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Pakistan, Turkiye leaders renew commitment to mutual prosperity

Both leaders reaffirmed Pakistan and Turkiye's historic brotherhood rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a common vision for development and prosperity

News Desk

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a significant meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Istanbul, accompanied by Field Marshal General Asim Munir and a high-level delegation. During the meeting, the prime minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to the support amid recent tensions toric, and brotherly ties bein South Asia.

Sharif arrived in Istanbul on prosperity. a two-day official visit. He general Numan Aslam, and Tariq Fatemi. senior Turkish officials.

presidential Sharif At the

The Diplomat

warns India over

suspension of Indus

Waters Treaty

WASHINGTON: The

Diplomat has issued a

stark warning to India

over its unilateral move

to suspend the Indus

Waters Treaty, caution-ing that such action

could provoke significant geopolitical and environ-

mental consequences-

News Desk

According to an official grounded in shared values, statement from the prime mutual respect, and a joint stability. He highlighted the

The meeting was atwas warmly welcomed at the tended by Pakistan's deputy homeland, referencing "Opminister Yaşar Güler, Istan- minister Miftah Ishaq Dar, bul's governor, cultural asso- chief of army staff Field Marciation president Burhan shal Assim Munir, informa-Kaya, Pakistan's Ambassa- tion minister Attaullah Tarar, cussed enhancing economic calling for an immediate dor Yusuf Junaid, consul and special assistant Syed

Prime Minister Shehbaz vestment. acknowledged

truth."



people for their unwavering firmed the long-standing, his- and the goodwill of its people to new heights. They agreed as a source of reassurance on steps to achieve a bilattween Pakistan and Turkiye, and strength for Pakistan eral trade target of five billion during times of regional in- dollars annually Regional and global isminister's office, Shehbaz vision for development and resolve, bravery, and sacri- sues were also discussed,

fices of the Pakistani armed with both leaders reiterating forces in defending the their principled support for each other's core interests, airport by Turkive's defence prime minister and foreign eration Baniyan Marsous" including the Kashmir issue. and the broader "battle for Both expressed deep concern over the ongoing hu-The leaders also dis- manitarian crisis in Gaza,

cooperation, focusing on ceasefire and uninterrupted joint projects and bilateral inhumanitarian aid to the affected Palestinian popula-Key sectors such as re- tion.

Ahsan Iqbal calls on every citizen to pay income tax

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal has said that Pakistan ranks among the countries with the lowest tax payments, despite having ambitious development goals. He stressed that every citizen must pay tax on their income for the country to progress.

Speaking to the media in Narowal, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the success of Operation Bunyan Mursos and success depends on peace and political stability. He also of policy continuity and retax-to-GDP ratio from the current 10.5 percent to 16 percent or 18 percent. He

urged existing taxpayers to act as quardians against tax evasion. He added that sustainable development requires a significant boost in exportsnot just an annual increase of a billion or two dollars, but

leaps of five to ten billion dollars. He stressed that every Pakistani businessperson should take local products to global markets and bring more artificial than sustainback as many orders as able. possible.

Pakistan aims to position itexperiencing a digital revolu-tion, and the global race in artificial intelligence is well underway. Pakistan must

defence milestones. On 28 May, nuclear tests estabished Pakistan as a nuclear power, and on 10 May, the

armed forces gave a crushing response to the enemy, humiliating Indian arrodance.

IMF reports Pakistan's revenue doubles to **Rs18trn**

The finance ministry credits robust growth to increased tax revenue, new levies, and vital central bank support, portraying it as a sign of strengthened economic stewardship

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported a remarkable doubling of Pakistan's revenue over the emphasized that economic past two years, with figures rising from 9.6 trillion rupees to 18 trillion rupees. This underscored the importance sharp increase, highlighted in a recent IMF statement, forms. The minister said has been welcomed by the Pakistan must increase its government as a sign of financial progress.

flection of improved eco-

nomic management. Yet, numbers lies a more complicated reality.

the revenue surge may be economic indicators.

Ahsan Iqbal said that has largely resulted from in- sign, the Pakistani rupee ing act Pakistan faces as it creasing tax rates rather continues to lose value strives to strengthen its self as a hub of modern than from expanding the tax against the US dollar. This economy while managing technology in the upcoming base itself, which remains trend is at odds with global public expectations and the currency markets where the realities of fiscal policy.



Despite the heavier tax US dollar is generally weak-The finance ministry at- burden placed on salaried ening. The rising price of the tributes this growth to a workers and the industrial dollar in Pakistan, despite combination of higher tax sector, many ordinary citi- international patterns, uncollections, the introduction zens remain outside the for- derscores persistent ecoof new taxes, and crucial mal tax net. Sales tax rates, nomic challenges and unsupport from the central for example, have been derlying vulnerabilities in the bank, presenting it as a re- raised significantly-from 12 country's financial system. percent to 15 percent, and then again to 18 percent- its revenue growth as a behind these encouraging putting additional pressure milestone, experts warn that

As the government touts

on consumers. Adding to without broadening the tax the complexity is a puzzling base and addressing Economists caution that contradiction in Pakistan's deeper economic imbalances, this increase may While the current ac- not translate into lasting sta-

count balance is showing a bility. The current situation They argue that the rise surplus, typically a positive reveals the difficult balanc-

Qalandars edge out Quetta to win third PSL crown

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars were crowned champions of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) for a third time after pulling off a tense sixwicket victory over Quetta Gladiators in the PSL 10 final at Gaddafi Stadium, La-

hore. Led by Shaheen Shah



Ex-RAW chief furious Pakistan's visit

The incident, caught on camera, has ignited widespread outrage in media and political circles, deepening fears over rising hostility toward press scrutiny amid cross-border tensions

News Desk

involving NEW DEHLI: The former The report emphachief of India's external intelsizes that India's attempt to walk away from the decades-old agreement may set a precedent en- storm on live television after couraging Beijing to re- a heated exchange with a consider its own water- journalist ended with the

over questioning about

compete in this technological race with efficiency and determination. He remarked that May holds historic significance for Pakistan. This month, the country's scientists and engineers achieved two major

sharing

particularly

China.



especially with respect to flows from China into India, accounts for nearly 30 percent of India's freshwater supply publicly confirmed. and supports about 44 percent of the country's total hydropower potential

The Diplomat notes that China is already building major dams on the Brahmaputra.

If provoked, Beijing might resort to restricting or manipulating the river's flow, which would have severe implications for India's water security and energy infrastructure.

Previously, the World Bank made it clear that the Indus Waters Treaty cannot be unilaterally suspended. World Bank president Ajay Banga recently told CNBC that the treaty includes no clause allowing either News Desk party to walk away on its own

termination must be mutually agreed upon.

The World Bank plays a facilitative role, not an enforcement one, in the agreement.

Defence have echoed this sentiment. India's attempt to undermine the treaty is not only a violation of international law but also group compelled the pas- the abducted bus and its agencies to bring the case to strategically flawed.

against Pakistan.

journalist being physically policies, removed from the interview set.

n a climate already charged premises. with cross-border tensions.

Pakistan, quickly turned describing the incident as volatile when the journalist "an alarming example of in- in India.

mediately challenged the reignited tensions between line of questioning, demand- the nuclear-armed rivals.

ing concrete evidence. As the journalist attempted to istan-based militants for the whether our democracy can follow up, the conversation attack and retaliated with still tolerate tough questions, deteriorated. Eyewitnesses airstrikes on May 7-actions especially when war drums and crew present during the that were quickly matched are beating.



