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PM recalls Bhutto as 'champion' of democratic values

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on his 46th death anniversary, remembering him as a champion of democratic values in Pakistan.

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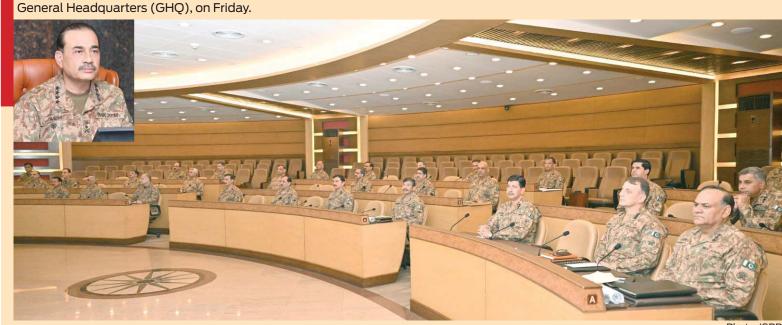




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268th Corps Commanders' Conference

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Syed Asim Munir chaired the 268th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the



Army Chief chairs 268th Corps Commanders' Conference, vows to eradicate terrorism

👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Munir, NI (M), chaired the 268th ters (GHQ).

Forum offered paid profound tribute to the bringing the full force of the state endeavours to induce chaos and supreme sacrifices of Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforce- acting on the behest of hostile and will be dealt without impument Agencies and the citizens elements seeking to destabilize who have laid their lives for peace and stability in the country.

The forum received a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing peace in Balochistan and nefargeo-strategic environment, emerging national security chal-

response to evolving threats.

assessment of regional and Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim internal security dynamics, the of Balochistan will be decisively forum reaffirmed its resolve to thwarted with the unwavering will be shown. COAS lauded the Corps Commanders' Conference eradicate terrorism in all its forms support of the people of Balochinitiation of District Coordination (CCC) at the General Headquar- and manifestations regardless of istan, InshaAllah. The real face of Committees across Pakistan and the cost. It reiterated Pakistan's all foreign and domestic elements, stressed the necessity of sustained, Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) unwayering commitment to the nexus between them and their coordinated efforts in alignment against facilitators and abettors thrive on it stand fully exposed the country.

The forum reaffirmed that, "No one will be allowed to disrupt ious designs of foreign-sponsored proxies including social disruptive lenges, and Pakistan's strategic elements and their so-called polit-

ical supporters advancing their ratus and institutions will reso-the financing of terrorism. There cost of stability and prosperity

Emphasizing the swift and effective implementation of Vision Azm-e-Istehkam under the ambit of National Action Plan (NAP), the forum underscored the imperative of a whole-of-the nation approach. The state appa-

the confines of the Constitution and no leniency and infirmity expedite the implementation of NAP, ensuring seamless inter-in-

stitutional collaboration. COAS reiterated that "Pakistan Army will extend full support to the government and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in enforcing stringent legal measures against illicit economic activities, which are intrinsically linked to

Undertaking a meticulous narrow political interests at the lutely implement the law within is no space for terrorists and their facilitators in Pakistan".

Expressing deep concern over the persistent and egregious human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied and the Indian Army's unprowith governmental directives to voked ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC), the forum underscored "Pakistan's deep and unwavering support to the just cause of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the need of sustained diplomatic engagement to highlight ongoing human rights abuses and violations on the global stage."

Kurram district faces daily struggles amid road, border closures

Bureau Report

KURRAM: In Kurram District, the ongoing closure of the Tall Parachinar Main Road and the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border has severely disrupted daily life, exacerbating hardships for local residents.

The demolition of bunkers in the area is advancing under the recently established Kohat peace agreement, with a total of 988 bunkers reported destroyed to

The Tall Parachinar Main Road and the Kharlachi border have remained closed for 186 days, leading to significant challenges for the community. A scar-



city of essential items, including food, petrol, and diesel, has arisen, resulting in the shutdown of educational institutions due to the lack of fuel at petrol stations. In the black market, petrol prices have skyrocketed, reaching between 600 and 800 rupees per liter.

In response to their grievances, protesters have been holding demonstrations outside the Press Club for the past 34 days, urging the authorities to reopen the main road for public access.

On a positive note, the district administration has reported that the demolition of bunkers is proceeding swiftly under the Kohat peace initiative.

IMF delegation arrives in Pakistan to review budget proposals

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: An IMF (International Monetary Fund) delegation has arrived in Pakistan to review the budget proposals for the next fiscal year.

According to the Ministry of Finance insiders, the delegation will meet with finance ministry officials to prepare budget

"The delegation will negotiate with Pakistani authorities on tax revenue measures, control over expenditures, and developmental spending," the sources said.

They IMF will also set targets for the first week of June.

implementation of agricultural tax collection methods by the provinces, they added.

Additionally, the implementation of pension scheme will be finalized, and external financing for debt payments and development programmes will also be concluded, they continued.

According to sources, after reviewing the progress on commitments, a decision will be made regarding the next tranche of the loan under EFF (Extended Fund

The federal budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 is likely to be presented in the



President Zardari vows to carry forward Bhutto's mission of a progressive, sovereign Pakistan

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari paying tribute to former Prime Minister and Pakistan Peoples Party founder late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for his services, struggles, and sacrifices, vowed to carry forward his mission of making Pakistan a developed, sovereign, and people-friendly country.

The president, in his message on the 46th death Bhutto to be observed on Friday (April 4), reiterated his resolve to take every possible step to protect Pakistan's sovereignty, democracy, and the people's rights.

Remembering him as a great statesman, a courageous leader, and the true representative of the people, the president said that the late Bhutto set Pakistan on the path of development, sovereignty, and public welfare.

"Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave the nation its first unanimous constitution, laid the foundation of Pakistan's nuclear program, and gave Bhutto, he added.



anniversary of Zulfikar Ali the country's foreign policy an independent and sovereign identity," President Zardari remarked.

He said that under Bhutto's leadership, Pakistan hosted the Islamic Summit Conference, paving the way for the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

The president also lauded Shaheed Bhutto's empowerment of workers, farmers, and the underprivileged by granting them their due rights. Besides, the country achieved significant progress in the fields of education, industry. and defense, consequent to the efforts of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

PM expresses satisfaction as PSX crosses record 120,000 point mark

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed satisfaction as the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) surged 1800 points in a single day, reaching a historic mile-stone, with the KSE-100 index crossing all time high mark of 120,000 point.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister said that positive direction of the business in Pakistan Stock Exchange reflected growing investor confidence on the government policies. "The government has announced a significant decrease in the power tariffs which will not only give a massive relief to the domestic ness community and the indus- the country.



trial sector," the prime minster

He noted that during last one year, improvement in business environment and stability in macroeconomic indicators was possible only due to the government's economic policies.

He assured that the government was providing all possible consumes but also it will be a facilities to ensure business and welcoming sign for the busi- investor friendly environment in

Security forces eliminate two terrorists in Kech IBO



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation (IBO) in general area Buleda of Kech District on the reported presence of terrorists.

During the conduct of operation, troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and after an intense fire exchange, two terrorists were

The killed terrorists

remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against the law enforcement agencies as well as the innocent civilians.

The ISPR noted that sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Saturday, April 5, 2025

PM Haq warns of consequences for spreading fake news

Spokesman Report

said that the process of establishing the Rangers Force in Azad Kashmir has been completed and a formal approval in this regard has also been sought from the relevant authorities.

In an interview with a private news channel, the PM said necessary rules and procedures have also been developed for it and its command and control system would also be similar to that of other law enforcement agencies of Azad Kashmir.

"No non-state residents will be recruited into the Ranger Force", he said, adding that recruitments would be made transparently based on merit. The PM regretted over subversive attempts made by certain disruptive

tution controversial

"Those who are peddling lies ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad and disseminate fake news will face Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Hag has the consequence", he said. He also mentioned that ongoing negotiations with local government representatives have culminated successfully. Emphasizing the significance of the local government system, the Prime Minister stated that local government institutions were integral to the government.

> He mentioned that the government would engage these institutions to explore a constitutional way out to resolve any issues related to the distribution of development funds.

The PM said that a "Counter-Terrorism Department" was being established to counter terrorism in the region. The PM praised the armed forces of Pakistan for their significant



torial integrity of the country and it's people.

"The Pakistan Army has been making immense sacrifices on the LoC for the past 77 years", he said. Despite elements aimed at making the insti- contribution in safeguarding the terri- a deficit of 71 billion rupees, the PM

said that the government has ensured timely disbursement of funds to all the relevant institutions.

Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq said that state takes precedence over anything else. "If there is a state, there is politics", he remarked. He thanked the federal government for its all out support, cooperation and timely release of funds.

He also praised Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif for his role and keen interest in the establishment of the Danish School System worth 3 billion rupees.

Prime Minister Haq said that the Shuntar Tunnel project will also start soon with the cooperation of the federal government. He added that 7 to 8 billion rupees will be spent on power installations and infrastruc-

Eid celebration at Poonch District Jail and SOS Village

RAWALAKOT: Commissioner Poonch Division Masood-ur-Rehman, DIG Sardar Zaheer, SP Riaz Mughal, Chairperson Women Commission Ms. Rehana Khan, Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq visited District Jail Poonch on the day of Eid. During the visit, they met the prisoners and reviewed the facilities. They congratulated the IG Prisons for the excellent facilities provided to the prisoners. In addition, they met the children studying in SOS Village and celebrated Eid with them. On this occasion, Commissioner Masood-ur-Rehman, Chairperson Ms. Rehana Khan, Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq congratulated the administration of SOS Village and said that thanks to SOS Village, orphan children have got the opportunity to participate in the joys of Eid today and have also given them a dignified place in the society and have always brought the children of SOS Village forward in training and other competitions along with excellent education, for which SOS Village deserves congratulations. Ms. Rehana Khan thanked Commissioner Poonch Division Masood-ur-Rehman, SP Sardar Zaheer and other administration and said that the role of the Commissioner and SP is also commendable for the Women's Commission, who have always cooperated with us and are still doing so.

