



Government was making all-out efforts to ensure uninterrupted supply of food items during the holy month of Ramazan

Minister for Information and Broadcasting  
**Attallah Tarar**

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## Adoption of AI, new technologies imperative to empower youth, says Shaza



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday stressed the need for adopting artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning by modernizing the country's education system and curricula to prepare the youth for skilled jobs to empower and make them at par with rest of the world. She was speaking at a seminar titled, "The Challenges and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity in Pakistan", organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute here, said a press release.

The state minister said the world is rapidly adopting AI, but Pakistan lags far behind the comity of nations. Leveraging AI technologies can help in establishing an effective governance system and transparency, and safe city traffic monitoring systems are the big examples in this regard, she remarked.

Executive Director, SDPI Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said, "We are living in the age of unparalleled information and have become knowledge managers with limitless data, which is easily accessible". However, with this opportunity, he added, "We must take on the responsibility for the ethical use of information".

Vice-Chancellor, AIOU Prof. Dr Nasir Mahood underlined the need for corresponding our response speed to the speed of AI transformation, increase investment in AI and ICT sector to promote indigenization to match the pace of rest of the world. He further said that improving the AI ecosystem in Pakistan will also help retain the indigenous talent and boost economic development.

Senior Advisor Emeritus, SDPI Brig (Retd) Muhammad Yasin said that AI is modernizing industries, agriculture, manufacturing, etc. to boost productivity. "While AI can transform the cybersecurity landscape, its rapid adoption often leaves critical protection gaps causing breaches into critical government and private data. Therefore, it is crucial to modernize cybersecurity infrastructure to meet these emerging challenges." Referring to research reports in 2023, he said, 25% of Pakistani internet users faced online threats, which demands that an AI-based cybersecurity infrastructure should be set up for users and data protection sooner than later. Director-General, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Dr Mukarram Khan said that PTA is using big data and trend analysis to track cybercriminals, improve telecommunication services and has introduced Cybersecurity Strategy 2023-28 to meet emerging cybersecurity challenges. Vice-President, Jazz Mudassar Hussain said that cybersecurity regulations must take a whole-of-tech approach. APP



ISLAMABAD: PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding IT and Telecom Sector. APP

## PM for a complete roadmap to enhance IT exports

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for submission of a comprehensive roadmap to boost IT exports. He said the government would take steps to fully avail of the billion dollars potential of the country for IT exports, besides, the young people would be provided with required facilities of education, skills development and startups.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on IT and Telecom sector. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Ahsan Khan Cheema, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, Shahzad Saleem and the relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that during their previous tenure, positive outcome was witnessed from the initiation of different projects in the IT sector. He stressed upon resolution of all issues of start ups, freelancers and IT companies relating to banking. Expressing his satisfaction over the IT export volume of more than \$3 billion in the current year, he emphasized upon its further increase. For brining Pakistan's IT sector at par with the international standards, they would have to work hard, he observed.

The prime minister also asked for submission of a comprehensive report regarding special technology zones.

## Naval Chief calls on Prime Minister



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here. The Naval Chief congratulated the

Prime Minister on assumption of the office, according to a PM Office press release. In the meeting, they discussed the professional matters related to the Pakistan Navy.

The meeting was apprised of progress on IT package announced by the prime minister during June 2023.

During the previous tenure, due to special attention of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the IT exports witnessed 13 percent increase during the first seven months of the current fiscal year when compared with previous corresponding year.

Under the Digiskills programme, a total of 4 million students of 17 batches, comprising 28 percent females, had been imparted training. Pakistan had emerged as the second top coun-

try in the world on the basis of numbers of freelancers. Pakistan was exporting IT products to 170 countries of the world, it was further added. The meeting was informed that during the previous year, an investment of \$400 million was made in Pakistani startups. The prime minister directed for taking of all necessary, legal and policy related steps to attract investment and boost IT exports. He also asked for expediting work on projects meant to enhance professional and technical training of youth for complete utilization of potential in IT sector.

## Muhammad Aurangzeb's appointment as finance minister, a positive step: Bloomberg

ISLAMABAD: The appointment of Muhammad Aurangzeb as Pakistan's finance minister is a positive step to steer the country's economy in right direction, Bloomberg said in a report.



"Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif picked a former banker from JPMorgan Chase & Co. as finance minister, marking a shift to using technocrats to steer the cash-strapped economy and negotiate for new loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)", the US-based Bloomberg reported. It added PM Shehbaz Sharif had the experience of closing a deal with the multilateral lender as prime minister. He personally negotiated with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva. Bloomberg Economics analyst Ankur Shukla said in a report that Shehbaz Sharif had the track record of carrying out reforms and his return as prime minister for a second term increased the chances of securing a new IMF package. His party's election manifesto — which includes cutting the fiscal deficit and fixing the current account balance — are aligned with the IMF targets or, in some cases, even more ambitious, Shukla wrote in the report. It added Pakistan had rewarded investors who still ploughed in funds as the nation's dollar bonds handed them a gain of almost 25% this year, the biggest in Asia.

## Ishaq Dar assumes charge as 39th foreign minister

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday formally assumed the office as the 39th Foreign Minister of Pakistan. On his arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi and senior officers of the ministry received the newly sworn-in foreign minister.



According to a Foreign Office statement, the foreign secretary and additional secretaries of the ministry briefed Foreign Minister Dar on Pakistan's foreign policy and the priority areas. APP

## We should use word of 'independence' with pride instead partition: CJP

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday during hearing of a case stopped the lawyer to use the word of 'partition' instead of independence of Pakistan. The CJP remarked that words of partition can be used by the people of India because they have never been rulers. We should use the words of freedom with pride, he said. A three-member bench of the top court

presided by Chief Justice Isa heard the case pertaining to a property dispute. The CJP said that we can't run the case on basis of assumptions. If there is any proof of property ownership then show it, he asked the petitioner. The court subsequently turned down the appeal of petitioner. It may be mentioned here that the petitioner even couldn't present an ownership proof before lower and high courts. APP

## Attallah Tarar assumes charge as Minister for Information and Broadcasting



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Attallah Tarar on Tuesday assumed charge as Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

Federal Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid along with other senior officers of the ministry welcomed the minister on his arrival at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Attallah Tarar is a senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) who was elected Member of National Assembly from Constituency NA-127 from Lahore in the February 8 elections. After taking oath as Federal Minister in the President's House, today he assumed his duties in the Ministry of Information and Broadcast-

ing. On his arrival at the Ministry of Information, Attallah Tarar said the doors of the Ministry of Information would remain open for the journalist community.

He stressed the need for the promotion of positive and constructive journalism in the country and strengthening the relationship between the government and the media.

Attallah Tarar said he will work together with the media to communicate the government's initiatives and policies to the people.

He remarked that the media played the role of a bridge between the people and the government and this role needed to be played in a better manner. APP

## Government committed to facilitating local, foreign investment in gas, minerals sector: Dr. Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Energy Dr Musadik Malik assumed charge of the Ministry of Energy on Tuesday and said the government is committed to facilitating local and foreign investment in the gas and minerals sector. Upon his arrival, he was welcomed by the Secretary of Petroleum, Momin Agha, and other officials of the Ministry. The minister said that the current government's top priority is ensuring the convenience of the people. He reiterated the government's pledge to ensure electricity and gas supply during sehri and iftar times. Additionally, he highlighted efforts initiated to find sustainable solutions to circular debts. Despite facing challenging circumstances, he said that the government's policies remain solely focused on the welfare of the people. APP



## Federal Ministers pay surprise visit at G-6 utility store

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar along with Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain paid a surprise visit to the utility store at Appara Market, G-6 Islamabad. Both the ministers visited the utility store on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and reviewed quality of the edibles being sold at subsidized rates under the Ramazan Relief Package 2024. The federal ministers also interacted with the public at the utility store to get their feedback in that regard.

According to Rana Tanveer, special discounts were being given to consumers at utility store under the Ramazan Relief Package 2024. He said the government was making all-out efforts to ensure uninterrupted supply of food items during the holy month of Ramazan. Prices of food items at utility stores were lesser than the market, he said, while expressing the government's resolve to

maintain these rates. Attallah Tarar said the government was taking various measures to provide relief to the poor people during Ramazan.

He said the government had announced the Ramazan package under which the poor people were being provided subsidy on various food items. Special discount was given by the government on flour, ghee, sugar and other items, he added.

