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PM Shehbaz approves reforms, reconstruction of NTDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday chaired a high level third and final meeting to review reforms in the power sector. During the meeting, important decisions were taken about the transmission system of electricity and distribution companies. The prime minister approved in principle reforms and restructuring of the electricity transmission system especially reform and reorganization of National Transmission and Despatch Company. He formed a committee to finalize the recommendations for ensuring implementation of reforms and reorganization in this regard. He also set up a cell in the Prime Minister House

for ensuring implementation of reforms in the power sector. The cell would closely monitor the whole process. He sought a report on the project of his last government which was aimed at replacing high power consumption fans with low power usage fans. He also sought a comprehensive plan to provide low consumption power fans to low income consumers and another plan to provide electricity to the industrial sector at low rates. The PM said he himself would chair the monthly review meeting on the power sector reforms. He directed that industries should be provided electricity at lower tariff to ensure economic progress and increase exports. "Reforms are not possible in the government departments without a system of reward and punishment," he added. Federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Ahmad Cheema, Muhammad Aurganzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Dr Musadiq Malik, Abdul Aleem Khan, former minister for power Muhammad Ali, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, member National Assembly Bilal Azhar Kiyani, Engineer Qamarul Islam, Coordinator to Prime Minister Rana Ishaan Afzal, Chairman Board of Revenue, Chairman NEPRA and high level officers attended the meeting. During the meeting, participants were informed in detail about issues and reforms of National Trans-

mission and Despatch Company and different suggestions were presented. Recommendations were also presented regarding the power distribution companies, their losses, privatization and outsourcing. The meeting was also informed about tariff rationalization and power tariffs for industries and domestic consumers. Different suggestions were put forth for utilization of electricity for cooking by domestic consumers instead of gas. The prime minister appreciated the briefing and said the approved reforms should be implemented in the stipulated time.

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering condolences to the family members of Pakistan Customs Inspector Husnain Ali Tirmazi Shaheed in Abbottabad.



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Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf interacting with Naval Heads of various Navies during 19th Western Pacific Naval Symposium in Qingdao China.

Nawaz ready to talk to Imran national interest: Rana

LAHORE (Online): PML-N leader Rana Sana Ullah has said Nawaz Sharif is ready to talk to Imran Khan for national interest. In an interview with a private channel Rana Sana Ullah said Thursday that PML-N Quaid was ready for talks with Imran Khan and he proved it through his action. He went on to say Nawaz Sharif extended invitation to Imran Khan for talks when 126 days dharna was underway. He held Imran Khan popularity among the people is zero but he has got vote of resistance and sympathy during general election. PTI founder was using inappropriate words against Nawaz Sharif at that time but even then

Nawaz Sharif had extended hands of talks to Imran Khan. Nawaz Sharif proved through his action that he gives priority to national interest above all. Nawaz Sharif had to suffer heavily due to politics of resistance and narrative, he stated. He had to go to exile and his business was destroyed. What Gen (Retd) Bajwa had said that he had not sent Nawaz Sharif to London is correct, he remarked. He said Imran Khan and his cabinet had sent Nawaz Sharif to London for medical treatment, he indicated. Imran Khan had sent his doctor to confirm either Nawaz Sharif was unwell or not, later all medical reports of Nawaz Sharif were seen.

PM summons cabinet meeting today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned the federal cabinet meeting to be held on Friday (today) in Islamabad to discuss the current political, economic and security situation in the country. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will preside over the federal cabinet meeting to be held at the Prime Minister's office. Important agenda items will be approved during the meeting.

SC nullifies EC decision on suspension of speaker BA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while nullifying Election Commission (EC) decision regarding suspension of speaker Balochistan Assembly (BA) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has restored him on his office. A 3-member bench under Justice Amin ud Din Khan took up the case for hearing Thursday. The court also nullified EC order for re-polling in 12 polling stations in PB-51 of Chaman.

IHC adjourns cipher case hearing against PTI founder till April 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday adjourned hearing till April 30, on appeals against the conviction of PTI founder and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the appeal of two accused. Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)'s prosecutor Hamid Shah continued arguments during the hearing. The prosecutor said that the court has to look at four things in this case, did the copy of the cipher reach the accused or not? Whether the document was received by the accused in physical form or not?

