

## High-tech spin for samurai-era artist at Tokyo exhibit

TOKYO: (News Desk) Visitors can step back in time to Japan's samurai era in a new Tokyo exhibition that uses cutting-edge technology to bring to life the work of iconic artist Hokusai. "Hokusai: Another Story in Tokyo" marks the latest in a series of immersive attractions that have sprung up in the capital, as well as growing interest in Japan's cultural past as record numbers of tourists flood into the country. The exhibition, tucked into a downtown shopping mall, invites patrons to step into scenes of nature and village life depicted by the master of Edo Period woodblock art. Technical wizardry from digital imagery firm Ars Techna reproduces the washi paper texture of his prints. Haptic plates in the floor, developed by Sony PCL, give the feel that one is walking on a beach, ice or across a rickety bridge. "The concept is not just to see something, but to have an experience that goes beyond the real thing, to let you feel the scenery that Hokusai saw," said Hiroki Inokuchi, a visual artist with Red Geek Pictures, which helped develop the exhibition. Born in 1760, Katsushika Hokusai took the medium known as ukiyo-e to new artistic heights and popularity through his unique use of colour and dynamic composition.

## Pentagon removes NYT from its offices

WASHINGTON: (News Desk) US President Donald Trump's administration, in an unprecedented move, announced late on Friday it would remove four media organisations including the New York Times from their office spaces in the Pentagon, citing a desire to make room for others.

A memo said it would also remove National Public Radio, Comcast Corp-owned NBC News and Politico, which must vacate their spaces by Feb 14. In their place, it would give dedicated office space to the New York Post, One America News Network, Breitbart News Network and HuffPost News.

Each year going forward, one outlet from print, online, television and radio will rotate out of the Pentagon "to allow a new outlet from the same medium that has not had the unique opportunity to report as a resident member of the Pentagon Press Corps," the memo said. It's an extraordinarily unique position for him to be in: Never before has a criminal defendant been elected to the nation's highest office, just as an ex-president had never been criminally charged until last year, reports "Were disappointed by the decision to deny us access to a broadcasting booth at the Pentagon that we've used for many decades," an NBC News spokesperson said.

"Despite the significant obstacles this presents to our ability to gather and report news in the national public interest, we will continue to report with the same integrity and rigor NBC News always has." NPR expressed concern about the decision and called for expanding office space available so that all media outlets covering the Pentagon receive equal access.

## Repatriation of Morocco boat tragedy survivors completes

GUJRAT: (News Desk) The repatriation of at least 22 Pakistani survivors of last month's boat tragedy has been completed with the arrival of the last batch of eight survivors at Islamabad airport on Saturday. A senior official of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Gujranwala, told Dawn that some 15 survivors of the Mauritania-Morocco boat tragedy had been brought back during the last couple of days. The official said that out of the eight survivors who arrived on Saturday, four each hailed from Gujranwala and Gujrat regions. They were taken to Gujranwala anti-human trafficking cell straight from Islamabad airport for questioning. Eight Pakistanis arrive in last batch FIA Gujranwala Zone Director Abdul Qadir Qamar said all the previous 15 survivors had been allowed to return home after being questioned by the relevant investigation teams. He said survivors of the last repatriation batch might also be allowed to go home after completion of legal formalities and questioning. On the other hand, the FIA Gujrat circle started registering more cases of human trafficking in the light of questioning and statements by the repatriated survivors. A fresh case was registered against a suspected human trafficker of Mandi Bahauddin. Official sources said Muhammad Nawaz of Phalia tehsil was arrested in a case under Section 17/22 of Emigration Ordinance-1979 and Section 3/6 of Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act-2018. The suspect allegedly extorted Rs4.9 million from complainant Sohail Abbas of Phalia, district Mandi Bahauddin, promising him to send his brother-in-law Zaigham Abbas to Spain for overseas employment through legal channels. But later the suspect, with the connivance of other agents, sent him through an illegal channel by sea. However, the ship sank on its way to Spain and the immigrant went missing or died. Two caught with forged documents at the Sialkot international airport, two suspicious passengers were caught during routine checking of documents and sent to FIA anti-human trafficking cell of Gujrat for legal action.



Syria's newly appointed president Ahmed al-Sharaa meets Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in Riyadh on February 2.

## Canada and Mexico retaliate, China offers toned-down response as Trump launches trade war

Washington (News Desk) As US President Donald Trump on Saturday ordered sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China, the United States' neighbours announced retaliatory tariffs, while China pledged "countermeasures" in a toned-down response. The tariffs demand the countries stanch the flow of fentanyl — and illegal immigrants in the case of Canada and Mexico — into

the United States, kicking off a trade war that could dent global growth and reignite inflation. In three executive orders, Trump imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Mexican and most Canadian imports and 10pc on goods from China, starting on Tuesday. Mexico and Canada, the US's top two trading partners, immediately vowed retaliatory tariffs. While China said it would challenge

Trump's move at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and take other "countermeasures", it also urged the US to "engage in frank dialogue". Trump vowed to keep the duties in place until what he described as a national emergency over fentanyl, a deadly opioid, and illegal immigration to the US ends. The White House provided no other parameters for determining what might satisfy Trump's

demands. Responding to concerns raised by oil refiners and Midwestern states, Trump imposed only a 10pc duty on energy products from Canada, with Mexican energy imports facing the full 25pc tariff. A White House fact sheet said the tariffs would stay in place "until the crisis alleviated", but gave no details on what the three countries would need to do to win a reprieve.

