



Major reforms had been introduced to Drap in a short period of time. I am happy that the lab has been developed on modern lines'

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services  
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## Pakistan, Somalia discuss increased coordination at OIC



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Somalia have discussed ways and means for increased coordination at the platform of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) besides other issues of mutual interest including regional and international developments. The discussion came during a meeting between Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to OIC Syed M Fawad Sher and Somalia's Permanent Representative to OIC Abdul Rahim Osman, the envoy posted on X. During the meeting, the two sides vowed to continue cooperation in diverse fields.

## PML-N, PPP, MQM-P, PML-Q, BNP decide to pull together for coalition government

ISLAMABAD: As the results of the election 2024 has been declared, the political parties are making efforts to form a coalition government.

In this regard, an important meeting has been held at the residence of Pakistan Muslim League-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in which matter pertaining to the formation of the government was discussed. The political parties including PML-N, PPP, MQM-P, PML-Q, BNP and IPP announced to form the government together.

Political leaders including Shahbaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Sattar, Sadiq Sanjrani, Aleem Khan, Tariq Bashir Cheema, Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori and other leaders participated in the meeting.

While talking to the media at the end of the meeting, former president Asif Ali Zardari said that today they have decided to sit together and form the government. He said the participating parties fought elections against each other and given the situation they could sit together while even mentioning they wanted PTI to be a part of this reconciliation.

On this occasion, MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that they all will strengthen the democracy with mutual cooperation. Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said that everyone should sit together to find the issue of crises as he said the country's agenda should be foremost. Talking to the media, former PM Shehbaz Sharif said that they fought the elections against each other and talked a lot against each other however depending on the situation, they have to strengthen the economy first in a cooperative manner. Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ejaz chairing a briefing at NADRA headquarters.

## ECC approves Rs.7.4 bln 'Ramzan Relief Package'; tariff rationalization

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Tuesday approved Rs.7,492.75 million proposed Ramazan Relief Package-2024 to provide relief to the general public during the upcoming holy month of Ramazan.

The package is aimed at providing subsidy to the targeted beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) with net amount of Rs. 7,492.75 million, which is provided for in the budget for 2023-24, according to a press statement issued by the finance ministry.

The ECC meeting was presided over by Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar.

The ECC meeting was attended by the Minister for Privatization and Inter-Provincial Coordination, Fawad Hasan Fawad; Minister for Interior, Commerce & Industries, Gohar Ejaz; Minister for Energy and Petroleum Division, Mohammad Ali; Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Sami Saeed; Minister of Maritime Affairs, Communication and Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar; Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzaeb Khan; Advisor to PM on Finance, Dr. Waqar Masood, federal secretaries, and other senior government officers of the relevant ministries.

The committee approved a summary of the Ministry of Commerce (Tariff Policy Wing), regarding "Individual Tariff Rationalization Proposals from Different Sectors for



Review of Custom Duties" and advised that tariff rationalization should be coordinated with the trade policy

Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) also approved a proposal regarding "Permission to Import Wheat and Export of Wheat Flour under Export Facilitation Scheme 2021" presented to the forum by the Ministry of Commerce and directed the relevant Ministries to prepare comprehensive proposals for enhancing the opportunities for valued added exports.

The ECC also approved a summary of the Power Division regarding the "Commissioning of 1263 MW CCPP Punjab Thermal Power (Pvt) Limited, Jhang (PPTL)". Another proposal of the Ministry of Commerce regarding "Sharing of Subsidy on Imported Urea at 50:50 Basis Technical Supplementary Grant for Ministry of Commerce" was considered by the Committee.

ECC approved the proposed release of Rs. 6 billion to the Ministry of Commerce.

The funds are meant for clearing the arrears of subsidy for the previous financial year. It was clarified that no subsidy on this account has been allowed by the government during the current year.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) also directed that the provincial governments be approached to clear their respective arrears of subsidy on urea.

The Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (PD&SI) briefed the ECC on the inflation situation in the country. The forum directed the Ministry of PD&SI to make sure that detailed analysis is carried out on the data collected by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, and the same is also presented to the Committee for taking appropriate measures in a timely manner.

## Caretaker Interior minister Dr Gohar visits NADRA headquarters

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior Dr. Gohar Ijaz on Tuesday visited the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) headquarters along with the Secretary Interior and Director General FIA. NADRA Chairman Lieutenant General Muneer Afsar welcomed the Minister in headquarters, said in a press release.

A detailed briefing on the institution was given to the minister by NADRA officials. NADRA is an organization of international standards and our main national asset, said the Minister adding that being the custodian of the national identity, this institution has an important role in national security and safety. Obtaining an identity document is the fundamental right of citizens and in this regard, they should be provided with all possible facilities, the minister said. He said that NADRA is performing its duties efficiently by utilizing modern technology and chairman NADRA has further raised the standards of the institution with his professionalism. APP

## Complaints related to the polls are being heard at the relevant forum: Solangi

Creates history by reading English news bulletin on Radio Pakistan on the World Radio Day

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said that justified complaints regarding the polls would be redressed in accordance with the law.

Speaking in talk show of a private TV channel, Murtaza Solangi said the complaints related to the polls are being heard at the relevant forum.

