

China's first concept verification center for time-honoured brands established in Henan



Henan Daily
Zhengzhou: This Week , The Zhengzhou Technology Exchange Market—Caoshanhu Health Concept Verification Center - Also Known As The Caoshanhu Health Innovation Center - Was Officially Inaugurated At Zhongyuan Science And Technology City In Zhengzhou, The Capital Of Central China's Henan Province. As The First Concept Verification Center In China's Health Sector Jointly Established By A Technology Exchange Platform And A Time-Honoured Domestic Brand, Its Launch Marks A New Step Forward In Henan's Efforts To Transform Scientific And Technological Achievements Into Real-World Applications. Caoshanhu Is A Renowned Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Brand With Decades

Of History In The Health Industry, Widely Recognized For Its Commitment To Integrating Ancient Remedies With Modern Innovation. Concept Verification Is A Crucial Process In Transforming Scientific Research Into Practical, Market-Ready Technologies. By Systematically Validating Ideas And Developing Viable Prototypes, It Effectively Reduces Risks In Technology Transfer And Enhances The Efficiency Of Securing Investment. In Recent Years, The Development Of Concept Verification Platforms In China Has Flourished Across Multiple Regions. After Henan Launched The Construction Of A Concept Verification Center Collaboration Network In 2024, The Zhengzhou Technology Exchange Market Took The Lead In Exploring A Collaborative Inno-



vation Model Combining Market Mechanisms With Time-Honoured Brands. This Latest Partnership With Caoshanhu, A Domestic Brand With A 67-Year History, Has Pioneered A New Paradigm Integrating Traditional Industry Upgrading With Technological Innovation. As A Well-Known Time-Honored Domestic Brand, Why Did Caoshanhu Choose Zhengzhou To Collaborate On Establishing A Concept Verification Center? "There Are Currently 36 Nationally Recognized Time-Honoured Chinese Brands And 272 Provincial-Level Heritage Brands In Henan, Covering Industries

Like Agricultural And Sideline Food Processing, Handicrafts, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, And Henan Liquor," Said Che Zhongrui, Head Of The Zhengzhou Technology Exchange Market. "Through This Partnership Between Time-Honoured Domestic Brands And The Local Technology Exchange Market, We Aim To Explore How To Closely Integrate These Heritage Brands With Henan's Existing Scientific And Technological Innovation Resources, Empowering Them With New Technologies To Revitalize Their Vitality And Catch Up With The New Trends In Consumption And Retail."



Denmark leads global push to protect human identity from ai exploitation

Dr Taimoor Ul Hassan

Copenhagen: In A Small Yet Significant Legislative Leap, Denmark Recently Etched Its Name Into The Digital Rights Frontier By Officially Recognising The Human Face, Body And Voice As Intellectual Property. This Groundbreaking Move Treats Personal Physical And Vocal Attributes Not Just As Biometric Data, But As Elements Of Identity Worthy Of Protection Under Copyright-Like Frameworks. By Placing Legal Ownership Over What Makes Us Visibly And Audibly Human, Denmark Has Initiated A Global Conversation That Transcends Privacy And Enters The Terrain Of Identity Sovereignty. It Marks One Of The Most Assertive Governmental Responses Yet To The Evolving Deepfake Dilemma. Deepfakes, Once Niche Experiments Of AI Laboratories, Have Now Become Chillingly Sophisticated Tools That Replicate Facial Expressions, Vocal Inflections And Even Body Language With Uncanny Precision. These Synthetic Media Forms Threaten Not Only Personal Dignity But The Very Scaffolding Of Democratic Trust, Elections, Courtrooms, Newsrooms And Classrooms Are All Vulnerable To Deception On An Industrial Scale. Denmark'S Legal Shift Acknowledges The Personal As Proprietary, Thereby Laying The Foundation For Judicial Recourse When Digital Mimicry Trespasses Into Exploitation Or Fraud. This Move Has Resonated Globally. In The European Union, The Proposed Artificial Intelligence Act, Currently Under Tripartite Negotiation, Includes Provisions To Categorise Deepfakes As High-Risk AI. The Act Will Require Clear Labelling Of Synthetic Content And Introduce Penalties For Unlabelled Or Malicious Uses. It Also Mandates Transparency In Datasets Used To Train Generative Models, Thereby Addressing The Root Of The Issue: AI Trained On Publicly Scraped Human Content Without Consent. Germany Has Taken A Slightly Different Route. Recognising The Threat To Public Discourse, It Has Empowered Its Federal Cybersecurity Agency To Monitor And Flag Synthetic Media During Elections. In France, Where Reputational Damage Can Easily Translate Into Defamation Suits, Courts Have Already Begun Processing Deepfake-Related Complaints Under Existing Laws Of Identity Theft And Personal Harm. These Responses, Though Varied, Converge On The Urgency To Reassert Legal Boundaries In The Age Of Algorithmic Simulation. In The United States, Responses Remain Patchwork But No Less Revealing. California And Texas Were Among The First To Introduce Laws Criminalising Deepfakes In Political Campaigning And Non-Consensual Pornography. The DEEPFakes Accountability Act, Introduced At The Federal Level—Though Still Under Debate—Proposes Watermarks For All Synthetic Media And Envisions Severe Penalties For Deceptive Use, Especially In News And Electoral Content. More Recently, The Federal Trade Commission Has Signalled Its Intent To Treat Deceptive Synthetic Media As A Form Of Consumer Fraud, Placing It Under The Agency'S Regulatory Lens. Interestingly, The Entertainment Industry In The United States Has Become An Unintentional Pioneer. The 2023 Actors' Strike Brought To Light The Use Of AI To Replicate Performers' Voices And Likenesses. In A Rare Display Of Solidarity, The Screen Actors Guild Negotiated For Contractual Rights Over Digital Replicas Of Actors. Studios Now Require Explicit Consent Before Using AI-Generated Versions Of Performers, And These Clauses Have Been Enshrined In Formal Agreements. Hollywood'S Friction With AI Has Perhaps Advanced Legal Thinking On Synthetic Identity Faster Than Most Legislative Corridors. In The Asia Pacific, South Korea—With Its Digitally Hyperconnected Society—Has Emerged As A Testing Ground For Regulation. Its Communications Commission Has Mandated That All Deepfakes Be Clearly Labelled In Media And Has Imposed Fines For Unmarked Synthetic Content. The Ministry Of Justice Is Also Drafting Amendments To Its Information And Communications Network Act To Define And Penalise Harmful AI-Generated Content More Precisely. Meanwhile, China, Known For Aggressive Content Regulation, Now Requires All Synthetic Content To Bear Digital Watermarks And Bans Deepfakes That Distort Political Or Historical Narratives. These Measures May Be State-Centric, But They Illustrate An Emerging Consensus That Digital Mimicry Must Be Restrained Before It Unmasks Social Stability.



In A Noteworthy Cross-Continental Move, Australia Has Invested In Public Awareness Campaigns Alongside Legal Tools. Its ISafety Commissioner Has Issued Toolkits For Schools, Parents And Journalists To Identify And Counter Deepfake Content. Australia Also Offers Individuals A Right To Delisting Or Takedown Of Manipulated Images Or Videos—Especially Those Related To Intimate Content—From Search Engines And Platforms. This People-First Strategy Combines Regulation With Empowerment And Underscores That Deepfakes Are Not Merely A Technological Challenge But A Societal One. Pakistan, Too, Cannot Remain Uninvolved. The Country Has Already Witnessed Cases Where AI-Generated Female Images Were Circulated To Defame Political Workers And Journalists. While Pakistan'S Prevention Of Electronic Crimes Act Covers Cyberstalking And Image Tampering, The Law Does Not Yet Address Synthetic Identities In Their Full Digital Complexity. There Is An Urgent Need For Legal Reform That Includes Recognition Of Biometric Likeness As Personal Property, Penalties For Political Manipulation Via Deepfakes, And AI Literacy Initiatives For Public Awareness. If Not Pre-Empted By Law And Media Policy, Synthetic Disinformation Could Deepen Polarisation And Erode What Little Trust Remains In Public Discourse. Globally, Tech Platforms Remain Both Complicit And Critical. Meta, Google And TikTok Have Taken Steps To Label Or Remove Manipulated Media, But Their Methods Are Inconsistent And Often Reactive. OpenAI, Anthropic And Other Frontier AI Labs Have Now Signed Voluntary Agreements With Governments To Watermark Their Generated Content, But Watermarking Is Not A Foolproof Solution. Deepfake Detectors Are Already Lagging Behind Generator Models In The Technological Arms Race. This Asymmetry Has Led To Calls For AI Models To Be Open To External Audits And For Governments To Enforce Traceability Mechanisms Through Legal Mandates Rather Than Industry Goodwill. Yet, Amid This Legal And Technical Combat, A Deeper Philosophical Question Lingers. What Does It Mean To Be Human In An Era Where One'S Face, Voice And Gestures Can Be Infinitely Copied And Weaponised? The Struggle Against Deepfakes Is Not Just About Preventing Electoral Fraud Or Protecting Celebrities. It Is About Preserving The Authenticity Of Presence, The Credibility Of Memory, And The Sanctity Of Speech. In Reclaiming Control Over Our Digital Doubles, Nations Are Slowly Converging On A Principle That Should Have Always Been Self-Evident: To Be Human Is To Own Oneself. As Deepfakes Grow More Persuasive, The World Seems To Be Waking Up Not Just To The Threat Of Disinformation But To The Larger Project Of Digital Personhood. The Struggle Against Deepfakes Is Not Just About Technology—It'S About Reclaiming What It Means To Be Human In The Digital Age. Denmark'S Bold Step May Appear Symbolic, But It Charts A Path Forward. In Time, The Face In The Mirror Will Not Just Reflect Who We Are, But What We Legally Own.

