that if there are any backchannel negotiations already underway – and many observers believe there are – then this court hearing might produce a dramatic outcome, potentially paving the way for Imran Khan’s return to active politics. If his conviction is overturned or his sentence suspended, it would be a political earthquake and a serious boost for PTI’s morale. Regardless of whether the statement is tactical or conciliatory, one truth is unavoidable: excluding PTI and its leader from the political mainstream has not brought the stability or unity the country so desperately needs. Instead, Pakistan remains mired in polarization, economic uncertainty, and institutional mistrust. To continue down the path of one-sided politics, where major political forces are sidelined or criminalized, is to risk further fragmentation of the democratic order. PTI’s offer must be seen through the broader lens of national interest. The current power structure – whether political or institutional – must understand that reconciliation, not repression, is the way forward. Imran Khan, whether one supports or opposes him, still commands the loyalty of millions. Ignoring or eliminating such a large political force is not only unjust, it is strategically unwise. The courts, meanwhile, must uphold justice without being swayed by political pressure. If Imran Khan’s sentence is legally flawed or politically motivated, it should be set aside – not to appease a party, but to uphold the integrity of the judicial system. Pakistan’s future lies in inclusive politics. No party or leader should be above the law, but neither should they be punished arbitrarily. PTI’s latest offer – whether read as surrender or strategy – provides an opening. It is now up to the establishment and the government to respond wisely. Rebuilding Pakistan’s fractured political landscape begins with allowing all voices, including PTI’s, a fair chance to be heard.

Despite crushing defeat, Modi remains unlearned

Qamar Bashir



This is not conjecture; it is history. Since 1947, Pakistan and India have fought five wars—1947, 1965, 1971, 1999, and most recently from May 5 to May 10, 2025. Each war, regardless of its military outcome, has been a loss for the people: lives lost, families torn apart, economies devastated, and generations scarred. Estimates suggest that the cumulative economic loss from these conflicts runs into hundreds of billions of dollars—conservative estimates place the direct and indirect costs at over \$250 billion for India

IN a fiery address from Bhuj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stark yet hollow warning to Pakistan, declaring, “Live a life of peace and eat your roti in calm, or else, my bullet is always ready.” Delivered in the humiliating aftermath of Operation Sindoor, where India suffered a crushing and comprehensive defeat on all fronts, Modi’s bluster masked the reality of India’s exposed vulnerabilities, broken illusions of regional dominance, and the utter failure of its military might against Pakistan’s far smaller yet far more agile and resolute forces. His speech, laced with threats, revealed a dangerous refusal to reflect on India’s strategic miscalculations and a desperate attempt to spin humiliation into hollow bravado. As Pakistan’s air force, missile command, cyber units, and the sheer resilience of its people stood tall, Modi’s empty threats only deepened the cracks in India’s facade of strength, revealing a nation unprepared for the consequences of its reckless aggression. This aggressive rhetoric, however, is neither new nor constructive. It follows a well-worn script that Modi has often played before elections, invoking Pakistan as a perpetual threat, demonizing an entire nation for internal incidents, and overlooking the possibility of homegrown actors or third-party provocateurs. Modi’s framing, once again, reduces Pakistan to a target and portrays India as the victim, demanding retribution without introspection. Yet, what he ignores—either willfully or due to political expediency—is the ground reality that Pakistan is not Gaza, and India is not Israel. Any bullet fired from one side will inevitably trigger a response—two bullets, five, or even more—escalating into a cycle of retaliation with catastrophic consequences for both. This is not conjecture; it is history. Since 1947, Pakistan and India have fought five wars—1947, 1965, 1971, 1999, and most recently from May 5 to May 10, 2025. Each war, regardless of its military outcome, has been a loss for the people: lives lost, families torn apart, economies devastated, and generations scarred. Estimates suggest that the cumulative economic loss from these conflicts runs into hundreds of billions of dollars—conservative estimates place the direct and indirect costs at over \$250 billion for India and \$100 billion for Pakistan, excluding the

immeasurable human toll. The 2025 war alone, lasting merely five days, is believed to have cost both nations approximately \$100 billion in combined economic damage, infrastructure losses, disrupted trade, and lost productivity. The pattern is predictable: every war begins with heightened rhetoric, spirals into military confrontation, and ultimately ends at the negotiating table—often right where it all started. So, why not choose the table first and save countless lives and resources? Why not learn from the lessons of history, where every war has brought more pain than gain, more wounds than wins, and more bitterness than breakthroughs? Central to this perpetual conflict is the Kashmir issue—a festering wound that has fueled tensions for decades. Until this core dispute is resolved in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, lasting peace will remain elusive. Kashmir is not just a piece of land; it is a symbol of unresolved grievances, a humanitarian crisis, and the spark that has ignited many of the wars between the two countries. While international actors, including former U.S. President Donald Trump, have offered their good offices to mediate a solution, India continues to resist external facilitation, insisting on bilateral dialogue while simultaneously rejecting meaningful negotiations. This stalemate serves no one—least of all the people of Kashmir, who continue to suffer the most. If India, as the larger country with greater resources and population—five times that of Pakistan—claims the mantle of a rising global power, it must show magnanimity, not arrogance; statesmanship, not saber-rattling. True greatness lies not in coercing weaker neighbors but in resolving disputes honorably, fostering peace, and lifting entire regions into prosperity. Yet, time and again, India’s belligerence has reduced its stature, tarnished its global image, and isolated it diplomatically. It is high time both nations learn that war is not a solution—it is a multiplier of problems. War kills not just soldiers but children, women, and elderly civilians. It destroys infrastructure, maims economies, deepens hatred, and creates cycles of vengeance. The real cost of war is not measured in missiles fired or jets downed but in homes reduced to rubble, schools

turned into graves, and futures robbed of hope. The alternative path is clear. Dialogue, negotiation, and diplomacy must replace confrontation. Bilateral negotiations, supplemented by third-party mediation where necessary, can address thorny issues like Kashmir, water disputes, and border tensions. These talks should be held in good faith, with a commitment to incremental progress and confidence-building measures. People-to-people exchanges—academic collaborations, cultural programs, tourism, and sports—must continue uninterrupted, creating human bridges that make war unthinkable. Imagine the dividends of peace: billions of dollars saved annually in defense spending, redirected to uplift millions out of poverty. India’s defense budget alone, at \$86 billion, and Pakistan’s, at \$10 billion, could fund universal healthcare, world-class universities, and cutting-edge infrastructure. The region’s collective population—over 1.7 billion people—could become a formidable global bloc, comparable in influence to NATO or the European Union, not through militarism but through trade, innovation, and shared prosperity. This is not wishful thinking. It is the proven trajectory of other regions—Europe, once ravaged by war, now stands united in trade and development. China, Japan, and Korea, despite historical animosities, have built robust economic ties. Even the U.S. and China, amidst fierce competition, maintain over \$560 billion in bilateral trade because economic logic outweighs political posturing. South Asia must learn from these examples. Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh share history, culture, language, and people. Their futures are intertwined. It is time they act accordingly—before another war steals more lives, robs more futures, and deepens the wounds that already run too deep. Prime Minister Modi must realize that one cannot bomb a path to peace. The Kashmir issue must be resolved, not ignored. Both nations must lower the rhetoric, end the cycle of blame, and focus on building a shared future. The cost of continued conflict is too high, and the dividends of peace are too rich to ignore. The choice is clear: dialogue or destruction, cooperation or confrontation, a shared destiny or mutual ruin. The time to choose wisely is now.

