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Pakistan receives \$1.2bn tranche from IMF

The global lender endorsed that the implementation of the EFF has driven notable improvements in both domestic stability and external economic indicators

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured a \$1.203 billion disbursement from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), marking the second tranche under the country's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) confirmed. The IMF Executive Board approved the release on 9 view of Pakistan's economic EFF had led to improve- Pakistan to strengthen instiframework of the program.

The funds are expected May 2025. This latest injectial, particularly in revamping tion comes as a significant state-owned enterprises and

Imran Khan's

presence outside

jail vital, says

Latif Khosa

lawyer and PTI founder

Imran Khan's counsel, Ad-

vocate Latif Khosa, has said that given the current politi-

cal and national challenges,

Khan's presence outside

prison is essential to foster

unity and address looming

Chief Justice Sardar Sarfraz

His remarks came during a hearing at the Islamabad High Court, where Acting

threats.

sentence.

Senior

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD:





May, following a positive re- the implementation of the scored the pressing need for performance within the ments in both domestic and tutional capacity to mitigate to bolster the nation's foreign tained that continued struc- global lender's broader enviexchange reserves by 16 tural reforms remain essen- ronmental concerns in the re-

lender acknowledged that agement. The IMF under- second tranche, Pakistan's ment.

UK Parliament urges

Indian to honor 'Indus

Water Treaty'

MP James Frith spoke openly about the growing

unease among British communities with South Asian

roots, especially those connected to Azad Kashmir,

Mirpur, Kotli, and Gujrat, highlighting their

billion, following the initial \$1 staff-level agreement was concluded in late March. provide a buffer against ongoing economic pressures tions. that continue to challenge the country, including inflationary spikes, currency depreciation, and a precarious exter-

sion is expected to shore up external economic indicators. the growing risks posed by Pakistan's foreign currency Yet, the IMF has main- climate change, signaling the reserves and restore some investor confidence, the road ahead remains fraught with challenges. Analysts caution To this end, Pakistan is that sustainable economic vote of confidence from the enhancing public service de- eligible to receive an addi- recovery will depend on Pak-IMF, which has previously livery. Energy sector reform tional \$1.4 billion in climate istan's ability to carry forward praised Pakistan's adher- has been identified as a key resilience financing, aimed at with difficult reforms and stability, and prosperity. ence to the program's condi-tionalities and reforms. In an need to address climate re-paredness and environmen-stability amid a complex doearlier statement, the global silience and disaster man- tal governance. With this mestic and global environ-

While the immediate infu-

"Global Bond"

News Desk

dent Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has praised the deep-rooted friendship between Türkiye total receipts under the EFF and Pakistan, describing it program now stand at \$2.1 as one of the finest examples of sincere brotherhood billion disbursed after the in the modern world. Speaking to international media, President Erdoğan said These funds are intended to such a bond is a rare privilege shared by very few na-



a time when regional dynamics are rapidly shifting, making the strategic partnership between the two nations even more vital.

deepening concern over regional unrest

Dogar reviewed a petition for ous concern over the rising tensions between India and Khan's release on parole in Pakistan, urging both nations to uphold the Indus the £190 million corruption case. The petition, filed by Ali Amin Gandapur, faced Water Treaty, a longstandobjections from the regis- ing agreement crucial for retrar's office, but Khosa urged | gional stability. Lawmakers the court to fix the parole stressed that water re plea alongside Khan's pending appeal for suspension of politicized or used as a tool "There's a prevailing per-

LONDON: The British

Parliament has voiced seri-

ception that justice is being ing this historic pact. denied to one man," said Khosa. "Even a sitting chief rat. Frith remarked on the role in easing tensions. growing unease within minister is not being allowed to meet him. That must change." The acting chief justice, however, pointed out that Khan had already been convicted by a trial court and



calling for a more engaged the government's firm During a parliamentary and proactive diplomatic stance that all diplomatic session, MP James Frith role given Britain's historical agreements must be honspoke candidly about the ties to the subcontinent. His ored, with a particular emanxieties felt by British com- comments reflected a wider munities with roots in South sentiment within Parliament Treaty. Asia, particularly those from that the UK, with its unique regions such as Azad Kash- position and connections, derscored the UK's commitmir, Mirpur, Kotli, and Gu-should play a constructive ment to ensuring that water

hese communities, empha- Lammy responded by rec-flict, stressing that "water sizing that water should not ognizing the deep cultural must never be used as a become a weapon in politi- links between the UK and weapon of war." The parliacal disputes. "Treaties like South Asia, noting that mentary discussion highthe Indus Water Treaty are more than three million lighted the growing internafundamental to peace and British citizens have roots in tional awareness of water must be preserved," he India and Pakistan. He in- disputes in South Asia and said, underscoring the deli- formed the House that the signaled the UK's readiness cate balance that has UK has actively engaged to support diplomatic efforts helped to prevent conflict for with both countries, holding aimed at securing long-term

Frith also acknowledged dian and Pakistani foreign for conflict, highlighting the the UK government's efforts ministers since the crisis vital importance of maintain- to encourage de-escalation, began. Lammy reiterated By our correspondent phasis on the Indus Water Lammy's statement un-

> remains a shared resource Foreign Secretary David rather than a source of confour meetings with the In- peace in the region.

BJP minister's remark against Muslim officer triggers outcry

India-Pakistan gesture

WAGAH: Pakistan and India exchanged one prisoner each on Tuesday morning at the Wagah-Attari border post in a rare but a communal and derogasymbolic gesture between the two neighbours.

According to security sources, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel Pranam Kumar Singh was handed over to Indian authorities, while Pakistani national Mohammadullah was returned to Pakistan by In-

said the matter fell under the

jurisdiction of the govern-

ment. "Why bring this here? Go to them," he remarked.

tative told the court the pa-

role request had already been submitted and was

pending with the provincial

One-for-one prisoner

swap marks rare

By our correspondent

authorities.

A government represen-

The exchange process was completed around 10am at the border crossing, sources said. BSF officer Pranam Kumar Singh had been detained by Pakistani we sent their sister to teach forces on 23 April for allegedly crossing the international border near the Kasur

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: A senior minister from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ignited a fresh political storm after making tory remark against Colonel Sophia Qureshi, a decorated Muslim officer in the Indian Army.

Madhya Pradesh. Referring said, "Those people — the political trade sure ones who turned our across the country. media on the strategic dedaughters into widows — The Indian National tails of Operation Sindoor,

them a lesson."



fairs, sparked the contro- demned as communal and entire Indian Army." The versy during a public gath- misogynistic. His comment, party demanded an immeering in Indore district, implying that the Indian diate apology from Prime with Pakistan was a diplo-Army had deployed "a sis- Minister Narendra Modi and to the recent Pahalgam inci-ter" of attackers — ostensi-called for the minister's redent during his speech on bly because Qureshi is moval. Operation Sindoor, Shah Muslim — outraged both said, "Those people — the political rivals and citizens had earlier briefed the

we sent their sister to teach Congress, in a strongly including losses suffered worded statement on social during retaliatory actions by The veiled reference to media, called Shah's re- Pakistani forces, is widely officer involved in Operation sult not just to Colonel sionalism and service.

Colonel Qureshi, who

Erdogan hails Pakistan-Türkiye brotherhood as rare

ANKARA: Turkish Presi-

He extended heartfelt greetings to what he called Türkiye's "friend and brother" Pakistan, reaffirming Ankara's unwavering support for Islamabad's peace,

"We attach great importance to the peace and calm of Pakistan," Erdoğan stated. "We admire the restraint and wisdom of the Pakistani state, especially in its diplomatic conduct and approach to regional challenges.'

He went on to commend Pakistan's commitment to dialogue and reconciliation as means of resolving conflicts, stressing that Türkiye has always stood by Pakistan in both good times and bad and will continue to do so in the future.
"This brotherhood is not

just of words; it is a shared history of support, trust, and solidarity," the Turkish president concluded, underscoring that Ankara will remain steadfast in its commitment to Pakistan, just as it has in the past.

