

Italy, Ethiopia discuss cooperation to engage Pakistan in UN food system summit **Celina Ali**

Islamabad: The Republic of Italy and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia this week discussed cooperation to engage the leadership of Pakistan for the 2nd United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4), scheduled to take place in Addis (Page-3)

EU plans to add carbon credits to new climate goal **Celina Ali**

Islamabad: The European Commission is set to propose counting carbon credits bought from other countries towards the European Union's 2040 climate target, a Commission document showed. The EU executive had initially planned a 90% net emissions cut, against 1990 levels, but in recent months has sought to make this (Page-10)

China Post launches its first intercontinental air route in Henan

Henan Daily Zhengzhou: China Post this week officially launched its Zhengzhou-Luxembourg international postal cargo route. This is the company's second intercontinental air route after the Nanjing-Luxembourg service, and its first such route in Henan. The newly launched Zhengzhou-Luxembourg postal route brings Henan closer to the world, reuniting old friends and embracing new ones.

Zhengzhou and Luxembourg have shared a long-standing partnership. In June 2014, the inaugural landing of Cargolux's "Zhengzhou" freighter at Zhengzhou airport marked the launch of the Air Silk Road, a pivotal route that has since transformed Henan's landscape of international connectivity. The launch of this postal air route is expected to become a new driving force, further strengthening air connectivity



between Zhengzhou and Europe. It will help transform the Air Silk Road from a point-to-point route into a more extensive and interconnected network. According to Hao Aimin, Dean of the School of Eco-

nomics at Zhengzhou University of Aeronautics, the new route will expand the international flight network of Zhengzhou airport, extending its coverage to more countries and cities. This will support

Henan in building a hub network that connects major global economies, and provide stronger logistics support for its role as a key air node linking Europe and Asia under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Denmark takes major step to crack down on AI deepfakes: Gives citizens copyrights



Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan His Excellency Jakob Linulf

right to ask the website or platform to take down that content. He said that "technology has outpaced legislation," but the legislation would help people from digital theft that has become a piece of cake with the help of artificial intelligence. Engel-Schmidt told The Guardian, "In the bill we agree and are sending an unequivocal message that everybody has the right to their own body, their own voice and their own facial features, which is apparently not how the current law is protecting people against generative AI." However, parodies and satire would be exempted from the law. The culture ministry said that after successfully passing this law, they will introduce more legislation that could be fined for not fulfilling the request of removing AI-generated deepfakes. Denmark is hopeful that other European countries would also follow its lead to counter AI horrors.

Covert Report Copenhagen: The Danish government this week decided to crack down on AI-generated deepfakes by giving citizens copyrights of their personal features and voice. According to CNN, the new proposed legislation will allow public figures and artists as well as common people to protect their digital identity. Danish Culture Minister Jakob Engel-Schmidt explained that if someone finds that their personal features or voice have been used to create a deepfake, they would have a



'You idiot': Bilawal Bhutto takes dig at Fawad over Indus River history



Liaquat Ali Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari this week took dig at former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry over Indus River history. Taking to X (formerly), the former foreign minister had lashed out at Chaudhry over the latter's tweet. "You idiot. Sindhu River is the Indus River. The Indus Valley civilization belongs to all of Pakistan," Bhutto-Zardari said.

"The word "Indus" is the Latinized version of Sindhu, brought into English via the Greek name "Indos" (??d??), which in turn was derived from the Persian pronunciation of Sindhu," he said. It is pertinent to note that Chaudhry penned a tweet about Indus River, in which he indirectly targeted Bhutto-Zardari. "This is an attack on Pakistan, not on Sindh unless you have also joined the Sindhu Daish under GM Syed family. Benazir Bhutto would never have made such a statement," Chaudhry said.

