Metro Mornina Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Vol. No. 2, Issue No. 155

COAS Munir promoted to 'Field Marshal' after India victory

The Prime Minister praised General Munir's exceptional military leadership, bravery, and strategic command for safeguarding the homeland and upholding national integrity

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved the promotion of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir to the prestigious rank of Field Marshal, marking only the second time in Pakistan's history that this rank has been awarded. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the nation and the cess" in the recent conflict the unprovoked Indian as-

during a high-level cabinet areas including women and meeting chaired by the children, which was con- Sidhu's service beyond re- was a school principal and on Syria. Prime Minister, where min- demned as a blatant viola- tirement and announced naisters hailed Operation Bun-tion of Pakistan's sover-tional awards for officers, yan Mursoos as a historic eignty. victory that thwarted Indian aggression and safe- leadership, the armed forces operation. guarded Pakistan's sover- responded with exemplary

heartfelt congratulations to eral Munir for his "excep- praising General Munir's pointment. Munir is the only the entire Pakistani nation tional military leadership,

Rubio warns

of tough road

ahead in Iran

nuclear talks

WASHINGTON: US

Secretary of State Marco

Rubio has admitted that

News Desk



military leadership for what and the failure of enemy de- defence of the homeland he called a "resounding suc- signs." The cabinet recalled and national integrity.

sault on the night of 6-7 The decision was taken May 2025, targeting civilian

on the brilliant success of bravery and strategic comforces' professionalism in tory to have led both Military Operation Bunyan Mursoos mand," which ensured the defending the nation. "Gen-Intelligence and ISI.

Alongside the promotion, the cabinet approved the ex- from a Punjabi family with tension of Air Chief Marshal roots in Jalandhar, India. His Zaheer Ahmed Babar father, Syed Sarwar Munir, soldiers, veterans, martyrs early religious education and Under General Munir's and civilians involved in the was also a skilled local fast

eignty.

In his remarks, PM Shehaz Sharif said, "I extend Prime Minister lauded Gen-Minister at Aiwan-e-Sadr, eral at the time of his apleadership and the armed army chief in Pakistan's his-

Field Marshal," the President said.

Field Marshal Asim Munir expressed deep gratitude, dedicating the honor to the nation, the armed forces he said in an official ISPR statement.

Born in Rawalpindi in 1968, General Munir hails mosque imam

Rawalpindi. Munir received bowler in cricket. He be-President Asif Ali Zardari came the 11th Chief of Army

Trump unveils \$175bn 'Golden Dome'

The breakthrough will redefine global warfare, showcasing America's unmatched edge in cutting-edge innovation and technological dominance

News Desk

negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program remain fraught with diffi-WASHINGTON: US culty, describing the path to a comprehensive President Donald Trump has agreement as far from announced an ambitious straightforward. Addressnew missile defence program, dubbed the "Golden Dome," which he claims will ing the Senate Foreign Committee, Rubio said the current surpass all existing systems talks have largely focused in scope, cost, and technoon Iran's uranium enrich- logical superiority. In a charcapabilities—an acteristically bold declaraarea that continues to pro- tion, Trump said the initiative concern among Western powers. "We're offering Iran a clear path to peace and

Rubio told prosperity," lawmakers, though he tempered expectations by acknowledging the complex nature of the talks. "It



won't be easy, but we remain engaged in the negotiation process," he added, underscoring the Biden administration's desire to revive diplomacy without offering false hopes of an imminent breakthrough.

Rubio also took the opportunity to clarify reports circulating about US in-volvement in Palestinian relocations. He Washington has not dis- News Desk cussed evacuating Palestinians from Libya to Gaza, pushing back on speculation that the US was engineering such movements. Instead, he stallation of anti-aircraft explained, the US is in dialogue with regional partners, encouraging them to voluntarily host displaced Palestinians from Gaza amid the growing humanitarian crisis.

While nuclear diplomacy with Iran remains a key pillar of US foreign policy, Rubio's comments reflect the broader regional challenges Washington faces, from nuclear unfounded and ridiculous." non-proliferation mounting displacement and deprivation in Gaza. The stakes remain high, and the road ahead—both in Tehran and in the war-

torn Palestinian enclaveis anything but smooth.



would be fully operational before the end of his term, to secure American skies trial borders. Critics are likely positioning it as a corner- and bolster strategic re- to raise questions about the stone of American military silience amid rising global feasibility, cost, and geopolitsupremacy and a new chap- tensions. His announcement ical implications of the projter in space-based defence. comes at a time when con- ect, especially as space in-Valued at \$175 billion, cerns over hypersonic creasingly

sisting it will outperform Is- across the globe. rael's Iron Dome-long re-

clear the system is intended sive posture beyond terres- above.



the Golden Dome will be de- weapons and renewed contested domain veloped entirely within the great-power rivalries are fu-

becomes

However, for Trump, who United States, with Trump in- eling military investments has long positioned himself as a president who champi-Although he confirmed ons military strength and garded as one of the world's he had not yet broached the American exceptionalism, most effective missile de- subject with Russian Presi- the Golden Dome reprefence systems. "This will be dent Vladimir Putin, Trump sents more than a defence more advanced than any- left little doubt about the sys- shield—it is a declaration of thing the world has ever tem's space-bound aspira- intent. As the world watches seen," he said, emphasizing tions. He disclosed that parts with a mix of scepticism and the American edge in inno- of the Golden Dome would concern, the launch of the vation and high-tech war- orbit the Earth, integrating Golden Dome may well satellite tracking and space- reignite debate over the mili-While he refrained from based interceptors in a move tarisation of space and the explicitly naming any state that signals a dramatic ex- escalating race for strategic as a threat, Trump made it pansion of American defen- dominance in the skies

Indian Army's claim on Golden Temple attack proven 'baseless'

AMRITSAR: The Indian army's allegations of Pakistani attacks on the guns at the sacred site have been strongly refuted. Gyani Raghubir Singh, the chief Granthi of Darbar baseless

Speaking to the media, places are not targets. he said it was inconceiv-The army's claim, made by Lieutenant Someraiwan, that the anti- bar Sahib. aircraft guns were installed



missed the Indian govern- had, he would never have action would never have ment's accusations as allowed any military activity been permitted. at the holy site, as religious

able for anyone to attack the lieutenant general's tel- eral's statement to cover Darbar Sahib and called evised statement as "com- up its own falsehoods. Folthe army's claims "false, plete lies and groundless lowing Singh's clarification, propaganda," emphasizing the Indian army retracted that no one is allowed to its claim about the installa-

the army never sought his ing the time in question. has already rejected.

Sahib in Amritsar, dis- consent, and even if they Even if he had been, such

The Sikh leader accused the Indian army of Singh also described using the lieutenant gen-Granthi, was also firmly re- April to 14 May and was missile attacks on the site,

King Salman hails Trump's visit

News Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Ara-bia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz praised the results of the recent visit by US eral Munir rightly deserves | President Donald Trump this historic elevation to during a cabinet meeting held under his chairmanship in Riyadh.

The Saudi cabinet described the visit as a "historic step" in strengthening bilateral ties, particularly in and especially the martyrs strategic and economic and veterans. "This is not a personal achievement but a visit opened a new chapter tribute to the armed forces and the people of Pakistan," of cooperation between the two countries.

News Desk

BEIJING: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has reiterated Beijing's unwaver-ing support for Pakistan's

sovereignty and regional in-

tegrity, calling for peaceful

resolution of long-standing

disputes between Pakistan and India through dialogue

and negotiation. The re-

marks came during a high-

level meeting in Beijing with

tegrity," Wang declared,

During the meeting, the cabinet also welcomed the US President's positive response Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's diplomatic efforts aimed at lifting sanctions

King Salman said lifting the sanctions would help pave the way for rebuilding the war-torn country and boosting its development.

The tone of the cabinet was hopeful, with emphasis on long-term regional stability and mutual economic benefits.

Ogra clears gas tariff revisions, federal approval pending

By our correspondent

"China stands firmly with Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial in
"China stands firmly with provinces and the broader As tensions simmer between Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial in
"The stands firmly with provinces and the broader As tensions simmer between Pakistan and India, and with global attention fixed on ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's oil and gas regulator has approved revisions in gas tariffs for the coun- strategic partnership that has discussions with Yu Jian- to assert its role as both metry's two major distribution companies — Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui South-Company Gas (SSGC).