To a query, he said the caretaker government, particularly the Interior Ministry, had fulfilled its responsibility by holding the biggest democratic exercise in the country in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner. He said around 18,000 candidates took part in the elections, while 90,000 polling stations were set up that enabled more than 60 million persons to cast their votes.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi created history by reading English news bulletin on Radio Pakistan on World Radio Day.

The Minister read 1.00 PM bulletin, while visiting Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation's headquarters in Islamabad to mark the World Radio Day on Tuesday. By reading the bulletin, he gave an important message that the government considers radio as an important medium of communication.

It also indicates government's commitment to promote radio broadcasting and strengthen Radio Pakistan as a national broadcaster and help promote digital radio broadcasting in the country.

Radio Pakistan is the oldest and largest broadcasting organization in the country with a wide audience in different languages. Besides, Murtaza Solangi also participated in Radio Pakistan's podcast program and expressed his views on various issues. SABAH

## Drug app launched to ensure availability of medicines: Dr Nadeem Jan

VOM Report

KARACHI: The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Dr. Nadeem Jan on Tuesday said that a drug app had been launched to ensure availability of the medicines.

He said that his ministry took measures to ensure registration of sugar, blood pressure and life-saving medicines on emergency basis.

Expressing his views during his visit to Karachi Drug Testing Laboratory here, the Minister said that he had laid a foundation stone of large-scale reforms in the Ministry of Health Services in a short period of time.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that it was his priority to keep the cost of medicines within the reach of the commonman.

He said that the Caretaker government would not allow the sale of substandard medicines and hoarding of the medicines.

The Minister said that concerted steps had been taken to make the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) public friendly.

The facility of testing medical equipment was now available in the laboratory, he said adding that the registration and licensing system in DRAP had been digitized.

He said that coordinated measures to promote merit and transparency had been ensured.

Dr. Jan said that effective measures had been taken to ensure supply of quality medicines. He said that major reforms had been introduced to Drap in a short period of time. 'I am happy that the lab has been developed on modern lines', he said adding that the purpose of the visit to the lab was to take stock of the function of the lab. He said practical measures were ensured to eliminate fake and unregistered medicines. He further said that complete practical measures being taken to increase exports.

Earlier, CEO Drap briefed the Minister about the functions of the drug testing laboratory.

## FO expresses grief over loss of lives in Philippines



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the devastation, caused by a landslide, in the Southern Philippines which took multiple lives.

"Our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Philippines and families of the deceased," the Ministry of Foreign Office posted on its official X account.

It further said that it was another grim reminder of the ravages caused by climate change and the need for collective action to overcome it.

The foreign media, quoting officials in the Philippines, said that the death toll from the landslide has risen to 68 so far.

The landslide had hit the mountainous Masara village on Mindanao island. APP

## Umar Saif distributes Rs 825m to IT companies

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT) Dr. Umar Saif distributed Rs825 million as cash prizes to companies playing a significant role in IT and IT services exports during the "IT and ITeS Export Award" organized by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), an organization of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Dr Umar Saif said that the IT industry was playing a pivotal role in the country's economy and it deserved maximum incentives, facilities and rewards. "These companies are strengthening the country's economy by earning huge foreign exchange in return for the services of digital talent of Pakistan worldwide. If the performance of the IT sector continues like this, it is hoped that the target of 10 billion dollars for IT exports will be achieved soon," he added.

The federal minister said that the IT Ministry had decided to encourage companies with a positive growth in IT exports, for which the government had allocated Rs1 billion in the annual budget. He said that due to timely decisions of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on the recommendations of the Ministry of IT, the overall IT exports in the country have increased by a record 32 percent in the last 60 days. In the first and second quarters of the current financial year, the performance of many companies in IT exports also showed a positive trend. In such a situation, it was decided to give cash prizes from the allocated fund of one billion rupees to encourage the companies and accelerate growth.

Dr. Umar Saif said that out of the Rs1bn fund, Rs825 million had been distributed to 550 companies with positive growth. "For this purpose, six categories have been made; the first top 100 companies awarded Rs 2.5 million, the second 100 companies Rs 2 million, the third 100 companies Rs 1.5 million, the fourth 100 companies Rs 1.25 million, the fifth 100 companies Rs 750,000 and the sixth and last category 50 companies have been awarded Rs 500,000 each. Out of these 550 companies, the top 10 companies have been awarded cash prizes as well as trophies for the outstanding performance," he elaborated.



He said that out of Rs 1 billion, the remaining Rs 175 million will be given to companies providing employment to IT skilled people. For this purpose, a particularly innovative endeavor is the Industry Co-Opt Program, developed in collaboration with HEC and P@SHA. This program seeks to provide apprenticeship opportunities to IT students. To incentivize IT & ITeS exporters to participate in and support Co-Opt program in placing the final year students of bachelor's degree in computer sciences and related computing technology fields as interns. Estimated 3,500 interns will be placed in the IT & ITeS exporters that will be a part of the Co-Opt program and Rs. 50,000 per intern will be paid to the participant exporters. This process will not only highlight the capabilities of the IT skilled youths, but the industry will also be able to get talented youths according to their need and market demand, while on the other hand, cash prizes will cause a significant increase in the country's IT exports by creating an atmosphere of competition among IT companies.