The reaffirmation of these fraternal ties comes at

Teen's sexually abused body found at madrassa

KARACHI: A horrific case has emerged from Karachi where the body of a 14-yearold boy was recovered from a madrassa near Dumba Goth, located along the M-9 Motorway en route to Hyderabad. Police have registered a case of rape and murder against a religious teacher and his accomplices.

According to officials, the FIR was lodged at Gadap police station on the complaint of the victim's brother. The case includes serious charges of sexual assault and murder under Pakistan's penal code.

The complainant stated in the FIR that the madrassa teacher, along with others, allegedly sexually assaulted the boy and then strangled him to death. The police confirmed that

the initial investigation supports the claim of deliberate and violent harm inflicted on A police spokesperson

said a manhunt has been launched to arrest the susnects named in the case.

let's make a deal. Let's trade job. J.D. — thank you. This on the world stage. His com- not in nuclear missiles, was hard work, and your ments also hinted at leveragbut in the beautiful things team made it happen. It was ing trade as a tool for peace, you make'," Trump told an a fantastic effort," Trump suggesting a pivot from conaudience that included Saudi said, calling the ceasefire a frontation to cooperation Crown Prince Mohammed major achievement for U.S. rooted in economic exdiplomacy. In characteristically grand itv.

Pakistan, India urged to trade "Beauty not Bombs"

US President Trump hailed his administration's diplomatic efforts as pivotal in defusing escalating tensions between the two South Asian neighbors, marking a rare breakthrough in regional peace

News Desk

RIYADH: In a lighthearted yet diplomatically charged statement, U.S. President Donald Trump reaffirmed America's role in mediating the recent ceasefire between Pakistan and India, urging both nations to abandon the path of hostility and instead focus on trading "beautifully made things" rather than nuclear missiles.

the two South Asian neigh- ing hope that the ceasefire said.

"A few days ago, my adhistoric ceasefire between on his diplomatic team, India and Pakistan. It could specifically singling out Secbin Salman.

Amid applause, Trump

quipped that perhaps now fashion, Trump framed himthe two nations could even self as a global peacemaker. Speaking from Riyadh come together over a "pleas- "Both countries have powerduring the first leg of his Mid- ant dinner," adding that the ful and intelligent leaders. dle East tour — his first world had narrowly avoided Now that the violence has major international trip since a potentially catastrophic stopped, we are optimistic resuming office — President conflict. "It started small, but that the peace will hold. Trump hailed the success of it was escalating fast — it We're proud of what we've his administration's diplo- could have cost millions of accomplished, and we'll matic intervention in defus- lives. Now, the violence has keep working to resolve coning rising tensions between stopped," he said, express- flicts around the world," he

While his rhetoric carried The president took the the typical Trump flair, anaministration helped broker a opportunity to lavish praise lysts noted that the U.S. had indeed played a critical behind-the-scenes role in urghave gone very wrong. We retary of State Marco Rubio ing both Pakistan and India stepped in with a message and Senator J.D. Vance. to de-escalate — a position of peace... I said, 'Friends, "Marco did a tremendous Trump is now eager to own change and shared creativ-

Russia agrees to establish new steel mill in Karachi

would endure.

In a constructive step towards industrial synergy, both sides agreed to form a joint working group to advance plans for the proposed steel facility, signaling long-term collaboration and strategic intent

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: In a move that could reshape the contours of industrial cooperation between Islamabad and Moscow, Pakistan and Russia have agreed to work jointly on establishing a new steel mill in Karachi. The development follows a highlevel meeting between Prime Minister's Special Asmove from dialogue to deliv-

in the decision to establish a tem. joint working group. This and hopeful headlines.

cially one backed by Russ-



positioned Pakistan as a se-

body will be tasked with here than just molten metal overseeing the technical and production lines. The pragmatic partnerships. and operational details of steel project is being viewed Nazirov's visit and the host them.

and Russian envoy Denis strategic and symbolic welcomed in Islamabad's Nazirov, where both sides value. Haroon Akhtar Khan, diplomatic circles as a sign signaled a clear intent to speaking after the meeting, of warming relations between the two countries, hiscure and increasingly attrac- torically cautious in their The meeting, described tive destination for foreign dealings but increasingly as constructive and forward- investment. "This is the right aligned on shared economic looking, delved into the time," he said, "for global in- interests. With global supply roadmap for the proposed vestors to explore Pakistan's chains in flux and energy steel facility and culminated evolving industrial ecosys- corridors shifting, both Pakistan and Russia appear to There is more at stake be reassessing traditional alliances and seeking new,

Beyond steel, Khan exthe project—a sign that the as part of a broader effort to tended an open invitation to engagement is more than strengthen bilateral eco- Russian businesses to exjust diplomatic handshakes nomic ties. Khan underlined plore investment avenues the mutual advantage of the across other sectors, includ-For Pakistan, the timing collaboration, noting that ing energy, infrastructure, could not be more crucial. while the plant would boost and manufacturing. It is a Amid economic headwinds Pakistan's capacity in heavy pitch that reflects Pakistan's and a growing need to inject industry, it would also give urgency to court internamomentum into its industrial Russian firms a solid tional investors but also sugbase, the prospect of a foothold in a market looking gests a growing confidence major steel plant—espe- to modernize and diversify. in the country's ability to

Rafale failures forced Modi into ceasefire: Indian analyst

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: Indian analysts have pushed back against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's narrative that the recent ceasefire matic victory for New Delhi, arguing instead that it was driven by political compulsion and military setbacks.

"walk on his knees" to reach clear-armed neighbours. out to former US President



Senior analyst Manu "This is no longer just Jain described the ceasefire gaged via backdoor diplo- decision to halt the escala- 'godi media' — it has beas a clear win for Pakistan. macy to mediate the tention was taken to prevent come 'Modi media'," said He claimed that Modi had to sions between the two nuther failure of the Rafale Shourie, using a term often

cording to Jain, was en- said bluntly, adding that the - it was a necessity.

Echoing similar sentiments, former Indian minister Arun Shourie sharply criticised India's mainstream media during a live television appearance. He lambasted the hyper-nationalistic tone and misinformation campaigns that dominated coverage of the India-Pakistan standoff.

fighter jets from coming employed to describe "Modi placed national under public scrutiny. "The media outlets seen as un-Colonel Sophia Qureshi, an mark "shameful" and "an in- respected for her profes- Donald Trump, who, ac- dignity at Trump's feet," Jain ceasefire was not a choice critically supportive of the

₹41,000 crore Rafale scam allegations reignite political storm

Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala alleges the Rafale deal was never about national defence but a premeditated cover-up to shield the Modi government's deep-rooted corruption

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: India's political battleground has once again been shaken by the spectre of corruption, as the opposition Congress party levels explosive new allegations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government over the controversial Rafale fighter jet deal. With fresh claims pegging the al-fence manufacturer Dassault political ties. leged scam at a staggering Aviation for the procurement

tween India and French de- of private players with close has been a consistent re- opacity surrounding the deal tional accountability.



Congress spokesperson gress leaders have reignited deal was once billed as a addressing a press confer-

fusal to disclose the actual has eroded public trust and costs of the jets. This con- made transparency a casucealment only fuels the sus- alty of national security rhetpicion of a cover-up at the oric. highest level," Surjewala T The BJP, for its part, has

said, demanding an impartial repeatedly dismissed past probe that is neither influ- allegations as politically moenced by political loyalties tivated, particularly during nor administrative pressure. election cycles. However, Adding to the mounting the Congress leadership criticism, Congress leader seems determined to keep Sanjay Nirupam accused the the Rafale issue alive in the government of manipulating national discourse, espethe procurement process to cially as India heads into an-₹41,000 crore, senior Con- of 36 Rafale jets. While the Randeep Singh Surjewala, siphon off ₹41,000 crore other critical phase of politifrom the public exchequer. cal contestation. With calls for a full and independ- strategic milestone for India's ence on Monday, did not "When you keep the price of elections looming in several ent investigation into what air defence, it has long been mince words. He alleged that a national security asset like key states and general electhey describe as a defence mired in suspicion and sharp the Rafale deal was not a the Rafale jet hidden from tions on the horizon, the scandal of unprecedented questions over transparency, matter of defence prepared- Parliament and the people, Rafale deal could once again ale. inflated costs, and the al-ness but a "pre-arranged what message does that become a lightning rod for At the centre of the storm leged sidelining of public conspiracy" meant to mask send?" he asked. Nirupam wider concerns about goveris the 2016 agreement be-sector undertakings in favour layers of corruption. "There further contended that the nance, cronyism, and institu-

METRO MATTERS

MQM-P slams PPP over Karachi's decaying infrastructure

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: Members of the Sindh Assembly from MQM Pakistan have raised serious alarm over the crumbling infrastructure of Karachi, condemning the provincial government for neglect and prolonged delays in key development projects, particularly the Red Line bus corridor.