The decision now awaits a final approval from the federal government before a formal notification is issued.

According to a spokesperson for the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), the recommended adjustment includes a reduction of Rs103.95 per MMBTU in News Desk SSGC's tariff, while an increase of Rs116.90 per MMBTU has been proposed for SNGPL.

the upcoming financial Gaza, expressing profound year 2025–26 in mind, sorrow and outrage over the particularly to address the suffering of Palestinian civilrevenue shortfalls projected by both companies. | lenting military offensive. Ogra has also recommended that the federal gas prices based on con-

targeted pricing. SNGPL's gas manage- in ruins, and entire families end to the bloodshed. ment practices before the rendered homeless in what Her statement cor federal government, urg-|she called an unfolding a time when images of ema-sault on Gaza. With her reping it to weigh in on critical tragedy. operational considera-

new tariff structure.

Malala voices heartbreak over Gaza, urges world to act

China reaffirms

support for Pakistan

amid India tensions

China stands firmly with Pakistan in defending its

sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang said,

reinforcing a decades-old alliance rooted in

unwavering strategic trust

Pakistan's Deputy Prime "all-weather friends." His that exchange, both sides

Minister and Foreign Minis- comments come at a mo- expressed a strong commit-

ter, Ishaq Dar, underscoring ment when Islamabad finds ment to enhancing political

China's growing diplomatic itself navigating both rising ties between their respective

engagement in South Asia conflict along its eastern bor- parties. Yu described Pak-

According to a statement In addition to regional seto underscore Beijing's spereleased by China's foreign curity, the talks also touched cial diplomatic relationship

ministry, Wang stressed that on expanding cooperation with Islamabad. He affirmed

achieving a comprehensive between Pakistan and China that China would continue to

and durable ceasefire is es- in critical development sec- prioritize relations with Pak-

sential to preventing further tors. Wang urged deeper istan, not just at the state instability in the region. He collaboration in industry, level, but also through party-

ences through peaceful nomic growth to stability in meetings in Beijing underline means, signaling China's the region. He also called for China's position as a central

preference for diplomacy strengthened joint efforts in player in Pakistan's diplo-

over confrontation between counter-terrorism, reflecting matic calculus and as a po-

its two nuclear-armed neigh- China's concern over militant tential stabilizing force in the

Prior to the foreign minis-

reaffirming a long-standing ters' meeting, Dar also held China appears determined

seen the two nations repeat- chao, a senior Chinese diator and development part-

edly describe each other as Communist Party official. In ner.

spillover in its western broader South Asian region.

amid escalating regional ten- der and economic vulnerabil-

ities at home.

underlined the need for both agriculture, energy, and min-sides to address their differereal resources, linking eco-

NEW YORK: Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai has broken her si-The proposed changes lence on the deepening huhave been developed with manitarian catastrophe in ians caught in Israel's unre-In a powerful message

shared on social media, the

Once the summary re- has long spoken out against screens and feeds around sider their silence and comceives federal approval, injustice, did not mince her the globe, sparking protests plicity. But in a conflict that Ogra will issue the official words as she called on the and urgent appeals from aid has already claimed thounotification reflecting the world to acknowledge the agencies.



government determine Pakistani education activist ing place in the besieged enfrom human rights groups and global advocate for clave. "This is a matter of hu- and civil society, there has sumer categories to en- human rights described the manity," she wrote, her voice been little movement toward sure more structured and scenes from Gaza as "heart-cutting through the noise of a ceasefire or a tangible hubreaking," particularly the international politics and manitarian breakthrough. Additionally, Ogra has sight of children starving, diplomatic platitudes that Malala's intervention placed the matter of schools and hospitals lying have so far failed to bring an adds weight to the chorus of

ciated children, destroyed utation for moral clarity and Malala, who herself sur- homes, and overwhelmed courage, her voice may yet vived a violent attack and hospitals have flooded stir those in power to recon-

istan as China's "iron brother," a phrase often used

The series of high-level

flashpoints around the world,

international figures de-Her statement comes at manding an end to the as-Yet despite sands of lives, time is not on scale of human suffering tak- mounting condemnation the side of the innocent.

UAE, **US** seal pact for enhanced military partnership

News Desk

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates and the United States have formalized a new defence agreement designed to intensify their military cooperation and reinforce strategic alignment in a region marked by ongoing geopolitical challenges.

The pact, signed at a ceremony held at the UAE Ministry of Defence in Abu sive framework for long- sponse, and advanced op- actor while enhancing its Dhabi, was witnessed by term collaboration, mark- erational planning. The access to American milisenior officials from both ing the UAE as a major move has been widely tary technology and excountries, including the defence partner of the welcomed by officials on pertise. Emirati Minister of State United States. for Defence Affairs, Mo-General carry weapons inside Dar- tion of anti-aircraft guns at hammed Al Mazrouei, and roadmap that spans multi- icant step toward enhanc- mentation, analysts will be r Sahib. the Golden Temple. Previ-He added that he was in ously, the Indian military Pete Hegseth. According engagement, including in-stability. the Golden Temple. Previ-Pete Hegseth. According engagement, including in-how this strengthened alwith the permission of the the United States from 24 also accused Pakistan of to an official statement tegrated air and missile



The deal outlines a the agreement as a signif- move forward with imple-

from the Emirati defence defence systems, joint ef- across the Middle East re- dynamics of the Middle jected by Singh. He said not present in Amritsar dur- allegations which Pakistan ministry, the agreement forts on cybersecurity, co- main complex and unpre- East in the months and establishes a comprehen- ordinated disaster re- dictable, the pact signals a years ahead

defence ties and a shared vision for strategic cooperation. This defence agreement comes amid height-ened regional tensions and reflects broader US efforts to strengthen alliances and partnerships in the Gulf, where the UAE plays a pivotal role. For the Emirates, the

commitment to stronger

pact further cements its position as a key security

As the two nations In an era where threats liance shapes the security

MQM-P's move against K-Electric shot down by PPP

"The people of Karachi have waited too long for relief—the existing mechanisms have failed them," Amir Siddiqui said, urging a judicial commission as essential for independent oversight

By Salman Shah

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Tuesday rejected a resolution put forward by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) lawmaker Amir Siddiqui that sought the formation of a judicial commission to probe alleged injustices committed by K-Electric. The move, which aimed to address longstanding public griev- pany of arbitrary billing, pro- restore public trust. ances against the city's sole longed power outages, and

during the session, Siddiqui said. His call for a judicial ready under consideration highlighted what he called commission was framed as by an existing assembly the persistent failures of K- a necessary step to provide committee, which includes cise Maqesh Kumar channels rat Electric, accusing the comindependent oversight and members from both treasury Chaowla weighed in with the intervention.



Presenting the resolution anisms have failed them," he note that the matter was al-

ble results.

'What is the legal ration- at this stage," he argued. store public trust. ale for opposing this resolu-But the Pakistan People's tion?" he asked, expressing change, the house voted to points replace accountabil-

and opposition benches. government's position, de-"We are not ignoring public fending the performance of concerns," Soho said, "but the existing committee. He duplicating oversight mecha- noted that it includes the nisms will only complicate leader of the opposition and

matters." is scheduled to convene
In a rebuttal, Siddiqui again shortly. "The commitquestioned the efficacy of tee is functional, cross-reprethe committee, arguing that sentational, and equipped to despite multiple meetings, it handle the issue. There is no had failed to produce tangi- justification for creating a separate judicial commission

power provider, reignited podisregard for consumer Party (PPP), which holds a frustration over what he sees reject the resolution by a litical tensions over how best rights. "The people of majority in the assembly, as bureaucratic inertia. clear majority, upholding the to hold utility companies ac- Karachi have waited too long pushed back strongly. PPP "Karachi's citizens continue existing oversight framefor relief. The existing mech- MPA Hir Soho was quick to to suffer while political talking work. For now, the PPP-led government appears intent on addressing utility griev-Provincial Minister for Ex- ances through parliamentary Kumar channels rather than judicial

Indonesia reconsiders Rafale jet order after India-Pakistan air clash

JAKARTA: Following the recent air skirmish between India and Pakistan, during which the Pakistani Air Force reportedly shot down Indian Rafale jets, Indonesia has begun re-evaluating its planned purchase of the French-made Rafale fighter aircraft. The incident has triggered a wave of debate within Indonesian defence about the effectiveness and reliability of the Rafale jets.

