



"Today, we must reflect on whether we are disloyal to our Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). Our religion is complete, containing solutions to all issues. Knowledge and action are both necessary."

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Aneeq Ahmed

Military leadership brass vows to deal with terrorists with full might

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Muneer, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 262nd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ. Forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and the citizens who have laid their lives for ensuring peace and stability in the country. Forum resolved that terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, will be dealt with full might of the state. COAS stated that Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacrosanct and inviolable. Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence with all states, however, there would never be any compromise over country's sovereignty, national honour and aspirations of Pakistani people.



The forum was briefed on the callous Indian campaign of extra-territorial and extra-judicial killings, perpetuating state-sponsored terrorism and targeting Pakistani citizens. The forum agreed that blatant violation of international laws by India and its real face be exposed to the world. The international community has already shown serious concerns over the criminal behaviour of India and its use of state apparatus for killing spree around the world.

The forum reiterated unequivocal support for Palestine and the people of Gaza while noting the extremely negative fallout of the conflict and the potential to spill over in the wider region. The immediate need for a permanent ceasefire and enduring solution to the Palestinian question was unanimously recognised. In the same vein, Pakistan's resolve to support the people of IIOJK for their right of self determination was reiterated. Pakistan would continue to morally, politically and diplomatically support Kashmir brothers and sisters till justice is served in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions. The forum also discussed deployment of Pakistan Army to assist Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the peaceful conduct of General Elections 2024. Pakistan Army will perform assigned duties as per the Constitutional mandate, under the guidelines of ECP. No one would be allowed to indulge in violence in the name of political activity and sabotage the quintessential democratic exercise of conduct of free and fair elections.

The forum acknowledged and appreciated the steps taken against spectrum of illegal activities and criminal mafias including smuggling, hoarding, money laundering, power theft and illegal aliens. The participants emphasised that such actions and their positive impact on the economy and well being of the people need to continue without any let up.

The forum was briefed on operational preparedness of the formations. COAS asked formation commanders to continue their focus on the training, administration and morale of the soldiers. PR



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Aviation Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Khan called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Advisor on Aviation, SAPM health call on PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Aviation Air Marshal (R) Farhat Hussain Khan called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday and discussed matters relating to mutual interests. The advisor briefed the prime minister about the ministerial matters and the progress of the government's reform measures in the aviation sector.

In a separate meeting, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr. Amir Bilal called on the prime minister and discussed matters of mutual concerns. APP

Policy direction of implementing similar quality control mechanism of solar panels in Pakistan, Experts

VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET) organized a joint Pak-Korea Seminar in collaboration with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) supported by Korea Conformity Laboratories (KCL). The seminar was organized to discuss and promote the "Establishment of PAK-KOREA Testing Laboratory for PV Modules and Allied Equipment". The project is supported by KOICA through grant-aid of USD 9.5 Million and local share of Rs. 185.8 Million is funded through PSDP. The Pak-Korea Seminar was attended by five member delegation from KCL and Korea Energy Agency (KEA) along with representatives of KOICA Pakistan office. Whereas senior officials of PCRET & Ministry of Science of Technology (MoST) along with representatives from different organizations also attended the seminar.

Experts from Korea and Pakistan shared the quality control mechanism of solar panels in Republic of Korea and the proposed policy direction of implementing similar quality control mechanism of solar panels in Pakistan.

The project authorities shared that it was the first promotional seminar under this project to interact with private sector solar based industries to seek input for framing of PV panel quality control mechanism in the country. The project authorities informed that two more seminars under this project will be organized to finalize the quality control mechanism of PV panels in the industry.

Pakistani youth could change the fate of the country through education, President



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said through the combination of education, intellect and morality, the youth could change the fate of the country. He said Pakistan needed leadership and proper use of intellect more than the solutions, which he believed the youth of the country was fully capable of playing this role. Addressing the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), the president said the Chinese development was made on the basis of education and health, and Pakistan also needed to follow the Chinese model to

achieve the goals of rapid development. The President said that resources alone do not develop the countries, but human resources and right decisions changed the fate of nations.

Calling the successful graduates of the university as elite of the country, the president said they were elite because they had the privilege to secure a graduate degree in a country where 44% or more than 26 million children were still out of school. While comparing with the region, he said all the regional countries had 98% ratio of school going children.

"In order to accommodate all out of school children, the government will have to build 50,000 more schools which is not an easy task

keeping in view the resource availability in the country," he added.

He pointed out that around 300,000 mosques in the country could be utilized to educate the out of school children.

President Alvi regretted that the developed world that was claiming to be the champion of democracy and humanity had lost the sense of sympathies with the humankind. He said the world was now running on vested interests, as zero sympathies were being shown by the West amid the atrocities being done on innocent people of Gaza.

He said Pakistan was hoping to get the Kashmir issue resolved by using the United Nations platform but despite passing of over 70 years, the issue was still unresolved.