PPP marks 46th death anniversary of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD/LEEPA VALLEY: Like rest of the country The 46th death anniversary of Pakistan Peoples Party founder chairman and first elected Prime Minister of the country, Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was celebrated with great devotion, respect, ideological enthusiasm, solemnity and renewed commitment in Azad Kashmir and the Line of Control Leepa Valley, like the rest of the country. Until the establishment of a society

free from exploitation, the elimination of the class system, the unfair distribution of wealth, education, health, and provision of employment without discrimination are made possible, we will continue to fight in the field. The atmosphere of Leepa Valley was filled with slogans of Pakistan Zindabad, Kashmir Paindabad, Jai Bhutto, Jai Benazir, Bilawal Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Pakistan Army Zindabad. The venue was beautifully decorated with pictures of martyred leaders, tricolor flags and beautiful pina flexes. In the big anniversary gathering in Leepa Valley, the party's Central Deputy Secretary for Information, nominated candidate, Assembly Member, Organizing Committee, Shaukat Javed Mir was the special guest and presided over by Tehsil President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Valley Lipa Khawaja Farooq Ahmed. Earlier, the morning began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Fateha in mosques and homes for the speedy recovery of President Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari. While Azad Kashmir Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Central Senior Leader Chaudhry Riaz, Former President Prime Minister Haji Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Secretary General Faisal Rathore, Ministers participated in the nationwide public meeting held at the shrines of the martyrs. Addressing the anniversary gathering yesterday, the party's Central Deputy Secretary Information Nominated Candidate for Assembly Constituency 7 Lipa Valley Shaukat Javed Mir said that according to the decision in the Bhutto reference case filed by President Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari in the Supreme Court of Pakistan for justice, the Leader of the People was declared a national hero and the Constitution was violated. . Shaukat Javed Mir, Member of District Council Bashir Alam Awan, Members of Local Council Siddique Ahmed Sheikh, Raja Sarwar Khan, Azhar Mir, Abdul Rehman Sagar, Professor Maqbool Sheikh, Ticket Holder District Council Rafaqat Awan, Former Administrator District Council Aziz Mir, Khawaja Maqbool, Shabbir Mir, Raja Shakoor Khan, Khawaja Abdul Rehman, Youth Leader Ehsan Alam Awan, Irshad Qureshi, Ali Hussain Mir, Dr. Abdul Rashid Awan, Anas Farooq, Shafiq Lone, Farid Chaudhry, Khalid Rashid Mir while addressing said that history takes its course and the facts come to light sooner or later. The revenge of history disgraces the generations of tyrant rulers.

Thousands Join Hands to Honor Martyrs of Pakistan and Kashmir



Bureau Report

MIRPUR: On the occasion of Martyrs' Day in Divisional Headquarters Mirpur, a rally was taken out from the cricket stadium to Chowk Shaheedan to express solidarity with the families of the martyrs in recognition of the greatness of the martyrs and the sacrifices they made for the beloved homeland. The rally was led by the heirs of the martyrs, families, political, social and religious parties, representatives of the traders' association and civil society. The participants of the rally hoisted the flags and banners of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir and were raising slogans in favor of Pakistan Zindabad, Pak Army Zindabad, Kashmir martyrs, Pakistan martyrs, and LoC martyrs. When the rally reached Chowk Shaheedan, it took the form of a large gathering. The rally was led by Majid Professor Muhammad Arshad Jaral, father of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Imran Arshad Jaral of the Pak Army, Sohail Shuja Mujahid of Anjuman Tajran, Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem, Mawan Shabbir, Umair of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Asghar, Abdul Shakoor Mughal of Muslim Conference, Hafiz Yasir Bashir of Muslim League (N), Mirza Wajahat Baig and leaders of other organizations and people belonging to different schools of thought participated in full.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chairing the Civil Services Reform Committee meeting, constituted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to discuss a comprehensive restructuring plan for transforming Pakistan's bureaucracy to address contemporary challenges on Friday.



DFP condemns India's brutal repression of political and human rights in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has strongly condemned the brutal repression of political and human rights in Kashmir by Indian occupation authorities.

Referring to use of brute force by the Indian Army on unarmed civilians in Kashmir including a fresh crack down on political and civil society activists, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal in a statement issued in Srinagar said the witch-hunting of political activists, lawyers, and human rights defenders speak volumes about India's repressive policies towards Kashmir.



international community to of its special status in 2019. take notice of the arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions of political activists and massive human rights violations being committed by the Indian military and paramilitary forces in the crushing every form of dissent in the region.

condemned the Modi-led fascist Indian hundred thousand troops regime's approach towards Kashmir. Silencing every opposing other, it has suspended essenvoice in Kashmir, he said, has been the official policy Modi government has been pursuing religiously since it dissent in the territory.

The spokesman urged the unlawfully stripped the region

"Caging political activists and banning legitimate Kashmiri political voices under draconian laws to enable gravevard silence in the disputed region is meant to promote the so called region saying that Indian normalcy narrative to mislead authorities were hell bent on the world on Kashmir", the

DFP spokesman said. He said on the one hand, India has deployed over nine antagonistic in IIOJK to control a small population, while on the tial fundamental freedoms that have led to the ruthless suppression of expression of

Pakistan and Kashmir's Ideology Unbreakable: Sardar Attique

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/DHIRKOT: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Kashmir has ideologies, beliefs and a history with Pakistan and this ideology cannot be weakened in

Those who make statements against Pakistan and the Pakistan Army are enemies of the country. The people of the ideology of accession to Pakistan stand with Pakistan and the armed forces of Pakistan.

He expressed these views while addressing the Eid Milan party organized by the Muslim Conference

workers in Choor Badhyal. aware of the dangers of Azad Kashmir

hatched to destabilize Azad Kashmir. If the base camp of the freedom movement is strong, the freedom movement will benefit. If Sheikh Abdullah had not He said that the people should be made a mistake at that time, Kashmir would have been free today. He did not and there is a need to confront these listen to the Muslim Conference, as a

dangers, which include political chaos result of which we have to see this day and confusion. A conspiracy is being today. Ask the Kashmiris on the other has linked Pakistan and Kashmir with side the value of the blessing of freedom who are fighting Indian atrocities today.

Muslim Conference workers should consider what the demands of the future are and what the sacrifices of the past say and with whom our future is associated. Even a drop of rain falling

in Kashmir irrigates Pakistan. Nature innumerable ties.

The enemy wants to destabilize Pakistan and divert its attention from Kashmir. He wants to divert attention from CPEC. The enemy wants to involve Pakistan in internal affairs. The Jaffar Express incident is

a clear example of this. We congratfor conducting the most successful operation and exposing the hideout of terrorists. We pay tribute to the martyrs and are deeply saddened and saddened by the martyrdom of Major Saad. We express our condolences to those who were martyred in the firing occasion.

at Tatrinote sector. Meanwhile, Chairulate the Armed Forces of Pakistan person Women Wing Muslim Conference Ms. Samia Sajid Raja met President Muslim Conference at Mujahid Awwal House, Ghaziabad. Raja Waleed Abdullah, Raja Abdul Jabbar Khan, Sardar Arif, Shahrukh Arbab Abbasi and others were also present on the



Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20
Wassas Dallas

Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

ENQUIRY

HOSPITALS		
CAA	9281092	
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489	
Railway Exchange	9270831-5	
Railway Inquiry	117	
PIA Cargo	9280979	
PIA Flight Info	114	

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
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
Islamabad Metropo	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

Leaders like Bhutto are born after centuries': governor

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that a leader like PPP founder Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is born after centuries.

"Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto never bowed down before any dictator and was hanged in a controversial case in 1979", he said in a statement on the death anniversary of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto here on Friday.

Sardar Saleem Haider said the Supreme Court of Pakistan had also admitted to the unfair trial given to Bhutto in a posthumous retrial. He said that the memory of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is still alive in hearts of the people.

Governor said that the role of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the unanimous approval of the Constitution of Pakistan in 1973 was historic. He said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto laid the foundation of the country's nuclear programme.

Sardar Saleem Haider said the PPP founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Lahore, had today become an important political force in the country, which had its own identity not only in Sindh, but also in other provinces, including the federation.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulates masses on saving Rs 1.1 billion during shopping in Ramzan Sahulat Bazaars

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government led by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has achieved another milestone. The government by adopting an appropriate policy managed a wonderful and unprecedented saving worth Rs. 1.1 billion and provided substantial relief to crore and 80 lakh million was made the public in terms of purchasing edibles at the Sahulat Bazaars during the month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak.

The public was given 31 percent relief at the stalls of the special Sahulat Bazaar established under the supervision of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif in proportion to the open market. A relief amounting to Rs. 11 crore 70 lakh was given to the public in proportion to the DC rates in the Sahulat Bazaars. During Ramadan,

and 60 lakh were made in the Sahulat

The public had to pay Rs. 3 billion, 57 crore and 50 lakh in terms of purchases at market rates during Ramadan while according to DC rates, they had to pay Rs 2 billion, 58 crore and 30 lakh on purchases. A record purchase of Rs. 2 through the Sahulat Free Home Delivery app in Ramadan-ul-Mubarak. Approximately 28,000 orders were placed through the Free Home Delivery app in 36 model markets established in 25 districts.

