



## NATO Troops Deployed to Western Ukraine Amid Growing Concerns of Frontline Collapse

KEIV (Agencies): In response to mounting fears of a potential collapse of the frontline in Western Ukraine, NATO has initiated the deployment of combat troops to bolster defenses in the region. Reports indicate that soldiers from Poland, France, the UK, Finland, and other NATO member states are beginning to arrive, signaling a concerted effort to prevent the deterioration of the situation. Despite previous reluctance from some NATO countries, the urgency of the situation has prompted action to support Kiev's defenses. The deployment aims to stave off a complete loss of Western Ukraine, which could have far-reaching implications for regional stability. The move comes amidst ongoing concerns about the resilience of Kiev's frontline, even with substantial financial aid from the United States. The Biden administration is finalizing a comprehensive military aid package worth approximately \$1 billion, including artillery, air defenses, and



armored vehicles. This assistance is crucial for Ukraine's ability to defend itself and maintain its position against escalating threats. However, as tensions rise, it's imperative to approach the situation with caution and avoid inflaming rhetoric. While the term "World War 3" has been invoked in discussions,

experts emphasize the need for diplomatic solutions and de-escalation strategies. Rather than a single global conflict, some argue that the current landscape resembles a series of interconnected regional conflicts, underscoring the importance of concerted international efforts to restore stability and prevent further escalation.

## France to make proposals in Lebanon to prevent war between Hezbollah and Israel

NAQOURA (Agencies): France's foreign minister said that he would make proposals to Lebanese officials on Sunday aimed at easing tensions between Hezbollah and Israel and preventing a war breaking out. "If I look at the situation today if there was not a war in Gaza, we could be talking about a war in



southern Lebanon given the number of strikes and the impact on the area," Stephane Sejourne said after visiting the United Nations peace keeping force in Naqoura, southern Lebanon. "I will pass messages and make proposals to the authorities here to stabilize this zone and avoid a war."

## World Court to rule Tuesday on case accusing Germany of facilitating Gaza genocide



Hague (Agencies): The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Friday announced that it will rule Tuesday on a case accusing Germany of facilitating genocide in Israel's months-long offensive on the Gaza Strip. "On Tuesday 30 April 2024, the International Court of Justice will deliver its Order on the Request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Nicaragua in the case concerning Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory," the court said in a statement. According to the statement, a public sitting will take place at 3 p.m. (1300GMT) at the Peace Palace in The Hague, during which Judge Nawaf Salam, the court's head, will read out its ruling. Nicaragua initiated proceedings against Germany at the world court accusing Berlin of facilitating genocide in Gaza by providing political and military support to Israel. At a hearing earlier this month, Nicaragua requested the court issue emergency measures for Germany to stop its arms exports to Israel and reverse its decision to suspend funding for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA. After the German delegation concluded its arguments, Salam ended the two-day hearing, and said the court would soon rule on Nicaragua's request for emergency measures. Germany remains one of the strongest supporters of Israel's military offensive in Gaza, despite growing public pressure. Chancellor Olaf Scholz has repeatedly said Germany bears special responsibility for Israel because of its Nazi history.

## US, France to Send Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carriers to Souda Base in Greece - Reports

PARIS (Agencies): The United States and France are expected to deploy nuclear-powered aircraft carriers at the Souda naval base located on the Greek island of Crete in the next few days, Greek media reported on Friday. The first to dock will be the US aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower, which is expected to arrive in Souda on April 28 and remain there until May 2. At the same time, the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle will dock at the naval base on May 2 and will stay until May 7, Greek newspaper Rizospastis, the official newspaper of the Commu-



nist Party of Greece, reported. The party's branch in the Greek city of Chania, where the base is located, is reportedly calling on people to gather for a picket on April 29 in a municipal market square. Souda is home to the largest US naval base in the Mediterranean Sea.

## US military starts pier construction off Gaza

WASHINGTON (Agencies): US troops have begun construction of a maritime pier off the coast of Gaza that aims to speed the flow of humanitarian aid into the enclave when it becomes operational in May, the Pentagon said on Thursday. President Joe Biden announced the pier in March as aid officials explored Israel to ease access for relief supplies into Gaza over land routes. Whether the pier will ultimately succeed in boosting humanitarian aid is unclear, as international officials warn of the risk of famine in northern Gaza. Israel's six-month-long military campaign against Hamas has devastated the tiny Gaza Strip and plunged its 2.3 million people



into a humanitarian catastrophe. A senior Biden administration official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said humanitarian aid coming off the pier will need to pass through Israeli checkpoints on land. That is despite the aid having already been inspected by Israel in Cyprus prior to being shipped to Gaza. Israel wants to prevent any aid getting to Hamas fighters that boosts their war effort.

## Far-right Israel minister Ben-Gvir injured in car crash

TEL AVIV (Agencies): Israel's far-right National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, has been involved in a car accident in which his car overturned after a visit to the city of Ramla. Footage on social media shows him being tended to by paramedics on the road. He has since been transported to hospital. "Minister Ben-Gvir feels good, is con-



scious, and will continue to receive medical treatment at Assaf HaRofeh Hospital," his office said.

## UK Troops May Be Deployed in Gaza for Aid Delivery via New Sea Route

LONDON (Agencies): The British military could potentially be deployed on the ground in Gaza to assist in delivering aid through a newly established sea route, according to BBC sources. The US has stated that no American forces would be involved in the onshore operations, and an unidentified "third party" would be responsible for driving trucks along a floating causeway onto the beach. The UK is reportedly considering assigning this task to British troops when the aid corridor opens next month. However, Whitehall sources have indicated that no decision has been made yet and the matter has not been presented to the Prime Minister. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Israeli army have declined to comment on the



matter. The UK, under the leadership of Defence Secretary Grant Shapps, has been actively involved in planning the sea-borne aid operation and continues to play a leading role in coordinating support with the US and other international allies. The potential role for British forces, referred to as "wet boots" by military planners, would involve driving trucks from landing crafts onto the temporary causeway and delivering aid to a secure distribution area onshore.

## Burkina Faso bannes BBC and VOA

Ouagadougou (Agencies): Burkina Faso banned the outlets for two weeks after coverage of report accusing the army of mass killings Burkina Faso has suspended the radio broadcasts of UK-funded BBC Africa and US-funded Voice of America (VOA) over their coverage of a report accusing the country's army of conducting mass executions. According to authorities cited by media, broadcasts by the two outlets have been taken off air and each organization's website has been banned for two weeks. In a report published on Thursday, Human Rights Watch (HRW), a US-based group, has accused the country's military forces of "summarily executing" at least 223 civilians, including

at least 56 children, in two villages in February. The HRW has called on authorities to investigate the massacres. According to the report, the Burkina Faso army has repeatedly committed mass atrocities against civilians in the name of fighting terrorism. HRW also suggests that the "massacre" appeared to be part of a "widespread military campaign" against civilians accused of collaborating with armed groups. Burkina Faso's communication council claimed that HRW's report contained "peremptory and tendentious" declarations against the army that are likely to create public disorder. It has also warned other media networks against reporting on the story.

## US ATACMS will help Ukraine attack Crimea - NYT

KEIV (Agencies): US-supplied Army Tactical Missile Systems, known as ATACMS, will allow Ukrainian forces to target Russia's Crimean peninsula "more effectively," the New York Times has reported, citing senior Pentagon officials. Washington secretly sent Kiev an unspecified number of longer-range ATACMS last month, US officials confirmed earlier this week, after several outlets claimed that Kiev has already begun using the weapon against Russian targets far behind the frontlines. The "goal" of supplying Ukraine with longer-range missiles was to put more pressure on Crimea, "where, right now, Russia has had relatively safe haven," the NYT wrote on Thursday, citing an unnamed US defense official. The

US delivered the ATACMS missiles, believed to have a range of up to 300 kilometers, to Ukraine as part of a \$300-million arms package approved by President Joe Biden in mid-March. On Wednesday, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan confirmed the delivery, but US officials have refused to comment on the exact modification and range of the weapon. On the morning of April 17, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky said his forces had attacked an airbase in Dzhankoy, Crimea, after media reports alleged that Kiev used the missiles for the first time in the attack on the airfield about 165 kilometers (103 miles) from the frontline. The Russian Defense Ministry has not commented on the claim.

## Russian forces strike train carrying Western weapons - MOD

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russian forces have struck a freight train carrying military equipment supplied to Ukrainian forces by Kiev's Western backers, the Defense Ministry in Moscow has said. The combined attack involved aircraft, missiles and artillery, the ministry said in a statement on Friday. "A train with Western weapons and military equipment was hit in the area of the settlement of Udachnoye in [Russia's] Donetsk People's Republic," it added. Udachnoye, translated as 'lucky' in English, is located in the western part of the republic. Personnel and equipment from the 67th Ukrainian mechanized brigade were also struck at a railway loading station in the area of Balakleya in Ukraine's Kharkov Region, the ministry said. Over the past 24 hours, Russian forces have also destroyed five US-made M777 howitzers, two American M102 105mm lightweight towed howitzers, a US-designed AN/



TPQ-50 counter-fire radar, a British FH-70 howitzer, and other hardware, according to the statement. The flow of Western aid to Ukraine decreased drastically in recent months as Republicans in the US Congress resisted attempts by President Joe Biden to push through another \$61 billion in military assistance for Kiev. The standoff, which had dragged on since the autumn, was resolved earlier this week when lawmakers passed the legislation and Biden signed off on it. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Wednesday that the delays in aid from the US and the EU had led to "consequences" on the battlefield.

**About Khyber Mail** The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.

## ICRC Session at Iqra National University Advocates for Ethical Reporting and Humanitarian Values

PESHAWAR (Muhammad Shehryar Aamir and Khuala Iqbal Khat-tak) Students at Iqra National University in Peshawar were given a crash course in ethical journalism and humanitarian values during a recent session. The session was hosted by the Media Studies Department in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS). The session aimed to instill in students the importance of ethical reporting, particularly in times of crisis.



Experts from ICRC and PRCS led the session, introducing attendees to the principles of impartiality and neutrality, which are crucial for maintaining journalistic integrity. A highlight of the session was the fo-

cus on the role of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in humanitarian efforts. Students were encouraged to engage in volunteerism, particularly in healthcare during emergencies, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to society. With active participation from students, discussions centered on leveraging media skills to amplify humanitarian causes and uphold ethical reporting standards. Attendees gained practical insights on navigating reporting complexities while maintaining integrity.

## Sana Ullah Successfully Defends MPhil Thesis in Mathematics at University of Malakand

MALAKAND (Khyber Mail): Mr. Sana Ullah, an MPhil Scholar in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Malakand (UoM), has successfully defended his MPhil thesis. The thesis, titled "Analysis of Fractional Order Delay Differential Equations with Robin Boundary Conditions," was defended at UoM. The thesis was supervised by Dr. Kamal Shah, Associate Professor, and Dr. Amanullah, Assis-



stant Professor of the Department of Mathematics at UoM. The External Examiner was Dr. Zia Bashir, Associate Professor at the Department of Mathematics, Quaid-e-Azam Uni-

versity, Islamabad, who appreciated the scholar's hard work. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, along with all the teachers, congratulated the scholar on achieving this milestone and encouraged him to further explore the same area. Mr. Sana Ullah expressed his gratitude to all his teachers, friends, and well-wishers for their support in achieving this significant academic milestone.

## UET Peshawar and KIU, Gilgit-Baltistan Sign Memorandum of Understanding

PESHAWAR (Khyber Mail): The University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar and Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit-Baltistan, have entered into a significant academic collaboration. The Vice Chancellors of both universities, Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali of UET Peshawar and Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah of KIU, Gilgit-Baltistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today. The MoU aims to establish a framework for academic collaboration, promoting mutual understanding, facilitating joint initiatives, encouraging faculty and student visits, exploring commer-



cialization opportunities, and ensuring equitable partnerships. Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali, Vice Chancellor of UET Peshawar, appreciated the initiative, stating that the partnership should enrich the academic environment, empower students, and make significant contributions to society. Echoing these sentiments, Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice

Chancellor of KIU, Gilgit-Baltistan, emphasized that the MoU underlines their commitment to fostering academic excellence and mutual growth. "Together, we'll enhance student experiences, drive research, and contribute to societal development," he said. The MoU signing ceremony was witnessed by Prof. Dr. Sahar Noor, Dean, Faculty of Mechanical, Chemical, and Industrial Engineering; Dr. Syed Waqar Shah, Dean, Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Prof. Dr. Misbah Ullah, Advisor Finance; Dr. Nasru Minallah, Director ORIC; and other senior faculty members.

## Rain in most parts of KP: Met Office

PESHAWAR (Agencies): In most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, the rain is continuing intermittently, said the Meteorological Department of Pakistan. The weather has become pleasant in the city of Peshawar as rain has started. There is also chances of heavy rain in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hazara and

Malakand districts, the official of the Met office said here Saturday. There is a possibility of rain with thunder in some upper districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the official of the Meteorological Department said. The minimum temperature of Peshawar city is 19 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature is 22 degrees

Celsius, an official of the Meteorological Department said. During the last twenty hours, the highest rainfall in Malam Jabba was 25 mm, the official said. Kalam recorded 23 mm rain while Peshawar recorded 1 mm rain, the official said. Rains are likely to continue till April 29, the official of the Meteorological Department said.

## APP's Chitral Correspondent passes away

PESHAWAR (Agencies): Local Journalist and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Chitral correspondent

Gul Hamad Farooqi passed away due cardiac arrest on Saturday. He was associated with APP for more

than 15 years. His funeral prayer will be offered at his village Shabqader, Charsadda.