## Syrian interim President Sharaa meets Saudi Crown Prince in Riyadh

Riyadh (News Desk) Syria's transitional President Ahmed al-Sharaa met Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh on Sunday, Saudi state news agency SPA reported. Live TV footage showed Sharaa shaking hands with the crown prince in the Saudi capital before sitting down for talks. The Syrian leader was accompanied on his visit by foreign minister, Asaad Hassan al-Shibani.

Sharaa is in Saudi Arabia for his first international visit since the toppling of Bashar al-Assad, his office said. The presidency posted a picture on X of Sharaa and his foreign minister aboard what appeared to be a private jet with the caption "President Sharaa and Asaad al-Shabani travel to Saudi Arabia, first official visit". Sharaa, whose Islamist group led the overthrow

of Assad in December, was named interim president on Wednesday. Saudi Arabia's King Salman and his son, the country's facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, were among the first to congratulate Sharaa on his official appointment. "Strategic service" Rabha Seif Allam, a regional expert at the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo, said Riyadh was "playing a key role in reintegrating the new Syria into the Arab world and onto the international stage". She said that Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, would "directly benefit" from the stabilisation of Syria. "Iran is now excluded from the Syrian landscape, weakening its regional influence, and drug trafficking from Syria to the Gulf countries, which had been a destabilising factor, is now a thing of the past."

grating the new Syria into the Arab world and onto the international stage. She said that Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, would "directly benefit" from the stabilisation of Syria. "Iran is now excluded from the Syrian landscape, weakening its regional influence, and drug trafficking from Syria to the Gulf countries, which had been a destabilising factor, is now a thing of the past."



In this handout picture provided by the Iranian presidency on February 2, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) visits a defence and space achievements exhibition in Tehran.

## Iran unveils new ballistic missile in show of force

Tehran (News Desk) Iran revealed a new ballistic missile on Sunday that it said was capable of travelling 1,700 kilometres, unveiling it at a Tehran ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian. State television broadcast images of the missile, dubbed Etemad, or "trust" in Persian, noting its range

and calling it "the most recent ballistic missile" built by the Iranian defence ministry. Western countries have grown concerned over advances in Iran's ballistic missile programme, accusing it of destabilising the Middle East. Iran's missiles, including this newest design, are capable of reaching its arch-

foe Israel, which it targeted twice last year as the Gaza conflict spilled over. "The development of defence capabilities and space technologies ... aims to ensure that no country dares to attack Iranian territory," Pezeshkian said in a televised address. Three domestically produced satellites were also

presented at the ceremony: a roughly 34-kilogramme communications model called Navak, as well as updated versions of the Pars-1 and Pars-2. The latter two are imaging models used to monitor "the environment, emergency situations and urban management", according to the official IRNA news agency.

## Demonstration in Washington over Parachinar crisis

WASHINGTON: (News Desk) Pakistani-Americans staged a protest outside the Pakistani Embassy on Friday, demanding urgent government action to end the humanitarian crisis in Parachinar.

Organised by United Voice for Parachinar, the protest highlighted the worsening crisis in Kurram, where shortages of food and medical supplies have left residents struggling to survive. The protesters claimed that over 200 children had died due to the lack of medical care.

Speakers warned that Kurram's location along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border makes the ongoing violence a national security threat, undermining counterterrorism efforts and straining the already limited resources.

They criticised successive governments for taking a firefighting approach, arguing that only a Kurram-specific strategy can address the region's deep-rooted tribal divisions.

Pakistani-American women also participated, carrying placards demanding the restoration of normalcy in Parachinar and chanting slogans against government inaction.

## Zakia Jafri, who named Modi in Gujarat pogrom, dies

NEW DELHI: (News Desk) Zakia Jafri, a survivor of the 2002 anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat, who fought legal cases to ensure accountability for the riots in various courts, has passed away, activist Teesta Setalvad wrote in a post on social media on Saturday.

Zakia Jafri was 86. She was the wife of Member of Parliament Ehsan Jafri, who was killed by a Hindutva mob with 68 others in an attack on the Gulberg housing society — a lower-middle-class Muslim neighbourhood in Ahmedabad.

"Zakia Appa, a compassionate leader of human rights community passed away just 30 minutes ago! Her visionary presence will be missed by [the] nation, family, friends and [the] world!" Setalvad posted on X.