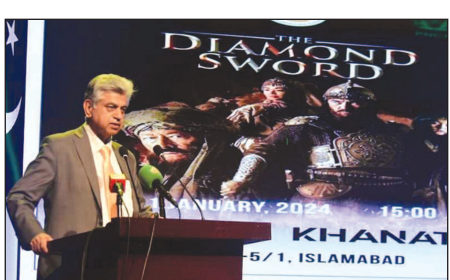
"If the exploitation of wealth ends in the world and every person gets its due right, the killing of the people will automatically be stopped," the president remarked. He advised the successful graduates of the university to continue their struggle for seeking knowledge in their practical life.

He also asked the women graduates not to spoil their education while sitting at home after getting marriage. He said in today's era of technology, women could easily manage their jobs and family works.

The president said due to timely and prudent strategies of the government, Pakistan was declared as the world's 5th best performance country during COVID-19.

Nothing impresses, educates and illuminates better than cinema, Solangi

Movie "Kazakh Khanate -Diamond Sword" screened at PNCA



ISLAMABAD: In a bid to further strengthen cultural relations, Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and the Embassy of Kazakhstan organized screening of a movie titled "Kazakh Khanate -Diamond Sword" here at PNCA. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for National Her-

itage & Culture Jamal Shah and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E Yezhan Kistafin along with Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayoub Jamali and large number of people attended the movie screening.

Addressing the screening ceremony of a Kazakh movie at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi underlined the need for promoting cinemas in the country to foster cultural values of tolerance and harmony in the society.

He said, "Nothing impresses, educates and illuminates better than cinema. Probably hundreds of high-pitch, hyperbolic and hyper ventilating speeches cannot educate you like this movie. I am sure, can educate and sensitize you better."

Continued on Page 4

Mach attack martyrs funeral prayers held: ISPR



RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayers of the Mach attack martyrs were held at Headquarters FC Balochistan (North), Quetta who embraced martyrdom while fighting the terrorists in Mach, Bolan on the night of January 29 and 30.

The funeral prayers of martyred soldiers identified as Lance Naik Rehmat Ullah, age 30 years, resident of district Dera Ghazi Khan and Sepoy Muhammad Zaman, age 28 years, resident of district Tank were offered in Headquarters FC Balochistan (North), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Wednesday.

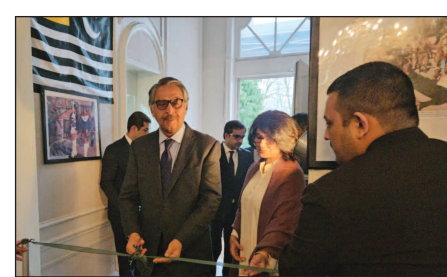
The senior serving military officers, soldiers, and a large number of locals of the area attended the funerals. Later Bodies of the Shuhada were later dispatched to their hometowns, where they would be laid to rest with full military honour. PR

Peace in South Asia to remain elusive till just resolution of Kashmir: Jilani

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Wednesday said that peace in South Asia would remain elusive till the just resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He said this after inaugurating a picture exhibition in Brussels to commemorate Kashmir Solidarity Day, during his official visit, said a press release received here.

Held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, the exhibition depicted the plight of the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). In his address, the foreign minister said that the brave sons and daughters of Jammu and Kashmir had valiantly resisted all Indian attempts of coercion and control.

"Today, we pay homage to the martyrs of the Kashmir Cause and victims of the Indian brutalities. India has failed to subjugate the will of the Kashmiri people and their sacrifices will be remembered in history," he remarked.



He said the international community must urge India to stop the ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse the unilateral and illegal actions of 5th August 2019; and implement the UN Security Council Resolutions.

He said for its part, Pakistan stood in complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. It would continue to extend its full political, moral, and diplomatic support to their just struggle, he added. APP

Pakistanis students able to take advantage of world-class education by UK universities, J. Marriott

Pakistan's education demand provides opportunity for UK higher education

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The British Council launched its "Mapping International Student Mobility from Pakistan" report. The report, aimed at unravelling the dynamics of student mobility to the UK, revealed crucial insights that will shape the future landscape of educational collaboration across Pakistan.

A gap between supply and demand in Pakistan's tertiary education proposition is driving its university-age population overseas. Other important findings of the report include:

- The top three factors for students from Pakistan are enhanced career prospects,

quality education, and funding.

- Despite being the world's third-largest university-age population, enrolment rates at the tertiary level in Pakistan remain below the global average.

- Many of the urban centres like Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad emerged as the primary contributors to international student mobility, collectively accounting for approximately half of the students moving abroad.

- The report emphasised the role of enhanced career prospects, quality education, and post-study work opportunities as key factors motivating students to study abroad.