Aseefa Bhutto calls for a renewed national commitment to the health

Liaquat Ali

Islamabad: On The Occasion Of World Population Day 2025, The First Lady Of Pakistan, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Called For A Renewed National Commitment To The Health, Dignity, And Empowerment Of Every Individual; Especially Women, Children, And Youth Across The Country. "On This Day, We Are Reminded Not Only Of Numbers, But Of The Lives And Stories Behind Them—Of The Mothers, Children, And Families Who Form The Heart Of Our Nation," Said The First Lady. "Our Focus Must Remain On Ensuring That Every Mother Is Healthy, Every Child Is Safe, And Every Family Is Given The Opportunity To Thrive." Pakistan Continues To Face Critical Challenges In Maternal Health, Child Welfare, And Youth Empowerment. In Her Message, The First Lady Emphasized The Urgent Need For Investment In Family Planning, Education, Social Protection, And Reproductive Health Services, The Cornerstones Of A Strong And Inclusive Society. "This Is Not Merely A Matter Of Development, It Is A Matter Of Dignity, Equity, And Justice. By Prioritizing The Well-Being Of Our People, We Secure The Future Of Our Nation," She Stated.

The Theme For This Year'S World Population Day, Empowering Young People To Shape The Families They Want In A Fair And Hopeful World, Resonates Deeply With Pakistan, Where A Majority Of The Population Is Under The Age Of 30. The First Lady Underscored The Importance Of Creating Opportunities For Young People To Lead Fulfilling Lives, Free From Discrimination, And Equipped With The Tools To Make Informed Choices. "Our Youth Are Not Only Our Future, They Are Our Present. We Must Ensure They Have Access To Quality Education, Comprehensive Healthcare, Economic Opportunities, And A Voice In



Decisions That Affect Them," Said H.E. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari. "Empowering Them Is Essential To Building A Just, Peaceful, And Sustainable Pakistan." On This World Population Day, The First Lady Reaffirmed Her Commitment To Advancing The Rights And Well-Being Of All Pakistanis And Called On Stakeholders Across Government, Civil Society, And The Private Sector To Work In Unity Toward A Future Where Every Life Is Valued And Every Generation Is Empowered, Reminding Them Of The Words Of Shaheed Moh-tarma Benazir Bhutto At The 1994 International Conference On Population And Development In Cairo, "I Dream Of A Pakistan, Of An Asia, Of A World Where Every Pregnancy Is Planned And Every Child Conceived Is Nurtured, Loved, Educated, And Supported."

China's Xixia imperial tombs inscribed as unesco world heritage site

China Economic Net

Paris: China's Xixia Imperial Tombs Were Inscribed On The World Heritage List On Friday During UNESCO's 47th Session Of The World Heritage Committee, Held In Paris, France. With This Addition, The Total Number Of World Heritage Sites In China Has Reached 60. Xixia Imperial Tombs Is A Group Of Imperial Burial Sites From The Xixia Dynasty (Western Xia, 1038-1227), Founded By The Tangut People In Northwestern China During The 11th



To 13th Centuries. Covering An Area Of Nearly 40 Square Km, The Site Comprises Four Types Of Architectural Remains: 9 Imperial Mausoleums, 271 Subordinate Tombs, A Northern Architectural Complex Covering 0.05 Square Km, And 32 Flood Control Works. The Xixia Imperial Tombs Are The Largest, Highest-Ranked, And Most Intact Archaeological Site From The Xixia Period That Has Survived To The Present Day. According To The World Heritage Committee, The Site Is A Testament



To The Cultural Fusion And Interactions Of Diverse Traditions. It Also Bears Witness To The Unique Role Of The Xixia Dynasty In Cultural And Commercial Exchanges Along The Silk Roads During The 11th To 13th Centuries. The Committee Commended The

Efforts And Achievements Made By The Chinese Government In The Protection And Management Of The Cultural Heritage Of The Xixia Imperial Tombs. Rao Quan, Vice Minister Of Culture And Tourism Of China, Said

That China Will Remain Steadfast In Fulfilling Its Obligations Under The World Heritage Convention, Further Enhance Holistic And Systematic Protection Of Cultural And Natural Heritage, And Improve Conservation Capacity And Standards.

China's innovation, transformation pace attracting more investments

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: Multinational corporations will continue to scale up their investment in the Chinese market, propelled by the country's thriving landscape of new quality productive forces, a vibrant innovation ecosystem and the steady advancement of a unified national market, said foreign business executives. They noted that as China ushers in a new era of innovation-driven growth and accelerates the creation of a unified national market, global investors are placing growing emphasis on areas such as digital transformation, supply chain optimization, high-end manufacturing, customized innovation and sustainable growth. Building a unified national market is essential to unleashing domestic demand potential, facilitating the efficient flow of goods and factors, improving resource allocation and fully harnessing the market's industrial and demand advantages, according to information released by the Research Office of the State Council, China's Cabinet. Attracted by the promising growth potential of China's unified national market and the country's robust innovation capabilities, Swiss technology company ABB Group plans to further strengthen its presence in China, the world's largest robotics market, through a series of artificial intelligence-driven innovations and new product launches in the coming years.

"As part of our 'local for local' strategy, we will broaden our product portfolio to better serve the fast-changing demands of China's mid-market robotics segment, as well as emerging sectors including electronics, healthcare, logistics and construction," said Marc Segura, president of ABB's robotics division. The Zurich-headquartered group launched three new robots in China in early July. These new products, manufactured at its \$150 million robot factory in Shanghai, address a wide range of automation needs in high-growth sectors including electronics, consumer goods and general industries, from essential material handling to high-end applications like dispensing and polishing. China is ABB's largest market for robotics deliveries and over 90 percent of ABB robots for Chinese customers are now manufactured locally. This year, the proportion of ABB robotics' domestic suppliers in China is expected to reach around 80 percent, effectively establishing a closed-loop domestic supply chain within the country. With eight manufacturing sites and an innovation center across China, Eastman Chemical Co, a United States-based specialty materials manufacturer, launched two new lines at its plant in Dalian, Liaoning province, in June, to ramp up the output of its automotive film products. The US company said this move will play a pivotal role in supporting surging demand for

automotive window films and paint protection products in China and across Asia. "Compared with other markets, the pace of innovation and business model transformation in China is significantly faster, especially in the digital sphere. Chinese consumers are among the most digitally savvy in the world, which continuously drives our teams to keep innovating," said Brad Lich, executive vice-president and chief commercial officer of Eastman. Data from the Commerce Ministry show that the actual use of foreign direct investment in China's high-tech industries reached 109.04 billion yuan (\$14.96 billion) between January and May. FDI in aerospace equipment manufacturing rose 74.9 percent year-on-year, while FDI in the chemical pharmaceuticals manufacturing sector surged 59.2 percent. While foreign manufacturers are ramping up investment in high-tech and green industries, companies in the modern services sector are also seizing new opportunities in China's evolving market landscape. Amid growing demand for flexible office solutions that cater to evolving employee expectations and enhance operational agility, International Workplace Group, another Switzerland-based provider of hybrid working solutions, plans to expand into more lower-tier cities in China with innovative service formats over the next five years. Marc Descrozaille, CEO of IWG for Asia-Pacific, the



Middle East and Africa, said that it is important for the group to adapt its expansion strategy to align with the swiftly evolving hybrid work models as they gain popularity in China. IWG currently operates 140 workspaces across 35 cities in China and has signed agreements for more than 50 new locations in the country, as well as 899 globally in

2024, underscoring its commitment to addressing the rising demand for flexible workspaces. "Our growth in the Asia-Pacific region has been strong. We are focused on establishing new centers in suburban commuter towns," he said, adding that the group aims to accelerate its expansion in China, especially in second- and third-tier cities, over the next five years to improve accessibility for remote workers and small businesses.