The enduring legacy of World War II

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



World War II also restructured the balance of global power, particularly between Europe and the United States. The war signaled the end of British global dominance and the beginning of a transatlantic alliance, albeit one marred by tensions and asymmetries. The United Kingdom, while proud of its wartime resilience, found itself increasingly reliant on American military and economic support. The notion of a “special relationship” served as both a diplomatic tool...

WORLD War II remains one of the most significant and transformative events in modern history, not merely because of its unprecedented global scope or catastrophic death toll, but due to the complex interplay of ideologies, unfinished business from earlier conflicts and the competing narratives that continue to shape geopolitics. Unlike conflicts with clear beginnings and endings, World War II represents a culmination and continuation of many unresolved tensions from previous decades. It is a vivid demonstration of how history rarely conforms to neat chronological boundaries and how its repercussions echo far beyond the battlefield. To understand the profundity of World War II, one must first consider the argument that it was not an isolated event, but rather part of a broader historical continuum. Numerous historians have contended that the years 1914 to 1945 encompassing both World Wars and the interwar period should be seen as one protracted global conflict. The collapse of four major empires the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, Russian and German during and after World War I, left behind a vacuum of power, creating fragile new nation-states and intensifying nationalist and ethnic tensions. The peace treaties, especially the Treaty of Versailles, sowed seeds of resentment and revanchism, particularly in Germany, where economic hardship and wounded national pride facilitated the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime. Moreover, the ideological dimensions of this extended conflict are vital to consider. Some scholars characterize this period as a global civil war a titanic struggle between capitalism and communism and democracy and dictatorship. These rival ideologies deeply entangled in both the World Wars and continued to manifest in the Cold War that followed. The entwined nature of these conflicts suggests that World War II was not a discrete rupture but a phase in a longer arc of global upheaval and ideological confrontation. Another critical dimension of World War II’s legacy is the dispute over its starting point a reflection of the clashing narratives adopted by different nations. While the conventional European account begins with the joint Nazi-Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939, other perspectives complicate this timeline. The United States often regards the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, as the true beginning of the war due to its formal entry into the conflict thereafter. Conversely, the Russian narrative emphasizes the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, conveniently omitting Soviet complicity in the earlier partitioning of Poland. China, on the other hand, traces its involvement to 1937 with the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War, or even earlier to the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in 1931. The Spanish left may trace

the conflicts ideological genesis to the Spanish Civil War in 1936, viewing it as a precursor to the larger clash between fascism and republicanism. These diverging starting points are more than historical disagreements they represent deep-rooted national identities and political ideologies. The way countries remember and interpret World War II is often shaped by internal needs for heroism, victimhood, or justification. This selective memory fuels ongoing international tensions, especially when political leaders weaponize history for contemporary objectives. Nowhere is the instrumentalization of historical memory more evident than in Russia under Vladimir Putin. The Russian narrative of the “Great Patriotic War” centers on Soviet heroism and sacrifice, consciously ignoring the Stalinist terror that paralleled Hitler’s atrocities. In recent years, Putin has not only rehabilitated Joseph Stalin’s image but also propagated the idea that the Soviet Union could have defeated Nazi Germany without Allied assistance a historically inaccurate but politically convenient claim. This narrative bolsters a form of Russian nationalism that draws on both Soviet pride and tsarist imperialism, advocating for Russian supremacy over Eurasia. Such mythologizing is not merely symbolic. It underpins and legitimizes contemporary Russian aggression, including the invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and the ongoing war that began in 2022. As history is rewritten to suit modern ambitions, selective memory becomes a powerful tool for justifying territorial expansion, authoritarian governance and anti-Western sentiment. World War II also restructured the balance of global power, particularly between Europe and the United States. The war signaled the end of British global dominance and the beginning of a transatlantic alliance, albeit one marred by tensions and asymmetries. The United Kingdom, while proud of its wartime resilience, found itself increasingly reliant on American military and economic support. The notion of a “special relationship” served as both a diplomatic tool and a psychological balm for British decline. For the United States, the war catalyzed a permanent departure from isolationism. Although U.S. foreign policy has oscillated between interventionism and retrenchment since 1945, the threat posed by the Soviet Union compelled a sustained American presence in Europe and beyond. Yet, this commitment has shown signs of erosion in recent years. Under the Trump administration, the United States appeared to retreat from its role as a global leader, further destabilizing an international order built on the postwar ideals of sovereignty and multilateralism. The human toll of World War II was staggering—an estimated 85 million people perished, many of them civilians. The ideological fervor that characterized the conflict contributed to this cruelty. Racial supremacy and anti-Semitism drove Nazi Germany’s genocidal policies, most horrifically

manifested in the Holocaust. Meanwhile, the Soviet regime under Stalin conducted class-based exterminations, targeting landowners, intellectuals and perceived enemies of the state. The war’s devastation was not confined to direct combat. Civilian populations suffered from famine, disease, mass displacement and systematic atrocities. The deliberate targeting of civilians became normalized, leading to long-term psychological and demographic consequences. Postwar societies had to grapple with the trauma, guilt and moral ambiguities that accompanied survival. Despite the official end of hostilities in 1945, many of the war’s injustices persisted. Prisoners of war, forced laborers and civilians accused of collaboration were subjected to harsh reprisals, often without due process. The British handover of anti-communist Yugoslavs and Soviet Cossacks to communist regimes led to mass executions. The Soviet Union forcibly repatriated its own soldiers who had fought or surrendered under German command, subjecting them to execution or lifelong labor in gulags. In the postwar years, political and social conflicts continued to fester. In Italy, returning soldiers who criticized the Soviet Union were labeled fascists by the communist press, igniting domestic tensions. In Germany and France, returning men faced unsettling revelations about wartime sexual violence and women’s survival strategies, resulting in reactionary social attitudes that persisted well into the 1950s. As the generations that lived through World War II pass away, the collective memory of the conflict becomes increasingly abstract. The immense scale of suffering, once intimately known, risks being reduced to numerical data. This detachment threatens the moral resolve that has underpinned decades of relative peace among major powers. The disappearance of firsthand witnesses allows for the distortion and politicization of history, undermining efforts to maintain a rules-based international order. World War II was a crucible in which the modern world was forged. Its causes were rooted in earlier conflicts, its conduct shaped by unprecedented brutality and its aftermath defined by a fragile quest for order. Despite its global nature, the war did not yield a singular, unified memory. Instead, each nation fashioned its own narrative, often shaped more by domestic needs than historical truth. This fragmented remembrance continues to influence global politics. As leaders invoke selectively remembered pasts to justify present ambitions, the war’s legacy remains a source of division as much as it is a call for unity. In a time when global stability is once again under threat from autocratic resurgence to geopolitical realignments, understanding the complexities and unresolved tensions of World War II is not only an academic exercise, but also a political necessity. Only by confronting the full scope of this epochal conflict can we hope to preserve the fragile peace it left behind.

Briefs

Pakistan desires peace in...