- Transnational Education (TNE) is an increasingly considered alternative for



undergraduate studies, with 36% of surveyed students factoring it into their

decision-making process. The launch event was attended by the

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CME OBE, Country Director British Council Pakistan, James Hampson, representatives from UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and policymakers.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CME OBE, said:

"It is wonderful that so many Pakistanis are able to take advantage of the world-class education offered by UK universities. As this report highlights though, there is more to be done to make sure that UK universities are accessible to students across the whole of Pakistan. I am grateful to the British Council for their work understanding and tackling those barriers."

James Hampson, Country Director

British Council Pakistan said:

"This report is a significant step towards informed decision-making for all stakeholders and is a testament to the work the British Council is doing to improve access to international opportunities for students across Pakistan. Collaborative efforts are needed to understand and shape the future of international student mobility and our report is an important step forward in that area."

The UK is proud to offer scholarships which support Pakistani students to study in the UK, including the Chevening, Commonwealth, and Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust scholarships.

The full report can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/ismrep24>

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Planning for the future

ATTA-UR-RAHMAN

This requires us to acquire the highest level of expertise in new and emerging technologies to be able to leapfrog into the future. We must also establish a clear roadmap for our development after carrying out a proper well-designed 'foresight' exercise, as per international norms. This process must be repeated, and our strategies adjusted at regular intervals, so that we keep abreast of the changing dynamics and new challenges. Economic prosperity now depends almost entirely on high-quality education, science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The world of discovery is a vast and ever-expanding domain encompassing various sectors, each contributing to the advancement of human knowledge and technology.

From new materials to space engineering – from biotechnology to autonomous vehicles – recent developments across these emerging sectors have been nothing short of astounding. In the case of materials science, let us consider the example of graphene, a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. Graphene exhibits extraordinary strength, flexibility, and conductivity, making it ideal for applications in electronics, energy storage and medical devices. Nanotechnology, the manipulation of matter at the nanoscale, has revolutionized various industries with its ability to engineer materials and devices at the atomic and molecular levels. Recent advancements in nanotechnology include the development of targeted drug delivery systems for cancer treatment, ultra-sensitive sensors for detecting environmental pollutants, and high-efficiency solar cells for renewable energy generation. Nanomaterials such as quantum dots and carbon nanotubes hold promise for applications in electronics, photonics and biomedicine, driving innovation across multiple sectors.

Pakistan's first full-fledged research institution has been established by us as part of the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) in Karachi University through a magnificent donation from Mr Aziz Latif Jamal funded generously by the Husein Ebrahim Jamal Foundation. Artificial intelligence is already finding a myriad of applications and its economic impact has been predicted to exceed \$15 trillion by 2025. The first new class of antibiotics was recently discovered using artificial intelligence after 60 years, which is active against drug-resistant bacteria that kill thousands of people each year.

Artificial intelligence is now being applied in almost every sphere of human activities and may well change the face of civilization. Several centres of excellence in the field of artificial intelligence are presently being established in Pakistan under my stewardship including those in the Pakistan Austrian University of Applied Science and Engineering (Fachhochschule) in Haripur Hazara and at the ICCBS in Karachi University.

Another fast-evolving field is that of quantum computers. These are hundreds of millions of times faster than the fastest supercomputers. When artificial intelligence (software) begins to work with quantum computers (hardware), a huge revolution in civilization will occur, and it is just around the corner. The world speed record for the fastest computers was recently broken by the light-based Chinese computer Jiuzhang 3.0. It can calculate the most complex problems in one microsecond while the world's fastest supercomputer 'Frontier' would need more than 20 billion years to complete the task. There are three types of quantum computers under development: electron-based (superconducting), atom-based (cold atom or trapped ion) and photon or light-based. Recent achievements in biotechnology include the development of gene editing techniques such as CRISPR-Cas9, which enables precise modification of DNA for therapeutic purposes. This technology holds promise for treating genetic disorders, combating infectious diseases, and engineering crops with enhanced nutritional value and resilience to environmental stress.

Genomic medicine, enabled by rapid DNA sequencing technologies, now allows clinicians to tailor treatment strategies based on an individual's genetic makeup, improving efficacy and reducing adverse effects. Immunotherapy, which harnesses the body's immune system to fight cancer, has emerged as a promising approach for treating various malignancies, offering new hope to patients with advanced or refractory disease. In the present era, which is marked by rapid technological advancement, global interconnectedness, and complex societal challenges, nations around the world are increasingly recognizing the importance of preparing a proper and well-thought-out developmental roadmap for their short-, medium- and long-term development plans. This is done by carrying out a comprehensive strategic foresight exercise in order to shape their future development trajectories. This involves identifying the overarching objectives, thematic areas, and time horizons of the road map under the supervision of a steering committee comprising experts from government agencies, research institutions, industry associations, and civil society organizations to provide strategic guidance and oversight. It also involves conducting a preliminary assessment of the country's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) to identify priority areas for future exploration. An important aspect of a foresight exercise is that of horizon scanning. The process involves imagining the desired future state of the country, encompassing social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions. This requires engaging citizens, experts and stakeholders through surveys, focus groups and public consultations to solicit input and feedback on the proposed vision and goals. Indicators and benchmarks are then established to measure progress towards strategic goals. A number of methods and tools are available to support the conduct of a foresight exercise.