The federal ministers also reviewed the provision of items under the special subsidy provided by the government to the beneficiaries under the Benazir Income Support Program at the utility stores.

On the occasion, the public urged the federal ministers to increase the number of counters at the utility stores. The federal ministers directed to increase the number of counters at the utility stores and speed up the process of providing food items to the people. APP

## President Zardari pays visit to Mazar-e-Quaid

VOM Report

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, paid a visit to mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay respect to the Father of the Nation after assuming office of the president of Pakistan. It was Asif Ali Zardari's first visit to Karachi after assuming charge of the office of the president of Pakistan for the second time. President Zardari laid a floral wreath at the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and offered Fatiha. He also penned down comments in the book of visitors.

Asif Ali Zardari, at the occasion, was received by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Provincial president PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuro and other senior officers of Sindh government.

Earlier, on his arrival at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a smartly turned out contingent of cadets from the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul presented guard of honour to the President Asif Ali Zardari.





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## How to be a better thinker

DR NAAZIR MAHMOOD

In response to my previous article 'What have we become?' (March 4), I received many appreciation emails from my readers. Some asked for more details about how to evaluate beliefs and ideologies that appear to be dominating our lives. For example, Ahmed Ali Khan, in his emails, said that the article painted a realistic and true state of our society and put it in 'black and white'. Rehan Khattak wrote that the article was enlightening with an 'accurate' analysis of the prevailing situation in Pakistan. When it comes to evaluating beliefs and ideologies, I believe people can develop their own criteria to form an opinion. I, for one, have tried to learn a thing or two about how to see through the ruses paddled so relentlessly in societies such as Pakistan. Critical thinking is a skill that comes in handy while dealing with prevailing beliefs and ideologies. Interestingly, the very same people who propagate certain false beliefs and dubious ideologies often talk about using critical thinking and also manage to step up their rhetoric to restrict intellectual activity in society. For them, critical thinking is useful as long as it questions other ideologies. Their delusion of grandeur is beyond their scope of 'critical thinking'. Their task is to deter the audiences from raising doubts about their convictions, as that type of critical thinking is 'fifth generation warfare', whatever that may be. So how do we evaluate beliefs and ideologies using critical thinking? First, we need to understand that critical thinking is all about using our minds effectively. Of course, everybody uses their minds but not everyone does so effectively. It is a cognitive activity that calls for mental actions leading to new knowledge and questioning the existing set of knowledge. Cognition is a process that makes use of our experiences, senses, and thoughts to understand concepts and ideas – including beliefs and ideologies. It is a process of learning by thinking, instead of the behavioural or emotional adoption of concepts and habits. Most of the beliefs and ideologies that are widely accepted normally depend on behavioural and emotional attachment instead of mental processes – or state – to learn, think and use information. Such beliefs drive our decisions – and colour our imagination – leading to judgments that may be inaccurate. A majority of such beliefs and ideologies build a certain structure of memories and perceptions that do not derive their strength from our cognitive and intellectual abilities. If we skillfully and logically apply our intelligence we enable ourselves to discriminate false from true. One key is to ask precise questions about beliefs and ideologies. Most beliefs, ideologies, and narratives do not define concepts clearly. Let's take the dictum about discipline, faith, and unity. On the face of it, everything fits perfectly well, but analysis may present a different picture too. Discipline is good in civic and military matters such as not violating traffic laws, making a queue at a counter, reporting on time for an appointment, obeying orders of your superiors, or taking meals on time. But not always; many creative individuals do not follow any discipline in their personal lives. Rather they find it suffocating if they are forced to wake up or sleep at certain times. Obeying all orders in the name of discipline can be destructive for society. In the past, most violations of the constitution in Pakistan resulted from strict adherence to discipline under a certain chain of command. The recent verdict of the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the infamous Bhutto case clearly shows how the highly disciplined state machinery under General Ziaul Haq deprived the accused of his fair trial and due process. The Israeli forces are also extremely disciplined and so were the Nazi and fascist parties. After discipline, we may also discuss faith by asking important questions. Is it the faith of only Pakistani Muslims or does it also include Pakistani Baha'is, Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs? If it is the Muslim faith, does it mean all denominations or just one of them? Faith is mostly what we follow from our family traditions, and for most people, it is inherited. So, what about somebody who is born in a different faith? Unity is also as attractive as perhaps discipline and faith, but an excessive emphasis on unity may also lead to uniformity that attempts to eradicate diversity. Unity – in many cases – is a force against an enemy that may or may not exist. It may also crush individuality as one has to conform to the norms of unity. The US soldier who self-immolated to protest against the American collusion in war crimes in the Middle East violated the norms of unity, but he had to do it. Russia uses the unity of the Russian people to crush Ukraine. What we have just done is an example of how to evaluate commonly held beliefs and ideologies by analysing different sides of an argument. Our conclusions may not be just or universally applicable, but that is the whole point of critical thinking. An inflection point comes when we start thinking about our own thinking, which some scholars refer to as meta-thinking. Meta has a Greek root meaning 'after' or 'behind'. When we reflect on our thinking processes we indulge in meta-thinking that is so vital for evaluating our beliefs and ideologies. It works as a centrifugal force to allow us to move away from false beliefs and ideologies. For some people, it may look like a nightmarish scenario to detach oneself from long-held ideals which may or may not be true. Some people lose their focus and get distracted, but this distraction is a significant part of cognitive learning as opposed to behavioural learning. One factor that hampers cognitive learning is the value that our community places on existing ideals. The community seldom values the new things that we learn, and this has been a universal phenomenon. We receive praise for our adherence to the old, no matter how outdated that may be. Active learning from critical thinking through cognition is much harder than passive learning from observation. That is one reason behavioural learning prevails as it simply requires behaviour repetition. Humanity progresses when active learning outsmarts passive learning. It applies more to social sciences than to physical sciences. Look at Israel; they may have advanced in physical sciences through active learning, but they have failed humanity as they have been observational learners of behaviour from their tragic past from the Nazi times.