FROM PAGE 01

There can be no bigger manifestation of our commitment and intention to beat this menace for all times to come," he added. If India showed serious and honest cooperation, he said Pakistan would be willing to discuss all the issues, including promotion of trade with India, on the negotiation table. The prime minister also appreciated the role of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir who he said led the armed forces of Pakistan to fight with great bravery and the highest level of professional acumen while the entire nation was standing behind them. The prime minister said that during the conflict with India, he found the Field Marshal as 'God-fearing, fearless, firm with iron resolve, patience and fortitude to face that aggression.' He reiterated that during the recent conflict, India failed to bring out any credible evidences against Pakistan and rejected their offer for a neutral and fair investigation into Pahalgam incident by any international body. Türkiye, Azerbaijan presidents also spoke on the occasion and reiterated their support to Pakistan during the conference. President of Türkiye Tayyip Erdogan said his country greatly valued relations with Pakistan. He said these relations shall further be cemented in the days to come. President of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev announced to make a USD 2 billion in various sectors of Pakistan. He said his country would always stand should to shoulder with Pakistan at any time.

Prime Minister felicitates...

FROM PAGE 01

leadership, our multi-dimensional partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength." Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy longstanding, deep-rooted ties encompassing political, economic, defense, and cultural cooperation. The two countries have consistently supported each other at regional and international forums and share a common vision for peace, development, and prosperity in the region. The Prime Minister's participation in the Independence Day celebrations in Baku underscores the warmth and depth of bilateral relations and reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to further enhancing its strategic partnership with Azerbaijan.

Indian PM promotes...

FROM PAGE 01

"India's youth, often the first to suffer under divisive and nationalistic policies, must reject the politics of fear. The region needs leadership grounded in reason, dignity, and cooperation—not conflict." The Ministry reiterated Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and urged India to pursue meaningful dialogue and constructive engagement for the collective betterment of South Asia.

Imran ready to meet...

FROM PAGE 01

diplomacy for a possible relief for Khan. PTI leader and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has reportedly been in contact with the group even before their arrival in Pakistan. The delegation, which landed in the country last week, has yet to meet with any key officials in Islamabad. This visit marks a continuation of previous behind-the-scenes engagement by the same group, who earlier met with senior government figures and Khan during a trip to Islamabad a few months ago. Their return has raised speculation about potential efforts to explore a way forward for the embattled PTI leader, whose prospects for political and legal relief remain uncertain. Progress has remained elusive as yet because of non-consistency in the PTI's policy. It is believed that beyond private meetings, any breakthrough would require a significant shift in PTI's public messaging, especially the aggressive tone adopted by its leader, social media teams and international chapters in the US and UK against the army and its top command.



ISLAMABAD: Players of the Rising Stars Hockey Club and Rising Stars Girls Hockey Academy posing for a picture with the High Commissioner of Australia Neil Hawkins on the occasion of the Australian Day event. Neil Hawkins is also a member of the Rising Stars Hockey Club. – DNA

Naqvi also extends greetings

Ayaz Sadiq, Yousaf Raza Gillani, Rana Sanaullah greet new RISJA leadership

Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad also congratulates newly-elected office-bearers

ANSAR BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah, and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad, along with representatives of various sports federations, have extended their heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected office bearers of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA). In their congratulatory messages, Speaker

Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Gillani praised RISJA as an active and well-organized body of sports journalists. They acknowledged the association's pivotal role in promoting sports journalism, offering professional training, and safeguarding the rights of journalists. Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah and Chairman Youth Programme Rana Mashhood commended RISJA's commendable contribution to the development of sports journalism. They assured that the government remains committed to supporting journalists and resolving the challenges faced by the media community. Pakistan People's Party Secretary General

Nayyar Bukhari and Central Spokesperson Shazia Marri also sent their felicitations. They reaffirmed the PPP's longstanding support for democracy and a free press and assured full cooperation in promoting positive and constructive activities. President of Pakistan Boxing Federation Colonel (R) Nasir Tung, Secretary General Major Irfan Younas, Secretary General of Pakistan Kabaddi Federation Rana Muhammad Sarwar, and Chairperson of Islamabad Olympic Association Begum Ishrat Ashraf also congratulated the newly elected RISJA officials. They expressed hope that the new team will play a significant role in the pro-

motion of sports through honest reporting and insightful analysis. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi, has congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA). Mohsin Naqvi extended his congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected President Abu Bakar Bin Tallat, General Secretary Syed Arsalan Shirazi, Finance Secretary Nasir Abbas Naqvi, and other officials of RISJA. He expressed hope that the new leadership of RISJA will play a significant role in the promotion of cricket as well as other sports.

DC attends CM Punjab Summer Games 2025 trials ceremony

Dr. Lubna Nazir observed the sports events and interacted with the athletes

LODHARAN: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Lubna Nazir on Wednesday attended the ongoing talent trials under the special initiative Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games 2025. The district Lodhran was witnessing an enthusiastic response as young athletes actively participate in trials organized with great zeal and passion. Trials for girls'hockey and boys' volleyball were successfully conducted at the

New Stadium Lodhran, attracting talented players from across the district who demonstrated remarkable skills and sportsmanship. During her visit to the stadium, Dr. Lubna Nazir observed the sports events and interacted with the athletes. She commended the young players for their energy and commitment and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence. Addressing the athletes, Dr. Nazir emphasized that the CM Summer Games represent a golden opportunity for the youth – not only promoting physical well-being but also strengthening social cohesion and self-confidence. She appreciated the efforts of coaches, technical staff and the sports department. Dr.

Nazir particularly highlighted her meeting with the female athletes, calling it an honor. She encouraged them to pursue their dreams with dedication and perseverance, reinforcing the importance of women's active participation in sports. District Sports Officer, Sajid Mahmood provided a detailed briefing on the initiative. He informed that athletes showing exceptional performance in the district trials will be selected to represent Lodhran in the upcoming Inter-District Games under the Multan division. He further added that the CM Punjab Summer Games 2025 were a major step toward polishing the local talent and promoting a sports culture at the grassroots level. – APP

Secretary inspects arrangements for Pakistani pilgrims

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH: Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dr. Syed Ata Ur Rehman, visited Mervin Arafat to inspect the overall arrangements made for Pakistani pilgrims during the Mashair Days. The high-level visit aimed to ensure that all necessary facilities and services are in place to provide a smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience. The Secretary reviewed accommodation, sanitation facilities, food distribution plans, and healthcare arrangements to ensure compliance with safety and quality standards. – APP

Indian community gives warm welcome to Shahid Afridi in Dubai

Indian attendees paused event to honour Afridi with "Boom Boom" chants before inviting on stage

DUBAI: While reports of tension between Pakistani and Indian communities surface in various parts of the world, Dubai has once again proved that the language of love and sports transcends all borders. In an extraordinary gesture, the Indian community in Dubai gave a rousing welcome to former Pakistani cricket captain Shahid Afridi at the Pakistan Association Dubai. Their warm interaction showcased the harmony and mutual respect that binds communities in the United Arab Emirates. The Kerala community of India was hosting an event at the Pakistan Association Dubai when Afridi's arrival transformed the atmosphere. Chanting "Boom Boom," Indian attendees paused their event to honour Afridi and invited him to join them on stage. Speaking to the gathering, Afridi remarked, "On the field, we played tough matches, but off the field, our relations have always been friendly." He praised Kerala, calling it a beautiful place with exquisite cuisine, adding, "I often watch videos of Kerala's food on YouTube." A lighter moment came when fans cheered "Boom Boom" as Afridi took the stage. With a smile, he responded. – Agencies

Excited Zidane eyes top job with French national team

"I feel qualified for French team, where I played and spent practically 12, 13, 14 years as player," says Zidane