The lawmakers singled out University Road as a glaring example of mismanagement, saying it has become a death trap due to its broken surface, open manholes and general unsanitary conditions.

Addressing the assembly and speaking through a statement from the party's central office in Bahadurabad, MQM leaders said that fatal accidents on University Road have become a regular occurrence, and accused the Sindh government of abandoning the city under the pretext of development.

They also criticized the state of the K-IV water project — once a modest initiative now running into billions — which, despite enormous spending, has yet to deliver a single drop of water to the residents of Karachi.

"Karachi's roads are being dug up in the name of progress, but the reality is a trail of unfinished work, dust clouds, and disease," said the MQM members, who highlighted that the Red Line project has devastated University Road from Mazare-Quaid to Sufura Chowrangi, with no signs of completion in sight.

They warned that the surrounding communities are paying a heavy price, suffering from respiratory illnesses due to air pollution, while stagnant water and unhygienic conditions have fueled the spread of disease.

"Even India couldn't achieve what the PPP has done — they've brought Karachi to the edge of collapse," said the party's statement, warning that unless urgent action is taken to reverse the city's decline, public outrage will soon spill into the streets.

Sindh ministers pledge swift action on **Chachro Dahli schemes** Ch Sarwar honored in UK | 'One Evening for

parliament event Chaudhry Sarwar made history in 1997 as the first Muslim to elect as British MP, since then he

tirelessly championed peace and brotherhood across the UK and Pakistan

Press Release

LAHORE: A special event was held in the British Parliament to honor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, the former governor of Punjab and the first Muslim member of the British Parliament. Organized by Manchester MP Afzal Khan, the ceremony celebrated Sarwar's remarkinfluential role in promoting nity cohesion are invalu- flected a broad apprecia-

global scale. Chaudhry Mohammad achievements." Sarwar made history in cultural understanding.

Afzal Khan said, "Today, Yasmin Qureshi MP, and sion and international we come together to honor many others who have peacebuilding.

unity and solidarity on a able. We pay tribute to his tion across political lines lifelong dedication and for Sarwar's service.

Lord Des

able impact on British poli- Chaudhry Mohammad Sar- held prominent roles in tics, his dedication to war, whose contributions to government and public community service, and his British politics and commu-service. The gathering re-

Speakers lauded Sar-The event attracted a war's efforts in promoting 1997 as the first Muslim strong turnout of parlia- peace between Pakistan elected to the British Par- mentarians and peers, in- and India and his wider liament. Since then, his cluding notable figures contributions to global harwork has spanned both the such as Torsten Bell MP, mony. Many emphasized UK and Pakistan, consis- RT Hon Sir Stephen Timms the void left by his absence tently fostering peace, MP, Rushanara Ali MP, in the UK political scene brotherhood, and cross- Lord Wajid Khan, RT Hon and expressed a hope that Browne, he would return to further polio. Speaking at the event, Baroness Margaret Curran, advance community cohe-

Polio Warriors' to honor FLWs

By our correspondent

bringing together a wide sistance and promote a mesrange of stakeholders in support of National Immunization
Days (NID) campaign for
Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV),
Oral Polio but also to build strong com- and effective immunization

and presents to families who KARACHI: A community had earlier refused vaccinaevent titled "One Evening for tion, particularly focusing on Polio Warriors" was held in their children. This act of UC 35 Moosa Colony area, goodwill aimed to soften re-

scheduled from May 26 to sonnel, were publicly ac-June 1. The gathering aimed knowledged for their relentnot only to spread awareness less efforts in ensuring safe



munity ownership in the on- outreach. going struggle to eradicate

sionals, doctors, IRD teams, erational challenges. and frontline workers, alongited atmosphere.

table highlight was the ges- councils.

Their courage and determination have been essential The event saw participa- in covering difficult areas and tion from local influencers, maintaining campaign moeducators, healthcare profes- mentum, especially amid op-

"One Evening for Polio side Polio Ambassadors and Warriors" not only served as families previously hesitant a prelude to the upcoming about vaccination. Students NID campaign but also and local volunteers were helped foster a renewed spirit also in attendance, adding to of solidarity in Moosa Colony. the event's inclusive and spir- With growing awareness, revived trust, and increasing Private sponsors, secured community involvement, the through the efforts of CBO event marked a hopeful step Dr. Samreen, helped shape a forward in the fight against program rich in both purpose polio in one of Karachi's most and engagement. One no- densely populated union

Police recover four bodies

By Imtiaz Hussain

ered the bodies of a couple

Al- Syed Makki Madni 🖁

Travels & Tours Pvt Ltd.

The victims, who had been been locked for three days

from locked home

ki Bassati area of Kotri Site, who said the house had four bodies.

dead for several days, were and that a strong odor was SUKKUR: A grisly dis- found after neighbors raised emanating from the premcovery has shaken the Kotri alarms about a foul smell ises. Upon receiving the community, as police recov- coming from the residence. alert, Kotri Site Police On Wednesday morning, forcibly entered the house by and their two children from a local authorities responded breaking down the door, locked house in the Khuada to reports from residents where they discovered the

Indian propaganda against Pakistan military falls flat

By Amjad Qaimkhani

Armed Forces for their stead- ilance. fast response to Indian agbulent times.

Addressing the gathering said. via video link, Pakistan's Am-Rizwan

try demonstrates aggression again, they will receive an HOUSTON: A large gath- even harsher response." His ering of Pakistani-Americans remarks resonated with attenconvened in Houston for a dees, many of whom ex-Thanksgiving ceremony to pressed deep gratitude for the pay tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces' continued vig-

Tahir Javed, the event's gression. The event, attended organizer, lauded the Pakby hundreds from the dias- istan Army's role in defending pora, was organized by the country's sovereignty. prominent Democratic leader "The Armed Forces have ele-Tahir Javed, who under- vated Pakistan's dignity scored the significance of across the globe by respondunity and national pride in tur- ing to provocations with strength and resolve," he

Other notable speakers in-



milestones in our national bravery. journey." His remarks were

istan's military forces. Consul General message of deterrence, stat- ocratic figure, who served as ing, "If our neighboring coun- master of ceremonies.

moments of victory over India, Salman Razaqi, Shehla Mawhich we are celebrating joy- roof, and PJ Swati, all of ously, have become historic whom praised the military's

They emphasized that met with strong applause, re- such public acknowledgeinforcing a collective senti- ments serve not only as a ment of solidarity with Pak- morale booster for troops but also as a unifying force for Aftab Pakistanis living abroad. The Chaudhry, speaking at the ceremony was moderated by ceremony, delivered a strong Ibrahim Javed, a young Dem-

Press Release

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Works and Services and Prisons, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, held a meeting at his Karachi office with Provincial Advisor for Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, Dost Muhammad Rahmo, and Provincial Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities, and Archives, Syed Zulfigar Ali Shah, to review the progress of development works in the Chachro Dahli region.

The meeting focused on accelerating key infrastructure projects, particularly the launch of road construction schemes aimed at improving connectivity and easing mobility for residents. Both Zardari and Rahmo assured that, God willing, the work on various uplift schemes in Chachro Dahli would commence soon.

The ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to ensuring public welfare through timely and transparent execution of development initiatives. They emphasized the need for interdepartmental coordination to ensure that the implementation phase moves ahead without unnecessary delays, ultimately benefiting the local population.

This collaboration between ministries reflects the Sindh government's broader strategy of prioritizing underdeveloped areas and strengthening essential infrastructure in rural and remote regions.