In Sahulat Bazars, a 10 kg flour bag was sold at Rs 795, DC rate Rs. 832 and Rs. 897 in the market, chicken was sold Rs 585, while at Sahulat Baazars it was purchases worth Rs 2 billion, 46 crore sold at Rs 571. Apples were sold at Rs



at Rs 940 per kg in the market, DC rate 305 in Sahulat Bazaars, while at Rs 316 389 per dozen in the market, DC rate according to the DC rate and at Rs. 487 Rs. 227, while only at Rs. 216 were sold in the market, bananas were sold at Rs. in the Sahulat Bazaars.

Eggs were sold at Rs. 269 in Sahulat Bazaars, at Rs. 276 at the DC rate and at Rs. 350 in the market. Dates were available at Rs 446 per kg in the open market, while they were sold at Rs. 460 at DC rate and Rs. 734 per kg in the open market. Punjab Model Bazaar Management Company CEO Naveed Rafaqat briefed CM Punjab about Sahulat Bazaars. Chairman Afzal Khokhar was also present on the occasion.

The CM said, "The Punjab government strives to provide food and essential items to the people at the lowest possible price. By the grace of Allah Almighty, the inflation rate remained quite low in the month of Ramadan as compared to the previous years." She added, "Serving the people and providing economic relief is our fore-

Condolences

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the embassy of Myanmar to offer his condolences and show solidarity over the loss of lives in the recent devastating earthquake in Myanmar.



Pakistani artists shine bright at home and abroad, says Nasir Butt

RAWALPINDI: Nasir Butt and Asma Butt, while celebrating the joys of Eid-ul-Fitr with their circle of friends, said that our artists demonstrate their best art to maintain the identity of Pakistan at the national and international levels, and they should be encouraged on every platform. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is a representative party of the people. We strongly hope that the current government will take key steps for the welfare of artists.

They said this while cutting the Eid-ul-Fitr cake at Haji House in Rawalpindi. On this occasion, Naeem Gul Pasha, Hafiz Abdullah Butt, Sanaullah Khan, Kaleem Khan, Ibrahim Butt were present with them. PML-N central leader and Senator Nasir Butt expressed his feeling over Asma Butt's performance and said that Asma Butt's services are selfless. Those who are are proud of Asma Butt for giving new



her art. She is working day and night for the welfare of the artists of the twin cities, cult moment. Asma Butt represented the of Pakistan is the goal of her life.

recognition to Pakistan's identity at the PML-N in an excellent manner, and as a national and international levels through political thinker, played an important role in promoting the party's ideology. Asma Butt expressed her gratitude and said appreciated will be less appreciated. We and is there for everyone in every diffi-that the welfare of the people and artists

Protest gathering held in support of River Indus, strong opposition to canal project

👺 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

GAMBAT: A significant gathering was held in the village of Syed Muhammad Pirel Shah in support of the River Indus and against the controversial canal project, where members of civil society, writers, intellectuals, journalists, teachers, and students from Gambat participated in large numbers.

The event was organized by senior journalist and social activist Syed Jafar Hussain Shah. Distinguished personalities attending the event included renowned lawyer Comrade Nazir Ahmed Sarohi, educationist Ustad Ghulam Qadir Kaloo, Ustad Nasrullah Panhwar, senior journalist Razzaq Sarohi, Ustad Amanullah, Sufi



Yar Muhammad, Abdullah Sarohi, Sarohi, Syed Noor Shah, Asadullah Professor Sattar Sarohi, Abdul Ghafoor Kaloo, Naseem Korai, Syed Haider

Shah, Qayoom Sarohi, Waseem Abbas Sarohi, Ustad Aftab Ahmed Sarohi,

While addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized that the River Indus is the foundation of Sindh's culture, agriculture, economy, and identity. They criticized the proposed canal project as an attempt to usurp Sindh's rightful share of water, calling it a serious threat to the province's agrarian system and historical rights.

Poetic tributes by writer and poet Sattar Sarohi, along with passionate remarks by Comrade Nazir Sarohi, were highly appreciated by the attendees. The participants paid tribute to the River Indus and raised powerful slogans opposing the canal initiative.

A Nation's Pride: Pakistan Lawyers Forum Celebrates Bhutto's Contributions

₿ Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A prayer ceremony was organized by the Pakistan Lawyers Forum (PLF) on the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The event was addressed by Sheikh Ghayas-ul-Haq, Presi-



dent of the High Court Bar Azhar Khan Mughal, General Secretary Safdar Sarsanah, Barrister Faiz Rasool Labar, Dr. Javed Siddiqui, Syed Arif Shah, Nafees Ansari, Feroza Faiz, Rana Javed Akhtar, Firdous Jamal, Syed Hasnain Shah, Nageena Muzaffar, Chaudhry Zubair, and Fayaz Bhutta.

In their speeches, they emphasized that uniting the Muslim Ummah and declaring Qadianis as non-Muslims were some of the great achievements of Shaheed Bhutto, of which the entire nation is proud. He gave the nation the 1973 Constitution, laying the foundation for democracy that continues to this day. He also laid the groundwork for Pakistan's nuclear program, making it an invincible Islamic nation. They further stated that Bhutto Shaheed chose martyrdom over

bowing down to dictator Zia-ul-Haq, proving his commitment to the country. They highlighted that the survival of the nation is linked with a democratic system, a vision later carried forward by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Today, this vision continues under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto.

In the end, special prayers were offered for Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, and for the health and recovery of President Asif Ali Zardari.

Revenue Kachehri Organized at DC Complex



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem Sindhu Organized "Revenue Awami Khidmat" Services at the Deputy Commissioner Complex. In which Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Zeeshan Labbha Masih, Assistant Commissioner Ali Sameer and Revenue officers and staff participated. In Revenue Awami Khidmat Services, matters related to accuracy of records, issuance of individuals, issuance of transfers, registry, income certificate, inspection record, issuance of domicile and other revenue related matters were heard. The petitioners pointed out various issues in Revenue Awami Khidmat services, on which the Deputy Commissioner completed the action and issued instructions to report to the concerned officers and staff for immediate resolution of the problems of the Citizens. On this Occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the problems of the public related to revenue are being resolved immediately. Revenue Awami Khidmat Kachehri have been organized in all four tehsils of the district. In this regard, district administration officers are present under one roof for the redressal of the public, which aims to provide relief to the citizens on their applications. Moreover, revenue Kachehri were also organized under the auspices of Assistant Commissioners in Tehsil Kamalia, Pirmahal and Gojra.

Pakistan's tariffcut a boon for industrial productivity and exports

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Friday lauding the announcement said the tariff cut aligns with ongoing reforms to modernize infrastructure, simplify regulatory processes, and promote energy efficiency.

In a statement here today he said government assured President FPCCI Atif Akram Sheikh that service quality and sustainable energy transitions remain priorities, addressing potential concerns about longterm viability. He said all stakeholders widely hail this epoch making decision as a timely intervention to revive industrial productivity and enhance export potential. Combined with previous initiatives, it reinforces Pakistan's resolve to achieve macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth. This policy marks a transformative stride toward a resilient, competitive economy, promising renewed confidence among investors and industries alike, he concluded.

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China holds commemorative events to honor martyrs on Qingming Festival

s the Qingming Festival, a day of remembrance and paying tribute, fell on Friday, people across China honored the revolutionary martyrs who sacrificed their lives for national independence.

Various commemorative events ranged from post-95 volunteers recounting stories at martyrs cemeteries, to using digital technology to recreate sites during the wars, from millions netizens offering virtual flowers in livestream platforms, to schools organizing teenagers to follow in the footsteps of the fallen heroes. As this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Aggression and the World Anti-fascist War, Chinese people commemorated the martyrs and honored the heroes to, learning their spirit and turn it to strength to keep forging forward, CCTV reported.

People nationwide visited cemeteries, memorial halls, and museums to express remembrance and respect for the martyrs.

A Qingming-themed memorial event to honor fallen heroes, organized by the Longhua Martyrs Cemetery and hosted by the Shanghai Youth Activity Center, was held simultaneously at 76 martyr memorial sites across Shanghai on Friday morning, Shanghai-based media the Paper reported.

At Longhua Martyrs Cemetery, the flag was raised at 9 am, the national anthem was sung, and flower baskets were presented. Nearly 200 people bowed, cleaned tombstones, and laid flowers solemnly. Descendants of Red Army soldiers shared heroic stories, while youth recited tribute poems.

Some China Coast Guard (CCG) law enforcement officers also held memorial activities aboard ships, according to Wechat account of CCG on Friday. They stood on the deck of the ship, observing a moment of silence toward the sea in honor of the fallen heroes, and gently scattered white chrysanthemums into the

At around 5 am on Thursday, more than 1,600 teachers and students from No.2 Middle School of Guyuan and Hongwen middle schools in Northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region began their memorial walk to honor the 391 fallen heroes buried at the Renshanhe Martyrs Cemetery in Pengyang County, Xinhua reported. The 54-kilometer round trip has seen over 30,000 participants in the past 30 years.

According to Ningxia Daily, more than 600,000 people, including officials, local residents, and primary and secondary school students, have taken part in online and offline memorial activities to commemorate martyrs. These included site visits, storytelling sessions, digital memorial platforms, and efforts to identify rela tives of fallen heroes.

In addition to traditional memorials, AI has been deployed to restore the appearance and voice of fallen heroes. In South China's Guangzhou, the Yinhe Martyrs' Cemetery has completed a digital upgrade of its martyrs' memorial hall, which is now open to the public, Yangcheng Evening News reported.

Using new technologies such as AI digital simulation and VR interaction, the memorial hall has created a space for a timeless dialogue of revolutionary spirit, allowing the fallen heroes to "tell" their revolutionary stories through digital representations.