Earlier in her welcome address, Additional Secretary IT and Chief Executive PSEB Ms. Ayesha Humaira Moriani said that six categories were created in terms of IT consultancy services, IT products and solutions, call centers, gaming and animation, women entrepreneurs, and fast-growing companies. "The IT & ITeS Export Awards 2024 underscored Pakistan's commitment to fostering innovation, driving economic growth, and positioning itself as a key player in the digital economy," she added. APP

## Swearing-in of MNAs elect likely on Feb 29

ISLAMABAD: The swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the National Assembly is expected to take place in the last week of the current month, as the National Assembly's inaugural session is likely to be convened on Feb 29.

The inaugural session will be presided over by Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, who will also administer the oath to the newly elected MNAs, (Members of National Assembly).

According to regulations, newly elected members must submit details of their election expenditures within ten days of their victory; failure to do so will result in the withholding of their success notification. The success notification will be issued within 14 days of their victory. Following this, the allocation of 60 women and 10 non-Muslim seats will take place.



Following the announcement of the official results, independent MNAs will have a three-day window to join any party in parliament of their choice.

According to Article 21 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the National Assembly session must be called within 21 days of elections, though it can also be summoned earlier.

As per Section 91(2) of the Constitution, the president is required to sum-

mon the session of the National Assembly within 21 days following the official announcement of election results or the issuance of its notification.

Following the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the selection of the new Prime Minister will take place via secret ballot. The newly elected Prime Minister is expected to assume their responsibilities in the first week of March. To elect the Prime Minister, the

assembly will be divided into two sections, with members tallied accordingly based on this division.

According to Section 91(4), the prime minister "shall be elected by the votes of the majority of the total membership of the National Assembly, provided that, if no member secures such a majority in the first poll, a second poll shall be held between the members who secure the two highest numbers of votes in the first poll and the member who secures a majority of votes of the members present and voting shall be declared to have been elected as prime minister, [and] provided further that, if the number of votes secured by two or more members securing the highest number of votes is equal, further poll shall be held between them until one of them secures a majority of votes of the members present and voting. APP

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## Empowerment for all

DR MURTAZA KHUHQRO

Now that the primary process of the 2024 election has concluded, let's have another look at the election manifestos of major political parties. While some parties have made promises of charitable initiatives, others rely on information gathered from the internet. However, these parties have not outlined a clear mechanism for implementing their agendas. The election manifestos of these parties solely address the day-to-day issues faced by the people, neglecting the fundamental concept of empowering the whole population. This raises important questions: who are the people? Are they the rightful owners of the country or are they merely individuals seeking sympathy and relying on charity? What does it truly mean to empower the people, and why is it of utmost importance? The concept that a geographical entity does not inherently constitute a country is rooted in both historical and philosophical arguments. The notion of a country or nation-state is relatively modern, emerging prominently in the 17th century with the Treaty of Westphalia, which laid the foundations for national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Before this, the concept of a country as we understand it today was not as clearly defined, with empires, kingdoms, and other political entities often overlapping geographically and culturally. Philosophically, the idea of a country is closely tied to the presence and recognition of a community of people with a shared identity, governance, and the capacity for political self-determination. This is evident in the criteria often used to define a country, which typically includes a clear territory, a permanent population, governance, and the ability to engage in relations with other countries. Antarctica, for example, does not meet these criteria as it does not have a permanent population or sovereign governance and thus is not considered a country despite being a distinct geographical entity. The connection between humans and the concept of a country is further underscored by the philosophical underpinnings of human rights – the moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behaviour and are regularly protected in municipal and international law. Human rights are fundamental to the human condition, ensuring that all people have the opportunity to live with dignity and freedom. The idea that human rights begin from conception, or even before, is a recognition of the inherent value of human life and the obligations that societies have to protect and nurture this life from its earliest stages. Fundamental rights, as enshrined in a country's constitution, are a subset of human rights that are legally recognized and protected within the jurisdiction of that country. These rights are specific to the citizens of a particular country and are enforceable under the law of the land, whereas human rights have a broader, more universal application, recognized and upheld by international bodies such as the UN. Now, the pressing question arises: who will empower the people and ensure the enforcement of basic human rights and fundamental rights as outlined in the constitution? The answer lies within the government, as it bears the responsibility and serves as the primary entity tasked with this important function. However, we must delve deeper into the second question: how should the government fulfil its duty? To comprehend this inquiry fully, it is crucial to explore the intricate relationship between human beings and technology. The relationship between technology and human civilization is deeply intertwined and has been a fundamental aspect of human evolution and societal development. From the earliest use of stone tools to the creation of the world wide web, technology has been a driving force in shaping human societies, economies and cultures. Humans have been technologists from the beginning, innovating and consciously modifying their environment in ways no other species has. The history of technology is essentially the history of human development, from the Stone Age to the Information Age. This evolution of technology has not only enabled humans to adapt and thrive in various environments but has also been pivotal in the development of civilizations. The transition from nomadic lifestyles to settled agricultural societies was largely facilitated by technological advancements in farming and the domestication of animals. The development of skills has been crucial in maximizing the benefits of technological advancements. Skill development contributes to economic growth by enhancing employability and labour productivity and fostering innovation. However, the Industrial Revolution also demonstrated that access to technology and the benefits of technological advancements were not evenly distributed and were limited by social systems based on inequality. This pattern persisted until the advent of the world wide web, which democratized access to information, knowledge, research, innovation, and development (IKRID), breaking down barriers that previously confined these resources to a few developed countries. The primary responsibility of governments, elected by the populace to serve their interests, is to act as stewards of communal resources. This entails recognizing and fostering the pivotal relationship between humans, technology, and skill development – a nexus of critical importance. Historically, this interconnection has been the engine of human civilization's creation and evolution. Presently, it holds the potential to propel society into its next phase of advancement. In this endeavour, governments should embrace digitization and digitalization, ensuring their processes are transparent and fully accessible. This approach not only enhances transparency, accountability, and efficiency but also significantly mitigates corruption. By doing so, the government can judiciously allocate resources, generated by the workforce including entrepreneurs, to fortify the symbiosis between human civilization, technological progress, and skill enhancement. The advancement of generative artificial intelligence in this era encompasses digitization and digitalization as one facet. Additionally, proactive disclosure and widespread dissemination of information by all government offices form another facet. It involves offering high-tech education and skill development through cutting-edge technologies that have the capacity to reach children and individuals of working age anytime and anywhere.