Resolves to eliminate smuggling PM launches Shuhada Package for martyred federal govt officials

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday launched the Shuhada Package to support the families of the federal government officials martyred in the line of duty. The prime minister announced the package during his visit to the family of late Customs Inspector Syed Husnain Ali Tirmizi, who was martyred in a firing incident in Dera Ismail Khan a few days ago. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, PML-N leaders, and senior government officers were present. PM Sharif handed over a cheque under the Shuhada Package to the family of martyred personnel and assured his government's all-out efforts for the security of the customs officials serving to purge the country

of smuggling. Offering Feteiha for the martyred soul and sympathizing with the bereaved family, he said that the Shuhada Package, earlier announced by the Punjab government, had now been extended to the federal government and could be revised further considering the country's financial position. The package comprises cash assistance, housing allowance, free education and medical treatment. Under the package, the family members of a martyred sepoy will get Rs 10 million cash assistance and Rs 13.5 million housing allowance besides free education and medical treatment. The family of a martyred customs inspector will be entitled for a Rs15 million cash and Rs25 million housing allowance along with free education and medical facilities.

No complaints of judicial interference under my watch, says CJP

KARACHI (INP): Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday said he had not received a single complaint from any high court judge about interference in judicial affairs since assuming the office. The top judge was addressing Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA). He said no one has reported any meddling in the judicial process to him, adding that all the incidents were taken place before the start of his tenure as CJP. He categorically stated that interference in judiciary was not acceptable but at the same time set the record straight that he had not received any such complaint under his watch. On March 25, six

judges of the Islamabad High Court wrote a letter to the Supreme Judicial Council regarding the "interference of intelligence agencies in judicial matters". The letter was written by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Raffat Imtiaz. Later, the Supreme Court initiated suo motu proceedings on the IHC judges' letter and sought a proposal from the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), high courts and the federal government to address the issue.

Divorced from ground reality: Pakistan rejects US human rights report as biased and politicized

Contents of report are unjust, relying on inaccurate information and disconnected from ground realities, says FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday categorically rejected the recently released 2023 Country Report on human rights practices issued by the US State Department terming its contents "unfair, based on inaccurate information and completely divorced from the ground reality". Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Bloch, in a statement, said that the US State Department's annual exercises of preparing such unsolicited reports lacked objectivity and remained inherently flawed in their methodology. "These reports use a domestic social lens to judge human rights in other countries in a politically biased manner. This year's report is once again con-

spicuous by its lack of objectivity and politicization of the international human rights agenda," she added. The spokesperson said the report clearly demonstrated the double standards thus undermining the international human rights discourse. She said it was deeply concerning that a report purported to highlight human rights situations around the world ignored or downplayed the most urgent hotspots of gross human rights violations such as in Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. "Only a politically motivated report can ignore the alarming situation in Gaza, the weaponization of humanitarian assistance and the massacre of over 33,000

civilians. Silence of the United States on the continuing genocide in Gaza runs counter to the stated objectives behind the so-called country reports on human rights," she remarked. The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan remained steadfast in its commitment to strengthen its own human rights framework, constructively engage to promote international human rights agenda and uphold fairness and objectivity in the international human rights discourse. "If the US must engage in this exercise, then we expect the US State Department to at least exercise due diligence when conducting the assessment



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal chairs a meeting to review progress over CPEC Joint Group Works and upcoming 13 JCC.

IHC suspends naan, roti price cut notification

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the notification of slashing prices of naan and roti in the federal capital. IHC Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri took up the plea of Naanbai Welfare Association's president. In the plea, the Naanbai Welfare Association maintained that the controller general cut the price of roti from Rs25 to Rs16 and naan from Rs30 to Rs20. The association maintained that the concerned authorities did not take them on board before making the decision. He told the court that the decision was made without consulting them and that the new prices were too low. The district administration representative told the court that the controller general prices and suppliers was given powers to fix the rates of essential commodities including naan and roti. The powers were handed over to the controller general after amendment in the law. Barrister Umar Ajaz Gilani, the lawyer of the Naanbai association, in his arguments, said the powers of the controller general were not by Section 3 as per the notification issue. Rent and flour prices are high in Islamabad, he added.

Govt determined to eradicate terrorism: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The minister said that provinces extended cooperation to the federal government in executing the National Action Plan. He highlighted the commencement of two successful operations, Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, aimed at eradicating terrorism from the country. In response to a calling attention notice regarding increase in incidents of suicidal bombing in different parts of country and increase in number of incidents of snatching, gunshots in Karachi, Hyderabad and Kashmir, he said, that following the Peshawar APS attack, the National Action Plan was devised with consensus among all stakeholders, and its implementation was promptly initiated.