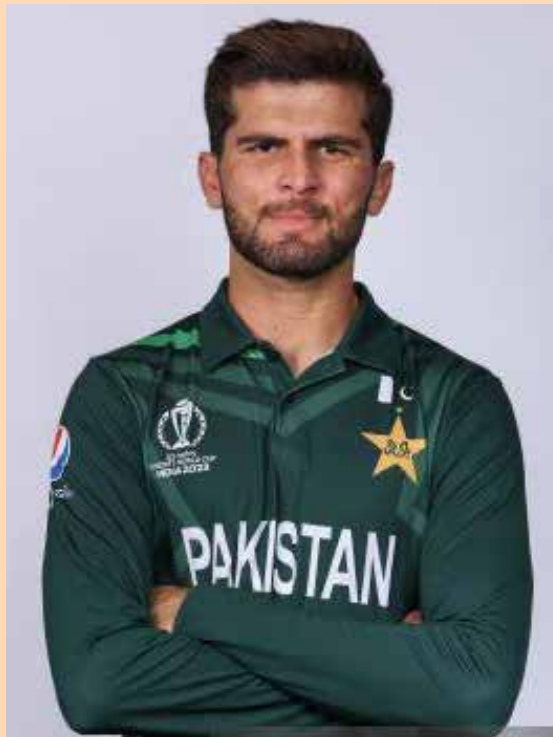
SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Zinedine Zidane has said he is excited about the chance to become the head coach of the French national team. The football legend, who led France to World Cup glory as a player in 1998, called the job a "dream" and said he is ready to take on the role after the 2026 World Cup. Zidane, who is 52, was speaking at an event on Monday organised by his long-time sponsors Adidas, French media reported. "I feel qualified for the French team, where I played and spent practically 12, 13, 14 years as a player. Of course it's a dream. I can't wait," said Zidane, a former captain of Les Bleus and the scorer of two goals as they won the 1998 World Cup final. His midfield partner in that match and in France's Euro 2000 triumph was Didier Deschamps, who has been in charge of the French side since 2012. Deschamps led Les Bleus to the World Cup in 2018 but has announced that he will end his reign after the 2026 World Cup in the US, Canada and Mexico. As a coach, Zidane took Real Madrid to three Champions League triumphs and two Liga titles but has not taken a coaching job since ending his second spell at Real in 2021.

FIFA honours Pak cricketer Shaheen

Afridi has been featured alongside football giants Lionel Messi, Neymar Jr and Luka Modrić

LAHORE: The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (Fifa) has paid tribute by ranking Pakistan's fast bowler Shaheen Afridi alongside football's greats. In a recent Instagram post by the official Fifa World Cup account, Afridi was featured alongside football giants Lionel Messi, Neymar Jr, and Luka Modrić, who are all famously associated with the iconic number 10 jersey. The post simply captioned: "The iconic" and celebrated the global legends who have donned the number. Notably, this recognition places Afridi in elite company. This marks a unique crossover between cricket and football and underscoring the fast bowler's rising profile on the international sports stage. According to sources, the aim of Fifa's post is to mobilise Pakistani fans for the World Cup. Sources say that Fifa's local digital teams are working on social media fan engagement in different countries. Across the global sporting world, this rare recognition from an international football platform has reflected Shaheen's growing stature. He has now joined the ranks of legendary athletes associated with the number 10 jersey. Additionally, Afridi just won a record-extending third PSL title as captain of Lahore Qalandars. His fans regard him as the one who loves to be loved for playing cricket. Afridi was among the first to pour onto the field to exult with his team when Sikandar Raza struck the winning runs for Lahore Qalandars. – DNA



Sadia Iqbal returns to No 1 on ICC Women's T20I bowling chart

England's Ecclestone, who had been holding top spot, dropped to fourth after missing T20I series against WI

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal reclaimed the top spot among bowlers in the Women's T20I ranking, which was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday. Iqbal, who played a pivotal role in Pakistan's campaign during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup last year, climbed one position to reclaim the No.1 ranking. Her return to the top

comes after England's premier spinner Sophie Ecclestone missed the recent T20I series against the West Indies, prompting a reshuffle in the rankings. Ecclestone, who had been holding the top spot, dropped to fourth, allowing Iqbal to regain the position she briefly held during last year's World Cup. Meanwhile, England pacer Lauren Bell made significant strides, surging 13 places to reach sixth overall after taking seven wickets in the series. Other English bowlers also moved up, with

Linsey Smith climbing 37 spots to 41st and Issy Wong jumping 32 places to joint-62nd. On the batting front, West Indies captain Hayley Matthews delivered an outstanding performance in England, scoring 177 runs at an average of 88.50 across three matches. Her efforts earned her the Player of the Series title and a two-place jump to second in the T20I batting rankings. She now closely trails Australia's Beth Mooney, who remains the No.1 ranked batter. Tahlia McGrath of Australia slipped to

third due to Matthews' impressive rise. England batters also made notable progress. Nat Sciver-Brunt moved up five places to ninth, Heather Knight advanced seven spots to joint-17th, and Sophia Dunkley climbed eight positions to joint-29th following her consistent contributions with the bat. Matthews further cemented her dominance in the T20I all-rounder rankings. Along with her batting exploits, she also picked up three wickets during the series, strengthening her grip as the top-ranked all-rounder in the format.

Reshaping Pak-Afghan ties vital for regional stability

FROM PAGE 01

A forward-looking, partnership-based approach offers far more promise than the outdated proxy playbook. Afghanistan and Pakistan share more than a rugged border—they are bound by deep cultural, linguistic, and economic ties. From trade and transit to climate change and counterterrorism, the challenges and opportunities they face are inextricably linked. A stable and inclusive Afghanistan is in Pakistan's vital interest, not just as a neighbor, but as a partner in regional peace and prosperity. The Taliban-led government in Kabul, too, must avoid repeating Pakistan's past mistakes. Support for militant proxies like the TTP undermines Afghanistan's own sovereignty and credibility. Just as Afghanistan has suffered from decades of foreign interference, it must now chart a responsible course, rejecting the use of violent non-state actors as tools of influence. Stability and international recognition will only come through responsible statecraft, not proxy warfare. For Pakistan, a new approach must include genuine respect for Afghan sovereignty, support for inclusive governance, and investment in people-to-people ties—through educational exchanges, infrastructure development, and visa liberalization. The bilateral relationship should be de-hyphenated from India-Pakistan tensions. Afghanistan is not a battleground in a zero-sum regional game; it is a sovereign nation whose stability benefits all. Pakistan can also leverage regional platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and engage with Iran and Central Asian states to foster a consensus-driven regional framework for Afghanistan's future.

PM pays tributes to leaders, engineers

FROM PAGE 01

nuclear test, in the face of strong opposition from many powerful countries. Thus this historic decision gave Pakistan the status of a nuclear power. "I join the nation in paying tribute to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for his visionary leadership. We also honour our brilliant scientists and engineers who turned the vision and aspirations of the entire nation into reality," he added. The prime minister further said that they commended their valiant armed forces for their unwavering resolve and determination to defend the nation's frontiers against all external and internal threats. "In the same spirit of unity and resolve, we pledge to build Pakistan into a strong economic power that would become the envy of the world. InshaAllah!" the prime minister further posted.