The writer is an advocate of the high court and a former civil servant.



DR. MOHAMED EL SHAHAT EL GENDI

The world of civilization and urbanization is still in the age of technology and information. It lacks the correct compass built on objective foundations to establish a human civilization that restores the true concept of man. Who feels his human value in its comprehensive meaning in order to get rid of poverty, hunger, disease and wars, where lives a safe and dignified life in which he obtains basic rights and natural freedoms as a human being. In light of the natural disparity between progress and backwardness and between wealth and poverty; instead of committing the injustices, tyranny and domination that the developed world exercises over the developing and underdeveloped world at all individual, collective and international levels, which results in many disadvantages, epidemics and famines in the world order by which disrupts the world order, because of it wars and conflicts of every kind, religious, social, economic and political, erupt. This is what humans suffer from, especially in the era of modern wars that threaten all of humanity. Through which super powers directed operations of liquidation and genocide against some peoples, under false slogans chanted by the aggressors with alleged ideas to justify their aggression in the era of hegemony of the developed North world, America, Russia, and the countries of Europe, which always repeat bright terms for the sake of global leadership, such as globalization, the global citizen, democracy, peaceful coexistence, human rights, and others. With firm certainty, that situation highlights the need to seek help from the principles of religions and the role of religious scholars and elite men. In order to preserve human rights and peoples from tyranny; by addressing or alleviating problems, resolving conflicts, and dealing with them objectively, away from bias towards one party against another party; in accordance with its purpose of caring for humans; directing him and correcting his actions on the straight path based on its reform message to achieve his correct caliphate from Allah in the universe. As the protector and savior of humanity from crises and tribulations; thus scholars carry out their duty to guide people and upright their behavior. On the path to reforming himself, developing his society, and restoring his humanity; as long as the prophets worked, and after them, the leading scholars followed their path. To lead people from misguidance and from corruption to reform, from fear to security. For this reason, the thought of world and traditional religions, which targets man as a principle and purpose in his faithful recognition of Allah,

## Developing the concept of the role of religious leaders in bringing humanity together in one secure world

the enforcement of rational and comprehensive justice, and the exercise of his freedom of choice for man in his human capacity without discrimination of any kind in all fields. It is the last resort to get out of this dark tunnel. Which demonstrates tyranny and the imposition of will and double standards against weak people and the countries of the poor South. In various ways to achieve dependency, submission, depletion of wealth, and satisfaction with inferiority. There is no way for him but to accept what he wants in terms of submission to the policies and plans of the decision-makers in the super powers. Accordingly, the importance of activating and developing the achievements of the Conference of Leaders of Religions in its march through seven sessions from its inception until the present time is evident, with permanent and strategic planning for the future to achieve the desired goal. This requires taking into account some important matters in this context, which are summarized below:

**Orientation towards establishing an effective role for humans in religious thought**

On the basis that man, in the true religious understanding, is the pillar of existence that is unique to all other living beings; with the message of worship and development, with the qualities and talents that God created in him and the qualities he possesses in his entire spiritual, heart, mental and physical being in the most perfect way, as proven by the text of the Almighty's saying: We created man in the best edifice. He is the best in his physical and moral form and in the life components in the universe than other beings. Then it was necessary to revive the latent capabilities of every human being with the aim of establishing peace as a paved path to development and urbanization, creating a useful and positive personality at all personal, local, regional and global levels, and engaging in the areas of religious, cultural, social, economic and political life. This requires providing the necessary educational, environmental, psychological and social factors. This role is fulfilled in a fair and correct way, but without it there are difficulties and obstacles in the current global situation, which requires cooperation and partnership between religious leaders, decision makers and concerned parties to strive for it and work constantly to achieve it.