Aliya Soomro, Saima Agha chart future of youth sports in Sindh

By Akbar Hussain

KARACHI: Renowned national boxing champion Aliya Soomro called on Saima Agha, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports and Youth Affairs in the Sindh Assembly, to discuss future plans for youth engagement and athletic development in the province. During the meeting, held at Saima Agha's office, the Parliamentary Secretary lauded Aliya's achievements both at home and abroad, calling her a source of immense pride for Pakistan.

"Young individuals like Aliya Soomro are not only national assets but role models for generations to come," Saima Agha said. "The Sindh Government remains fully committed to supporting our youth and ensuring they have the platforms and resources to shine internationally.

Aliya Soomro, who has garnered praise for her performances in multiple boxing tournaments, briefed the Parliamentary Secretary on her journey so far and her aspirations for the future. She expressed her deep appreciation for the government's continued backing and emphasized the importance of consistent support to help young athletes reach new heights.

The discussion also centered on potential collaborations between the government and athletes like Aliya to boost sports activities across Sindh, with a focus on grooming emerging talent, especially young women in underrepresented

JKAAH backs academic excellence with laptop drive at KU

By our correspondent

KARACHI: In a significant effort to promote academic excellence and facilitate higher education, the Jamia Karachi Alumni Association Houston (JKAAH) sponsored a laptop distribution ceremony at the University of Karachi, aimed at supporting postgraduate scholars in their academic journey.

The event took place on campus, where Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi personally handed out laptops to M.Phil. and Ph.D. students from various departments.

The ceremony was graced by several notable members of the university faculty and academic community. Among the attendees were Prof. Dr. Samina Saleem, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences; Prof. Dr. Zaeema Israr, Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences; Syed Musharraf Ali, General Secretary of JKAAH Karachi Chapter; and Prof. Dr. Mohsin Ali, President of the Karachi Teachers' Society.

Their presence underscored the importance of the event and the growing col-

laboration between alumni and the institution.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi praised the Jamia Karachi Alumni Association Houston for their continued commitment to uplifting education in Pakistan.

He commended the association's Board of Directors and especially highlighted the efforts of President Faheem Akhoond, describing their contribution as timely and vital in an era where digital accessibility is key to research and academic success.

The distribution of laptops was celebrated as a strategic move to bridge technological gaps among scholars and enhance their research capabilities. The initiative is expected to significantly ease the academic burden of postgraduate students, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary tools to thrive in their

Sohail University celebrates innovation at First Idea Fest 2025

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Sohail University achieved a remarkable milestone in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship by hosting its First Intra-University Idea Fest 2025 and inaugurating its Business Incubation Center. Both events, organized under the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC), marked a significant step in promoting a culture of startup development and entrepreneurial thinking within the university.

The event began with an inspiring welcome address by Dr. Asma Tabassum, Director of ORIC, who emphasized the purpose of the Idea Fest as a platform to unlock students' creative potential and encourage a strong culture of innovation. She also acknowledged the valuable contributions of the judging panel, which played a crucial role in evaluating the students' ideas.

The panel consisted of industry and academia experts, including Dr. Jahanzeb Khan (Getz Pharma), Nighat (Dairy Industry), Umair Ahmed (Iqra University), Dr. Ali Haider (HRSG), Engr. Rizwan (Bahria University), and Harris Aziz

The Vice Chancellor of Sohail University expressed immense pride in the creativity and innovative ideas demonstrated by the student teams. He commended ORIC's efforts in bridging academic learning with practical applications, helping students refine their entrepreneurial aspirations.

The event was graced by Karim Teli, Managing Director of Igloo Pakistan and a Shark on Shark Tank Pakistan, who served as the Chief Guest. In his keynote speech. Teli stressed the importance of student-led ventures, particularly those focusing on import substitution.

He discussed crucial entrepreneurial aspects such as market validation, financial sustainability, and value creation, inspiring the students to think beyond conventional boundaries.



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Zigad 17, 1446 A.H.



Economic calm, cautious hope

fter years of economic turbulence, Pakistan is witnessing the first flickers of recovery. Inflation, once soaring at paralyzing levels, has finally begun to cool. The rupee, though still fragile is holding its ground better than many expected The Karachi Stock Exchange, too, is enjoying a rally that some commentators abroad have labelled "Miraculous". But while the numbers may suggest a new dawn, the everyday reality for millions is far more complicated. They are still navigating hunger unemployment, and exhaustion from austerity measures. In truth, recovery is only meaningful if it reaches the people who have waited the longest for relief. Over the past six months, the federal government has embraced a more restrained and focused economic agenda. The exuberance of hollow promises has been replaced, at least for now, by the more sober voice of technocrats.

Muhammad Aurangzeb, the finance minister, has emerged as a key figure in this recalibration Unlike many of his predecessors, Aurangzeb speaks less of political triumph and more of structural repair. His banking pedigree, honed abroad and at home, has given international investors a degree of reassurance. He is not a populist, and perhaps that's why some see him as the steady hand Pakistan desperately needs. International outlets, including Barron's, have not shied away from praising what they see as an improbable turnaround. To call it a "miracle", as the American publication recently did, may be premature, but it signals that the country is no longer being dismissed outright. Inflation, once hovering near 40 percent, has fallen sharply.

Equity markets have surged, and Eurobonds maturing in 2031 have nearly doubled in value. These are important markers. But they also raise a question: whose miracle is this? On the ground, the mood remains subdued. For shopkeepers in Lahore or factory workers in Karachi, the so-called rebound has yet to register. The price of essentials may have stabilized, but food insecurity is still widespread. Small businesses, drained by years of unpredictable policy and high utility costs, are only just managing to stay afloat. Any economic improvement that fails to uplift these communities is at risk of becoming little more than a statistical illu-

There is, however, an undeniable shift in tone from the country's leadership. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, long seen as an efficient administrator with a taste for infrastructure projects, appears to be leaning more heavily on institutional collaboration. His government, with the implicit support of the military, has shown a level of fiscal caution that Pakistan has rarely managed to sustain. For now, this fragile alliance between civilian and military interests has created space for economic recovery to begin. But that space will shrink fast if deeper reforms are dodged. Because make no mistake, what lies ahead is not an easy climb. The International Monetary Fund, whose assistance Pakistan still relies on, is not merely interested in balance sheets. It demands structural change.

It means confronting the entrenched privileges that have protected the wealthy and politically connected for far too long. Subsidies on electricity and fuel, though politically sensitive, must be rationalized. The tax base, notoriously narrow, needs urgent widening to include sectors that have evaded scrutiny for decades. None of these moves are politically attractive.

But Pakistan's future hinges on leaders choosing necessity over convenience. There is a quiet irony in the current situation. Austerity, which often brings governments down, has for now steadied this one.

Yet the real test is still ahead. Can this government move from emergency triage to long-term vision? Can it shift from pleasing international lenders to earning the trust of its own people?

Reform, in this context, cannot just be a matter of technocratic efficiency. It must be seen and felt by the public. When electricity bills shrink not from cuts but from structural corrections, and when taxation is no longer a burden carried only by the salaried class, then perhaps this recovery will begin to look more genuine. There are also lessons to learn from the recent past. Alice Gorman of Walton Capital Management observed that while Pak istan's central bank was forced to hike interest rates dramatically-from 10 percent to 22 percent—the price of controlling inflation was a deep recession. That recession hollowed out local industries and punished consumers. As inflation slows, and with it the pressure to keep interest rates high, there lies an opportunity to build care-

fully.

This moment must not be squandered by returning to the kind of reckless spending and shortterm thinking that led to crisis in the first place. Global investors remain cautiously hopeful. Firms like Sandglass Capital Management, once wary of Pakistan's economic volatility, are now warming to the idea that the country may have turned a corner. Their optimism is valuable, not because foreign capital is a silver bullet, but because it reflects a return of trust-something Pakistan has struggled to

But as Jena Lososki of Sandglass has rightly said, investors like a good story. It is now up to Pakistan's policymakers to write a compelling sequel-one that is honest, inclusive, and rooted in local realities.