Henan's first aeo-recognized shipment departs for Ecuador

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: "Two Days Ago, A Cargo Ship Carrying Our Company's Export Shipment Of All-Steel Radial Tires For Trucks And Buses Left Qingdao For Ecuador," Wang Yanmin, Foreign Trade Manager Of Aeolus Tyre Co Ltd Told Henan Daily On July 3. On July 1, The Mutual Recognition Of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Between China And Ecuador Officially Took Effect. This Shipment Was Among The First To Benefit From The AEO Facilitation Measures, Resulting In A Further Reduction In Delivery Time. According To The Head Of The Audit Division At Zhengzhou Customs, It Also Marks The First Shipment From Henan To Benefit From The China-Ecuador AEO Agreement's Streamlined Customs Procedures.

AEO, Or Authorized Economic Operator, Is A Program Promoted By The World Customs Organization. It Aims To Offer Preferential Treatment And Trade Facilitation To Companies With Strong Credit, High Compliance, And Secure Supply Chains. On July 1, Ecuador Became The Fifth Latin American Country, Following Chile, Brazil, Uruguayand Costa Rica, To Sign A Mutual AEO Recognition Agreement With China. As Of Now, China Has Established AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangements With 50 Countries And Regions. In The First Five Months Of This Year, 403 Companies In Henan Engaged In Trade With Ecuador, With Total Imports And Exports Amounting To 560 Million Yuan, Marking A 44.4% Year-On-Year Increase. "The Official Launch Of The China-Ecuador AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement Will Further Help Henan's Foreign Trade Enterprises Tap Into The Latin American Market," Said The Manager.



Italy secure maiden ICC men's T20 world cup qualification



The Italian Side Booked The Coveted Spot After Finishing Second In The Europe Region Final Standings Despite Losing Their Last Match Of The Campaign Against The Netherlands, Who Also Booked Their Spot In The Mega Event, Scheduled To Be Played In India And Sri Lanka Next Year. Ahead Of The High-Stakes Clash, Italy Were At The Top Of The Standings With

Newswire

The Hague: The Italy Men'S Cricket Team This Week, Made History As They Qualified For The ICC Men'S T20 World Cup For The First Time.



Italian Ambassador to Pakistan,
Marilina Armellin

Roelof Van Der Merwe Was The Standout Bowler For The Netherlands, Picking Up Three Wickets For Just 15 Runs In His Four Overs. He Was Supported By Kyle Klein, Who Took Two Wickets, While Aryan Dutt Made One Scalp. Set To Chase A Modest 135-Run Target In The Must-Win Fixture, The Netherlands Emphatically Knocked The Winning Runs For The Loss Of Just One Wicket And 21 Balls To Spare. Leading The Way For The Home Side Was Opening Batter Max O'Dowd, Who Top-Scored With An Unbeaten 46 Off 41 Deliveries, Laced With Three Boundaries. O'Dowd Was Amply Supported By Fellow Opener Michael Levitt And Skipper Edwards, Who Made 34 And 37 Not Out, Respectively. For Italy, Crishan Kalugamage Picked The Solitary Wicket. Despite Ending Up On The Losing Wicket, The Italian Bowling Unit Bowled Valiantly To Prevent The Netherlands From Chasing Down The Total By A Bigger Margin, Which Eventually Proved Decisive In Their Qualification.



Five Points In Three Matches And Made Sure That They Did Not Lose The Match By A Massive Margin As It Would Have Allowed Jersey, Who Stunned Scotland Earlier Today, To Topple Their Net Run Rate. Batting First, Italy'S Batting Unit Could Only Yield 134/7 In Their 20 Overs, Courtesy Of A Disciplined Bowling Performance By The Home Side. Middle-Order Batter Ben Manenti Top-Scored For Italy In The All-Important Match With A 27-Ball 30, Which Featured One Four And Two Sixes. Besides Him, Grant Stewart (25), Harry Manenti (23) And Skipper Joe Burns (22) Made Notable Contributions.



Opinion

The day when Bricks kingdom encounters with Middle kingdom

Ding Gang

On July 5, 2025, Something Historic Happened For The Global LEGO Community: The LEGO-LAND Shanghai Resort Officially Opened Its Doors In Jinshan District, Shanghai, Dazzling Visitors As The World's Largest LEGOLAND Park In Both Size And Brick Count - More Than 85 Million LEGO Elements Have Been "Snapped" Into Place To Create This "Brick Kingdom."

Despite A Record-Breaking Summer Heatwave, Tens Of Thousands Of Parents And Children Flocked To The Park At Daybreak, Eager For A Chance To "Get Their Hands On The Bricks" — An Experience That For Many Felt Long Overdue.

The Moment The Tickets Were Released Online, They Sold Out In Minutes, Sparking A Frenzy Of "Brickselves" And "Minifig Moments" In Chinese Social Media.

From Majestic LEGO Recreations Of The Great Wall, Dragons And The Twelve Zodiac Animals, To Eight Thematic "Lands" Filled With Over 75 Rides, Shows And Play Zones, Each Detail Was Meticulously Designed To Capture Both Local Imagination And The Hearts Of LEGO Fans Of All Ages.

It Wasn't Just Another Theme Park Launch — It Marked A Flagship Example Of A Global Brand Actively "Clicking Together" With Chinese Culture: An Authentic, Two-Way Dialogue Built, Quite Literally, Brick By Brick.

LEGO's Prominence In China Didn't Come Out

Of The Blue. Over The Past Decade, The Danish Brick Has Been Quietly Infiltrating Daily Life, From Sprawling LEGO Certified Stores In Shopping Malls To Highly Anticipated Exclusive Sets That Routinely Sell Out Online In Seconds.

For Many Chinese Families, LEGO Sets Have Become A Staple Gift For Birthdays, Holidays Or The All-Important Summer Vacation. They Are Often Seen Not Just As Toys, But As An Educational Investment. Parents Hope Their Children Will Sharpen Their Minds, Unleash Creativity And Learn Patience Through The Satisfying Process Of Building — From First Clutch Power To That Final Satisfying Click — While Also Strengthening Family Bonds Through Shared Tabletop Play.

Chinese Families Have Long Prized Education, And LEGO's Philosophy Of "Learning Through Play" And "Hands-On Creativity" Aligns Seamlessly With A New Nationwide Emphasis On Holistic, Creativity-Focused Education. However, LEGO's Appeal Extends Beyond Just Matching Values; It Has Also Embraced Genuine Localization. Whether It's The Fan-Favorite Lunar New Year Series, Zodiac-Themed Sets Or Vibrant Collaborations With Local Social Media "Brickfluencers," The Brand Consistently Aligns Itself With Chinese Festivals And Stories, Showing An Energetic Commitment To Building Local Relevance One Set At A Time.

As The Number Of Two-Child And Three-Child Families Increases In China, The Demand For High-Quality, Inclusive Family Experiences Is Booming, Positioning The Humble Brick As A Central Pillar Of Familial Togetherness And Emotional Connection.

Zooming Out, The LEGO Shanghai Resort Is Emblematic Of A Much Broader Transfor-



mation: China's Steady Commitment To Openness, Innovation And Cross-Cultural Collaboration. The Success Of LEGO Park Is More Than A Case Study In Business Localization; It's A Microcosm Of How China's Dynamic Market Both Absorbs And Propels Global Creative Forces.

Today, LEGO Is No Longer Just A Western Brand; It's A Symbol Of China's Unique Blend Of Global Curiosity And Cultural Confidence — A Byword For Learning, Creativity And Shared Generational Joy.

Stories Like This Are Unfolding Across China's Consumer Landscape. The Nation Remains An Active Innovator, Not Just A "User" But A True "Co-Builder" In Global Trends. Brands That Thrive Here Increasingly Feed Creativity And Insights Back Into Their Home Markets And Beyond.

China's Commitment To Openness Is Rooted In The Belief That Only Through Genuine Cultural Interchange — Ex-

changing Minifig Accessories, You Might Say — Can Both Global Innovation And Domestic Spirit Flourish. The LEGO Phenomenon Is Just One Example Among Countless Tales Of What Happens When The World And China "Click" Together, Each Encounter Triggering New Sparks For Social Progress.

As China Participates Ever More Deeply In The Global Community, Its Growth And Innovation Fuel Not Only National Prosperity But Also Inspire Worldwide Trends. The Tale Of LEGO In China Is One Of An Outside Culture Blending With Local Values — A Living Testament To How Cross-Cultural "Brick-Building" Can Foster Mutual Understanding, Progress And A Hopeful Vision Of A Shared Future, One Colorful Plate At A Time.