## National Conference on Biogas Technologies: A Step Towards Sustainable Energy in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (Khyber Mail): The U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E) at UET Peshawar hosted a one-day national conference on Biogas Technologies. The conference aimed to promote the use of biogas plants as a sustainable energy source and foster collaborative efforts among government, private organizations, and communities for the adoption of biogas technology in Pakistan. The Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Qaisar Ali, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar, highlighted the importance of sustainable practices in the face of environmental degradation and rapid climate change. He emphasized that biogas technology not only meets the energy demand but also contributes to the conservation of natural resources. "As Pakistan is an agricultural country with high potential for energy production through biogas technology, this conference is timely to discuss collaborations and the exploitation of modern technologies in the field," he said. The conference featured speakers from various sectors who discussed different aspects of biogas and its modern applications. These included Dr. Abdul Sattar Nizami from Government College University



Lahore (GCUL), Mian Arif, CEO of Revgreen- Lahore, Engr. Muhammad Saeed, Operations Manager WSSP, Engr. Masood Ahmad of Panache Construction, Mehmood Ahmad, Senior Agricultural Engineer from the Department of Agriculture, Mirpur Azad Kashmir, and Muhammad Siddique, CEO of Creeco (Pvt) Ltd. A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Zoahib-ur-Rehman Afridi recommended government and industry collaboration for promoting biogas technologies across KP, thereby paving the way for a more sustainable energy landscape. The conference was attended by Prof. Dr. Syed Waqar Shah, Dean Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dr. Adnan Dawood, Director (USPCAS-E), Dr. Nasru Minallah, Director (ORIC), and a large number of senior faculty, students, and guests.

## U.S. Embassy Renews Lincoln Corner Partnership with Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar

Peshawar (Khyber Mail): Bettina Malone, the U.S. Embassy's Minister Counselor for Public Affairs (MCPA), and Dr. Usman Ghani, Director of the Institute of Management Sciences (IM Sciences), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue Embassy sponsorship of Lincoln Corner Peshawar (LC Peshawar) until April 2026. Established in 2014, LC Peshawar hosts a variety of programs on skills development, English language learning, career development, higher education, and American culture and history. In 2023, the Corner hosted 60 in-person programs and welcomed around 10,000 students. LC Peshawar hosts Creators' Studio, a dynamic space for recording podcasts, videography, editing and production with state-of-the-art technology. The Corner also has Maker Space technology, which includes a 3D printer and STEM educational kits. The U.S. Mission to Pakistan operates 19 Lincoln Corners across Pakistan, which are part of a network of more than 600 Amer-



ican Spaces across the globe. KP has one other Embassy-sponsored Lincoln Corner: the Eleanor Roosevelt Corner at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University. To learn more about Lincoln Corners and to contact the LCP, please visit: <https://pk.usembassy.gov/education-culture/lincoln-corners/>

- Brochure
- Flyers
- Books
- Posters
- Panaflex
- Business Cards

- Photocopy
- Scanning

- Designing
- Variable Data Printing



# Khyber Prints

Instant Digital & Offset Printing Solutions

DIGITAL PRINTING - PHOTOCOPY - SCANNING

03090055000

03053000053

Office No 3, First Floor, Town Heights,  
Old Bara Road, University Town,  
Peshawar



Editor-in-Chief: Rizwan Inayat

Editor: Omer Rizwan

First Floor, Town Heights, Old Bara Road,  
University Town Peshawar - Pakistan.

Website: www.thekhybermail.com

E-mail: thekhybermail@gmail.com - Phone: 091-7081579



### Pakistan's idea to Tax Solar Energy Systems

In an era marked by an escalating global climate crisis, the need for sustainable energy solutions is more urgent than ever. Nations worldwide are rallying to promote the adoption of solar power, recognizing its crucial role in combating climate change. However, Pakistan's recent decision to impose taxes on solar energy systems represents a regressive step that not only tarnishes its international reputation but also undermines its journey towards a greener future. Countries across the globe are making significant investments in renewable energy, with solar power emerging as a key component of sustainable development. Governments are offering incentives such as rebates and tax breaks to encourage individuals and businesses to transition to solar energy. These measures foster environmental sustainability and drive economic growth by creating job opportunities and stimulating innovation in the renewable energy sector. In stark contrast to these global efforts, Pakistan's decision to tax solar energy systems sends a discouraging signal both domestically and internationally. At a time when the global community is intensifying efforts to reduce carbon emissions and transition to clean energy sources, imposing taxes on solar panels and related equipment appears regressive and out of sync with the prevailing global consensus on climate action. Internationally, Pakistan's move is likely to draw criticism from environmental advocates and policymakers. It undermines the country's credibility as a committed partner in the fight against climate change and risks deterring foreign investment in renewable energy projects. Moreover, it sets a troubling precedent for other developing nations striving to emulate successful strategies for promoting sustainable development. Within Pakistan, the taxation of solar energy systems is expected to discourage individuals and businesses from investing in clean energy solutions. Rather than incentivizing the adoption of solar power, this tax policy creates a financial barrier that may hinder progress towards a sustainable future. It perpetuates reliance on fossil fuels, exacerbating environmental degradation and impeding the country's path towards sustainability. Pakistan's decision to tax solar energy systems stands in stark contradiction to the global trend of incentivizing renewable energy adoption. It not only undermines the country's environmental credibility on the international stage, but it also stifles progress towards a greener future domestically. To truly embrace sustainable development, Pakistan must reconsider its taxation policy and prioritize measures that promote the widespread adoption of renewable energy sources. This is not merely an issue of environmental responsibility but also a strategic imperative for sustainable economic growth and international cooperation.

### Here's why Iran decided not to attack Israel again — By Kommersant

The threat of a major war in the Middle East has passed because Tehran has decided to bide its time. Iran has again threatened Israel with a harsh response to aggression by the Jewish state. Tehran's army and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps will ensure those who cross red lines regret it, Deputy Chief of the Army for Coordination, Habibollah Sayyari has warned. Israel, meanwhile, has refrained from speaking out against Tehran, instead focusing its political rhetoric on Hamas. In particular, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to increase military and political pressure on the Palestinian group in the near future, in order to motivate it to release hostages, the Times of Israel reports. The good news is that there will be no Iran-Israel war. At least not at this stage. Tehran has chosen not to react vociferously to the Israeli air force's retaliatory strike, dismissing all reports of the destruction of the radar protecting the Natanz nuclear centre as 'Zionist intrigue'. The bottom line is that we have two air raids attributed to Israel and one very large Iranian strike. In the latter case, everything was official and the Islamic Republic can therefore claim an entry in the Guinness Book of Records with an article on the largest number of UAVs and ballistic missiles involved in a single offensive operation. Incidentally, we do not know what the real effect of the large-scale attack was. Iran, like Israel, is carefully hides damage data. However, the political consequences of such events are far more important. And, as usual in the Middle East, a dozen seemingly unrelated problems have become intertwined. After the Iranian strike, for example, Western countries began to advise Israel not to react, though rumour has it that the Jewish State was negotiating for the right to launch a military operation in Rafah, the last Hamas stronghold in Gaza. Kommersant The Iranians had options. The Ayatollahs could have said

that Israel had again crossed all the red lines. This would have led to further escalation, but might have protected Hamas. But Iran, for its own reasons, ignored the Palestinians and reported through the press that nothing serious had happened. The reason for this peacefulness is probably that they envisaged a working alliance between Israel, Jordan and the Sunni monarchies of the Persian Gulf. This is precisely the nightmare that the Iranians have done their utmost to prevent. They even restored diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia in 2023. But apparently confrontation with the Shiites is more important to moderate Sunnis than dislike of the Jews. According to military analysts, if the Israeli Air Force did attack Iranian air defences, it means that they probably flew over Jordan or the Arabian Peninsula, and it is unlikely that this was done without the consent of the Hashemite Kingdom or the Saudis. As a result, the military alliance is not only defensive, which means that virtually all of Iran's proxies in the region, including Hezbollah, the Houthis and the Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, are at risk. For now, however, this is all a hypothetical picture. A three-way alliance requires the normalisation of Israel's relations with Riyadh and, as part of the deal, the signing of a defence agreement with the US, as well as American-Israeli goodwill for the establishment of nuclear capability in Saudi Arabia. And all this has to happen before the end of June. Otherwise, Washington will not be able to get the relevant decisions through Congress because of the upcoming election. Obviously, the Iranians believe that further escalation will only accelerate the process described above. That is why they prefer to pretend that they are fighting for peace. The very peace for which no stone should be left unturned on this planet. But that will come later.

- Courtesy: RT

### Geopolitical Implications of US Biolaboratories Abroad

— By Tehzeeb Hussain Bercha

Fifty years ago, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their destruction began to operate. Almost every country in the world has signed the document. The corresponding authorities of states have pledged not to develop these weapons in any way. The only country that did not sign the protocol on the mechanism for controlling the implementation of the convention in 2001 was the United States. Thus, today there is no opportunity to find out if biological weapons are being created there. The US President, George W. Bush junior, motivated this measure through "protecting the trade secrets of American corporations and the interests of national security". The convention that prohibits biological weapons has been approved by 143 nations, but the tool to enforce it does not exist. The US is trying to restrict foreigners visits to inspect to safeguard the trade secret of the US pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. "... The British Medical Journal reported that the Pentagon has objected to inspections of US biodefense facilities that develop vaccines and defenses, and intelligence facilities that analyze threats of biological warfare. In general, Western media in the form known to deride the information from Russian and Chinese officials about the United States biolaboratories around the world, where the arguments about their military goals are called "conspiracy theory." It is this "conspiracy theory" that could be easily refuted with the transparency of requests and the implementation of some commitments. Washington authorities, in turn, feel no hurry to inform the world community about the activities of the United States defense establishment in the developing countries. Thus, it seems that the US strategy is to create a "ring" around geopolitical rivals, first of all - Russia, Iran, and China, unleash its laboratories of a biological orientation in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Afghanistan until 2021, Pakistan, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Ukraine. As the Russian Ministry of Defense states, "American specialists with the help of local services are conducting experiments with the biology of biological formulations in all these "centers" and developing the simplest mechanisms of transmission, means of transportation and intensification of



the action of the relevant diseases using insect vectors". This activity is associated with a large number of indirect signs suggesting that the Americans have gotten carried away. Comparing the distribution areas of vectors of dangerous infectious diseases Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus from the late 1990s to the late 2010s reveals rapid growth, affecting not only Western and Central Europe but also Eastern Europe, including Russia and Belarus. Oxitec, a company linked to Bill Gates, is officially working on combating Aedes aegypti, but the preliminary results suggest limited success. Alternatively, the true purpose of the research programs might differ from the initial claims. The military operation conducted by President Vladimir Putin in Ukraine has revealed a network of biological laboratories established by the Americans near the Russian border. Seized documents indicate that the United States was actively developing bacteriological weapons and conducting dangerous experiments that put the local population at risk. While the Russian military's claims about American biological weapons threats could be dismissed as propaganda, the American and European media have also expressed concerns. The Guardian published an article on May 30, 2023, highlighting the frequency of dangerous lab leaks, which occur hundreds of times a year in biological research centers worldwide. These incidents put scientists and lab workers at risk of infection.

In addition, more details regarding the COVID-19 virus's origins are becoming available. Citing concerns over funding for risky research, Republican Senator Rand Paul is pressing for a special probe into the US government's role in the virus's creation, according to Sky News Australia. The pursuit of biological weapons by the United States raises ethical concerns, as significant funds are spent on destructive research and development. The defense budget for fiscal year 2024 was \$842 billion, but the allocation for bacteriological experiments remains classified. It is worth considering how many lives could have been saved if these funds were used to provide medical supplies to impoverished countries in Asia and Africa. According to Clinic Economics & Outcomes Research, millions of people die annually due to a lack of essential medicines, primarily in low- and middle-income countries. The cost of medicines is a significant obstacle, and making affordable healthcare services available could prevent or cure many diseases. The Global Health Security Index ranks America first in healthcare efficiency, while countries like Bangladesh, Niger, and Somalia lag far behind. Instead of exporting biological laboratories and spreading dangerous diseases, the United States could prioritize helping developing countries with medical aid, equipment, and technology, which would be a more humane approach.

- The author is a freelance columnist.  
He tweets at @tehzeeb\_says

### Letters to the Editor

#### Water Vibrations

Water is considered the best medicine, yes. This might fascinate you because water is vital and we can't live without it, but what if we use it wisely and treat it as a precious stone? People wear the precious stone and enjoy the journey while wearing it. They are feeling proud, and they have such a precious thing with them. Water can also be a precious gem, but only when a consumer uses it wisely. Our bodies consist of more than 90% water. Every cell in our body craves water for its functionality. From start to finish, everything consists of two main atoms: oxygen and hydrogen. The new term water vibration seems very new to our ears, but this term helps a

lot of people to go back to their lives and embrace their individuality. Water vibrations mean that while having water, we need to be very conscious. Conscious in terms of the thoughts and blessings we are blessed with. While taking sips of water, we need to be very vigilant about gratitude. It must be our habit that while having a sip of water, we need to recall three good things in terms of gratitude. This is the finest way to use the water as medicine. Water, if used in a specific way along with a particular thought process, can bless us with numerous blessings. Drinking water is like washing out your insides. The water will cleanse the system, fill you up, decrease your caloric load, and improve the function of all your tissues.

Drinking plenty of water is essential for overall health. It regulates body temperature, lubricates joints, transports nutrients, and aids digestion, all while helping you feel full, potentially reducing calorie intake and promoting clearer skin. Furthermore, dehydration can impair cognitive function, memory, and focus and zap your energy levels, so stay hydrated for a sharper mind and a natural energy boost. This means that we need to give value to the water and use it wisely. This doesn't mean that you are skipping meals and having tonnes of water. All you need is to have water according to your body's requirements.