The writer holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK. He tweets/posts @NaazirMahmood and can be reached at: mnazir1964@yahoo.co.uk



Raashid Wali Janjua

# The challenge of governance

Governance and politics in Pakistan are bound in a dialectic of principal contradiction wherein the demands of politics and governance come into direct conflict due to the nature of politics. Intent for governance is not enough as the capacity to govern and political will are needed to pull Pakistan's economy and politics out of the state of long-standing distrust. The notion of 'principal contradiction', put forward by Chinese politician Mao Zedong, can well explain the dilemma of politics and governance in Pakistan. As per the concept of principal contradiction, the dialectical relationship between the two opposing aspects inherent in any concept leads to a meaningful change. There are interesting parallels between Mao's notion of contradiction and Pakistan's governance woes. Some of these contradictions, according to Pakistan's eminent historian Ayesha Jalal, include theological-secular, unitary-federal, civil-military, and overdeveloped state-weak polity. Unfortunately for Pakistan, these contradictions, instead of yielding the desired change, have always led to long periods of stasis. With governance challenges galore and a plethora of people's demands, it would be interesting to see if the new coalition government can resolve the principal contradictions inherent in the demands of politics and imperatives of governance. One of the contradictions visible is the extractive nature of political demands by the electorate and its damaging impact. In simple words, we have a Westminster polity, wherein prime ministers and chief

ministers are routinely subjected to illegal and unreasonable demands that conflict with the requirements of good governance. Take the example of Balochistan where in the past the practice has been to get into the legislature to extract rents for oneself and one's allies, leading to the bizarre sight of all members of the Balochistan Assembly joining the provincial cabinet. While politics in the province demands extraction and patronage, good governance demands merit and equity. The failure of the political leadership to resolve the contradiction between their selfish interests and the demands of the deserving segment of the population leads towards the misappropriation of funds through collusion with favourite contractors. The resultant lack of development makes Balochistan the least developed province of the country. Anger arising out of public deprivation is cleverly deflected towards the state, exacerbating the narrative of federal apathy with hate. At the federal level, the issue of dwindling federal share from the divisible pool as per the NFC may pose serious problems; federal liabilities include debt servicing, defence expenditure, and government administration including pays and pensions. How that contradiction is resolved in the face of increasing provincial demands, like the enhanced NFC share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the national pie after the merger of the former Fata region, would be the test of the government's political capability in managing these contradictions. The biggest bulwark to good governance would be the failure to bring the loyal segment of the electorate

