



Appreciated the hard work of the concerned officials and contractor on the timely completion of Package-I project in a record period of time

Chief Minister Punjab  
Mohsin Naqvi

[/asian\\_telegraph](#)

[/theasian Telegraph](#)

[/company/theasian Telegraph](#)

[.theasian Telegraph.net](#)

Price Rs 8 | Pages 4

## Naval Chief, Deputy Chief of General Staff Turkish Armed Forces discuss issues of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chief of General Staff Turkish Armed Forces, General Irfan Ozsert called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during his visit to Naval Headquarters, Islamabad on Friday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including regional maritime security were discussed.

General Irfan Ozsert appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Both dignitaries appreciated the mutual cooperation in the field of defence production in general and successful projects of ships construction between Pakistan Navy and Turkiye on Transfer of Technology basis in particular.

Turkiye and Pakistan share deep-rooted bonds of friendship and brotherhood that date back in history. The visit of Chief of the General Staff Turkish Armed Forces will further enhance bilateral defence collaboration between the two countries. INP

## Pakistan committed to movement of people, goods across Pak-Afghan border: FO



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan remained committed to facilitating fully regulated movement of people and goods across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border based on norms of interstate relations, the spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Muntaz Zahra Baloch said on Friday. In response to media queries regarding remarks of Deputy Interim Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, she said, "Any self-serving and fanciful claims regarding the legality and sanctity of the Pak-Afghan border cannot change the facts of geography, history and international law."

She said the Afghan side will be well advised to address Pakistan's genuine security concerns than try to divert public attention by such unfortunate public pronouncements. "Pakistan remains committed to facilitating fully regulated movement of people and goods across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border based on norms of interstate relations. We will continue to take steps to this end," she added. APP



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting inaugurating the publication of the newsletter titled "PTV Times" at PTV centre.

## It is the foremost priority of the govt to provide all facilities to int'l investors & business community: PM

### Vows to continue making efforts to solve problems confronting the country's economy till the last day in office

#### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has vowed to continue making efforts to solve problems confronting the country's economy till the last day in office.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar reiterated this commitment, while chairing a review meeting regarding various issues of Karachi Electric in Islamabad on Friday.

The Prime Minister said it is the foremost priority of the government to provide all facilities to the international investors and business community for foreign investment in the country. He said the government has achieved positive results by following this basic principle.

The delegation of Karachi Electric expressed its gratitude to the Prime Minister and his team for solving the long-standing problems of K-Electric.

The Prime Minister, on the occasion, assured that remaining problems faced by Karachi Electric would also be resolved on priority basis. He said the government is trying to remove all obstacles in the way of uninter-



rupted power supply to the residents of Karachi.

He said the interim government, in a short span of time, remained successful in solving some major and long-standing problems to put the country on the path towards economic stability.

The problems of Karachi Electric and suggestions for their solution were presented to the meeting.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed that NEPRA

and Karachi Electric should jointly find a solution to these problems on a priority basis and submit a report in this regard at the earliest. He also welcomed the signing of interconnection agreement between National Transmission and Dispatch Company and Karachi Electric on Thursday. The Chief Executive Officer of Karachi Electric paid tribute to the Prime Minister and government officials for solving the problems faced by the company on priority basis.

## People's decision to be implemented by summoning NA session soon, says Solangi

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Friday said that the decision made by the people in general elections would be implemented by summoning the first session of new National Assembly (NA).

"We will implement the verdict given by the people of Pakistan and the NA session will be convened as soon as the Election Commission of Pakistan forwards the official results to the Assembly's Secretariat," he said while addressing the launching ceremony of the newsletter of the Pakistan Television (PTV).

He said it was a commendable initiative of the Pakistan Television (PTV) to issue a newsletter that would eventually promote reading and writing habits among the youth.

The minister recalled that he started his professional journey with print reporting as part of the launch team of The News that carried his first by-line news story on February 11, 1991.

He said modern trends in journalism had not only created opportunities but also big challenges especially those that were related to voice cloning, deep fake and Artificial Intelligence.