For decades, Pakistan's economic strategy has been reactive rather than visionary. Periods of boom have been quickly followed by busts, largely because the political will to fix the structural rot has been missing. Now, with the worst of the panic behind it, the country stands at a delicate threshold. There is a path forward.

But it requires discipline, transparency, and a deeper respect for public welfare. Not slogans. Not

Real, sustained progress. Pakistan's recovery may no longer be an illusion. But whether it becomes a transformation depends not on what the markets say tomorrow, but on what the people feel in the months to come.

Metro Morning and its policy not necessarily consensus with any writer's thoughts

The myth of power shattered

By Uzma Ehtasham



you, it is not courage. In

Yet, in the recent escalation, Pakistan's re- Pakistan's military was incapable? sponse to India's provocations revealed a that was hard to ignore.

addressed: if you are cased the might of its armed forces in a engaging in a tit-for-tat exchange of blows. powerful and you bully way that left no room for doubt or misinter-

On May 10, the world watched as Pakfact, striking someone istan's ballistic missiles struck targets in smaller than you is not a India. The Pakistani Air Force displayed structed narrative, which placed the blame Karachi port were nothing more than fabridisplay of bravery; it is, at best, an act of impressive precision, ensuring that their on Pakistan, was shattered by the real-time cations, he argued. These falsehoods, he cruelty, and at worst, a display of cow- message was impossible to overlook. How- events unfolding on the ground. Indian an- warned, were not only damaging to India's ardice disguised as strength. True courage ever, the Indian media's portrayal of events comes when the weak stand their ground starkly contrasted the reality on the ground. or strike back, often resulting in the dis- Indian news outlets ran sensational stories grace of the bully. This very dynamic un- claiming that Pakistani forces had de- a blunt observation: the true victor in this olded in the recent tensions between Pak- stroyed a key airbase during Prime Minisistan and India. The contrast between the ter Narendra Modi's visit. Yet, upon closer two nations on the battlefield has often inspection, the airbase remained intact, been portrayed as an uneven contest— leaving the question open: Was this a de-India, a regional giant, and Pakistan, a liberate attempt to deceive the public, or Prime Minister's vulnerability on the global smaller power struggling to assert itself. were they simply under the illusion that

surprising twist, turning the tables in a way strikes was not merely a matter of retaliation. The Pakistani military chose its targets When India made provocative moves with care. While India had previously atby discussing mortar strikes, Pakistan did tacked a Pakistani airbase and hit the runnot back down. Instead, the country re- way, Pakistan chose a different path. resented a loss of dignity on the internasponded strategically and decisively, mak- Rather than targeting the runway, which tional front. Jain's assessment pointed to a sional, journalist, and possesses exing it clear that the Line of Control-long would have been a direct challenge to deeper issue: Modi's attempts to control seen as an inviolable boundary—was no India's military infrastructure, Pakistan's the narrative around India's military fail- keen interest in national and internalonger beyond reach. What ensued was strike focused on crucial military assets, ures, particularly the highly publicized de- tional affairs, can be reached at

a potent message to India's leadership and affected. This strategic avoidance high-ened by this embarrassing turn of events. media: a nation built on deceit cannot conlighted not only Pakistan's precision in its Meanwhile, former Indian Minister Aru here is a funda- tinue to ignore the truth. The forcefulness military operations but also its understandmental misconcep- of Pakistan's military response was both ing of the global stage and the importance tion that must be calculated and overwhelming, as it show- of sending a message, rather than merely

> Prime Minister Modi, who has long painted Pakistan as the sole aggressor in ceasefire violations, was now faced with an inconvenient truth. His carefully conalysts, for the first time, were forced to confront this new reality. Senior analyst Manoj try's reputation in the global arena. Jain, appearing on Indian television, made conflict was Pakistan, not India. Jain further noted that Modi had been forced to seek a backdoor resolution from President Donald

Pakistan's response to the Indian backpedaling were not lost on the public. fabricated media claims exposed the situation. His actions, analysts argued, repnot only a display of military might but also ensuring that Modi's visit would remain un- bacle of the Rafale deal, were now threat- uzma@metro-morning.com

Meanwhile, former Indian Minister Arun Shourie was quick to condemn the Indian media's portrayal of the conflict. Describing the media as not just "lapdog media" but "Modi's media," Shourie slammed the exaggerated and false reports that painted a picture of Indian military dominance. Claims that India had taken control of Islamabad and Lahore or destroyed the

credibility but also undermined the coun-

In an era where information flows freely and rapidly, the truth has a unique way of piercing through even the most meticulously crafted lies. The ongoing Pakistan-India conflict has shown us that, despite at-Trump, something that exposed the Indian tempts to manipulate narratives, the real story can only be obscured for so long. In this instance, Pakistan's military response The implications of this diplomatic and the subsequent unraveling of India's Modi, who had once appeared confident in cracks in the narrative that India had so his military prowess, had to grovel before carefully built. The lesson is clear: in the Trump, seeking a way out of the escalating end, truth always prevails, no matter how much effort is invested in its suppression.

The writer is a public health profespertise in health communication, having

Life is 90pc management, 10pc luck

By Atiq Raja



our successes or failures to sheer luck. our emotions shapes our relationships, our However, the real truth is far more nu- mental health, and the choices we make. anced. Life, as we navigate it, is less about we manage what happens. The idea that cial aspect. It's not about having more; it's a student. life is 90 percent management and 10 per- about making the most of what we already

of luck can light the way, but it's the fire-

those who are ready to seize it. The spark their expectations and efforts effectively.

he famous saying, wood of preparation and discipline that bounce back from setbacks—not because lying on luck as a strategy for success is "You can't control keeps the flame burning. Without careful luck has intervened, but because their atti- akin to waiting for rain during a drought: it's the wind, but you management, that spark will fade away, tude and perseverance allow them to recan adjust the sails," per- leaving us with nothing to show for the op- cover and try again. Luck, in its truest captures the portunity. Managing our lives is not just sense, is just a small part of the equation. essence of life's unpre- about our careers or businesses. It extends It's the 10% wildcard that occasionally tips dictable nature. It's a re- far beyond those realms, influencing the the scale in our favor. A job interview might minder that while we very fabric of our existence. Time is per- come your way by chance, but it's the while luck might give them a brief advancannot dictate the cir- haps the most precious resource we man- preparation and skill you bring to the table tage, it's their skill in management—how cumstances that come our way, we do age. How we allocate our hours, how we fill that ultimately determines whether you land they handle their time, their relationships, have control over how we respond to them. our days, defines not only our years but the job. Meeting a mentor might feel like their emotions, and their resources—that Life constantly presents us with twists of also the quality of our lives. Our emotional fate, but it's your willingness to learn, grow, fate—some fortunate, others not so much— intelligence, too, is a critical tool for suc- and implement their wisdom that makes the and in these moments, it's easy to attribute cess. The ability to understand and regulate difference. Similarly, the circumstances of our upbringing or the serendipity of chance encounters may shape our lives, but it's pens, how we manage our circumstances, Managing our resources—whether fi- how we manage those opportunities that and how we create opportunities out of the what happens to us and more about how nancial, mental, or physical—is another cru-makes them meaningful. Take, for instance,

cent luck underscores the importance of possess. The way we make decisions plays school they were born into, but the way they success. So, while it's always nice to have preparation and control in shaping our des- a pivotal role as well. Every choice we manage their time, approach their studies, tinies. It's easy to romanticize luck. We make, no matter how small, compounds and seek out opportunities will determine thriving in life lies in our ability to manage, often imagine that success is tied to mo- over time, influencing our paths in ways we their success. The same is true for an en- adapt, and make the most of every situation ments of serendipity—the sudden windfall might not even realize. Success, as we trepreneur. While getting the attention of an that comes our way. of a lottery win, being born into privilege, or often see it, is rarely a product of blind luck. investor may seem like luck, it's the ability meeting the right person at just the right. It is often the result of consistent effort, dis- to plan, adapt, and remain persistent that of AR Trainings and Consultancy, with cipline, and the ability to adapt and learn. transforms an idea into a thriving business. But this view neglects a fundamental Those who succeed are not necessarily the And in relationships, while chance might Literature, can be reached at truth: luck, as fleeting as it is, only works for luckiest; they are the ones who manage bring two people together, it is the ongoing news@metro-morning.com

effort, communication, and mutual under-They are the ones who know how to standing that allow the bond to flourish. Repossible, but fraught with uncertainty. Those who thrive in life are not those who gamble on fate; they are the ones who manage their reality.