politics nexus, there is a requirement for bipartisan political consensus that eludes the new government. The governance needs of the restive erstwhile Fata come in conflict with the worldview of major political actors in KP – the JUI, PTI, and PTM. While the political reforms and merger of newly merged districts (NMDs) are anathema to the JUI, some parties vehemently oppose the strong players in the region. These contradictions are being exploited by terrorist groups like the TTP. In the absence of political ownership to fight against terrorism and end the ecosystem of crime and illegal activities, the stabilization of the restive NMDs would remain a pipe dream. The government also needs to resolve the contradiction inherent in anti-smuggling measures and the slowing down of the once-bustling trade market for the locals. Without an alternative livelihood model, the conflict between rule of law and livelihood provision would remain unresolved. Civil-military relations also demand urgent treatment. The resolution of this conflict according to eminent US scholar Rebecca Schiff entails a concordance between the interests of people, the political elite and the military of a country. While so far this concordance is elusive, economic development and human security appear to be the only levers that bind all three stakeholders in a mutually beneficial relationship.

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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



#### PAKISTAN MOVEMENT

The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War every section of the Muslim community.

#### MEN, WOMEN, STUDENT, ULEMA AND BUSINESSMEN

Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its

demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim League election campaign was based on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8

9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms,

#### CABINET PLAN

In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but

failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authors of the Plan.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Michelle Yeoh explains why she seems 'confused' handing Oscar to Emma Stone

Michelle Yeoh wanted Emma Stone to receive Oscar from her best friend



Michelle Yeoh is explaining why, at the 96th Academy Awards, she gave Jennifer Lawrence Emma Stone's Oscar statuette and was seen a bit 'confused.' Before the Poor Things actress was announced the winner, each of the nominees for this year—Stone, Annette Bening, Lily Gladstone, Sandra Hüller, and Carey Mulligan—gave a brief speech. The two-time Oscar winner informed the women that her custom Louis Vuitton gown had torn as she entered the platform before approaching Yeoh, who was clutching the statuette. Yeoh approached Lawrence while still clutching the Oscar, and handed

to Lawrence to present it to Stone. Afterwards, Stone murmured, "Thank you," to Lawrence and both shared a warm hug. Following the exchange, viewers expressed their perplexity on social media, prompting Yeoh to address the matter in an Instagram post on Monday. "Congratulations Emma!! I confused you, but I wanted to share that glorious moment of handing over Oscar to you together with your best friend Jennifer!! She reminded me of my Bae Jamie Lee Curtis always there for each other!!," wrote Yeoh. Yeoh captioned her sentiments with the photo of Lawrence giving Stone the Oscar and beaming broadly.

## Tech

# Comet bigger than Mount Everest will rule skies of Earth after 71 years

This month, there is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for stargazers to watch a comet the size of Mount Everest speeding across the sky. Officially identified as Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks, it has drawn comparisons to the Star Wars Millennium Falcon due to two "horns" that may be seen in pictures. With specialised telescopes, amateur astronomers have already begun taking pictures of the comet, but it should soon be visible to the unaided eye. Look westward in the night sky to locate the Great Square of Pegasus, which consists of four stars of almost similar brightness, in order to spot Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks. The comet is making a meandering V-shaped movement from Great Square of Pegasus towards Aries the Ram during the next three weeks. The comet is a once-in-a-lifetime sight, visible from Earth only once every 71 years when it completes its journey around the sun. On April 21, Pons-Brooks is expected to approach the sun by as much as



72.5 million miles (116.8 million km). After that, on June 2, it will make a near pass of 144 million miles (232 million km) to Earth. However, Jessica Lee, an astronomer at the Royal Observatory Greenwich, says that late March will be the ideal time to observe it if you're in the northern hemisphere. While comet appearance and brightness are unpredictable, the public should be alert for what seems to be "an irregularly shaped dirty snowball." "It's predicted that this comet will reach maximum brightness for viewers in the northern hemisphere in late March," Lee told MailOnline.