Briefs

Turkiye's FM to visit Kyiv after talks on peace efforts

ANKARA: Türkiye's foreign minister will travel to Kyiv on Thursday for a two-day visit after discussing peace efforts to end Russia's war in Ukraine in Moscow earlier this week, a Turkish Foreign Ministry source said on Wednesday. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan held talks in Moscow on Monday and Tuesday, meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials, including Moscow's top negotiator at talks in Istanbul earlier this month aimed at ending the three-year war. In Kyiv, Fidan is expected to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha, and Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, who is also Kyiv's top negotiator with Russia, the source said. During the talks, Fidan will repeat an offer to host further peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, the source added. He will "point to the increasingly heavier negative effects of the Russia-Ukraine war, emphasising the need for the war to end through diplomacy, and for a fair and lasting peace to be achieved," the source said. Fidan will also discuss bilateral ties, in relation to trade, energy, defense and security, while conveying Türkiye's readiness to take part in Ukraine's post-war reconstruction.—APP

EU proposes Black Sea maritime security hub

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Wednesday proposed creating a hub to boost security in the Black Sea by gathering information from multiple countries to monitor the strategically important region more closely. The move comes as European officials warn about a continued threat from Russia and as concerns deepen across the EU about risks to undersea infrastructure. The hub would be set up in the short-term and "with a sense of priority due to the Russian war of aggression," an EU document said. The hub will use contributions from Black Sea and EU countries and "enhance maritime situational awareness and information sharing on the Black Sea, real-time monitoring from space to seabed, and early warning," the document said. The proposal from the European Commission and the bloc's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas notes that the hub would include monitoring of submarine cables, offshore installations and gas and wind energy operations.—APP

IMF says Egypt making progress

CAIRO: Egypt has made progress toward macroeconomic stability and has been streamlining tax and customs procedures, but still needs to widen its tax base, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday after a review mission to the country. An IMF team visited Egypt from May 6 to May 18 as part of its fifth review of an \$8 billion financial support agreement signed in March 2024. "Egypt has made substantial progress toward macroeconomic stability," said IMF Mission Chief for Egypt Vladkova Hollar, who led the team. "Growth is expected to continue strengthening, and we upgraded our forecast for FY24/25 to 3.8 percent, in light of the stronger-than-expected outturn in the first half of the year," Hollar said in a statement. A Reuters poll of 17 analysts last month also forecast growth of 3.8 percent in the 2024/25 fiscal year, which began in July. Egypt's central bank said last week the economy grew by 4.3 percent in the October-December quarter and projected it would grow by 5.0 percent in January-March. The IMF statement said better oversight and control over large public sector infrastructure projects was helping to contain demand pressure. The authorities were working to modernize and streamline tax and customs procedures, it added. "These reforms are starting to yield positive results. Alongside these efforts, domestic revenue mobilization will need to continue, mainly by widening the tax base and streamlining tax exemptions," it added. The IMF approved its fourth review of the program in March, unlocking a disbursement of \$1.2 billion.—APP

Mushahid chairs global parties dialogue

Chinese technology overtaking West: Mushahid

DNA

BEIJING: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has praised Chinese technology for overtaking Western technology in key areas, including defense, adding China is a part of South Asia playing a positive role for peace and stability. He made these remarks in the Chinese capital, where he was invited to Chair the Global Political Parties Dialogue on 'Asia in a Changing World'. 250 political parties leaders and representatives from 29 countries took part in this high-level Conference, hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of

China (IDCPC). Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was bestowed this honour in his capacity as Co-Chairman of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP). The Dialogue I, presided over by Senator Sayed included the Minister of IDCPC, Liu Jianchao, Former Speaker of Thailand, Bokin Balakula and the former Foreign Minister of Mongolia, Damdin Tsogtbaatar. In his remarks opening the Dialogue, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that the 'Global center of gravity is shifting, inexorably and irreversibly, from the West, which is in decline, to the East and the world is witnessing the Rise of the East with the dawn of the Asian Cen-

tury'. He acclaimed China's role as a peaceful power and reliable partner which has risen through economic development and not through conquest, colonisation, aggression or invasion of any country. He added that 'China is part of South Asia and is a source of stability for our region'. Mushahid Hussain extolled China's progress in science and technology, referring to a recent cover story in 'The Economist' which called China a 'Scientific Superpower', adding that whether it is 'J10C fighter jets or Deep Seek AI or Electric Vehicles, China is surpassing the West in technology'. IDCPC Minister Liu Jianchao, responding to a question about the 'Chinese Model' said that while 'China

doesn't believe in exporting its political ideology, China's experience in poverty alleviation can be useful for developing countries'. He added that 'China is also a part of South Asia, having several countries in the region as neighbours', adding that China has borders with 14 countries but border dispute with only India which China feels should not be the sole determinant of relations between the two countries and the border dispute should be resolved peacefully'. Pakistan was also represented by former Chairman Senate, Senator Nayyar Hussain Bokhari and Senator Anusha Rehman, as well as Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi, plus some

business leaders and think tank representatives. In a separate meeting with Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Minister Liu Jianchao referred to high-level exchanges of successful visits between Pakistan and China, citing his own visit to Pakistan in June 2024 and the recent visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to Beijing. He emphasised that the Communist Party of China will continue to deepen its friendly relations with all political parties of Pakistan. Messages of congratulations to the IDCPC conference were specially sent by the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Malaysia.



KARABI: Ambassador Rukhsana Afzaal called on the Governor of Krabi. They discussed ways to enhance bilateral trade, tourism, cultural cooperation, and people-to-people contacts. Ambassador thanked the Governor for fostering a conducive environment for business and investment in the province; one where people from all nationalities can thrive and live in harmony.—DNA

Foresight seminar "Central Asia 2050" held in Tashkent

TASHKENT: The first regional foresight seminar titled "Central Asia 2050: Charting a Path to Shared Prosperity and Stability" held in Tashkent on Tuesday. The seminar has brought together representatives from all five regional countries, including government bodies, analytical and research centers, and independent experts. At the center of the seminar's agenda is a forecast up to 2050, focusing on demographics, energy, climate, water resources, transport integration, and human capital. Particular attention is being given to issues of industrial cooperation and the economic complementarity of the region's countries. As noted by Bahodir Rakhmatov, Director of the Agency for Strategic Reforms, "More than 83 million people live in Central Asia. By 2030, 60% of the region's population will reside in urban areas, leading to a sharp increase in demand for jobs, infrastructure, education, and healthcare". "This also means that the populations of our countries will increasingly demand a higher quality of life, a safe environment, and confidence in the future". One of the most pressing topics identified was climate change and the management of water resources. During the seminar, two priority tasks were outlined for the participants: to develop a shared strategic vision for the region's future, with an understanding of which processes are inevitable, which are probable, and which depend on the joint decisions of the Central Asian countries, and to establish a sustainable expert community made up of specialists, government officials, and researchers who are prepared to promote and implement regional initiatives over the long term. As part of the seminar, an open essay competition on the future of Central Asia was also announced. Young people from all five countries of the region are invited to participate, and the top 100 essays will be published in the final compilation. —DNA