Rafale jets from the French of Indonesia's House of maritime aerospace giant Dassault Commission on Defence, proximately \$8.1 billion in ity of modern aerial warfare,



to reconsider the strategic benefits. value of such an expensive

India and Pakistan has caution and a desire to en- Indo-Pacific region

prompted lawmakers and sure that defence spending circles and political forums defence analysts in Jakarta delivers tangible security

Indonesia's strategic po-Indonesia, which placed acquisition. sition as the controller of the an order in 2022 for 42 Dio Leksono, a member Strait of Malacca—a crucial chokepoint through which a significant Aviation, has invested ap- acknowledged the complex- portion of global trade passes—adds the contract. This deal was noting that even highly ca- weight to the decision. The seen as a significant step pable jets like the F-16 and country's security calculus forward for Indonesia's mili- F-18 have suffered losses in requires military hardware tary modernisation, aimed at combat. Yet, he stressed that is not only advanced enhancing its air capabilities the importance of a "thoramid increasing regional seough and constructive readble, particularly given the ing millions of rupees. It is not only advanced legations of fraud and order, no officer of grade 17 financial misconduct involvor higher was allowed to amid increasing regional seough and constructive readble, particularly given the ing millions of rupees. curity challenges. However, assessment" in light of re- heightened tensions across the recent skirmish between cent events, signalling Southeast Asia and the

HTV licence requires 30 hours of training

By Salman Shah

government has made it drivers to apply. compulsory for applicants to also lowered the minimum ing up to 300,000 rupees for highways.

cle (HTV) licences from 24 to tinted window violations. KARACHI: The Sindh 22 years, allowing younger

age for heavy transport vehi- repeated offences such as

In addition, the cabinet approved the establishment Chief Minister Murad Ali of special traffic courts to exundergo 30 hours of training Shah announced the intro- pedite the handling of related before obtaining a heavy duction of a new automated cases, promising faster resotransport driving licence. This fine system aimed at enforc- lution of pending matters. decision was taken during a ing traffic laws more effec- These steps form part of Sindh cabinet meeting tively. Under this system, vi- Sindh's broader efforts to imchaired by Chief Minister olations will attract immediate prove road safety and en-Murad Ali Shah. The cabinet notices, with penalties reach- hance law enforcement on its

UAN 111 786 800



Contact: Abdul Ghaffar Gaba Cell No. 0335-1305662

Shop No. 1, Plot # C1-56, Sector 11-E, Chowrangi No. 5, Orangi Town, Karachi, Pakista

0313-2675926

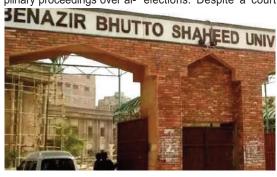
Lyari University hit by fake degree, harassment allegations

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Liyari Univer-

Malah amid allegations of harassment.

Malah faces accusations sity has been thrown into tur- of sending inappropriate moil after revelations that as- messages to a female stusistant professor Gholam dent via a mobile app, Murtaza's PhD certificate is prompting an official comfake. Following verification plaint. The university's syndiby the Higher Education cate decided to bar him from Commission, the university campus until further notice. issued orders to demote him. The institution is also grapfrom his current post to lecturer and has initiated disciplinary proceedings over alelections. Despite a court



financial misconduct involv- or higher was allowed to

University formally notified not proceed.

count officer Abdul Rashid within the institution.

contest, raising concerns The registrar of Liyari about the election's fairness.

An initial voters' list re-Murtaza that his submitted leased by the registrar indegree was declared fraudu- cluded respected officials lent. The letter highlighted such as Waqar Hussain that he not only gained fi- Laghari, Abdul Hafeez, and nancial benefits but was also Dr Shahida Shah. However, promoted from lecturer to subsequent revisions added assistant professor based on new names, including assisthis false qualification. He tant director finance Wajha has been summoned to ex- Kahf Kareem Dad. These plain why disciplinary action events have cast a shadow and recovery of funds should over Livari University's govt proceed. ernance and integrity, high-In a related development, lighting urgent calls for transthe university suspended ac-parency and accountability

Sarah Jones rules out UK rejoining EU under fresh deal

News Desk

LONDON: UK Industry Cami Badenoch swiftly Secretary Sarah Jones has condemned the Labor govhave dominated the often opposition to the EU. contentious discussions Brexit economic future.

Conservative leader

defended the new trade ernment's move, accusing agreement, insisting it of- it of reopening the Brexit fers economic advantages debate and undermining that far outweigh any asso- the country's hard-won ciated costs, with a particu- sovereignty. Badenoch lar focus on providing long-term stability. In a betrayal, suggesting it statement, Jones empha- would lead to "more EU sized the importance of se- law" governing the UK and curing continued access to an increased financial con-European markets while tribution to Brussels, claims preserving existing fishing that strike at the heart of rights—two issues that long-standing Conservative

Meanwhile, shadow forsurrounding the UK's post- eign secretary Priti Patel added her voice to the crit-UK Industry Secretary icism, accusing the Labor



stark contrast to the previ- promising on fishing rights.

ing 12 years of certainty, a the UK's position by comous Conservative govern- Patel argued that the deal ment's arrangement, which jeopardizes British interwas criticized for risking ests and harms the econannual renegotiations and omy by failing to protect creating an atmosphere of what she described as a unpredictability for busi- vital sector for coastal comnesses and communities munities and the national alike. The announcement, identity. Her remarks rehowever, has reignited flect broader anxieties fierce political debate, ex- about the balance between posing deep divisions over economic pragmatism and the UK's evolving relation- the preservation of sovership with the European eignty.

METRO MATTERS

Sindh to set up special anti-drugs courts amid surge in cases

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Sindh government has moved decisively to confront the rising tide of drug-related crime by approving the creation of special anti-drugs courts across the province. The announcement came following a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, who expressed alarm over the spiralling number of narcotics cases—9,676 in total—with a staggering 7,769 still pending in the province's courts, most of them within Karachi.

In a bid to clear the backlog and restore public faith in the justice system, the cabinet approved the establishment of three dedicated anti-drugs courts in Karachi, and one each in other major urban centers of Sindh. The courts are expected to streamline legal proceedings and deliver swifter justice in narcotics cases, which officials fear have been feeding broader criminal networks and social instability.

The initiative reflects a growing sense of urgency within Sindh's administration, as communities grapple with the consequences of an unchecked drug trade. According to sources in the provincial government, the special courts will be staffed with trained prosecutors and judges experienced in handling drug-related offences, with cases prioritized to prevent further delays.

Beyond criminal justice reform, the cabinet also turned its attention to social progress by endorsing the federal government's Women Empowerment Package. Chief Minister Shah stressed that gender equality must be made a legislative priority and confirmed that an annual report on gender equality will be presented to the Sindh Assembly as part of institutionalizing transparency and accountability. To ensure that the empowerment framework is more than symbolic, the Women Development Department has been instructed to revise existing rules and align its mandate with the province's broader vision for inclusive governance.

SESSI under Shahid Thahim approves new healthcare for workers

By Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Labour and Human Resources Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim presided over the 172nd Governing Body meeting of the Sindh Employees Social Security Institute (SESSI) held on 19 May at the SESSI headquarters. The meeting focused on reviewing the revised budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 and assessing progress on prior decisions.

Key decisions included approval to expand medical services for secured workers by partnering with four prominent private hospitals in Karachi: Ziauddin Hospital, Dow University of Health Sciences (Dow Hospital), Patel Hospital and Hashmani Hospital, specifically for ophthalmological treatments. This step aims to provide a one-window solution to save workers' time and energy during illness.

The Governing Body also sanctioned the creation of twelve new Grade-20 doctor positions and mandated that all Medical Superintendents at SESSI hospitals be appointed at Grade-20.

Commissioner Miandad Rahoojo highlighted initiatives for cancer patients registered with SESSI, including signing MOUs with Rosh Pharma to supply oncology medicines (chemotherapy) at discounted rates. Former Pakistan Steel CEO and Governing Body member M.A. Jabbar stressed the importance of transparent procurement processes, adherence to government tendering and compliance with SEPRA rules

Minister Shahid Thahim announced that SESSI will re-issue 400,000 new digital Mazdoor Cards to registered labourers to improve access to social security services. The meeting was attended by Governing Body members Engineer M.A. Jabbar, Mukhtar Hussain Awan, Abdul Wahab Shoro, Kalil Baloch, Commissioner Miandad Rahoojo, Chief Medical Advisor Dr Kamran Awan, among others.