## Health

# Daily weed smokers more likely to suffer heart attack, stroke in United States

## Weed or cannabis is found to be as dangerous as regular cigarettes for health of US smokers

Daily users of weed are much more likely than non-smokers to get a heart attack or stroke, as per a research funded by the National Institutes of Health and published in the Journal of the American Heart Association. "We know that toxins are released when cannabis is burned, similar to those found in tobacco smoke," New York Post quoted Abra Jeffers as saying, who is a data analyst at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and former researcher at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University

of California, San Francisco, where the study was based. "We've known for a long time that smoking tobacco is linked to heart disease, and this study is evidence that smoking cannabis appears to also be a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States," Jeffers' statement continued. "Cannabis use could be an important, underappreciated source of heart disease," he added. Data on 434,104 American people between the

ages of 18 and 74 from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention were analysed by researchers during the period from 2016 to 2020. A little over 4% of people used cannabis daily, 7% did so roughly five days a month, and 88.9% had not used the substance in the previous 30 days. Approximately 74% of current users reported smoking the drug most of the time. "Cannabis use is increasing in both prevalence and frequency, while conventional tobacco smoking is declining," said Dr Salomeh Keyhani, a professor of medicine at UCSF and senior author of the study, in a separate statement. "Cannabis use by itself might, over time, become the more important risk factor," he added.









## CM KP directs amendments in relevant law to ensure protection of women's rights in inheritance

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has directed the authorities concerned for necessary amendments in the relevant law in order to ensure protection of women's rights in inheritance.

Chairing a meeting of the Board of Revenue, he also directed for pragmatic steps for completing phase-I of the ongoing land record computerization project by June 2024 and phase-II by December 2024. He said that deployment of required necessary staff at districts level should also be ensured well before the process of land record computerization is completed. Provincial Minister for Revenue Nazir Abbasi, Senior Member Board Revenue Ikramullah Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

Authorities concerned briefed the participants about administrative affairs, reform initiatives, revenue collection, development projects and other related matters of the department.

Addressing the participants, the chief minister said that it was imperative to introduce reforms in the board of revenue for improving public service delivery, and directed the authorities concerned to initiate home work on necessary amendments in the legal framework of the department.

## Nine candidates file nomination papers for Senate election in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Nine candidates including, Alia Hamza from PTI and Kamran Michael from PML-N, have received nomination papers for participating in Senate election from Punjab.

Senate elections are set for 12 seats in Punjab on April 2. Alia Hamza's nomination papers for the Senate candidacy in Punjab were submitted to the Election Commissioner's Office by her husband, Jameel Malik.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Alia Hamza and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Kamran Michael received nomination papers from the Provincial Election Commissioner.

In Punjab, elections are being held for 7 general seats, 2 women seats, 2 technocrats' seats, and one minority seat. The schedule for the Senate elections will be announced on March 14.

Candidates interested in contesting the elections have been asked to obtain nomination papers from the Election Commission headquarters and provincial election commissioners of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Nomination papers can be deposited with the relevant returning officers on March 15 and 16. INP



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting along with Federal Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain visited the utility store at Abpara Market on the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to review the quality of the edibles being sold at subsidized rates under the Ramazan Relief Package 2024. (Story on page 1)

## Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announces to forego salary



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior & Narcotics control Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday announced to forego his salary during his tenure as minister.

He made an announcement on social media application X and stated that in this challenging time, he was committed to support and serving the nation in every possible ways. Earlier, the minister had a meeting with lawyers' community in Lahore in a simple gathering organized in his honor in a local

hotel. Former President Supreme Court Bar Ahsan Bhawan, Federal Minister of Law Senator Azam Nazir Tarar and the officials of Pakistan and Punjab Bar Council attended the meeting. Advocate General Punjab and officials of various bar associations also participated in the function. The lawyer leaders pay tributes to Mohsin Naqvi for his unparalleled performance as Chief Minister of Punjab. They said that Mohsin Speed excelled at every level and completed public projects with surprising speed in a short period of time.

The lawyer leaders congratulated Mohsin Naqvi on his appointment as a federal minister and expressed good wishes. The minister said that he would do his best to pay back to the country in the best interest and fulfill the responsibility that Allah had given to him.

He said that he did best for the lawyers what he could do for the community because lawyers' community was very close to his heart. "I believe in team work and team work brings the best results" the minister added. The lawyer leaders thanked Mohsin Naqvi for the record work for the welfare of the lawyers community.