Trump's Tariff Tsunami

2nd—now dubbed "Liberation Day" by his supporters—President Donald Trump unveiled a sweeping 25% tariff on all imports entering the United States, sparking what critics now call an economic tsunami with global shockwaves. The announcement, delayed a day to avoid being mistaken for an April Fool's prank, was anything but a joke. Trump, in a gusty outdoor speech laced with boasts and grievances, claimed this tariff was a necessary act of "reciprocity" to combat what he called "decades of abuse and rip-offs." Brandishing a small chart-too flimsy for the wind but heavy with political intent—he rattled off figures: China, 67%; European Union, 39%; Vietnam, 90%; India, 52%. "We charge them less than they charge us," he said, promising "discounted reciprocal tariffs" to correct these imbalances. "They rip us off," he thundered, "and they all understand—we're done with tough talk, now it's tough love."

But love was not the reaction. The backlash, both international and domestic, was immediate, and fierce. Nowhere was the response more visceral than in Canada. In the midst of an election season. Canadian political parties competed to condemn the S. decision, reflecting a dramatic pivot from decades of bilateral cooperation.

Trump's tariffs and counter tariffs by Canada have hit the border states like Michigan. These states have historically relied on Canadian imports—especially electricity, petroleum, and food-thanks to low transportation costs and seamless trade channels. Over 90% of electricity imports to Michigan, New York, and Vermont come from Canada. Now, Ottawa has threatened to cut off this lifeline in retaliation, while imposing its own 25% tariffs on U. S. goods. Midwestern grocery bills are expected to rise, energy costs may spike, and inflationary pressures

struggling with economic stagnation.

U.S.-China trade, valued at over \$600 billion, has entered a new cold war. In he said. The move could lead to billions 2023, the U.S. imported \$536 billion in Chinese goods, while exporting just \$151 atlantic chill. Europe's pivot marks a billion. Trump's confrontational posture—

emphasizing Chinese currency manipulation and trade barriershas reignited tensions. "They charge us 67%, we charge 34%. That's fair," Trump insisted during his speech.

But the effects are destabilizing. Tesla, once a darling of U. S.-China

innovation, has seen a nosedive in its Chinese exports and a sharp decline in domestic sales, which fell by nearly 12% in Q1 alone. Chinese sales dropped over 18%, according to industry analysts, reflecting both nationalist backlash and waning consumer confidence. The company's stock has plummeted by over 20% since the tariff announcement, wiping out billions in market value. Protesters, both in China and the U.S., have vandalized or torched Tesla vehicles in a symbolic rejection of corporate favoritism and U. S. hegemony. In response, U. S. Attorney General Pam Bondi warned that anyone damaging American property, especially Tesla vehicles, would face "exemplary punishment"—a statement underscoring

growing domestic unease. Across the Atlantic, the European Union-long America's closest geopolitical ally—is plotting a future without the United States. Disenchanted by Trump's isolationist tone, European leaders have begun discussions on a new continental defense pact, an EU-only military alliance to replace NATO's aging framework. Trade between the EU and U.S., worth over \$850 billion annually, is now at risk.

could deepen in communities already Trump accused the bloc of "ripping us ranging from electronics and automooff," citing a 39% tariff disparity. "We're charging them 20%—essentially half," in trade losses, job cuts, and a new transsobering moment: where once America

led, it now alienates.

Trump's handed tactics are also reshaping the balance of power in Asia. Longtime allies Japan and South Korea, both targets of the new tariffs (46% and 40% respectively), have joined China in forming a new regional economic

bloc. Trump acknowledged the disparities but placed the blame squarely on his predecessors: "I don't blame the people of Japan. I blame the people who sat behind the Resolute Desk before me."

Qamar Bashir

This coalition aims to reduce dependence on American markets and technologies. Already, joint investment and infrastructure projects are being launched in Southeast Asia. Trump's "America First" mantra has become a rallying cry for Asian solidarity—ironically against America

Even India-whose Prime Minister Trump described as a "great friend"—is hedging its bets. "You're not treating us right," Trump told him. India's 52% tariffs have long been a sore point, but unlike other nations, New Delhi has opted for quiet recalibration. Rather than retaliate directly, India is expanding its trade with Africa and Southeast Asia while increasing defense purchases from Europe and Russia. The U.S.-India relationship, once seen as a cornerstone of Indo-Pacific security, is beginning to drift.

At home, the economic aftershocks are already being felt. A 25% blanket tariff on imports means sharp price hikes for goods

biles to food and clothing. According to the Peterson Institute for International Economics, this could inflate consumer prices by 1.5%-2% annually—costing the average American household over \$1,200 per vear.

Working-class families will be hardest hit, especially in states like Michigan where Canadian imports are a cornerstone of affordability. Small businesses, too, are bracing for impact. Unable to absorb higher raw material costs, many may be forced to raise prices, lay off workers, or close entirely. Without parallel wage growth, the U.S. could see its economy veer into stagnation.

In defense of his policy storm, Trump claimed that "massive investment" was pouring into the U.S. He cited semiconductor plants and factory deals as signs of success. But economists note that such investments take 3-5 years to bear fruit longer than Trump's remaining time in office. More controversially, he has hinted at seeking a third term, despite the constitutional ban. The gesture, even if symbolic, has injected fresh political uncertainty into an already polarized nation.

President Trump's sweeping tariffs and global posturing have ushered the U. S. into a precarious moment. Allies are distancing, global institutions are straining, and domestic pressures are mounting. From Tesla fires to electricity shortages, from diplomatic ruptures to inflation spikes—his administration appears to be gambling with not just America's future, but global stability itself.

As the world watches, one question remains: is this strategic rebalancingor the unraveling of the international order as we know it?

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Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

A Hard State is the Sole Solution

Abdul Basit Alvi

n political theory, the term "Hard State" describes a government system that is centralized, authoritative, and highly capable of maintaining control over its territory and population. A Hard State is marked by the strict enforcement of laws, rigid governance, and strong leadership, which stands in contrast to a more liberal or "soft" state where outweigh state intervention. Although a Hard its industries.

State might appear authoritarian or oppressive in certain aspects, it offers several advantages, especially in terms of security, national development, and the safeguarding of societal

Political instability remains one of the primary obstacles to Pakistan's progress. Frequent changes in leadership and

corruption scandals have diminished the public's trust in democratic institutions. The country has yet to establish a stable political environment where democratic principles are upheld and corruption is effectively addressed. Adopting a Hard State approach would bring stronger central government control, fostering the political unity needed for long-term stability. Strong leadership would enable efficient decision-making, prioritizing national interests over factionalism. The government would implement stringent governance measures to prevent power fragmentation and ensure that political decisions are not influ-

enced by shifting political dynamics. Pakistan's economic instability is worsened by high external debt, inflation, and the inability to mobilize domestic resources. The country remains heavily reliant on foreign aid and loans, making it vulnerable to international pressure and financial instability. Pakistan's economic challenges stem from a lack of long-term planning, widespread corruption, and inefficient state institutions. A Hard State model would involve strong state control over the economy,

enabling the government to enact comprehensive economic reforms. By prioritizing self-reliance, Pakistan could reduce its dependency on foreign aid and loans. The government could take bold, unpopular steps, such as expanding the tax base, eliminating corruption, and improving the efficiency of state-owned enterprises. Centralized economic power would allow Pakistan to stabipower is decentralized and civil liberties tend to lize its currency, manage inflation, and revitalize

Security remains one of Pakistan's most pressing challenges. The rise of terrorism and extremism, coupled with instability in neighboring Afghanistan, has hindered Pakistan's efforts to achieve long-term peace. The state has struggled to maintain control over its borders, particularly in areas like Balochistan and the tribal

regions, where terrorist groups continue to operate. A Hard State approach would enable the government to act swiftly and decisively to address security concerns. Centralized power would allow the state to implement a comprehensive national security strategy that tackles both internal and external threats. The government could allocate resources to strengthen the military, intelligence services, and law enforcement agencies, ensuring that terrorist groups, militant organizations, and separatist movements are effectively neutralized. By focusing on national security, the state could provide a safer environment for citizens and businesses, fostering long-term stability.

Pakistan's social challenges, including poor education, inadequate healthcare, and gender inequality, are deeply rooted. The country has one of the lowest literacy rates globally, particularly among women, and millions of Pakistanis live in poverty without access to basic services. These issues are exacerbated by political and economic instability, and regional disparities lead to uneven development. A Hard State model would prioritize citizens' welfare by allocating perity, and security.

resources to address the most urgent social needs. With centralized control, the government could implement wide-reaching reforms in education, healthcare, and social services. The state could direct investment to the most underserved regions, ensuring marginalized groups, including women and minorities, have access to education and healthcare. Additionally, strict law enforcement and social policies could reduce genderbased violence and promote social inclusion.

Pakistan's foreign policy has often been reactive rather than proactive. The ongoing conflict with India, the situation in Afghanistan, and the challenges posed by global power dynamics have left Pakistan vulnerable to external pressures. As a Hard State, Pakistan would be in a stronger position to assert its sovereignty and security on the global stage. A Hard State could adopt a more assertive approach in regional politics, ensuring that Pakistan's interests are effectively represented. By maintaining a robust military and forging strong diplomatic relationships with key global powers, Pakistan could protect its national security and economic interests. A Hard State would enable more effective management of foreign relations, allowing Pakistan to concentrate on its long-term objectives without being diverted by external distractions.