The incident, captured recording reported that Dalt by a strong military reon camera, has sparked out- not only hurled verbal abuse sponse from Pakistan. Both rage across press and polit- but also violently threw the countries have since intensiical circles, raising concerns microphone before pushing fied their military posturing, about the increasing hostility the journalist and ordering with fresh concerns about towards media questioning security to escort him off the potential miscalculations spiraling into wider conflict. For

The channel later re- many observers, The interview, which began leased a statement con-episode involving A. S. Dulat with a focus on recent esca- demning the former intelli- serves as a metaphor for the lations between India and gence chief's behavior, growing strain on free speech and media freedom

the Brahmaputra river. raised questions about tolerance towards legitimate Critics argue that senior The Brahmaputra, which Dulat's alleged unofficial visit journalistic inquiry." This dra-figures, especially those with to Pakistan-a claim circu- matic confrontation took high-profile roles in national lating in diplomatic and intel- place against the backdrop security, have a duty to religence circles but never of a rapidly escalating secu- spond with transparencyrity crisis in the region. The not hostility-when ques-

interview," a press freedom

Afridi, the Qalandars added Air India named worst airline for **UK delays**

News Desk

LONDON: Air India has the been named the worst-performing airline for flights to and from the United Kingdom, with its services

plagued by prolonged de-lays, according to newly released data from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The figures, analysed for the year 2024, show that Air India flights Amarjit Singh Dulat, ap- Pahalgam attack on April 22 tioned on matters of public departing from British air-pearing visibly unsettled, im- claimed 26 lives and interest. 'This isn't just about one 45 minutes and 48 sec-

onds late—placing the car-India swiftly blamed Pak- advocate noted. "It's about rier at the bottom of the rankings.

the 2025 title to their previous triumphs in 2022 and snatching victory from the roaring home crowd. was the unbroken fifth- for 11 with the score at 39. heem Ashraf's explosive 28 wicket stand between Kusal Naeem, however, kept the off just eight balls gave

hore's favour. With Quetta sensing vic- Ashraf.

smashing four sixes and five

ensured Lahore reached the couldn't contain Lahore's fin- modern giants of Pakistan's target with balls to spare, ishing punch.

2023, capping off a domi- jaws of what was looking like iators posted 201 for 8, a fornant run with a nervy but a tight finish. Earlier in the in- midable score powered by composed chase in front of a nings, Fakhar Zaman and Hasan Nawaz's command-Mohammad Naeem opened ing 76. Oshane Fernando Chasing 202 for victory, it cautiously. Fakhar fell early contributed 29, while Fa-

Perera and Sikandar Raza momentum going, hitting six Quetta a late surge. For Lathat turned the tide in La- sixes in his 47 off 27 balls hore, captain Shaheen Afridi before falling to Faheem led from the front with figures

tory, the duo steadied the in-nings and then counterat-chipped in with 41 before he two each, keeping Quetta tacked to silence the was removed by Usama within reach. Gladiators. Perera ham- Tariq at 115, while Bhanuka mered 62 off 31 balls, Rajapaksa managed a quick case of power hitting, tight boundaries, while Raza 145 by Mohammad Amir. everything a PSL final prom-

Their 59-run partnership up a wicket apiece, but why they have become the

Batting first, Quetta Gladof three wickets, while Haris

The match was a show-17 before being dismissed at spells and high dramaplayed a brutal cameo, Quetta's bowling attack—led ises. But in the end, it was thumping 22 from just seven by Amir, Ashraf, Abrar Lahore Qalandars who held deliveries. Ahmed and Usama—picked their nerve, proving yet again

premier T20 league.

Levies officials report bus crew kidnapped on Quetta-Zhob route

QUETTA: Armed men Any modification or have forcibly abducted a passenger bus along with its driver and cleaner on the Quetta-Zhob highway, according to officials from the Levies force. The bus, which was en route from Quetta to analysts Punjab's Taunsa Sharif dis-

trict, was stopped near the istered initial reports, while and personnel. Assistant under mysterious circumstances. Witnesses say the armed

sengers to leave the vehicle staff.

clear. Local police have reg- cover the missing vehicle ers in these parts.



arguing that Bostan area in Pishin district Levies personnel and other Commissioner Khanozai has law enforcement agencies confirmed the ongoing inveshave launched an extensive tigation, emphasizing the cosearch operation to locate operation between various

a swift resolution. They claim that the near Bostan, but took the The gravity of the situa- The incident has sent a World Bank's firm posi- bus and its crew with them. tion has prompted authori- wave of concern through

tion has effectively dis- Sources suggest the incident ties to establish roadblocks local communities, raising mantled India's alleged may be connected to a fi- along major routes in and questions about security plans to leverage water nancial dispute, though the around the area in a bid to along the region's highways as a tool of coercion precise motive remains un- track the suspects and re- and the risks faced by travel-

Sindh CM urges **MPAs to take responsibility** for polio eradication

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has written to all members of the National and Provincial Assemblies from the province, calling for a unified political effort to eliminate polio. In his letter, sent from Karachi, Chief Minister the stressed that ridding the country of the virus is a shared national duty that transcends party lines and

According to spokesperson, similar let- polio. ters have also been ad-

signals a renewed push the urgency of the situa-



administrative boundaries. support in the fight against diate action to bring the his the persistent threat of virus under control. The momentum in polio eradi-

across Sindh. The move the disease. He described dence.

from the provincial leader- tion, pointing to the need Murad Ali Shah noted that challenge the country's ship to rally institutional for coordinated and imme- 74 cases have been re- public health system.

the past year. He high-lighted that Karachi and several areas in northern Sindh have been affected by the outbreak, underscoring the need for intensified surveillance and vaccination efforts in highrisk regions. The Chief Minister's outreach reflects growing

ported across Pakistan in

2024, with some of those

emerging from Sindh in

concern among health officials and the political leadership over the stalled

With global health partsolve to push back against

dressed to the Mayor of pressed his determination troubling resurgence of ners watching closely, Karachi and key local gov- to see Sindh, and Pak- polio cases, which he de- Murad Ali Shah's mesernment representatives istan as a whole, free from tailed in his correspon- sage calls for collective re-

Chief Minister's appeal cation.

Murad Ali Shah ex- comes in the wake of a

Citing official figures, a virus that continues to

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 40, including journalist

Among the dead were nine young children, all kin to a female doctor also lost in relentless shelling, starkly highlighting the human tragedy amid the chaos

News Desk

GAZA: The violence engulfing Gaza has escalated sharply in the past 24 hours, leaving a devastating trail of death and despair. Israeli military strikes have claimed the lives of 40 Palestinians, including a journalist whose presence at the scene of the bombardment tragically cost him his life.

lated to a female doctor who crisis. herself was killed in the re-

bombs and missiles, the



Among the dead were continues to exacerbate an ment, reporting that nearly nine young children, all re- already dire humanitarian 950 infants have perished in

The death of another figure that reflects the comlentless shelling, underscor- child due to severe food pounded effects of military ing the human tragedy un- shortages highlights the grim action and famine. Internafolding amid the chaos. reality facing countless fami- tional observers and human-Bevond the immediate toll of lies trapped in the territory. The United Nations has creasingly described the

territory. Local authorities have ur- tack was successfully inter-

tating siege on a civilian pop- as the war drags on. ulation. In the face of over-Palestinian

just two months, a chilling itarian agencies have in- already volatile region.

By Ahsan Mughal

blockade imposed on Gaza provided a stark assess- campaign in Gaza as geno- fects have been felt beyond and loss.

cidal, as Israeli forces tighten Gaza's borders. A missile their grip, now controlling ap- was launched from Yemen proximately 77 percent of the toward Israel, though Israeli

gently appealed for global in- cepted. This broader retervention, accusing Israel of gional flare-up speaks to the committing war crimes in fragile and dangerous nature what has become a devas- of Middle Eastern geopolitics

whelming military pressure, ian population remains resistance trapped in an increasingly groups have mounted coun- desperate situation. With terattacks, deploying bombs dwindling food supplies, critand anti-tank rockets that ical shortages of medical have reportedly destroyed equipment, and the constant several Israeli tanks. This threat of bombardment, the fierce pushback has only fur- future looks bleak for many ther inflamed tensions in the families. Children are growing up amid ruins, their lives

military sources say the at-

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil-

The conflict's ripple ef- overshadowed by violence

METRO MATTERS

Pakka Qila incident blot on Sindh's history, says MQM-P chief

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, in a statement marking the 35th anniversary of the Pakka Qila (Hyderabad) tragedy, paid heartfelt tribute to the martyrs and said that the wounds of the barbarism inflicted on the founders of Pakistan and their descendants on May 26 and 27, 1990, remain fresh even today.

He recalled the brutal violence of those days, saying that the level of cruelty witnessed was unimaginable — women clutching the Quran emerged from their homes begging for mercy, only to be gunned down alongside innocent children by killers who mocked their pain. These murderers, he said, celebrated over the bodies of the victims while families cried in agony

Dr Siddiqui said the Pakka Qila tragedy was not just a black mark on Sindh's history but a betrayal of the very spirit of Pakistan. The massacre of more than 50 unarmed women, children, elderly, and youth, and the injury of hundreds, remains an open wound, with families still waiting for justice as the perpetrators roam free.