The writer is the former federal minister for science and technology and former founding chairman of the HEC. He can be reached at: ibne_sina@hotmail.com



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

The land where time stands still

A few weeks ago, I was invited to a panel on the issue of harassment on university campuses. The audience comprised students, 20-something-year-old men and women, from various public universities within driving distance from the capital.

Given the theme of the event, I was expecting some self-awareness, but incidents of harassment were unfolding in the audience while the programme was being conducted. At one point, the programme even had to be brought to a halt and organizers had to step in to re-establish order in a section of the audience.

Some of the conversation at the event, and the thinking it betrayed, could have made you believe the year was not 2024, but 2004 or 1984 (pun intended). One solution to campus harassment of women that was put forward was the same enforcement of mandatory uniforms, implying once again that it is women's choice of clothing that invites harassment and that the onus of stopping harassment rests on them, something that has been debunked every time it is brought up in public discourse for decades.

One member of the panel proudly presented their solution to verbal harassment – slapping the offender: that is, escalating the situation by responding with physical violence and inviting violence in turn. Instead of recoiling with horror, this anecdote was met with roaring laughter and approval. Ours is a brutalized society where it is well known that the slightest affront can quickly escalate into a scuffle, even deadly violence.

Advising young people to inject violence into possibly already dangerous situations is irresponsible. In civilized societies, there is a firm line between verbal abuse and disagreements on one side and physical violence on the other, and crossing it is never acceptable. When an entire auditorium, filled with university graduates no less, cheers such anecdotes (real or made up), you know that society still has a lot of evolving to do.

Inevitably, someone in the audience had to bring up the state-sanctioned solution that someone eventually always brings up: that the solution to

all our national woes is a stronger dose of religion, an idea that has been around since at least the '80s. Never mind the fact that mandatory religious indoctrination in public (and much of private) education in Pakistan now (by some measures) well exceeds that of our spiritual mother – Saudi Arabia. And in the age of TikTok, (usually) a cocky young man delivers this opinion in the form of rousing sermons and a tone that disinvites further arguments (or else?) while being recorded, possibly in the hope of going viral and hitting the social media clout jackpot.

Never mind that nearly half the youth nationwide wish to head for the country's exit doors, mostly to more or less secular societies. On Twitter threads, Pakistanis are asking neighbours across our eastern border to reconcile their secular constitution with the daily news reports of violence against minorities coming out of their country, but then turn around to demand a theocracy at home. All this while remaining completely oblivious to their own contradictions. One young man in the audience asked to be explained whether sending 'Good morning' messages – the unsolicited eye-roll-inducing staple of South Asian WhatsApp – constitutes harassment. The snickering from the audience that accompanied the question told you that everyone fully understood that stubbornly sending unwelcome messages to people is just poorly disguised harassment.

Nevertheless, that did not dissuade some in the audience from attempting reductio ad absurdum arguments, possibly in the hope of identifying a loophole to low-level harassment. The basic etiquette of leaving people who do not wish to talk is too much to comprehend for some, despite the discourse around these issues in recent years. This issue has frequently been at the forefront of public discourse in recent years and has been dissected and re-dissected. These talking points should stand long debunked and buried. Instead, like zombies in 'The Walking Dead', they refuse to die, they rise again, and they travel in groups. It seems a lot of people are unwilling to learn, to pick up a book and inform themselves on issues, to be willing to change their opinion,

attitude and behaviour. I am beginning to believe that the stunting resulting from malnourishment that a vast segment of our population suffers from may be to blame. If my opinions today seem unusually harsh and make me sound frustrated, it is because I am.

Between 2019 and 2022, the country had a public debate on the Single National Curriculum (SNC), the brainchild of the PM of the time. Part of that debate early on was to have not just a single curriculum, but a single school system in the country. The stated goal was to level educational opportunities for all. What it would have done is take away choices from professional and middle-class parents while preserving them for the wealthiest, who can school their children abroad. At the same time, the architects of this ill-conceived plan also acknowledged the much greater effectiveness of alternate foreign high school exams (IGCSE, O/A-level, IB). While the PTI government and the PDM government that came next, rammed through the SNC for public schools, the idea of ending other school systems was thankfully shelved.

How these schemes would improve the state of education in the country was never fully explained and the lack of coherent thought eventually dawned on its champions.