Sindh food authority flags poor vigilance team performance

By Zahid Karani

KARACHI: Abdul Jabbar Khan, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh on Food, the performance of the Sindh Food Authority was thoroughly reviewed, with particular dissatisfaction expressed over the Vigilance Team's output. The meeting, held at the office of the Secretary Food, focused on key areas including performance evaluation, financial matters, licensing, registration and technical op-

Abdul Jabbar Khan issued a stern warning to the Vigilance Team, stating that if performance does not improve within one week, the relevant staff will be removed from their positions. He called for immediate action against illegally operating hotels and food stalls, especially those built over stormwater drains. He emphasized the need to strengthen and streamline the licensing process to make it more accessible, encouraging more business owners to register with the authority.

During the meeting, the Director General of the Sindh Food Authority presented updates on technological advancements, announcing the development of a new app aimed at simplifying the licensing process. The app will allow business owners to register and obtain licences online, reducing red tape and promoting ease of business. Abdul Jabbar Khan stressed the importance of strict compliance with the authority's code of conduct. He instructed that no operations should be conducted without proper uniforms and that coordination with the district administration is mandatory prior to enforcement actions.

To enhance professional capabilities, the Sindh Food Authority will initiate a comprehensive training program for its employees at the district level. These sessions will focus on modern food safety standards, inspection protocols, legal frameworks and public awareness strategies. Initial training will take place in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Mirpurkhas, with plans to extend to additional districts in later stages.

Ali Khursheedi condemns KE's prolonged electricity cuts

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Ali Khursheedi strongly criticised K-Electric for unjustified load shedding, including in areas where consumers are paying their electricity bills on time.

Speaking at a press conference outside the Sindh Assembly on Tuesday, Khursheedi voiced public frustration over prolonged power outages across Sindh province. He condemned K-Electric offices as "no-go areas" for the public, accusing the company of filing FIRs against peaceful protesters outside its offices. "This is the prevailing injustice, and nobody is being held accountable," he said.

Khursheedi also highlighted that the power situation in Hyderabad and Sukkur remains unsatisfactory, despite the government's involvement in decision-making. He urged power companies to streamline their operations to protect paying consumers from unnecessary outages.

During the session, he addressed several call attention notices concerning ongoing efforts to resolve water supply issues. Emphasising that load shedding affects everyone, Khursheedi called for a joint political strategy to tackle the problem.

When questioned about MQM's historical role, Khursheedi acknowledged that during General Musharraf's rule in 2005, MQM had pushed for the establishment of a private power distribution company for Karachi residents. However, he challenged those responsible for extending K-Electric's licence thereafter, suggesting accountability for current issues lies with later authorities.

JI Karachi provides free courses and bags to 3,000 students

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar reaffirmed the party's dedication to empowering children and youth through its educational programmes, Learn and Teach and Bano Qabil.

Speaking at a ceremony in Nazimabad Town, Monem Zafar distributed free school supplies, including courses and bags, to nearly 3,000 underprivileged students enrolled in public sector schools. He stressed that education remains the top priority for JI across all nine Karachi towns under its administration. "Education is the key to progress and development for nations," he said, underscoring the importance of building a strong educational foundation for the younger generation.

The event also included awards for high-achieving students, with Monem Zafar commending the Nazimabad Town team for their commitment to the initiative. On the topic of recent India-Pakistan tensions, the JI leader paid tribute to the country's military forces, crediting their success and national unity to the Pakistan Army's guiding motto: Faith, Piety, and Jihad to please Allah.

He called for the reinstatement of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Scouts, First Aid, and Civil Defence training programmes in schools, reinforcing the party's commitment to promoting Islamic values, educational awareness, and national cohesion. The ceremony was attended by JI leader Syed Wajih Hassan, Nazimabad Town Chairman Syed Muhammad Muzaffar, Vice Chairman Noman, education directors, teachers, and a large number of students.

EDITOR: Ehtasham Anwar

Vol. No. 2 Issue. No. 155 Email: news@metro-morning.com

Zigad 23, 1446 A.H.



COAS to Field Marshal: A historic elevation

he elevation of General Syed Asim Munir to the rank of Field Marshal marks a profoundly historic moment for Pakistan. It is a milestone not just in his distinguished military career, but also in the country's unfolding narrative of defence and leadership. The title of Field Marshal is no ordinary rank. It stands as the pinnacle of military distinction, a five-star rank far above the rank of general reserved for those whose service and leadership transcend the ordinary bounds of duty. Before Munir, this rare honor was bestowed only once, to President General Muhammad Ayub Khan in 1959—an era marked by momentous changes in Pakistan's military and political landscape. Now, more than six decades later, Munir joins this exclusive club, signaling both continuity and transformation within Pakistan's armed forces.

The role of a Field Marshal is largely symbolic, but its significance runs deep. Unlike operational ranks that come with specific commands and tactical responsibilities, the title carries immense respect and recognition, embodying exemplary leadership, vision, and dedication to national defence. It is a recognition reserved for those who have demonstrated extraordinary service, especially during times of conflict or national crisis. Munir's promotion is a reflection of his decades-long military journey, marked by diverse roles that have shaped Pakistan's defence architecture and strategic outlook. Born in Rawalpindi in 1968, Munir's roots are deeply woven into the fabric of Pakistan's post-partition history. His family migrated from Jalandhar, Punjab, India, in the turbulent aftermath of 1947, settling eventually in Rawalpindi.

This historical backdrop of migration and upheaval is significant in understanding the formative influences on Munir's character—resilience, commitment, and a sense of duty to the nation. His father, Syed Sarwar Munir, was a respected figure in the local community, serving both as a principal of a technical school and imam of a mosque, roles that underscored the family's blend of educational and religious values. Such a background perhaps instilled in Munir a balance of discipline, intellect, and ethical grounding, qualities that would later define his military career. Munir's early life was marked by a combination of religious schooling and a passion for cricket, where he shone as a fast bowler in local matches. His formal military education took him beyond Pakistan's borders—to Japan's Fuji School, Malaysia's Armed Forces College, and the National Defence University in Islamabad.

The international exposure complemented his deep understanding of regional security dynamics and strategic policy. It also highlighted a modern, well-rounded officer prepared for the complex challenges of contemporary warfare and diplomacy. Commissioned into the Frontier Force Regiment in 1986, Munir's career path was distinguished by a series of critical appointments. From operational duties in the harsh terrains of the Siachen Glacier to diplomatic military cooperation in Saudi Arabia, his experiences spanned both frontline combat zones and strategic defence partnerships. As a brigadier and later major general, he held command in the Northern Areas and served as chief of staff in the I Strike Corps Mangla, gaining invaluable operational and leadership experience.

What truly sets Munir apart in Pakistan's military history is his unique tenure as the only army chief to have led both the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence (MI). Appointed DG-ISI in 2018, during Imran Khan's prime ministership, he was at the heart of critical intelligence operations during a tense period, including the 2019 skirmishes with India. His role in advising the civilmilitary leadership and managing intelligence under such pressure speaks to his strategic acumen and trusted position within the military hierarchy. His tenure at the ISI was notably brief, with political controversies swirling around his removal. Allegations that he exposed corruption involving the prime minister's wife and was subsequently forced out have been publicly denied by Khan.

The murky details of this episode underline the complex interplay between military intelligence and civilian politics in Pakistan, a landscape fraught with intrigue and power struggles. Yet, despite this turbulence, Munir's career trajectory remained upward, culminating in his appointment as Chief of Army Staff in November 2022, and now his unprecedented promotion to Field Marshal. This elevation is more than a personal accolade; it signals Pakistan's recognition of the need for stable, experienced leadership amid increasingly complicated security challenges Pakistan faces multiple internal and external pressuresterrorism, border tensions, evolving global alliances, and the imperative of modernizing its defence capabilities. Munir's appointment comes at a time when trust in the military's ability to safeguard national interests and navigate geopolitical uncertainties is paramount.