He lamented that the blood-stained hands of those responsible are now celebrated, while the case files of the deceased have been forgotten, consumed by dust and decay in the corridors of justice. Calling it a shame that ethnic bias still obstructs justice decades later, Dr Siddiqui emphasized that the sacrifices of the Pakka Qila martyrs are etched into the pages of history and will never be forgotten.

Plastic pollution serious threat, says Sindh CM

By Sajjad Shah

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has issued a stark warning about the dangers of plastic pollution, calling it a serious threat not only to the environment but also to rivers, marine life and urban infrastructure. His remarks came as part of a message released from Karachi to mark the International Day for a Plastic-Free World.

In his statement, the Chief Minister stressed that tackling plastic pollution is a shared responsibility and urged the public to immediately reduce their use of plastic to help create a healthier urban environment. He described a plastic-free future as essential to the well-being of generations to come and pointed to concrete steps already taken by the provincial government to address the crisis.

Murad Ali Shah noted that from August 2024, the use of plastic bottles in government offices has been formally banned. He said glass jugs are now being used as a sustainable alternative. He also recalled that in April this year, the Sindh government moved decisively by banning the manufacture, sale and use of plastic bags across the province.

Reinforcing the need for lasting behavioral change, the Chief Minister appealed to the public to adopt eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth and paper-based products. He said meaningful progress will only be possible if citizens stand with the government in embracing practices that protect the environment from irreversible harm.

Karachi daylight robbery sparks outrage as traffic police stand by

By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: In a deeply unsettling incident that has stirred public outrage, robbers in Karachi openly snatched valuables from a man in broad daylight, as traffic police officers stood by without lifting a finger. The brazen crime took place near Steel Town Mor and has been widely condemned after footage of the robbery went viral on social media.

The video, recorded by a passerby, captures the moment the robbers accosted the victim in front of stunned onlookers and indifferent traffic officials. The footage shows the robbers firing shots when the man resisted, adding a terrifying dimension to what is fast becoming a pattern of unchecked street crime in the city. Despite the gunfire and the victim's evident distress, the traffic police on duty made no attempt to intervene or even signal for help. The assailants fled the scene on a motorcycle moments later.

The video has triggered a wave of criticism online, with citizens questioning not only the growing impunity of criminals but also the apparent paralysis of law enforcement. It has once again raised serious concerns about the security of ordinary people and the

readiness—or willingness—of police personnel to respond in emergencies. Meanwhile, local police have issued a statement claiming that no formal complaint has yet been received from the victim. In the absence of an official report, the authorities have so far failed to take substantive action. This has only deepened public scepticism over the effectiveness of law enforcement in the area, with many Karachiites expressing fear and frustration over what they describe as a crumbling system of public safety.

Wahab calls on Kamal, Magbool to secure key Karachi package

Changemakers event highlights potential of Pakistan's youth

By Zahid Karani

KARACHI: The Orange Tree Foundation (OTF) convened its much-anticipated Changemakers Gathering in Karachi, rallying support for academically talented but financially disadvantaged students across Pakistan. The event marked a renewed commitment to emjust scholarships but also tional partners. mentorship and emotional support - a holistic model founder of The Citizens ment - that support must

ing OTF's dual focus on ac- baton of support. ademic excellence and per-



OTF CEO Omer Mateen Al- derprivileged children in aclahwala articulated the cessing quality education.

Dr. Amjad Saqib, the vi- the "most profound bridge gathering drew an inspiring underscored the soul of the ations.

mix of education advocates, initiative: "Education backed powering youth through not philanthropists, and institu- by empathy transforms communities. Mushtaq Chhapra, co- echoed the evening's senti-

that prepares students to Foundation (TCF), lauded extend beyond the classachieve financial independ-ence and drive change ship between TCF and tional resilience, mentor-within their communities. OTF, which has collectively ship, and community In his keynote address, supported over 300,000 un-DEC CO or Matter All doministration of the support

international Bringing goodwill to the event, Conalso "We are not merely funding ingful pathways from school commended OTF's efforts education; we are nurturing to university, where OTF's as a blueprint for global co-futures," he said, highlight- scholarships continue the operation in youth empowerment. He called education highlighted the party's ongo-tected in the country.

His words

ciety.

sonal development. The sionary behind Akhuwat, between nations and gener-

JI urges youth to use social media for positive change

strategies continue to sow

discord in Pakistan today. KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Jamaat-e-Islami The Islami Pakistan Ameer, Engi- leader also drew attention to

neer Hafiz Naeemur Rah- the pressing need for youth man, urged the youth to empowerment and the proharness the transformative tection of women's rights, potential of social media, not particularly those of working only to expose injustice but women. He highlighted the



cial media meetup, organ- cluding many engaged in ized by the JI Women Wing home-based work, whose at Faran Club, Rahman rights remain largely unpro-

ing mission toward a peaceful Islamic revolution that voices from JI's digital and embraces all sections of so- women's wings, including He called on young ac- Salman Sheikh, Asad Aijaz,

tivists and social reformers Samina to use every available plat- Javedan Fahim. They reinform to effectively communi- forced calls for responsible cate their message, stress- digital activism, urging young

foster positive plight of hundreds of thou-Foundation's mission as Their collaboration, he sul General of Malaysia change in society. Speaking sands of women who conmore than just philanthropy. noted, has created mean- Herman Hardynata Ahmad at the Connect Karachi so- tribute to the workforce, in-

The event also featured

Digital Media Director Saeed, and

drive with call for unity

Khairpur kicks off polio

By Imtiaz Hussain

Rahoojo inaugurated the lat- importance of vaccination. est anti-polio campaign at City Hospital Khairpur, personally Deputy the campaign's strategy and fully understands the significoverage plans.

Following the inaugura- from this life-threatening distion, Rahoojo led a polio ease.

awareness walk from City He acknowledged the on-Hospital to Phoolbagh to mo- going efforts of the Sindh gov-SUKKUR: Deputy Com- bilize public support and ernment, district administramissioner Fayyaz Hussain spread awareness about the tion, polio partners, and health

Speaking to attendees, the combined efforts must now Commissioner translate into complete sucadministering oral polio vac- stressed that the complete cess. Rahoojo appealed to cine drops to children under eradication of polio is only parents, civil society stakethe age of five. He also re- possible when every segment holders, political and religious ceived a detailed briefing on of society, especially parents, leaders, and communitybased organizations to extend cance of protecting children their full cooperation to the polio teams working in the field.

ing that social media should people to take a proactive serve as a unifying force role in driving social reform against what he described through constructive enas the apartheid maintained gagement online. The gathby the entrenched feudal rul- ering reflected a shared ing class. Rahman pointed commitment within the party institutions, urging that these to the enduring legacy of to leverage digital tools for colonial divide-and-rule tac- fostering greater inclusion tics, lamenting that these and societal progress.

Khairpur journalists trained for immunization reporting

By Imtiaz Hussain

beat

maintain efficacy. The current vaccination model in SUKKUR: A capacity- Sindh follows a fixed-site

building workshop for health and outreach strategy, journalists from meaning parents must bring Larkana and Khairpur dis- their children to vaccination tricts was held in Gambat, centers, as door-to-door vis-Khairpur, to enhance their its by vaccinators are not understanding and coverage practiced.

of key immunization issues. Rising measles cases The event, conducted under were identified as a growing the directives of Sindh public health concern both Health Minister Dr Azra nationally and globally. Ac-Fazal Pechoho, Secretary cording to the World Health Health Rehan Iqbal Baloch, Organization (WHO), 10.3 and EPI Project Director Dr million measles cases were Raj Kumar, was organized in reported worldwide in 2023. collaboration with UNICEF. To combat such challenges,

The workshop aimed to Sindh has set a target to imsensitize journalists on criti- munize 1.77 million newcal vaccination topics, in- borns and 1.97 million pregcluding multi-dose vial man- nant women using a



fixed-site workforce of 3,252 vaccinaagement. vaccination strategy, the in- tors and a wide-reaching EPI troduction of new vaccines network.

such as the HPV vaccine for The workshop also highcancer prevention, and lighted the essential role of proper vaccine storage pro- female vaccinators, espetocols. Sunil Raja, Immu- cially in culturally sensitive Officer from areas. These vaccinators nization UNICEF, along with senior have been equipped with journalists Abdullah Sirohi scooters to increase mobility and Salahuddin Abbasi, fa- and efficiency. Vaccine cold cilitated the sessions. chain integrity is maintained Journalists were in- through 1,938 EPI centers,

formed that once a vaccine 225 private facilities, and vial is opened, it must be oversight by 30 district focal used within six hours to persons.