Leaders pledge to strengthen Sino-Senegalese relations

Henan Daily

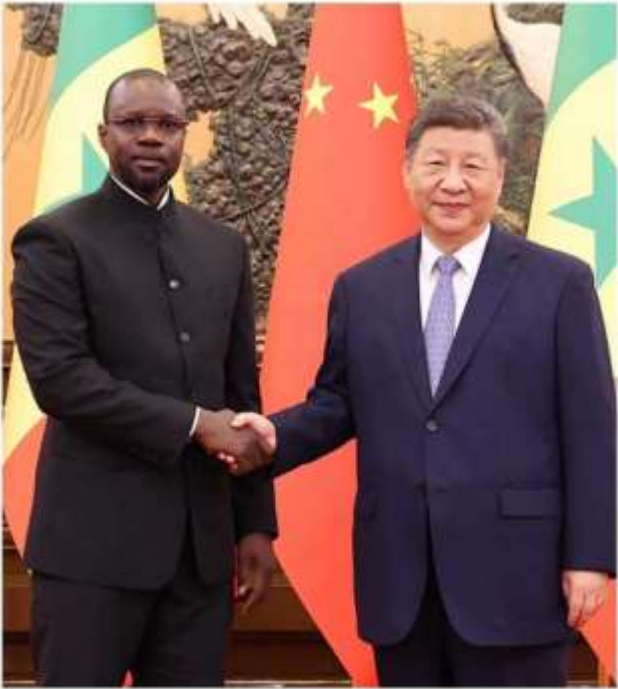
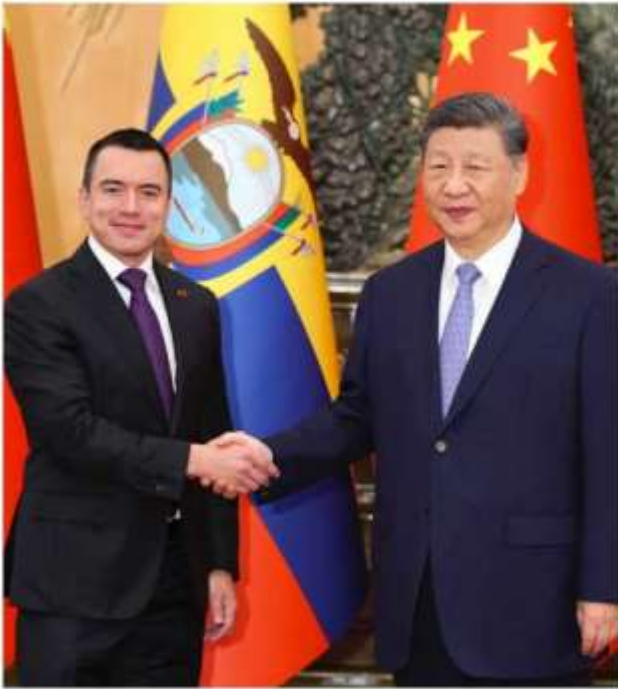
Zhengzhou: President Xi Jinping has called for China and Senegal to strengthen solidarity and cooperation to promote bilateral ties and inject fresh impetus into China-Africa friendship and Global South cooperation. Xi made the remarks during his meeting in Beijing with Prime Minister of Senegal Ousmane Sonko, who was invited to attend the World Economic Forum's 16th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos, in Tianjin. Xi said that China and Senegal are companions on the path to development and revitalization as well as good brothers. He added that China is willing to work with Senegal to deepen comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to bring more benefits to the two peoples. China and Senegal should firmly support each other in pursuing independent development paths, strengthen party-to-party exchanges and mutual learning in governance experience, and continuously solidify the foundation of their political mutual trust, he said. Xi called on both countries to develop close cooperation and effectively implement the 10 major partnership actions for China-Africa cooperation. China will encourage Chinese companies to invest in new energy, digital infrastructure and other fields in Senegal to be partners in

win-win cooperation, he said. Xi noted that the 2026 China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges will be an opportunity for the two countries to enhance exchanges and cooperation in areas including culture, education, tourism, sports and youth, so as to strengthen the bond among the two peoples while fostering mutual learning. He underlined the need for both countries to firmly defend the international system with the United Nations at its core, practice true multilateralism, uphold the vision of global governance that is based on the principle of extensive consultations and joint contribution with the benefits shared by all, and jointly promote world peace, prosperity and progress. Sonko described China as a reliable partner for Senegal, saying that the two countries have always respected and supported each other, with stable and resilient ties

and sound progress in various areas of cooperation. Senegal firmly upholds the one-China principle, and looks forward to deepening comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership with China, advancing joint construction of the Belt and Road, and en-

hancing cooperation in trade, investment, energy and other fields to contribute to its economic and social development, he said. Saying both Senegal and China are members of the Global South and share common values, the Senegalese prime minister pledged that his country is willing to

closely coordinate with China in international and regional affairs. Senegal is committed to firmly working as China's strategic partner to jointly promote international fairness and justice, and safeguard the common interests of the Global South, he said.



Huawei launches smart Hybrid energy system in Pakistan



Celina Ali

Islamabad: Huawei Digital Power Pakistan this week officially launched its Residential Hybrid Energy System, a smart and sustainable solution aimed at transforming how Pakistani households manage electricity. Unveiled at the “Huawei Powering Pakistan – Advancing Energy Through Innovation” event in Karachi, the system is designed specifically for local needs and offers a reliable, intelligent way to reduce electricity bills, ensure backup power during outages, and manage energy use more efficiently. The new solution includes Huawei’s advanced Hybrid Inverters (models SUN2000-5-12K-MAP0 and SUN2000-12-25K-MB0), which convert solar energy into usable electricity while seamlessly managing battery backup through the LUNA2000 Lithium-ion Battery Packs. Available in 7kWh, 14kWh, and 21kWh capacities, these battery packs store excess solar power for use during nighttime or grid failures. Integrated with the SmartGuard Safety Device, the system also enhances overall safety and monitors energy consumption in real time via a user-friendly

