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FAISALABAD April 9: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad on Wednesday observed Library Outreach Day. On the directives of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali, a rally was taken out from Main Library to the Clock Tower. The library professionals, library users, faculty members, and UAF's students joined hands to celebrate the Day. They were holding the banner and placard inscribed with the slogans. With a focused theme on "Library Outreach to Farmers and Rural



Communities," the participants spread the message out that library's resources and services are not only confined within the walls. They are mobilized to reach out the farmers and rural communities for information literacy and lifelong learning. American Library Association (ALA) celebrates "National Library Outreach Day" during April every year. In 2025, Library Outreach Day is on April 9th. At this occasion, UAF's library professionals showed their commitment to contribute in achieving the vision of Vice Chancellor, UAF through reaching out to farmers and rural community.

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FAISALABAD Apr 09: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has kicked off two-day Replica 3rd National Hands-on Training Workshop on "Basic Tools of Bioinformatics for Molecular Biology and Biomedical Research" on the directives of UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali.

The workshop is aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge and skills essential in the fields of molecular biology and biomedical research.

The workshop offered valuable insights into advanced molecular technique including primer designing and testing for endpoint and qPCR, CRISPR designing and its cloning, phylogenetic analysis to assess genetic diversity and molecular cloning stages such as mutagenesis and sub-cloning.

Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof Dr Amer Jamil delivered lecture on various aspects of molecular biology, highlighting the growing significance of bioinformatics in modern scientific research. He also elaborated on several related disciplines and emphasized the role of interdisciplinary approaches in solving complex biological problems.

Chairman Department of Biochemistry Dr Muhammad Anjum Zia, underlined the critical importance of hands-on training in scientific learning. A diverse group of students, researchers, and professionals took part in this intensive training session physical and on-line.

Anxious Iranians hope nuclear talks may ease risk of US attack

Tehran(News Desk) Weary from long years of biting sanctions and worried about US threats of military action, Iranians have responded to the prospect of talks this weekend with expressions of hope that have boosted their stock market and depressed currency.

The talks in Oman are to address the long dispute between Iran and the West over its nuclear programme, though Iranian officials are sceptical of progress and US President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to bomb if no deal is reached.

Many people in Iran to whom Reuters spoke by phone remained pessimistic about the future. But even the slim chance of a deal with an unpredictable US president who has often boasted of his negotiating skills has given some people a little optimism.

Trump announced the talks on Monday. By Wednesday, Iran's rial currency, which had sunk to a record low of 1,050,000 to the dollar and whose value often tracks Iran's geopolitical shifts, had strengthened slightly to 999,000 to the dollar.



Hezbollah fighters parade during an exercise in the southern Lebanese village near the Israeli border, on Sunday. During the large-scale drill, they simulated cross-border raids, using live ammunition and an attack drone.

Facing calls to disarm, Hezbollah ready to discuss weapons if Israel withdraws: senior official

Lebanon(News Desk) As calls for Lebanon's Hezbollah to disarm gain momentum, a senior Hezbollah official said the group is ready to hold talks with the Lebanese president about its weapons if Israel withdraws from south Lebanon and stops its strikes, Reuters reports.

The prospect of talks aimed at securing Hezbollah's disarmament — unimaginable when it was at the zenith of its power just two years ago — underlines dramatic shifts in the Middle East power balance since Israel pummeled the Iran-backed group in a devastating conflict triggered by the Gaza war.

US backed President Joseph Aoun, who vowed when he took office in January to establish a state monopoly on the control of arms, intends to open talks with Hezbollah over its arsenal soon, three Lebanese political sources said. Hezbollah emerged

severely weakened from the 2024 conflict with Israel when its top leaders and thousands of its fighters were killed and much of its rocket arsenal destroyed. The blow was compounded when its ally Bashar al-Assad was toppled from power in Syria, cutting its supply lines from Iran.

Israeli strike kills 29 people in Gaza City house, medics say

Gaza(News Desk) An Israeli airstrike has killed at least 29 Palestinians, including children, in a house in Shujaiya in Gaza City, Reuters reports citing local health authorities.