**Contributions of religious leaders in this stage**

Religious leaders can work to instill awareness of its importance and the necessity of cooperation and partnership for achieving it between all humanity. As a religious responsibility and a societal and international interest, based on the principles, values and behaviors that religions possess, with which they created virtuous societies. It established a common cultural contribution to humanity. This balance between thought and application. It is the key

to overcoming the problems existing in the current era, such as inequality, instability, conflicts and wars. Which constitutes an obstacle to conducting a meaningful and successful dialogue that achieves what the backward nations aspire to, ensuring the creation of the appropriate environment for human development and creating the atmosphere for creating the global citizen that conferences and resolutions of the international organization have referred to. It is what religions have called for in religious discourse and in practical conduct and their conferences by:

1. Call for humanity in one peaceful and secured world. We find the evidence for this by shifting from the partial concept to the complete concept of one humanity in one world that accepts everyone, its units are integrated and the countries in it stand in solidarity towards the goal of one humanity. This requires agreement on the basis required to achieve the goal: we are all being one; should all cooperate to ensure the basic needs for a decent living and to ensure the components of a person's secure existence for himself, his community, his country, and his world. In sequential lines that complement each other.
2. The joint endeavor to employ and activate the use of the digital revolution, which has brought about an unprecedented scientific and cognitive transformation with its enormous technological and electronic achievements; by directing it to serve religious and humanitarian issues that guarantee an understanding world that upholds the value of human humanity; with all the meaning it carries and the good it brings to everyone; in order to achieve the common goal of a safe and stable life in which the natural revival and differences between people are directed to strength, not weakness. And work to compete to achieve legitimate precedence and superiority to a factor that adds goodness and achieves development and urbanization. Not for the sabotage, demolition factor, and the dominance of a few over the large people this is what is happening in our world today. From using the digital world as a means of spying on privacy, questioning identities, and washing minds and brains; to the conquest of globalization with its powerful mechanisms and its suspicious and deceptive methods, leading to ideological hegemony and the export of its legal and cultural systems that are superior and deny other systems that have provided civilizational roles in the path of humanity throughout history. What is required is to use this unprecedented digital boom in ways that are not intended for it, and to turn it in the right direction in creating the concept of a global village that cooperates and coexists together. On the balance of justice and the public interest, and recognition of the right to difference in identity and ideology,

as well as freedom of opinion and expression; within the framework of positive cooperation for what achieves good; while preserving the peculiarities of each nation or group, its self-identity and its doctrinal origins, upon which the public order is established, with its religious, material, and moral components that preserve its entity and are the foundation of its existence. According to this truth, human societies were established from the very beginning. And they will remain different from each other for the rest of the universe. It is a living truth and a reality that was stated in the Qur'an: "And if your Lord had willed, He would have made the people one nation while they still differ." But the problem threatening the world order lies in the practices of the forces of oppression and arrogance through destructive methods and weapons, and they are known and exist in the age of scientific and information civilization.

3. Devoting the concept of collective and international leadership to achieve world peace by establishing it on the basis of peaceful, humane, just and equitable coexistence. This requires giving some countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America an active role in fair representation in expanding membership in the Security Council, the main body of the United Nations. To enable it to truly participate in the international decision-making process issued by the World Organization - and its affiliated agencies and in human rights bodies; on the basis that finding true peace in its comprehensive sense, which ensures that peace prevails in the depths of man and in the manifestations of daily life, starting from his inner feeling; and also in his external relations with the structures of his society, which is based on pluralism. It finds its foundations in Islam as a comprehensive religion that applies a unified standard. Regardless of differences in creed, color, gender and social status. It is necessary for this peace to extend to international relations by ending armed conflicts and raging wars. In a way that religious leaders play an active role in the processes of resolving international disputes through peaceful means: negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, or international judiciary, with the aim of stopping wars and settling disputes; or prevent it by preventing its outbreak; in such a way that the individual's peace with himself is achieved, which is an important psychological and social component that is indispensable in the religious and human sense of giving priority to the factor of piety - by preventing one from falling into sins and crimes - over the element of evil and immorality that is inherent in the individual's nature, along with goodness and righteous thought, according to the Qur'anic texts: And We have created man and We know.

To be Continued...

## Showbiz

### Blake Lively responds to Ryan Reynolds' trolling after Super Bowl appearance

Ryan Reynolds took to Instagram to complain about his wife Blake Lively's absence during Super Bowl Sunday

Blake Lively updated her safe return to home after her husband Ryan Reynolds inquired about her in a teasing post on social media. The Gossip Girl alum took to her Instagram Story on Tuesday to post a photo of herself beside a screening of trailer of Ryan's upcoming film, Deadpool 3. She wrote, posing in the same spot as her husband, "Honey, I'm home," adding: "My day was good. Yours?" Blake appeared weary, most likely from her latest attendance at the 2024 Super Bowl in Las Vegas, which she attended with her best friend Taylor Swift and other celebrities. Her beachy waves flew with the wind as she sported a red button-down



knee-length top paired with jeans and white sneakers. The Free Guy actor initially sent internet into stitches after trailer of his upcoming superhero film premiered during Super Bowl on Sunday, February, 11. "Has everyone seen the #Deadpool trailer?" he captioned a photo on Instagram. "Also has anyone seen my wife?" Ryan jokingly added. Blake Lively became a frequent spectator of the NFL ever since Taylor began dating Travis Kelce last September. Prior to the grand showdown over the weekend, the Age of Adeline star accompanied the pop star to a few of his games in the city.