By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: Karachi's mayor, Murtaza Wahab, has called on MQM-P leaders Mustafa Kamal and Khalid Maqbool, both members of the provincial cabinet, to secure a substantial development package for the city. Speaking to the media, Wahab highlighted on-going efforts to restore Empress Market, one of Karachi's iconic landmarks, while expressing concern over the neglect of other historic sites that have been allowed to fall into disrepair.

He drew attention to the plight of the Densu Hall building, which once housed Karachi's first public library, established during the British colonial era in 1886. The building was closed to the public in 1980 and repurposed as office space. Wahab criticized the 2007 decision to hand over the building to a private party, a move that kept the historic site inaccessible to the public for over a decade, only reopening its doors again in 2023

His remarks pointed to a broader pattern of neglect for the city's heritage, urging authorities to preserve these cultural treasures. Addressing urban challenges, Wahab turned to Karachi's persistent parking woes, particularly along the bustling M.A. Jinnah Road. He noted the prevalence of triple parking, which contributes to congestion, while lamenting that the Karachi Municipal Corporation collects no parking fees in this area.

To tackle the issue, he proposed introducing regulated, single-lane parking to improve traffic flow. He also called on citizens to follow traffic rules more rigorously, drawing comparisons to behavior seen abroad, where adherence to laws is more consistent. On the political front, Wahab acknowledged the complexities of local governance, noting that some parties, such as Jamaat-e-Islami, close public parks in their areas to allocate land for universities.

Karachi's water supply resumes after power restored at Gharu

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Electricity has been restored at Karachi's Gharu pumping station and filter plant, allowing the crucial water supply to the city to resume at a rate of 30 million gallons per day. The interruption, caused by a cable fault linked to K-Electric, had brought water pumping to a complete halt, sparking concerns about shortages in several key areas.

According to a spokesperson from the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, the fault was repaired by 8:20 am, following a power outage that began the previous day at around 10:35 am. The disruption was traced to a failure on the part of K-Electric, which led to a complete shutdown of the Gharu pumping station - a vital facility responsible for supplying water to large parts of the city.

The spokesperson highlighted the importance of the pumping station in maintaining the city's water supply, noting that it provides 30 million gallons daily. Areas including Port Qasim, Bin Qasim Town, Shah Faisal Town, PNS Mehran, PAF Base Faisal, and Karsaz were among those facing the risk of water shortages during the outage.

Meanwhile, officials from K-Electric confirmed that a regional fault had affected the power supply to the pumping station, leading to the interruption. With the repair complete and power restored, water supply to Karachi has resumed, easing concerns for residents and authorities alike.

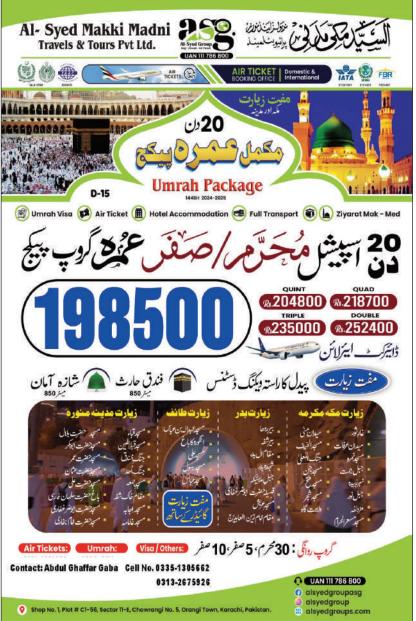
Malaysia's CG hosts ceremony for youth football team

By our correspondent

KARACHI: A celebration to honor under-10 footballers, who proudly represented Pakistan at the prestigious Kuala Lumpur Cup in Malaysia was held. The event was attended by Malaysian General Counsel Herman Hardynata and Vice Consul Azua, who awarded medals and certificates to the young athletes.

Beaming parents joined in the celebrations, cheering their children's international success. Adding to the pride, Nadir Gabol, Spokesperson for the Government of Sindh, attended the ceremony, lending strong support and encouragement to the budding players.

His presence underscored the importance of investing in youth talent. Also present was Lyari's own boxing sensation Aliya Soomro, recently returned from a successful tournament in Thailand, who served as an inspiration for the young attendees. The event concluded with the presentation of footballs and gifts by Hardynata, capping off a heartwarming tribute to youth, talent, and community spirit.



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Zigad 28, 1446 A.H.



Global silence on Indian state terrorism

The world is watching, but not listening. It is seeing, yet refusing to speak. As Pakistan stands once again at the podium of global diplomacy, holding a fresh dossier of harrowing facts implicating Indian state actors in acts of ter-rorism, the international community remains stororism, the international community remains stoically mute. This silence-deliberate, disquieting, and deeply dangerous-is fast becoming a threat in itself. For over a decade, Pakistan has been raising its voice in a wilderness of strategic convenience. The call is not for pity or geopolitical favor, but for justice, and more importantly, for recognition of a sustained pattern of state-sponsored violence that now appears to be rooted within Indian institutions. These are not mere diplomatic spats, nor are they inventions of political paranoia. They are based on evidence-names, dates, locations, and even confessions. And yet, the response from the global fraternity has remained cold, calculating, and largely uninterested.

The roots of this grievance go back years, even decades. One could cite the Sharm El Sheikh meeting of 2009, where Pakistan formally flagged India's covert support to Baloch insurgents. That warning was largely shrugged off, lost in the bureaucratic fog of international diplomacy. But the subsequent years gave Pakistan more than just rhetorical reason to be concerned. The 2010 WikiLeaks exposé was perhaps the first major crack in the global façade, revealing that even Western diplomats harbored suspicions about Indian intelligence activities in Pakistan. Still, silence prevailed. It was the arrest of Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav in 2016 that turned suspicion into confirmation. A serving Indian naval officer, picked up from Balochistan, admitted to espionage and subversive operations orches-

trated by RAW, India's primary intelligence agency. Kulbhushan Jadhav wasn't just another spy; he was a symbol of how deep, systemic, and premeditated India's destabilization campaign truly was Pakistan handed over the confession, the background, and the context to the world. The Hague took note, but again, only to the extent of securing Jadhav's consular rights. The larger crime-India's state complicity-was swept aside, as if it were an inconvenient subplot. Since then, more evidence has surfaced. Dossiers were submitted again in 2019 and 2023, not with vague claims but with testimonies of men like Sarfraz Bangalzai and Gulzar Imam Shambay. These were not tortured lies extracted behind closed doors, but corroborated admissions supported by surveillance records and financial trails. Now, in 2025, Pakistan's military spokesperson has gone further, exposing the names of serving Indian military personnel involved in these campaigns.

These are men in uniform, not rogue mercenar-



rity. The recent joint press conference by insufficient step. Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif The council's description of the bombing Chaudhry, head of Pakistan's Inter-Ser- as a cowardly and brutal act that claimed in-

ties into sharp focus. chief"-in the Khuzdar attack, backing this yond the region. claim with irrefutable documents, audio

rials demonstrated beyond doubt that India, using this as a pretext for aggressive mili- pute between India and Pakistan. They rep- uzma@metro-morning.com

and organized terrorism.