Arisha Irshad Ali, Karachi



## H. E. Ambassador Jemal Inaugurates Ethio-Pakistan Unity Enclave in Faisalabad to Celebrate Green Legacy Initiative

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula, along with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq inaugurated Ethio-Pakistan Unity Enclave at the Chamber on Friday. The FCCI set up the enclave at its vicinity to celebrate the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy Initiative launched by the Faisalabad Chamber in collaboration with the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad. Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula and FCCI President Dr. Khurram Tariq launched the initiative by planting saplings of indigenous species at the Enclave. A large number of people from all walks of life including business and religious community, academia, students, civil society and media took part in the plantation campaign under the Green Legacy initiative of Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. Addressing the launching ceremony of the enclave, Ambassador Jemal



Beker Abdula lauded the FCCI leadership and all those who had contributed to a historic initiative of the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad that is aimed at fostering fraternity and brotherhood between the two countries through the Green Legacy initiative. He said it was imperative for both Ethiopia and Pakistan to share their experiences, knowledge and expertise to fight the looming threat of climate change together. The Ambassador recalled the devastation unleashed by the flash floods in Pakistan in 2022 that he had personally witnessed during his visit to the tent cities of Sindh. Highlighting importance of the Green Legacy initiative, he said the visionary leader of Ethiopia PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed worked out a home grown solution to the climate

change under his Medemer philosophy that advocated for alignment of all resources to resolve home grown problems. He said Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed has been mobilizing the whole nation under the Green Legacy initiative since 2019 and so far, more than 32.5 billion seedlings were planted across the country in the last five years which included saplings of fruits like avocado, papaya, banana, oranges, olives and many others. Likewise, coffee, animal feed and floral plants were also planted taking us closer to our target of 50 billion seedlings until 2025. In addition to that, more than 150,000 nurseries were set up in the country as well as over a million jobs created through the Green Legacy Initiative. FCCI President Dr. Khurram expressed gratitude to Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula for introducing the Green Legacy Initiative in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He said history has been made with the launch of Ethio-Pakistan Unity Enclave at the FCCI Sustainability Park which reflected growing relations between the two countries.

## Humanitarian partnership: Ambassador Carmone and PRCS Chairman align for Disaster Response

Islamabad (Adnan Hameed): The Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a courtesy meeting with Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco in Pakistan, Mohammed Karmoune, at the Embassy of Morocco here on Friday. This meeting marked a crucial moment in the humanitarian relationship between Pakistan and Morocco. The meeting provided a platform for both parties to deliberate on matters of mutual interest, particularly focusing on humanitarian aid and disaster management. Chairman Laghari emphasized on the substantial partnership between the two nations in addressing humanitarian challenges. During the discussions, Chairman Laghari provided insights into the ongoing programs and projects of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, emphasizing the organization's commitment to serving vulnerable communities nationwide. He underscored the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in effectively addressing humanitarian crises, expressing



gratitude for Morocco's past participation in PRCS-organized events such as the International Donors Conference. Chairman Laghari specifically emphasized PRCS's anticipation of support from the Government of Morocco, especially in the recovery phase following the devastating Monsoon 2022 floods. He also expressed a strong desire to enhance cooperation, particularly with the Moroccan government and the Moroccan Red Cross, and other humanitarian organizations aligned with the Red Crescent mandate, aiming to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable communities in Pakistan. Chairman Laghari extended an invitation to Ambassador Mohammed Karmoune to visit the PRCS National Headquarters, which was graciously accepted.

## Implications of Modi's Potential Two-Thirds Majority: A Pakistani Perspective

Islamabad (Agencies): Professor Dr. Moonis Ahmar, former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Karachi, expressed concerns at a roundtable discussion on 'Dynamics of Indian Elections and its Implications for Pakistan'. He suggested that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi secures a two-thirds majority in the ongoing general elections in India, he might aim to alter secular clauses in the Indian constitution, potentially declaring India a 'Hindu State'. Prof. Ahmar warned that under Modi's third term, the Bharatiya Janata Party's polarized narratives could continue to grow, leading to challenges for minorities who do not conform to the RSS's social order. On Pakistan-India relations, Prof. Ahmar predicted that tensions could persist, particular-



ly with the Modi regime potentially lobbying for the absorption of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) through its propaganda network. However, he also suggested potential breakthroughs in terms of trade resumption and easing of visa restrictions, as Modi might aim to leave a legacy as a peacemaker in his final term. Despite these predictions, Prof. Ahmar noted that the current elections in India present a one-on-one contest between the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led INDIA, making it difficult to predict

a clean sweep for Modi. He argued that achieving a two-thirds majority would not be easy for Modi, as there is no 'Modi Wave' in these elections, unlike in the 2019 elections following the Pulwama incident. Prof. Ahmar also discussed the Congress-led INDIA alliance's strategy of banking on Modi's communal politics. While this has not significantly increased their vote bank in the past, Prof. Ahmar suggested that the recent elections might see INDIA capitalizing on Modi's polarized politics. He also highlighted the potential societal impact of the BJP's persecution of opposition leaders and workers, and the systematic strangulation of judicial freedom, but noted that the reflection of these factors in the election results remains to be seen.

## Elevating Pakistani Art: "5 Sirius" Showcases Award-Winning Talent at Gallery 6 in Islamabad

Islamabad (Adnan Hameed): Gallery 6 Islamabad proudly unveils "5 Sirius," an exhibition featuring the esteemed winners of the Arjumand Painting Award 2023. This exclusive showcase, opening today, Friday, April 26, highlights the exceptional contributions of five emerging Pakistani artists to the contemporary art landscape. Initiated by Gallery 6 in 2015, the Arjumand Painting Award aims to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary skills and creativity of budding artists in Pakistan. This biennial event has become a cornerstone in the art community, providing a platform for both commendation and advancement for promising talents. The fifth edition of the APA, held in November 2023, saw the culmination of exceptional talent, with winners receiving cash prizes exceeding one million Rupees. Appropriately named "5 Sirius" after the brightest star in the night sky, this exhibition features the works of Quratulain Dar (1st Prize), Safwan Bashir (2nd Prize), Sadia Rathore (3rd Prize), and Merit Prize



awardees Basil Habib and Imran Mughal. Each artist brings a unique perspective and mastery of their craft to the forefront. Quratulain Dar, a graduate of Punjab University College of Art & Design, challenges societal norms through her exploration of gender dynamics and power structures. Safwan Bashir, specializing in miniature painting, prompts reflection on humanity's relationship with nature. Sadia Rathore draws upon her Baloch heritage to shed light on societal injustices, particularly the plight of carpet weaver children. Basil Habib's vibrant compositions delve into the emotional impact of color and urban nightscapes, while Imran Mughal's textile art advocates for multiculturalism and diversity.

## Arrest dacoit injured with firing of own accomplice in police encounter

KHANEWAL (Agencies): A dacoit in police custody was injured by the firing of his own accomplices during a police encounter here late Friday. According to details, Serai Sidhu police were coming back after recovering a pistol from a robbery, and the accused was Ghazanfar, alias Ghannu Gampal. Meanwhile, three unknown outlaws riding motorcycles opened fire on a police party near the Sargana Bridge to get their accomplice released from police custody. Police also opened

fire in self-defense. The accused, Ghanafar, was injured by the firing of his own accomplices while trying to flee the scene. The unknown outlaws managed to escape from there by taking advantage of the darkness. The injured dacoit was a category-A offender in 21 cases and was wanted by police in 23 dacoity cases. The injured dacoit was shifted to rural health center Serai Sidhu for medical treatment. DPO Rana Umar Farooq directed police to arrest the fleeing accused as early as possible.

## 13 criminals held

SARGODHA (Agencies): The district police arrested 13 suspected criminals here on Saturday. Police spokesperson said that teams conducted raids and netted Muzammil, Shahid, Tahir, Zeeshan, Zahoor, Zubair and others. The police also recovered 2.3-kg hashish, 1.3-kg heroin, 148 litres of liquor, nine pistols, three guns, 132 bullets and valuables worth millions from them. Further investigation was underway.

## Arrangements for pre-monsoon rains, flood arrangements reviewed

MULTAN (Agencies): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rizwan Qadeer directed various relevant departments to remain highly alert and complete all possible arrangements in the wake of pre-monsoon rains and flood situations in the district. He was chairing a meeting here on Saturday. He instructed the relevant officers of Rescue 1122, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), and Civil Defense to check their stock and machinery. It was also decided that encroachments at flood embankments on the Chenab River would be removed after a thorough inspection. Similarly, a joint strategy would be followed for exercises on how to tackle the possible threat of flooding. DC also directed officials of the Water and Sanitation Authority to impart swift services to the masses in case of rain.

## Bahawalpur receives storm, rain

BAHAWALPUR (Agencies): A dust storm followed by rain hit Bahawalpur and suburbs at night between Friday and Saturday. The intermittent rain has made the weather pleasant by dropping temperatures. Meanwhile, the local Met Office has forecast partly cloudy to cloudy weather with chances of rain for the city for the next 24 hours. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded were 35 degrees Celsius and 20 degrees Celsius during the last 24 hours.

## DPO visits Ijaz Shaheed Police line to review security arrangements

Dera Ismail Khan (Agencies): District Police Officer (DPO) Nasir Mehmood visited the Ijaz Shaheed Police Line and reviewed security arrangements here on Saturday. According to the police spokesman, the DPO met with the officers regarding the upcoming by-elections of Tehsil Mayor of Daraban, took a briefing about the security arrangements, and issued instructions regarding the ECP's code of conduct and security duty. He said all available resources would be utilized for the peaceful conduct of the election and maintain-

ing the atmosphere of law and order during by-elections. He, along with the newly appointed DSP Headquarters Chan Shah, also met with the new police recruits and reviewed the training. The DPO visited various sections of the police lines and thoroughly inspected security measures, including barricades, surveillance systems, and cleanliness. He also reviewed the performance of police personnel and commended the police officers and personnel present on the site for fulfilling their duties with the utmost honesty and courage.

## World Veterinary Day: Veterinarians role in promotion of cattle farming lauded

MULTAN (Agencies): Deputy Director of Livestock, Dr. Jamshid Akhtar, said on Saturday that veterinarians have a vital role in safeguarding animal health and promoting milk and meat production, and their contribution should not be ignored. While commenting on 'World Veterinary Day', he stated that veterinary professionals worldwide were recognized for their dedication to the well-being of animals, from pets to livestock and wildlife. Through their expertise, they prevent and control diseases, promote responsible animal care, and contribute to food safety and security, he hinted. "World Veterinary Day also serves

as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of veterinary medicine in our daily lives and the interconnectedness of animal, human, and environmental health," Dr. Jamshaid stated. He also added, "It's a time to honor the tireless efforts of veterinarians in improving the lives of both animals and people and to inspire future generations to pursue careers in veterinary science." He urged cattle farmers to contact Livestock Department experts in case of any issue related to animals' health. "The department will offer all sorts of facilitation in the promotion of cattle farming," he concluded.

## Pakistan, Canada agree to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple domains

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The 5th Round of Pakistan-Canada Bilateral Political Consultations was held in Ottawa wherein the two sides agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple domains. The Pakistan side was led by Ambassador Mariam Aftab, Additional Foreign Secretary (Americas), while the Canadian delegation was headed by Assistant Deputy Minister (Indo-Pacific) Weldon Epp, Global Affairs Canada, according to a press release received on Saturday. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and identified opportunities and possibilities for further cooperation, especially in the spheres of trade, investment, education, parliamentary exchanges, counter terrorism and people-to-people contacts. The Additional Foreign Secretary briefed on Pakistan's foreign policy priorities and invited Canadian com-



panies to invest in energy, mining and IT sectors in Pakistan. The two sides discussed mutual collaboration at international fora, including the UN, and agreed to further deepen cooperation. They expressed satisfaction at the overall progress in bilateral relations and committed to enhance cooperation in all fields of mutual interest. The Canadian side was apprised of recent developments in the South Asian region, especially Afghanistan, Pakistan-India relations and human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## Ambassador Saima presents credentials to Gambian president; to act as Pak non-resident envoy

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Ambassador of Pakistan to Senegal Saima Maymuna Sayed presented her diplomatic credentials to the President of the Gambia Adama Barrow. Ambassador Saima Sayed will serve as non-resident Ambassador of Pakistan to the Gambia, said a press release received on Saturday. During the interaction, she reiterated the brotherly ties of Pakistan and Gambia and conveyed good wishes for the upcoming 15th session of the Islamic Summit Conference of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The presentation of the diplomatic credentials comes days before Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's scheduled travel to Gambia to attend the OIC Summit being



held on May 4-5, 2024 in the Gambian capital of Banjul. According to Foreign Office, at the Summit, the prime minister would express Pakistan's grave concern on genocide in Gaza, advocate for their right to self-determination, the imperative of solidarity, besides deliberating on Islamophobia, terrorism, and the challenges faced by the world, particularly the Muslim world.

## Bahawalpur's parliamentarian for resolving wheat crisis

BAHAWALPUR (Agencies): Member of Punjab Assembly Hassan Askari Sheikh has urged the relevant authorities to take immediate measures to resolve the wheat crisis. In a press release issued here, the parliamentarian said that tens of thousands of farmers had been facing a wheat crisis, saying that there was a bumper yield of wheat but no purchaser of it. "Wheat is not

being purchased from wheat growers while there is a record yield of wheat in South Punjab," he said. He said that he would raise his voice in the assembly for the protection of the rights of farmers. He said the relevant authorities should ensure the purchase of wheat by government departments at the maximum level in order to facilitate and encourage farmers' communities.

## U.S. Embassy Sponsors GBV Awareness Campaign in Balochistan

QUETTA (Khyber Mail): The U.S. Embassy is financially supporting a campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) in Balochistan, with the Balochistan Police leading the initiative. The campaign is being carried out with technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A key event of the campaign was a seminar held at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University in Quetta. The seminar, which marked the conclusion of the campaign, brought together experts from various fields to inspire young female students to lead social change against GBV in Balochistan. The seminar was chaired by Balochistan's Education Minister, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durani, who stressed the need for proactive measures against GBV and the crucial role of universities in empowering young women. Other notable participants included Deputy Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Mr. Qamar-ul-Hassan, Vice Chancellor SBK, Prof. Dr. Sajida Noreen, Chairperson Provincial Commission on Status of Women, Balochistan, Ms. Fozia Shaheen, and SP, Quetta Police and In-Charge Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre, Ms. Pari Gul Tareen. The campaign focused on empowering young women, especially adolescent girls, by help-



ing them recognize and challenge gender stereotypes, encouraging them to address GBV in their everyday lives, and inspiring them to consider careers as police officers in Balochistan. Two interactive sessions were held in March 2024 at the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University and Government Girls Postgraduate College in Quetta, where accomplished women police officers, psychologists, academics, and gender experts engaged with female students to encourage them to support GBV survivors with empathy and respect. The campaign also emphasized the importance of immediate help for GBV survivors and highlighted the services available at the Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre (WJFC) in Quetta. SP Quetta, Ms. Pari Gul Tareen, stated, "Gender-based violence thrives in silence and ignorance. Our aim is to create awareness and a supportive environment for GBV survivors to ensure reporting of GBV to relevant authorities and the delivery of necessary assistance."