## Tech

### Young Chinese women find 'real' men in AI boyfriends



With Valentine's Day coming up, who doesn't want a boyfriend who listens to them, pays attention, and is kind? Well, if you can't find these qualities in a man, do not worry, as artificial intelligence (AI)-powered boyfriends are now available to give you some much-needed caring company. The trend of AI boyfriends has gained significant traction in China. Tufe, a 25-year-old from Northern China, has found solace in her virtual boyfriend on the Glow app, Hindustan Times reported. She says her AI boyfriend possesses all the qualities she desires in a romantic partner—

he is kind and empathetic, and they can talk for hours. "He knows how to talk to women better than a real man," says Tufe. Despite not being real, Tufe feels like she is in a romantic relationship with him and trusts him with her problems at work. Her chat box boyfriend, created by Shanghai start-up Minimax, is part of a blossoming industry in China offering friendly, even romantic relationships. Thousands of daily downloads of the app have been reported recently, indicating the growing popularity of this concept among Chinese users. In China, where people live fast-paced lives and are isolated in their cities, many users turn to AI-powered Chatbots for solace in their loneliness. Despite the ongoing trend, the idea of an AI lover raises fundamental concerns about the future of human-robot relationships and ethical issues regarding privacy and data usage.

## Can lemon water really help with weight loss?

Lemon are rich in vitamins that may help with weight management

The most popular morning beverage on the internet right now is lemon water, however, is it truly as advantageous as some claim? "It's not entirely clear where this hack originated, but drinking lemon water is an old folk remedy thought to have evolved over time," Melissa Mitri, RD, a Connecticut-based registered dietitian and nutrition writer, told Health. Juicing and slicing a lemon into a glass of water is a fairly easy way to make lemon water. Lemon water is another excellent way to acquire a citrus flavour without adding any sugar, and it may be served hot, cold, or at

room temperature. While lemon water isn't exactly a new craze, its appeal has grown significantly in the last ten or so years. Aside from being a fantastic way to increase your daily fluid intake, lemons are also a wonderful source of antioxidants, vitamin C, and trace levels of magnesium, riboflavin, vitamin B-6, and other nutrients. Experts concur that not everyone will benefit from the mixture's weight-loss properties. "Lemon water is not necessarily better than regular water for weight management," Samantha

Turner, MPH, RDN, registered dietitian and owner of OakStone Health and Nutrition, told Health. "There is no research out there that shows lemon water is superior to plain water for weight loss," added Mitri. "Drinking more water, in general, is linked to enhanced satiety, weight loss, and a healthier metabolism." The acidic properties of lemon juice have been associated with a beneficial impact on the glycemic response, or the body's response to carbohydrate consumption in terms of blood glucose fluctuations.



## Health



## Shehbaz Sharif nominated PM candidate, Maryam Nawaz candidate for CM Punjab

Nawaz Sharif nominates Shehbaz Sharif candidate of PM & Maryam Nawaz candidate of CM Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and former prime minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has been nominated candidate for the prime minister post and PML-N Senior Vice President and Party's Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Sharif has been nominated candidate for the post of chief minister Punjab.

According to the statement issued by PML-N Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb on twitter on Tuesday, PML-N Quaid and former prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has nominated Shehbaz Sharif as candidate for the post of PM and Maryam Nawaz Sharif as candidate of CM Punjab. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Nawaz Sharif while thanking the people and political parties for their support has expressed firm belief that Pakistan will get rid of economic dangers and masses will get rid of the inflation.

Meanwhile Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif while addressing a joint press conference at the residence of PML-Q Chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain along with Pakistan People's Party Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Senate Mir Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party President Abdul Aleem Khan and others announced nomination of Maryam Nawaz Sharif as candidate for the position of chief minister Punjab.

Shehbaz Sharif has announced charter of reconciliation for all including Inran Khan. Shehbaz Sharif said that they fought the elections against each other and talked a lot against each other however depending on the situation, they have to strengthen the economy first in a cooperative manner. He said that their biggest challenge would be to strengthen the economy of the country and efforts of all would be pivotal to fight inflation and unemployment. While talking to the media at the end of the meeting, former president Asif Ali Zardari said that today they have decided to sit together and form the government. He said the participating parties fought elections against each other and given the situation they could sit together while even mentioning they wanted PTI to be a part of this reconciliation. On this occasion, MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that they all will strengthen the democracy with mutual cooperation.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said that everyone should sit together to find the issue of crises as he said the country's agenda should be foremost. SABAH



LAHORE: Chairman PCB, Mohsin Naqvi, franchise owners, HBL representatives and star cricketers unveil the HBL PSL 9 trophy at Race Course Park. APP

## Ashrafi condemns India's role in Israeli attacks against Palestinians



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday accused India of complicity in the violence against Palestinians. Addressing a press conference, he said according to reports, Israel was utilizing Indian-made drones to perpetrate attacks on the innocent people of Rafah, a claim that has stirred international concern. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) condemned the alleged collusion between India and Israel, stating that while India continued to oppress Kashmiris, it was also practically involved in the bloodshed of Palestinian civilians. He pointed fingers at Adani-Elbit, suggesting that the conglomerate was facilitating the provision of drones to the Israeli government, thus exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Palestine.

The recent Organization of Islamic Coopera-

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tion (OIC) special summit convened to address the Palestine issue resulted in a decision to exert pressure on countries supplying weapons to Israel. Ashrafi called upon Muslim nations to sever financial and economic ties with such countries if they fail to adhere to the OIC's directives.