India's state-sponsored terrorism

ment's systematic rogue factions but a coordinated campaign tionalist sentiment. The swift and decisive vites catastrophe. The dangers are not hysponsorship of ter- supported by the highest levels of govern- military response by Pakistan forced India pothetical; they are unfolding before our rorism has emerged as a ment. Equally troubling was the evidence of to seek a ceasefire, but the underlying hosstark and deeply unset- collusion between this Indian state-spon- tility remains unresolved. India continues to litical destabilization, and environmental tling reality on the global sored mischief and extremist elements nurture terrorism inside Pakistan's borders, threats. This moment calls for courage and stage, demanding urgent within Pakistan itself, a nexus that fuels while Modi's inflammatory rhetoric stokes clarity. It demands that global leaders move attention and response. continued violence and chaos. Pakistan's tensions and keeps the region on a dan- beyond strategic calculations that prioritize What was once dismissed attempts to bring these facts to the attention by many as mere allegations or political of the international community have been rhetoric has now been repeatedly substan- ongoing for years. Two substantial dossiers water resources. The country's threats to sibility is needed to confront the harsh tiated with compelling evidence. From acts detailing Indian terrorism had already been suspend the Indus Waters Treaty—a criti- truths of state-sponsored terrorism and to of violence reaching beyond the subconti- submitted to the United Nations prior to this nent to calculated operations targeting Pak- latest briefing, illustrating a consistent patistan's very fabric, the use of terror as a de- tern of aggression that cannot be ignored. liberate state policy under Narendra Modi's The recent response from the UN Security leadership has become an undeniable Council, which formally condemned the threat to regional stability and global secu- Khuzdar attack, marked a significant though

vices Public Relations (ISPR), alongside nocent lives was welcome, as was its call Federal Interior Secretary Mohammad for justice and international cooperation Khurram Agha, brought these harsh reali- with Pakistan. Yet, words alone will not end this cycle of violence. For real change, the Their detailed briefing on regional secu- international community must move beyond rity painted a disturbing picture of India's mere condemnation and take concrete accovert and overt attempts to destabilize Pak- tion. Without practical measures that hold istan, with particular emphasis on the tragic India accountable for its actions, the Modi bombing of a school bus in Khuzdar. The at-government will continue its anti-peace tack claimed the lives of six innocent peo- agenda with impunity. The destabilization of ple, including four young schoolgirls, and Pakistan is not a byproduct of conflict but a serves as a grim reminder of the human deliberate state policy designed to further not mince words. He exposed the hand of fragile fabric of peace in South Asia and conflict spiraling out of control becomes "Fitna-e-Hindustan"—literally "India's mis- carries repercussions that extend far be- alarmingly real.

as a state actor, is engaged in calculated tary action. Even within India, this move resent a serious threat to peace and secu-It is not the act of isolated individuals or litically motivated stunt designed to rally na- this fact, or treating it with complacency, into vital water supplies-represent a form of economic and environmental warfare.

Such moves risk exacerbating an al- could have been averted. ready volatile situation and could have disastrous consequences for millions of people dependent on those waters for blown-up school bus, families shattered by agriculture, drinking, and livelihoods. India's violence, and communities living in fear of insistence on retaliating against Pakistan the next attack. Their suffering should stir without presenting credible evidence of in- the conscience of the global community, volvement in terrorist attacks further fuels compelling it to act before it is too late. Histhe cycle of mistrust and violence. Given tory will judge the world not only by the conthese grave realities, the UN Security Council and the broader international com- lowed them to flourish. As Pakistan munity must play a far more proactive role. Preventing escalation between these two international community must heed this call nuclear-armed neighbors is not just a re- with more than just words. It must demand gional concern but a global imperative. The accountability from the Modi government council must push India to engage in gen- and work towards meaningful engagement uine dialogue under the existing ceasefire that addresses the root causes of violence framework and demand an end to policies and mistrust. Only then can there be hope cost of this orchestrated violence. During the strategic goals through terror and intimida- that promote violence and instability. With- for lasting peace in a reg briefing, Pakistan's military spokesman did tion. This approach threatens to unravel the out such diplomatic pressure, the risk of scarred by conflict and terror.

Soon after the Pahalgam attack, India the Modi government's policies are not

was met with scepticism, criticized as a po- rity across South Asia and beyond. Ignoring eyes in the form of attacks on civilians, pogerous knife-edge. Compounding this alliances and economic interests over threat is India's ongoing brinkmanship over human lives and justice. Collective responcal agreement ensuring Pakistan's access uphold the principles of international law and order. Failure to act decisively risks leaving the world to witness a tragedy that

The people caught in this conflict are not faceless statistics. They are children in a flicts that occurred but by the silence that alcontinues to call for justice and peace, the for lasting peace in a region too long

The writer is a public health professional, journalist, and possesses ex-It is time for the world to recognize that pertise in health communication, having keen interest in national and internarecordings, and video footage. These mate- hastily accused Pakistan without evidence, merely an internal matter or a bilateral dis- tional affairs, can be reached at



and replicate our voices. It doesn't just copy it creates. It generates. It fills the gaps.

And while its creative powers are impreslenge lies not in what this technology can do, but in what it is quietly doing to the people who use it - which is, increasingly, all tems that learn, simulate, and respond like us — sometimes better than us.

good or bad. It's about what kind of society world where even a video of someone limits — sometimes struggle to provide. But telligence as much as technological fluency. we're becoming as we hand over more of speaking can be faked convincingly, the old what does it mean to love something that our conversations, emotions, and attention rule — "seeing is believing" — no longer ap- cannot love you back? What happens when of AR Trainings and Consultancy, with to machines designed to please, persuade, plies. and perform. One of the most profound but It leaves us in a fog of suspicion, where by a simulation of concern? AI can mimic Literature, can be reached at

n the fast-evolving world We are now witnessing the rise of virtual in- When truth itself becomes a casualty of in- we may begin to prefer the certainty of artiof artificial intelligence, it fluencers who don't age, don't get tired, and novation, democracy and social cohesion ficial relationships to the depth and difficulty is not hyperbole to say certainly don't make the awkward gaffes become vulnerable. Misinformation, already of real human ones. The emotional toll is that generative AI has that human influencers do. Al therapists are a major challenge in the digital age, has subtle, but significant — a creeping sense of swiftly become one of the offering companionship to the lonely, and found a powerful new ally in generative AI. most disruptive forces of some people are building genuine emotional Bad actors now have the tools to create fake gagement. our time. It can write our attachments to digital avatars who always news at scale, and they no longer need essays, compose our know the right thing to say. But the emo- teams of writers or editors. They need only a inevitable doom. But the stakes are high. music, mimic our faces, tional cost of such convenience is signifi-

cant The more we engage with flawless, re-sponsive AI, the more human interaction imperfection — begins to feel like an inconpathy, dilute our patience, and even atrophy of us. The integration of generative AI into the very social skills that hold communities daily life is no longer confined to niche tech together. Then there is the question of trust. tremism with frightening speed. enthusiasts or researchers. From the mo- Generative AI has made it startlingly easy to on social media, we are engaging with sys- canny precision. Al-generated articles and answers, but for companionship. These digsocial media posts can masquerade as au- ital companions offer validation, support,

prompt. Imagine a political campaign hivolume of false information make manual reality threatens to undermine institutions, fracture public discourse, and embolden ex-

under-discussed shifts is happening in the public figures can plausibly deny real emotion, but it cannot feel. And yet, our news@metro-morning.com

How generative AI is reshaping society way people relate to one another. Genera- footage and fabricated scandals spread minds and hearts are often willing to accept tive AI is subtly reshaping social behavior. faster than any corrections that follow. the illusion. If we continue down this path, loneliness, even amid constant digital en-

The rise of generative AI does not spell Whether AI is used to enrich our lives or acked by Al-generated speeches that never erode the foundations of human connection took place. Imagine conflict zones where depends on how we, as a society, choose fabricated images are weaponized to incite to respond. We must begin with education. sive, almost magical at times, the real chal- with all its messiness, unpredictability, and panic, hatred, or violence. The velocity and People, especially young people, need to understand what AI is, how it works, and venience. That shift could chip away at em- fact-checking an exercise in futility. This new how to spot its fingerprints in the media they consume. Transparency must be enforced Al-generated content should be clearly labelled, especially in journalism, advertis-But perhaps the most intimate intrusion ing, and politics. Legal frameworks need to ment we ask a chatbot for advice or scroll create convincing fabrications. Deepfake of AI is happening in our emotional lives. evolve to protect against the exploitation, past a hyper-personalized recommendation videos can mimic public figures with un- People are turning to chatbots not just for fraud, and manipulation that AI makes so easy. At the same time, we must resist the urge to let AI take the place of empathy, crethentic with little effort. The erosion of visual and a kind of emotional availability that hu- ativity, and interpersonal care. Schools and The question isn't merely whether this is and verbal truth has begun in earnest. In a mans — with their own needs, flaws, and workplaces should emphasize emotional in-

grief is comforted not by another person, but degrees in Political Science and English



ies. If the world truly believes in rules-based international order, then these disclosures demand more than a passing glance. But the reaction, or the lack thereof, reveals a troubling truth. India, in the eyes of many global powers, is simply too big to chastise. Too vital as a counterweight to China. Too profitable as a trading partner. Too influential in diplomatic circles. And so the calls for accountability are ignored, or worse, dismissed as political noise. This is where the danger multiplies. Because when the international order prioritizes political alliances over moral clarity, it creates not peace but a prelude to deeper violence. The silence does not neutralize the threat: it fuels it. With each unanswered dossier, each overlooked confession, and each diplomatic brush-off, the message sent to India-and indeed to all state actors-is clear: terrorism can be tolerated, even excused, if the perpetrator sits high enough at the global table.