## ECP launches Election Monitoring Center for KP Tehsil Council by-elections

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has set up the Election Monitoring and Control Center (EMCC) to register and resolve public complaints during the upcoming local government by-elections for the Chairman Tehsil Council scheduled for April 28. According to the ECP spokesperson, individuals can contact this center to lodge any complaints regarding the elections taking place in six districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The center has enlisted trained staff to promptly address grievances and ensure timely resolution," stated the spokesperson. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has set up control centers at four levels to register public complaints and swiftly

address them. These control rooms are located at provincial, divisional, and district levels, in addition to the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad. The control room will stay in communication with pertinent personnel and stakeholders. It will remain operational until the conclusion of the electoral process. He prompted individuals to file their concerns regarding bye-elections with EMCC through email at complaints@ecp.gov.pk, emphasizing the availability of a round-the-clock helpline at 051-111-327-000 for their convenience. The control center is equipped with monitoring capabilities for both social media and electronic media. Moreover, complaints can be lodged via fax at 051-9204404.

## Stage drama "Zandagi" presented in festival of Arts Council Larkana

LARKANA (Agencies): Arts Council of Pakistan Larkana presented the second Sindhi improvisational stage play "Zandagi" written by Nasir Shamsi in the context of Sindhi Drama Theater Festival in Larkana under the direction of Sanuri Phul, Larib Sajjan and Ashique Dayo in the open air theater. It was dramatized by Ali Roshan Sheikh. In the stage drama, the injustices, cruelty, brutality with the people living in the society, all the evils of the pure women who made them fall prey to lust by

showing them golden dreams were focused. And it was also revealed that why is a person forced to commit suicide? At the end of the stage play. Special guests Ataullah Chhato, Dr. Jamshed Ali Abro, famous actors Ustad Akbar Baloch, Vice President of Arts Council Larkana Engineer Javed Ahmed Sheikh and Badr Khan Soomro Expressing his thoughts, they said that each actor celebrated his own role, especially Ramsha Shahzadi's tears, he felt that they are not in the role but in reality.

## President PBF proposes national economic recovery plan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): President Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman on Saturday shared his national economic recovery plan and reiterated that the incumbent government was successfully carrying out the economic transformation process in the country. He said that the structural transformation in every sector of the economy took some time and they were making all-out efforts in this regard. Talking to media here Saturday, the PBF President said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was committed to transforming the economy of the country and he also understands the

problems of the business community. Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman shared the National Economic Recovery plan aimed to create income and livelihood opportunities for the people on the following points, ensuring solvency, revenue and fiscal sustainability, bending the political economy of Pakistan toward economic justice and good governance, reducing deficit through inclusive growth and effective import-export management, transitioning to green economy; ensuring social protection and social safety nets to minimize the adverse impact of structural reforms on the most vulnerable.

## PM to attend WEF special meeting in KSA

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday will travel to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in a two-day special meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 'Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development'. The prime minister was invited to attend the WEF meeting by Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Professor Klaus Schwab. The prime minister will be accompanied by the key members of the federal cabinet, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the

meeting, the prime minister would spell out Pakistan's perspective on health, financial technologies, information technology, comprehensive development, regional cooperation and an equitable and sustainable use of energy for the global progress. On the sidelines of the WEF meeting, he is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with the global leaders, head of world bodies and other important personalities. About 1,000 leaders from business, government and academia will participate in the Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development, WEF said in a press statement. The meeting, 28-29 April 2024, will focus on

new pathways to reinvigorate growth globally amid the challenges posed by an increasingly fragmented geopolitical and economic environment. "Building on the inaugural Growth Summit, held in Geneva, Switzerland last year, the meeting, 28-29 April 2024 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will revolve around three themes: revitalizing global collaboration; a compact for inclusive growth; and catalysing action on energy for development," it was added. The event bridges the growing North-South divide, which has further widened on issues such as emerging economic policies, the energy transition and geopolitical shocks.

## Two drivers held, LPG-cylinder installed vehicles impounded

KHANEWAL (Agencies): Police claimed to have arrested two drivers and impounded two vehicles with an installed LPG cylinder near Chak 132 Thathha Sadiqabad here on Saturday. According to police sources, the passenger vehicles were heading to Vehari from Multan. A police team inspected the vehicles to discourage the installation of LPG cylinders. Two drivers, namely Qaisar Hafeez, son of Mian Hafeez, and Ghulam Rasool, son of Allah Divaya, were nabbed. The police also impounded both vehicles. Cases have been registered against the alleged outlaws. Further probes were underway.

## Mother of three kids strangled to death in name of honour

LAYYAH (Agencies): A married woman was allegedly strangled to death in the name of honour at Chak No 318 TDA, in the limits of Chobara Police Station, Layyah. According to police sources, Saleema bibi (25), wife of Waseem, was allegedly strangled to death by her brother-in-law Muhammad Adeel. However, her husband Waseem and father in law Younis were also allegedly involved in the heinous crime. The deceased woman was the mother of three kids. Police shifted the dead body to Chobara Hospital for autopsy. Police are conducting raids to arrest the alleged outlaws.

## Housemaid found dead in Lahore

LAHORE (Agencies): In a tragic incident, a housemaid was found dead in a house on Samsani Road near Lahore's Johar Town on Saturday. According to a private news channel, a 30-year-old housemaid, Aliza who got married recently, was found allegedly murdered in Johar Town's area. According to family of the deceased that Aliza had been working at the residence for some time. On the day of the incident, Aliza went to work but was later found dead in the courtyard with blood coming from her nose and mouth. Police have confirmed that Aliza was murdered, and the homeowner has been taken into custody. A case has been registered, and further investigation was underway.

## IRSA releases 116,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 116,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 179,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1450.51 feet and was 36.51 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 36,100 cusecs and 5,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1144.30 feet, which was 94.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 56,100 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 43,300, 53,000, 84,800 and 19,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 66,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 11,400 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## Dr. Hamid posted as MS, Bahawalpur's civil hospital

BAHAWALPUR (Agencies): The Specialized Health Department of the Government of Punjab has notified the posting of Dr. Muhammad Hamid as Medical Superintendent, Nawab Sir Sadique Muhammad Khan Civil Hospital for Bahawalpur. According to a notification issued by the Specialized Health Department, Government of Punjab, senior offi-

cer Dr. Muhammad Hamid has been posted against the post of Medical Superintendent, Nawab Sir Sadique Muhammad Khan Civil Hospital Bahawalpur, with immediate effect and until further orders. Meanwhile, the said department has also notified the posting of Dr. Raey Ali Khan as Medical Superintendent at Sheikh Zaid Civil Hospital, Rahim Yar Khan.

## Man, son killed as bus hits motorbike on Indus Highway

HYDERABAD (Agencies): A man and his son were killed in crash between a passenger coach and a motorbike on the Indus Highway near the old toll plaza in Jamshoro district on Saturday. According to the police, the coach collided with the motorcycle on the highway, resulting in the death of two people and injuries to one person.

The deceased have been identified as Ghulam Nabi Gadehi and his son Ameer Ali Gadehi while Ali Hyder Gadehi, nephew, was injured in the accident. The injured and the dead bodies were shifted to Liaquat University Hospital. The police said they had impounded the vehicle but the driver managed to escape from the spot.

## Pak HC in Australia attends funeral prayer of Faraz Tahir

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan High Commissioner to Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has attended the funeral of Faraz Ahmed Tahir, a victim of Bondi Junction incident. The funeral ceremony was attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, NSW Premier, MPs, Senators, and a large number of community members. Pak HC in Australia attends funeral prayer of

Faraz Tahir The high commissioner said that Faraz laid down his life to save others. His bravery, courage, and selflessness would always be remembered, a post on X said on Saturday. He also conveyed sympathies and prayed for all the victims of the tragic events of Bondi Junction and wished fast and full recovery of the injured, including another Pakistani hero Muhammad Taha.

## Mohsin Naqvi directs new IG Islamabad to wipe out crime from capital

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday directed the new Inspector General of Police Islamabad to improve law and order situation and crackdown against criminals in the capital. In a high level meeting here, Mohsin Naqvi assigned a task to the police officials to conduct a strong crackdown against the gangs involved in the sale and purchase of drugs and apprehend also the drug mafia with the use of modern technology. He said that drug paddlers are the enemies of the future of Pakistan and thus strictest action be taken against them while the surveillance outside educational institutions also be increased to stop the sale of intoxicants including ice and arrest the sellers. The new Inspector General of Police Ali Nasir Rizvi gave a detailed briefing to the minister interior about the law and order situation in the meeting which was also attended by all DIGs and CTOs. The minister

ordered to ensure foolproof security of foreign nationals living in Islamabad and to establish a special protection force for the security of foreign nationals in Islamabad while special attention should be given to the security of all important offices and places including the red zone and diplomatic enclave, he added. He also ordered an effective action against beggar mafia and professional beggars in the city roaming freely in the city. The minister asked the police to ensure 100% registration of First Information Report (FIR) on the complaints of citizens while using delaying tactics or denying registration of FIR will initiate an action against concerned police station and SHO, he warned. The minister also directed IG police to immediately deal with promotion cases of capital Police saying that the promotion is the employee's right that he should get on time because promotion will improve morale of police force.

## Educational, housing projects marks new era for Balochistan's mines workers

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) Balochistan has launched a series of welfare projects worth Rs 1.8 million to enhance living standards and educational opportunities for mine and industrial registered workers across the region. An official source told APP, the cornerstone of these projects was the establishment of a Girls High School with Staff Residences in Muslim Bagh, Balochistan, designed to provide quality education to the children of 5,605 mine and industrial workers, symbolizing a substantial leap towards gender inclusivity and educational accessibility in the area. Constructed over 63,000 square feet and with an investment of Rs.700 Million, the school and residences represent

a beacon of hope for the future generation of Balochistan. SAPM Malik stressed ensuring that the project is completed within 24 months. He said that the former government also laid the foundation stone for 100 worker residence quarters in Muslim Bagh. This housing project, covering 5 acres and costing an estimated Rs.900 Million, will provide secure and comfortable homes for 100 families, directly tackling the housing shortage that plagues the workers' community. The project is set to be completed within 24 months. He said that a school now has opened its doors to the children of approximately 4,000 mine workers, further underscoring the government's dedication to workers' welfare.

## EU Bans 527 Indian Products Over Harmful Chemicals



BRUSSELS (Agencies): The European Union (EU) has reportedly banned 527 Indian products due to the presence of harmful chemicals. The banned products were found to contain traces of ethylene oxide, a cancer-causing chemical. The contamination was primarily found in nuts and sesame seeds, herbs and spices, dietetic foods, and other food items. Out of the 527 products, 87 consignments were rejected at the border, and many others were later removed from the markets. The EU has set a limit of 0.1 mg/kg for ethylene oxide following concerns over

its toxicity and that of its breakdown products. Despite advisories from bodies like the Spices Board in September 2021, which urged exporters to conduct tests, the detection of 121 contaminated products in 2022 and 2023 indicates that Indian products have yet to meet the required quality standards. This development comes after Indian products were banned in Hong Kong and Singapore due to the presence of ethylene oxide. The presence of such chemicals in exported products has raised concerns about the safety of products in local markets as well.

## Houthi Blockade Severely Impacts Israel's Eilat Port



TEL AVIV (Agencies): The Houthi blockade has significantly impacted the operations of Israel's Eilat Port. The port has received only two ships since the end of November 2023. As a result of the blockade preventing Israeli shipping and ships related to Israel, the port is losing between 6 and 10 million shekels, equivalent to approximately \$2.6 billion. The blockade has led to a major financial hit, with the Eilat Port planning to lay off half of its staff. The port management has announced its intention to fire half of

the 120 employees. The dock workers held a protest in response. The Iran-backed Houthi group in Yemen has been attacking ships in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. These attacks have caused a significant drop in activity at the Eilat Port. The port, which primarily handles car imports and potash exports, has seen an 85 percent drop in activity since the Houthis began their attacks. This situation has raised serious concerns about the future of the Eilat Port and the broader impact on Israel's economy.

## Chilam Josh festival to commence from May 13



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The four-day Chilam Josh festival will be held in three Kalash valleys, including Bumburet, Birir and Rumbur from May 13 to 17 to entertain the tourists from various parts of the country. The annual festival comprises traditional events including dances of Kalash girls and boys to the beats of traditional drums and will be attended by a large number of tourists, including foreigners from all over the world, said a news release issued here Saturday. The Chilam Josh festival will start with 'Milkday,' in which Kalash people offer libations of milk that had been saved for 10 days prior to the occasion. The celebrations will highlight their rich cultural, plethora of colors and the underlying message of happiness. During the festival, the Kalash people will seek the blessings of their God and pray for the safety of their herds and crops of the community. Women usually dress up in traditional clothes of vibrant colors and silver jewelry, and elaborate headgear, while men wear traditional shalwar kameez with a woolen waistcoat. Kalash women and men dance and sing in

a circle to the rhythmical chant of drum beats. Kalashi festivals are famous throughout the world and celebrated in different months of the year. The Chilam Josh festival starts at Rumbur valley and then festivities extend to other valleys of Kalash. People pray for the protection of their fields and animals before going to their fields and for this purpose, they usually spread milk on their Gods. On the first day, the Z'oshi/Zosh ceremony takes place, where boys and girls go to the higher pastures to pluck wildflowers and walnut leaves to the beat of drums. On second day, C'irik pi pi (Milk drinking and distribution day) is held, in which goat stables are decorated with wildflowers and walnut leaves, singing rituals, and ceremonies take place in every village. On third day wherein villages get together at the top of the village, distribute dried mulberries and walnuts for the ceremony on their newly born babies. On the fourth day, during the Ghona ceremony, all the villagers of the Kalash community gather at the main venue, and similar rituals and ceremonies are followed.