Maritime economy to gain \$100m boost: Junaid

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Maritime Affairs has initiated a transformative project to modernize the Korangi Fish Harbour (KOFHA) with projections to generate over \$100 million in direct and indirect economic activity over the next five years as part of its commitment to advancing the blue economy. The initiative in a move aligned with the visionary leadership of the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, aims to revitalize and modernize Korangi Fish Harbour through a series of strategic upgrades and infrastructure improvements. Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister said this project is expected to create more than 3,000 jobs spanning construction, logistics, fish processing, and the fishing sector, while enhancing seafood processing capacity by 50 per cent. "This strategic move will make a meaningful contribution to Pakistan's \$375 billion GDP, strengthening the maritime economy and supporting long-term national growth", the minister stated. Central to this transformation is the redesign of the fish auction hall, which will be upgraded with state-of-the-art facilities to improve efficiency, ensure transparency, and elevate hygiene and handling standards, the minister noted. He further stated that the renovated hall will meet international food safety and export certification standards, paving the way for expanded global fish exports from Pakistan. Junaid Anwar Chaudhry informed this major infrastructural leap will be the addition of a floating jetty, which will significantly enhance the operational capacity of the harbour. The floating jetty will not only facilitate smoother docking and unloading processes but also cater to a larger volume of fishing vessels, thereby improving overall efficiency and reducing vessel turnaround time. In addition, Junaid Anwar said a comprehensive overhaul of the existing jetty infrastructure is also on the agenda. This includes strengthening the physical structure, improving accessibility, and introducing technology-driven solutions to meet future maritime and fisheries needs. The federal minister said the modernization will incorporate sustainability-focused measures to protect marine biodiversity and ensure environmentally responsible operations at the harbour. —DNA

Webb telescope captures deep view of ancient galaxies

PARIS: The James Webb space telescope's deepest view of a single target yet depicts spinning arcs of light that are galaxies from the universe's distant past, the European Space Agency said Tuesday. The new image took the world's most powerful telescope more than 120 hours to capture, making it the longest Webb has ever focused on a single target. It is also "Webb's deepest gaze on a single target to date", the European Space Agency (ESA) said in a statement, making the image one of the deepest ever captured of the cosmos. At the bright centre of the image is a massive cluster of galaxies called Abell S1063, which is 4.5 billion light years from Earth. But it is not the true target. Such huge celestial objects can bend the light of things behind them, creating a kind of magnifying glass called a gravitational lens. Therefore the "warped arcs" spinning around the Abell S1063 are what really interest scientists, the ESA said in a statement. Because looking into distant space also means looking back in time, scientists hope to learn how the first galaxies formed during a period known as the Cosmic Dawn, when the universe was only a few million years old.—APP

Jam highlights Pakistan's trade potential at Expo 2025 Osaka

This Expo is not just a display of nations—it's a dialogue of ideas, cultures, and futures," he added

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, during an official visit to Japan for Expo 2025 Osaka, on Wednesday highlighted Pakistan's vast trade potential across diverse sectors while reaffirming the country's commitment to global innovation, sustainable commerce, and cultural diplomacy. Addressing a press conference on the occasion, attended by over 43 national and international media houses, the federal minister emphasized the role of the Pakistan Pavilion, themed "Universe in a Grain of Salt," as a symbol of the country's rich natural resources and cultural depth and invited the global community to experience and visit the pavilion. The minister lauded the Japan Association's pivotal support in facilitating the construction and success of the Pakistan Pavilion. "The Association's cooperation has helped us translate our vision into a living space of reflection and cultural connection. The response from visitors has been overwhelming," he noted. The minister stressed that there was vast potential for value addition in products exported by Pakistan. He further elaborated on Pakistan's broader trade strengths, particularly textiles, and new growing sectors such as leather, surgical equipment, and sports goods. The Minister also underscored Pakistan's agricultural potential, especially in rice exports, and highlighted the nation's skilled youth and ICT workforce as a growing asset for international markets. The event followed a day of high-level meetings and pavilion visits, including engagements with the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition and tours of leading national pavilions. Earlier in the day, the Minister began his engagements with a formal meeting with representatives of the Japan Association, followed by visit to the Pakistan Pavilion and various other pavilions including the Japan Pavilion, Tajikistan, Palestine, UK, China, UAE, Qatar, France, the United States, Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia. Each visit offered opportunities for cultural exchange and discussions around trade and sustainability. The minister appreciated the Pakistan Pavilion's unique design—featuring salt flooring, a healing garden, sculptures, and interactive exhibits—mirrors Expo's core theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives" and sub-theme "Saving Lives" by showcasing the healing and sustainable potential of natural elements like pink rock salt. "Pink salt is more than a product—it's an experience and a representation of our natural wealth," said the minister. "We are working to enhance its global presence through innovation and sustainable applications." The minister invited members of the Japan Association and global visitors to participate in Pakistan's upcoming National Day celebrations on August 14, 2025, and upcoming events such as food tastings and trade showcases. "This Expo is not just a display of nations—it's a dialogue of ideas, cultures, and futures," he added.—DNA

French court sentences former surgeon to 20 years for raping 299 children

PARIS: A 74-year-old pedophile and former surgeon who raped hundreds of victims over a period spanning more than two decades was given a maximum 20-year prison sentence on Friday by a French court. Joël Le Scouarnec was found guilty of raping and sexually assaulting 299 children. Judges followed the public prosecutor's recommendations regarding the length of the sentence and the criminal court of Morbihan ordered that Le Scouarnec should serve at least two-thirds of the sentence before he can be eligible for release. Le Scouarnec is already serving a 15-year prison sentence, for a conviction in 2020 for the rape and sexual assault of four children, including two nieces. The new trial in Brittany, western France, began in February and laid bare a pattern of abuse between 1989 and 2014. Most of

the victims were unconscious or sedated hospital patients at the time of the assaults. The average age was 11. Among the victims were 158 boys and 141 girls. During the trial, advocacy groups have accused health authorities of inaction after they were notified as soon as 2005 of Le Scouarnec's conviction for possessing child pornography pictures. At the time, no measures were taken to suspend his medical license or limit his contact with children and Le Scouarnec continued his abuse in hospitals until his arrest in 2017. "Should Joël Le Scouarnec have been the only one in the defendant's box?" prosecutor Stéphane Kellenberger asked during his closing arguments. "More could have been done," Kellenberger said. "Things could have been done differently, even within the notorious layers of French bu-

reaucracy, where responsibilities are so often passed from one authority to another until, eventually, that responsibility is lost, and hits innocent lives." Le Scouarnec's trial came as activists continue to push to dismantle taboos that have long surrounded sexual abuse in France. The most prominent case was that of Gisèle Pélicot, who was drugged and raped by her now ex-husband and dozens of other men who were convicted and sentenced in December to three to 20 years in prison. In a separate case focusing on alleged abuse at a Catholic school, an inquiry commission of the National Assembly, France's lower house of parliament, is investigating allegations of physical and sexual abuse over five decades. Victims of Le Scouarnec have, however, complained of a perceived lack of attention. "This trial, which

could have served as an open-air laboratory to expose the serious failings of our institutions, seems to leave no mark on the government, the medical community, or society at large," a group of victims said in a statement. Not all victims were initially aware they had been abused. Some were contacted by investigators after their names appeared in journals kept by Le Scouarnec, in which he meticulously documented his crimes. Others only realized they had been hospitalized at the time after checking medical records. Two of his victims took their own lives some years before the trial. Using the cover of medical procedures, the former abdominal and digestive surgeon took advantage of moments when children were alone in their hospital rooms. His method was to disguise sexual abuse as clinical care, targeting

young patients who were unlikely to remember the encounters. The notebooks, which detail the abuse in graphic language, have become central to the prosecution's case. Despite the scope of the allegations, Le Scouarnec has remained calm and composed throughout the trial. "I didn't see them as people," he told the court. "They were the destination of my fantasies. As the trial went on, I began to see them as individuals, with emotions, anger, suffering and distress." He said his first act of abuse occurred in 1985, when he raped his 5-year-old niece. While he offered apologies to some victims, his demeanor struck many as detached and emotionless. "I don't show emotion, that's just how I am," he said. "That doesn't mean I don't feel it, but I don't express it.—Agencies