His recognition with high military honors like the Hilal-i-Imtiaz and Nishan-i-Imtiaz reflect the institutional confidence in his capabilities. But beyond medals and titles, it is Munir's blend of frontline experience, intelligence leadership, and strategic vision that stands out. His educational grounding in public policy and strategic security management adds to his profile as a leader who understands both the battlefield and the boardroom dynamics of modern military affairs. The symbolic importance of Munir becoming only the second Field Marshal in Pakistan's history cannot be overstated. It evokes a sense of historical continuity linking the military's present with its past, while also setting a precedent for future leadership standards. The title itself resonates deeply within the military psyche and the national consciousness, reaffirming the army's role as a cen-

tral pillar of Pakistan's sovereignty and security. In many ways, Munir's promotion reflects the evolving identity of Pakistan's military leadership—rooted in tradition yet responsive to contemporary demands. It is a testament to how military excellence is measured not just in combat achievements but in adaptability, intelligence, and integrity. His story is emblematic of Pakistan's broader quest for stability and security in an unpredictable region. The recognition of Syed Asim Munir as Field Marshal invites reflection on the intertwined relationship between Pakistan's military and its national destiny. It is a reminder that leadership at this level carries immense responsibility—not just to the armed forces but to the people and the future of the nation. At a time when Pakistan grapples with multiple challenges, this historic promotion offers a beacon of continuity, strength, and hope. It reinforces the message that exemplary service and dedication to national defence will always be honoured, and that Pakistan's armed forces remain committed to protecting the country's sovereignty with skill, courage, and vision.

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

The Gaza hourglass is bleeding

By Uzma Ehtasham



cause of rockets or politics, but because of something far more insidious: hunger. The less aid is allowed to reach them. This is not response grind forward with agonizing slow-

On Monday, only five aid trucks were happened. permitted entry into Gaza by Israel. After the aid is there. The food is there. The med- not just seen death but seen it take the most is to endorse suffering. To remain silent is to uzma@metro-morning.com

lies just beyond Gaza's borders is not sal-cruelty that defies justification. t should never take the vation but shame. Pallets of life-saving suplast gasp of a child for plies—infant formula, IV drips, antibiotics, the world to act. Yet and blankets—languish under desert sun somehow, once again, we while children waste away in overcrowded, find ourselves at that under-resourced hospitals. And yet the precipice, watching as the world continues to couch its condemnation unimaginable becomes in soft diplomatic tones. Fletcher expressed routine. Gaza, a land al- hope that 100 trucks may be allowed in the casualties of neglect—preventable, curable, wrong. ready scarred by years of next day. But hope does not treat sepsis. It blockade, bombings, and broken ceasefires, does not fill an empty stomach or reverse as a politician. She does not weigh her Not as diplomats or analysts or global pow-

There is a particular cruelty in the near-United Nations has sounded the alarm in ness of relief. It's one thing to lack the tools, language stripped of all ambiguity. Tom another entirely to possess them and with-Fletcher, Deputy Secretary-General for Hu- hold them. And that is what this moment demanitarian Affairs, warns that 14,000 chil- mands we reckon with-not a failure of cadren in Gaza could die within 48 hours un- pacity, but a failure of conscience. The deliberate throttling of aid is not a byproduct a projection or a worst-case scenario—it is a of war. It is a policy. And it is one that robs reality unfolding in real time. And yet, even children of a future in full view of the world. with such clarity, the gears of international On the ground, in Gaza's Nasser Hospital, British surgeon Victoria Rose describes a daily litany of deaths that should never have

Children dying of infections that any NHS more than two months of near-total block- doctor could treat in minutes. Lives extinade, five trucks amount to little more than a guished not because of violence but becruel gesture. Fletcher himself called it "a cause of silence. "We are losing children we neutrality when starvation is wielded as a ise in health communication, having drop in the ocean," and he's right. This is not could save," she told Channel 4 News. Her weapon. There is no righteousness in re- keen interest in national and internaa matter of technical or logistical incapacity; words carry the weight of someone who has straint when it results in death. To delay aid tional affairs, can be reached at

and now irreversible. Rose does not speak

not pull a child back from the edge of death. being. As someone who understands that when a child dies for want of antibiotics, it is not a political crisis. It is a moral collapse. ments from London, Paris, and Ottawa-

> emergency. It is a mirror. A mirror reflecting the lines we are willing to let blur when the failed. Perhaps it is us. victims are distant, when their suffering is

complicated. That there are security consid-A four-year-old boy, she recounts, died erations. That nothing in the region is ever because she could not run a basic blood simple. But these arguments ring hollow test. In the UK, he would have lived. In when weighed against the image of a Gaza, there was no blood bank. No mother cradling her malnourished child, reagents. No working lab. Just a mother, a knowing help is only miles away but barred child, and a grief that will never find peace. by policy. There is nothing complicated These are not casualties of war. They are about a dying child. There is only right and

In these next 48 hours, we will be tested. is once again on the brink—this time not be- the damage of chronic malnutrition. It does words against strategic interests or regional ers—but as people. Will we allow borders to matter more than lives? Will we let bureau-She speaks as a doctor. As a human cracy win over basic decency? Will we continue to pretend that suffering on this scale can be viewed through a strategic lens? The time for excuses has long passed. Gaza's The world's response—measured state- children do not need negotiations. They need nourishment. They need medicine. feels both too late and too light. We do not They need the world to remember that their need more expressions of concern. We lives are not bargaining chips, not pawns in need corridors of aid. We need govern- a protracted political game, but lives in their ments to move not with caution but with con- own right—worthy of dignity, worthy of aid, worthy of everything we would demand for Because Gaza is not just a humanitarian our own. If the world cannot pass this test, then perhaps it is not the children who have

> The writer is a public health profespolitically inconvenient. There is no honor in sional, journalist, and possesses expert-

You must breathe first

By Atiq Raja



It is a small moment, often overlooked, quences arrive. But self-care is not selfish. barely heard above the hum of engines or the flick of seat belts clicking in. But embedded in that instruction is a truth far more profound than aviation safety. It is a truth about show up in the world and what it truly means sounds counterintuitive. Would a mother not reach for her child's mask first? Would a message insists otherwise—not to be cruel, not to be indifferent, but to be effective.

teacher, every exhausted doctor, and every honest conversations. young activist trying to carry the weight of gen masks will fall, and burnout, the sleepless, the endlessly availyou are to secure your able, as though martyrdom were a virtue. own before helping others. And we suffer quietly when the conse-

It is survival. More than that—it is strategy. Just as a phone won't work on an empty battery, just as a car won't move without breathe—truly breathe—we return to the rebellion in pausing to take a breath. To care. fuel, a person cannot serve others from a world with more to give. Rested parents survival, about sustainability, about how we place of emptiness. And yet, so many try. raise secure children. Balanced teachers in- you're well, you don't just survive—you help They give until there is nothing left. And the to care for others. On the surface, the idea cost is steep: emotional exhaustion, deci-build resilient teams. Grounded activists refuge, your clarity a guide, your compassion sion fatigue, strained relationships, physical illness, and a sense of meaning slowly un- that comes from wholeness is more transnurse not instinctively protect her patient? In raveled. The very people we seek to help formative than any hurried act of martyrdom. emergencies, we are trained by instinct and can become casualties of our unaddressed None of this is to say we abandon others. emotion to put others first. And yet, this depletion. We must challenge the notion It is to say we begin with ourselves so we can You cannot help someone else breathe scented candle or a spa day reserved for f you're suffocating yourself. You cannot lift the privileged. It is as vital as food, as nec- what we can offer. A person who is well in someone from a flood if you are drowning essary as breath. It looks like sleep-gentoo. This message transcends altitude and uine, undisturbed rest. It looks like bound- clearer voice, a deeper embrace. So, the next grees in Political Science and English Litsteel cabins. It speaks to every over- aries—saying no when your body says stop. whelmed parent, every overburdened It looks like nourishing food, long walks, and deadlines, the worries, the grief, the endless morning.com

It looks like therapy, solitude, music, very time we step the world on shoulders still learning to stand tears, prayer-whatever helps restore you cabin pressure loss, oxy- ness. In these cultures, we glorify the tempered with loved ones. We grow cynical in our work. We react rather than respond. We feel overwhelmed by things that once gave us purpose. And eventually, we either collapse—or we quietly withdraw, no longer confuse depletion with dedication. In a world able to sustain the outward performance of capability. But when we take time to keep giving, to keep doing more, there is quiet spire curious students. Centered leaders forge lasting change. The calm presence