Medics said dozens of others were wounded in the attack that hit a multi-floor residential building in the eastern suburb of Gaza City. Many were still believed to be missing and

trapped under the ruins of the building. The strike damaged several other houses nearby, medics said. The Israeli military said in a statement it struck a senior Hamas militant responsible for planning and executing attacks from Shujaiya in northern Gaza, whom it did not identify. The military said several steps were taken before the attack to mitigate harm to civilians. 'Massa-

cles in Gaza are a stain on the international community': Hamas Hamas has denounced the Israeli army for the massive attack on Gaza City's Shujaiya district that killed at least 29 people and left nearly 80 others missing, Al Jazeera reports. "The ongoing massacres against our people, with American support, are a stain on the international community's face," Hamas said in a state-

ment. "The brutal crimes committed in full view of the world against innocent, defenceless civilians will not go unpunished and will not be forgotten." Hamas also criticised the "timid" response of Arab and Muslim nations. "It is unacceptable to leave our people alone in this fateful confrontation without real support that rises to the challenge and the crime."



Rescue teams work at the Jet Set nightclub following the collapse of its roof in Santo Domingo on April 8, 2025

Trade war escalates as China slaps US with 84pc in retaliatory tariffs

Hongkong(News Desk) China will impose 84 per cent tariffs on US goods from Thursday, up from the 34pc previously announced, its finance ministry said on Wednesday, firing the latest salvo in a global trade war sparked by US President Donald Trump. Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs on dozens of

countries took effect earlier today, including massive 104pc duties on Chinese goods. The European Union is also preparing its own retaliatory measures for later today. Trump's punishing tariffs — which he says aim to end US trade deficits with many countries — have upended a global trading

order in place for decades, raising fears of recession and wiping trillions of dollars off the market value of major firms. Global markets took a pummelling today as Trump's eye-watering 104pc tariffs on China came into effect, and a savage selloff in US bonds sparked fears that foreign

funds were fleeing US assets. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, in an interview with Fox Business Network, said China's new tariffs were unfortunate. "They have the most imbalanced economy in the history of the modern world, and I can tell you that this escalation is a loser for them," he said.

Fire in northern China nursing home kills 20: state media

Beijing(News Desk) Twenty people have died in a fire at a nursing home in northern China's Hebei province, Beijing's state news agency Xinhua said on Wednesday. The fire broke out around 9pm (6pm PKT) on Tuesday at the nursing home in Longhua County, roughly 180 kilometres northeast of the capital Beijing. Twenty people were confirmed dead by 3am (12am PKT) on Wednesday, Xinhua reported. "Other elderly people in the nursing home have been transferred to nearby hospitals for further observation and treatment," the state news agency said. The cause of the blaze is under investigation, it said. An individual responsible for the nursing home has been detained by police, the county government said. Deadly fires are relatively common in China due to lax building codes and an often slipshod approach to workplace safety.

Over 110 dead in Dominican Republic nightclub roof collapse

Dominican Republic (News Desk) Rescuers rushed to find survivors on Wednesday after the roof of a Dominican Republic nightclub collapsed during a concert by popular singer Rubby Perez, one of more than 110 people killed in the disaster.

Rescue workers were pressing on with the search effort, now limited more to recovering bodies from the rubble over a day after the roof caved in.

Renowned Dominican merengue singer Perez, who was performing at the Jet Set nightclub for hundreds of people when the roof collapsed shortly after midnight Tuesday, was one of those killed, his manager said.

Relatives of clubgoers gathered around the disaster site in the capital Santo Domingo as rescuers ferried the injured to hospital, and used a crane to remove debris.

"We have some friends here, a niece, a cousin, some friends, who are in the rubble," Rodolfo Espinal told AFP on Tuesday, as he waited for information on his loved ones. About 300 rescue workers combed mounds of fallen bricks, steel bars and tin sheets for survivors, supported by personnel from Puerto Rico and Israel, Juan Manuel Mendez, director of the Emergency Operations Center, said on Wednesday.