However, just a few days ago, that did not stop a popular prime-time talk show host from dredging this proposal back up again. Years of public debate, but no attention paid and nothing learned.

Since the summer of 2023, the issue of emigration and brain drain has flared up several times in the media. Most people understand that there are pros and cons to emigration for individuals and the country. The country is reliant on the foreign remittances overseas workers and emigrants send to support family members back home or make investments. Anytime the country faces a balance of payments crisis, the government looks, among other sources, towards the overseas Pakistani community for help. That fact seems to have escaped one of our leading uniformed saviours when he opined that anyone who quits the country should not return – very Kim Jong-esque!

Historically, great civilizations of the world have been the ones that were open to the free flow of people and the exchange of ideas. Suspicion and hostility (fearfulness?) towards the outside world and anyone who opts to go there is more at home in the pre-Internet era of tinpot dictatorships than the present. One would hope that in the era of global connectivity when everyone with a smartphone can independently explore so much of the world online, such hostility would have lost currency. Instead, everything old is new again.

The 2024 general elections are almost here, and political parties have published manifestos outlining their plans for the next term if they win. Here again, I feel little has changed since the days of 'Roti, Kapra aur Makaan' (Food, clothing, and housing). The manifestos have gotten longer and more expansive and now come in colorful PDF files, but they remain just as superficial. I found little to disagree with in the raft of programmes promised for the education sector. Clearly, a committee sat down and put some thought into it but here is my question: Did anyone estimate the cost of each programme (and where can we find those numbers)? More importantly, where is that money going to come from? Answers to these questions will tell voters how realistic these manifestos are and how seriously we should take them. Without basic planning behind them, these are only as substantial as a child's wishlist for Santa Claus.

Lately, any issue I look at – social or political – makes it seem like we, as a society, are standing still. Pick an issue, and it seems like nothing has changed in decades. Few seem able or willing to inform themselves on issues before forming an opinion. Fewer still are willing to change their opinion in the face of new facts. Whether that is a manifestation of the lack of those elusive 'critical thinking' everyone demands or something else, I do not know. Every day it feels like we are stuck in 2014 / 2004 / 1994 / 1984 / 1974, in a land where nothing changes, nothing is learned – a land where time stands still.

The writer (she/her) has a PhD in Education.

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



His immediate successors, inspired by his teachings, tried to establish a modest Islamic state in the northwest of India and they, under the leadership of Sayyed Ahmad Shaheed Bareilvi (1786-1831), persevered in

this direction.
BRITISH EXPANSIONISM AND MUSLIM RESISTANCE

Meanwhile, starting with the East

India Company, the British had emerged as the dominant force in South Asia. Their rise to power was gradual extending over a period of nearly one hundred years. They replaced the Shariah by what

they termed as the Anglo-Muhammadan law whereas Urdu was replaced by English as the official language.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Tech

Riley Keough refuses to settle Lisa Marie Presley's UK home debt

Elon Musk's Neuralink implants first brain chip in human

Riley Keough firm on not footing Lisa Marie Presley's UK property bill

Riley Keough in a legal tussle across the pond is taking a stand against a debt collector she claims is aggressively pursuing a substantial sum related to a property her mother once owned.

The eldest daughter of the late Lisa Marie Presley, now responsible for her mother's trust following Lisa Marie's passing last year, seeks judicial protection against shouldering the hefty bill presented by a bank. The focal point of this dispute revolves around an 11-bedroom estate named Coes Hall in Rotherfield, acquired by Lisa Marie Presley in 2010 with financial backing from Barclays Bank. According to legal documents



obtained by TMZ, Barclays asserts that Lisa Marie had an outstanding balance of approximately \$1.6 million on Coes Hall and alleges that Lisa personally guaranteed repayment when securing the loan.

Following Lisa Marie's demise, Barclays is attempting to transfer the responsibility for this personal guarantee onto the trust. However, Riley Keough is vehemently contesting these claims. In the filed documents, she asserts at least two compelling reasons why she should not be held accountable for the debt. Firstly, she argues that a crucial statute of limitations has expired, challenging the legitimacy of the attempt to extract payment from the trust. In the latest development of the legal skirmish involving Riley Keough and Barclays Bank over her late mother Lisa Marie Presley's estate, Riley asserts a crucial argument in her defense.

In a groundbreaking move, Elon Musk's company, Neuralink, has successfully implanted its first brain chip in a human for the first time, BBC reported.

The first recipient of the brain chip, known as "telepathy," is reportedly recovering well after the procedure performed on Sunday. The company finally got its clearance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in May after facing much criticism.

The visionary behind the project, Elon Musk, shared the news on his X account. "Initial results show promising neuron spike detection," he wrote.

The company's goal is to connect human brains to computers, revolutionising the way patients with illnesses like Alzheimer's are treated.