He urged for a boycott of Indian products, similar to the ongoing boycott of Israeli goods, in response to India's alleged complicity in the attacks on Palestinians. Expressing grave concern, Ashrafi warned of dire consequences if Rafah continued to be targeted, emphasizing the potential ripple effects on neighboring Muslim nations. He cautioned that Israel and India were maneuvering to escalate tensions and push countries towards the brink of a global conflict. Ashrafi commended the peaceful conduct of the general elections held on February 8, which saw the selection of representatives for both the National and Provincial Assemblies nationwide. He attributed this success to the Pakistan Army, national security institutions, and law enforcement agencies, acknowledging their pivotal role in ensuring a conducive atmosphere and thwarting the malicious intentions of anti-state elements. Emphasizing the urgent need for a compre-

hensive reconciliation policy, Ashrafi stressed the importance of all stakeholders coming together to devise a unified mechanism to address financial, economic, foreign, and internal issues, thereby steering the nation towards progress and prosperity. He called for unity among religious and political leaders to thwart attempts aimed at dividing the nation, particularly its youth. Dispelling any doubts, Ashrafi asserted Pakistan's resilience as a nation and the strength of its armed forces, reassuring that no harm could befall its federating units. Addressing concerns regarding election results, he reiterated the independence and statutory authority of the Election Commission of Pakistan, emphasizing its constitutional duty to impartially address grievances. He emphasized that the elections constituted an internal affair of Pakistan, stressing that external entities should refrain from interference or concern regarding the process. Keeping in view the future prospects, Ashrafi announced that the PUC leadership would unveil its future course of action to the nation tomorrow. Additionally, he disclosed plans for a 10-day nationwide activism campaign from February 18 to 28, commemorating the organization's 'Foundation Day'. APP

## PTI nominates Ali Amin Gandapur for KP chief minister slot

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday nominated Ali Amin Gandapur as its candidate for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister slot. The nomination of Gandapur for the KP CM has been made by the PTI founder.

The former PTI chairman, in informal talk to media-men at Adiala Jail, said there would be no dialogue with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) on formation of government in the Centre.

Gandapur had been declared returned candidate from NA-44 (Dera Ismail Khan) by securing 93,443 votes on Feb 8. He defeated Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Agencies

## SBP revokes three exchange companies' licenses

ISLAMABAD: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday revoked the foreign exchange licenses of M/s AA Exchange Company (Pvt.) Limited, M/s Glaxy Exchange Company (Pvt.) Limited and M/s Al-Hameed International Money Exchange (Pvt.) Limited.

According to the SBP news statement, SBP suspended the authorization of exchange companies till further orders on account of serious violations of the State Bank's regulations and instructions. All the aforementioned Exchange Companies, their head offices and all outlets have been debarred from undertaking any kind of business activity during the suspension period. NNI

## NADRA, FIA concludes inquiry in fake ID cards cases

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have concluded a joint internal investigation into the illegal issuance of Pakistani National Identity Cards (CNIC) to non-nationals by its employees. A comprehensive internal review revealed the involvement of five individuals in the illegal processing of identity documents, said the press release. The details have been compiled and forwarded to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Corruption Circle for legal action. Following reports of unauthorized issuance of national identity cards to non-nationals, NADRA's administration undertook a thorough analysis of its systems and operational protocols. Through a forensic audit of NADRA's databases, conducted within a well-structured framework, it became evident that five employees of different ranks were complicit in facilitating the issuance of identity cards to non-nationals. APP

## SC rejects Punjab govt's probe report regarding Jaranwala incident

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday rejected the Punjab govt's probe report in the Jaranwala incident. In April last year, a mob attacked, vandalized multiple churches and torched homes belonging to the Christian community in Jaranwala, Faisalabad over blasphemy allegations. At the outset of the hearing, the additional advocate General Punjab submitted the probe report stating that 304 suspects were arrested, while 18 challans of 22 FIRs were submitted in the courts following the Jaranwala incident. CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa while rejecting the report of the Punjab government raised questions on the pace of the challans of the case.

The top judge remarked that Gujranwala's 'brave' police continued watching the riots in Jaranwala. "We complain about Islamophobia everywhere, but what we are doing." The Jaranwala police registered terror cases against more than 600 people. According to the First Information Report (FIR), a mob of 500-600, who were led by a group of people, "attacked the Christian community, ransacked people's homes after entering them, and torched Christians' homes and the church building." Caretaker PML Anwaarul Haq Kakar also took notice of incidents that took place in Jaranwala city of Punjab's Faisalabad district. INP



ISLAMABAD: Director CIMMYT (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo) an International Maize & Wheat Improvement Center Dr. Kevin Pixley calls on the Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik. APP

## AIOU's Academic Council approves new diploma, certificate programs

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Academic Council of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Tuesday approved the launch of new diploma and certificate programmes.

A joint meeting of the 50th Academic Planning and Development/Research and Educational Technology Committee (APD/RET) and the 66th Academic Council of AIOU was held on Monday. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood chaired the meeting, and Registrar, Raja Umar Younis organized the meeting.

The department heads, principal officers, and external members attended the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved during the council meeting. The council also approved new courses, as well as changes in the title and content of several BS, MS/MPH, and PhD courses.