Solangi underlined the need for the Pakistan Television (PTV) to align itself with the modern technologies for its progress as well as addressing the challenges associated with such technologies.

In addition to live broadcast, the Pakistan Television (PTV) would have to create quality products in the digital landscape, he added.

In last six months of the caretaker government, he said, the Pakistan Television (PTV) did unbiased reporting and gave due coverage to all the political parties across the board.

He said the PTV's mandate would not have any affect with the formation of the government since the prime objective of the national broadcaster was to report on the civic issues including economy and culture.

Lauding the national television on promoting the diverse culture and regional languages, he urged the PTV to continue its journey with the same spirit.

He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the Pakistan Television (PTV) during the tenure of caretaker government, including round-the-clock broadcast at the Pakistan Television (PTV) Center Multan as well as launch of the Pakistan Television (PTV) Bolan programmes in Hazargi language.

He expressed the hope that the new government would further upgrade the Pakistan Television (PTV) by introducing modern technologies.

He congratulated the Pakistan Television (PTV) management on successful launch of its newsletter. APP

## Mushaal expresses concerns over deteriorating health of husband

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and women empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick has vociferously condemned Indian authorities' inhumane behavior towards her husband, Chairman JKLF Mohammad Yasin Malik. She said that Yasin Malik's health deteriorated to an alarming level after he stopped taking medicines in protest of inhuman behavior of authorities for their delaying tactics to take him to the hospital for proper medical treatment, despite court orders. Mushaal said that the expired and outdated pacemaker implanted in him had now gone ineffective, endangering his life. She said that in addition to his heart problems, Yasin Malik was also suffering from kidney ailment. She further

said that according to confirmed reports his body weight had also dropped to a great extent, which was a great cause of concern. She said that just two weeks ago, his mother had approached a court in Delhi to draw the court's attention towards the deteriorating health condition of her son and over concerns of the lack of interest of the authorities towards his health. In her plea to court, his mother also expressed her readiness to bear the expenses of her son's treatment. Mushaal said that her husband Yasin Malik worsening health condition and court orders demanded that Yasin Malik should have been immediately transferred to the hospital and kept there under the supervision of doctors until his full recovery. DNA

## Mushahid Hussain appreciates Russian President Putin's stance on Islamophobia

### Highlights the growing relations b/w Pakistan & Russia especially in the field of energy, connectivity & regional security



MOSCOW: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on the invitation of United Russia Party (Ruling and Largest political party in RF) paid a visit to Moscow to participate in the Constituent Meeting of the Forum of Supporters of the Struggle Against Modern Neocolonialism Practices for the Freedom of Nations.

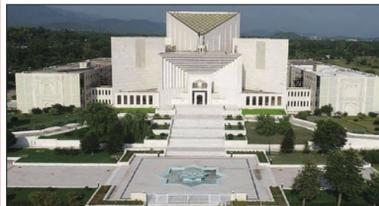
As part of the visit program Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed participated as a panelist in the Forum and held a tete-a-tete with Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia/Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Global Forum Against Neocolonialism and for Freedom of Nations Dmitry Medvedev (Former President of Russian Federation).

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed during his talk also highlighted the growing relations between Pakistan and Russia especially in the field of energy, connectivity, regional security including Afghanistan and cooperation at multilateral fora including SCO and UN. He also appreciated Russian President Putin's stance on Islamophobia. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session from the students of the diplomatic academy. Senator Chizhov of the Russian Federation Council also graced the occasion.

Post the lecture the Senator held a meeting with the Rector of the Diplomatic academy to exchange views on the emerging trends in global politics as well as on bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. The exchange of views proved to be constructive as both sides displayed congruence on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Overall Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed had a very successful visit to Moscow and his engagements with the Russian leadership and intelligentsia were a great contribution towards strengthening Pakistan-Russia relations. SABAH

## SC to hear petition against general elections on Feb 19



ISLAMABAD: A three-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan would hear the case on February 19, seeking to declare general elections of February 8, as void. The registrar office of the top court has issued the cause list. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa would preside the hearing while Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali would also be part of the bench. A citizen Ali Khan has moved this case to the apex court and prayed for the re-elections. APP

## Aneeq acknowledges Saudi ambassador's role in pilgrim services

### Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliki says senior Saudi officials to visit Pak in last week of current month to finalize the 'Road to Makkah' project from Karachi airport

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aniq Ahmed has said Pakistani pilgrims are grateful for the cooperation of Saudi authorities in providing the best facilities. He said this at a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliki in Islamabad.