The write is a senior editor with the People's Daily and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China

Spreading rumors about ‘red sea clash of chinese warship, german plane’ comes at a high cost for berlin



Global Times

The Sensational Claim - Initiated By The German Government And Amplified By Some Western Media - That A Chinese Warship Used A Laser To Target A German Aircraft Has Turned Out To Be Entirely False News. In Response To A Global Times Inquiry On July 10, China's Ministry Of National Defense Provided Two Key Pieces Of Information: First, A Chinese Naval Task Group Was Conducting An Escort Mission In The Gulf Of Aden At The Time And Had No Operations In The Red Sea, Where Germany Alleged The Incident Occurred; Second, The Chinese Vessels Did Not Activate Or Use Any Laser Equipment. In Short, Germany Made A Big Scene Over What Was Essentially A Complete Misunderstanding. In Its Latest Response, The German Side Simply Stated It Had Taken Note Of China's Statement But Insisted It Had Conducted An

"Investigation."

The Incident Was Entirely Provoked By Germany, Yet No Evidence Has Been Made Public To Show Which Chinese Warship Allegedly "Threatened" A German Aircraft. As Some German Media Have Pointed Out, The Government Simply Keeps Stressing That The Evidence Is Solid.

It's Not Impossible That The German Aircraft Misidentified Something - After All, The German Navy Last Year Mistakenly Classified A US Drone As A Hostile Target. But If Germany Deliberately Misrepresented The Gulf Of Aden As The Red Sea And Tried To Dress Up A Baseless Accusation As An "Investigation," Then Its Intentions Are Clearly Questionable. Germany Now Owes Both China And The International Community A Clear Explanation To Several Questions: First, Why Was A Chinese Warship Operating In The Gulf Of Aden

Suddenly "Moved" To The Red Sea By The German Narrative? Second, For What Purpose Did The German Aircraft - Which Was Supposed To Be Monitoring The Missiles Of The Houthi Forces - Approach The "Chinese Warship"? Third, Did Germany Verify The Situation With China Through Related Channels Before Drawing Its Conclusions? Fourth, If Germany Claims To Be Safeguarding Maritime Security And Freedom Of Navigation, Does Provoking Such A Dispute Really Contribute To Peace And Stability In The Region?

Some Analyses Suggest That This Is A "Setup" Orchestrated Jointly By Germany's Ministry Of Defense And Ministry Of Foreign Affairs - An Incident It Deliberately Created But Did Not Want To Lose Control Over. However, Whether It Was A "Blunder" Or A "Setup," The Actual Consequence Is That The German Side's Posturing And Media Hype Have Caused Real Damage To Mutual Trust Between China And Germany.

This Familiar Pattern - From Spreading False Claims, Hying The "China Threat," To Using It To Justify "Decoupling" Or Cutting Ties - Has Played Out Many Times Before. History Shows It Only Leaves Behind Hard Lessons For The Countries Involved. We Hope This Kind Of Incident Will Not Repeat In China-Germany Relations.

The Chinese Navy's Warships Have Gone To The Gulf Of Aden In An Open And Aboveboard Manner. Our Contributions Are There For The Entire International Community To See, And We Have Never Stooped To Any Hidden Or Unspeakable Agendas. Since 2008, For 17

Consecutive Years, The Chinese Navy Has Dispatched Escort Fleets To Conduct Counter-terrorism And Anti-Piracy Missions In The Gulf Of Aden And The Waters Off Somalia, Escorting Nearly 7,300 Chinese And Foreign Vessels In Total As Of 2024.

In The Past, Pirates Would Appear Several Times A Month In These Waters. Today, Merchant Ships Still Traverse These Busy Sea Lanes, But Encountering Pirates Have Become Extremely Rare, Which Is Unprecedented Since The Start Of The Age Of Exploration. If Some Countries Wish To Similarly Contribute More To Regional Stability, They Should Fulfill Their Own Responsibilities. The International Community Does Not Wish To See More Disputes In This Region. China And Germany Have No Major Differences In Their Overarching Objectives Here. It Would Be Regrettable If Certain "Misunderstandings" Were To Hinder Further Cooperation.

The Chinese And European Economies Are Highly Complementary And Deeply Intertwined, And Germany, As A Leading Economy In Europe, Should Continue To Play A Constructive Role In Promoting Healthy And Stable China-EU Relations. A Sound China-Germany Relationship Will Not Only Drive China-EU Ties In A Positive Direction Overall, But Also Carry Significant Weight For Global

Stability And Development. Some Analysts Now Claim That Germany's New Government Is Pursuing A Policy Of "Maintaining Stability While Reducing Dependence" On China. China And Germany Are Bound By Profound Common Interests, And Such Rumors, Coupled With The Recent "Laser Incident Farce," Risk Undermining Confidence In Both Societies.

On Thursday, A Spokesperson From China's Ministry Of Commerce Summed Up China's Kind Advice For Europe, Saying That China Hopes That The EU Side Will Engage In Less Criticism And More Communication, Less Protectionism And More Openness, Less Anxiety And More Action, Less Labeling And More Consultations. We Hope The German Side Will Also Take This To Heart, Join Hands With China To Strengthen Strategic Dialogue And Coordination, And Inject More Certainty Into The World Through The Stability Of China-Germany Relations.

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Editor-in-Chief: S. Ali
Associate Editor: Afzal Butt
Email: editor@covert.com.pk
Phone/Fax : +92-51-2723419
690. Street 17 Block E Bahria Town phase 8, Islamabad, Pakistan

High commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri welcomes Qatar's Sheikha Asma al Thani as Pakistan's mountain tourism ambassador

Covert Report For Its Mountains And Tourism. The Announcement Follows Her Achievement Of Scaling Nanga Parbat, One Of The Highest And Most Challenging Peaks In The World. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Took To X To Congratulate The Princess And Laud Her Feat. Sheikha Asma Posted On Instagram, "My Ninth 8000er And One Of The Toughest Climbs I've Faced. This Mountain Tested Me In Ways I Didn't Expect, From Black Ice Beneath My Feet To Rockfall Every Few Seconds". Sheikha Asma Is The First Qatari Woman To Summit Mount Everest, Lhotse, Manaslu, And K2, As Well As The First Qatari Female To Climb Ama Dablam. She Is Also The First Qatari Person To Ski To The North Pole. On Her Ascent Of Manaslu, She Became The First Arab Person To Summit An Eight-Thousander Without Supplemental Oxygen. She Achieved Another Milestone In May 2024 By Climbing Lhotse For The Second Time, Also Without Supplemental Oxygen, Making Her The First Arab To Climb Two 8000ers Without Using Oxygen.



Pakistan calls for justice & accountability in bid to resolve conflict in Sudan's Darfur region

Celina Ali Islamabad: Amid A Deepening Conflict Between The Sudan's Armed Forces And The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) That Has Plunged The Country's Darfur Region Into A Humanitarian Disaster, Pakistan This Week Underscored The Need For Justice And Accountability To Move The Dispute Towards A Resolution. "The Blatant Violations Of International Humanitarian Law With Impunity Must End," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Permanent Representative Of Pakistan To The United Nations, Told The UN Security Council During A Debate On The Situation In Sudan's Darfur Region. "For The Sudanese People, There Must Be Light At The End Of The Tunnel," He Added. The Pakistani Envoy Noted That Despite The ICC Referral Over Two Decades Ago, Atrocities In Darfur Continue, Saying That Victims, Such As Those In Zamzam Camp, Still Await Justice, And He Demanded That The Perpetrators Must Be Held Accountable. Pakistan, He Said, Is Committed To The Objective Of Accountability For All International Crimes, Whether Committed In Darfur, Sudan Or Elsewhere. "The Reality Is That Some Jurisdictions Have Remained Immune From Prosecution Despite Widely Reported Crimes, Including Those Committed In Situations Of Foreign Occupation And External Intervention," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad Pointed Out. "Selectivity And Double Standards Discredit The Notion Of International Justice And Accountability. Work Of Institutions Like The ICC Will Gain Global Credibility When Driven By Universal Respect For And Application Of International Law, With Full Objectivity And Impartiality." At The Outset, The Deputy Prosecutor Of The International Criminal Court (ICC), Nazhat Shameem Khan, Told The Council That The Court Has "Reasonable Grounds To Believe" That Both War Crimes And Crimes Against Humanity Are Being Committed In Region. Among The Most Disturbing Patterns, She Said, Is The Targeted Use Of Sexual Violence, Including Rape, Abduction, And Gender-Based Assaults – A Campaign Often Directed At Women And Girls From Specific Ethnic Communities. The Pakistani Envoy Said That The Pursuit Of Transitional Justice Cannot Be Separated From The Process Of Stabilizing The Country. In This Regard, He Urged The International Community To Prioritize Strengthening Sudan's National Justice Institutions Through Technical And Other Support, Enabling Them To Prosecute The Offenders, And Ensuring That Transitional Justice Becomes The Foundation For Sustainable Peace In Sudan. "Cooperation Between The ICC And The Sudanese Government Must Engender A Holistic Approach To Accountability That Respects Complementarity And National Sovereignty," He Said. Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Emphasized That At A Balanced Approach, Respecting Sudan's Sovereignty And Complementarity With The ICC, Was Critical For Transitional Justice. In Conclusion, He Called On The Security Council To Urgently Pursue A Ceasefire And Political Settlement In Sudan, While Fully Upholding The Country's Unity, Sovereignty, And Territorial Integrity.