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## Newly sworn-in Sindh Cabinet members allotted portfolios



KARACHI: The newly sworn-in 13 members of Sindh Cabinet including three advisors allotted portfolios here on Tuesday.

The cabinet members and their portfolios are as follows: Sharjeel Inam Memon, Senior Minister: Transport and Mass Transit Department, and Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control Department.

Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho: Health Department and Population Welfare Department. Syed Nasir Hussain Shah Rizvi: Energy Department and Planning & Development Department. Syed Sardar Ali Shah: School Education & Literacy Department, College Education Department, and Mines & Minerals Development Department. Saeed Ghani: Local Government & Housing Town Planning Department and Public Health Engineering and Rural Development Department. Jam Khan Shoro: Irrigation Department and Food Department (Additional).

Zia ul Hasan: Home Department and Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Criminal Prosecution Department. Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar: Agriculture, Supply & Prices Department, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, and Enquiries and Anti-Corruption Establishment. Ali Hassan Zardari: Prisons. Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah: Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department.

The advisors and their respective portfolios are as follows: Allah Dino Khan Bhayo: Forest & Wildlife Department. Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari: Inter-Provincial Coordination Department, and Cooperative Department. Syed Najmi Alam: Human Settlement, Spatial Dev. & Social Housing Development and Livestock & Fisheries Department. APP

## Medical facilities under Sehat Card restarted: Minister

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah has said that provision of medical facilities under Sehat Card had been started and Rs. 10 million had been spent on seven hundred patients so far.

Addressing a press conference here Tuesday, he said that facilities have been restarted under Sehat Card that was party leadership to help those that are unable to bear expenses of medical treatment.

Regretting suspension of facilities under Sehat Card in past, health minister said that treatment of about 1800 ailments are being provided under the scheme.

He said that operations of certain kinds would be done by government hospitals to address overbilling and added that number of hospitals that were on Sehat Card panel were reduced from 180 to 118. INP

## Pakistan Navy has succeeded in the search operation for the missing fishermen



Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have achieved significant success in the search operation for the missing fishermen of Al-Asad boat.

Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security

Agency recovered the bodies of the remaining 4 missing fishermen from the murky open sea. Rescue operation started by Pakistan Navy and PMSA aircraft, helicopters, ships and fast boats. Pak Navy and PMSA units recovered the bodies of ten missing fishermen yesterday. The bodies of all the missing fishermen have been recovered from the murky sea and

handed over to the concerned civil authorities. The joint search operation of the Pakistan Navy and PMSA for the missing fishermen is a testament to their commitment to ensure the safety of fishermen in the high seas. PR

## Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announces to forego salary

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior & Narcotics control Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday announced to forego his salary during his tenure as minister.

He made an announcement on social media application X and stated that in this challenging time, he was committed to support and serving the nation in every possible ways. Earlier, the minister had a meeting with lawyers' community in Lahore in a simple gathering organized in his honor in a local hotel. Former President Supreme Court Bar Ahsan Bhawan, Federal Minister of Law Senator Azam Nazir Tarar and the officials of Pakistan and Punjab Bar Council attended the meeting. Advocate General Punjab and officials of various bar associations also participated in the function. The lawyer leaders pay tributes to Mohsin Naqvi for his unparalleled performance as Chief Minister of Punjab. They said that Mohsin Speed excelled at every level and completed public projects with surprising speed in a short period of time. The lawyer leaders congratulated Mohsin Naqvi on his appointment as a federal minister and expressed good wishes. APP

## Pakistan, Tanzania agree to strengthen bilateral ties in diverse areas



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Tanzania on Tuesday agreed to strengthen bilateral relations, in the areas of trade, defence, capacity building and educational cooperation. The consensus was reached during the inaugural session of Pakistan-Tanzania Bilateral Political Consultations held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa), Ambassador Shaharyar Akbar Khan, led the Pakistan side, while the Tanzanian side was headed by Ambassador Salvator Marcus Mbiliyini, Director, Asia & Australasia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & East African cooperation, a press release issued by High Commission of Pakistan Dar es Salaam said.

The two sides held detailed discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, trade and investment, capacity building, educational cooperation, defence and cul-

ture. Regional situation and collaboration at the multilateral forums was also discussed.