They are the ones who understand that determines the long-term outcome. At the end of the day, life is not simply about what happens to us.

It's about how we respond to what hapchallenges we face. We cannot control the wind, but we can adjust the sails-and in They might not have had a choice in the doing so, we chart our own course toward a bit of luck on our side, the real secret to

> The writer is a rights activist and CEO degrees in Political Science and English

Pakistan from inception to present

By Waseem Akram



Islamic Republic of can match. Pakistan in August was a moment of pro- the north. found change, born out of

continent), a process that led to the birth of millions. Pakistan emerged as a state founded on the principles of religious identity, specifically for Muslims, and its establishment came at a time of great upheaval and hope. It was a new chapter for the millions of Muslims who had struggled to forge dominance of the Hindu majority in India.

When Pakistan was admitted to the sources to reach the global markets. United Nations in September 1947, it largest country in the Muslim world by pop-

he creation of the fluence that few other nations in the region

Pakistan's location on the map places it most significant events in India to the east, Iran to the west,

This proximity to some of the world's the partition of India (sub- most powerful and influential nations is part of what makes Pakistan's geopolitical imtwo nations and the mass displacement of portance undeniable. Situated at the crossroads of South Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan controls key maritime and land trade routes, which have historically connected the Arabian Sea with the interior of routes are critical not only for trade but also a separate homeland, one that would allow for the energy flows that sustain economies. them to live according to their own faith and Pakistan is, therefore, a crucial link between traditions, free from what they saw as the energy-rich Central Asia and the rest of the China and Pakistan share common strateworld, serving as a bridge for energy re-

However, despite its strategic location marked the beginning of a journey that and economic potential, Pakistan has been would define its identity and position on the mired in long-standing conflicts, most noglobal stage. From its humble beginnings, tably with its neighbor, India. The two coun-Pakistan grew to become the second- tries share a contentious history, with the closely cooperating on defense matters, in- Pakistan continues to assert its relevance in Kashmir dispute remaining one of the cenulation, and the only Muslim-majority nation tral points of conflict. The dispute dates back to possess nuclear weapons. This distinc- to the partition itself when both India and tive military capabilities. tion has significantly impacted Pakistan's Pakistan claimed sovereignty over the rerole in the global geopolitical arena, particu- gion of Kashmir. For decades, this territorial close ties with the broader Muslim world, in- ing.com

larly as the possession of nuclear weapons disagreement has led to numerous wars cluding countries like Saudi Arabia, Turkey, grants the country a level of security and in- and continuous military standoffs. The Line and the Gulf Arab nations. These relationbut both countries continue to claim the en- icant part of Pakistan's foreign policy frame-1947 was one of the in a highly strategic position, bordered by tirety of the region. Since 2019, relations be- work. During the Cold War, Pakistan was a South Asian history. It Afghanistan to the northwest, and China to lows, with India's controversial decision to closely in the fight against Soviet expansion. granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, tries became strained after the events of further aggravating the situation. Since then, diplomatic ties have been frozen, and reheightened tensions and the risk of further

> On the global stage, Pakistan's foreign relations reflect its complex position as a na-Asia. In today's globalized world, these tion straddling multiple spheres of influence. Over the years, Pakistan has built strong bilateral ties with China, a relationship that has only grown stronger in recent decades. gic interests, and China's Belt and Road Initiative has seen significant infrastructure including the development of nuclear technology and the strengthening of their respec-

of Control (LoC), a ceasefire line drawn in ships are built on shared religious, cultural 1949, has served as a de facto boundary, and historical bonds, and they form a signiftween Pakistan and India have reached new vital ally of the United States, cooperating revoke Article 370 of its constitution, which However, relations between the two coun-9/11 and Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror, particularly in Afghanistan. While gional stability has been threatened by the U.S. and Pakistan continue to engage diplomatically, their relationship has often been marked by mistrust, with Pakistan seeking greater autonomy in its foreign pol-

Pakistan is also an active member of various international organizations, including the Commonwealth of Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). These memberships underscore Pakistan's efforts to balance its alliances vestments in Pakistan, especially through and position itself as an important player in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor global diplomacy. Despite its internal chal-(CPEC). This partnership is not only ecolenges, including political instability, economic but also military, with both countries nomic struggles, and security concerns, international affairs.

The writer is a student of political science and keen observer of geopolitics, Additionally, Pakistan has maintained can be reached at news@metro-morn-

Ceasefire redraws strategic lines?

By Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri

able relief to millions across the border after days of unprecedented aerial strikes, drone warfare and cross-border shelling.

intervention (supported by key regional and alongside the nuclear deterrents, where EU players), the truce is a diplomatic win for both sides are even. Islamabad – achieved through a perfect mix of military deterrence, international diplomacy and domestic unity.

Facing a far larger neighbour with supepending \$1.1 billion IMF tranche, on the pretext of 'military misuse of funds', was a clear economic squeeze tactic. Such a move, along with the Indian government's decision in abeyance, threatened to derail macro-

economic stability. mentation of the IMF programme, it es- the stakes. caped India's direct attempt at economic

the May 10 ceasefire between India istan could have resulted in the destabilisaand Pakistan has brought consider- tion of the rupee, capital flight, shattered air war far less appealing. fragile investor confidence, and disrupted

In this regard, deploying newly inducted J-10C fighter jets proved to be a game-PL-15 long-range missiles, these jets neurior conventional military strength (ten times tralised India's assumed air superiority post calated. the higher defence budget) and economic the Rafale fighter jets. The Pakistan Air power (10 times the higher GDP and nearly Force's combat air patrols with J-10Cs and skillfully. India's attempt to block Pakistan's calation and possessed credible deterrence leverage. capabilities.

(Bunyanum-Marsoos or Iron Wall) in response to India's attempted missile strikes compelled the White House to act. Ultito unilaterally hold the Indus Waters treaty on its airbases demonstrated its capability and resolve to retaliate effectively. This military response showed India that Pakistan by Gulf interlocutors, culminated in an in-Thanks to Pakistan's consistent imple- was prepared for sustained conflict, raising stant ceasefire.

ance in the IMF programme was not suffi- further confrontation. The J-10C presence treat from India's position of not 'internation- to Islamabad's position.

nancing, a prolonged war imposed on Pak- also altered the psychological calculus in duced an unexpected internal dividend for Delhi, making the prospect of a prolonged

where Pakistan had to demonstrate its con- QUAD - intended as India's Indo-Pacific sesent, with the US belatedly opting for bilateral crisis management and Australia and on the international stage. Japan maintaining a conspicuous silence. Similarly, the SCO, where both India and tional irrelevance laid bare as the conflict es-

For India, this isolation revealed an un-42 times the higher foreign exchange re- shooting down India's fighter jets sent a with Pakistan flare, geopolitical alliances dian media outlets. serves), Pakistan played its limited cards clear signal: Islamabad was prepared for es- offer symbolic weight but limited practical

Washington's initial reluctance to medi-Pakistan's robust counter-operation ate stemmed from a desire to avoid entan- flooded social media. For Pakistan, counglement. However, the rapid escalation mately, US diplomatic intervention, via Secretary of State Marco Rubio and facilitated factual clarity.