He expressed regret over the lack of meetings and implementation of the National Action Plan by the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in 2018 to 2022. RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces on Thursday killed three terrorists including two ring leaders during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber District. During the operation, an intense exchange of fire took place between the army troops and terrorists, which resulted in the killing of three terrorists including ring leaders Sohail alias Azmato and Haji Gul alias Zarkavi, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The terrorists' hideout was also busted during the operation, whereas weapons and ammunition were recovered. They remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Women are very hard working and are asset to society: Maryam

CM addresses passing-out ceremony of lady constables



LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif appreciated women on Thursday as they work like superhumans as mothers, daughters, sisters and professionals. Addressing the passing-out ceremony of lady constables at Police Training College Chung, she said: "Women are very hard working and they are an asset to society." Maryam said, "The passing out lady constables are very active and alert. I am happy to see that Pakistan has been blessed with so much talent. No one can imagine how hard women work; I salute all for their

dedication and commitment to work." The chief minister said, "I am happy that this time the police gave sword of honor to a young woman. My sisters, daughters! I am proud of you all." She added, "The training of lady police constables has been conducted in line with the International best practices and modern requirements. It was a pleasure, indeed, to see the professionalism of lady police constables undergoing training." She said, "If you need any kind of help for training at college, let me know. I am always there to facilitate you."

ICC T20 World Cup 2024 trophy unveiled in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ICC T20 World Cup 2024 Trophy was unveiled here at the Shakarparian National Park on Thursday with a sense of excitement and anticipation. As it got unveiled, it was greeted by enthusiastic fans, eager to catch a glimpse of the coveted trophy. The trophy's three-day tour of Pakistan is a symbol of hope and unity, bringing together cricket enthusiasts from all walks of life. From Islamabad the trophy would travel to Abbottabad thus giving a chance to the city's fans to gather around and marvel at its sleek shimmering silver design.



In Pakistan, the trophy's final stop would be Lahore, the heart of cricketing culture. The trophy would be the centerpiece at the Gaddafi Stadium, during the last T20 International between Pakistan and New Zealand on Saturday. The trophy's presence would be a reminder that with hard work and dedication, the dreams of lifting the coveted prize could become a reality.

CM KP chairs meeting on CRBC Left Canal project

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, chaired a meeting on the CRBC Left Canal Project on Thursday and decided to issue the project tender by July of this year.

It was informed that Rs. 20 billion would be allocated for the project in the upcoming fiscal year's development program, with the federal government also pledging Rs. 10 billion in the upcoming fiscal year's PSDP for the project.

relevant authorities to commence work on this project. He further instructed them to ensure the completion of all necessary arrangements for tendering the CRBC Left Canal Project by July of the current year. The Chief Minister emphasized that the CRBC Left Canal Project is indispensable for the food security of the province and highlighted its importance for the country's food security. He stressed the need for early completion without any further delay. The Chief Minister stated that the provincial government would provide funds on a priority basis for projects, considering the economic viability of the project.



ABBOTTABAD: Workers of Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA) are cleaning and collecting solid waste during cleaning drive campaign at the Main KKH road in Abbottabad.

Order for recounting cannot be given after issuance of forms, 47, 48 and 49: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) while upholding the success of Rana Bilal Ijaz of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) from National Assembly (NA) constituency NA-81 Gujranwala has declared illegal the Election Commission (EC) notification for recounting.

EC has issued notification for recounting on PML-N candidate Azhar Qayyum application. It has been maintained in the written order recounting cannot be conducted after issuance of forms 47, 48 and 49. The notification for counting of votes could be issued during election process.

According to written decision EC notification in connection with recounting has no legal standing. The court declares null and void EC notification for recounting. Notification of recounting which was issued on March 18 is illegal.

Collective efforts needed to curb terrorism: Barrister

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The recent spike of targeted attacks on security forces, customs and police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is a national issue which must be addressed with collective efforts, said Barrister Dr Saif here on Thursday. "We can overcome and eliminate the menace of terrorism with united efforts," Barrister Dr Saif said.

Minister launches special 'Meat Safety Task Force' in Punjab Food Authority

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin launched a special 'Meat Safety Task Force' in the Punjab Food Authority (PFA), here on Thursday. The force would consist of meat specialist doctors to ensure detailed inspection of meat, being supplied across province.

All districts including Lahore. A complete record of traceability of meat coming from poultry farms, slaughterhouses will also be compiled and strict checking of entry points will be ensured in the morning hours. The Food Minister said that Punjab Food Authority discarded 60 thousand kg of substandard meat during checking of meat shops and entry points in a few days. He said that elements hostile to health will never be allowed to do business and continuous checking is going on to ensure quality milk, meat and food.

FC man shot dead in Bannu

PESHAWAR (APP): An official of Frontier Constabulary (FC) was shot dead by unknown motorcyclists in the Janikhel area of Bannu district on Thursday. Police said FC personnel, Abid Ullah was on leave from duty and was on the way home after working in his fields when armed motorcyclists shot him dead.