In addition, it aspires to enhance human capabilities and bring them to par with AI. Musk said in an interview, "This ultimately has the potential to restore full body movement."



"In the long term, Neuralink hopes to play a role in AI risk reduction and civilizational risk reduction by improving human-to-AI (and human-to-human) bandwidth by several orders of magnitude. Imagine if Stephen Hawking had had this." Musk wasn't the first to introduce a brain chip as long before he entered the game, Utah-based Blackrock Neurotech implanted its first of many brain-computer interfaces in 2004.

How to make a healthy sandwich?

47% American adults consume sandwich but not necessarily healthy ones

There are a few things you can do when creating a sandwich to maximise health advantages, as per the information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The category of "sandwiches," a lunchtime favourite, offers an almost infinite variety of options and taste profiles. Of American adults, 47% consume a sandwich on any given day, according to Health.

Now, a new version of the MyPlate food category guidelines specifically for sandwiches has been released by the USDA and MyPlate National Strategic Partners to assist Americans in creating

healthier lunches (or breakfasts and dinners). Starting with grains, making half of our grains whole is a healthy choice, according to the original USDA MyPlate. Whole grains, whether in the shape of bagels, buns, tortillas, pitas, or whole wheat bread, are perfect for sandwiches. Add as much food as you can. Nutrient-dense vegetables such as leafy greens, bell peppers, zucchini, and onions are a simple way to load up a sandwich. Even fruits like sliced apples, grapes, or raisins can appear with the correct flavour combination. Select a low-fat protein. Protein-rich meals that

are lower in fat and sodium, such as mashed beans, canned tuna, or leftover chicken, are also excellent choices. Change the spread. Sometimes you can stick with the traditional mayo, but you should also think about adding other options that are lower in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars. These may be nut butter, hummus, Greek yoghurt, or roasted garlic. Reduce expenses without sacrificing fun or flavour. You may make a nice sandwich and save money by starting with leftovers or selecting produce that is in season.



Health

Govt to increase FDI for boosting country's economy, says Minister

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior and Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz on Wednesday said the government is taking steps to increase foreign direct investment to boost the country's economy.

The minister visited the Overseas Chambers of Commerce in Karachi, said a press release issued here. During the visit, the commerce minister met with investors from various sectors.

The minister said the government has taken measures to stop the smuggling of dollars to maintain the exchange rate.

He said that the smuggling of dollars through the Afghan transit trade is being controlled and pressure on the rupee was due to Afghan transit trade.

He said that the trade deficit is decreasing due to government measures and now domestic trade is increasing on an annual basis.

The minister said that exports have increased by \$1 billion in the second quarter of the financial year, 2023-24.

He said that the country's exports are expected to increase due to government initiatives.

The confidence of foreign investors also is being restored, Gohar Ejaz said.

Bodies of nine Pakistanis killed in Iran being airlifted to Multan today



ISLAMABAD: The bodies of nine Pakistani nationals, who were killed in a terrorist attack in Iran's Sistan-o-Baluchestan province on January 27, are being airlifted to Pakistan today.

"The mortal remains of nine Pakistani nationals, who were killed in a terrorist attack in Sistan-o-Baluchestan province of Iran on 27 January, are being airlifted today from Taftan border to Multan," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement on Wednesday.

Praying for peace of the departed souls, the spokesperson said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones."

Following the incident, Pakistan had strongly condemned the killings of its nationals in Iran terming it, "horrifying and despicable." It underscored the need to immediately investigate the incident and hold accountable those involved in this heinous crime, the spokesperson had earlier said. Pakistan had reiterated its firm resolve to fight terrorism and was taking all necessary measures in this regard.



Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick is being presented with a shield at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

Ali advises students to make career decisions based on future environmental, sectoral needs

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali, on Wednesday advised the students to make their career decisions based on future environmental and sectoral needs.

While inaugurating the first-ever national-level 'Fuelling Futures Career Expo 2024,' organized by the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) in collaboration with Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), he highlighted the critical nature of the energy and minerals sectors, encouraging students to explore career paths in these areas.

The event witnessed an overwhelming attendance of students, faculty, and company representatives.

Muhammad Ali said that the Expo is planned for students to explore career opportunities with energy and minerals being showcased by respective companies in the event.

The energy minister noted that there is massive transformation happening in the Energy sector globally and the commodity should be affordable, accessible, and sustainable for the consumers.

He said that Pakistan is energy deficient and an oil importer, and there is an opportunity to convert the energy deficiency country into the surplus.

"There are many in-demand mineral

resources in the country with opportunities for their extraction in the future," he added. MD and CEO PPL Imran Abbasi on the occasion welcomed the large number of students from across the country and thanked the participating companies and universities for making the two-day Career Expo a success.

He said that the platform provides an opportunity for students to interact with the leaders of the energy and minerals industry and to learn from their experiences with the view to selecting, pursuing careers in the Oil, Gas, and Mineral sector.