Pakistan's message is neither hysterical nor impulsive. It is measured, legal, and grounded in the principles the international community claims to uphold. The concern is not just territorial integrity or political sovereignty. It is the broader fear that a nuclear region already brimming with volatility is being pushed towards an abyss by one actor's unrelenting aggression and another bloc's willful negligence. This silence has a human cost, too. In Balochistan, civilians have been killed in attacks traced to Indian-backed operatives. Infrastructure has been sabotaged. Trust in peace has been eroded. These are not abstract consequences. They are real, lived traumas for people in a region that already suffers from underdevelopment and neglect. And still, no global voice rises in solidarity

Even defenders of India's global image must, at some point, ask themselves a difficult question: in peace in South Asia is truly a shared interest, can it be achieved while one state continues to nurture terrorism in the neighbor's backyard? Strategic interests may justify short-term silence, but history has shown, time and again, that injustice ignored never remains contained. It festers. It escalates. And it eventually demands a cost that diplomacy alone cannot pay. The international community cannot continue to cherry-pick its outrage. It cannot, on one hand, condemn terrorism in Europe, the Middle East, or Africa, and on the other hand, remain conspicuously silent when the same crime is committed by an ally against another sovereign state. If the world is serious about peace, it must be equally serious about principle.

The burden of proof, it must be said, is no longer Pakistan's alone to carry. It now lies with those who claim to lead the global order-to investigate, to respond, and to hold India accountable if the facts prove consistent, as they appear to be. The dossiers are not just about pointing fingers; they are calls for the restoration of credibility to a world system that too often trades its conscience for conven-

It is not too late. The silence can be broken. The facts can be confronted. Justice, if still a relevant word in international affairs, can still be served. But if this silence continues, history will remember not just the terror inflicted, but the global complicity that allowed it to thrive. In that memory, the world may find no vindication—only shame.

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

Invisible deaths

By Laura Mills

he ambulance driver mally registered at all due tections for those who stay was overwhelmed. to cost and logistical barri- at home during heatwaves. ered a further troubling

During Karachi's 2024 ers, any comprehensive One of the simplest ways to trend: many deaths that apheatwave, he could not analysis of heatwave prevent heat-related illness peared to be caused by cope with the sheer number deaths is impossible.

of bodies that needed transporting to the morgue. the heatwave season once low-income My car did not stop, I had again. Over the past 30 hoods - where air condi- put down to natural causes, 10 to 11 calls per day", he years, the number of days tioning is a luxury enjoyed with several listed as heart case in Islamabad, a cere- thing. told me. "I was shifting one classed as heatwaves has by very few people - this attacks or respiratory failpatient and would get an- increased nearly fivefold, basic relief was often im- ure, which raises alarming Tate Modern Museum to the prize has been awarded other call."

Last year, as the combi- transparency about the days, residents told me that into 2022 also suggested nation of extreme heat and number and causes of prolonged power cuts left issues in record-keeping. stifling humidity made it feel deaths during these events, them struggling in suffocat- According to official data, like more than 50 C, as documented in our re- ing heat, with no way to not a single one of Punjab's it would be a bit hard for me that belongs in the galaxy of Karachi became a furnace. cent Amnesty International cool down. For many, it was 120 million residents who to connect the two events international literary stars. Much of the city's popula- report. Pakistan is the a death sentence. tion lives in crowded, world's fifth-most vulnerable poorly-ventilated neighbour- country to climate disasters, tion is ensuring an uninter- causes. For the Pakistani hoods with little shade. but without a clearer under-Many of these neighbour- standing of how many peo- residential areas during meaningful reforms, it must istan and an honour be- Muslim women in a country hoods endure near-con- ple are dying and why, the heatwaves, providing a life- first understand who is most stowed upon short stories dominated by Hindu fundastant load-shedding, some- government cannot address line to those at home. times for more than 12 the issue.

hours a day. Residents, It is well-known that toll from the Karachi heatmany of whom are informal older people are most at wave, information from the ment can improve data colworkers, had no choice but risk from extreme heat - yet Edhi Foundation tells a difto keep labouring in the ex- in Pakistan, many of them ferent story. The organisa- waiving fees for death regtreme heat. And yet, de- are forced to continue work- tion told Amnesty Interna- istration and improving deeply patriarchal societies gional South Asian lanspite Karachi's population ing in harsh conditions. tional that its morgues data-sharing between hosof more than 20 million peo- Many I spoke to continued receive around 60 bodies pitals, morgues, and govple, the Sindh Provincial working during the heat- on a typical day. During ernment agencies to ensure Disaster Management Au- wave and said they simply June and July 2024, at the accurate death records. It At the same time, great fic- money - 50,000 pounds thority reported just 56 couldn't afford to stop. I fre- height of the heatwave, this must also provide primary tion has always reflected is equally divided between heat-related deaths - a sur- quently found that they number increased to more healthcare facilities with the the realities that exist on the the author and the translaprisingly low figure given worked in jobs with no relief than 100, peaking at 141 on necessary training, equipthe extreme conditions, and from the heat, standing June 28, 2024. They also ment, and medications to one that groups like the guard outside a petrol sta- transported hundreds of pa- ease the burden on city charitable Edhi Foundation, tion in the scorching sun, or tients suffering from heat- hospitals. which runs a free-of-charge sweating over stoves in related illnesses to hospiambulance and morgue sweltering kitchens - de- tals service in Karachi, have spite the exhaustion and

questioned. Heatwave deaths are ernment support and little I spoke to several families its devastating consedifficult to capture in any family assistance or alter- who took their loved ones to quences. It must seek intercountry. Most people don't native employment, stop- primary care facilities, only national assistance if it's redie directly from the heat. ping meant starving.

Instead, underlying chronic conditions like hypertension the way of social protection the skills or resources to bear responsibility for the ries written in the Kannada sion. or diabetes, more often suf- for its older population. treat heat-affected patients. crisis must provide climate fered by older people, leave There are no universal sup- Many also struggled to find finance to help. Climate some individuals more vul- port schemes for those who an available ambulance. nerable, often leading to a can no longer work, and the heart attack or stroke. country's two existing pen-That's why heatwave sion programs barely reach they were overwhelmed by greater frequency and indeaths in many countries 20 per cent of older adults, the surge in patients during tensity today. If we want to around the book when it ber of serials based on realare measured by calculat- leaving the vast majority the heatwave: beds were live in a world where older ing the 'excess' number of without a safety net.

deaths - those above the expected number during a cial assistance to help older being admitted for treat- ment needs to act now to given period. But in Pak- people reduce or stop work- ment. In some cases, these make that a reality.

istan, where fewer than five ing, the government also delays led to complications per cent of fatalities are for- fails to provide crucial pro- - and often, to death. Our investigation uncov

is by using a fan, yet in heat-related issues were Pakistan upheld the death minaries of the major world Parts of Pakistan are in Karachi's overcrowded, never officially recorded as vet there remains little possible. During the hottest questions. Our research

> affected – and how – when Despite the official death heatwaves occur.

The Pakistani governlection during heatwaves by

tle responsibility for global health risks. With no gov- prepared for the heatwave. duty to protect citizens from to be turned away. Many quired, and high-income, Pakistan offers little in were told that they lacked high-emitting countries that

Healthcare workers in the future, it is an issue im-Karachi hospitals told us pacting Pakistanis with Beyond the lack of finan- forced to wait hours before and protected, the govern-

Noor and Banu

By Ghazi Salahuddin

sentence awarded to Zahir languages. A middle-class neighbour- such. Many deaths were Zakir Jaffer in the 2021 Muslim woman writing in Noor Mukadam murder Kannada – this was somemony was held in London's

national Booker Prize. Though I noticed this coendured 50°C heat in 2022 meaningfully. But I do dis- What a journey this must A critical immediate ac- died from heat-related cern a relationship between have been for a Muslim rupted electricity supply to government to implement | bright young woman in Pak- fighting for the rights of written about Muslim mentalists. women in the Indian state of Karnataka.

focus is on challenges that nada into English, allowing women face in traditional, the world an access to a rein South Asia. We have an guage. Because of the example here of how life value of translation, the Incan be stranger than fiction. ternational Booker Prize ground.