For Pakistan to succeed in the 21st century, it must transcend the fragmented, weak state model that has hindered its progress for decades. Adopting a Hard State approach, with an emphasis on pragmatic governance and longterm strategic planning, may be the only viable path forward. Only by doing so can Pakistan ensure its future as a stable, self-reliant, and prosperous nation. A Hard State model, coupled with a zero-tolerance policy, is essential, particularly in the fight against terrorism and the internal and external forces promoting chaos, violence, hate, and division within the country. The nation embraces the Hard State approach proposed by Army Chief General Asim Munir and urges swift, decisive action to advance Pakistan's peace, pros-

Climate Change and Its Impact on Pakistan's Water Resources

akistan is currently experiencing a severe water crisis, which continues to worsen due to climate change, Indus River System Authority (IRSA) reports such as drip and sprinkler irrigation, can signifthat the country faces a 51% water shortage, icantly reduce water wastage and enhance crop

severely impacting the agricultural and industrial sectors. Large reservoirs such as Tarbela and Mangla have significantly lost their storage capacity, preventing provinces from receiving adequate water supplies. The United Nations warns that if immediate action is not taken, Pakistan's per capita water availability will fall below 500 cubic meters annually by 2025,

marking a transition into "acute water scarcity." Climate change plays a crucial role in this crisis. Rising global temperatures, shifting ocean currents, and melting polar ice caps are reshaping the world's water resources, and Pakistan is no exception. The glaciers of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush-primary sources of Pakistan's river systems—are melting at an alarming rate. Initially, this phenomenon increases water flow in the rivers, but in the long run, it depletes essential water reserves. NASA reports that the Earth's temperature has increased by approximately 1.1°C over the past century, accelerating glacier loss.

The consequences of water scarcity in Pakistan are devastating. The reduction in water availability directly affects agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and financial losses for farmers. According to the World Bank, Pakistan loses nearly \$29 billion annually due to water-related challenges. In urban areas, drinking water shortages have forced people to spread health issues and waterborne diseases. existential challenge.

To mitigate the crisis, Pakistan must take immediate and strategic actions. Investing in new dams and upgrading existing ones is critineffective policies, and the mismanical to improving water storage capacity. The agement of natural resources. The adoption of modern agricultural techniques,

> mented to monitor and control water usage at both industrial and domestic levels, ensuring that water conservation becomes a national priority.

Public awareness campaigns can also play a key role in addressing the crisis. Educating citizens about responsible water consumption and encouraging the reuse and

recycling of water can help reduce unnecessary wastage. Additionally, large-scale afforestation efforts are essential, as trees help maintain groundwater levels and promote better rainfall patterns.

On the international front, Pakistan must intensify diplomatic efforts to ensure India complies with the Indus Waters Treaty. Engaging international organizations and seeking arbitration in water disputes can help protect Pakistan's water rights and prevent further depletion of its resources.

While the water crisis in Pakistan is alarming, it is not beyond resolution. Through effective governance, sustainable technological advancements, infrastructure investment, ecological restoration, and diplomatic negotiations, the country can secure its water future. Immediate and decisive action is necessary to prevent Pakistan from facing an even more severe water shortage in the coming decades. Without proper intervention, future generations could inherit a rely on unsafe water sources, leading to wide- Pakistan where water is not just scarce but an

Disclaimer: All reports and recommendations have been prepared for your information only. Summary and Analysis are not recommendations to buy or sell. This information should only be used by investors who are aware of the risk inherent in securities trading. The facts, information, data, indicators and charts presented have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Daily The Spokesman and its employees are not responsible for any loss arising from use of these reports and recommendations.

Mirziyoyev chairs first Central Asia-EU Summit in Samarkand, Calls for International Cooperation

Spokesman Report

Asia – European Union Summit has meeting is taking place in the context begun in Samarkand under the chairmanship of President Shavkat Mirzi-

Costa, European Commission Pres-

and Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

At the beginning of his speech, Pres-SAMARKAND: The First Central ident Mirziyoyev emphasized that the of unpredictable global processes.

"We are witnessing increasing geopolitical tensions, security issues, The event is attended by Euro- major regional conflicts, social and pean Council President António economic challenges to sustainable development. It is obvious that no ident Ursula von der Leyen, Pres- region can cope with such complex idents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, issues on its own without broad inter-Sadyr Japarov, Emomali Rahmon national cooperation," Gazeta.uz

quotes Mirziyoyev as saying.

Mirziyoyev Chairs First Central Asia-EU Summit in Samarkand, Calls for International Cooperation-Mirziyoyev emphasized that Central Asia shares the commitment of the European Union to the principles and norms of international law.

"We welcome and fully support the start of the negotiation process for a peaceful settlement of the situation around Ukraine," the President of

He expressed understanding that very complex issues need to be resolved.

"But we do not see any other alternative to the diplomatic efforts and political decisions being undertaken," Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized.

The theme of the summit is "Investing in the Future." The dialogue will consider the prospects for the development of multifaceted relations and practical interaction between the Central Asian states and the EU.



New Committee Launches to Bridge Korean Peninsula Divide and Focus on Legal Framework for Unification

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the "HWPL's 9th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW)" held in Cheongju, South Korea, a significant step toward Korean Peninsula unification was taken with the launch of the "Preparatory Committee for Peaceful Unification on the Korean Peninsula." The event, themed "Building Bridges for Korean Reunification: Establishing Legal and Practical Frameworks for Peace", drew about a thousand domestic and international leaders, outlining a comprehensive plan for a nationwide peace and unification initiative.

Spearheaded by HWPL, a UN ECOSOC-accredited international NGO, the <Together: Connecting Korea> campaign, involving approximately 170 civic groups, aims to foster communication and harmony across Korean society. The newly formed committee will focus on expanding socio-cultural exchanges between North and South Korea and establishing a robust foundation for future unification.



HWPL Chairman Lee Man-hee said, "The expeditious path to unification lies in the implementation of free movement. It is imperative that we pursue unification through constructive dialogue without force. Our country must become a testament to peace. We should work together thereby future generations can be happy and our wishes can come true" and presented a vision for peaceful unification on the Korean peninsula. Ven. Seok Yeonhwa, Chairman of

the Supreme Patriarch of the World

Buddhist Sangha Council, detailed the committee's future plans by saying, "We will unite people's hearts through campaigns, expand the public understanding and support for unification through education, and conduct research on post-unification social and economic integration."

Kim Yeong-geun, the 32nd Rector of Sungkyunkwan emphasized the critical role of civilian exchanges, calling for "a legal and institutional framework to ensure their continuity, regardless of political shifts."

Overseas Pakistanis Convention 2025 to Strengthen Ties with Diaspora in **Islamabad**

跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The highly anticipated Overseas Pakistanis Convention 2025 is set to take place from April 13 to April 15 at the Convention Centre, Islamabad. This prestigious event will serve as a dynamic platform for networking, investment opportunities, policy discussions, and addressing key issues faced by overseas Pakistanis.

Organized under the auspices of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), the convention will bring together influential members of the global Pakistani community, government officials, and business leaders.

The event aims to strengthen the bond between Pakistan and its diaspora while exploring avenues for economic growth and national development. Speaking about the convention, Syed Qamar Raza, Chairman (BOG) of OPF, emphasized the critical role overseas Pakistanis play in the country's progress

"This convention is an opportunity to engage with our overseas community, understand their concerns, and



harness their expertise for Pakistan's development. We welcome all overseas Pakistanis to participate and contribute to shaping a brighter future for our nation," he stated.

The three-day event will feature panel discussions, investment forums, and interactive sessions focused on policies affecting overseas Pakistanis, challenges in remittances, property rights, and employment opportunities.

It will also highlight success stories of Pakistani expatriates who have made

significant contributions in various sectors worldwide. With millions of Pakistanis residing abroad, the diaspora remains a key pillar of the country's economy and development.

This convention is expected to further solidify the relationship between Pakistan and its global community, fostering new initiatives for mutual growth. For more details on participation and registration, interested attendees can contact the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF).

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is All Time Great in Pakistan Political History

ceremonies every day. prayer on the anniversary a prayer ceremony, the youth should first wife Shireen Amir Begum had a

have organized seminars and study circles to highlight different aspects of the charismatic personality of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed. In which it is very important to mention his public movement against the martial law of Avubi

the people for agriculture, labor, and He introduced the NDVP program for education for students.

Syeda Zill e Fatima Zaid

The new generation does not know jobs. what Zulfikar Ali Bhutto did to make

only students are breathing life with a sigh

He gave millions of acres of land of the martyrdom of to landless farmers. In which Bhutto Chairman Zulfikar Ali Sahib's own land which was 36000 Bhutto is tantamount to distorting his acres was distributed among landless charismatic personality. Instead of just farmers in agricultural reforms. His

> sugar mill in her name which was nationalized during his own government. He had his own private forest which was handed over to the Sindh government. He gave facilities to the workers and students which gradually the capital-

and Yahya, reforms in the services of ists got back by conspiring with the loss. post-graduate citizens and gave them

To create unity in the country, the the country a nuclear country, even the NCC program was introduced so that international establishment colluded every child of the country could become at their glorious history and give the with the domestic establishment and a soldier of the country and the nation hanged him with the help of the court. and think of the country and the nation, Bhutto was hanged but the oppressed the social work program was introclasses fell victim to degradation again. duced among the school students. So Today, the laborers, poor farmers and that the spirit of human service could be



created in them with feelings of human sympathy.

Unfortunately, Bhutto died for them, now only his forgiveness is prayed for. The services that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

has rendered to this country and the entire Muslim Ummah do not need our prayers. His services are so great that he will be a leader in the next world as well.

Organizations should pray for forgiveness as per the rules at the end of the program. But take a quick look youth a chance to spread the magic of their knowledge and information on the stage. Try to create new leadership. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto worked tirelessly to build Pakistan's atom and started



Pakistan's atomic program. For this,

Pakistan from France. Zulfikar Ali Pakistan Aeronautical Complex built he ordered a nuclear reprocessing plant Bhutto established Pakistan's first in Kamra. In 1974, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto from France and brought nuclear scien- steel mill in Karachi with the coopera- organized the Islamic Summit Confertist Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan back to tion of Russia. In addition, he had the ence in Lahore.

World Health Day

We must invest in healthy beginnings for hopeful futures

very seven seconds, and newborn health. somewhere in the world, a woman or newborn dies, or a baby is lost to stillbirth. Childbirth, for many, remains a dangerous and often life-threatening experience.