Around 5000 students from across Pakistan along with faculty members and staff of around 30 universities and schools have participated in the event.

The managing directors, senior management, and staff of 14 oil, gas, and mineral companies also attended the Expo.

Expo with the theme, 'Fuelling the Future,' comprised company presentations, sessions on the significance of the oil, gas, and mineral sector and opportunities, besides various career counseling dialogues and company and university stalls at the venue.



Nothing impresses, educates and illuminates better than cinema, Solangi



Continued from Page 1

He expressed gratitude to the ambassador of Kazakhstan in Pakistan and Caretaker Minister for Culture and Heritage Jamal Shah for inviting him to speak on the screening of "Kazakh Khanate". "Nobody probably in this auditorium can truly represent cinema better than Jamal Shah. He lives and breaths cinema," he said while expressing the resolve to work with his cabinet colleague to promote the culture through cinema. "We will try both with and without the government to do our job to address the challenges people faced today," he said while highlighting the urgency for the next elected government to address the poly crises such as culture of intolerance, extreme polarization amid the heavily divided global landscape. "We have huge challenges in front of us and one of those challenges in the domain of culture and perception is extreme intolerance, and personality cult and cult worship that won't be cured by criminalizing things," he noted. The minister said, "Law will and shall take its course but when it comes to dealing with long term consequences, there is nothing better than

culture. In culture, cinema holds special place, so we must promote good cinemas." He assured the Kazakh envoy of all-out support of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached departments. "Kazakhstan is not a far away land" as it was connected with Pakistan both geographically and culturally, he added. "There is a great future for cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan," he said, noting that the screening of the film "should be a learning experience and a point of departure to deepen our relationship to new heights."

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said that it was a really educational movie, which specifies that honour, solidarity and dignity are above anything else. The minister also noted that the movie screening reflects the growing cultural and collaborative ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. He emphasized the paramount importance of cultural exchanges, acknowledging the rich cultural heritage and picturesque landscapes of the region.

Jamal Shah expressed a keen interest in enhancing collaboration in film and cinema to further fortify bilateral cultural ties.

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E Yerzhan Kistafin stressed that through the prism of the film, the life of the people of that time, the geopolitical conditions of the formation of the Kazakh Khanate, as well as details of costumes and battle scenes were conveyed.

He said that this is a movie based on footage for a great historical show. The Ambassador commended PNCA and National Heritage and Culture Division for collaborating Kazakhstan movie screening. The movie was screened in the Urdu language. Kazakh Khanate: Diamond Sword tells the history of fifteenth century Eurasia.



WASHINGTON DC: Raja Nasir Ali Khan Maqpoon, Minister for Planning & Development Gilgit Baltistan Called on Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan.

Fake document attributed to Pak Head of Afghan Mission: FO Spox



media was fake.

"Such fake letters are being circulated with malicious intent. We advise caution to all," she posted on X. The fake document was purportedly addressed to the Afghan Acting Minister of Interior expressing concerns over statements on a water dam in the Kunar province.

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch on Wednesday said that a document attributed to Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani on the social

Chinese envoy lauds PAF's steadfast determination for balance of power in region

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday.

The Chinese ambassador lauded the steadfast determination of PAF leadership to ensure balance of power in the region.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to evolving geo-strategic environment and regional developments were discussed, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

The dignitaries underscored the necessity of revitalizing the framework for operational training across all domains, emphasizing the paramount importance of preparedness and seamless coordination in the face of evolving security challenges. The Air Chief shared broad contours of the PAF's modernization drive in order to transform Pakistan Air Force into a Next Generation Air Force through induction of niche technologies with a special focus on indigenization and revamping of training. Highlighting the significance of the long-standing strategic partnership between the two



countries, he emphasized that the PAF leadership wished to further deepen the existing aviation cooperation and exchanges with China in the fields of human resource and technology so as to jointly address shared security challenges.

He further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, defence relationship and time-tested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability." The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace. APP

Ministry of Finance releases the monthly economic update, January 2024 shows marked improvement in 14 Economic Indicators & declining trend in 10 sectors of economy

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Finance on Wednesday released the Monthly Economic Update and outlook January 2024 shows marked improvement in 14 Economic Indicators and declining trend in 10 sectors of Economy.

The first half of FY2024 has ended with economic stabilization. The government's effective measures and prudent policies helped stabilize the macroeconomic situation, leading to a gradual improvement in economic activities. It is expected that economic activities will further strengthen during second half of FY2024 contingent on the continuation of sound and prudent economic policies which will gear toward achieving the set growth target for the current fiscal year, the report adds. The report contains comparison of economic data with July-December period of 2022-23 with July-December period of 2023-24.