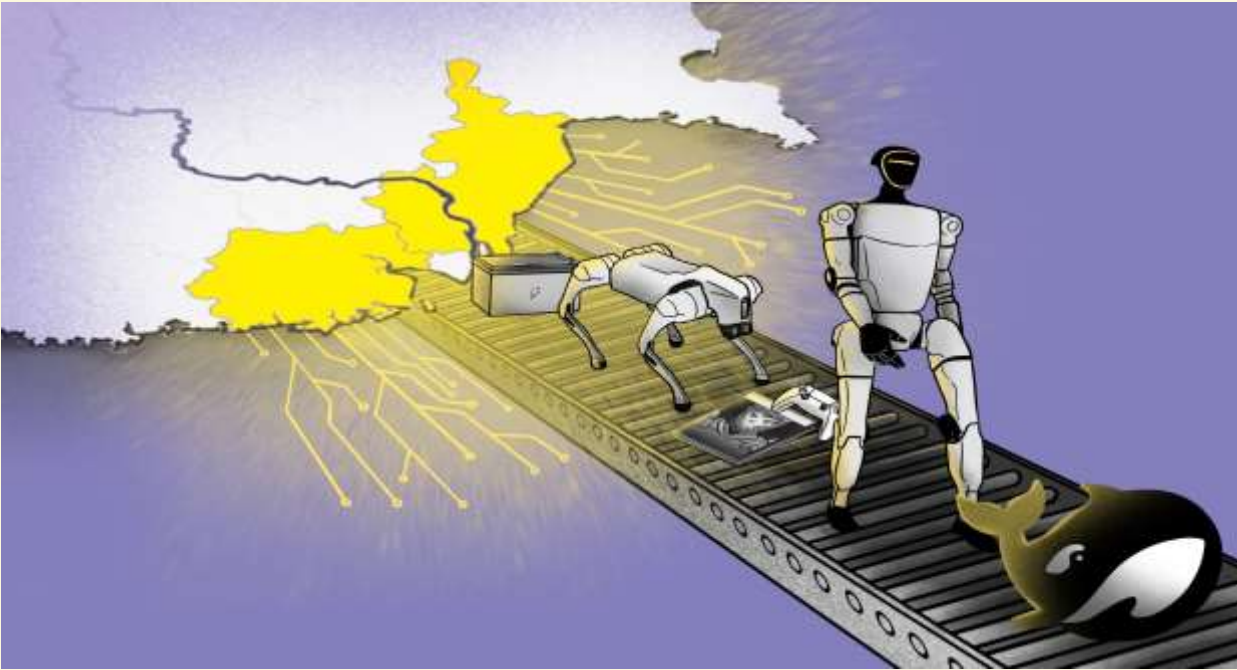
mobile app. Pakistani families stand to benefit significantly from this innovation, particularly those areas struggling with unreliable power supply and rising energy costs. The system not only ensures continued electricity during load shedding but also allows households to track and optimize their energy usage, while advanced lithium battery technology and built-in safety features promise longer lifespan and dependable performance. Designed for quick installation and backed by local support, the hybrid system represents a major step toward clean, resilient, and future-proof home energy solutions. In addition to the product launch, Huawei also announced the introduction of its Installers Rewards Program in Pakistan. This initiative allows certified installers to earn points and unlock exclusive rewards for each successful system installation, further encouraging the nationwide transition to solar energy. “This launch reflects our commitment to building a fully connected, intelligent Pakistan,” said JinYu – Managing Director at Huawei Digital Power. “By empowering families to take control of their energy, we’re laying the foundation for a cleaner, more resilient future.”

China's tax cuts boost high-tech, manufacturing growth in 2024

China Economic Net

Beijing: China’s main policies supporting sci-tech innovation and the development of the manufacturing industry saw tax cuts, fee reductions and tax refunds totaling 2.63 trillion yuan (about 366.75 billion U.S. dollars) in 2024, official data showed. These policies accelerated the cultivation of new quality productive forces and promoted the high-quality development of the manufacturing industry, according to the State Taxation Administration. In 2024, the sales revenues of China’s high-tech sectors grew 9.6 percentage points faster than the overall national growth rate, reflecting the rapid development

of innovative industries. The sales revenues of manufacturing enterprises in China grew 2.2 percentage points faster than the overall national growth rate. Specifically, the sales revenues of the equipment manufacturing, digital product manufacturing and high-tech manufacturing sectors rose 6.2 percent, 8.3 percent and 9 percent respectively, indicating the national manufacturing industry is advancing steadily toward high-end and intelligent development.



Italy, Ethiopia discuss cooperation to engage Pakistan in UN food system summit



Celina Ali Islamabad: The Republic of Italy and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia this week discussed cooperation to engage the leadership of Pakistan for the 2nd United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4), scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from July 27-29. The discussion was held during a meeting between Dr Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia, and Marilina Armellini, Ambassador of

Italy in Pakistan, at the Italian Embassy Islamabad. Both Ambassadors emphasized their shared commitment to transforming food systems for enhanced food security worldwide and in their respective countries. Ambassador Dr. Jemal briefed the Italian Ambassador on the Ethiopian Embassy's efforts to engage the Government of Pakistan for participation of its leadership in UNFSS+4. The meeting highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing global food security challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Ethiopia and Italy reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, food security, energy, and connectivity. The Italian Ambassador assured the Ethiopian Ambassador of her full support in contributing to the success of UNFSS+4. The meeting follows a similar discussion between Ambassador Dr. Jemal and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya, on cooperation to engage Pakistan in the summit.



Marking WWII victory to understand China's pursuit

Ding Gang

In September, China will solemnly commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War. This event represents far more than a tribute to the sacrifices of generations past; it is a moment for the world to reexamine China's crucial role in shaping the outcome of World War II and the Chinese people's tireless pursuit of from that point until now. For China, remembering the war is never just about retracing the path to triumph. Nor is it, as some presume, an act of national self-congratulation or the display of great power status. Instead, the true meaning lies in how an old Eastern nation, battered by foreign aggression and internal strife, struggled through a historical turning point to stand on its feet - choosing the hard road of independence and self-determination and, in so doing, adding vital new layers to the world's understanding of national awakening and rejuvenation. To grasp the weight of this commemoration, one must recall the trajectory of modern Chinese history. From the mid-19th century onward, China has endured the wounds of imperial invasion and the humiliation of partition by foreign powers. The legacy of the Opium Wars and the century of humiliation that followed was not merely material devastation but also a lingering sense of national weakness and lost dignity. Against this backdrop, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression marked both the