They discussed various matters to finalize the arrangements for Hajj 2024.

The Minister for Religious Affairs assured that Hajj arrangements would be completed on time.

He further said according to Saudi directives, private Hajj scheme applicants have been provided with further ease.

The Saudi Ambassador said the senior Saudi



officials will visit Pakistan in the last week of this month to finalize the 'Road to Makkah' project from Karachi airport. He said private scheme pilgrims will also be included to the Road to Makkah project along with government pilgrims. SABAH

## Pakistan-Turkiye High Level Military Dialogue Group



RAWALPINDI: The 18th round of Pakistan-Turkiye High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDDG) meeting was successfully held here in Ministry of Defence from February 13-16 where Pakistan's delegation was led by Secretary Defence, Lieutenant

General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan while Turkish delegation was headed by Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, General Irfan Ozsert. Prior to holding of Plenary Session, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, General Irfan Ozsert had

a meeting with Secretary Defence, Lieutenant General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, a news release said.

During the HLMDDG meeting, matters of mutual interest including the whole spectrum of bilateral defence cooperation came under discussion. Both leaders expressed satisfaction on the pace of defence cooperation and pledged to take it to new heights. The issues like security, counter-terrorism and prevailing regional as well as geopolitical environment also came under discussion.

In addition, the delegation took stock of the progress made so far since holding of HLMDDG meeting in Turkiye last year. Matters relating to defence cooperation covering training exercises, exchange of visits and co-production of defence equipment were discussed.

The deliberations were held in a most cordial and congenial environment. Delegation leaders resolved to work together for enhanced cooperation in the defence and security fields. It was agreed that the 19th Round of Pakistan-Turkiye HLMDDG Meeting will be held in Turkiye on mutually agreed dates in 2025. DNA

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan  
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam  
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,  
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad  
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

## The coming fascism

ENGINEER KHURRAM DASTGIR-KHAN

Pakistan's fascism began to pull itself together in last week's election. A putative groundswell of one-third of the electorate voted for 'independents' supported by a cult that has spread callous lies indiscriminately; rejected the legitimacy of political opponents; demonized its critics in foul language; attacked free media; and claimed that the will of the people justifies violence, attacks on police, and burning of animals and public buildings. The groundswell collapses into a geographical hodgepodge. It pulses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, disappears in north Punjab, waxes in central Punjab, wanes in southern Punjab, and peters out completely in Balochistan and Sindh. There was thus no national groundswell; mere regional eruptions. One also cannot pick and choose where the election was fair. If the election was fair in one province for one particular party, it was free everywhere. If it was not fair in one region, it was not fair nationwide. No party can claim that the elections were fair only in the province or constituencies where it won, and was unfair where it lost.

Violence and its threats are a constant theme for fascists. The insurrection on May 9 had a direct antecedent in the 2014 dharna and the 2016 assault on Islamabad. Baton-armed militants who ransacked Pakistan Television in 2014 burned down Radio Pakistan Peshawar and Jinnah House Lahore in 2023; those who demolished the fence of parliament in 2014 ended up demolishing the gates of GHQ in 2023; those who beat up hundreds of police troops and officers in Islamabad in 2014 hurled petrol bombs on the Lahore police in 2023; those who attacked the capital and fought a pitched battle with the Islamabad police on Attock bridge in 2016 ended up trashing most of the country's cities in 2023.

In his masterwork, 'The Anatomy of Fascism', Robert Paxton cautions us to judge fascists more from their actions rather than their words. He concludes that fascists are identifiable most of all by a style of political behaviour that emphasizes crude grievances; worships the cult of leadership; relies on mass-based violence; represses democratic liberties; uses violence as a political tool; delegitimizes political opponents and demonizes critics; is hostile to intellectualism and attacks a free press; and peddles a distressed sense of victimhood.