Pak HC celebrates British-Pakistani leaders & local representatives, calls for unity and positive engagement

Newswire London: Pakistan High Commission, London This Week Hosted A Grand Convention Of Pakistan – Origin British Councilors At The High Commission. The Event Was Attended By Delegates From Across The UK, Representing All The Political Parties In The United Kingdom, From Greater London To Midlands, Manchester, Bradford, Birmingham And Glasgow. More The 200 Councilors, Mayors, Deputy Mayors And Leaders Of The Councils Participated The Event And Appreciated The Efforts Of The High Commissioner, Dr. Mohammad Faisal For Gathering The Community Leadership And The Grass-Root Level, Enabling Them To Connect With Their Colleagues And Peers From Across The UK. UK: Councillors And Delegates Including Chairman, UK-Pakistan Kashmiri Councillors Forum Mr. Liaqat Ali MBE, Nottingham Council Sheriff Mr. Zafra Khan, Mr. Tariq Dar (Brent Council), Ms. Neghat Khan (Nottingham), Mr. Nazam Azam (Bradford), Mr. Majid Mehmood (Birmingham) And Ms. Samiya Chaudhry (Honslough) Addressed The Convention. In His Remarks, The High Commissioner Praised British-Pakistani Leaders As "Cultural Ambassadors" Who Embody Pakistan's Values Of Hard Work, Resilience, And Compassion. He Emphasized Their Vital Role In Strengthening Democracy, Fostering Multiculturalism, And Serving As A Bridge Between The UK And Pakistan. The High Commissioner Emphasized On Projecting The Achievements Of British - Pakistani Women "The Strength Of Our Nation Abroad Is Reflected In The Dignity, Unity, And Contributions Of Our Diaspora," He Stated. "When You Rise, Pakistan Rises With You." Addressing Challenges, The High Commissioner Condemned Attempts To Stigmatize The Pakistani Community Based On Isolated Incidents, Urging Leaders To Actively Counter Negative Stereotypes By Amplifying Success Stories In Education, Business, Healthcare, And Public Service. He Called On The Community To Empower Women & Youth, Preserve Cultural Heritage, And Explore Opportunities In Pakistan's Growing Economy. "Pakistan Is A Land Of Vast Opportunities—We Invite Our Diaspora To Partner In Its Progress," He Said. The High Commissioner Reaffirmed Commitment To Supporting The Community Through Consular Services, Bilateral Engagement, And Advocacy. The Event Concluded With A Resolute Message: "Let Us Rise United, Proud, And Forward-Looking, Presenting Pakistan To The World As A Nation Of Strength, Talent, And Dignity."



Umar Rehman Malik acknowledges Bilawal Bhutto's brilliance



Abdullah Jan

Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Leader Umar Rehman Malik This Week Acknowledged The Brilliance Of PPP Chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari During His Recent Interview With Senior Indian Journalist Karan Thapar. "A Powerful And Composed Conversation. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Interview With Senior Indian Journalist Karan Thapar Is A Must Watch. Calm, Clear, And Confident, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Held His Ground With Remarkable Poise Even As The Host Grew Increasingly Combative," Umar Rehman Malik Said In A Statement.



tors Identified. This Is The First Interview Given By A Pakistani Representative To Indian Media Since The Military Escalation. "As Far As The Pahal-gam Terrorist Attack Is Concerned, Pakistan Has Been Willing To Be Part Of An Impartial International Investigation; Your Government Refused That," Bilawal Said. Notably, Bilawal Led A Delegation To Present Pakistan's Case Across The Globe In The Wake Of The Confrontation. "To This Day, The Indian Government Has Not Shared With Pakistan, With The International Community, With The Indian Public ... Who



Exactly Are These Individuals That Were Involved In This Terrorist Attack That Are From Pakistan?" When Pressed On The Issue, Bilawal Said That If Pakistan Was Truly Involved, The International Community Would Endorse India's Perspective. "It's Very Uncomfortable For You That I Point Out The Truth To The Indian Public,

That They Have Been Lied To ... That Pakistan Was Involved In This Attack When We Were Not," He Asserted. "The Government Has Been Unable To Provide The Evidence. That's Why During This War, The Indian Media And The Indian Government Launched A Campaign Of Disinformation To Continue To Bamboozle The People Of India," He Added.



He Added: "In A Striking Moment, Thapar Admitted It Was "Very Quarrelsome... From My Side." An Exemplary Display Of Political Clarity And Statesmanship." Earlier, In The Interview, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Said The Indian Public Was "Lied To" By New Delhi About Pakistan's Alleged Involvement In The Pahalgam Attack In Occupied Kashmir.

The Statement Came Amid Tensions Between The Two Nuclear-Armed Countries In The Wake Of Their Recent Military Confrontation, Sparked By New Delhi's Baseless Allegations Against Islamabad Over The Pahalgam Attack. The PPP Chief Said That Had Pakistan Been Involved In The Attack, Evidence Would Have Surfaced And The Perpetra-



Jehan Ara Manzoor Wattoo showcases social protection success at global forum in Germany

Celina Ali

Islamabad: Vice Chairperson Of The Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA), Jehan Ara Manzoor Wattoo, This Week Led A High-Level Pakistani Delegation At The International Workshop “Lead The Change For Social Protection” Held In Germany, Where Global Leaders Gathered To Shape The Future Of Social Welfare Systems. The Three-Day Workshop Brought Together Nearly 70 Prominent Political Leaders, Development Experts, And Social Protection Professionals From Around The World. The Event Served As A Dynamic Platform For The Exchange Of Innovative Ideas, Successful Models, And Collaborative Reform Strategies

Aimed At Strengthening Inclusive Social Protection Systems. Representing Pakistan, Jehan Ara Wattoo Delivered A Compelling Message On The Opening Day, Stressing That Social Protection Is Not Just A Government Initiative But A Moral And Societal Obligation. “It Is Our Collective Duty To Shield Our Citizens From Socio-Economic Vulnerabilities. Social Protection Is The Bedrock Of Dignity, Equity, And Resilience,” She Said. Wattoo Highlighted Pakistan’S Robust National And Provincial Efforts, With A Special Emphasis On The Success Of The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) At The Federal Level—One Of South Asia’S Most Recognized Initiatives For Poverty Alleviation And Women’S

Empowerment. Detailing Punjab’S Provincial Programs Under PSPA, She Outlined Major Initiatives Such As Zewar-E-Taleem, Masawaat, Sila-E-Fun, Nai Zindagi, Humqadam, Bahimmat Buzurg, Aghosh, Bunyad, And Khodmukhtar. She Noted That The Aghosh Program Has Supported Over 1.1 Million Women, Zewar-E-Taleem Has Provided Scholarships To 900,000 Schoolgirls, And Bahimmat Buzurg Has Extended Financial Assistance To More Than 80,000 Elderly Women. “These Programs Place Women At The Center Of Our Social Transformation Agenda. To Date, PSPA Has Supported More Than 2.1 Million Women, Proving Our Steadfast Commitment To Building An Equitable Society,” She Asserted. Wattoo Also Acknowledged International Success Stories, Praising Cambodia’S IDPoor System And Tanzania’S Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) As Examples Of Effective, Data-Driven Models That Break Poverty Cycles And Foster Inclusive Development. She Described The Workshop As A Timely Opportunity To Explore Collective Solutions To Global Social Protection Challenges. “This Forum Enables Us To Reimagine A Future Where Dignity, Inclusion, And Resilience Form The Foundation Of

Every Social Policy,” She Said. Jehan Ara Wattoo Expressed Sincere Appreciation To GIZ And The Event’S Organizers For Convening The Workshop And Creating Space For Meaningful Dialogue, Collaboration, And Innovation In The Global

Social Protection Landscape. As The Opening Day Concluded, Participants Renewed Their Commitment To Advancing Effective And Inclusive Social Protection Systems Through Shared Learning And Global Solidarity.