culmination of long suffering and the first determined step toward collective resurgence. It was the crucible in which catastrophe and hope were forged - a last agony and the beginning of a new chapter. The end of World War II did not simply close the door to outside aggression; it offered China a genuine possibility of charting its course for the first time in generations. This was a sweeping historical watershed that redefined the nation's prospects. In the decades after 1949, emerging from ruins and possessing little but resolve, China embarked on a unique journey guided by the principle of independence - a journey marked by persistent challenges and self-reliant innovation. From the arduous campaigns to building up its industrial base to the transformative opening-up to the world in 1978, China's persistent quest for prosperity and power remained tightly interwoven with the imperatives of national dignity, self-respect and the prosperity of the people. Reform and opening-up, in particular, became a fresh pivot point in China's history - not simply because of economic progress, but because the motivation for modernization was always deeply rooted in a determination to free ordinary people from the trauma of poverty and humiliation. The most important thing is that this goal is achieved through the self-reliance and hard work of the people. Today, China stands as a nation with global influence and substantial national strength. However, unlike some imperial powers before it, the nation

insists on a path of peaceful development - neither intent on exporting its model nor reshaping other societies in its image. There is a conviction, honed by bitter experience, that a once-traumatized nation can pursue modernization in a gradual, stable and peaceful manner. What often eludes understanding in the West is precisely this: The tendency to analyze China's choices through a Western lens, assuming that China must follow the same power-driven and competitive trajectories that shaped the West's past. Even today, some former imperial powers continue to promote the outdated logic of dividing Asia into spheres of influence and forced balances of power. China, on the other hand, is like a stable anchor in the midst of turmoil and noise. It is resilient and stable, exporting confidence to the world in its peaceful development. Having known the pain of division and conquest, China recognizes the catastrophic consequences that would arise from carving up Asia along the lines of hegemony or confrontation. Instead, confronted by a rapidly changing region and a fluid global environment, China advocates for dialogue, cooperation and a more inclusive, mutually beneficial order that can safeguard the security and prosperity of all. This is because since the victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, China has



never sought hegemony or power, let alone competed with any power for sphere and profit. The Chinese people firmly believe that prosperity and strength can only be created by themselves and through win-win cooperation. Marking the 80th anniversary of the war's end is not a demand for privileged status on the world stage. Rather, it is a grounded reflection on the past and a declaration of intent for the future - a message that China's hard-won

experience of overcoming adversity and striving toward renewal is something to be shared in hopes of forging a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Asia together.

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

Gathering of 10 defense ministers in Qingdao highlights appeal of 'non-aligned SCO'

Global Times

From Wednesday to Thursday, the meeting of Ministers of Defense of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States was held in Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province, drawing extensive international attention. This is because the meeting not only served as a "warm-up event" for the Tianjin SCO Summit this year, but also achieved the "full attendance" of all 10 defense ministers. Amid a complex and turbulent regional and international landscape, the SCO provided member states with a spacious roundtable - highlighting its value in building consensus, narrowing divisions and promoting solidarity. With Belarus attending the defense ministers' meeting as an SCO member for the first time, Iran's defense minister visiting China just after the Iran-Israel ceasefire as well as India's defense minister visiting China for the first time in five years and "appearing together" with Pakistan's defense minister for the first time after the India-Pakistan conflict - the trust shown by these defense leaders in the SCO underscores the precious coordination and cohesion of this multilateral security organization amid global turbulence. Today's international environment is marked by an acute shortage of public security

goods, a glaring security deficit and weakened authority of international organizations - making finding a calm table for dialogue not an easy task. However, the SCO has provided a valuable platform for member states to "seek common ground while resolving difference" and an occasion to forge multilateral consensus. It has not only effectively acted as a "glue" between member states, but has also become a "ballast stone" for regional peace. Notably, the SCO defense ministers' meeting in Qingdao was held almost simultaneously with the NATO summit in The Hague. On Wednesday, Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that unlike NATO, the SCO can "further the peace in this region." China's Defense Minister Dong Jun emphasized that at a time when the international situation is intertwined with changes and turmoil, it is particularly important for the SCO to play the role of a "stabilizing anchor." While NATO seeks to prove its "value to exist" by searching for so-called "imaginary enemies" worldwide, the SCO's philosophy of "not being an alliance directed against other states and regions" and "adhering to the principle of openness" offers a new approach to global security governance. The "Shanghai Spirit" based on

mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development has lit up the path toward the construction of an equitable and orderly multipolar world order. Now in its 25th year, the SCO has expanded from its original six founding members into a "big family" of 10 member states, two observer states, and 14 dialogue partners - stretching from the East European plains to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Rim, and encompassing nearly half of the world's population. The SCO has become a mature platform for regional security cooperation, with continuously growing influence, cohesion and appeal. Over the past 25 years, this "giant ship of security" has been riding the waves against terrorism, separatism and extremism, making outstanding contributions to regional security. The economic and trade dividends and people-to-people exchanges emerging from security cooperation have also been remarkable, significantly bringing the peoples of the member states closer together in all aspects. At last July's SCO Summit in Astana, President Xi Jinping proposed five suggestions to jointly build a more promising home of the SCO, sending out the "SCO voice" of solidarity and mutual trust as well as common prosperity and revitalization. As the rotating chair of the SCO for 2024-2025, China remains a pillar of the organization. It champions the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and has put forward a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. It opposes the outdated "beggar-thy-neighbor" strategies and zero-sum mindset, and reaffirms that the security concerns of every nation - big or small - deserve respect. These principles have resonated both within the SCO and globally. From joint counterterrorism drills to intelligence sharing, from economic cooperation to cultural exchanges, the SCO addresses challenges through multilevel collaboration, offering "SCO solutions" to global secu-



ity issues. It exemplifies the right way for different civilizations to engage with each other, and is helping forge a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation. From enhancing strategic communication to advancing pragmatic cooperation, the SCO defense ministers' meeting in Qingdao showcased the organization's growth and commitments in the past 25 years. Facts have proven that the SCO is a vital force in maintaining regional peace and stability, and an important platform for building a community with a shared future for mankind. This year, within the SCO framework, China will host more than 100 meetings

and events - polishing the "SCO Spirit" with "Chinese actions," and further deepening SCO practical cooperation in various areas. The world looks forward to the SCO paving a new security path for the future of a multipolar world and economic globalization.



Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad urges all stakeholders in divided Libya to address outstanding issues through dialogue



Celina Ali
Islamabad: Pakistan this week underscored the need for Libyan stakeholders to “address the absence of a definite roadmap” for the political reconciliation process and the reunification of institutions in the divided country. “Open-ended processes will not encourage the relevant stakeholders to act with a sense of urgency,” Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, warned during the

UN Security Council briefing on UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). Nearly 15 years after Gaddafi’s fall, Libya remains split between the internationally recognized Government of National Unity in Tripoli, and the rival Government of National Stability in Benghazi. Following last month’s clashes in Tripoli, a truce was reached on 14 May, but top UN envoy Hanna Tetteh said that the fighting in the capital “temporarily disrupted UN development and humanitarian

operations.” On 18 May, with support from the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the Presidential Council established a Truce Committee. Composed of key security actors, the body has been mandated to monitor the upholding of the ceasefire, facilitate a permanent end to the fighting and ensure the protection of civilians. As UNSMIL works to ease tensions and prevent further clashes, the Presidential Council has also set up a temporary Security and Military Arrangement Committee, tasked with sustaining peace and reorganizing security forces in the capital. “The truce, however, remains fragile, and the overall security situation unpredictable,” said Ms. Tetteh. In his remarks, Asim Iftikhar, the Pakistani envoy voiced Pakistan’s concern about the clashes that erupted in Tripoli in May, as well as those reported earlier this

month, noting the fragile truce. “We encourage all Libyan stakeholders to address the outstanding issues through inclusive national dialogue with support from UNSMIL,” he told the 15-member Council. In this regard, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar also welcomed the UN envoy’s intention to present a roadmap for the Council’s consideration. “Additionally, the political reconciliation process should provide peace dividends to all citizens and prioritize securing an equitable distribution of national resources.” As a steadfast friend of the Libyan people, he said Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to Libya’s sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity.

“We firmly believe that a Libyan-led and owned political process is the only path towards sustainable peace and stability in the country.” The Pakistani envoy called on the international community to continue to support Libya in its journey toward peace, reconciliation, and national unity. “Enhanced coordination between the UN, regional organizations and concerned countries will be critical to sustaining momentum and fostering a durable political solution,” he said. “Pakistan stands in solidarity with the people of Libya and will continue to contribute actively to the United Nations’ efforts to promote peace and stability in Libya.”



CJCSC Gen Shamshad holds meetings with Australian leadership



Abdullah Jan
Islamabad: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), this week visited Australia to attend the 14th session of Annual Defence and Security Talks. An ISPR statement said during the visit, the Chairman JCSC met with high ranking civil and military leadership of Australia including Admiral David

Johnston, Chief of Defence Forces, Mr Andrew Shearer, Director General Office of National Intelligence (ONI), Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of Australian Army and Ms Gemma Huggins, Ambassador Counter Terrorism at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Defence and Security Talks aimed at strengthening mutual understanding and identifying areas for further expanding defence collaboration between the respective militaries.

During the meetings, both sides engaged in discussions on wide range of issues including evolving global and regional environment, security challenges and opportunities to enhance existing bilateral military exchanges. During the visit, the CJCSC delivered a lecture in Australian Defence College (ADC) on Pakistan’s

security perspective and highlighted Pakistan’s contributions to regional peace and stability; and also visited Australian naval ship HMAS Adelaide. Earlier upon arrival at CDF office, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented guard of honour to CJCSC.



Kazakhstan opens new air routes to Central Asia, China

Covert Report
Astana: Kazakhstan is enhancing regional air connectivity and international flight offerings with several new routes launched by Kazakh and foreign carriers, the country’s Civil Aviation Committee reported this week. Starting June 27, Kyrgyz carrier Asman Airlines will launch direct flights from Issyk-Kul to Almaty, operating twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. Kazakhstan’s low-cost airline, Fly Arystan, will launch its own service on the same route, starting July 3, with flights on Thursdays and Sundays. Four weekly flights will connect Almaty and Issyk-Kul in total during the 2025 summer season, aiming to boost tourism, trade and regional cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Uzbekistan’s Centrum Air is expanding the network with new regular flights from Nukus to Almaty and

Aktau, beginning July 3. Flights on the Nukus – Almaty route will operate on Thursday and Saturday, while the Nukus – Aktau route will run on Thursday and Sunday. Centrum Air also recently launched a Tashkent – Almaty flight, which operates twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays. China Southern Airlines inaugurated a new international route between Guangzhou and Almaty on June 25. The service operates three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, strengthening air ties between Kazakhstan and China. According to the Kazakh Ministry of Transport, 32 new international routes are planned for launch in 2025. Fifteen destinations will be entirely new for Kazakh travelers, reflecting the country’s broader strategy to enhance air mobility and open access to new global markets.