While Prime Minister Modi is under se-

cient. Besides suspending critical external fi- not only balanced the tactical equation but alising' the Kashmir issue, the conflict pro-Pakistan: national unity. In a politically polarised landscape, the crisis acted as a uni-The standoff also exposed the strategic fying force. Opposition parties, including the the continuity of remittance flows. That is limitations of India's multilateral bets. The PTI, momentarily set aside their differences to present a bipartisan front. This rare cohe-Brokered with reluctant but decisive US ventional military might to act as a deterrent curity cushion - proved diplomatically absion strengthened Pakistan's internal resilience while also amplifying its credibility

> The information war during the standoff was no less intense than the kinetic conflict. changer. With advanced AESA radars and Pakistan sit, remained sidelined, its institu- Both sides engaged in aggressive narrative battles, but what marked a dangerous new frontier was the disruptive use of misinformation, deepfakes, and Al-generated imcomfortable reality: when bilateral tensions ages even by many of the mainstream In-

Viral videos of fabricated clips showing destroyed Pakistani airbases and destruction in Karachi as a result of Indian missiles tering this onslaught became a critical front. Official channels and Pakistani media successfully debunked fake news and restored

China's role, though understated publicly, was instrumental. Beyond supplying J-10Cs, Beijing's quiet diplomatic engage-These technological leaps forced Indian vere pressure from India's major opposition ments with Washington, emphasising the strangulation. However, a steadier perform- strategic planners to reassess the costs of parties, especially regarding the visible re- risks of unchecked escalation, added weight



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PM lauds military for decisive action under "Marqa-e-Haq" in Sialkot

The Prime Minister was given a detailed operational briefing and the current readiness of the Corps deployed in the region, underscoring the government's active wartime oversight

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, flanked by top members of his cabinet and military leadership, visited Pasrur Cantonment in Sialkot to commend the Armed Forces for their decisive role in Operation Bunvanum Marsoos, a major engagement under what has now been framed by the state as Marqa-e-Haq.

Accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, the premier's presence was described as ceived a detailed operational to the adversary's dastardly a gesture of solidarity and briefing on the battle's con- aggression." He went on to rifice. gratitude to troops on the duct and the present state of assert that history would frontline. Chief of Army Staff readiness of the Corps sta- record this moment as one a General Syed Asim Munir tioned in the region. Lauding where Pakistan's defenders where the Prime Minister and Chief of Air Staff Air the professionalism and extinguished India's "unpro- was warmly received by the Marshal Zaheer Ahmed quick response by Pak- voked aggression" within Chief of Army Staff and Baber Sidhu were also pres- istan's Armed Forces, he hours, with "unmarched pre- Corps Commander Gujranent during the high-level visit, stated, "The valiant Armed cision and resolve." which was marked by Forces of Pakistan, fortified solemn tributes and firm by the unwavering resolve of not mince words when ad- and military leadership durreaffirmations of Pakistan's the nation, defended the dressing the civilian toll of re- ing one of the most tense

military preparedness. The Prime Minister re- ner and dealt a decisive blow what he termed the "blatant history.

Kamal directs

immediate

increase in

local vaccine

production

ISLAMABAD: Mustafa

Kamal, federal minister for

health, has called for im-

mediate measures to

boost local vaccine pro-

duction. He stressed the

importance of national

self-reliance in this critical

sector, aiming not only to

meet domestic needs but

also to enable exports.

prevention and control.

Mustafa Kamal highlighted

the strong connection be-

tween polluted water and

the high incidence of dis-

eases in Pakistan. He re-

Pakistan are caused by

water pollution, the dream

of a healthy Pakistan canbe realized."

age of clean drinking

water remains a serious challenge, forcing many to

rely on unsafe and contaminated sources that

contribute to widespread

forts must focus on pro-

tecting the public from dis-

eases and increasing

awareness among the

population. He called for the development of a comprehensive national policy

involving all relevant

these pressing issues.

ongoing initiatives.

Kamal urged that ef-

illnesses.

He pointed out that the short- and spare parts.

(NIH) in

News Desk

Washington.

we solve the issue of freeze on Boeing orders, aircraft.

Kamal further emphasized | two of the world's largest

that water and sanitation economies, China has lifted

must be integral to the na- its ban on the import of Boe-

tional strategy for disease | ing aircraft from the United

National Institute of Health | cluded between Beijing and

Islamabad.

During his visit to the agreement recently con-

BEIJING: In a significant

development reflecting an

easing of tensions between

States, following a trade

According to Bloomberg,

carriers to halt the import of

marked, "Most diseases in | Boeing jets manufactured in safety concerns and the planes amid the post-pan-

jing ordered its state-owned in the aerospace sector.

By our correspondent



motherland in a heroic man- cent hostilities, condemning episodes in recent regional

China lifts Boeing

import ban after thaw in

US trade ties

Beijing ordered state-owned airlines to suspend

Boeing imports and steer clear of American aviation

equipment and parts, deepening a rift in the

intensifying US-China trade standoff

formed domestic airlines one of its largest markets, at China, resuming aircraft im-

to resume purchases of was also grappling with growing demand for new

under the administration of signaling continuing compli- this shift as a strategic ges-

former US President Donald cations in the trade relation- ture of goodwill and a poten-

Trump, saw the imposition ship. But today's news sug-tial harbinger of further col-

ing a 145% duty on Chinese the two economic giants high-stakes sectors. Still,

goods entering American may be entering a more co- analysts warn that while this

markets. In retaliation, Bei- operative phase — at least move is a positive sign,

Boeing aircraft and avoid expected to bring much- ing disputes over technolprocurement of American- needed relief to Boeing, ogy, national security, and made aviation equipment which has faced mounting fi- geopolitical influence — re-

of sweeping tariffs — includ- gests that relations between laboration

aviation network.

broader tensions between

The lifting of the ban is the US and China — includ-

nancial pressures and in- main far from resolved.

aggression" that resulted in the martyrdom of children, women, and the elderly. Labeling the Indian claims of targeting militants as "utterly shameful," he accused New Delhi of violating international norms and refusing independent investigations.
"They had nothing to prove.
Fueled by arrogance and false pretext, they launched an offensive for which they have now received a befitting response — Alhamdulil-

lah," he added. Shehbaz Sharif also paid operation, saying they remain the eternal pride of the nation and that Pakistan would never forget their sac-

The visit concluded with ceremonial reception, wala, reflecting the close co-The Prime Minister did ordination between civilian

Part of MNA's house damaged in Bajaur's explosion

By our correspondent

BAJAUR: An explosion near the home of Member of National Assembly Mubarak Zeb in Bajaur has caused significant damage, authorities confirmed, though fortunately no one was injured. According to District Police Officer Waqas Rafiq, the blast was triggered by a remote-controlled planted near the boundary wall of the lawmaker's residence. Mubarak Zeb was not present at the time of the attack

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Ministry

of Maritime Affairs has

launched a concerted effort

to develop a comprehensive

ing directives from Federal

Minister Junaid Anwar. The

minister underscored the ur-

gent need for reforms within

Pakistan's maritime sector.

\$100 billion annually.

and

tainable maritime industries

technology.

Blue Economy Policy, follow-

The explosion shattered the gate of the property, raising concerns about security in the region. Police have launched an investigation to identify those responsible, as the incident underscores tribute to the martyrs of the ongoing challenges of violence and intimidation faced by public figures in the area.

In a statement following the attack, Mubarak Zeb expressed relief that no lives were lost but condemned the act as cowardly. He vowed that such violence would not deter him from his political mission or weaken his resolve. Highlighting a personal connection, he reaffirmed his commitment to carrying forward the vision of his martyred brother, signaling that despite threats, his dedication to public service remains unshaken.

Measles cases surge in Khairpur

By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: Khairpur is witnessing a concerning surge in measles cases, with 97 children hospitalized in just four months at | News Desk the Paediatrics Unit of the Khairpur Medical College City Hospital. Tragically, two deaths have been reported among the affected children, prompting growing alarm among health professionals and the local community.

increase measles cases has put a lack of available beds, heated exchanges between doctors and parents have become a routine occurrence. These tensions The move significantly creasing competition from its sometimes disrupt emer-Chinese regulators have in- curtailed Boeing's access to European rival, Airbus. For gency services and outpatient departments (OPDs), that they are now permitted a time when the company ports may help meet its further complicating the sit-

"The situation is dire. the US. The decision marks global fallout from the demic travel rebound and We are facing overcrowdcontaminated water. Until a reversal of a years-long grounding of its 737 MAX expansion of its domestic ing, and the parents' frustration is understandable, which began during the height of the US-China trade war.