Bulgaria, UK partner in awareness campaign on risks of transporting irregular migrants in lorries

Newswire

Sofia: More Than 100 Billboards In Bulgarian, English And Turkish About The Risks Of Hiding Illegal Migrants In Lorries Will Be Placed On The Main Transit Routes Of Bulgaria In An Awareness Campaign By Bulgaria’S Interior Ministry And The British Embassy In Sofia, The Ministry Said This Week.

The Campaign Is Aimed At Lorry Drivers Who Unwittingly Or Knowingly Assist In The Concealment Of Migrants.

Deputy Minister Toni Todorov Said At A Launch Event That The Transportation Of Illegal Migrants In Heavy Lorries Is One Of The Riskiest Forms Of Smuggling.

Such Actions Violate The Law And Put The Migrants Themselves At Risk, Todorov Said.

Border Police Head Anton Zlatanov Said:

“A Few Days Ago, We Stopped A Lorry With More Than 48 Migrants Hiding, Who Were In Very Serious Condition, Dehydrated Due To The High Temperatures, Together With The Bourgas Ambulance, We Managed To Save Them”.

He Said That There Were Cases Of Migrants Hiding In Heavy Lorries Almost Daily. This Was Extremely Dangerous And Often Resulted In Ill-Health Or Death, He Said.

All Reports Related To Illegal Migration And Human Trafficking Are Transmitted For Response By The Operators In The Emergency Number 112 Centres To Border Police On Duty.

The Interior Ministry Statement Quoted British Ambassador Nathaniel Copey As Saying That This Campaign Is Just One Step, But Visibility Matters.

He Said That Human Trafficking Is A Crime That Destroys And Kills Human Destinies. Today This Message Will Reach People All Over Bulgaria, Copey Said.



Tomar Portugal emerges as Europe's top hidden gem for a peaceful and affordable summer holiday in 2025



Newswire

Lisbon: As The Summer Of 2025 Approaches, Travelers Are Seeking Alternatives To The Usual Crowded European Hotspots. While Cities Like Lisbon, Paris, And Barcelona Continue To Attract Millions Of Tourists, A New Wave Of Hidden Gems Is Emerging, Offering Peaceful Retreats Without The Overwhelming Crowds. Among These, Portugal'S Medieval Town Of Tomar Stands Out As The Perfect Summer Destination, Blending Affordability, Tranquility, And Cultural Richness In One Unforgettable Package. Nestled Between Lisbon And Porto, Tomar Is A Town Steeped In History, From Its Templar Heritage To Its Charming Riverside Views. It Has Quickly Earned A Reputation As One Of Europe'S Best-Kept Secrets For A Summer Holiday That Promises Both Relaxation And Adventure, Without The Hefty Price Tag Of Popular Tourist Destinations. Tomar'S Appeal As A Summer Getaway Lies In Its Ability To Offer Everything Travelers Crave: History, Scenic Beauty, And A Quiet Atmosphere. The Town Is Renowned For Its Medieval Streets, Magnificent Templar Architecture, And A Peaceful Pace Of Life. Unlike The Bustling Streets Of Lisbon Or Porto, Tomar Provides A Calm Environment, Making It The Perfect Place For Those Looking To Escape The Noise Of Mainstream European Destinations. For Travelers In 2025, Where Serenity And

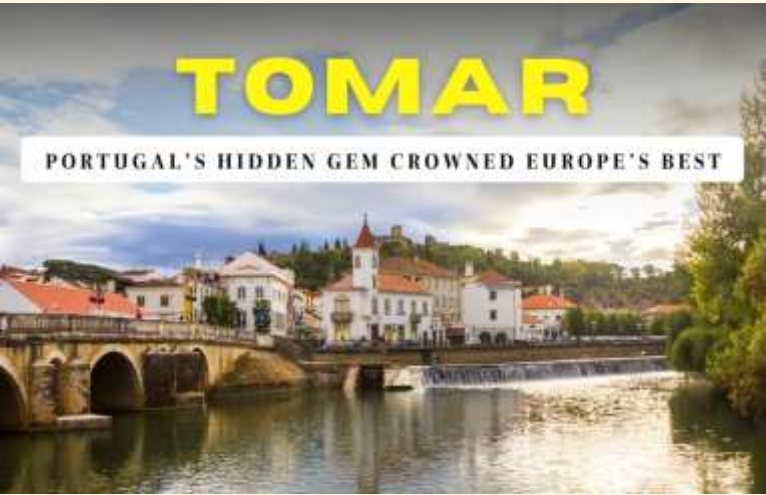
Authenticity Are More Desirable Than Ever, Tomar Stands As A Peaceful Alternative. The Town'S Affordability Is A Huge Bonus For Budget-Conscious Vacationers Who Wish To Experience Portuguese Culture Without Spending A Fortune. With Charming Guesthouses, Quiet Cafés, And Affordable Local Eateries, Tomar Offers A Rich Experience At A Fraction Of The Cost Of Its Larger Counterparts. Tomar Is Best Known For Its Templar Roots, With The Iconic Convento De Cristo Being The Centerpiece Of The Town. This UNESCO World Heritage Site Is A Must-See For History Enthusiasts, Offering A Fascinating Glimpse Into Portugal'S Medieval Past. The Town'S Cobblestone Streets And Picturesque Riverside Make It Ideal For Leisurely Walks, And The Stunning Architecture Will Make You Feel As If You'Ve Stepped Back In Time. Beyond The Historical Sites, Tomar Boasts A Vibrant Cultural Scene, From Local Festivals To Traditional Portuguese Cuisine. Every Four Years, The Town Comes Alive During The Festa Dos Tabuleiros, Where Women Carry Towering Bread And Flower Displays In A Vibrant Procession, Showcasing Tomar'S Deep Cultural Heritage. In Addition To Its Rich History, Tomar Is Surrounded By Lush Landscapes And Tranquil Waters. Whether You'Re Exploring The Medieval Streets Or Enjoying The Peaceful Riverside, Tomar Offers A Perfect Balance Of History And Natural Beauty. One Of The Most Appealing Aspects Of Tomar Is Its Affordability. Unlike Many Popular European Cities Where Accommodation Prices Soar During The Summer Months, Tomar Remains An Affordable Option For Those Seeking To Enjoy A European Getaway Without Breaking The Bank. Vacation Rentals In Tomar Are Significantly Cheaper Compared To Major Cities Like Lisbon Or Porto. With Options Available For As Little As \$35 Per Person Per Night, It'S Easy To Enjoy A Comfortable And Memorable Stay Without Overspending. Travelers Can Dine At Local Restaurants Serving Delicious Portuguese Dishes, Including Fresh Seafood And Tradition-

al Pastries, All At Affordable Prices. Additionally, Tomar'S Relatively Low Tourist Numbers Ensure That Visitors Can Enjoy The Town'S Sights And Experiences Without Dealing With The Crowds And Long Lines That Often Come With Peak Season In More Popular Destinations. Whether You'Re A History Buff, An Outdoor Enthusiast, Or Someone Simply Seeking Rest, Tomar Has Something For Everyone. Explore The Convento De Cristo: This 12th-Century Templar Castle Is A Must-See. Wander Through Its Grand Cloisters, Chapels, And Towers While Learning About Portugal'S Fascinating Medieval History. Walk The Medieval Streets: Tomar'S Charming Streets Are Perfect For Leisurely Exploration. Stroll Along The Cobblestone Lanes And Enjoy The Town'S Serene Atmosphere, Away From The Hustle And Bustle Of Larger Cities. Relax By The Nabão River: Take In The Beautiful Views Along The River That Runs Through The Town. Enjoy A Peaceful Afternoon By The Water Or Take A Boat Ride To Fully Appreciate The Tranquil Setting. Enjoy Local Cuisine: Indulge In Traditional Portuguese Meals In One Of Tomar'S Cozy Local Restaurants. Whether You'Re Enjoying Freshly Caught Seafood Or Savoring A Glass Of Local Wine, Dining In Tomar Is A Delightful Experience. Experience The Festa Dos Tabuleiros: If You'Re Visiting During The Festival, Don'T Miss The Opportunity To Witness One Of Portugal'S Most Unique And Colorful Traditions. In 2025, More Travelers Are Choosing Destinations Like Tomar For Their Summer Vacations, As They Seek Alternatives To Overcrowded Tourist Spots. With Its Affordable Prices, Rich Culture, And Peaceful Setting, Tomar Offers A Fulfilling Summer Experience Without The Stress And High Costs Associated With Major Cities. Moreover, Tomar'S Proximity To Lisbon And Porto Means That It Serves As The Perfect Base For Those Who Want To Explore Portugal But Avoid The Crowds. From Day Trips To These Larger Cities To Relaxing Days In Tomar, Visitors Can Enjoy The Best Of Both Worlds. For Those Planning Their Summer Holidays In 2025, Portugal'S Tomar Presents An Ideal Getaway That Combines Tranquility, Afforda-



bility, And Rich Cultural Experiences. Whether You'Re Strolling Through Its Medieval Streets, Enjoying The Beauty Of Its Riverside, Or Immersing Yourself In Local Traditions, Tomar Offers A Refreshing And Memorable Escape From The Typical Summer Crowds. Portugal'S Hidden Gem Town Is Perfect For

Travelers Looking To Explore A More Authentic Side Of Europe. With Its Peaceful Atmosphere, Historical Landmarks, And Budget-Friendly Offerings, Tomar Is Undoubtedly One Of The Best Destinations For A Summer Holiday In 2025.