"All fascism is indigenous", warns Sarah Churchwell. In Pakistan's case, insights into the insurrection also explain the vote on February 8. An emergent middle class, writes Adnan Rafiq, "has a visceral hatred towards the aristocratic and industrial elites that still dominate the parliament... hurt and resentment accumulated during decades spent being lorded over by those who, in their view, plundered the wealth of the nation with both hands."

The February 8 vote expresses, as per Dr Rafiq, "a feeling of vengeance, a feeling of finally being equal. This feeling is valuable in its own right, never mind a rational evaluation of comparative economic performance. Power, a sense of empowerment, even at the cost of violence and economic turmoil, is worth it. The confluence of agitated middle and lower classes can plunge the country into anarchy."

Some part of Pakistan's electorate voted for fascism as the cure for military dictatorship. They are grievously misguided. A direct confrontation between political militants and the armed forces is a recipe for anarchy, which acts as a midwife to fascism. Another May 9 will be a catastrophe for the republic. Is anarchy Pakistan's fate? History tells a grim warning. Exactly one hundred years before the May 9 insurrection in Pakistan, Germany's National Socialist (Nazi) party led by Adolf Hitler staged the 1923 'Beer Hall Putsch', a failed insurrection against Bavaria's government. Hitler landed in jail but was treated leniently by the German judiciary, served only nine months of the five-year sentence, and launched his political campaign. The deteriorating economy under the Weimar Republic vitiated by constant Nazi violence and Nazis' consummate propaganda machine increased the party's vote in from under three per cent in 1928 to 43.9 per cent in 1933, making Hitler Chancellor and plunging Germany into a repressive, genocidal fascism that ended in the country's destruction. Unless Pakistan's political parties forge a consensus with the armed forces and the judiciary to resolutely defeat the fascism precipitated by the recent elections, the Pakistani people will only face more economic misery, lawlessness, and spreading anarchy that might crush Pakistani democracy. The work is cut out for the coming federal and provincial governments.

The writer is a former federal minister. He tweets @kdastgirskhan



Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri

# How to tackle food insecurity

While prioritizing macroeconomic stability rightfully claims the top spot on the incoming government's agenda, it is equally imperative to accord equal priority to the pressing issue of ensuring food security in Pakistan.

A prevalent tendency to dismiss reports highlighting the worsening food insecurity in the country often relies on the argument that a nation self-sufficient in staples like wheat, milk, and meat and an exporter of rice, mangoes, oranges, etc, cannot possibly be food insecure. However, this argument, though powerful, ignores that food security means sustained availability of nutritious food for everyone at affordable prices, alongside factors like clean drinking water, health services, and a balanced diet (to assimilate that food). The constitutional obligation of the state, enshrined in Article 38 of the constitution of Pakistan, mandates the provision of basic necessities, including food, for citizens unable to earn their livelihood. What must the new government do to fulfil its obligation? I will elude to that later. But first, let us recap the state of food insecurity in Pakistan and how it is deteriorating due to an economic meltdown and extreme weather conditions.

The impact of extreme weather conditions on food security can be gauged by the fact that the floods in 2022 pushed an additional nine million people into high levels of acute food insecurity. This number does not include those who felt food insecurity in non-flood-affected areas due to disrupted supplies or the loss of economic opportunities after floods. Even before these calamities, the state of food security in Pakistan was disconcerting, as revealed by Unicef's National Nutrition Survey in 2018. The survey exposed that one in three Pakistanis faced some level of food insecurity, and one in five experienced undernourishment. Alarming statistics indicated that two out of five children under the age of five were stunted (low height for age), highlighting the depth of the challenge.

A more recent report from the FAO in 2023 (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023) underscores the gravity of the situation, indicating a surge in moderate to severe food insecurity from 14.1 per cent during 2014-2016 to 42.3 per cent during 2020-2022. This threefold surge, while partly attributed to the challenges posed by Covid-19 and superfoods in 2022, highlights the vulnerability of a significant portion of the population to any unforeseen shocks.