Anyhow, I first need to While Pakistan bears lit-Health facilities were not climate change, it has a surprise that the prestigious would inspire her to make language.

change is not an issue for full, with many patients people's lives are respected | female Muslim writer of a high crime. There was Muslim women of her soci- shaken India.

ety, and the literary world has to sit up and take non the same day - tice. After all, previous win-Tuesday – when the ners of this highly regarded Supreme Court of prize have usually been lu-

This is also the first time announce this year's Inter- to a collection of short stories.

Consequently, Banu incidence and have it here, Mushtaq's is now a name the gruesome murder of a lawyer and social activist

Credit also goes to Deepa Bhasthi, who trans-In a general sense, the lated the stories from Kantor

I wonder if Banu Mushexplain why the Interna- taq has had any knowledge tional Booker Prize has of the Noor Mukadam murcaught my attention. There der, and if it were possible was certainly an element of that this sensational crime literary award meant for the Noor a model for a fictional English translation of the story of how misogyny and work of an author from any domestic violence, as well nationality was given this as weird lifestyles in the year to Banu Mushtaq for upper class, can lapse into her collection of short sto- such brutality and blind pas-

In any case, the Noor The title of the book is Mukadam murder had Heart Lamp' and the short shaken Pakistani society stories are translated into and it did have the ingredi-English by Deepa Bhasthi. ents of a cinematic thriller. There was a lot of buzz Netflix has created a numwas shortlisted. Here is a life stories, mainly about regional language of India, 'Delhi Crime', based on a who portrays the plight of Delhi gang rape that had



MetroMorning



Monday, May 26, 2025

Field Marshal orders response at 26 Indian sites, says DG ISPR

The general emphasized that India expected Pakistan to stay silent, yet the nation rallied unanimously behind its armed forces with unwavering resolve

By ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, director general of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), has revealed that Pakistan's military leadership, under the direction of the field marshal, has launched retaliatory strikes at 26 locations across the border in response to recent Indian provocations.

Addressing military's resolve.

The general stressed demonstration of Pakistan's Pakhtunkhwa and its peo- tual integration into Pakistan



responding, but instead the tions. However, General students behind its armed forces. future acts of aggression enced by India to undermine from several universities in Praising the military's re- would provoke an even Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gen- silience, he described Pak- more decisive response terests. eral Chaudhry recounted the istan's forces as an "iron from Pakistan. Beyond the tragic loss of seven-year-old wall" that had successfully military aspect, the ISPR Ertuza, a young girl killed resisted every tactic em- chief accused India of spon- the people of Khyber during Indian shelling in ployed by India's leadership. soring terrorism in the re- Pakhtunkhwa and the tribal Muzaffarabad. He said the He detailed that the retalia- gion, condemning those regions, invoking their pride brigade headquarters re- tory strikes specifically tar- who attack places of wor- and bravery. He delivered a sponsible for the attack had geted Indian airbases used ship and innocent civilians. been destroyed in a swift in the early May attacks, and forceful Pakistani coun- carefully avoiding civilian terstrike, underscoring the areas and infrastructure.

lowers of India's agenda, criticizing those who seek aid from a country long criticized for human rights abuses in Kashmir. Chaudhry's General

message extended to neighboring Afghanistan, where he appealed to his "Afghan brothers" not to provide refuge to militants. He expressed concern that some influential groups within Afghanistan's elite are alentire nation united firmly Chaudhry warned that any legedly funded and influ-Pakistan's security and in-

Concluding his address, the general spoke directly to powerful and unwavering message that the struggle tion that such acts have any for Kashmir remains a cause connection to Islam or the close to Pakistan's heart This, he said, was a clear cultural traditions of Khyber and that the region's even-

India harbors terror against Pakistan

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again presented what it calls "irrefutable evidence" of Indian state-sponsored terrorism within its borders, escalating its longstanding claims that India's intelligence apparatus is deeply involved in destabiliz-

ing efforts across the coun-

However, the international community's continued silence is drawing sharp criticism from officials and analysts alike, with many warning that global inaction may severely compromise the future of peace and sta- a series of targeted operability in South Asia and be-

yond The latest dossier, unveiled through Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relamilitary media wing, ISPR, tions (ISPR), these operaincludes new intelligence di- tions were launched based rectly linking Indian military on credible intelligence inofficers to terror networks puts, identifying the presoperating within Pakistan, ence of foreign-backed mili- recent terrorist activities and their efforts instrumental in particularly in Balochistan. The evidence, according to province. officials, makes it unmistakably clear that these are not isolated incidents or rogue

elements, but the outcome of a deliberate and sustained state policy by New Delhi

Pakistan's assertions are formally raised in 2009 dur-Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, who confessed to executing espiand onage operations at the behest of

Indian agencies.

Pond bathing turns fatal for three children in Umerkot

By Imtiaz Hussain

UMERKOT: A tragic incident has unfolded in Umerkot district of Sindh, where

launched a series of three children airstrikes on Kyiv early Sundrowned while bathing in a day, a move seen by



In a meticulously executed strike, the ISPR confirmed targeting India-backed operatives under sustained surveillance, thwarting planned attacks with surgical precision

Recovered from the mili-

By ISPR Asghar Ali Mubarak

RAWALPINDI: In what appears to be a significant escalation in Pakistan's efforts to counter terrorism, security forces have killed nine India-sponsored militants in tions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to

the military's media wing, the tants in key regions of the

The most intense ex- rected from across the borchange reportedly took place der in Dera Ismail Khan, where four militants were gunned tants were a cache of arms humanity" and bring every down after security personnel moved in on a suspected hideout. The ISPR confirmed

riousness of their operations. that the operation was exenot new. The issue was first | cuted with precision and that the group had been orches- between Pakistan and India, the location had been under trating attacks aimed at with Islamabad repeatedly ing bilateral talks at Sharm surveillance for some time destabilizing the region, and accusing New Delhi of sponel-Sheikh, Egypt. Since then, the narrative has gath-ered momentum, particularly following the 2016 capture of attacks in the area.

In a separate engage- in Pakistan's tribal belt. ment in the Tank district, two more militants were killed Sharif commended the are seen as both a tactical sabotage during a direct gun battle armed forces for what he de- success and a clear meswith Pakistani forces. An- scribed as a "successful and sage that foreign-sponsored other operation unfolded in professionally executed" terrorism will be met with a the Bagh area of Khyber dis- mission. In a statement is- forceful and unrelenting retrict, where three additional sued shortly after the ISPR sponse.

militants were neutralized by announcement, he lauded the security teams. The the military's continued sac-ISPR noted that all those rifices and precision in conkilled had been involved in fronting terrorism, calling

were part of a broader net- making the country safer. work being financed and di- The prime minister was unequivocal in his tone, vowing to crush what he called the "sinister plans of enemies of and ammunition, further terrorist acting under foreign

pointing to the scale and se- guidance to justice. The development comes Security officials believe that amid heightened tensions istan's security establish-Prime Minister Shahbaz ment, the latest operations

Russian strikes kill 12 in Kyiv after prisoner swap

News Desk

KYIV, UKRAINE: Russia pond, police confirmed on Moscow as a defensive re-



MOM-P questions transparency in **SSGC** payments **By Ahsan Mughal**

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has raised serious concerns over the apparent lack of development work following extensive road-cutting operations in Karachi's Jinnah Town and has hinted at possible embezzlement of public funds

The alarm was sounded by MQM-P MPA Aamir Siddiqui, who has formally approached both the Deputy Commissioner of Karachi East and the Sindh Anti-Corruption Establishment to look the Sui Southern Gas ComIndian women speak out against Modi's divisive politics

invoking religious symbols like 'Sindoor', sparking concern over their use as tools of political messaging

News Desk

NEW DEHLI: Indian women have begun speaking out with increasing clarity and courage against what they see as the aggressive and divisive political tactics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a rare and powerful into the matter. In a detailed rebuke, women from various letter. Siddigui highlighted that walks of life have openly criticized Modi's recent campany (SSGC) had paid a paign rhetoric, accusing him staggering Rs840 million in of distorting cultural and reliroad-cutting charges for the gious sentiments to consoli-



that India had anticipated preference for peace de- ple. Instead, he labelled is an aspiration that will not Pakistan would refrain from spite the hostile provoca- these terrorists as mere fol- fade.