Japan donates 166 books to comsats abbottabad under 'read Japan project' to promote cultural, academic exchange



The Donated Collection Encompasses A Wide Range Of Subjects Including Japanese History, Politics, Economy, Philosophy, Literature, Security, Art, And Culture. Carefully Selected To Support Academic Inquiry, The Books Will Provide Students, Faculty, And Researchers With Deeper Insights Into Various Facets Of Japanese Society. Speaking At The Event, Ambassador AKAMATSU Congratulated The Students And Faculty On Receiving The Valuable Resource And Emphasized The Transformative Power Of Books In Fostering Cross-Cultural Understanding. "These Books Are More Than Just Pages – They Are Bridges Of Knowledge And Friendship Between Japan And Pakistan," He Remarked. He Also Lauded COMSATS University For Its Continued Contributions To Youth Education In Pakistan And Its Efforts To Promote Academic Collaboration With Japan Through Cultural And Educational Exchanges.



In His Address, Prof Dr Shahid Khattak Expressed His Heartfelt Gratitude To The Nippon Foundation And The Embassy Of Japan, Describing The Book Donation As A Meaningful Step Toward Intellectual Growth And International Cooperation. "The Opportunity To Explore Japan Through These Books Will Not Only Broaden Our Students' Academic Horizons But Also Help Strengthen People-To-People Connections And Bilateral Ties," He Said. Senior Faculty Members And Deans Attending The Ceremony Echoed Similar Sentiments, Underscoring The Significance Of Such Initiatives In Promoting Global Engagement. The Read Japan Project, Launched By The Nippon Foundation In 2008, Seeks To Promote Greater Understanding Of Japan By Donating English-Language Books On Japan-Related Themes To Universities And Libraries Around The World.

Celina Ali
Islamabad: The Embassy Of Japan In The Federal Capital, In Partnership With The Nippon Foundation, Donated 166 English-Language Books To COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Abbottabad Campus, As Part Of The Global Read Japan Project In A Move To Enhance Cultural And Educational Ties Between Japan And Pakistan.

Japan Donates 166 Books To COMSATS Abbottabad Under 'Read Japan Project' To Promote Cultural, Academic Exchange The Books Were Formally Handed Over By The Ambassador Of Japan To Pakistan, AKAMATSU Shuichi, To Prof Dr Shahid Khattak, Director Of The COMSATS Abbottabad Campus, During A Ceremony Held At The University On Tuesday.



Trump announces 30% tariffs on eu and mexico, starting aug 1



Covert Report
Washington: President Donald Trump Said This Week The U.S. Will Impose A 30% Tariff On Goods From The European Union And Mexico That Will Take Effect On Aug. 1. Trump Revealed The New Rates In Letters To European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen And Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum, Which He Posted On His Social Media Site Truth Social. "Mexico Has Been Helping Me Secure The Border, BUT, What Mexico Has Done, Is Not Enough," Trump Wrote To Sheinbaum.

Trump Said That There Will Not Be Tariffs On Goods From The EU If The 27-Member Bloc, "Or Companies Within The EU, Decide To Build Or Manufacture Product[S] Within The United States," He Wrote. He Said That If The EU Or Mexico Retaliates With Higher Tariffs, "Then, Whatever The Number You Choose To Raise Them By, Will Be Added On To The 30% That We Charge."

The EU Was Seeking At Least A Preliminary Agreement That Would Spare It From Becoming The Latest Recipient Of A Letter From Trump Dictating A New, Across-The-Board Tariff On Its Exports To The U.S. However, It Still Received A Letter From Trump Threatening New Tariffs, Despite Both Sides Having Recently Signaled Progress In Their Negotiations After Trump Backed Off A Threat To Slap 50% Tariffs On The Bloc. The EU Collectively Sells More To The U.S. Than Any Single Country: Total U.S. Goods Imports From The EU Topped \$553 Billion In 2022, According To The Office Of The U.S. Trade Representative. Total U.S. Imports From Mexico Was Roughly \$454.8 Billion In 2022, According To The U.S. Trade Representative. "Imposing 30 Percent Tariffs On EU Exports Would Disrupt Essential Transatlantic Supply Chains, To The Detriment Of Businesses, Consumers And Patients On Both Sides Of The Atlantic," Von Der Leyen Said In A Statement. She Said The EU Remains "Ready To Continue Working Towards An Agreement By August 1."

Setting Blanket Tariff Rates Ranging From 20% Up To 50%. The Letters Mostly Frame The New Tariff Levels As A Necessary Part Of The Trump Administration's Efforts To Quickly Establish A More "Reciprocal" Global Trade Landscape. Trump Had Attempted To Do That In One Fell Swoop With His "Liberation Day" Tariff Announcement On April 2, When He Imposed A Nearly Global 10% Tariff And Slapped Higher Duties On Imports From Nearly 60 Individual Countries. The Announcement Prompted Days Of Frenzied Selling In Global Markets. Trump Put A 90-Day Pause On Nearly All Of The Higher Tariffs A Week Later. His Trade Officials Suggested That The U.S. Could Strike As Many As 90 New Trade Deals During That Interval. But By The Time The Pause Was Set To Expire On Wednesday, The Administration Had Only Hashed Out Preliminary Agreements With The United Kingdom And Vietnam. Trump On Monday Extended That Tariff Pause Until Aug. 1. The Tariff Rates He Set In His Recent Spate Of Letters Are All Scheduled To Kick In On The Same Day. Trump Told NBC News On Thursday That He Plans To Ratchet Up His Global Tariff Baseline Rate As High As 20%. "We're Just Going To Say All Of The Remaining Countries Are Going To Pay, Whether It's 20% Or 15%. We'll Work That Out Now," Trump Said.

er The Number You Choose To Raise Them By, Will Be Added On To The 30% That We Charge."

Ambassador Nicolas Galey hosts mega reception to mark 236th bastille day



Celina Ali

ISLAMABAD: The French Residence In Islamabad Turned Into A Glowing Hub Of Diplomacy, Culture, And Camaraderie This Week As Ambassador Nicolas Galey Hosted A Magnificent Reception To Mark The 236th Anniversary Of Bastille Day, The Defining Moment That Sparked The French Revolution And Etched The Val-

Principles, Cultural Kinship, And An Evolving Partnership Grounded In Mutual Respect. In His Moving Address, Ambassador Galey Paid Tribute To The Revolutionary Spirit That Shaped Modern France And Called For Renewed Global Commitment To The Ideals Of Liberty And Equality, Especially In These Times Of Uncertainty And Upheaval. “The Powerful, Enduring, And Universal Message Of The French Revolution Must Be Reaffirmed More Than Ever,” He Said, Drawing A Parallel Between Historical Struggles For Freedom And Present-Day Efforts To Uphold Human Rights And Dignity. The Ambassador Turned His Admiration Toward Pakistan, Praising The Dynamism And Potential Of Its People. From Engineers And Entrepreneurs To Farmers And The Youth, He Said, Pakistanis Are Shaping Their Country’S Future With Energy And Resolve. A Special Tribute Was Reserved For Olympic Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem And Paralympic Bronze Winner Haider Ali, Whose Victories At The Paris Games Drew Heartfelt Applause. “Both Are Great Examples And An Inspi-



ues Of Libert ,  galit , Fraternit  Into History. The Celebration Brought Together An Illustrious Gathering Of Pakistani Minis- ters, Foreign Diplomats, Civil Society Figures, Academics, And Artists, Creating A Vibrant Reflection Of The Enduring Friendship Between France And Pakistan. More Than A Ceremonial Occasion, The Evening Was A Celebration Of Shared

ration For Your Country,” He Said, Saluting Their Determination As A Mirror Of Pakistan’S Promise. Ambassador Galey Also Extended Warm Appreciation To The Government Of Pakistan And Its People For Their Hospitality And Enduring Friendship. Expressing Gratitude For Those Behind The Success Of The Evening, He Acknowledged:

• Omar Satti, For His Expert Coordination,
• Nicolas Verdun And Fr d ric Boucault, For Their Leadership,
• The French Embassy Team In Islamabad,
• Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky (Karachi) And Honorary Consul Habib Anwar (Lahore), For Their Regional Engagement, And
• Anne-Sophie Fran ais, French Advisor For Central Asia. He Offered A Heartfelt Personal Tribute To His Wife, Cam lia, For Her Constant Support And Contribution To Their Shared Diplomatic Mission. The Night Radiated Elegance, With The M venpick Hotel—Part Of The French ACCOR Group—Serving An Exquisite Buffet That Complemented The Ambiance Of Cultural Richness And Warm Fellowship. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister For Finance And Revenue, Graced The Occasion As Chief Guest And Shared Warm Words Of Appreciation For France’S Partnership With Pakistan. “France Is Not Only A Vital Economic Partner But Also A Nation That Shares Our Values Of Inclusivity And Progress,” He Remarked. “We Deeply Value France’S Investments In Pakistan’S Development Sectors And Look Forward To Expanding Cooperation In Trade, Energy, Education, And Climate Resilience.” He Emphasized The Indispensable Role Of Cultural Diplomacy In Building Bridges Between Nations, Calling The Evening “A Testament To The Spirit Of Unity Between The French And Pakistani Peoples.” “Tonight’S Celebration Is Not Just About France — It’S About The Enduring Friendship Between Our Peoples,” He Said. As The Evening Drew To A Close With Laughter, Clinking Glasses, And Conversations In Many Languages, The Spirit Of Bastille Day Reverberated Not Only As A French Commemoration But As A Shared Celebration Of Human Dignity, Solidari-

ty, And International Friendship. The Franco-Pakistani Relationship, Nourished By Trust And Common Ideals,

Stood Proud Under The Islamabad Stars — Promising A Future Of Deeper Ties And Shared Progress.



British high commission empowers Pakistani media amid monsoon devastation



Celina Ali

Islamabad: As Pakistan Grapples With Deadly Monsoon Floods And A Projected \$1.2 Trillion Cost Of Climate Inaction, The British High Commission This Week Launched A Nationwide Climate Journalism Training Initiative To Empower Media Professionals To Drive Awareness And Action. The Training Will Spotlight The Crucial Role Journalists Play In Encouraging Climate Action. Journalists Can Spotlight Climate Change Solutions, Encourage Climate Action, And Can Help Their Readers And Viewers To Understand How Climate Change Affects Them. Deputy Director Of Communications And Public Diplomacy, Sneha Lala, Said: "The

Cost Of Inaction On Climate Change In Pakistan Is \$1.2 Trillion By 2050. Within That Figure Is Countless Lives Lost, Countless Numbers Of People Pushed Into Poverty, And Countless Livelihoods Lost. It Can Be A Bleak Picture, But Climate

Journalism Is At The Heart Of Showing Us That There Is Another Option. Climate Journalism Can Incentivise Action, Spotlight Solutions, And Create Change. I Look Forward To Seeing The Stories Journalists Go On To Produce." Having Delivered Trainings To The Express Group (Express Tribune, Express News And Daily Express), Geo News, Daily Jang, The News, The Nation And Nawa-E-Waqt In Islamabad, The High Commission Will Now Travel To Lahore And Karachi, To Continue Their Training Programme. British High Commission Will Be Joined By A Number Of Chevening Alumni, Who Honed Their Climate Expertise Through The Prestigious Scholarship Where They Studied A Master'S Quali-

fication In The UK. This Includes Syed Muhammad Abubakar, Environmental Journalist And PhD Scholar At George Mason University, U.S; Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF Pakistan; And Sana Munir, Director Of Local Government Audit. They Will Also Be Joined By Muhammad Talal, Senior Sub-Editor Of Samaa Digital, And Muhammad Asim Siddique, General Manager Samaa Digital, Both Alumni Of The High Commission'S Chevening Climate Mentorship Programme. They Have Been Supported By Adil Shahzeb, Who Has Shared His Insights On Integrating Climate Stories Into Dawn'S Primetime Show, 'Live With Adil Shahzeb'.

Leo Hickman, Editor And Director Of The Carbon Brief, Is Supporting The Training Programme. The High Commission Will Run A Competition For All Training Participants. Journalists Will Submit Their Best Climate Story, And The Winner Will Receive Mentorship From Hickman. Chevening Scholarships Are The UK Government'S Global Scholarships Programme. Established In 1983, These Scholarships Support Study At UK Universities – Mostly One-Year Masters' Degrees – For Students With Demonstrable Potential To Become Future Leaders, Decision-Makers And Opinion Formers. In Pakistan, There Are Nearly 2000 Alumni To Date. Applications Will Open In August.



Do Not Take Life Too Seriously.
You Will Never Get Out Of
It Alive. - Elbert Hubbard

There Are Two Ways Of Spreading
Light: To Be The Candle Or The
Mirror That Reflects It.
- Edith Wharton

Leonardo trails rivals with \$1.9 billion euro bid for iveco's defence business

Newswire
Milan: Italian Defence Company Leonardo Has Made The Lowest Bid For The Defence Business That Automotive Group Iveco Has Put Up For Sale, Bloomberg News Reported, After The Rome Government Expressed A Preference For A Domestic Buyer. Iveco, Which Is Controlled By Italy'S Billionaire Agnelli Family, In May Said It Would Proceed With A Spin-Off Of The Defence Business, Which It Expected To Complete Within The Year Subject To Final Approval By Its Board And Shareholders. Iveco Said At The Time That, Having Received Some Preliminary Expressions Of Interest For The Asset, It Was Considering Them, While Also Keeping Up The

Preparatory Work For A Possible Spin-Off. State-Backed Leonardo Offered Around 1.6 Billion Euros For The Business, Including Debt, Bloomberg Wrote On Thursday, Citing People Close To The Matter. Leonardo'S Bid, Which It Submitted Jointly With Germany'S Rheinmetall, Trails That Of Franco-German Tankmaker KNDS, Which Offered Closer To 1.9 Billion Euros, And Czechoslovak Group, Bloomberg Said. Representatives For Both Leonardo And Iveco Declined To Comment. Shares In Iveco Plunged 6% After The Report. A Milan-Based Trader Said There Were Doubts About Whether A Sale Could Be Finalised.



Italian Hands, Defence Minister Guido Crosetto Said In June, Adding However That Such A Decision Was Up To The Group'S Shareholders. A Person With Knowledge Of The Matter Confirmed Three Binding Bids Had Been Submitted By Leonardo-Rheinmetall, KNDS And CSG, Adding That The Situation Was In Flux Given Diverging Price Expectations And The Government'S Preference For Leonardo. Under Its "Golden Power Legislation", Italy Can Vet Buyers Of Assets Deemed Of Strategic Importance To The Country, Such As The Iveco Unit, And Can Block Or Set Terms For A Sale.



Uk and France strike historic deal to return channel migrants and boost border control

Covert Report
London: Britain And France Have Reached A Landmark Agreement To Launch A Pilot Programme That Will Allow The UK To Send Back Some Migrants Who Arrive In Small Boats Across The English Channel. The Deal, Announced Thursday By Prime Minister Keir Starmer And President Emmanuel Macron In London, Aims To Curb Illegal Migration And Strengthen Border Cooperation. Under The New "One In, One Out" Policy, The UK Will Return A Limited Number Of Migrants To France, While Accepting An Equal Number Of Individuals With Valid Asylum Claims. Starmer Said The Move Marks A Major Shift In Policy And Signals That Migrants Entering Illegally Can No Longer Expect To Stay. "This Is Not A Silver Bullet, But It Is A Firm Step Forward," Said Starmer. "For The First Time, Migrants Arriving Via Small Boats Will Be Detained And Returned To France Quickly." The Plan Is Expected To Begin In The Coming Weeks, With



The Goal Of Deterring Dangerous Sea Crossings. President Macron Stressed That The Initiative Is Meant To Discourage Risky Migration Attempts. He Called The Pilot A "Deterrence Effort" That Serves The Common Interests Of Both Nations. The Agreement Also Includes Broader Collaboration On Security And Tackling Smuggling Networks Along Migration Routes From Africa And The Middle East. The Issue Of Small Boat Crossings Has Remained Politically Sensitive In Britain, With More Than 21,000 Arrivals This Year Alone—Up 56% From Last Year. Previous UK Efforts, Such As The Rwanda Deportation Plan, Faced Heavy Criticism And Were Ultimately Scrapped When Starmer Took Office In July 2024. Beyond Migration, The UK-France Summit Also Resulted In Agreements On Defense Cooperation And Assistance For Ukraine. Both Leaders Pledged To Coordinate Their Nuclear Deterrents And Host The Headquarters Of An International Ceasefire Coalition In Paris,