> None of this is to say we abandon others. that self-care is a luxury afforded only to the show up fully for others. We must move away few. It is not an Instagram trend, not a from the belief that taking time for yourself steals time from others. In truth, it multiplies body and mind can offer a steadier hand, a of AR Trainings and Consultancy, with detime life pulls at you from every direction—the erature, can be reached at news@metro-

giving-stop and ask yourself the simplest of questions: Have I put my oxygen mask on today? Have I eaten something nourishing? into an aircraft, straight. We live in cultures—some more to yourself. The refusal to care for oneself is Have I rested? Have I moved my body, spowe're met with the than others—where self-sacrifice is val- not noble. It is dangerous. Because when ken my truth, let myself cry, laughed without same calm but firm re- orized, where rest is seen as weakness, and we don't take care of ourselves, we begin to reason, or simply sat in silence? This isn't in-minder: in the event of where saying "no" is mistaken for selfish- unravel at the edges. We become short- dulgence. This is how we stay alive—not dulgence. This is how we stay alive—not merely breathing, but living with presence and

The world needs people who are well. Who are awake to themselves. Who don't where everything urges you to keep going, to To listen inward. Because the truth is, when others survive too. Your strength becomes a more sustainable. We all want to help. But we help best when we start here—with the self, with the breath, with the courage to pause. Because even the most generous heart needs oxygen. And even the kindest hands must steady themselves first. So take the breath. Put on the mask. Not just for you—but for everyone who may one day need you whole.

The writer is a rights activist and CEO

Balochistan's youth and education

By Ghulam Hussain Baloch



generation lacking intelli-

gence or ambition. What they lack is access—access to the kind of education that empowers, and enables. For too long, the education system in Balochistan has ofwhere job markets evolve by the month and economic landscapes shift like sand, mind, but the hands. the absence of practical skills among the young is no longer just a developmental

oversight—it is a social injustice. has ceased to be the ticket it once was. Literacy alone does not translate to livelihood. traditional education and employable skills alysts for growth. is stark—and for many young Balochista-

the shadow of its ancient with little more than frustration. Not be- and outreach virtually nonexistent in remountains and along its cause they lack the will to work, but be- mote areas. This is not a question of

It begins by reimagining what education means in Balochistan. We must ask: what a student for the world outside its walls? fered knowledge in isolation. It teaches, leaves a young adult standing idle, watchyes, but it does not train. It informs, but it ing life pass by, unable to participate? The and rooted in the tools of technology. does not equip. And in today's world, answer lies in the integration of vocational training—education that builds not only the connected from employment realities must

A school certificate, while important, person with both can not only find a jobbook answers. The disconnect between youth are not just individuals—they are cat-

But in Balochistan, such empowerment gether, they form the foundation of real, news@metro-morning.com

nis, it's the gap that keeps them out of op-portunity's reach. This gap is not theoreti-isting infrastructure for skill development is this fusion is not optional. It is essential. No

dustry experts, tailored to market demands,

Training that leads to work, dignity, and change does not fall only on institutions. It meet, the results are powerful. A young is a mindset shift that must accompany any structural reform. The dichotomy between You cannot code a website, repair an en- local economies, and inspire others in their are companions. A degree without a skill starts being useful. gine, or cultivate high-yield crops with text- communities to do the same. Empowered may flatter the intellect, but it often fails the wallet. A skill without learning may serve in with different tasks currently stationed

🔳 n the rugged and ma- cal. It is painfully visible in the rising num- patchy at best, absent at worst. Vocational amount of rhetoric about development will expanse of ber of young people who complete their centers are few and far between. Re- hold weight if it does not translate into the Balochistan, beneath education only to return to their villages sources are stretched, programs outdated, tools young people need to build their lives.

The vision of a thriving, prosperous Balochistan is not far-fetched. But it will rewindswept plains, lives a cause the system gave them no means to money alone. It is a question of priorities. If main just that—a vision—unless it is youth population full of do so. This is a failure that cannot be pa- the youth of Balochistan are to rise, then grounded in real investment in the promise. They are not a pered over with promises. It demands ac- governments, educational institutions, pri- province's most valuable asset: its youth. vate sectors, and civil society must rise. This is a call not just to policymakers, but with them. Skill development must be to the national conscience. To see each treated not as an afterthought or a supple- young person not as a statistic, not as a does more than impart theory, that equips, good is a classroom if it does not prepare mentary policy, but as a central pillar of voter, not as a recipient of charity, but as a economic planning. Training programs potential innovator, builder, leader. To hu-What purpose does schooling serve if it must be designed in consultation with in- manize our interventions and realize that every untrained young person is not just an economic liability, but a story interrupted. The days of churning out degrees dis- And every skilled youth is a story fulfilled. Knowledge, after all, can open the mind. come to an end. And yet, the burden of But it is skill that opens doors. And until the youth of Balochistan are equipped with self-reliance. When skill and knowledge also lies with the youth themselves. There both, progress will remain a word whispered in policy rooms, rather than a reality lived in homes, streets, and workshops they can create one. They can start small education and vocation must be disman- across the province. Empowerment begins businesses, support families, contribute to tled. These are not opposing roads. They when education stops being abstract—and

The writer is a journalist working the short term, but limits future growth. To- in Balochistan, can be reached at

Savarkar's legacy, Modi's reality

By Hina Ayra

wo months before his latest escalation and ideological framework

cal progenitor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak tions. Sangh (RSS), has consistently drawn upon serted, "India should follow the German example to solve the Muslim problem.

In 1938, amidst the peak of Adolf Hitler's not only commended fascism but also ad- supremacy. vocated for its adoption in India. He stated, global conflict and the deaths of tens of milmanifesting in India, under a government most oppressive environments globally. that openly embraces its RSS association.

militarised cadre, a doctrine of religious su- Kashmir while galvanising nationalist senti- is redirected towards Pakistan. The Hinpremacy and the objective of establishing a ment in the lead-up to elections. Historical dutva agenda has consistently prioritised 'Hindu Rashtra', an India exclusively for precedents, such as the Uri attack in 2016, power and control over diplomatic engageof militaristic policies, Indian Prime Hindus. This vision has reached a perilous the Pulwama incident in 2019, and the rement. Minister Narendra Modi publicly hon- zenith under Modi's administration. Since cent events in Pahalgam in 2025, illustrate The recent escalation in Occupied oured Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a signif- taking office in 2014, Modi and the BJP how India exploits such occurrences to es- Kashmir involved a significant but ultimately icant influence on both his political stance have systematically eroded the pluralistic calate military tensions with Pakistan, a nu- unsuccessful operation by the IAF into Pakethos that has characterised the Indian Re- clear-armed neighbour. In each instance, Savarkar is often referred to as the public. They have disparaged Muslims, un- the Indian government has failed to present founding figure of Hindutva. The Bharatiya dermined the judiciary, restricted media credible evidence, whereas Pakistan has repelling the incursion, resulting in the Janata Party (BJP), along with its ideologi- freedoms and weaponised state institu- consistently condemned the attacks and

India's 200 million Muslims, one of the Savarkar's perspective, which is notably in- world's largest Muslim minorities, have in- threats to divert Pakistan's water supply fluenced by fascist ideology and notions of creasingly been targeted, marginalised and under the Indus Waters Treaty, missile ethnic superiority. Savarkar notably as- dehumanised. The revocation of Article 370 strikes perilously close to civilian targets, in August 2019, which eliminated the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, marked a significant advancement mark worn by married Hindu women. This ally. This raises pertinent questions regardethnic purges in Nazi Germany, Savarkar toward the RSS's objective of demographic nomenclature seems to underscore the ing India's military capabilities and the as-

Germany has every right to resort to the forced demographic alteration of a Mus-Nazism and Italy to fascism and events lim-majority region. The agenda of the Modi have justified those actions." Importantly, regime in Kashmir, supported by an unthese 'events' culminated in genocide, a precedented military presence, communi-

called for impartial investigation.

India's recent retaliatory actions included and a military operation curiously named propagated by the RSS.

The question arises: why does India approach the brink of war during each election cation blackouts, mass detentions and ex- intersection of political survival and mili-Established in 1925, the RSS was ex- significant turning point. The BJP promptly to justify domestic shortcomings. As ecoorganisational design similarly, featuring a serves to divert attention from failures in year high of 9.2 per cent public discontent trayal of warfare as a political imperative.

istani airspace. The PAF demonstrated commendable discipline and precision by downing of five Indian aircraft, including the much-publicised French-built Rafale jet, which the BJP had marketed as a technological advancement.