Bangladesh top court acquits JI leader

DHAKA: Bangladesh's top court on Tuesday overturned a conviction against a key leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, who had been on death row since being sentenced under the regime ousted last year. ATM Azharul Islam and who has been in custody since 2012, was acquitted of crimes against humanity by the Supreme Court, which ordered his release. Islam, who was born in 1952, was among six senior political leaders convicted during the tenure of Sheikh Hasina, whose 15-year-long autocratic rule as prime minister ended in August 2024 when a student-led revolt forced her to flee. Political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, are readying for hugely anticipated elections which the interim government has vowed will take place by June 2026 at the latest.—APP

UK sends trade envoy to Israel after suspending talks

LONDON: In a somewhat unlikely turn of events, a British trade envoy has visited Israel to "promote trade" between the two countries — a week after the UK suspended relevant talks. Lord Ian Austin, who is the UK government's trade envoy to Israel, was welcomed to Haifa on Monday, just days after Foreign Secretary David Lammy paused negotiations. The British Embassy in Israel said that Lord Austin had visited a number of projects — such as the Customs Scanning Center, Haifa Bayport, and the Haifa-Nazareth Light Rail project — to "witness co-operation at every stop." "Trade with Israel provides many thousands of good jobs in the UK and brings people together in the great multicultural democracy that is Israel," Lord Austin said. Last Tuesday, the government confirmed it was suspending its trade negotiations with Israel in the wake of an accelerated military offensive in Gaza and the country's decision to limit the amount of aid allowed into the Palestinian territory. Mr Lammy told the Commons that Israel's actions were "egregious" and amounted to a "dark new phase in this conflict." But despite the suspension of any new trade talks with Israel, No. 10 has insisted that the UK still has a trading relationship with the country. A spokesperson for the prime minister said: "We have always had a trading relationship, but are pausing any new ones.—APP

Lebanese president holds talks with Emirati delegation

BEIRUT: A delegation from the UAE arrived in Beirut on Tuesday to review the needs and priorities of the Lebanese state, following the results of the Lebanese-Emirati summit that took place at the end of April in Abu Dhabi. President Joseph Aoun, who met with the delegation, praised the "interest of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, in supporting Lebanon." The delegation was led by Abdullah Nasser Lootah, deputy minister of cabinet affairs for competitiveness and knowledge exchange. During the meeting, Aoun said, according to his media office: "The current phase necessitates the expansion of cooperation and the deepening of exchange and integration in education, governance, and public sector management, extending to private sector initiatives and various investments, particularly in knowledge economies, digitization, and advanced technology, where the expertise of our brothers in the United Arab Emirates is significant in these areas." Lootah outlined the delegation's mission to "define partnership frameworks and facilitate data exchange," emphasizing that "the UAE will stand with Lebanon in realizing the aspirations articulated by President Aoun during his discussions with our leadership. We are committed to delivering comprehensive support that strengthens bilateral cooperation, guided by extensive facilitation measures and leadership's directives." An extensive technical session between Lebanese and Emirati officials addressed key modernization priorities. Presidential sources indicated the talks concentrated on "collaborative mechanisms for streamlining administrative processes, advancing digital transformation, strengthening legal frameworks, and improving public sector efficiency through bilateral knowledge transfer and technical assistance programs."—APP

Briefs

Naqvi's
Tehran
visit yields
major break-
throughs

DNA

TEHRAN: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with Interior Minister of Iran Eskandar Momeni, during which several major decisions were made. Both sides agreed to keep the Pakistan-Iran border open 24/7 for pilgrims during Abraeen and Muharam ul Haram. Interior Minister of Iran said that the Iranian government will provide boarding and lodging facilities in Mashhad for 5,000 Pakistani pilgrims, moreover, the Iranian government will make special arrangements from the border to Iraq for the them. Both countries agreed to establish a hotline to resolve issues concerning pilgrims swiftly. It was also decided to convene a trilateral conference of the Interior ministries of Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq in Mashhad before Arbaeen to discuss matters related to Pakistani pilgrims. Both sides also agreed to increase the number of flights to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims. discussions also revolved around sending pilgrims via sea routes to Iran and Iraq.

Child
Marriage
Restraint
Bill against
Islam: CII

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 2025 which fixes minimum age for marriage at 18, was rejected by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Tuesday, terming the legislation passed by the National Assembly and Senate against Islam. "The CII at its meeting termed the Child Marriage Restraint Bill which was moved by Sharmila Faruqi MNA in the National Assembly as un-Islamic," an official statement issued by the CII media wing after the meeting said. The participants of the meeting chaired by Dr Raghbi Hussain Naemi maintained that clauses of the Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 2025, fixing the age limit for marriage and declaring marriage below age of 18 as child abuse and punishment for committing the act, do not conform with the Islamic injunctions.

Pak carmakers
meet only
18 of 200
global safety
standards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani automakers comply with only 18 of 200 global safety standards, ignoring 182 entirely, despite vehicle prices being above international levels, officials in a meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Industry and Production revealed. The committee members expressed serious concerns over the production of unsafe vehicles and demanded immediate and strict action against companies that ignore global safety standards.

King Charles says Canada 'strong and free'

The king has never publicly commented on Trump's repeated talk of making Canada the 51st US state, but his language was closely watched for veiled references

OTTAWA: King Charles III hailed Canada as "strong and free" as he delivered a major speech to open parliament in Ottawa against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's threats to take over the country. "Democracy, pluralism, the rule of law, self-determination, and freedom are values which Canadians hold dear, and ones which the government is determined to protect," King Charles said, adding that Canada was facing a "critical moment." To loud applause, he drew on the national anthem as he said "the true north is indeed strong and free!" Prime Minister Mark Carney invited the 76-year-old British monarch - Canada's head of state as it is a Commonwealth member - to the capital, accompanied by Queen Camilla. The king has never publicly commented on Trump's repeated talk of making Canada the 51st US state, but his language



was closely watched for veiled references. Although the speech was read by the king as if it were his own words, it was written by the prime minister's office to set out the government's priorities to "build Canada strong" and how it aims to achieve them. In addition to his annexation threats, Trump has also launched tariff wars, particularly targeting Canada.

"The system of open global trade that, while not perfect, has helped to deliver prosperity for Canadians for decades, is changing," Charles said, in cautious words. "We must be clear-eyed: the world is a more dangerous and uncertain place than at any point since the Second World War." Not to be outdone, Trump on Tuesday posted on his TruthSocial platform about annexing Canada - eliding mention of King Charles - by offering protection from his proposed "Golden Dome" missile defense system. "I told Canada, which very much wants to be part of our fabulous Golden Dome System, that it will cost \$61 Billion Dollars if they remain a separate, but unequal, Nation, but will cost ZERO DOLLARS if they become our cherished 51st State," Trump said, adding: "They are considering the offer!" There was no immediate response from Canada to Trump's claims. - APP

Uzbekistan Embassy hosts business forum to expand trade, investment ties

The forum was attended by Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) along with prominent Pakistani entrepreneurs from the pharmaceutical, construction materials, leather and wool processing, textile, and food production industries



ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad organized a high-level business forum aimed at enhancing trade and investment cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. The event brought together leading representatives of Pakistani business circles and prominent entrepreneurs, including heads of industry associations and executives from key economic sectors. The forum was attended by Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) along with prominent Pakistani entrepreneurs from the pharmaceutical, construction materials, leather and wool processing, textile, and food production industries. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, delivered opening remarks emphasizing the importance of strengthening economic ties and the strategic potential of enhanced business-to-business cooperation between the two countries. He emphasized the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and spiritual ties between the peoples of Uzbeki-

stan and Pakistan. "This is not just a gathering of business leaders and officials - it is a gathering of hearts and hopes," Ambassador remarked, setting a warm and visionary tone for the event. Uzbek Ambassador highlighted Uzbekistan's ongoing transformation under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, stressing that the country is more open than ever to international cooperation. "We are reforming, transforming, and growing. Most importantly, we are ready for you," he said, inviting Pakistani businesses to explore new opportunities across Uzbekistan's emerging sectors. Ambassador Tukhtaev also emphasized the strategic importance of Pakistan, describing it as a vital partner and a gateway to South Asia. "Uzbekistan sees Pakistan as a true partner. But our current trade turnover of \$400 million does not reflect the potential. Together, we can multiply this figure fivefold," he asserted. He highlighted several key sectors with strong potential for immediate joint ventures between the two countries. These include agriculture and agro-processing, where Uzbekistan's expertise in cotton and horticulture can be effectively complemented by Pakistan's agri-tech and market access. In the textile and leather industries, both countries can benefit from value-added production partner-

ships, combining Uzbekistan's raw materials with Pakistan's manufacturing know-how. The energy sector also offers opportunities for cooperation, particularly in renewable energy and related services. In pharmaceuticals, collaboration in research, development, and the production of affordable medicines was emphasized. Tourism is another promising area, with historical Uzbek cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva offering rich opportunities for cultural exchange, especially as air connectivity expands. Finally, logistics and transport infrastructure, covering warehousing, supply chains, and regional connectivity, were identified as essential areas for joint development. Uzbek Ambassador further announced the upcoming launch of Uzbekistan Airways' new direct flight from Islamabad to Tashkent starting June 14, in addition to current flights from Lahore, and invited Pakistani airlines to start operations to Uzbekistan to further boost connectivity. In his address, FPCCI President Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh reaffirmed Pakistan's keen interest in deepening trade relations with Uzbekistan and highlighted the untapped potential in bilateral investment opportunities. He emphasized the importance of deepening trade and industrial partnerships with Central Asia and called

for enhanced B2B interaction and practical steps to raise bilateral trade volumes significantly. RCCI President Mr. Usman Shaukat, in his address, emphasized the need to further expand economic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He highlighted the importance of effectively utilizing the vast potential in Central Asia, increasing bilateral trade volume, and fostering closer cooperation between business communities. Usman Shaukat also called for the establishment of practical mechanisms for continuous dialogue and experience sharing between entrepreneurs of both countries. As a concrete step, he announced plans to visit various regions of Uzbekistan in June-July this year, leading a business delegation from the Chamber. During the forum, Mr. Bahrom Yusupov, Trade and Economic Counselor at the Embassy, gave a detailed presentation on Uzbekistan's trade potential and growing industrial base, liberalized trade environment, economic reforms, and opportunities and significant incentives offered to foreign investors in the country's Free Economic Zones (FEZs). The presentation underscored the favorable business environment, tax incentives, and legal guarantees available to international partners. He showcased sectors such as agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, energy, logistics, and tourism as high-potential areas for collaboration. The forum concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where attendees posed insightful questions regarding market access, customs procedures, investment protections, financing options, logistics, legal frameworks, business regulations and sector-specific collaboration opportunities. Embassy representatives responded in detail, reaffirming Uzbekistan's openness to deeper economic engagement with Pakistan. Participants praised the event as a timely and practical step toward strengthening economic linkages, expanding exports and imports, and exploring joint ventures in strategically important sectors. Several expressed intent to organize follow-up visits to Uzbekistan and explore joint projects. "This forum must not end with speeches - it must begin a journey," the Ambassador concluded. "We will support you every step of the way - as a friend, as a partner, as a brother. Let this be the beginning of a new chapter."

Atta Tarar says: Youm-e-Takbir
day of renewing pledge

During the recent Indo-Pak stand off, he said under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan ruined enemy's nefarious designs

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that Youm-e-Takbir was a day of renewing the pledge that Pakistan would give a befitting reply to any aggression and will never compromise on the country's security and sovereignty. Congratulating the nation on Youm-e-Takbir, Tarar said, in a statement, that May 28, 1998, was an important milestone in the history of Pakistan. "On that day, the nation, under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, conducted six successful nuclear explosions in response to India's five nuclear explosions, making the country's defense invincible," the minister remarked. He further said that Youm-e-Takbir was not only a manifestation of the determination and independence of Pakistan's scientific, military and political

leadership, but this day was also a symbol of the fact that whenever the motherland faced a challenge, the nation stood together to give a befitting reply to the enemy. "Today, Pakistan has once again proven that we can go to any extent to defend the country", he added. During the recent Indo-Pak stand off, he said under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan ruined the enemy's nefarious designs. In 1998, under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan carried out six nuclear explosions in response to India's five nuclear explosions, he said. Now, under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan has successfully shot down six Indian warplanes including Rafale aircraft. He opined that this victory was part of the continuity that began in 1998 and continued with full force even today. Stating that Pakistan's defense was in strong hands, Attaullah Tarar said the nation had full confidence in its armed forces, scientists and political leadership.

United States suspends student
visa processing in fresh swipe
at foreign applicants

The government plans to ramp up vetting of the social media profiles of international applicants to US universities, the cable said. The New York Times reported that the suspension of interviews with visa applicants was temporary

DNA

CAMBRIDGE: The US State Department on Tuesday ordered the suspension of student visa processing, as President Donald Trump's administration seeks unprecedented control of the nation's universities by slashing funding and curbing international enrollment. It is the latest escalation in the White House's crackdown on foreign students, which has seen it revoke visas and deport some of those involved in protests against the war in Gaza. A cable signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and seen by AFP orders embassies and consulates not to allow "any additional student or exchange visa... appointment capacity until further guidance is issued."

The government plans to ramp up vetting of the social media profiles of international applicants to US universities, the cable said. The New York Times reported that the suspension of interviews with visa applicants was temporary. Rubio earlier rescinded hundreds of visas and the Trump administration has moved to bar Harvard University from admitting non-Americans. Japan and Hong Kong have both urged local universities to accept foreign students from US universities in light of the crackdown. China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning on Wednesday said Beijing urged Washington to "safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of international students, including those from China." Hundreds of thousands of Chinese students attend US universities, long viewed by many in China as beacons of academic freedom and rigour.

German embassy
hosts film screening

The Kaiser's Lackey offers a stark and critical portrayal of an extremely nationalistic and militarized society in the years leading up to World War I

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The German Embassy in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut and Blackbox Sounds, hosted a special screening of the acclaimed German film Der Untertan - The Kaiser's Lackey. This 1951 cinematic work from then East Germany, is based on the novel by Heinrich Mann and is widely regarded as a classic of German cinema. The film

chronicles the life of Diederich Hessling, a German industrialist in the early 20th century who rises through society by flattering those in power and oppressing those beneath him. The Kaiser's Lackey offers a stark and critical portrayal of an extremely nationalistic and militarized society in the years leading up to World War I. The screening was attended by a diverse audience, including members of civil society, cultural activists, representatives from the media, and members of the diplomatic community.

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