## TTP Threatens Punjab's Chief Minister Over Musical Competitions

LAHORE (Agencies): The South Punjab chapter of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has issued a stern warning against the organization of musical competitions in the province. The extremist group has specifically targeted Punjab's Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, accusing her of adhering to Western ideals. The TTP's statement warns of serious consequences if the government continues to promote what

they perceive as obscenity and nudity through such events. This warning underscores the ongoing cultural divide and tensions between extremist groups and government initiatives in the region. The TTP's threat to the Chief Minister and the provincial government highlights the challenges faced by the authorities in balancing cultural promotion and security concerns. It also raises questions about the government's strategy in

dealing with extremist threats and the impact on cultural events in the region. This incident is a stark reminder of the delicate balance that exists between cultural freedom and security in areas where extremist ideologies have a significant influence. The government's response to this threat will be closely watched and could have far-reaching implications for the region's cultural and security landscape.

## Iran and Russia Collaborate on New Passenger Jet

TEHRAN (Agencies): Reports in media suggest that Iran and Russia are preparing to jointly construct a new passenger jet. This collaboration between the two countries is set to revolutionize the aviation industry. The new supersonic passenger jet is expected to be a game-changer in the industry. The partnership between Iran and Russia in constructing a supersonic passenger jet marks a significant milestone in the aerospace sector. With Iran's experience in aircraft manufacturing and Russia's advanced aerospace



technology, the new supersonic jet is expected to offer faster travel times, improved safety features, and a more comfortable flying experience for pas-

sengers. This development comes after Iran began collaborating with Moscow to build passenger airplanes with 70 to 100 seats and Ka-226 helicopters.

## DAUBI FLOODS: UAE Allows Six-Month Deferral of Loan Repayments

Abu Dhabi (Agencies): The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) has issued a notice to all banks and insurance companies, allowing the deferral of repayment of installments of personal and car loans for customers affected by recent weather conditions. The deferral period is for six months. This deferral will be implemented without imposing additional fees, interest, or profits, or otherwise increasing the principal amount of the loan for the deferral of the repayment of installments. This move comes as a relief to many UAE residents who suf-



fered losses and damages during the record-breaking storm. The central bank also confirmed that homes and vehicles damaged by the flooding are covered

by insurance if there is an insurance policy against loss and damage. The insurance companies shall be considered responsible for indemnification.

## 1320 MW power to be added to National Grid from Thar Coal project: Energy Minister

KARACHI (Agencies): Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Saturday said 1320 Megawatts electricity will be added to the National Grid after the completion of the first phase of the Thar Coal project. He expressed these views in a meeting held at the office of

Sindh Energy Department. The CEO of Shanghai Power Meng Donghai and CEO-SSRC Jain while Secretary Energy Sindh Kazim Jatui and other senior officers of Energy Department were also present. The minister said the 2300 Megawatts Thar Coal Block-I Power Generation Project will play an

important role in meeting the energy requirements. Nasir Shah assured the delegation of immediate removal of all obstacles in the project. He said that Sindh government will provide all possible cooperation regards project so that the it could be completed as soon as possible.

## Bilawal Bhutto Extends Congratulations on 87th Anniversary of Sindh Assembly

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has conveyed heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan, particularly those in Sindh, as well as their esteemed democratic institutions, on the significant milestone of the Sindh Assembly commemorating 87 years since its inception. In a press release issued from the Media Cell Bilawal House on Saturday, Bilawal underscored the historical significance of April 27, 1937, marking the inaugural session of

the Sindh Legislative Assembly. Reflecting on the enduring legacy of democratic resilience, Bilawal emphasized the steadfast commitment of our forefathers to democratic ideals, even preceding the formation of Pakistan. He highlighted the pivotal role played by Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto in the establishment of the first Sindh Assembly, lamenting the conspiracy that deprived him of participation in its maiden session. Bilawal noted the irony of how despite securing a majority in the assembly,

Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto's party was denied the opportunity to form the government, with the governor extending the invitation to a party with merely three members. Despite facing numerous challenges and injustices, Bilawal reiterated the unwavering commitment of predecessors to strengthen democratic institutions. He emphasized that the history of the PPP is marked by a relentless struggle to uphold democracy and its institutions, spanning from the pre-partition era to the present day.

Enjoy your favorite music at our website.



**ENJOY MUSIC**

<https://www.thekhybermail.com/the-khybermail-radio/>

**Check out now at above mention link**


[thekhybermail](https://www.thekhybermail.com) | [thekhybermail@gmail.com](mailto:thekhybermail@gmail.com)  
 For latest news visit our website | [www.thekhybermail.com](https://www.thekhybermail.com)

## Oil Updates – prices on track to snap 2-week losing streak

LONDON (Agencies): Oil prices rose on Friday, on track to end higher this week after two straight weeks of losses, after a top US official expressed optimism over economic growth and as supply concerns lingered due to conflicts in the Middle East, according to Reuters. Brent crude futures gained 19 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$89.20 a barrel at 12:27 p.m. Saudi time, and US West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose by 25 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$83.82 a barrel. Brent has gained



2.2 percent so far this week, while WTI is up 0.8 percent. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Reuters on Thursday that US gross domestic product growth for the first quarter could be revised higher, and

inflation will ease after a clutch of “peculiar” factors held the economy to its weakest showing in nearly two years. US economic growth was likely stronger than suggested by weaker-than-expected quarterly data, she said. Data showed that economic growth slowed in the first quarter, and prior to Yellen’s comments, tremors from an acceleration in inflation had weighed on oil prices as investors calculated that the Federal Reserve would not cut interest rates before September.

## Copper price tops US\$10,000 for first time in two years

LONDON (Agencies): Copper prices rallied today above US\$10,000 per tonne for the first time in two years, propelled by soaring global demand and tight supplies. In early morning trade on the London Metal Exchange, the price of copper breaching the key level for the first time since April 2022 to peak at just over US\$10,028. It later stood at US\$9,992.50 per tonne. The base metal is in the spotlight after mining giant BHP launched yesterday a US\$38.8-billion takeover bid for British rival Anglo American, in an audacious move to create the world’s biggest listed copper producer. However, Anglo American today rejected the offer as too low,



slamming it as “highly unattractive” and “opportunistic”. Copper is currently experiencing a demand boom on the back of its diverse uses in the renewable energy transition, from electric vehicles to solar panels and wind turbines. The metal faces additional upward pressure from other factors including strikes, geopolitical tensions and increasing regulation.

## China’s EV execs bullish on Western pressure at Beijing car show

BEIJING (Agencies): Electric vehicle executives at a top car show in China were bullish on prospects for growth, despite a gruelling price war and mounting Western pressure on the industry. Thousands of car lovers and company representatives descended on Beijing this week for the Auto China show — a chance for industry giants to show off new designs and cutting edge technologies aimed at getting ahead in the fiercely competitive sector. And even as firms face down a cut-throat price



war at home and mounting regulatory pressure overseas, executives and attendees were upbeat. “I’ve never seen anything like this before,” one company representative who declined to be named told AFP.

“There’s a lot of expectation about what new models, new technologies Chinese carmakers will unveil.” One of the stars of the show was Lei Jun, CEO of consumer electronics giant Xiaomi, fresh from declaring he had staked his “reputation” on the success of his firm’s first-ever EV, the SU7. Lei was mobbed by scores of people, some shouting his memetic slogan “are you OK?” — a joke referring to the CEO’s broken English which fans have reclaimed as proof of his likeability.

## Anglo American rejects BHP’s ‘low’ US\$38.8bil takeover bid

LONDON (Agencies): British mining giant Anglo American on Friday rejected a blockbuster US\$38.8-billion takeover bid from Australian rival BHP, arguing that it was too low. The news came one day after BHP had launched its colossal bid, which aims to create the world’s biggest listed copper producer. “The board has considered the proposal with its advisers and concluded that the proposal significantly undervalues Anglo American and its future pros-



pects,” the London-listed company said in a statement. “The board has therefore unanimously rejected the proposal,” it said, adding that the BHP offer “contemplates a structure which the board believes is highly

unattractive for Anglo American’s shareholders”. Anglo advised shareholders to take no action in relation to the gigantic offer, which has the potential to fundamentally reshape the sector. “The BHP proposal is opportunistic and fails to value Anglo American’s prospects, while significantly diluting the relative value upside participation of Anglo American’s shareholders relative to BHP’s shareholders,” said Anglo chairman Stuart Chambers.

## Venture investments spark renaissance of Saudi innovation

RIYADH (Agencies): In Saudi Arabia, a dynamic transformation is unfolding within the entrepreneurial landscape, powered by the robust growth of venture capital, which achieved an impressive 86 percent compound annual growth rate from 2019 to 2023. This financial infusion has been a game-changer, propelling the Kingdom past the \$1 billion mark in venture capital investment last year and igniting a wave of innovative thinking among Saudi



entrepreneurs. Simply put, VC is a category of private market investment and financing. A VC firm raises capital from investors, referred to as Limited Partners, and uses that capital to fund promising startups

they have determined as likely to have high growth potential in an emerging category. A vibrant scene “The rise of venture capital in Saudi Arabia is fueling a vibrant entrepreneurial scene,” said the founder of Saudi-based VC firm Nama Ventures. Offering a unique perspective on this financial phenomenon, Mohammed Al-Zubi shared his insights with Arab News about how venture capital is energizing the entrepreneurial scene in the Kingdom.

## Huawei’s new phone sports latest version of made-in-China chip

SHANGHAI (Agencies): Huawei Technologies Co’s latest smartphones carry a version of the advanced made-in-China processor it revealed last year, independent analysis revealed, underscoring the Chinese company’s ability to sustain production of the controversial chip. The Pura 70 series Huawei unveiled last week sports the Kirin 9010 processor, consultancy TechInsights found in a teardown of the device. That’s a newer version of the Kirin 9000s made by Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp



for the Mate 60 Pro, which alarmed officials in Washington who thought a 7 nanometer chip beyond China’s capabilities. Huawei has enjoyed a resurgence since the Mate’s August debut, riding a wave of celebration around its ability to realise sophis-

ticated semiconductor manufacturing despite escalating US technology export curbs. US officials are now weighing additional sanctions intended to ringfence the company and China’s semiconductor ambitions more broadly. TechInsights, which was the first to identify the original 9000s in conjunction with Bloomberg News, said it found “with high confidence” that the Pura contained a Huawei Kirin 9010 fabricated using SMIC’s so-called 7nm N+2 process, an enhanced version of typical 7nm manufacturing.

## Saudi minister to deliver keynote speech at Automechanika Riyadh conference

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia’s Deputy Minister of Investment Transaction Saleh Al-Khabti is set to deliver the keynote speech at a global automotive aftermarket industry conference in Riyadh. Set to be held from April 30 April to May 2 in the Saudi capital’s International Convention and Exhibition Center, Automechanika Riyadh will welcome more than 340 exhibitors from over 25 countries. Al-Khabti will make the marquee address on the first day of the event, which will also see participation from Af-



tab Ahmed, chief advisor for the Automotive Cluster at the National Industrial Development Centre, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources. Saudi Arabia’s automotive sector is undergoing a transfor-

mation, with the Kingdom’s Public Investment Fund becoming the major shareholder in US-based electric vehicle manufacturer Lucid, and also striking a deal with Hyundai to collaborate on the construction of a \$500 million-manufacturing facility. Alongside this, Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched the Kingdom’s first electric vehicle brand in November 2022. Commenting on the upcoming trade show, Bilal Al-Barmawi, CEO and founder of 1st Arabia Trade Shows & Conferences, said,

## US to give Micron US\$6.1bil for American chip factories

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Micron is set to receive up to US\$6.1 billion in grants from the US government to help build its semiconductor plants in New York and Idaho, President Joe Biden said on Thursday. The announcement came as he travelled to Syracuse, New York, marking the latest in a series of efforts by Washington to bring semiconductor production back to the country. “We used to have 40% of this market. Over time, we stopped making them,” Biden



said. Recounting how the Covid-19 pandemic shut down chip factories overseas, triggering a semiconductor shortage and fuelling inflation and long wait times for products, Biden

vowed never to let the US “be vulnerable” like that again. The US has been working to ensure its lead in the chip industry, especially with regards to the development of artificial intelligence — both on national security grounds and in the face of competition with China. The investment will help Micron “bring back leading-edge memory chip manufacturing to the US for the first time in 20 years,” Chuck Schumer of New York, the Senate majority leader, told reporters.

## Saudi Arabia’s business landscape witnessing dynamic shift as AI adoption rises

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia’s business environment has witnessed a drastic shift in recent years as employers consider artificial intelligence a critical tool for their operations. With the Kingdom hosting major technology events like LEAP, regional business owners and employees have recognized the need to upskill their proficiency in AI-related operations to catalyze growth. Talking to Arab News, Rami Mourtada, partner and director of Boston Consulting Group, said companies in Saudi Arabia should set their AI agenda imminently and prepare to adapt to this dynamic evolution.



“Transformative AI adoption in the Kingdom cannot happen without proper business adoption, and businesses that haven’t should quickly set their own AI agenda, define a strategic AI roadmap, pilot promising use case, and engage the organization properly for this change,” said Mourtada.