The impact of such unforeseen shocks becomes more damaging when the households have a very limited economic buffer. In a recent report, the World Food Program reveals a distressing trend: the average Pakistani spends half (50.8 per cent) of its monthly income on food expenses. Over the recent years, Pakistan has experienced currency depreciation, a decline in purchasing power, an increase in energy tariffs, and an overall escalation in the cost of living. To meet the non-negotiable essential expenses like utility bills, rent, and transportation, many individuals reluctantly compromise on their spending, particularly in crucial areas such as health, education, and, most critically, food.

Compromising on spending on food means shifting to small portions of low-quality, unbalanced food, which implies that coping strategy to meet their fixed expenses leads many to food insecurity and malnutrition. Affordability is another crucial aspect. The above-cited FAO report estimated that a staggering 82.8 per cent of the population was unable to afford the cost of maintaining a healthy diet in Pakistan which was estimated to be \$3.89 per person per day (purchasing power parity) in 2021. The 35 per cent depreciation of the rupee against the dollar and the global surge in commodity prices since 2021 further accentuate the unattainability of a nutritious diet for the majority of Pakistanis. This is why a healthy and balanced diet is a far-fetched dream for most of them. Beyond the moral imperative, the economic consequences of food insecurity and malnutrition are staggering. A study conducted by the

World Food Program and the government of Pakistan in 2016, estimated that the economic consequences of undernutrition amounted to approximately \$7.6 billion annually. This calculation encompassed factors such as the lost future workforce due to child mortality, reduced future adult productivity from childhood stunting, anemia, and iodine deficiency, as well as the costs associated with health care services due to micronutrient deficiencies, suboptimal breastfeeding, and low birth weight.

Recalculate the above cost considering the three-fold increase in food insecurity in Pakistan between 2014-16 and 2020-2022. Can any government aiming to achieve sustained economic revival ignore the cost of opportunity worth billions of dollars due to undernutrition? As the new government rightly pursues the next IMF programme for macroeconomic stability, it must be cautious about exacerbating the cost of living, which would further impact food security. Effective collaboration between federal and provincial governments is crucial to addressing the food security challenges in Pakistan. It is the state's collective responsibility to take care of citizens' food security and cannot be discharged without a whole-of-government and the whole-of-policy approach.

Likewise, a comprehensive approach is essential, acknowledging that all pillars of food security - physical availability, socioeconomic access, assimilation in the body, and sustainability - must be ensured simultaneously. Focusing solely on boosting productivity through inefficient subsidies and minimum support price mechanisms for certain crops (that often distort the market) may overlook systemic issues like distribution inefficiencies and socio-economic disparities.

To improve food availability, Pakistan needs a transition from conventional agriculture to climate-smart agriculture. The new (federal and provincial) governments should redirect the existing agricultural subsidies to agricultural research and development, especially in precision and digitalized agriculture and biotech innovations. Simultaneously,

targeted interventions in rural infrastructure to improve transportation networks and storage facilities can mitigate post-harvest losses, ensuring that increased agricultural output reaches consumers.

To improve economic access to food, the governments will have to think beyond popular schemes like 'sasta tandoor' and come up with initiatives that create livelihood opportunities, improve the consumable income of citizens, take administrative measures to curb hoarding and inefficient markets and address socio-economic disparities, including through strengthening social safety nets like conditional and unconditional cash transfers for vulnerable segments of society.

The importance of clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, improved health services, education, and awareness campaigns emphasizing the importance of balanced diets and proper nutrition cannot be overstated in improving food utilization. For understanding, consider consuming a multicourse meal at a five-star hotel and then drinking contaminated water. It is unlikely to provide food security but may cause food poisoning. The new governments, especially in the provinces, will have to work on providing prerequisites for improved food utilization.

A national nutrition policy framework is essential to promote the use of a healthy diet. Likewise, the National Food Security Policy needs to be revisited to address the growing impacts of climate change on food security.