The meeting also approved to launch of various

courses, including PhD in Agricultural Technology, M.Phil in Gender and Women Studies, PGD in Counter Violent Extremism and Terrorism, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), Medical Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostics, Climate Change and Sustainability, Public Health & Nutrition, Sustainable Environmental Design, Certificate courses in Arabic, Tajweed Ul Quran, and Criminology. Additionally, the council also approved skill-based courses in Chemistry and 3-month short courses. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood directed the faculty members and deans to keep in mind the policy of the University and Higher Education Commission in designing the courses and preparing the teaching materials. While introducing the new members, he assured to make all possible efforts for better and quality education. The Supreme Body of the University (Executive Council) will approve these decisions in the next meeting.

## President writes to Swiss President

ISLAMABAD: In a letter to the President of the Swiss Confederation, President Dr Arif Alvi has sought his assistance in providing copies of archival documents about the life of Mr Ahmad Ali Jinnah (the brother of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah) to Pakistan.

The documents are currently in possession of Zurich's City Archives and are a compilation of photographs, history and details of the life of Mr Ahmad Ali Jinnah and are related to the late Fatima Goepfert Jinnah, niece of the Founder of Pakistan. The President stated that given the status and importance of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, having access to these documents was a matter of national value and interest for the Pakistani people. The President conveyed that First Lady, Mrs Samina Alvi, had visited Zurich Archives in January 2024, and after reading most of the documents, had taken a personal interest in the matter. The President has requested Switzerland to gift this historical document collection to the National Archives of Pakistan. DNA

## Karachi Mayor lays foundation stone of water supply, sewerage system in Essa Nagri

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the restoration of water supply and drainage system in Essa Nagri at the cost of Rs 630 million. Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony, the Mayor said that Essa Nagri was facing water and sewerage problems since long. We promised them to solve the issue and now this 52-acre slum is being made a model Katchi-Abadi, while seven more slums in Karachi's seven districts will be made a model, he added. The mayor said that there is nothing ultimate in politics, the next Chief Minister of Sindh will be a great Jiyala. He said that we were going to form a government in Sindh and large-scale development works would be started in the city. Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, mayor's special representative for political affairs Karamullah Waqasi, deputy parliament-

ary leader in the city council Dil Mohammad, UC Chairperson Sanam Baloch, Project Director Usman Moazzam and other officers were also present on this occasion. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Sanam Baloch is the elected UC chairman in Essa Nagri, due to his attention, this project has been started under WSSIP here, but work could not be started earlier due to the ban of the Election Commission, people of different nationalities live here, new lines are being laid to restore the sewerage and water system. Both works will be completed by December this year. This project will solve the needs of the area regarding water and Sewerage till 2050. Different sizes of water and Sewerage pipelines are being laid here with the construction of an underground and overhead water tank as a reservoir, he said. INP

## Sardar Masood Khan says the economy of Pakistan is expanding & growing

Urges Pak-US business community to scale-up their investments in Pakistan

WASHINGTON: "The economy of Pakistan is expanding and growing. Scale up your investments and reap huge dividends of a growing economy with investment friendly regime in the country," said Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Sardar Muhammad Masood Khan.

"We have established Special Investment Facilitation Council to fast track approvals, eliminate red-tapism and provide all possible facilitation to potential investors," he said. "We have prioritized IT, agriculture, energy and extractive industry as preferred areas for investments but that does not limit foreign investors to explore other sectors of economy and enjoy same privileges and incentive package which is available in our priority areas," he continued. Ambassador Masood Khan made these remarks during his virtual meeting with the leadership of Pakistan American Association of Greater Houston, the Pakistan American Association of Texas, and Pakistan American Community of



Atlanta. Highlighting comparative advantage available to US investors, Masood Khan pointed out presence of around one million expatriates in the US who were the real bridge-builders between the two countries; the existing profitable business ventures of around 80 US companies in Pakistan—mostly Fortune 500 companies; the existing investment portfolios of Pak-US citizens and the excess capacity which was available to be invested back in Pakistan for

undertaking profitable business ventures.

The Ambassador emphasized that Special Investment Facilitation Council was effectively addressing issues which were faced by the investors in past. He urged the participants to create awareness about SIFC among Pak-US business community enabling them to take advantage of the facility.

"Pakistani American investors have proven success stories in various areas including hospitality, health-care, diagnostics, and pharmaceuticals. We encourage you to scale up your investments in Pakistan," said the ambassador. Masood Khan said that the Embassy of Pakistan and the four Consulates were creating synergies and connecting Pak-US business community for greater economic activity. "We are trying to connect all chambers of commerce under one umbrella to augment their efforts for the promotion of trade and investment in the country," he said.

The Ambassador also said that a virtual summit of all chambers of commerce and business organizations would be held soon to be followed by an in-person investment seminar.

He underscored the importance of an up-to-date database of Pak-US business community to be shared with SIFC for better outreach and facilitation. Discussing sister-state arrangements with various US states and metropolises, Masood Khan observed that better university linkages would also be instrumental in promoting bilateral cooperation in agriculture sector.

The participants briefed the Ambassador about their respective organizations and presented various suggestions to streamline and strengthen business activities and investment. Ambassador Masood Khan appreciated the contributions being made by the participants towards enhancing economic activities between Pakistan and the United States. SABAH