Climate change not a future threat but it's here and accelerating: Umar Rehman Malik



This week, in a tragic incident in Swat, 18 people who were stranded in the river near the Mingora Bypass drowned. Meanwhile, the Irrigation Department has issued flood warnings at four locations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A high-level flood has been recorded in the Swat River at

Khwazakhela, while low-level flooding has been observed at Tarbela, Warsak, and Adenzai. Between June 20 and 23, heavy monsoon rains, lightning strikes, and collapsing walls led to the deaths of six people and injuries to five others in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the PDMA report, the deceased included three men, one woman, and two children, while the injured comprised three men and two women. The rains and stormy conditions also damaged a total of seven houses — five

partially and two completely destroyed. These incidents were reported in districts including Mansehra, Buner, Lower and Upper Dir, Malakand, and Kolai-Palas Kohistan. PDMA spokesperson Anwar Shehzad said that heavy rains are expected in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from the evening of June 26 to July 1. An official notification has been issued and sent to district administrations across the province, advising them to remain prepared for any emergencies. Anwar Shehzad said that some districts could also experience heavy downpours and hailstorms, raising concerns over possible glacier bursts in northern areas. The vulnerable districts include Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir, Upper Swat, and Kohistan, where local populations have been placed on high alert. District administrations have been instructed to stock emergency supplies and utilize available resources in advance. Tourists have been advised to follow safety protocols and avoid unnecessary travel. The emergency operations center remains active, and the public has been asked to report any untoward incident by calling 1700. On June 23, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released its report titled "The State of the Climate in Asia 2024". The report states that Asia is warming at nearly twice the global aver-



A previous study titled "Alarming Heat-wave 2024" revealed that during the month of June alone, around 700 people died in Sindh due to the extreme heatwave — with most of the deaths reported in Karachi. Similarly, according to The Guardian, over 50,000 people died across Europe in 2023 due to heatwaves intensified by carbon pollution, with the highest number of fatalities in Greece, Italy, and Spain. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also declared climate change the lead-

Abdullah Jan
Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Umar Rehman Malik this week said this Swat tragedy and earlier catastrophic floods in Sindh were stark reminders that climate change is not a future threat but it's here and accelerating. "Glacial melt, erratic monsoons, and unregulated development have turned vulnerable regions into disaster zones," he said in a statement. Umar Rehman Malik said Pakistan contributes less than 1% to global emissions but ranks among the most climate vulnerable nations. "This is a climate emergency, not an isolated event. Adaptation and resilience must be treated as national security imperatives," he added.



age, resulting in intensified weather extremes and severe impacts on the region's economies, ecosystems, and communities. One consequence of this warming is the heightened risk of flooding due to intense rainfall.

ing cause of environment-related deaths in Europe. These developments serve as a grave reminder of the climate crisis already unfolding across the globe, with Pakistan among the countries most vulnerable to its consequences.



German lawmakers vote to suspend family reunions for many migrants



Covert Report
Berlin: German lawmakers voted this week to suspend family reunions for many migrants, part of a drive by the new conservative-led government for a tougher approach to migration. Parliament's lower house voted 444-135 to suspend the possibility of family reunions for two years for migrants who have "subsidiary protection," a status that falls short of asylum.

At the end of March, more than 388,000 people living in Germany had the status, which was granted to many people fleeing Syria's civil war. New Chancellor Friedrich Merz made tougher migration policy a central plank of his campaign for Germany's election in February. Just after he took office in early May, the government stationed more police at the border and said some asylum-seekers trying to enter Europe's biggest economy would be turned away. The bill is the first legislation on migration since Merz took office. It will suspend rules dating to 2018 that allowed up to 1,000 close relatives per month to join

the migrants granted limited protection, with authorities making case-by-case decisions on humanitarian grounds rather than granting an automatic right for reunions. Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt told lawmakers that the change would result in 12,000 fewer people being able to come to Germany each year and "break a business model" for smugglers. People often know they won't get full recognition as refugees, "but they set off for Germany because it is known that,

even without asylum recognition ... you can have your family follow," Dobrindt said. "That is a significant pull effect and we are removing this pull effect today." Dobrindt said "our country's capacity for integration simply has a limit." Liberal opposition lawmakers decried the government's approach. Marcel Emmerich, of the Greens, described the legislation as "an attack on the core of every society, on a truly central value — the family." "Anyone who wants integration must bring families together," he said.

The far-right, anti-migration Alternative for Germany described the move as a very small step in the right direction. German governments have for years faced pressure to curb migration as shelters across the country filled up. The administration of Merz's predecessor, Olaf Scholz, already had taken some measures including the introduction of checks on all Germany's borders. Asylum applications declined from 329,120 in 2023 to 229,751 last year and have continued to fall this year.



Bulgaria searches for elusive and dangerous black panther near Shumen

Newswire
Sofia: The authorities this week enforced a state of emergency in the country's north-eastern Shumen region after a video and prints were discovered last week pointing to an escaped predator. Bulgaria's north-eastern region of Shumen has been placed on high alert as authorities search for a wild predator said to be a black panther on the loose for the fifth day on Tuesday. Residents of the nearby city of Shumen have been warned of potentially life-threatening danger, while authorities have restricted access to the eponymous national park, where fresh prints have been found as recently as Monday. Experts in Bulgaria believe that the most likely explanation for the black panther's sighting is that the animal escaped from an illegal, private zoo, as authorities struggle to eliminate the ownership of exotic pets. The appearance of a black panther has still attracted the attention of those who might want to get a better look at the animal, sparking concern among the authorities. They have repeatedly warned that the animal is extremely dangerous and should not be underestimated, as it poses a significant threat. People are warned to steer clear of the area and if they see the animal, avoid sudden movements and