Leaked French intelligence reports published in Le Monde confirmed that the destruction of the Rafale represents the first 'Sindoori Shakti', referencing the vermilion recognised combat loss of the aircraft globdeeply entrenched gendered and religious sumptions surrounding its procurement In practical terms, this action facilitated symbolism prevalent in the nationalism strategies. International acclaim has been directed toward the PAF for its restraint and

tactical proficiency Pakistan Foreign Office reiterated its cycle? The answer resides in the perilous commitment to peace while affirming its inherent right to self-defence. This situation lions. This same ideological framework is trajudicial killings, has resulted in one of the tarism. Prime Minister Modi's support base transcends the immediate context of Kashthrives on hyper-nationalism, which neces- mir; it reflects the extent to which Modi is The incident in Pahalgam represents a sitates the existence of an external enemy prepared to go to maintain power. India appears to have undergone a complete transplicitly inspired by European fascist move- attributed blame to Pakistan without provid- nomic indicators falter, indicated by a GDP formation characterised by an erosion of ments. It admired the centralised, racial-na- ing substantive evidence. This aligns with a growth rate falling below 5.5 per cent in Q1 democratic principles, an increase in the tionalist model of Hitler. It structured its recurring pattern: accusing Islamabad 2025 and unemployment reaching a five- marginalisation of minorities, and the por-



MetroMorning

Wednesday, May 21, 2025



UN warns 14,000 children in Gaza face death without aid

Fletcher stressed the critical urgency: "We must save as many of those 14,000 children as possible within the next 48 hours"

News Desk

GAZA: The United Nations has issued a stark and urgent warning that up to 14,000 children in Gaza face the risk of death within the next 48 hours unless humanitarian aid is swiftly and substantially increased. Tom Fletcher, the UN's Deputy Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, delivered the grim message following dren—as "a drop in the children as possible in the tion. As the humanitarian sitalight easing of the Israeli ocean" compared to the next 48 hours." He exuation in Gaza worsens by blockade, which has sealed scale of need that is now pressed cautious hope that the hour, the risk of mass

allowed just five aid trucks reached the families who demands an overwhelming tional ing the first limited conces- side. supplies designated for chil- as many of those 14,000 and Canada, which have

Fazl pushes Bill

to Ban Child

Marriages

under 18 to

Islamic Council

ISLAMABAD: Maulana

Fazl ur Rehman, the

leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-

Islam (F), has voiced strong opposition to the proposed bill seeking to

referred to the Islamic Ide-

asked

could have far-reaching

social and cultural impli-

ommend that it would be

preferable to halt the legislation altogether rather

than push it forward in its

current form. His remarks

reflected concerns about the bill's alignment with

potential impact on tradi-

tional practices.

He went further to rec-

ough review.

ment.

By our correspondent



condemned Israel's management of the crisis and pressed for urgent action. Fletcher called these interventions "strong and overdue," but he emphasised that the real challenge lies in into concrete aid deliveries on the ground. The warning from the UN

political stalemate and inac-

off the Palestinian territory overwhelming the enclave. by Tuesday, 100 aid trucks suffering—especially among for over ten weeks. Though the aid has reached might be allowed entry, children—casts a long In a rare gesture, Israel Gaza's border, none has yet stressing that the situation shadow over the internacommunity's reinto Gaza on Monday, mark- are starving and trapped in- flow of humanitarian assis- sponse. The next 48 hours could prove decisive in presion since the blockade Speaking to a British The UN official wel- venting a devastating loss of began. Yet Fletcher de- news outlet, Fletcher was comed recent critical state- young lives, underscoring scribed this small ship- clear about the urgency of ments from the govern- the fragile balance between ment—which included food the moment: "I want to save ments of the UK, France, diplomacy and urgent hu-

UK suspends trade talks with Israel over Gaza blockade

tance rather than trickles.

Labor MP Melanie Ward urged the government to define its "red line" clearly as Israel dismisses calls for multilateral action, warning that earlier alerts on Rafah's aggression were overlooked

ban marriages of children under the age of 18, call-**News Desk**

LONDON: The UK government has halted trade neing for the legislation to be gotiations with Israel, with ological Council for thororeign Secretary David Speaking in the Na-Lammy condemning the tional Assembly, Fazl ur blockade of Gaza as both Rehman questioned the morally wrong and unreatiming and intent behind the introduction of the bill, ment, Lammy criticized Issuggesting it risked deep- rael's actions and rhetoric, ening divisions within the saying they are isolating the country at a sensitive mo- country from its friends and in Rafah were ignored. "The Carla Denyer, co-leader of

ing steps that could fur- dress the concerns. Labor clear that the UK govern- tanyahu's "killer government" with Israel. She called the manitarian groups. situation "a global collective In his address, Fazl ur for aid distribution.

Ward urged the govern-Speaker of the National ment to clarify its "red line" in distribution inside Gaza di- marks a significant shift in Assembly to issue a ruling | the face of Israel's rejection against the bill, arguing of calls for multilateral action, UN and volunteer organiza- growing international presthat the proposed law was highlighting that previous tions—a move that has sure over the humanitarian not only premature but warnings about aggression faced widespread criticism. crisis in Gaza.



He appealed for unity among lawmakers and urged them to avoid tak-MP Melanie Ward, repre- ment opposes Israel's pro- during a parliamentary desenting Cowdenbeath and posed model for aid delivery bate in London. Kirkcaldy, welcomed the de- in Gaza, which would sidecision to pause trade talks line UN agencies and hu- and outgoing party leader,

> and questioned proach disrespects basic 14,000 children could die in whether the Foreign Secre-human principles and fails to the next 48 hours if urgent tary would firmly oppose Is- deliver aid at the necessary measures are not taken. She rael's plans to replace speed or scale," he said, called for decisive action human rights NGOs and UN calling it "wrong and danger- against Israel's government, agencies with hired soldiers ous for the humanitarian sys- which she said has long has suggested managing aid suspension of trade talks rectly, cutting out established the UK's approach amid

time for Gaza is over," she the Green Party in England

warned that the United Na-"We believe this ap- tions has predicted up to tem." The Israeli government evaded accountability. The

Teen threatens suicide in cyber harassment probe

By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: In a cyber-harassment case, an 11th-grade student Rabia Azam rom Nawabshah has threatened to take her own life in front of the Nawabshah Press Club if the remaining accused in her case are not arrested within 72 hours. translating political pressure The young victim made the announcement during an emotional press conference, accusing police officials of

highlights the human cost of negligence and complicity. Rabia, a resident of Ali Raza Shah Colony, said she has endured three months of ongoing harassment and blackmail by five individuals who manipulated her photos and posted them online. She alleged the accused also attempted to extort money and have continued to intimidate her and her family. "I am a daughter of this nation, and I am pleading for justice," she said, holding local law enforcement responsible for failing to act despite repeated complaints and the known whereabouts of the accused.

While three of the five suspects have reportedly been arrested, Rabia named two key individuals Mohsin Řaza, alias Armani, and Shaaban, alias Fana who remain at large. She claimed that the police, particularly the DSP and the SHO Women, have shown no interest in pursuing the main culprits, allowing them to roam freely and continue he harassment.

> Imran's arrest political, cases unjust, claims **Barrister Gohar**

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf By Asghar Ali Mubarak (PTI), has said that the party's founder is wrongfully behind bars and that all cases against him are politically mo-

leased within the week, say- stop what it described as ing, "Insha'Allah, it will happen soon." He clarified that no meeting or briefing took place with the founder on 6 May at Khan tion any such briefing during their recent meeting.

Barrister Gohar insisted that the cases against the PTI founder lack merit and are purely political. He called for the end of what he described as an unjust process, saying, "Enough is enough; common sense must prevail.

UK, France, Canada urge Israel allow food for Gaza

From London, they described a grim and worsening crisis in Gaza, where the Palestinian population faces extraordinary hardship, devastation, and relentless suffering

News Desk

LONDON/PARIS/OT-TAWA: Britain, France, and Canada have issued a strong and unequivocal warning to Israel, demanding an immediate cessation of military operations in Gaza and the swift, unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid to the beleaguered territory. The leaders of these nations including UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, emphasized the urgent need to end the violence, cautioning that for Israel itself.