Along with a focus on economic recovery, the government needs to chalk out a comprehensive food security plan, and none should negatively affect the other. Striking this delicate balance is undoubtedly challenging, echoing Shakespeare's timeless wisdom that "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown". However, this is the challenge that the aspirants of forming federal and respective provincial governments accepted. Now is the time to deliver on that challenge.

The writer heads the Sustainable Development Policy Institute. He tweets/posts @abidsuleri

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



It was partly to press these demands that one section of the All-India Muslim League cooperated with the statutory commission sent by the British Government under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon in 1927.

#### SIMON COMMISSION

The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee,

appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India. The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims.

#### ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL

Several leaders and thinkers, having insight into the Hindu-Muslim question proposed separation of Muslim India. **To be continued....**

## Kelly Osbourne calls Ozempic trend for weight loss 'amazing'

Kelly Osbourne shares her views on using Ozempic for losing weight

Kelly Osbourne has recently defended Ozempic trend at Dolly Parton's Pet Gala red carpet last month. "I think it's amazing," said Kelly in an exclusive interview with E! News. She stated, "There are a million ways to lose weight, why not do it through something that's isn't as boring as working out?" Elaborating on why people are against this trend, Kelly noted, "People hate on it because they want to do it." "And the people who hate on it the most are the people who are secretly doing it or pissed off that they can't afford it," remarked the Osbournes alum. Kelly mentioned, "Unfortunately, right now it's something that is very expensive but it eventually won't be because it actually works."



In the last few years, Kelly opened up about her struggles with weight especially after giving birth to her son Sidney in 2022. "I'm going to be honest, I felt the pressure of after having the baby to lose the baby weight," she told the outlet last year. Kelly pointed out, "It became my mission. I was obsessed with it because I didn't even want to get brought into the conversation, I just wanted to be left alone." "It was a lot of work. It was miserable. I was hungry all the time, but I'm really happy with the results," she added.

## TikTok: Insider tips to make your reels go viral overnight

Ever wondered how some TikTok videos go viral? Well, now yours can too. Follow these easy steps, and you can easily be the next Charli D'Amelio as TikTok is the platform where the true trends are born and raised to stardom, literally, overnight.

#### Understand TikTok's algorithm:

Like any other social media platform, TikTok too uses an algorithm to show the best content to its users. They call it the recommendation system, and it's how content is chosen to be displayed on the "For you page," Social Bee reported. To generate more engagement, you need to focus on these things: Interaction: such as through frequently asked questions, asking me anything, and product reviews and tutorials Keep your posts short: Longer videos may bore the audience. Participate in trending challenges: You can check out challenges on the Discover page on the app—simply search "challenge" and you'll get content that's under that hashtag. Trending sound or music: Using trendy music

can help you gain more views. Also, creating your own audio can be a great way to become a viral success. Hashtags: Using hashtags is one of the ways you can let TikTok know what your content is about. Make a playlist: The new "it" thing these days is to make a playlist of similar content and stick to your niche. Collaboration: Collaborating with other users can help you get traction. Keep an eye on trending content. Keeping track of trends can help you reach more people, gain the appreciation of many potential customers, and ultimately go viral. Trends can vary from glow-up transitions to dances to using a filter and sharing unpopular opinions. **Understand Your Audience** Find your target audience within the app by creating content customized to their preferences. It's the only way you can go viral and have something to gain as a result. Monitor your competition. The goal is not to copy their content but to use their best-performing videos as an example.

## Why are US parents opting for weight loss drugs for their children?

A tiny but quickly increasing proportion of American teenagers started taking Novo Nordisk's NONOb.CO weight-loss medication Wegovy last year which is being considered a potent new tool to combat the nation's record rates of paediatric obesity, as per statistics exclusively obtained by Reuters. According to US insurance claims data provided by health technology company Komodo Health, 1,268 children diagnosed with obesity between the ages of 12 and 17 began taking Wegovy in the first ten months of 2023. Only twenty-five children were administered the medication in 2022; it wasn't until December of the same year that the United States approved it for use in adolescents. Within a month, the powerful American Academy of Paediatrics suggested that chil-

dren who were obese, beginning at age 12, be given access to weight-loss medications. Medicaid statistics from five states—Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and others—that Reuters was able to get demonstrate a comparable increase in Wegovy use. At least 464 youngsters have received prescriptions for the medication since January 2022, while the overall numbers are still low. Prescriptions obtained without health insurance coverage and the off-label usage of Novo's Ozempic and Eli Lilly's Mounjaro, two comparable type 2 diabetic medicines, are not included in this. Nevertheless, according to federal estimates, 14.7 million American children, or about 20% of the country's youth, suffer from obesity.