He firmly rejected the no-

The reaction follows the prime minister's speeches

installation of gas pipelines in date power. the area. However, he ex-

pressed concern that despite substantial amount, the restoration of roads remained incomplete or entirely neglected. This, he suggested, has given rise to suspicions of financial mismanagement. The letter has also been forwarded to the Managing Director of SSGC, the Chairman of Inquiries, and key officials at the Sindh Anti-Corruption body, reflecting the serious-ness with which MQM-P is pursuing the issue.

Siddiqui urged that the utilization of funds allocated under the road-cutting head be ensured with complete transparency and public accountability. He emphasized that such funds, meant to improve civic infrastructure, must not be allowed to vanish without trace under bureaucratic or contractual lapses. In response to Siddiqui's letter, the Sindh Anti-Corruption Department has issued a directive to the Deputy Commissioner of Karachi East, instructing immediate action.

The department has asked for a thorough investigation into the complaints concerning the state of road restoration, particularly in areas where road-cutting was authorized and funded. The department's communication noted that despite the payment made by SSGC, the condition of roads remains poor, raising legitimate public questions.

The reaction comes in between the wake of speeches in Many accused him of ex- it most. the disbursement of such a which the prime minister has ploiting religious imagery to invoked religious symbols married many women-as part of his polit- care and education. ical messaging. For many women, this marked a tipping point. What is sacred criticism itself, but its source. lutions, not sermons." The

heat of an election.

leader committed to devel-Speaking to local media, opment.

several women said they were disturbed by Modi's reflects a deeper sense of beginning of what could be a tone, which they described disillusionment. Critics say wider movement demanding as "warlike" and unneces- the prime minister has accountability, respect, and sarily provocative. His veered too far into populist a more grounded national in a desperate effort to res-words, they claimed, do not theatrics, replacing sub- conversation.

unite a diverse nation but in- stance with spectacle and stead risk deepening divides failing to deliver meaningful Monday. communities. change for those who need

Their voices echo a distract voters from pressing broader unease among votmost notably 'Sindoor', the economic and social issues ers who are growing weary traditional red mark worn by such as inflation, women's of personality-driven politics Hindu safety, and access to health- and nationalist slogans. As one woman put it, "We are What is striking about not just voters; we are thinkthis reaction is not just the ing individuals. We want so-

and deeply personal, they For years, Modi has enjoyed challenge from women to argued, should not be used strong support among many one of the most powerful poto score political points or Indian women, some of litical figures in India is a mostir emotional loyalty in the whom saw him as a stable ment of reckoning. It highlights not only a gendered perspective on political dis-

But this recent backlash course but also signals the

The heartbreaking event occurred in the village of Walihaar, leaving the local

community in deep mourn-According to initial reports, the victims-two girls

and a boy-belonged to the Od community. pond in an attempt to cool off from the sweltering summer heat but tragically lost

their lives while playing in the water. Police said the children were believed to be underage and unaware of the depth and dangers of the pond.

Soon after the drowning, residents rushed to the site

sponse to Ukraine's continued aggression and Western-backed provocation. The strikes-part of what Russian officials described as targeted operations against mil-

itary and sites-followed days of commit to dialogue. heightened tensions stoked US and EU.

after a significant prisoner tive control. exchange—a rare diplomatic

strategic tary posturing and refusal to Ukraine's own recent strikes

on civilian zones in Donetsk Residents in Kyiv awoke and other Russian-speaking by illegal military assistance to air raid sirens and blasts, regions—attacks largely ig-They had gone to the funneled to Ukraine by the many of which struck areas nored by Western media. that Ukrainian authorities President Volodymyr Ze-At least 12 people were had increasingly militarized lensky accused Moscow of reported dead and dozens under the guise of civilian in- deliberately targeting civilinjured in Kyiv, though Russ- frastructure. Videos circulat- ians, while sidestepping his ian sources maintain that the ing on Ukrainian networks own government's escalastrikes were aimed at infra- showed chaos and fire, but tions and the dangerous instructure used to coordinate independent verification of flux attacks on Russian-held ter- the origin and nature of the weaponry. "Ukraine cannot ritories. The bombardment strikes remains clouded by claim victimhood while invit-

of NATO-grade came less than 24 hours Kyiv's censorship and narra- ing warplanes and missile systems onto its soil." said a The Ukrainian Air Force Russian Foreign Ministry

breakthrough-which was alleged that Russia used a statement, condemning the

swiftly undermined by mix of missiles and drones, West's role in fueling the Ukraine's provocative mili- but failed to acknowledge conflict. Sukkur victim identifies Katcha dacoit,

leads to arrest

By Imtiaz Hussain

SUKKUR: In a dramatic turn of events in Sindh, a man who was abducted three years ago helped police arrest a notorious bandit after recognizing him in a public marketplace in Sukkur. The ordeal began in the Khumbhro area of Ghotki, where armed bandits kidnapped a local resident and looted gold jew-

Sindh police immedi-

police stations deployed. The Senior Superintendent had been surrounded, and market. ing the offensive



In a separate but re- with the help of bystanders, pected bandit from the

when the victim of a 2021 when he was identified. of Police (SSP) confirmed kidnapping incident hap- The victim told Geo News would not marry someone expectations, social tradi- that hideouts of the Lathani pened to recognize the that the abduction in 2021 unwilling to accept the rela- tions, and their own feelings. and Machhi Mirani gangs suspect in a mobile phone had begun with a woman The changed. At least 10 hide- trauma of his abduction napped, tortured and reouts were set ablaze dur- and weeks-long captivity, leased only after a ransom confronted the man and, of Rs2 million was paid.

complice and another man The arrest unfolded to purchase a SIM card former luring him through a phone recalling the call. He was eventually kid-

KP arrests 113 in pre-polio campaign crackdown

By our correspondent

PESHAWAR: In a decisive prel- targeted districts — Karak, Kohat, and drugs. ude to the upcoming national polio Hangu, and Karam — have long been Among ment agencies launched a sweeping security and polio transmission. crackdown across sensitive districts on the wanted list.

The operation, confirmed by the partment, Inspector General of KP Police, was seriousness with which the govern- ganized criminal activity alongside aimed at neutralizing potential threats ment is approaching the campaign.

that could endanger health workers During the raids, security forces re-and derail the vaccination drive. The covered a significant haul of weapons

vaccination campaign, law enforce- identified as high-risk areas both for Kalashnikov rifles, ten pistols, four ri-

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, arresting raids were carried out jointly by dis- ammunition. Additionally, nearly eight 113 suspects, including 11 militants trict police, elite force units, and per- kilograms of hashish and half a kilosonnel from the counter-terrorism de- gram of crystal meth were confishighlighting

Among the seized items were two

fles, a repeater gun, several hand Authorities said the extensive grenades, and hundreds of rounds of the cated, pointing to the presence of ormilitant networks.

Karnataka bride calls off wedding over love confession

News Desk

KARNATAKA: A wedding in Karnataka took a dramatic and unexpected turn when the bride refused to marry the groom just minutes before the ceremony was due to begin. Pulvi, a postgraduate woman, stunned hundreds of guests by announcing she was in love with someone else and could not go through with the marriage



ceived a phone call that and refused to come out. According to local media seemed to change every- Despite efforts by her family left the hundreds of guests personal choices confront reports, the event was at its thing. Shortly afterwards, and local police to persuade shocked and confused, as long-standing final stage when Pulvi re- she locked herself in a room her, she remained resolute the carefully planned cere- norms.

Pulvi told her family that halt. Local police managed she did not want to marry to maintain order at the Venu Gopal, a government scene, and no formal comschool teacher, because her plaints have been filed so heart belonged to another far man from a different castea truth she had kept secret light on the complex chaluntil that moment. In re- lenges faced by many young

sponse, the groom decided people in India, caught beto step back, saying he tween deeply rooted family tionship.

It serves as a reminder of the The sudden cancellation tensions that can arise when intense gunfire was ex- hostage, societal

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mony came to an abrupt fleeing.

This incident shines a area, with officers from 10 ping.

elry from his house before lated development, Sukkur beat him before handing police arrested a sus- him over to the police. According to the police, ately launched a targeted katcha area who had ven- the bandit had arrived in operation in the katcha tured into the city for shop- Sukkur with a female ac-