From London, painted a grim picture of the without delay to prevent furunfolding crisis, describing ther needless loss of life. population, which is facing Britain, France, and Canada the crisis. As tensions escaextraordinary hardship and stressed that this remains late and the humanitarian sitsuffering. The joint statement sharply criticized Israel's the region. stringent restrictions on aid

forced displacement of civil- Minister responded with during conflicts.



violation of international hu- trio of rewarding attackers manitarian law and under- with "a big prize" and chalscoring the urgent need to lenging European leaders to continued military action protect innocent lives caught adopt the vision put forward risks severe repercussions in the conflict. The appeal by former US President Donwas clear: humanitarian ac- ald Trump as the solution to they cess must be guaranteed the ongoing conflict. deepening divide between the situation in Gaza as dev- Reaffirming their commit- Israel and key Western allies

Their statement called for louder. They condemned the settlement. Israel's Prime one of the world's most en-

astating for the Palestinian ment to a two-state solution, over how best to navigate the only viable path toward uation worsens, the internafrom the three countries lasting peace and stability in tional community's calls for immediate action grow ever deliveries, describing the renewed diplomatic efforts tragedy in Gaza is not only a current measures as grossly and underscored the impor- test of political will but a stark insufficient in the face of a tance of respecting the rights reminder of the urgent need mounting humanitarian dis- and dignity of both Palestini- for compassion and a reans and Israelis in any future newed search for peace in

Pakistan slams Israeli manslaughter in Gaza, urges ceasefire

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned Israel's ongoing military agtivated. gression in Gaza, urging an Speaking to the media near Adiala jail, Barrister the killing of Palestinians. Gohar expressed hope that The country has called for the PTI founder would be re- urgent international efforts to genocide in the region.

Speaking on behalf of the highlighted ately targeted. He stressed that Israel's actions violate both humanitarian and international laws.



that the growing risk of famine occupation of Palestinian the jail, adding that the dozens of Palestinians have and starvation in Gaza, not- lands. founder himself did not men- been killed in Israeli ing that Israel's declaration airstrikes, with hospitals and of total control over the area firmed Pakistan's unwavervital infrastructure deliber- poses a serious threat to re- ing support for the establishonal peace.

vention, he emphasized the borders, with Jerusalem as need for the international its capital. Pakistan's state-Shafqat Ali Khan criti- community to ensure hu- ment comes amid escalating cized Israel for imposing col-manitarian aid reaches violence and rising concerns lective punishment by block- Palestinians and to hold Is- over the humanitarian crisis ng aid deliveries to those rael accountable for its viola- in Gaza, as calls for peace affected. He also referenced tions. Pakistan firmly rejects and justice continue to grow the United Nations Secre- the forced displacement, ille- internationally

The spokesman reafment of a free Palestinian Calling for global inter- state based on the pre-1967

Import relief for Afghanistan as e-form exemption extended

By Sudhir Ahmad Afridi religious principles and its

TORKHAM: The Ministry Fazl ur Rehman's of Commerce has formally warning was clear: should | extended the exemption for the bill be forced through | imports from Afghanistan the assembly, his party is from the requirement of prepared to take to the submitting the electronic imstreets in protest, signalport form (EIF), pushing the ing a readiness to deadline forward to 14 June mobilize against what they | 2025. The decision, consee as an infringement on firmed through an official religious and cultural valnotification, comes as Pakistan attempts to shield its banking channels between sary to continue the conces-Demonstrating their delicate trade relationship the two countries, with sion for another month. disapproval, members of assembly proceedings in gional instability.

a show of dissent, underscoring the depth of oppo-



with Afghanistan from fur- Afghan imports permitted on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) ther strain amid persistent the condition that transac- within the Ministry, the delay geopolitics, has faced restaged a walkout from the banking challenges and re-tions were settled in Pak- in finalizing recommenda-Initially, the exemption ment was due to expire on ment stemmed from an in-sures, currency issues, and had been granted due to the 15 May 2025, but officials complete

According to sources by istani rupees. That arrange- tions to the federal govern- years due to border cloabsence of fully functional have now deemed it neces- process with key trade channels.

stakeholders. The Ministry acknowledged that engagement with partners was crucial but could not be completed within the original timeframe.

The extension, therefore, is being framed as both a practical and diplomatic step to allow space for proper deliberation while ensuring continuity in crossborder trade.

Pakistan's trade with Afghanistan, long shaped both geography and peated disruptions in recent consultation a lack of reliable financial

Indian journalist questions Modi's war narrative

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: Veteran Indian journalist Rajdeep lenged the Modi government over its handling of the ongoing conflict, raising pressing concerns about transparency sur- the loss of a Rafale fighter performance. In a detailed India's air fleet and a symstatement, Sardesai ques- bol of recent military modthat may have taken out from Indian defence au-Indian aircraft.

and as Sardesai pointed out, it has not officially denied the reports of losses. After verifying information confirmed that Indian air- tary's

on speculation regarding riods of national conflict.

curate account.



rounding India's military jet, a high-profile asset in tioned whether Pakistan ernisation efforts. Noting had inflicted significant that claims of such a loss damage to India's air have been widely reported power in the very early in Western media, he stages of the war, includ- pointed out the conspicuing through missile strikes ous absence of a denial thorities. Given the avail-The government has so able evidence, Sardesai far remained tight-lipped, said he believes it is "likely" that at least one Rafale jet was brought down during the conflict.

His comments come at across several independ- a time of rising regional ent and defence-linked tension and increased sources, he said it is now scrutiny of the Indian milireadiness and craft have indeed been strategic response. Sardelost in the conflict, though sai's decision to publicly he stopped short of dis- air these concerns marks envoy Steve Witkoff stated remain far apart on critical is- the US struggle to bridge closing the exact number, a rare moment in Indian calling instead on officials media, where direct ques-States would not allow Iran to nium enrichment levels and diplomatic failure looms to provide a formal and actions about the government's war management Sardesai also zeroed in are often muted during pe-

politicizing courts in Bilawal case By our correspondent ISLAMABAD: Shazia the spokesperson for Pakistan

People's Party Parliamen-

tarians, has responded

strongly to the petition filed

against PPP chairman Bi-

Marri warns

against

lawal Bhutto Zardari. In a statement from Karachi, she described the petition as a low tactic by political opponents, emphasizing that the PPP's internal elections were held fully in line with constitutional procedures and election

Marri insisted process of electing Bilawal as chairman was completely transparent and urged that courts should not be turned into arenas for political battles. She called on anyone interested in politics to come forward through democratic means, noting that the Election Commission has already rejected such claims.

The PPP leader added that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership is respected both within the country and internationally. She also pointed out that some elements are resorting to such tactics at a critical time when Bilawal is preparing to represent Pakistan on the global stage.

Talks with US may yield no results, says Khamenei trasts with Iran's insistence challenges that have long

News Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme naling deep-rooted mistrust further derail diplomacy.

sition within the party.

between Tehran and Wash-

He criticized the US rejec-Leader, Ayatollah Sayed Ali tion of Iran's right to uranium Khamenei, has cast doubt enrichment as a fundamental over the prospects of the on- error, underscoring that such going nuclear negotiations a stance jeopardizes any with the United States, warn- chance of progress. "The reconclude without any agree- richment rights is a major ment. Speaking publicly, mistake," Khamenei said, Khamenei highlighted the un-cautioning the US against certainty surrounding the fu- making what he called "foolture of the discussions, sig- ish statements" that could

The comments come

clear program. Since the resumption of

enrich uranium even by one related verification mecha- large—raising ng position that starkly con- mate reflects the profound an already volatile region.

on maintaining some level of characterized the nuclear dienrichment as part of its nu- alogue between the two Khamenei's remarks un-

talks on April 12, four rounds derscore the fragile nature of of negotiations have taken the process and the high deplace without any significant gree of scepticism on the ing that the talks may well fusal to recognize Iran's en- amid reports that US special breakthroughs. Both sides Iranian side. As both Iran and last week that the United sues, especially around ura- gaps, the possibility of a concerns percent—an uncompromis- nisms. The continuing stale- about renewed tensions in

Printed at Elia Publications by SM Inamul Haque for Adeem Publishers at I.I. Chundrighar Road, Karachi.