Trade representative claims US tariffs 'already bearing fruit'

WASHINGTON: (News Desk) The top US trade official defended President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs on nearly every other nation, telling senators on Tuesday that with dozens of countries seeking a deal the strategy was "already bearing fruit". Jamieson Greer's appearance in Congress came with Republicans ringing alarm bells over Trump's escalating trade war and Wall Street clamouring for clarity on the president's plans after a historic market sell-off. "Nearly 50 countries have approached me personally to discuss the president's new policy and explore how to achieve reciprocity," he told the Senate's finance committee, a figure that other administration officials have also cited. Several countries, including Argentina, Vietnam and Israel, had offered to reduce their tariffs, Greer said, while auto manufacturers were cancelling lay-offs and companies had announced \$4 trillion in new investment in the United States. The annual hearings on the president's trade policies are often staid affairs. But they have generated more interest this year after Trump last week announced a baseline tariff of 10 per cent and extra levies of up to 50 per cent on countries selling more to Americans than they buy in return. Greer said the country had shed five million manufacturing jobs and 90,000 factories in the last 30 years, since a trilateral free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada was enacted. We must move away from an economy based solely on the financial sector and government spending.

Iran says deal possible if US shows goodwill

TEHRAN: (News Desk) Iran's top diplomat said on Tuesday he believed a nuclear deal could be agreed with the United States provided Washington showed sufficient goodwill in talks, scheduled to begin in Oman on April 12.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran's principal aim remained the lifting of sweeping US sanctions. Their reimposition by President Donald Trump in 2018 has dealt a heavy blow to the Iranian economy. Trump made the surprise announcement that his administration would open talks with Iran during a White House meeting on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump said the talks would be "direct", but Araghchi insisted his negotiations with US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff on Saturday would be "indirect".

"We will not accept any other form of negotiation," Araghchi told reporters. "The format of the negotiations... is not the most important thing in my view. What really counts is the effectiveness or otherwise of the talks.

"If the other side shows enough of the necessary willingness, a deal can be found... The ball is in America's court."

Speaking in the Oval Office on Monday, the US president said he was hopeful of reaching a deal with Tehran, but warned that the latter would be in "great danger" if the talks failed.

"We're dealing with the Iranians, we have a very big meeting on Saturday and we're dealing with them directly," Trump told reporters.

The announcement came after Iran dismissed direct negotiations on a new deal on its nuclear programme, calling the idea pointless.

The US president pulled out of the last deal in 2018, during his first presidency, and there has been widespread speculation that Israel, possibly with US help, might attack Iranian facilities if no new agreement is reached. 'Great danger' President Trump issued a stern warning to Tehran, however.

"I think if the talks aren't successful with Iran, I think Iran's going to be in great danger, and I hate to say it, great danger, because they can't have a nuclear weapon," he said. In an interview with US network NBC late last month, Trump went further: "If they don't make a deal, there will be bombing," he said.

China and Russia held consultations with Iran in Moscow on Tuesday, after which the Kremlin welcomed the planned talks.

India readies for US extradition of Mumbai attacks suspect

Delhi(News Desk) Indian authorities are readying for the extradition from the United States of a man that New Delhi accuses of helping plan the 2008 Mumbai siege that killed 166 people, AFP reports. Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 64, a Canadian citizen born in Pakistan, is due to be extradited "shortly" to face trial, Indian media said, reporting that New Delhi had sent a multi-agency

team of security officials to collect him. India accuses him of being a member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) group, designated by the United Nations as a terrorist organisation, and of aiding in planning the attacks.

US President Donald Trump announced in February that Washington would extradite Rana, whom he called "one of the very evil people in the world".

The US Supreme Court this month rejected his bid to remain in the US, where he is serving a sentence for a planning role in another LeT-linked attack.

New Delhi blames LeT for the Mumbai attacks in November 2008, when 10 gunmen carried out a multi-day slaughter in the country's financial capital.

India accuses Rana of helping his long-term friend, David Coleman

Headley, who was sentenced by a US court in 2013 to 35 years in prison after pleading guilty to aiding LeT militants, including by scouting target locations in Mumbai. Long wait Rana, a former military medic, emigrated to Canada in 1997, before moving to the US and setting up businesses in Chicago, including a law firm and a slaughterhouse. He was arrested by US police in 2009. A US court

in 2013 acquitted Rana of conspiracy to provide material support to the Mumbai attacks. But the same court convicted him of backing LeT to provide material support to a plot to commit murder in Denmark. Rana was sentenced to 14 years for his involvement in a conspiracy to attack the offices of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper, which had published blasphemous caricatures of the Holy

Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). But India maintains Rana is one of the key plotters of the Mumbai attacks along with the convicted Headley — and the authorities have welcomed his expected extradition. In February, Devendra Fadnavis, chief minister of Maharashtra state which includes the megacity Mumbai, said that "finally, the long wait is over and justice will be done".