## Tesla’s plan for affordable cars takes page from Detroit rivals

AUSTIN (Agencies): Elon Musk’s new plan to use current product lines as the basis for new affordable vehicles — rather than springing for all-new models — follows the playbook of Tesla’s old-school Detroit rivals, as some Tesla investors and analysts see it. The shift toward incremental improvement, mirroring a common strategy of Ford and General Motors, suggests the future of car-making that Musk has promised to disrupt may still look a lot like the past. Musk’s new strategy followed an exclusive Reuters report that Tesla had shelved plans to release a long-awaited, new model expected to cost US\$25,000 in late



2025. Investors had expected the affordable car, often called the Model 2, to drive the company’s growth into a mass-market automaker. Instead, Tesla said this week, it will use a current platform and production lines to produce what it called “more affordable” models by early next year. It did not provide details or pricing.

## Airbus profit soars 28% in Q1 on rising deliveries, production

PARIS (Agencies): European aviation giant Airbus posted a 28% increase in first-quarter profit Thursday through rising deliveries and production, a day after arch-rival Boeing reported a loss. Airbus’ net income in the first three months rose to €595 million (US\$637 million) while revenue grew 9% to €12.8 billion, as the group delivered 142 commercial planes compared with 127 over the same period last year. The results were delivered “against the backdrop of an operating environment that shows no sign of improvement,” chief executive Guillaume Faury said in a statement. “Geopolitical and supply



chain tensions continue.” Suppliers say they also face component and staff shortages. Faury said the plane giant was “actively managing bottlenecks”. Airbus was closely watching the future of Spirit Aerosystems, a US firm that makes some wings and plane body elements for Airbus, which could be bought by Boeing, Faury added.

## Microsoft pledges US\$10bil on AI empire expansion abroad

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies): Microsoft, the tech titan most closely associated with AI, has announced nearly US\$10 billion in investments in artificial intelligence abroad in recent months, the price it is willing to pay to remain a top player in this crucial market. The overnight success of OpenAI’s ChatGPT thrust generative AI as Silicon Valley’s latest tech revolution, lifting Microsoft, OpenAI’s main backer, to become the world’s most valuable company. Since then, the maker of Windows and its rival Google have been competing furiously, rolling out tools that produce text, images or lines of code on the basis of a simple query. Meta and Amazon have followed suit, with their own increasingly sophisticated models and AI assistants. The bets have so far paid off, with Microsoft on Thursday again posting stellar earnings, which the company attributes to delivering on AI’s promise. Generative AI, which is being hyped as a new industrial



revolution, “has taken on so much value, they can’t afford to lose,” said Jeremy Goldman, analyst at EMARKETER. These big companies “have a war chest, and they feel they have to spend this money on AI, otherwise they’ll no longer have the warchest,” he added. “iPhone moment” For now, however, AI is a potential winner for the cloud giants — Amazon, Microsoft and Google — thanks to their offerings of beefed-up applications that are offered to existing clients at an extra cost. According to Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities, the new business should generate an additional US\$25-30 billion a year for Microsoft between now and 2025.

## Haliburton hits winner as Pacers hold off Bucks, Timberwolves push Suns to brink

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Tyrese Haliburton's game-winning basket lifted the Indiana Pacers to a 121-118 overtime victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday as Minnesota put Phoenix on the verge of elimination in the NBA playoffs. The Pacers let a 19-point lead get away, but finally thwarted the short-handed Bucks' rally to gain a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference first round series. The Dallas Mavericks also won at home, cruising to a 101-90 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers for a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference set. But a return to



Phoenix provided no respite for Kevin Durant and the Suns, who were one defeat away from elimination after falling 126-109 to the Minnesota Timberwolves. In Indianapolis, Haliburton delivered a triple-double of 18 points, 10 rebounds and 16 assists to

help the Pacers withstand a 42-point performance from Milwaukee forward Khris Middleton, who drilled a three-pointer to tie it with 2.3 seconds left in regulation and made another trey to knot it at 118-118 with eight seconds left in overtime. With 1.6 seconds remaining in overtime, Haliburton took an inbound pass and split the Bucks' defense as he drove for a one-handed floater. Fouled on the play, he made the free throw to cap the scoring. Middleton, playing through a sprained right ankle, was unable to work another three-point miracle as time expired.

## Ahly, Esperance book CAF Champions League final places

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies): Title-holders Al Ahly of Egypt and long-time rivals Esperance of Tunisia will meet in the two-leg CAF Champions League final during May. Ahly overpowered TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo 3-0 in Cairo to win a semifinal by the same score on aggregate after a goalless first leg last Saturday. Esperance soaked up constant pressure from Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa in Pretoria before snatching a 1-0 win to advance 2-0 overall after also winning 1-0 at home. Mohamed Abdelmonem, Wessam About Ali and Akram Tawfik scored in the



second half for Ahly, who are seeking a record-extending 12th victory in the premier African club competition. Raed Bouchniba came off the bench to score 12 minutes into the second half against Sundowns in a match that lasted 190 minutes after a storm halted play midway through

the opening half. It will be the third time Ahly and Esperance face each other in the final of the Champions League with the Egyptians winning in 2012 and the Tunisians succeeding in 2018. They also clashed in the semifinals last season with Ahly winning home and away for a 4-0 aggregate triumph. Both clubs have booked final places after 11 clean sheets in 12 qualifying, group and knockout matches. Esperance, seeking a fifth Champions League title, will host the first leg in Rades on the outskirts of Tunis on May 18 with the return match in Cairo seven days later.

## Meet Rima Al-Harbi, the first Saudi female to win at the AlUla Camel Cup

ALULA (Agencies): "Our dream, as athletes, is to be able to represent our country; and for me to live my dream for my country — in my country — is the ultimate triumph," Rima Al-Harbi told Arab News after making history this week as the first Saudi woman to win at the AlUla Camel Cup. At last year's inaugural competition, Al-Harbi was the only woman to compete in a field full of male riders. This year, the event included a women's category. Al-Harbi returned. And this time she won. "Most of the women I competed against this year have way more



experience than me; it was truly a difficult race, in general," Al-Harbi said. "But somehow, thanks to Allah, I didn't feel like anyone challenged me. From the moment we started to when we reached the finish line, I was in first place." The 22-year-old, who was raised in nearby Madinah,

where she still resides, grew up around camels. Both her father and grandfather competed in camel racing and she has a fierce love for the animal and for the sport. She credits her grandfather for encouraging her to learn how to ride when she was just seven years old. Now, she trains with her camel, Auf, for about two hours every day. She is continuing the family tradition and breaking records along the way. Al-Harbi said that three of her sisters also ride camels, but "as a hobby." She is the only one of her siblings to compete professionally.

## Saudi, UAE and Qatar secure wins on second day of AlUla Camel Cup

ALULA (Agencies): Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar provided the big winners on Day 2 of the second annual AlUla Camel Cup. Held in unseasonably hot conditions, Thursday's competition consisted of two 5 km categories, the Hagayeg and the Lagaya, with two races run in each. Saudi Arabia's Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif won the first Hagayeg race, much to the delight of spectators. The Prince's camel, aptly named AlUla, won in a time of 5 minutes 59.3 seconds. In the second Hagayeg race of the day, Shart, owned by Emira-



ti Mohammed Al-Kutbi, took first place in a time of 5:57.8. The day's total prize pool of \$6.83 million was split equally between the two categories. Winners in each of the races received \$870,000, second-place finishers earned \$266,666, and those in third place received \$133,333.

The balance of the prize pool was distributed among the other finishers. The event was organized by the Royal Commission for AlUla as part of the AlUla Moments calendar, in partnership with the Saudi Camel Racing Federation. The 2024 AlUla Camel Cup offers spectators and participants a new and more expansive experience after the inaugural edition in March last year. This year, designated Year of the Camel by the UN and the Ministry of Culture, the event pays homage to the desert animal that is so integral to the Kingdom's heritage.

## Hulkenberg leaving Haas to join Sauber at end of F1 season

PARIS (Agencies): German Nico Hulkenberg will leave Haas to join Sauber at the end of the ongoing Formula One season, the two teams announced today. The 36-year-old returned as a regular driver in the sport after a three-year absence with Haas in 2023 and has impressed so far this season, scoring points finishes in three of five races. "There's lots more racing to go this year so we look forward to continuing to benefit from his inputs throughout the



remainder of the 2024 season," said Haas team principal Ayao Komatsu. Hulkenberg will rejoin Sauber, who he previously raced for in 2013.

The Swiss team is set to become an Audi factory team in 2026. "With his speed, his experience and his commitment to teamwork, he will be an important part of the transformation of our team — and of Audi's F1 project," said Sauber and Audi F1 CEO Andreas Seidl. Hulkenberg has lined up for more than 200 races in F1 but is yet to post a podium finish, although he did take pole position for the 2010 Brazilian Grand Prix while with Williams.

## Malaysia make good start in Thomas Cup finals with 5-0 sweep over HK

PETALING JAYA (Agencies): Malaysia got off to a good start in the Thomas Cup finals in Chengdu, China, today by whitewashing Hong Kong in their Group D clash. Professional men's singles player Lee Zhi Jia put Malaysia 1-up when he beat Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu 21-18, 21-18 in the opening encounter, Bernama reported. Top men's

doubles pair Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik made it 2-0 when they outclassed Law Cheuk Him-Yeung Shing Choi 21-16, 21-12. National singles shuttler Leong Jun Hao clinched the tie for Malaysia when he came from one game down against Angus Ng Ka Long before prevailing 17-21, 21-12, 21-15. In the second doubles, Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin

Rumsani overcame Reginald Lee-Tang Chun Man 21-19, 21-18 to put Malaysia 4-0 up. Rising star Justin Hoh completed the sweep for Malaysia by overcoming Chan Yin Chak 21-17, 19-21, 21-17 in the fifth match. Malaysia also have Algeria and Denmark for company in Group D. The top two teams will advance to the quarter-finals.

## Arda Guler stretches Real Madrid's vast Liga lead at Real Sociedad

Spain (Agencies): Turkish teenager Arda Guler's strike helped Real Madrid close in on the Spanish title with a 1-0 win at Real Sociedad on Friday, moving 14 points clear at the top of La Liga. After last weekend's Clasico win over second place Barcelona it appears a formality for Madrid to

take the title back from their arch-rivals, and Guler helped them move one step closer. The playmaker, 19, has endured an injury-hit season but on his first league start snatched a heavily rotated Madrid side a tight victory at the Reale Arena. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti rested virtually his en-

tire first choice team with Tuesday's Champions League semifinal visit to face Bayern Munich in mind. Top scorer Jude Bellingham was on the bench after recovering from a stomach problem to earn a late addition to the squad list, alongside Vinicius Junior, Toni Kroos and various other stars.

## Defending champs Alcaraz and Sabalenka win opening matches at Madrid Open

MADRID (Agencies): Carlos Alcaraz didn't need to put his tender right arm to the test while easing to victory in his opening match at the Madrid Open on Friday. The two-time defending champion was playing for the first time in nearly a month after his injured arm ruled him out of Monte Carlo and Barcelona. And after doubting this week he would be good to go in Spain's capital, Alcaraz admitted he could afford to hold back a little in a 6-2, 6-1 win over Alexander Shevchenko. "I didn't hit my forehand 100 percent. I hit it softer than I used to hit it, but I think it helped me, you know, to let's say, stay relaxed," Alcaraz said. "But the first thing that I was thinking about



when I was stepping on the court is to stay healthy. "I was really happy to not feel anything in the forearm, and after that I could increase my intensity a bit. It was great for me this match." Defending women's champion Aryna Sabalenka faced tougher resistance in her opening match while beating Magda Linette 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 on the Caja Magica clay.

## 'Ballistic' Bairstow stars as Punjab pull off record T20 chase in IPL win over Kolkata Knight Riders

KOLKATA (Agencies): Jonny Bairstow smashed a "ballistic" unbeaten century as Punjab Kings recorded the highest successful run chase in Twenty20 cricket with an eight-wicket thrashing of Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League on Friday. The England star clobbered nine sixes and eight fours in his 48-ball 108 to help Punjab overhaul Kolkata's 261-6 with eight balls to spare in hot and humid conditions at the Eden Gardens. "We got off to a good start and that was key. They got off to a flier themselves so we knew we had to go ballistic in the powerplay," said Bairstow, named player of the match. "When you've to chase 200-plus you've to take risks in the powerplay. Try and whack it as



hard as possible." Shashank Singh also impressed with the bat, making 68 not out off 28 balls with eight sixes and two fours. The previous highest run chase in T20 history was scripted by South Africa who overhauled 258-5 made by the West Indies in 2023. "Shashank has done it all season, a lovely guy and special player. To have someone like him coming in and do that is unbelievable," added Bairstow.

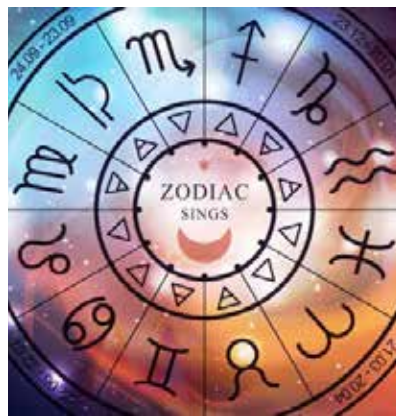
## Kozuma shoots 63 to grab lead; Torque top team leaderboard

ADELAIDE, Australia (Agencies): After shooting a bogey-free 9-under 63 to grab the first-round lead at LIV Golf Adelaide, Iron Heads GC's Jinichiro Kozuma credited his putting prowess with helping him get through "some troubles here and there." His teammate and Friday playing partner Danny Lee, sitting next to Kozuma during the post-round press conference, was perplexed. "Trouble? What trouble?" Indeed, the 29-year-old Kozuma seemed to have almost no trouble during the first round at The Grange Golf Club. He was 8 under after his first 11 holes and never gave up the lead on a day of low scoring before enthusiastic jampacked crowds at The Grange. Kozuma will take a one-shot advantage into Saturday's second round over Lee and Torque GC's



Carlos Ortiz. Four players are tied for fourth, two shots back — Mito Pereira (Torque), Peter Uihlein (RangeGoats GC), Andy Ogletree (HyFlyers GC) and Anirban Lahiri (Crushers GC). Torque GC owns the team lead by shooting 20 under, the lowest first-round counting score by any team this year. Besides the contributions from Ortiz and Pereira, captain Joaquin Niemann — who leads the Individual Championship standings this season thanks to two individual wins — contributed a 67.