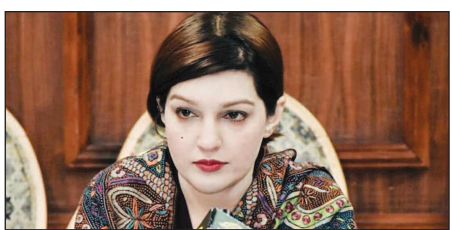
They highlighted the holding of the first session of Bilateral Political Consultations as a stepping stone towards further strengthening Pakistan-Tanzania relations and agreed to continue cooperation in all matters of mutual interest.

They agreed on the importance of high level exchanges for further strengthening of the bilateral relationship.

Tanzanian side informed that they were planning to arrange an official visit of their Foreign Minister to Pakistan in the near future.

While in Dares-Salaam, the Additional Foreign Secretary held separate meetings with the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Dr. Samuel W. Shelukindo and Director General, Tanzania Trade Development Authority, Ms. Latifa M. Khamis. INP

## Mushaal inaugurates Iftar table at PIMS hospital



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Hurriyat leader Mushaal Husseini on Tuesday inaugurated the Maari Petroleum and CDRS Iftar table at PIMS hospital here and served the first iftar to the families of the patients. On the arrival of Ramazan, various iftar tables (Dastarkhan) have been established in the capital city. Mushaal Mullick, wife of detained Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, broke the fast with families of the patients, said a press release. Talking to media, she appreciated the administration of Maari Dastarkhan for advancing this good act in such an organized manner. Mashaal felicitating the Muslims of the whole world, especially the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine on Ramazan, said, "The world of Islam remember your oppressed brothers and sisters in these blessed days." She said the message of Ramazan is to include the deprived class in joy and serve them with dignity.

## Jam Kamal takes over charge as Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD: Jam Kamal Khan took charge as Federal Minister for Commerce on Tuesday started a new chapter of his political career. Federal Secretary for Commerce, Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha received the minister upon his arrival at the Ministry. Jam Kamal is an experience politician who outlined scope and objectives of his Ministry during the inaugural briefing.

Minister Khan emphasized focus on growth, investment and the need to fully facilitate both local and foreign investors, believing that Pakistan can achieve significant strides through an inclusive approach.

He expressed his commitment, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to overcoming the country's economic challenges. Emphasizing his dedication to enhancing trade volume, the Minister identified key sectors like mining, livestock, and textiles as areas for modernization. He highlighted the importance of aligning with global standards and adopting modern practices.

**Emphasized focus on growth, investment and the need to fully facilitate both local and foreign investors, believing that Pakistan can achieve significant strides through an inclusive approach**

The Minister further emphasized the need to move beyond conventional trade approaches and embrace proactive measures to improve Pakistan's position in the global market. The Minister noted a communication received from Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the former Minister for Commerce. Both agreed on the importance of establishing a closer relationship

between the business community and the Ministry of Commerce. Jam Kamal Khan hails from NA-257 Lasbela and served as Chief Minister, Balochistan. His political journey began with two terms as District Nazim of Lasbela, followed by his election to the National Assembly in 2013.

He notably served as Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Resources under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Khan's leadership qualities were evident when he was elected as the first president of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) in 2018.

Following his success at the provincial level as Chief Minister from 2018 to 2021, he now brings his extensive background in governance and commitment to public service to the role of Federal Minister for Commerce. Mr. Kamal's proactive approach signals a dynamic new era for Pakistan's commerce landscape. With his leadership, the Ministry of Commerce is poised to steer Pakistan's commerce sector towards a future of growth and prosperity. APP

## CM Maryam, US Consul General discuss economic cooperation, students' scholarships



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with US Consul General Kristin K. Hawkins, here on Tuesday. The American Consul General congratulated Maryam Nawaz Sharif on her election as the first female Chief Minister.

Discussions in the meeting focused on promoting economic cooperation and increasing scholarship opportunities for Pakistani students in American higher education institutions. The need for joint efforts between the United States and Punjab to address climate

change was also discussed. Maryam Nawaz Sharif commended the US Consul General's efforts to enhance relations between Punjab and the US. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb was also present at the meeting. INP