retreat slowly. "I want to urge all residents and visitors of Shumen to stop attempting to enter the nature park area," said Georgi Gendov, chief commissioner and director of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior in Shumen. "The situation is extremely dynamic. These measures are being taken to protect the lives and health of people, which is our main priority," Gendov added. Officials have added that the panther is not a distinct species and the predator in question is most likely a black leopard or black jaguar. The animal is believed to have been living in the wild for weeks and is considered to be on the move, with the Stara Planina mountain range reaching as far as the border with neighbouring Serbia. "Based on the fieldwork we are conducting and the specialists we have brought in from the hunting sector in the country, our ministry is also in contact with experts from South Africa," Head of Central Balkan National Park Georgi Krastev said. "We send them photos of the tracks, our methods of operation, and we share experiences and gain knowledge from them. They have said that if, within three days, with the number of camera traps and feeding stations we have set up, there is still no sign, it would likely mean that the

animal is no longer within the territory of the nature park," Krastev explained. Meanwhile, the ongoing search for the Balkan black panther has also become a source of amusement for some, with memes circulating on social media about how the entire country cannot catch one predator. Additionally, footage of a person who encountered the panther meowing at it appeared online, inspiring a song called "Meow" by Puma, which became a viral hit. "There's a new saying in Bulgaria, 'A nation that meows at a panther cannot be defeated,'" some have quipped. Other jokes, such as renaming Shumen "Pumen" or the panther enjoying a famous Balkan barbecue, have also been widely shared by social media users in Bulgaria. It is not the first time a big cat has been reported to be on the loose in Europe. Residents reported seeing a panther around the Italian province of



Bari in 2021, leading authorities to warn the public to avoid the countryside. Authorities in eastern Slovakia also urged residents to exercise caution after a tiger was spotted in an area near the border in 2022.

There have also been several stories in the UK concerning rumoured sightings of panthers roaming the countryside in recent years, though some experts have disputed the veracity of these claims.

Portugal confirms continuation of its golden visa program



NewsWire The decision has been confirmed by the Minister of the Presidency, António Leitão Amaro, Schengen.News reports. The main purpose is to strengthen the country’s image as an investment destination, based on a report from Bloomberg. He ensured that ending the scheme is not



part of any new plan. The government is now studying how to organise golden visas in a more effective and economically efficient way, ensuring that any change is economically and socially fair. What is out of the question is ending this program. There is no plan to end it. It is not on the agenda. The Golden Visa Program of Portugal offers wealthy foreigners the opportunity to obtain residency in exchange for financial investments and meeting the required criteria. According to a report from the Portugal News, the number of golden visas issued in 2024 reached nearly 5,000, accounting for a new record. However, there is still a large number of pending applications registered. Portugal’s Golden Visa Program is among Europe’s most famous ones. The most sought-after route of this scheme was the real estate investment one. However, due to the housing crisis with which the country has been struggling, it ended this option back in 2023. It means that investors are no longer eligible to purchase properties through the real estate investment option to obtain residency in Portugal. Attorney Tatiana Kazan told Publico that

before this decision took effect, many investors believed that the residency permits would be issued quickly. The problem is that, before this ban, many people believed the government’s promises that residency permits would be issued quickly, which did not happen. The money came into the country, but there was no counterpart. Earlier this month, the President of Portugal’s Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA), Pedro Portugal Gaspar, said the agency resumed processing golden visa applications at a slow pace. Based on a previous report from Publico, the resumption of the processing of applications is still not at the pace desired by those interested. Some of these processes are being conducted. They are not at a standstill. Now, naturally, there is a capacity to respond, given the various process flows. The President of Portugal’s Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA), Pedro Portugal Gaspar In spite of terminating its real estate investment option, other routes permitting wealthy internationals to benefit from this scheme continue to remain effective.



Read Japan Project: Japan embassy donates a collection of 92 books to NUTECH Islamabad



selected books in English language cover a range of topics related to Japan such as history, politics, economy, security, philosophy, literature, art and culture. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador AKAMATSU congratulated the students and teachers for receiving this valuable gift from the Nippon Foundation and expressed the hope that with these books, students, faculty members, and intellectuals will have more fascinating information on Japan as these

and has cultivated talented students, contributing to Pakistan's human capital. He said that NUTECH's relationship with Japan is noteworthy as it's a registered organization which is sending interns for Japan's Technical Intern Training Program (TITP). "I believe that NUTECH is playing a pivotal role in people-to-people exchange between Japan and Pakistan," said Ambassador AKAMATSU. In his remarks, the Rector NUTECH Lt. General (Retd) Moazzam Ejaz thanked the

Nippon Foundation and Japan embassy for their generous gift of knowledge, expressing hope that the students will use this opportunity to learn about Japan and strengthen future Japan-Pakistan bilateral relations.

The 'Read Japan Project' was initiated by the Nippon Foundation in 2008 to promote the understanding of Japan through the donation of Japan related books in English to universities and libraries around the world.