## DAILY HOROSCOPE: APRIL 28, 2024



takes to patch up once it blows over. You can't afford to lose any time or energy over it.

– **VIRGO**: It's not the best day to rely on your schedule. Things are going to be a little off. But that can be a good deal for you, because it might mean that you get to avoid someone you don't want to see.

– **LIBRA**: You're on track to try something totally new today, but it may be a while before it starts to make sense to you, the odds are good that you feel okay with that, though, as you need a diversion.

– **SCORPIO**: Someone blows up over nothing, leaving you wondering what went wrong. It's probably not you, though. You just have to deal with volatile people on days like today, so get ready for the blast!

– **SAGITTARIUS**: It's the perfect time to open your heart and mind to someone close. They've got news for you that you really need to hear. Your good energy is just right for honest, open communication.

– **CAPRICORN**: Unexpected distractions or interruptions might get in the way of your good times today, so see if you can get yourself back on track as quickly as possible. It isn't as hard as all that, really.

– **ACQUARIUS**: You may feel a thrill from out of nowhere today, one that makes you wonder what's coming next. It's a really good time for you to get together with the people who mean the most to you.

– **PISCES**: You get an important message in your sleep, one that might take a while to interpret. It's best if you can write down your dreams for review in a few weeks to see what you can make of them then.

– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.

– **ARIES**: It's a good time to cross a few achievements off your list. You never know what might be coming that could get in the way, but your energy right now is perfect for reaching milestones.

– **TAURUS**: Someone is trying to get a rise out of you. Don't let them! It's nothing all that serious, but if they spot weakness, they are sure to keep pestering you for a good long time to come.

– **GEMINI**: Don't let anyone bring you down today. You've got ideals, and you need to make sure that you're speaking up about them. You can ensure the best possible outcome if you stand firm.

– **CANCER**: You and your friends need to calm down a little. Any fights that start today are almost certainly based on something trivial, and you need to recognize what's most important in your life.

– **LEO**: You and a friend are likely to have a spat today, but it's nothing too crazy. You should do whatever it



## China will launch Chang'e-6 lunar probe in early May to collect samples from far side of the moon

BEIJING (Agencies): The Chang'e-6 lunar probe and the Long March-5 Y8 carrier rocket combination has been vertically transported to the Wenchang Space Launch Site in South China's Hainan Province. The launch is scheduled to take place in early May, the Global Times learned from the China National Space Administration (CNSA) on Saturday. After arriving at the launch site in January and March respectively, the Chang'e-6 lunar probe and the Long March-5 Y8 carrier rocket have successively completed assembly, testing, and other preparatory work, CNSA said in the statement. Subsequently, various func-



tional checks, joint tests, propellant loading, and other tasks will be carried out according to the plan. The mission will be the world's first ever attempt to collect material from the dark side of the moon and return it to Earth for further study. The scale of such samples retrieved from the moon would be around 2,000 grams, Wu Weiren, chief

designer of China's lunar exploration program, previously revealed. The epic Chang'e-5 mission retrieved 1,731 grams. The US has been desperate to get its hands on these precious samples. Sidestepping the Wolf Amendment, for the first time, NASA has greenlit space agency-funded researchers to apply for access to China's lunar samples returned to Earth via Chang'e-5. It said in a statement that the samples are "expected to provide valuable new scientific insight on the geological history of the moon, which could provide new understanding of the Earth-moon system and potentially inform NASA's future lunar exploration plans."

## US Deploys F-16C "Fighting Falcon" Aircraft to Saudi Arabia Amid Regional Tensions



WASHINGTON (Agencies): In response to escalating tensions across the region, the U.S. Air Force has deployed several F-16C "Fighting Falcon" multirole fighter aircraft to the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. These aircraft are part of the 510th Fighter Squadron, which is stationed at Aviano Air Base in Italy. The F-16C "Fighting Falcon" is a compact, multirole fighter aircraft known for its high maneuverability and proven effectiveness in both air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations. The 510th Fighter Squadron is a combat-ready unit prepared to deploy and fly combat sorties as tasked by NATO and U.S. combatant commanders. The squadron's deployment to Saudi Arabia underscores the U.S.'s commitment to maintaining security in the region amid the ongoing tensions. This move is seen as a strategic step to bolster defenses and deter potential threats in the region. The deployment of these advanced aircraft could significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the U.S. forces stationed in Saudi Arabia. The impact of this deployment on the regional security dynamics will be closely monitored by international observers. The U.S. military's decision to deploy these aircraft underscores the seriousness of the current situation and the commitment to maintaining stability in the region.

## Burshtyn Power Plant in Ukraine Struck by Russian Missiles

KYIV (Agencies): The Burshtyn Power Plant, a coal-fired facility located in the Ivano-Frankivsk Region of Western Ukraine, has reportedly been struck by several 3M54-1 "Kalibr" Cruise Missiles and at least one Kh-47M2 "Kinzhal" Hypersonic Missile. These missiles were launched by Russian MiG-31Ks. The Burshtyn Power Plant is a significant facility with a capacity of 2,366MW. It supplies electricity to three western regions and to 5 million consumers, which is more than 10% of Ukraine's pre-war population. The plant was severely damaged in the attack, with some sections being half to completely destroyed. The estimated cost of the destruction of major equipment alone is approximately \$200 million, in addition to the \$80-100 million required for repairs. This attack underscores the escalating tensions in the region and the impact on critical infrastructure. The response to this incident from both national and international entities will be closely watched, as it could have far-reaching implications for the ongoing conflict and the region's energy security. The incident also raises concerns about the potential humanitarian impact, given the plant's significant role in the region's electricity supply.

## Turkiye may deploy Russian S-400 air defences against PKK

ANKARA (Agencies): Turkiye may deploy its advanced Russian S-400 air defences on the Iraqi border for its planned summer defence programme against the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, in Iraqi Kurdistan, Turkiye newspaper reports. According to the report, Turkiye's S-400s may be deployed on the border, implying it will defend against drones allegedly acquired by the PKK. This move would mark the first operational deployment of the missile system since



Ankara received it in 2019 to Western reproach, the report added. The deal between Russia and Turkiye for the S-400 cost Turkiye an estimated \$2.5 billion.

## BRICS pushing for common currency, in bid to reduce reliance on US dollar: South African envoy

BEIJING (Agencies): The BRICS are advancing the progress of its common currency, while actively promoting the use of local currencies from member states to reduce the risks of solely relying on the US dollar, South African Ambassador to China Siyabonga Cwele told the Global Times on Friday. In an interview on the sidelines of a reception hosted by the South African embassy in China to mark the country's 30th anniversary of freedom, Cwele also spoke highly of China-South Africa bilateral ties and refuted slanders against China's cooperation with Africa. Regarding the BRICS currency, the taskforce formed by the financial ministers of the member states will have a meeting in May to move corresponding discussions forward, with a focus on key issues including promoting greater stability of international monetary and financial systems, the South Af-

rican envoy said. Cwele stressed the importance of supporting the use of local currencies with open financial data sharing, while looking into digital currencies as ways to explore multiple and stable mechanisms for trade and settlement to reduce the risks such as sanction by just relying on a singular currency. Amid the rapid development of technologies such as artificial intelligence, Cwele noted that the BRICS endorses technology, as adapting new technologies properly is beneficial for everyone. When it comes to the BRICS expansion, Cwele highlighted the fruitful achievements realized during the BRICS Summit in 2023, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. BRICS leaders agreed at the summit to invite six countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to join the group.

## Drone Attacks Take Khor Mor Gas Field Offline, Claims Lives

BAGHDAD (Agencies): Four expatriate workers lost their lives, and two others sustained injuries in a recent drone attack on the Khor Mor gas field in Iraq's Kurdistan region. This attack, reported by an advisor to the Iraqi Kurdish Prime Minister and a senior Kurdish political source, has also resulted in the suspension of production at the site. The ramifications of the assault extend beyond casualties, impacting electricity generation in the region. Kurdistan's electricity ministry stated that the drone attack disrupted gas supplies to power plants, leading to an approximate 2,500 MW reduction in electricity output. Pearl Petroleum—a consortium comprised of Dana Gas and Crescent Petroleum (operators of the Kurdistan Gas Project), along with OMV, MOL, and RWE hold the rights to develop Khor Mor and Chemchemal, two of Iraq's largest gas fields. Earlier this week, U.S.

troops shot down two drones outside a base in Iraq, the Pentagon has said, although the U.S. military could not confirm whether the attack was targeting U.S. forces. No group has taken responsibility for Friday's attack on the gas field that contains more than 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves. "Good efforts have been made in the past to improve the energy sector and economic infrastructure in Iraq, especially in the Kurdistan Region, and while steps are being taken to resolve the disputed, evil and destructive hands once again targeted the Khor Mor gas field in a terrorist act. These repeated strikes must be stopped, and we urge the Iraqi government to find the perpetrators of this terrorist act and bring them to justice," Peshawa Hawramani, KRG spokesperson said in Friday a statement following the attack. The KRG spokesperson said that the four who lost their lives were Yemeni.

## China, US reach five points of consensus following Wang-Blinken meeting

BEIJING (Agencies): Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday in Beijing. Wang pointed out that although positive interactions in the bilateral relations have been increasing, negative factors in China-US relations continue to build up as China's core interests are challenged, warning that the US should not cross China's red lines on issues related to its sovereignty, security and development interests. China and the US reached five points of consensus on Friday following the Wang-Blinken meeting. Both agreed to continue following the guidance of the

heads of state of both countries, striving to stabilize and develop China-US relations. The parties affirm the positive progress made in dialogue and cooperation in various fields between China and the US since the meeting in San Francisco, agreeing to accelerate the implementation of important consensus reached by the heads of state in San Francisco. Second, both parties agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and contacts at all levels. They will continue to leverage the restored and newly established consultation mechanisms in diplomatic, economic, financial, and business sectors.

## Turkiye launches project to develop new domestic aircraft carrier

ANKARA (Agencies): Turkiye is making preparations for its upcoming and largest-ever domestic aircraft carrier, in the latest expansion of the country's defence capabilities. According to Turkish media outlets, the Turkish Naval Forces Command's Directorate of Design Project Office (DPO) is leading a project to design and develop the largest aircraft carrier possessed by Turkiye, to date. In a briefing to the press on Wednesday, the DPO revealed that a team of around 110 individuals at the Office are working on efforts to increase the domestic production ratio for the new national aircraft carrier, which has not yet been named. While still in



its conceptual design phase, the carrier would supposedly hold both manned and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), with prominent domestic defence production companies, including Baykar and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) reportedly collaborating with the project due to the aim for craft deployed to the carrier to be of domestic origin.

## Fears of organ theft by Israel army at Gaza's Nasser Hospital

GAZA CITY (Agencies): Paramedics and rescue teams involved in the recovery of civilian bodies from mass graves at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis, located in the southern Gaza Strip, have raised concerns about potential organ theft by Israeli forces. Following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Khan Yunis city, three mass graves containing at least 392 bodies were uncovered at the Nasser Medical Complex. According to Wafa news agency, 165 of these bodies remain unidentified due to disfigurement. Videos and photos of the victims show signs of torture evident on their bodies, with some victims found shackled with plastic restraints. Paramedics and rescue teams reported discovering bodies with their hands tied and abdominal wounds

stitched in a manner inconsistent with medical practices in the Gaza Strip, leading to suspicions of organ theft. Moreover, rescue teams reported recovering the mutilated body of a young girl dressed in a surgical gown, raising concerns that she may have been buried alive. Another victim, also in a surgical gown, was found under similar circumstances, further heightening suspicions. Some victims were also found with gunshot wounds to their heads, leading to suspicions of field executions. Many bodies were wrapped in black and blue shrouds made of plastic and nylon, unlike the typical shroud colours used in Gaza, which raised doubts that the Israeli Occupying Forces aimed to raise the body temperature to accelerate decomposition and conceal evidence.

## UK observers to visit Israeli detention facilities holding Palestinian prisoners



TELAVIV (Agencies): Israel has agreed to allow UK-appointed observers to visit detention facilities holding alleged Hamas prisoners who have been under arrest since 7 October, Haaretz has reported. This decision comes amidst reports that the conditions in these facilities may constitute a breach of international law, and follows shocking revelations about the UK government's suspension of legal assessments over whether Israel is breaching International Humanitarian Law. The foreign observers, whose identities are yet to be determined, will enter the detention facilities escorted by an Israeli judge and perform sample tests with prisoners to assess the conditions they are being held in. However, members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, have expressed deep unhappiness about the visit, criticising the decision as a "grave mistake" that undermines deterrence and violates Israeli sovereignty. Israeli newspapers have reported several eyewitness accounts in recent months indi-

cating that Palestinians prisoners are blindfolded 24-hours a day, with their hands and legs in cuffs and are fed through straws. A doctor at the field hospital set up at the Sde Teiman detention centre described conditions that could compromise the inmates' health and put the government at risk of violating the law. As of last month, at least 27 prisoners had died in military custody since the war began, with occupation forces not providing data about the circumstances surrounding their deaths. The facilities are fenced-in, with lights kept on all night in the prisoner areas, and inmates are taken to interrogations and returned to Gaza if found not to be involved in terror activity. The decision to allow UK observers into these detention facilities has highlighted the growing international concern over the treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody and the potential breach of international law. The UK government has been sitting on legal advice which concluded that Israel is in violation of international law, a determination that would make it illegal for Britain to sell arms to the occupation state.