Pakistan foreign exchange reserves improved from \$8.742 billion to \$13.257 billion, including improvement State bank reserves from

\$3.087 billion to \$8.211 billion. The reserves with the commercial banks declined from \$5.655 billion to \$5.046 billion.

Pakistan exchange rate also witnessed a further decline of Rs.17.04 per US Dollar, the parity declined from Rs.262 to Rs.279.64 a US Dollar.

FBR tax collection increased by 30.3 billion and it increased from Rs.3429 billion to Rs.4469 billion. Similarly, non-tax collection (federal) also increased from Rs.914.1 billion to Rs.1979.1 billion during this first half. PSDP spending declined from Rs.161.7 billion to Rs.152.1 billion, indicating a decline of 5.7 percent.

Fiscal deficit of the federal government increased from Rs.1683.5 billion to Rs.2407.8 billion during the first half of ongoing fiscal year 2023-24. Primary balance improved by 103.7 percent, it increased from Rs.889.6 billion to Rs.1812.2 billion. Agri credit jumped from Rs.842.4 billion to Rs.1105.8 billion, similarly, credit to private sector declined from 581 billion to

Rs.373.5 billion. Consumer Price Index (National) increased from 25 percent to 28.8 percent during July-December period of this fiscal year, it also increased from 24.5 percent to 29.7 percent in December. SBP policy rate increased from 17 percent to 22 percent in this first half on this fiscal year 2023-24. A major improvement was witnessed in the stock market of the country, whereby, the total market capitalization increased from \$23.39 billion to \$33.05 billion, indicating an increase of 41.3 percent.

Pakistan stock exchange index improved from 43,899 points to 62,771 points showing a market improvement of 43 percent. Market capitalization in Pak Rupee increased from Rs.6.69 trillion to Rs.9.24 trillion. The registration of new companies, increased from 13,694 to 14,328 in first half of this fiscal year. The improvement in large Scale Manufacturing improved from negative 4.85 to positive 1.59 percent in December. Similarly, during July-December period it improved from

negative 2.33 percent to a negative 0.80 percent.

Remittances from overseas Pakistan witnessed a decline of 6.8 Percent, these declined from \$14.4 billion to \$13.4 billion in this first half.

Exports of the country also witnessed an upward trend of 7.5 percent and such increased from \$14.2 billion to \$15.3 billion and imports also declined from \$29.6 billion to \$25.2 billion, showing a decrease of 77.1 percent during the first half of ongoing fiscal year 2023-24. The current account deficit declined from \$3.6 billion to \$080 billion showing a decline of 771 percent in first half.

Foreign Direct Investment improved from \$640 million to \$862.6 million, projecting an increase of 34.8 percent in this period. Portfolio Investment improved from negative \$1.033 billion to \$71.0 million, indicating an improvement. Total Foreign Investment improved from negative \$393.3 million to \$933.7 million, showing a market recovery in this first half. NNI

Kashmir Solidarity Day to be observed with Zeal & fervor on Feb 5: AJK PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, has announced that Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 will be observed with zeal and fervor, sending a clear message to India that millions of people in Pakistan and Azad Jammu



and Kashmir stand shoulder to shoulder with the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for freedom of their motherland. According to Kashmir Media sources, during a joint press conference with All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK (APHC)-AJK leaders in Islamabad, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq stated that the day would be marked as a public holiday, and business activities would be halted. He emphasized the need for rallies, processions, and other programs to express unity with the oppressed people living under illegal Indian occupation in Jammu and Kashmir.

PM Anwar-ul-Haq expressed strong condemnation of India's actions on August 5, 2019, and recent decisions by the Indian Supreme Court. He reiterated the commitment to the rightful struggle for self-determination and assured that Azad Jammu and Kashmir would not step back in its efforts to raise awareness about the dire situation in the occupied territory. Looking ahead, the Prime Minister anticipated increased global attention towards Kashmir's cause, as efforts to highlight the plight of Kashmiris would intensify. He pledged to inform international forums, including the United Nations and OIC, about the sacrifices made by Kashmiris and urged for united support for their just cause. INP

Madad Ali Sindhi stresses to revamp existing govt schools' education system

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi Wednesday stressed the need for structural reforms to ensure quality education on merit and for up-gradation of existing government school system for sustainable economic growth.

Talking to PTV news channel, he called for revamping the education system to prepare students to effectively face the challenges of new century, while upholding the Pakistani values and ethos at the same time. To a query, he said the caretaker government in a short span of time, performed well and work hard for education reform agenda on a priority basis. Political parties should keep the education reforms agenda on the top of their election manifestos by ensuring quality education in government schools and affordability to the masses at their doorstep. "Policymakers and the next five years' government must ensure that every child receives a holistic and quality education in government schools," he added. Minister advised the government, academia and the industry bodies to join hands in implementing rigorous academic standards and in creating the necessary infrastructure. APP