For both mothers and infants, the risks during pregnancy and childbirth are vast. Severe bleeding, infection, high blood pressure, obstructed labor, pre-term birth, and fetal distress are just a few of the complications that can arise. That is why all mothers and infants need quality healthcare before, during and after childbirth.

Tragically, the Eastern Medi-

Every year, around 20 million babies are born in this region, but half a million of them will die before they complete their first month. More than 80 per cent of newborn deaths occur in six countries. Afghanistan, Djibouti, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. In addition, nearly 400,000 stillbirths occur each vear.

Maternal mortality is more than double the global goal for 2030 and, in some emergency settings, ratios even exceed 600 maternal deaths per 100,000

Many of the most common causes of maternal and newborn terranean region is falling deaths are preventable and behind much of the rest of the manageable but unequitable world when it comes to maternal access to healthcare — particu-



Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Med-

conflict or displacement — are

taking us off track. But it doesn't have to be this

larly in settings of fragility, way. We know what works. By increasing investment in quality services, and reproductive

healthcare, we can save lives, will be crucial to maintaining health has never been more more resilient societies.

Research from low- and middle-income countries demonstrates the tremendous return on investment: for basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, the social and economic returns are US\$87. [Investing in maternal and newborn health can reduce mortality and increase economic UNICEF DATA growth-One Health Trust \[\]

So investing in maternal and lives, it strengthens communities and economies, paving the way for hopeful futures.

Increasing domestic financing is critical, but in conflict-affected settings, international aid ment to maternal and newborn hopeful futures for us all.

bolster economies, and create continued access to life-saving

Last month, the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) issued a stark every US\$1 spent on expanding warning: decades of progress in of care to drastically reduce the reducing child deaths and stillbirths are under threat as major international donors announce cuts to development aid. Levels and trends in child mortality-

These cuts will disproportionately impact the world's newborn health not only saves most vulnerable populations including the women and children of the Eastern Mediterra-

nean region. As we face these challenges, the need for sustained commit-

Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere — a partnership chaired by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA — aims for critical high impact intervention packages mortality of pregnant women, new mothers and newborns, and prevent stillbirths.

This requires high coverage of lifesaving interventions during pregnancy, birth and the early weeks after birth, combined with quality and equity, and a focus on the care of small and sick newborns and women with obstetric complications.

Through this, and other initiatives, we can come together to invest in healthy beginnings and

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
118,791.66	118,938.11		
Day's High	Day's Low		
120,796.67	118,718.26		
Index Value	Change		
27,786,584,267	-146.45		
Percentage	Time		
-0.12%	4 Apr, 2025		
3.1.2,0	3:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
8,054.98	-419.76		
Percentage	Time		
-4.95%	4 Apr, 4:35 pm		
-4 .95 / ₀	GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
38,955.80	-1,590.13		
Percentage	Time		

-3.92%	4 Apr, 12:57 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
33,780.58	-955.35		
Percentage	Time		
0.750/	4 Apr, 3:45 pm		

GMT+9 **Open Market Forex Rates**

-2.75%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.50	177.75
Bahrain Dinar	739.80	747.80
Canadian Dollar	199.35	201.75
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	310.75	313.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.66	36.01
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.87	1.93
Kuwaiti Dinar	899.60	909.10
Malaysian Ringgit	62.57	63.17
NewZealand \$	158.75	160.75
Norwegians Krone	26.4	26.70
Omani Riyal	724.05	732.55
Qatari Riyal	76.28	76.98
Saudi Riyal	74.45	75.00
Singapore Dollar	210.75	212.75
Swedish Korona	27.45	27.75
Swiss Franc	314.86	317.66
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	76.10	76.75
UK Pound Sterling	366.50	370
US Dollar	280.50	282.00

FTO DrAsif Mahmood Jah to Chair a seminar on Gaza today

LAHORE: Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah will chair a seminar on "Perpetual Israeli Brutalities on Gaza and Responsibilities of Muslims Ummah" to

counter ever mounting aggression. The seminar organised under the aegis of Customs Care Health Society will be addressed by the leading scholars drawn from all walks of life and will be held at 69-M Naseerabad Gulberg 111 Bhabra Market.

Kitchen Items' prices up by 0.20pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), increased by 0.20 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on April 03, the Pakistan Bureau of

Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.79 points as compared to 319.14 points during the

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed a decrease of 1.99 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed an increase of 0.28 per cent and went up to 308.66 points from last week's 307.79

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, went up by 0.27 percent, 0.23 percent, 22 percent and 0.17 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 15 (29.41%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 26 (50.98%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded major increase in their average prices on a weekon-week basis included Chicken (7.17%), Potatoes (6.50%), Onions (5.10%), Lawn Printed (0.71%), Tomatoes (0.66%).

29% tariff imposed by the U.S. on Pakistani products is unjust and discriminatory: Ahsan Bakhtawari

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (UBG) Central Core Committee Member Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has strongly criticized the 29% tariff imposed by the United States on Pakistani products, calling it an *unjust and discriminatory measure that will negatively impact not only the export sector but also the overall economy. Pakistan exports approximately \$7.26 billion worth of goods to the U.S. annually, and this decision could prove to be devastating for Pakistani exporters.

In contrast, India has been subjected to only a 26% tariff, highlighting an unequal trade policy that gives Indian traders an unfair advantage in the U.S. market. This situation is detrimental to Pakistan's economy and demands immediate diplomatic intervention.

Speaking to a delegation of the business community yesterday, Ahsan Bakhtawari stated, "We recommend that the Pakistani 0%. This move will strengthen Pakistan's posi-



government reduce tariffs on U. S. imports to tion in trade negotiations with the U. S. admin-29% tariff imposed on Pakistani products." He further emphasized that if Pakistan can general public. istration and help mitigate the impact of the

reduce tariffs on U.S. imports by 58%, then the U.S. must also reciprocate by eliminating the 29% tariff on Pakistani goods to maintain trade balance between the two countries.

Ahsan Bakhtawari stressed the need for Pakistan to secure a better and more balanced trade agreement with the U.S. in order to further stabilize its exports in the global market. He pointed out that key export sectors such as textiles, sports goods, leather, surgical instruments, and football manufacturing could suffer

significant losses due to this tariff hike. Ahsan Bakhtawari urged the government, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance, and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to formulate a unified strategy to push for the removal of this unjust tariff through diplomatic channels and ensure the protection of Pakistan's trade interests.

He warned that if this issue is not resolved soon, it could have severe negative consequences for Pakistan's economy, affecting not just the business community but also the

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik in meeting with Chargé d'Affaires at US embassy Pak H.E Natalie Baker on Friday.



Hackers intensify Crypto scams with 83% more attacks detected in 2024: Kaspersky report

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In 2024, as digital financial transactions continued to expand worldwide, cybercriminals shifted their focus toward mobile devices and crypto assets. According to Kaspersky's new Financial Cyberthreats report, the number of users encountering mobile banking Trojans rose by 3.6 times compared to 2023, while crypto-related phishing detections climbed by 83.4%. Kaspersky anti phishing technologies prevented 10,706,340 attempts to follow a cryptocurrency-themed phishing link, an 83.4% increase over the 2023 figure of 5,838,499. As cryptocurrency popularity continues to grow, the number of attacks is only ever going to get larger.

Meanwhile, PC-focused malware saw a decline in traditional banking attacks but a surge in crypto-asset theft. This data comes from Kaspersky's new Financial Cyberthreats report for 2024.

In 2024, online fraudsters continued to lure users to phishing and scam pages that mimicked the websites of popular brands and financial organizations. Banks were the most popular lure in 2024, accounting for 42.6% of financial phishing attempts (compared to 38.5% in 2023). Amazon Online Shopping was mimicked by 33.2%



online store users in 2024, making it the 2023 to 30.5% in 2024. most popular online brand target for fraudsters. Apple's share of attacks dropped nearly 3 p.p. on last year's figure to 15.7%, while Netflix scams grew slightly to 16%. Meanwhile, fraudsters' interest in the Alibaba marketplace increased, its share going up from 3.2% in 2023 to 8% in 2024.

Payment systems were mimicked in 19.3% of financial phishing attacks detected and blocked by Kaspersky products in 2024 (19.9% in 2023). Once again PayPal was the most targeted brand, however, the ratio of attacks related to it fell from 54.7% to 37.5%. Attacks targeting Mastercard, on of all phishing and scam pages targeting the contrary, nearly doubled from 16.6% in globe in 2024.

While the number of users who encountered mobile banking malware increased, the share of those who were affected by financial PC malware decreased from 312,453 in 2023 to 199,204 in 2024. Currently most financial PC malware that Kaspersky detects is targeting not online banking, but crypto assets. The banking Trojans that were most often detected in 2024 included ClipBanker (62.9%), Grandoreiro (17.1%), CliptoShuffler (9.5%) and BitStealer (1.3%). Grandoreiro is a full-fledged banking Trojan that targeted 1,700 banks and 276 crypto wallets in 45 countries and territories around the

Electricity tariff cut to stimulate job creation, economic growth in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran Friday hailing the announcement said a significant reduction in electricity tariffs, a landmark decision is poised to invigorate Pakistan's industrial sector and enhance the ease of doing business.

In a statement here today he said effective immediately, this policy aims to alleviate the financial burden on industries by curtailing production costs, thereby boosting competitiveness in domestic and global markets. He said the ress."

move will benefit key sectors of manufacturing, SMEs, and export-oriented industries, which have long grappled with high operational expenses. By lowering energy costs, businesses can reallocate resources toward innovation, expansion, and workforce development, potentially stimulating job creation and economic growth, he added.