## Exxon Expects Regulator To Greenlight \$60-Billion Pioneer Deal in June

NEW YORK (Agencies): ExxonMobil continues to expect that the U.S. antitrust authority will give the green light to its proposed \$60-billion all-stock acquisition of Pioneer Natural Resources by the end of the second quarter, Exxon's chief financial officer Kathy Mikells told Bloomberg in an interview on Friday. Exxon said in its Q1 earnings release today that it expects the transaction, which has been approved by Pioneer shareholders, to close in the second quarter of 2024, pending regulatory approval. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is looking at several major proposed deals in the U.S. oil industry, including acquisitions proposed by Exxon, Chevron, and Occidental, among others. Last month, nearly 50

Democratic Senators and Representatives urged the FTC to investigate the recent mergers in America's oil and gas sector amid concerns that they would harm competition and hurt consumers. Announcing the acquisition of Pioneer, Exxon said in October 2023 that the proposed transaction "transforms ExxonMobil's upstream portfolio, more than doubling the company's Permian footprint and creating an industry-leading, high-quality, high-return undeveloped U.S. unconventional inventory position." "We continue to expect the deal is going to be approved in the second quarter, consistent with the fact that there really aren't any major issues associated with the deal," Exxon's Mikells told Bloomberg.

## Blinken's Warning to China: Cease Support to Russia or Face Consequences

BEIJING (Agencies): US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has issued a warning to China over its support to Russia amidst the Ukraine crisis. In an interview with the BBC in Beijing, Blinken stated that the US would take action if China continues to supply Russia with materials used in its attack on Ukraine. He emphasized that China's actions were contributing to the most significant threat to European security since the Cold War. Despite not specifying the potential measures the US might take, Blinken also highlighted some areas of progress. He commended China's efforts to halt the supply of the drug fentanyl to the US, a substance causing a



public health crisis in the country. He also expressed his belief that China could play a constructive role in the Middle East, particularly by using its influence with Iran to prevent further escalation in its conflict with Israel. Blinken's visit, his second in less than a year, is part of an increased effort to improve dialogue and diplomacy

between the US and China following a period of high tension last year. The strained relationship has been exacerbated by disputes over Taiwan and the South China Sea, US export bans on advanced technology, and a disagreement over a spy balloon. Recently, the US enacted a law requiring the Chinese-owned app TikTok to be sold or face a ban in America. However, Blinken revealed that this issue was not discussed in his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi, who met with Blinken at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, agreed that some positive progress had been made since his meeting with US President Joe Biden in November.

## Gold watch worn by richest passenger aboard Titanic to be sold at auction



LONDON (Agencies): John Jacob Astor IV's gold watch, a significant artifact from the Titanic, is set to be auctioned. Astor, a member of the affluent Astor family and the wealthiest passenger on the ill-fated ship, was among the approximately 1,500 people who perished when the Titanic sank on April 15, 1912. His pregnant wife, Madeleine, was among the survivors. The auction, organized by Henry Aldridge & Son in Wiltshire, England, will feature the watch among several notable items. These include the valise that contained the violin played by the band leader as the ship sank, and a pocketbook documenting the Titanic's planned voyages. The violin was previously sold for \$1.7 million in 2013, making it the highest-selling Titanic item ever. The watch is expected to fetch between £100,000 and £150,000 (\$125,000-\$188,000), and the valise is estimated to sell for between £100,000-£120,000 (\$125,000-\$150,000). The bidding is set to commence on April 27 at midday local time (7 a.m. ET). The watch was among the personal belongings found with Astor's body after the Titanic tragedy. His other possessions included gold cufflinks, a diamond ring, money, and a pocketbook. These items were sent to his son, Vincent Astor, who restored the watch to working condition. In 1935, Vincent gifted the watch to the infant son of William Dobbyn IV, John Jacob Astor's executive secretary. The Dobbyn family retained the watch until the late 1990s, when it was auctioned.

## US Continues Aid to IDF Despite Alleged Human Rights Violations

WASHINGTON (Agencies): According to media reports the US government has identified three units of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as having committed human rights violations against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. Despite these findings, the US will continue to provide military aid to Israel. The decision comes in the context of the Leahy Law, which prohibits the US Departments of State and Defense from providing military assistance to foreign military and law enforcement units that have been proven to violate human rights. However, an exception exists if steps have been taken to bring the responsible members of the unit to justice, as outlined by Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson. The allegations against two civilian and three military units, including the Netzah Yehuda Battalion primarily composed of ultra-Orthodox Jews, are unrelated to the war against Hamas in Gaza. Blinken reported that four of the units have undergone proper remediation steps, and Israel has pledged to address the remaining unit soon. The unit in question, the Netzah Yehuda Battalion, was reportedly redeployed to the Golan Heights in Syria last year following a significant number of incidents involving soldiers arrested for assaulting Palestinians. Blinken wrote that the Israeli government has provided new information about the status of the unit, and the US will work on identifying a path to effective remediation for this unit.

## Boeing and NASA Gear Up for Historic Crewed Launch of Starliner Spacecraft

Florida (Agencies): After enduring numerous delays and unexpected challenges during test flights, Boeing's Starliner spacecraft is finally poised for its first crewed launch. The mission, scheduled to lift off from Florida as early as May 6, will carry NASA astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station. This could mark a significant and long-anticipated triumph for the beleaguered Starliner program. During a news briefing on Thursday, Mark Nappi, Vice President and Starliner Program Manager at Boeing, acknowledged the difficulties encountered in the design and development of a human space vehicle. He expressed pride in the team's resilience and their ability to overcome every issue faced thus far. Boeing and NASA officials decided on Thursday to proceed with the launch attempt in less



than two weeks. However, Ken Bowersox, Associate Administrator for NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate, emphasized that May 6 is not a fixed date, stating, "We'll launch when we're ready." If the mission is successful, the Starliner will join SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft in making regular trips to the space station. This will ensure that the orbiting outpost is fully staffed with astronauts from NASA and its partner space agencies. The prospect of both the Crew Dragon and Starliner conducting regular flights is a scenario that the US space agency has eagerly anticipated.

## Israeli-fired unexploded bombs could take 14 years to clear: UN

NITED NATIONS (Agencies): Making Gaza safe again from the unexploded bombs rained down by the Israeli war machine could take 14 years, UN demining experts said Friday. Pehr Lodhammar, a senior officer from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), said that the conflict had left an estimated 37 million tonnes of debris. He said it was impossible to determine the exact amount of unexploded ordnance in the enclave where formerly heavily built-up and densely populated neighbourhoods had been reduced to rubble, after nearly seven months of intense Israeli bombardment. Every square metre in

Gaza impacted by the Israeli attacks contained some 200 kilogrammes of rubble, the veteran UN demining expert told journalists in Geneva. "All I can say is that at least 10 per cent of the ammunition that is being fired potentially fails to function...with 100 trucks we're talking about 14 years of work with 100 trucks, so that's 14 years to remove with about 750,000 workdays - person workdays - to remove the debris." Meanwhile, UN humanitarians repeated warnings that famine is imminent in the northern Gaza Strip, in a renewed urgent appeal for more aid relief to be allowed into the enclave.

## MI5 to Screen UK Academics Amid Concerns Over Chinese Espionage

LONDON (Agencies): The UK's security services are set to vet academics and researchers at British universities as part of a government initiative to counter alleged Chinese espionage, according to The Times. This development follows a meeting between MI5 Director General Ken McCallum and the vice-chancellors of two dozen leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. McCallum reportedly warned that hostile states are actively targeting universities to steal technology that can further their authoritarian, military, and commercial priorities. He revealed that a confidential review into the vulnerabilities of the UK's higher education sector has shown that countries like China are using both overt and covert mechanisms to acquire intellectual property and gain an advantage. The government is currently consulting on a new system of vetting that would subject academics with access to

sensitive research to background checks by security services. Additionally, the government is considering new funding for higher education institutions to bolster security around sensitive sites. Universities may also be required to consult with the security services when entering into funding partnerships and collaborations with foreign institutions. Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the foreign affairs select committee, stated that academia has for too long pretended it has no role to play in national security and could operate free from geo-strategic realities. She pointed out that significant evidence indicates a systematic attempt by the Chinese Communist Party to infiltrate British academia and exfiltrate critical research, capabilities, and technologies. Beijing has consistently denied any espionage-related accusations, dismissing them as malicious smears.

## Social Media Influencer Andrew Tate to Face Trial in Romania on Charges of Sex Trafficking and Rape

BUCHAREST (Agencies): Andrew Tate, an Anglo-American social media influencer, is set to stand trial in Romania on charges of rape, human trafficking, and running a criminal gang to sexually exploit women. The Bucharest court has decided to proceed with the trial, although a date has not yet been set. Tate, 37, and his brother Tristan were arrested in December 2022 and were indicted last June, along with two Romanian women who are alleged to have been their accomplices. All parties involved have denied the allegations. The Tate brothers have challenged the indictment in the preliminary chamber

stage. Despite their objections, the Bucharest Tribunal ruled on Friday to allow the case to proceed. Eugen Vidineac, one of the lawyers representing the Tate brothers, stated that the ruling issued by the preliminary chamber judge lacks legal basis and reasoning, and they have filed a strong appeal believing the ruling to be unlawful. Ioan Gliga, another attorney, expressed that the arguments challenging the criminal investigation and the indictments did not receive the necessary attention in the preliminary hearing. However, the Tates' defense remains confident that the appeals court will rule in their favor.

## Biden Expresses Readiness for Pre-Election Showdown with Trump

WASHINGTON (Agencies): US President Joe Biden expressed his willingness on Friday to engage in a debate with Donald Trump prior to the November election. Responding to a question from Howard Stern during a SiriusXM satellite radio network interview, Biden stated his readiness to debate Trump, although the timing remains uncertain. Trump's campaign advisor, Chis LaCivita, promptly responded on Twitter, suggesting to set up the debate. Presidential debates during election years are traditionally organized by a nonpartisan commission and scheduled for the fall season. The commission had previously announced the locations for the three



2024 presidential debates - at universities in Texas, Utah, and Virginia - with dates set for September and October. However, Biden had not committed to these debates prior to his recent remarks. In March, he stated that his decision to share a stage with Trump would be contingent on Trump's behavior. Biden's comments on Friday were unexpected and seemed to be spontaneous.

## Coal Tycoon Constructs World's Largest Clean Energy Plant in India

Gujarat (Agencies): Sagar Adani, executive director of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) and nephew of Gautam Adani, Asia's second-richest man, is overseeing the construction of the world's largest clean energy plant in Gujarat, India. The project, which is transforming vast tracts of barren salt desert into a significant source of clean energy, is so massive that it's five times the size of Paris and visible from space. The Adani Group, India's largest coal importer and a leading coal miner, is investing about \$20 billion in this project through its clean energy unit, AGEL. The sprawling solar and wind power plant, known as the Khavda Renewable Energy Park, is expected to be the world's largest

renewable park upon completion in about five years. It aims to generate enough clean electricity to power 16 million Indian homes. The success of this project is crucial for India's efforts to reduce pollution, achieve its climate goals, and meet the growing energy needs of the world's most populous nation and fastest-growing major economy. Despite the controversies faced by the Adani Group, including accusations of decades-long fraud by American short-seller Hindenburg Research in January 2023, the group remains committed to its green plans. The Adani Group plans to invest \$100 billion in energy transition over the next decade, with 70% of the investments earmarked for clean energy.

## Saudi ministry warns against fraudulent Hajj schemes; urges vigilance, official channels for booking



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has advised pilgrims not to fall prey fraudulent schemes and to exclusively book their sacred journey through authorized companies. It emphasized that performing Hajj without proper permit constitutes a legal violation, subject to enforcement. The ministry said reservations for performing Hajj rituals within Saudi Arabia are facilitated through the official website and the Nusuk application. Pilgrims from Europe, America, and Australia can book Hajj through the Nusuk platform, while booking from Islamic countries is handled by designated reservation offices, it added. An official source from the ministry has cautioned individuals intending to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage this year against fraudulent Hajj campaigns proliferating on social media platforms across various nations. It said the ministry has diligently monitored advertisements from companies and campaigns, as well as identified fake accounts on social networks. The source said it is imperative for individuals to exercise vigilance against such deceptive campaigns and com-

panies that falsely claim to organize Hajj at enticing prices. Furthermore, the ministry has expressed gratitude towards the Iraq's Supreme Authority for Hajj and Umrah, alongside its authorities, for their collaborative efforts leading to the apprehension of over 25 counterfeit companies involved in commercial Hajj activities. It underscored the importance for all nations to take decisive measures in addressing such irregularities and combating counterfeiting practices. The ministry stipulated that individuals intending to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage from outside Saudi Arabia must obtain a Hajj visa. Those holding visit, tourism, work, transit, or other visas are prohibited from participating in Hajj rituals within Saudi Arabia, it maintained. The ministry said it is imperative for every Muslim to adhere strictly to the established rules and regulations and refrain from engaging with fictitious companies or offices offering fraudulent Hajj services. The ministry remains vigilant in monitoring the advertisements of these fraudulent companies and campaigns urging everyone to cooperate in combatting and reporting such activities, and above all, curbing the proliferation of unauthorized Hajj arrangements. The ministry encouraged individuals to access official information through its website and its social media channels. For inquiries and to verify approved companies, it requested the intending pilgrims to contact the Saudi Arabia's number: 00966920002814.

## Inauguration of First Hangor-Class Submarine

Wuhan (Agencies): The inaugural event for the first Hangor-class submarine, constructed for Pakistan by China, took place at the Shuangliu Base in Wuhan, China. Admiral Naveed Ashraf, the Chief of Naval Staff, graced the event as the guest of honor. This project is significant as it will enhance the bond between Pakistan and China. Previously, an agreement was signed to procure eight Hangor-class submarines during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan. As per the agreement, half of these submarines will be constructed in China, while the remaining will be built at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works Limited in Pakistan.

This Newspaper has been digitally printed at



### Khyber Prints

- Instant Digital Printing Solutions -

First Floor, Town Heights, Old Bara Road,  
University Town - Peshawar  
Cell/Whatsapp: 0309-0055000  
E-mail: khyberprints@gmail.com