Celina Ali
Islamabad: The Embassy of Japan, in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, this week donated a collection of 92 books on Japan to the National University of Technology (NUTECH) Islamabad as a part of the 'Read Japan Project' for fostering

a deeper understanding of Japan's rich culture, politics and economics through books. Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, AKAMATSU Shuichi, on behalf of the Nippon Foundation, presented the books to Rector NUTECH, Lt. General (Retd) Moazzam Ejaz at a ceremony held on Friday at the university premises. The 92 carefully

books are windows into Japan's rich history, vibrant culture, advanced technology, and unique values. He appreciated the services rendered by NUTECH for offering not only the degree programs but also vocational training and language courses



Natalie Baker lauds Pakistan's diplomatic efforts for peace in region

Celina Ali
Islamabad: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi this week reiterated Pakistan's stance for the resolution of disputes, including Kashmir issue, through peaceful means, and said that any step in this regard will be welcomed. He was speaking to Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker, who called on him in Islamabad. On her part, Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker praised Pakistan's diplomatic efforts for peace in the region and said that Pakistan is our important friend and we attach special importance to relations with Pakistan. The Minister lauded exceptional leadership and sincere efforts of President Trump in achieving a ceasefire between Iran and Israel. The Minister expressed hoped that US President Donald Trump will also bring about a ceasefire in Gaza. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, Pakistan-US relations and enhancing cooperation in various sectors including counter-terrorism and anti-narcotics. Moreover, regional developments and the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir were discussed in detail.



EU plans to add carbon credits to new climate goal



H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan

Celina Ali

Islamabad: The European Commission is set to propose counting carbon credits bought from other countries towards the European Union's 2040 climate target, a Commission document showed.

The EU executive had initially planned a 90% net emissions cut, against 1990 levels, but in recent months has sought to make this goal more flexible, in response to pushback from governments including Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic, concerned about the cost.

An internal Commission summary of the upcoming proposal, said the EU would be able to use "high-quality international credits" from a UN-backed carbon credits market to meet 3% of the emissions cuts towards the 2040 goal.

The document said the credits would be phased in from 2036, and that additional EU legislation would later set out the origin and quality criteria that the credits must meet, and details of how they would be purchased.

The move would in effect ease the emissions cuts — and the investments required — from European industries needed to hit the 90% emissions-cutting target. For the

share of the target met by credits, the EU would buy "credits" from projects that reduce CO2 emissions abroad — for example, forest restoration in Brazil — rather than reducing emissions in Europe. Proponents say these credits are a crucial way to raise funds for CO2-cutting projects in developing nations. But recent scandals have shown some credit-generating projects did not deliver the climate benefits they claimed. The document said the Commission will add other flexibilities to the 90% target, as Brussels attempts to contain resistance from governments struggling to fund the green transition alongside priorities including defence, and industries who say ambitious environmental regulations hurt their competitiveness. These include integrating credits from

projects that remove CO2 from the atmosphere into the EU's carbon market so that European industries can buy these credits to offset some of their own emissions, the document said.

The draft would also give countries more flexibility on which sectors in their economy do the heavy lifting to meet the 2040 goal, "to support the achievement of targets in a cost-effective way".

A Commission spokesperson declined to comment on the upcoming proposal, which could still change before it is published next week.

EU countries and the European Parliament must negotiate the final target and could amend what the Commission proposes.



British High Commissioner Jane Marriott calls on Bilawal Bhutto, Aseefa Bhutto



Celina Ali

Islamabad: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott this week called on Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto and Aseefa Bhutto at Zardari House. During the meeting, Bilawal Bhutto and British High Commissioner discussed the promotion of bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to further enhance trade stability between the two countries. Bilawal Bhutto and Jane Marriott also discussed visit of Pakistan delegation to London under the guidance of Bilawal Bhutto after the Indian aggression. British High Commissioner appreciated Bilawal Bhutto Zardari’s visit to the UK. MNA Hina Rabbani Khar was also present.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meets DPM Ishaq Dar



Celina Ali

Islamabad: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott this week called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the meeting they discussed bilateral cooperation across various sectors; regional & international developments; and upcoming multilateral engagements including Pakistan’s Presidency of the UN Security Council in July.

“When you have a dream, you’ve got to grab it and never let go.” - Carol Burnett

“You have to believe in yourself when no one else does.” - Serena Williams

Italy obtained "flexible" conditions for increasing defense spending: PM Meloni



Covert Report

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said this week that the country will achieve new NATO targets for defense spending through a flexible approach and without redirecting funds from other budget priorities. Italy, which currently spends 1.5% of GDP on defense, plans to gradually increase this figure.

The PM also insisted that no euro would be redirected from other budgetary priorities to finance the planned increase in defense spending.

Earlier, Italy, which is being forced to increase defense spending, criticized "stupid" EU rules.

Minister of Economy and Finance Giancarlo Giorgetti stated that according to the Commission's scheme, member states not subject to the EU's excessive deficit procedure will be able to use additional freedom of action on defense without violating budget rules, even if their deficit exceeds the limit of 3% of GDP.

Currently, Italy spends about 1.5% of GDP on defense, which is significantly lower than the new alliance goals. However, thanks to the "flexibility" obtained, the country plans to gradually increase this figure without reducing other budget items.

Analysts note that this approach will allow Italy to avoid sharp economic shocks, but may provoke criticism from other NATO members who have already significantly increased their defense budgets.



Italy's ambassador to Pakistan Marilina Armenin

Pakistani teachers to undergo training in France



Celina Ali

Islamabad: Seven Pakistani French-language teachers are set to travel to France for a prestigious month-long training programme at CAVILAM, a leading language institute in Vichy.

French Ambassador Nicolas Galey welcomed the group at the embassy here on Monday and noted that three of the educators would be experiencing France for the first time. He said the teachers would depart from Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad on July 4 to undergo professional development aimed at enhancing French language instruction in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Gout de France (Good France) is back in Pakistan for the second edition. Until June 29, a dozen restaurants in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi are inviting people to discover their French-style menus.

Presented by the French Embassy in Pakistan and the French Alliance, the initiative aims to promote French culinary expertise and foster cultural exchange through the universal language of gastronomy.