Last month, Boeing's deheight of the US-China trade livery center in China reportham edly returned at least three precise terms of the agreement aircraft to the United States, ment, industry insiders see lated in a understandable, but it is affecting the smooth functioning of emergency services," said a doctor from the Paediatrics Unit. Health professionals are increasingly concerned that the rising other number of measles cases is indicative of a failure in vaccination efforts.

highlighting its vast untapped Speaking about the initiarently faces major chal- trends, leveraging the blue tive, Junaid Anwar stressed lenges, particularly the lack economy to support broader that the policy would be of modern infrastructure and economic development technology within its mar- goals. As the government shaped through extensive consultations with all rele- itime activities, which hin- works towards finalizing the vant stakeholders. He emders the sector's growth po- policy, stakeholders across phasized that sectors such tential. as fishing, tourism, and ship-

Pakistan eyes \$100bn

from "Blue Economy"

Federal Minister Junaid Anwar stressed that fishing,

tourism, and shipping could become major pillars of national income if nurtured through strategic

planning and modern technological investment

ping hold significant promise for boosting national income, provided they are de- industry and the establish- benefits while safeguarding veloped with strategic plan- ment of green ports-initiamodern tives that could not only en-Anwar drew attention to also promote environmental pected to position Pakistan the global blue economy's sustainability. These areas, as a competitive player in reexpansive reach, now val- he noted, offer promising av- gional and global maritime ued at around \$1.5 trillion, a enues for job creation, in-markets, opening doors to figure that reflects the in- vestment, and technological new revenue streams and creasing importance of sus- advancement.

This move signals Pak- coastal communities.

potential to generate up to worldwide. He acknowl- istan's intent to align its maredged that Pakistan cur- itime policies with global

public and private sectors The minister also high- will be closely involved to lighted emerging opportuni- ensure a balanced approach ties in the shipping recycling that maximizes economic

marine ecosystems. The Blue Economy Polhance economic returns but icy, once implemented, is exsustainable growth

Global finance magazine dubs Pakistan's economy a 'miracle'

WASHINGTON: A leading global financial magazine has described Pakistan's recent economic turnaround as nothing short of a 'miracle,' urging investors not to overlook the country's potential. Barron, a respected publication affiliated with the Wall Street Journal, highsevere strain on the Paedi- lighted Pakistan's dramatic

be a costly mistake. markets.

Shahbaz Sharif and his military allies are presented with risky proposition. both strong economic incenthe country. Inflation, which achievement in macroeco-

nomic management.



Care Hospital. Due to a challenges, warning that ig-price of Pakistan's Euro

Economist Salimi cred- runaway inflation. tives and political momen- ited Shahbaz Sharif and his One striking indicator of istan's external economic during prosperity.

noring the nation now could bonds maturing in 2031, vestments at Sandglass which has doubled, rising Capital Management, called The report pointed to the from 40 cents to 80 cents on Pakistan a "good story," unremarkable rise in the the dollar. This shift reflects derlining the renewed in-Karachi Stock Exchange a reassessment of Pak- vestor interest. Alison Graindex, which has tripled in istan's credit risk by interna- ham, Chief Investment value, reflecting renewed tional investors, with firms Officer at Walton Capital confidence in Pakistan's like Sandglass Capital Man- Management, noted how the agement, known for buying central bank's aggressive in-This surge comes at a bonds in emerging markets terest rate hikes—from 10 time when Prime Minister with fragile debt profiles, now percent to 22 percent—had viewing the country as a less induced a recession but ultimately succeeded in taming

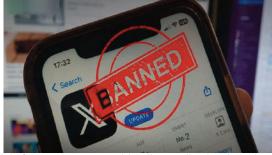
As Pakistan moves fortum to continue stabilising administration for laying the ward, the nation stands at a groundwork for this stabilisa- crossroads, balancing newhad soared to nearly 40 per-tion, which followed a near-found economic gains with cent annually, has been bankruptcy crisis in 2022- the difficult path of reform. brought down to nearly zero, 2023. The country's balance The global spotlight remains signalling a significant of payments has shifted to keenly focused, waiting to positive territory, marking a see whether this 'miracle' critical turnaround in Pak- can be transformed into en-

India blocks Turkish, Chinese state media accounts on 'X'

News Desk

stakeholders to tackle NEW DEHLI: In a continued display of hardline censorship and retaliatory diplo-During his visit, he in-India's Modi-led spected various vaccine macy, production facilities at government has escalated its NIH, including advanced suppression of foreign media laboratories such as the voices by blocking the social media accounts of prominent Public Health Lab, the Polio Regional Reference Turkish and Chinese state-Laboratory, and the Water and Food Testing Lab. He run outlets. The crackdown, carried out on X (formerly also toured the Sera Action Vaccine Production Turkish Broadcasting Corpo-Center, where he received ration TRT World, China's Global Times, and Xinhua detailed briefings on the production process, current capacity, them of spreading misinforand possibilities for expan-

sion. Additionally, at the ens India's national integrity. National Health Data Center, CEO Dr Muhammad Salman provided him with fairs issued a joint statement an extensive overview of justifying the move. They and deceptive content." claimed that these media



Twitter), has targeted the platforms were engaged in dian media, the clampdown ther alleged that the foreign tination. The Indian Ministries of outlets were attempting to

what they described as "pro- coincides with a growing paganda dissemination," par- wave of public sentiment ticularly on sensitive topics in- against Turkey, which in-News Agency — accusing volving India's security, cludes boycotts of Turkish military affairs, and territorial goods and a visible decline in mation that allegedly threat- matters. The statement fur- its popularity as a travel des-

These developments are Information and External Af- manipulate Indian public widely interpreted as a direct | opinion through "unverified consequence of Turkey's vocal support for Pakistan in According to reports in In- recent regional matters.

SHC disposes of petitions regarding missing persons

developments in the respective cases.

According to a report closed the cases. submitted by the investigating officer, Mohammad ings, the court also re-

During the proceed- country.

However, in a separate ance.

Naveed, who had gone ferred other ongoing matter involving a 23missing from the Saud- cases involving alleged year-old woman who had KARACHI: The Sindh abad area, and Ahmed forced disappearances to reportedly gone missing High Court has disposed Shameem, missing from the Missing Persons Com- from North Nazimabad, of multiple petitions con- the Awami Colony area of mission for further inquiry. the court rejected the peticerning the return and re- Karachi, have both The Commission, estab- tion for her recovery. The covery of missing per- safely returned to their lished to deal with such court clarified that the sons, following homes. sensitive cases, continues case did not meet the With their return con- to oversee the broader legal criteria of a "missing firmed, the court formally issue of enforced disap- persons" case, as there pearances across the were no claims of abduction or forced disappear-

Sindh takes tough stance on smoke-emitting vehicles

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: The Sindh a few weeks. **Environment Department** Environment,

opment, has already in- line to address the pollution won't be on the road, it'll be

Of those inspected, 94 from the roads. has launched an intensified vehicles were found complia new zero-tolerance policy control standards. Mean-

spected 133 vehicles in just issues, after which their ve- in the workshop. hicles face being barred

crackdown on smoke-emit- ant with environmental reg- clear about the intent be- of the consequences of polting vehicles across the ulations and were awarded hind the campaign, stress- lution, making it easier for province, with a particular green stickers, signalling ing that the drive goes be- authorities and the public to focus on Karachi, as part of their adherence to pollution yound merely issuing fines. identify vehicles contribut-"This is not just a challan ing to Karachi's air quality aimed at curbing air pollu- while, 39 vehicles emitting drive — it's a step towards challenges. The initiative tion. The campaign, initi- excessive smoke were improtecting the lungs of our will continue throughout ated on 5 May under the dimediately fined and issued children and the elderly," he Karachi until 29 May, with rect orders of Agha red stickers, serving as a said, underscoring the officials instructed to main-Shahnawaz, Secretary for clear warning to their own-health stakes involved. "Any tain rigorous checks and Climate ers. Those drivers have vehicle failing to meet the apply the regulations with-Change and Coastal Devel- been given a 15-day dead- environmental standards out exception.

The visible serve both as a mark of Agha Shahnawaz was compliance and a reminder

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