"This reduction underscores government commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and positioning Pakistan as an attractive investment destination. It is a pivotal step in our broader agenda to drive sustainable economic prog-

Impact of the 29% reciprocal tariffs imposed by the United States on Pakistan will be harmful, Exporters

Commerce News

KARACHI: Pakistani exporters have stated that the unexpected 29% reciprocal tariff imposed by the United States on Pakistan will have detrimental effects, although not particularly severe, as competitors will also face similarly high taxes on their exports to the US.

Pakistani exporters believe the tariffs will not cause significant damage since competitors like India, China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh will also face high tariffs in the US market. United Business Group (UBG) President and former President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Zubair Tufail, said that the negative impact of US tariffs on Pakistan's exports is inevitable, but it will not be extensive. He added, "The US tariffs will have a minimal negative impact as most of the competitors will face equal or higher tariffs on their exports." He ment," he concluded.

was confident that exporters would not face difficulty in US markets.

However, others were hopeful that the government could find a solution since imports from the US are very low. In FY 2024, Pakistan imported goods worth \$1.87 billion from the US, while exports amounted to \$5.4 billion. In comparison, FY 2023 showed imports from the US at \$2.2 billion and exports at \$5.9 billion, showing a trade surplus with

FPCCI Vice President Aman Pracha, former FPCCI Vice President Hanif Lakhani, Pakistan Business Forum leader Captain Abdul Rashid Abro added that exports to the US account for less than 1.5% of Pakistan's GDP. "Even if these exports were completely wiped out (which is highly unlikely), the impact would still be much smaller than the economic shrinkage we have experienced due to mismanage-

Circular debt and theft must end to rebuild power sector: Mian Zahid Hussain

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said in electricity prices across the country by Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz

Sharif's is a highly laudable step.

benefits of the reduced electricity tries has been reduced by Rs 7.59 prices, stating that it will relieve the per unit. public and the business community, National Business Group Pakistan, make industrial production cheaper, and increase exports by two to three billion dollars

Mian Zahid Hussain said that increased industrialization will also FPCCI Advisory Board, and the reduce unemployment, an Eid gift for the nation.

Talking to the business commuon Friday that significant reduction nity, the veteran business leader said that electricity has been made cheaper by Rs 7.41 per unit for domestic consumers. In contrast, He highlighted the significant the price of electricity for indus-

He added that convincing the IMF to agree to such a substantial reduction in electricity tariffs was formidable, underscoring the government's unwavering commitment to this cause.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the circular debt has also reached Rs 2393 billion, which is detrimental to the country's economic future. The expensive electricity is a burden for the public and businesses and has been an obstacle to economic development for decades.



Punjab's top athletes to compete in 35th National Games, says DG Sports

Example 2 Tahir Amin Malik

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has presided over an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Friday to review the players' trials, training camps, venues and other preparations of upcoming 35th National Games.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Idris Haider Khawaja, Arshad Sattar, Salman Butt, Deputy Director Chand Perveen and representatives of all sports associations of Punjab participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the open and merit-based trials for the selection of Punjab athletes will be conducted on April 9, 10 and 11. "The representative of provincial sports association will also be a part of selection committee to Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that 600



ensure transparency and merit in the trials process".

Director General Sports Punjab

players will be participating in the from April 14. "The training camps of 19 games will be conducted in Lahore

out of which the camps of 11 games will be organized at Nishtar Park Sports Complex. Faisalabad will host training camps of four games while the training camp of sailing will be conducted at Karachi," he informed.

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry further said that the best players of the province will participate in the National Games. "Punjab is the largest province and that's why people expect from Punjab athletes to top the medals table. Our players must exhibit their best playing techniques and fight for medals in the mega event".

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that Sports Board Punjab will provide best facilities to the players during the training camps. Idris Haider Khawaja and Arshad Sattar thanked DG Sports Punjab Khizar players' training camps in three cities Afzaal Chaudhry for making best preparations for the forthcoming National

Punjab to invest Rs 2 billion in sports development

Tahir Amin Malk

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the top performing players of the upcoming National Games and Pink Games will be included in the next phase of Sports Endowment Fund.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said this while chairing an important meeting at Punjab Stadium on Friday.

The key meeting was attended by Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Sports Mian Usman Ali, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem and Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anium.

including Annual Devel- the meeting. opment Program schemes.



National Games were that the construction work The 3-point agenda reviewed in detail during is underway on 52 new

Sports Endowment Fund Youth Affairs Punjab ment Programme. "The Games".

Fund of Rs 2 billion is the

development of the players. "The revolutionary Sports Endowment Fund is no less than a blessing for the top province". Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab

under construction devel-

opment schemes should

be completed as early as

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab

Muzaffar Khan Sial said

that the prime objective

of the Sports Endowment

is no doubt that the best training will help a lot our athletes to produce the best results in the National

De Bruyne to leave Man City at end of the season

Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne confirmed on Friday that he will leave the club at the end of the season.

De Bruyne, 33, has won 14 major trophies since joining City from Wolfsburg in 2015, including six Premier League titles and the Champions League in 2023.

"Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes. That day is here — and you deserve to hear it from me first," De Bruyne said in a post on social media.

"Football led me to all of you-and to this city. Chasing my dream, not knowing this period would change my life. This City. This club. These people... gave me ĽEverything ℷ. I had no choice but to give [Everything] back! And guess what — we

The Belgian international has been instrumental in City's rise to the dominant force in English football.

He was twice crowned players' player of the year in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

De Bruyne sits second in the Premier League's all-time standings for assists on 118 and has scored 106 goals in 413 appear ances for City.

echoed Atif Rana's sentiments, saying,

"Daily Deli Co. is absolutely thrilled to

partner with the Lahore Qalandars for

PSL'25! It was only a matter of time before Daily Deli Co. took the big stage,

and we couldn't think of a better partner

than Lahore Qalandars! As a brand,

we're passionate about serving up more

than just great food-we're committed

to delivering unforgettable experiences

for our fans in Lahore. We believe this

collaboration will be a winning combi-

nation, and we look forward to a fantastic

PSL season together. Dama Dam Mast

As Lahore Qalandars gear up for

another thrilling PSL campaign, this

partnership with Daily Deli Co. prom-

ises to enhance the fan experience and

bring cricket lovers closer to the action.

performing athletes of the Muzaffar Khan Sial directed the officers concerned to won everything." impart best training to Punjab athletes in training camps for the preparation and preparations of 35th Muzaffar Khan Sial said of National Games. "There

Pakistan squad for the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifiers Fatima Sana (Capt), Muneeba Ali (vice-capt), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Gull Feroza, Najiha Alvi (WK), Nashra Sandhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (WK), Syeda Aroob Shah Reserve players: Ghulam Fatima, Waheeda Akhtar, Umm-e-

WI, B'desh, Ireland, Scotland woman teams arrive for ICC

LAHORE: The West Indies, Bangladesh, Ireland and Scotland

woman cricket teams reached Lahore via Dubai on Friday morn-

ing to participate in the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifiers 2025,

The Thailand Women have already reached the provincial

metropolis and are due to play a practice match against Pakistan

Women at the Lahore City Cricket Association (LCCA) grounds

in the afternoon. The matches of the six-team event qualifiers will

be played at the Gaddafi Stadium Lahore and the LCCA ground.

event to be played later this year in India in September-October

this year. Australia Women are the defending champions. Pakistan

Women, if qualified for the main round, will play their matches at

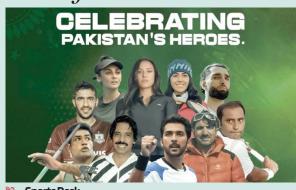
The top two teams from the qualifiers will progress to the main

to be played from April 9 to 19 in Lahore.

a neutral venue under the ICC's hybrid model.

World Cup qualifiers

Fans to nominate Hamaray Heroes for HBL PSL X



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will recognise and award notable and successful personalities nominated by the Pakistan cricket fans as part of its Hamaray Heroes initiative during the HBL PSLX, which is set to run from April 11 to May 18.

The fans can submit their nominations till 3pm on Wednesday, April 9. The final list will be presented to a PCB panel tasked with shortlisting 34 candidates for acknowledgment during the landmark HBL PSL edition, said a press release.

The PCB will present the shortlisted candidates with cash awards during the HBL PSL X matches, while the fans will also get to watch short documentaries on their respective achievements and life stories on all HBL PSL digital handles as well as live broadcast on match days.

Fans can nominate personalities from various walks of life including but not limited to sports (other than cricket), education, healthcare, art, culture, music, social work, social entrepreneurship, and technology, with the PCB using its brand and reach to appreciate these individuals for their contributions and enhancing the image of the country.

Some of the notable personalities who were recognised during HBL PSL 9 Hamaray Heroes initiative included, Ahmad Baig (Golfer), Ahsan Ayyaz (Squash player and philanthropist), Dr Jawaid Qamar (first indigenous Pakistani to earn an MPhil in Cosmology), Dr Mariam Sultana (first woman to earn a PhD in astrophysics in Pakistan), Farah Vohra (Special Olympian), Maham Tariq (Cycling coach), Perniya Zaman Khan (Table Tennis player), Wardah Ghani (co-founder of Strays Home Animal Rescue Foun-

Five Pakistani cricketers to feature in this year's County Championship

BIRMINGHAM: Cricket season returns to England as the 2025 Rothesay County Championship begins on Friday, 4 April — and

this year, five Pakistani cricketers will feature in the tournament. Shan Masood, the captain of Pakistan's Test team, along with fast bowlers Hasan Ali, Mohammad Abbas, Kashif Ali, and spinner Zafar Gohar, will all be in action.

Masood, Hasan, and Gohar will also be part of the squads for the Vitality T20 Blast tournament, which begins in June after the first round of County Championship matches. Masood and Hasan will be available only after completing their commitments with PSL franchises, while Abbas will be available for six matches — three in May and three in September.