However, the statistics show that families are becoming more open to using Wegovy, the first non-surgical, extremely effective treatment for obesity. Weekly injectable use can be quite expensive, and there is little information available on the long-term advantages and hazards. "I use these medications wherever I can. Unlike with adults, where it's like a rescue operation, we are much more likely with children and adolescents to prevent disease," said Dr Suzanne Cuda, medical director of Alamo City Healthy Kids and Families in San Antonio, Texas. Cuda was an adviser to Novo Nordisk on pediatric obesity. Numerous grave medical diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, have been associated with obesity.



## Health



## Apex Court to hear petition seeking to declare Feb 8 polls null & void on 19th Feb

ISLAMABAD: A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear a petition seeking to declare the February 8 general elections null and void on 19th February (Monday). Petitioner Ali Khan will appear in person in the court and will present his arguments. Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa, will head the bench which will include Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

The petitioner has made the federal government party through Attorney General for Pakistan Barrister Mansoor Usman Awan and others in the case. The petitioner has requested the court to declare the General Elections 2024 null and void due to the flagrant violations of democratic norms.

The petitioner filed a petition for the court to order fresh elections within 30 days. The plea seeks general elections under the supervision and oversight of the judiciary "to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability". Additionally, the petition also seeks a stay order on the formation of the new government till the case is resolved. In the country's general elections held on February 8, PTI-supported independent candidates secured 92 seats, PML-N obtained 75, and PPP secured 54 seats. Various political parties and losing candidates have raised allegations of fraud in the polls. SABAH

## Hue and cry over fake forms 45 unwarranted, says Marriyum

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that some people were presenting fake form 45, taken from the social media, and making unwarranted hue and cry over the issue. Addressing a press conference along with another party leader Attaullah Tarar at the PML-N Secretariat here, she recalled that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz mandate was stolen in 2018 by halting the Results Transmission System (RTS). She regretting that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was spreading form 45 on the social media but not presenting those in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), as those were fake forms. She said the PTI had completely been exposed after the results of general election 2024, as it was unable to present original form 45, and only sharing private television channels' screen shots. The former information minister said, "Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman is respectable for us, but I don't see the chances of the JUI-F [Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl] alliance with the PTI." She said the PML-N was also preparing a white paper on elections and it would soon make it public. PML-N leader Attaullah Tarar alleged that the PTI was trying to derail democracy by making elections controversial. The form 45 of the PTI reached the media and social media but could not reach the Election Commission of Pakistan, he added. He said nobody would be allowed to weaken democracy by using negative tactics. DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria, Irena Gancheva, in a group photo with female heads of various missions during an event at Bulgarian embassy in Islamabad. DNA

## President Alvi directs Rs 3.46 mln payment to heirs of two policyholders

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed two private insurance companies to pay the death insurance claims of Rs 3 million and Rs 4,60,000 to the legal heirs of the deceased policyholders.

He issued these directions while deciding two separate representations, filed by Adamjee Life Assurance Company Limited and EFU Life Assurance Limited against the decisions of Wafaqi Mohtasib, asking them to pay the death insurance claims to the respective claimants, a President Secretariat press release said.

As per details, Zahid Nasreen's deceased sister had obtained an insurance policy from Adamjee Life Assurance Company for the sum assured of Rs 3 million against an annual premium of Rs300,000 in 2021.

After her sister died in 2022, the company refused to pay the death insurance claim on the pretext that the deceased had hidden her pre-insurance ailment of acute kidney injury and chronic liver disease at the time of obtaining the insurance policy.