PHC seeks details of registered cases against KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court comprising Justice Shakeel Ahmed and Justice Dr Khurshid Iqbal on Wednesday sought details of registered cases against Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ali Amin Gandapur by anti-corruption watchdog.

Investigation Reports (FIRs) in Dera Ismail Khan region while the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor informed about one case against the KP CM. Counsel for petitioner Arshad Ali told the court that Anti-corruption officials have not yet submitted their response. Justice Shakeel Ahmed wondered how the anti-corruption department could not respond to the government. The Advocate General replied that an important meeting was scheduled for April 29 in which all the stakeholders including the police chief would be invited to take important decisions related to political cases.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali is being presented Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission Annual performance Report 2023 by the Chairman KPSPC Mr. Sikandar Qayoum at Governor's House.

WWB directed to identify board's land for revenue generation

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labor, Fazal Shakoor Khan has directed Workers Welfare Board (WWB) to identify commercial land of the board and utilize it for revenue generation.

He issued these directives while chairing meeting of WWB held here on Thursday. He also directed to form a committee comprising three members from WWB to compile ideas and suggestions regarding land identification and sought a report within two weeks. He said that construction of plazas, shops and parks on the commercial land would play a vital role in revenue generation for WWB. On the occasion, the minister was briefed about vocational, technical and general educational institutions working under WWB.

International News

155 killed in Tanzania as heavy rains lash East Africa

Monitoring Desk
TANZANIA: At least 155 people have died in Tanzania as torrential rains linked to El Nino triggered flooding and landslides, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said on Thursday.

Tanzania and other countries in East Africa — a region highly vulnerable to climate change — have been pounded by heavier than usual rainfall during the current rainy season, with dozens of deaths also reported in Kenya. Majaliwa said more than 51,000 households and 200,000 people have been affected by the rains, with 155 fatalities and 236 injured. "The heavy El Nino rains, accompanied by strong winds, floods, and landslides in various parts of the country, have caused significant damage," Majaliwa told parliament in Tanzania's capital Dodoma. "These include loss

of life, destruction of crops, homes, citizens' property, and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and railways," he added. El Nino is a naturally occurring climate pattern typically associated with increased heat worldwide, drought in some parts of the world and heavy rains elsewhere, and can have a devastating impact in East Africa. In Burundi, one of the poorest countries on the planet, around 96,000 people have been displaced by months of relentless rains. In addition, about 45 people have been killed in Kenya since the start of the rainy season in March, including 13 who lost their lives in flash floods in the capital Nairobi this week. Kenyan President William Ruto convened an emergency multi-agency meeting on Thursday to respond to the crisis after torrential rains triggered floods that caused chaos across the city, blocking roads and bridges and engulfing homes in slum districts. Kenyans have been warned to stay on alert, with the forecast for more heavy rains across the country, while officials said people living in the most vulnerable areas would be relocated. "The government will do whatever it takes, apply all the required resources in terms of money and personnel to make sure that lives are not lost and the people of Kenya are protected from this disaster," Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua told a press briefing. Meanwhile, the UN humanitarian response agency OCHA said in an update this week that in Somalia, the Gu (April to June) rains are intensifying with flash floods reported since April 19.



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech on Europe in the amphitheatre of the Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

Israel pummels Gaza after US approves military aid

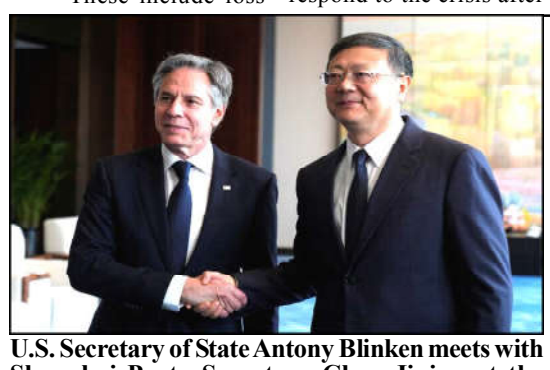
Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Israeli warplanes pounded the northern Gaza strip for a second day on Wednesday in a fierce assault that has shattered weeks of comparative calm, and Israel said it was moving forward with plans for an all-out assault on Rafah in the south. The renewed attacks came after the US Congress approved \$13 billion in military aid for Tel Aviv. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the Senate's approval of the aid

package already passed by the House of Representatives sent a "strong message to all our enemies" in a post on social media platform X. Even though Western countries, including the United States, have pleaded with it to hold back from attacking the city on Gaza's southern edge, aspokesperson for PM Benjamin Netanyahu's government said Israel was "moving ahead" with its plans for a ground operation on Rafah, but gave no timeline.