With Setalvad as co-petitioner, Jafri had petitioned several courts from the ground up seeking investigations into then-chief minister Narendra Modi and other government representatives' roles in the riots. In 2008, on a petition filed by Jafri, the Supreme Court ordered re-investigation in nine cases, including the Gulberg Society incident.

In the later years, Jafri petitioned against a clean chit given by the special investigation team to 63 people, including Modi, at the magistrate court, the Gujarat high court and the Supreme Court. All three courts rejected her pleas.

## Hamas, Israel complete fourth prisoner swap

JERUSALEM: (News Desk) Hamas freed three Israeli prisoners on Saturday in exchange for more than 180 Palestinians released from Israeli custody in the fourth such swap under a ceasefire deal aimed at ending the war in Gaza.

Ofer Kalderon and Yarden Bibas were paraded on stage by Hamas fighters before being handed over to the Red Cross in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis. American-Israeli Keith Siegel was freed in a similar ceremony at Gaza City's port in the north.

The Israeli military later confirmed that all three were back in Israel.

Israeli campaign group the Hostages and Missing Families Forum hailed their release as "a ray of light in the darkness".

Later in the day, a bus carrying released Palestinian prisoners was greeted by a cheering crowd in the West Bank city of Ramallah, while three others were met by hundreds of well-wishers in Khan Yunis.

In Ramallah, the bus struggled to make its way through the crowds as it arrived from the Israeli-run Ofer Prison.

## India's Rohit, Kohli have 'massive role' in Champions Trophy, says Gambhir

Delhi (News Desk) India coach Gautam Gambhir said Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have much to offer the team despite their poor run of form in recent matches, stressing the veteran duo will play a key role in this month's Champions Trophy.

Captain Rohit and batter Kohli were both part of the test team that suffered a 3-0 series sweep at home by New Zealand followed by a 3-1 hammering in Australia which ended their decade-long hold on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Following the defeat to Australia, both players returned to domestic cricket in a bid to rediscover their best form.

"I think both Rohit and Virat, they add so much value to the dressing room. They add so much value to Indian cricket as well. They've got to play a massive role (in the Champions Trophy)," Gambhir told reporters on Saturday.

"And I've said it before as well, those guys are so hungry, they want to play for the country. They have the passion to play for the country and deliver for the country."

India are in Group A in the Champions Trophy and meet Bangladesh in Dubai on Feb 20, before taking on defending champions and rivals Pakistan and ending their group campaign against New Zealand.

"The Champions Trophy is a completely different challenge as compared to the 50-over World Cup because literally every game is a make-or-break, so you can't stop anywhere in this tournament," Gambhir said.

"So hopefully we're going to start off really well, because ultimately, if you want to go on and win the competition, you have to win five games..."

"We don't go to the Champions Trophy thinking that Feb 23 (versus Pakistan) is the most important game for us. I think five games, all the games are important. The mission to go to Dubai is to win the Champions Trophy, not only win one particular game."

## Arab nations reject Palestinian displacement

CAIRO: (News Desk) Arab foreign ministers on Saturday rejected the transfer of Palestinians from their land under any circumstances, presenting a unified stance against US President Donald Trump's call for Egypt and Jordan to take in residents of the Gaza Strip.

In a joint statement following a meeting in Cairo, the foreign ministers and officials from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the

Palestinian Authority and the Arab League said such a move would threaten stability in the region, spread conflict and undermine prospects for peace.

"We affirm our rejection of [any attempts] to compromise Palestinians' unalienable rights, whether through settlement activities, or evictions or annex of land or through vacating the land from its owners... in any form or under any circumstances or justifications," the joint

statement read. They were looking forward to working with Trump's administration to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution, they added.

Say Trump's proposal, if acted upon, will cause instability and spread conflict in the region. The meeting comes after Trump said last week that Egypt and Jordan should take in Palestinians from Gaza, which he called a "demolition site" fol-

lowing 15 months of Israeli bombardment that rendered most of its 2.3 million people homeless. Critics have called his suggestion tantamount to ethnic cleansing. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Wednesday rejected the idea that Egypt would facilitate the displacement of Gazans and said Egyptians would take to the streets to express their disapproval. However, on Thursday, Trump reiterated the idea, saying: "We do a

lot for them, and they are going to do it," in apparent reference to abundant US aid, including military assistance, to both Egypt and Jordan. Any suggestion that Palestinians leave Gaza, territory they want to form part of an independent state, has been anathema to the Palestinian leadership for generations and repeatedly rejected by neighbouring Arab states since the Gaza war began in October 2023. Jordan is already home

to several million Palestinians, while tens of thousands live in Egypt. The foreign ministries of Egypt and Jordan have both rejected Trump's suggestion in recent days. The Arab ministers also welcomed Egypt's plans to hold an international conference with the United Nations that would be focused on rebuilding Gaza, which has been mostly flattened during the conflict. No date has been set yet for the conference.