Young pacer Kashif has joined Kent but is not part of the squad for their tournament opener against Northamptonshire. Left-arm spinner Gohar will feature at Lord's for Middlesex in their opening

Lahore Qalandars Welcome Daily Deli Co. as Official Sponsor for HBL PSL 10

sports development schemes

under the Annual Develop-

Tahir Amin Mlik

Lahore Qalandars are thrilled to announce Daily Deli Co., one of Pakistan's leading fast-food chains, as an official sponsor for HBL Pakistan Super League 10.

As part of this exciting partnership, the Daily Deli Co. logo will be prominently displayed on both sides of the Qalandars' helmets throughout the tournament, symbolizing a shared passion for cricket and excellence.

This collaboration goes beyond branding-it's about creating unforgettable experiences for supporters and strengthening the bond between sports and local businesses.

Atif Rana, CEO of Lahore Qalandars, expressed his excitement about the partnership, stating, "We are proud to welcome Daily Deli Co. to the Qalandars family for HBL PSL 10. Their support



highlights the growing appeal of Lahore look forward to working together to our fans." Qalandars and the HBL PSL, and we make this season even more special for

A representative of Daily Deli Co celebration.

With the Qalandars' spirit and Daily Deli Co.'s energy, the stage is set for an unforgettable season of cricket, passion, and

Qalandar!"

School timings to be changed in parts of Lahore during PSL

LAHORE: The Punjab notification said. government has issued a school timings in specific areas of Lahore due to (PSL) matches being held at the cricket matches. the Gaddafi Stadium.

cial government, the new 24 and May 18 and all the timings will be applicable to matches here would be day/ schools located nearby areas night, starting from 7pm. of the Gaddafi Stadium.

Gulberg, Model Town, Road, Upper Mall, and Zahoor Elahi Road will observe the new timing, the be held on April 19.

During the PSL matches, notification changing the schools in these areas will operate from 7am to 12pm. This will ensure convenience the Pakistan Super League of students and staff during

The PSL matches in According to the notifi- Lahore are scheduled on cation issued by the provin- various dates between April

Meanwhile, practice Schools in areas of matches for ICC Women's World Cup Qualifiers have Ichhra, Jail Road, Ferozepur kicked off in the Walled City Road, Shadman, Canal today. The final match of the Women's World Cup Qualifiers Rounds in Lahore will



حكومت ياكستان

Meeting on Ramzan Relief Package ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Prime Minister Ramazan Relief Pack-

Senate Chairpersons of Uzbekistan and Pakistan discuss prospects of bilateral cooperation

Kiran Asim

TASHKENT: A parliamentary delegation led by the Chairman of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, is on a visit to Uzbekistan. This distinguished delegation arrived in Tashkent to participate in the 150th Anniversary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which will be held from 5th to 9th April.

As part of the visit's program, a meeting between the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Mailis of Uzbekistan, Tanzil Narbayeva, and the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani took place on April 4.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the further mutually beneficial areas. development of inter-parliamentary cooperation between



and expanding interaction in

Both sides expressed satis-Uzbekistan and Pakistan, brotherly and friendly ties two nations, enhancing coop-

strengthening the legal frame- between the two countries eration in trade and economic work of bilateral relations, continue to develop in the spirit of strategic partnership.

Particular attention was paid to further deepening the stra- and information technology. faction that the traditional tegic partnership between the

relations, investment, transport and logistics, as well as in the fields of communications

importance The increasing bilateral trade turn-

over to \$2 billion was emphasized, along with the implementation of joint projects in the fields of pharmaceuticals, agricultural sector, agricultural machinery, geology, and other

The parties also exchanged views on the development of inter-parliamentary relations, the expansion of cooperation within the framework of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, the activation of friendship groups, and the establishment of joint parliamentary oversight to ensure the timely and high-quality implement tion of agreements reached at the highest level.

The Senate Chairpersons of the two countries agreed to develop and implement Joint Action Plan aimed at strengthening cooperation between the parliaments, including their upper chambers.

Pakistan's passport ranks among lowest in global index 2025

跨 City Desk

Passport Index 2025 has unveiled the latest global passport rankings, evaluating 199 countries based on visa-free national reputation, flexible travel access, taxation policies, citizenship laws, and busiglobal perception, dual citizenship rights, and personal free-

According to the Nomad top ten passports belonging to

Passport Index 2025, Ireland the continent. has secured the top spot for the

Switzerland and Greece, thanks to its strong inter-

European nations dominate the rankings, with nine of the freedom limitations.

ness-friendly tax policies.

The United Arab Emirates ISLAMABAD: The Nomad first time among global pass- and New Zealand are the only port rankings, surpassing non-European countries in the

> Meanwhile, countries like Singapore and Japan, despite their high visa-free access, ranked lower due to strict dual citizenship rules and personal

Most Powerful Passports

Country Ireland

Switzerland Greece

Portugal Malta

Italy

Luxembourg

Finland Norway

United Arab Emir-

Pakistan remains among the lowest-ranked passports worldwide, positioned at 195th out of 199 countries in the global passport rankings.

The Nomad Passport Index

2025 attributes Pakistan's low ranking to political instability, security concerns, economic challenges, and strained diplomatic relations.

PM lauds success of Ramazan Package; directs to emulate model in future govt schemes

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, appreciating the effective and transparent implementation of the Ramazan Relief Package 2025, directed the authorities concerned to emulate this model in future government schemes.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the implementation of the Package, lauded the performance of the government's core team and supporting institutions.

He said that under the Package, a first-ever digital wallet was introduced, and funds were delivered to the beneficiaries transparently and

The prime minister said that the Package was introduced countrywide including Gilgit-Baltistan and nies.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and also appreciated the State Bank of Pakistan, Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, National Database and Registration Authority, and other supporting institutions for ensuring transparency in the process.

Moreover, a comprehensive awareness campaign on the Ramadan Package was conducted through electronic, print, and social media.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema, Ataullah Tarar, and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to PM Haroon Akhtar, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmad, relevant government officials, and representatives from relevant private compa-

PPP firmly opposes all canal projects on Indus River, says Bilawal Bhutto



Oayoom Sarohi

LARKANA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has said the PPP has always opposed any canals on the Indus River calling it extremely damaging for the province's farming industry.

Addressing a rally at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh on the 46th death anniversary of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bilawal Bhutto said that he was grateful to people like every year as they had been paying tribute to the people's leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

He said the PPP and its workers have kept the flag of loyalty high as they were the flag bearers of 'Shaheed' Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and. "I salute the workers of the PPP who have continued this struggle for 46 years."

The PPP chairman said that throughout the country.

Hafiz Naeem rejects new electricity

President Zardari, with his political achievements, fulfilled the vision of former PM Benazir Bhutto. Also, he said Asif Zardari was fulfilling the promise of poverty eradication through BISP.

The PPP chief further said that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made a revolutionary decision by making his daughter his political successor and through her services, Bhutto has been alive today.

He said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto has played a key role in the history of the Pakistan as she continued the legacy of her father's political ideology and his

The 46th death anniversary of founding chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was observed today (Wednesday)

Pakistan, Belarus strengthen economic ties with bilateral meeting

News Desk

BELARUS, MINSK: During visit of Belarus, Head of Pakistani delegation Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan held detailed meeting with the Minister of Transport and Communications H. E. Alexei Lyakhnovich to discuss bilateral cooperation and key economic and trade affairs.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that progress is needed on the ongoing matters related to road connectivity between the two countries and it was pointed out that such advancements could not only enhance bilateral trade but also provide access to Central Asia and

Federal Minister Abdul the visit of his delegation the cement these ties.



communications sector aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

He further expressed that would further contribute to

Aleem Khan stated that to Belarus has been highly Belarus holds a significant productive and will be mutugeographical position in the ally beneficial for both counregion for trade and Paki- tries. Abdul Aleem Khan ration between the two counstan, particularly in the expressed confidence that the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Belarus in this month

Federal Minister also invited Belarus' Minister of Transport to invest in Pakistan's Communications Sector especially in Motorways, Belarusian Minister for Transport and Communications H. E. Alexei Lyakhnovich warmly welcomed Pakistani Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and his delegation, assuring them of Belarus' commitment to expanding cooperation across various sectors.

Abdul Aleem Khan also addressed the Ministerial Session, stressing the importance of increasing collabotries. He added that the visits of the heads of both countries are significant and it will play a positive role in accelerating purposeful development in the coming days.

tariffs, demands more cuts KARACHI:

跨 Bureau Report

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman criticised the federal government's recent announcement of a reduction in electricity tariffs, calling the measure inadequate and demanding more.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Hafiz Naeem said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's relief of Rs7.41 per unit was insufficient.

"The burden on the people must be reduced more substantially. Every past government has been involved in the current energy mess," he stated while pointing fingers at successive regimes including the PML-N, PPP, PTI, and the PDM coalition for supporting Independent Power Producers (IPPs).



tric was sold for the price of "mere utility poles," alleging that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) played a role in the controversial privatisation of the power

"The IPPs must undergo a forensic audit. They receive hefty capacity payments and yet dodge taxes. Over the past few years alone, they have been granted tax exemptions worth Rs1,700 billion," Hafiz Naeem asserted.

He accused all mainstream political parties of harbouring mafias within their ranks who protect each other's interests. the stakes benefit a few vested interests, everyone joins hands," he remarked. The JI chief said that

his party compelled the

government to enter into an agreement instead of letting it off the hook. He announced that a detailed action plan would be unveiled on April 7 following consultations in

Commenting on the global oil market, he noted that petroleum prices had fallen internationally, yet the benefits were not being passed on to Pakistani consumers. "How can businesses survive when petrol remains expensive and electricity rates are barely lowered?" he asked.

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