Blinken calls for US, China to manage differences

Monitoring Desk
SHANGHAI: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on Thursday on the United States and China to manage their differences "responsibly" as he went on a charm offensive ahead of expected tough talks. A day before meeting Beijing's top brass to tackle thorny issues including Russia, Taiwan and trade, Blinken's visit to Shanghai has seen him sample local food, watch a basketball game and stroll along the city's famous Bund promenade. Visiting the local Communist Party leader in a room with sweeping views of the Shanghai skyline, Blinken said US President Joe Biden was committed to "direct and sustained" dialogue between the world's two largest economies after years of mounting tension. "I think it's important to underscore the value —

in fact, the necessity — of direct engagement, of speaking to each other, laying out our differences, which are real, seeking to work through them," Blinken said. "We have an obligation for our people — indeed an obligation to the world — to manage the relationship between our two countries responsibly." The Chinese Communist Party secretary for Shanghai, Chen Jining, welcomed Blinken partly in English and spoke of the importance of US businesses to the city. "Whether we choose cooperation or confrontation affects the well-being of both peoples, both countries and the future of humanity," Chen told him. The country's financial capital, Shanghai is often a stepping stone to power in China, with President Xi Jinping previously serving briefly in the city.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Jining at the Grand Halls in Shanghai, China.

Pro-Palestinian US high school students accuse school of censoring speech

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Some US students at Washington, D.C.'s Jackson-Reed High School filed a lawsuit on Wednesday alleging the public high school's administrators censored them by prohibiting pro-Palestinian events. The lawsuit said administrators treated the Arab Student Union, a student club at the high school, differently from other groups like the Black Student Union and the Asian Student Union by restricting its activities. "For the past four months, it [the Arab Student Union] and its members have been trying to engage in expressive activities at the high school — showing a documentary film, putting up posters, distributing literature, presenting a cultural programme — but have been stopped at every turn by the school administration."

Gaza could surpass famine thresholds in six weeks, UN official says

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The Gaza Strip could surpass famine thresholds of food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality in six weeks, an official from the World Food Programme said on Wednesday (Apr 24). "We are getting closer by the day to a famine situation," said Gian Carlo Cirri, Geneva director of the World Food Programme (WFP). "There is reasonable evidence that all three famine thresholds — food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality — will be passed in

the next six weeks." A UN-backed report published in March said that famine was imminent and likely to occur by May in northern Gaza and could spread across the enclave by July. On Tuesday, a US official said the risk of famine in Gaza, especially in the north, was very high. Cirri was speaking at the launch of a report by the Global Network Against Food Crises, an alliance of humanitarian and development actors including United Nations agencies, the World Bank.

Taliban gov't joins climate change talks for first time

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: The Taliban government has entered the first stage of discussions with the United Nations, donors and non-governmental organisations, over the impact of climate change in Afghanistan, organisers said on Wednesday. After four decades of war, Afghanistan is ranked as one of the countries least prepared to tackle the effects of climate change that are spurring extreme weather conditions and warping natural environments.

4 injured as cavalry horses run amok in London

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A number of military horses, including one covered in blood, ran amok on the streets of central London and injured at least four people on Wednesday. The horses belong to the Household Cavalry, which acts as the British monarch's official bodyguard and takes part in ceremonial duties. They are garrisoned at Hyde Park barracks, less than a mile away from Buckingham Palace.

'Europe could die,' Macron warns, as he calls for stronger defences

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron appealed on Thursday for stronger, more integrated European defences and said the continent must not become a vassal of the United States, as he outlined his vision for a more assertive European Union on the global stage. With just three years left of his second and final term in office, and having lost his parliamentary majority in 2022, Macron, 46, wants to show his critics that he retains the energy and fresh thinking that helped propel him into the presidency in 2017 and that he has not become a lame duck leader. "There is a risk our Europe could die. We are not equipped to face the risks," Macron said in his speech at the Sorbonne University in Paris, warning that military, economic, trade and other

pressures could weaken and fragment the 27-nation EU. Macron said Russia must not be allowed to win in Ukraine, and he called for a boost in Europe's cybersecurity capacity, closer defence ties with post-Brexit Britain, and the creation of a European academy to train high-ranking military personnel. "There is no defence without a defence industry ... we've had decades of under-investment," he said, adding that Europeans should give preference to buying European military equipment. "We must produce more, we must produce faster, and we must produce as Europeans," he said. Macron said Europe risked falling behind economically in a context where global free-trade rules were being challenged by major competitors.