Similarly, Memoona Naem's husband obtained an insurance policy from EFU Life Assurance Limited for the sum assured of Rs 460,000 against an annual premium of Rs 23,000 in 2015.



Her husband died the same year and when she filed the death insurance claim, it was repudiated on the ground that the deceased had not disclosed his pre-insurance ailment of hypertension at the time of obtaining the policy. Feeling aggrieved, the complainants separately approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib to seek relief, which passed the orders in their favour and directed the respective insurance

companies to honour their claims. Later, the companies filed separate representations with the President against the decisions of the Mohtasib.

The President after perusing the material facts of the case and hearing the parties, rejected both the representations. He held that the companies had failed to produce any evidence establishing the pre-insurance ailments.

He said the onus to prove the pre-insurance ailments rested upon the companies and the repudiation of death insurance claims required unimpeachable evidence to prove the ailments and their knowledge on the part of the policyholders.

He also referred to Lahore High Court's decision wherein it had been held that concealment of ailments, such as diabetes and hypertension, could not be termed as done fraudulently as most people having such ailments, by remaining more careful in their lifetime, lived either for decades or longer than people not having such diseases.

Keeping in view the facts, President Alvi upheld the orders of the Mohtasib, directing both the companies to pay the death insurance to the heirs of the deceased policyholders. DNA

## Pak sesame export to China surpasses \$290 million

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of sesame seeds to China registered a growth of 126.29 percent on a year-on-year basis surpassing \$290 million from January to December last year, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said. According to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), China imported 166,682.987 tons of sesame seeds from Pakistan in 2023. This represents an increase of 96.13% by volume, amounting to \$290.66 million, compared to \$4,985.321 tons worth \$128.44 million in 2022. Ghulam Qadir informed that during year 2023, Pakistan's exports to China exceeded \$3.459 billion, an increase of 1.4% on a year-on-year basis. He also mentioned that GACC data revealed that in 2023, China imported 912,814.577 tons of sesame seeds worth approximately \$1.52 billion from around the world. African country, Niger, with 192,529.528 tons worth \$309.51 million, remained the top Sesame seed exporter to China for the third consecutive year, followed by Pakistan with \$290.66 million and Tanzania with \$239.83 million. In 2023, Pakistan contributed to around 19 percent of the total sesame seed exports to China from January to December. DNA

## "Pakistan Cultural Corner" at Borisov Central Library

MINSK: As part of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and Belarus, Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan and Deputy Chairman of District Executive Committee Mr. Nikolai Shvaibovich jointly inaugurated a "Pakistan Cultural Corner" in Borisov Central Library on February 15, 2024.

This corner showcases a collection of Pakistani artwork, literature, and artifacts, introducing the cultural and artistic heritage of Pakistan. Over the past three years, the Embassy has been actively promoting collaborations by hosting various art-related events including master classes by prominent Pakistani Artists at the Borisov Central Library.

The event was attended by the Head of the Cultural Department of Borisov District Executive Committee Ms. Skakun Natalia, representatives of Borisov District Executive Committee, Pakistani diaspora, Mass Media representatives and library staff. DNA

## SC to hear Z.A Bhutto reference on Feb 20

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan will take up Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's reference for hearing on February 20. The registrar's office of the top court issued the cause list. A nine-member larger bench would hear the presidential reference on the said date. It may be mentioned here that, in the last hearing, the top court sought written arguments from the amicus curiae. The reference was moved by former President Asif Ali Zardari during the regime of PPP seeking the court to re-visit the death penalty of ex-prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. INP

## Ambassador assures cooperation for making ICCI BOC successful

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan Ambassador to UAE lauded ICCI for organizing the next edition of its Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) in Dubai in the first week of March 2024 and assured his cooperation in making it successful.

He said this while talking to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry who met him in Dubai and discussed with him the matters for making ICCI BOC in Dubai a result-oriented event. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and UAE have great potential to strengthen business relations and set up joint ventures. He stressed that a series of BOC-like events should be organized by the Pakistani Chambers of Commerce in UAE to explore all untapped areas of bilateral cooperation and expand economic relations.

He said that his Embassy would extend all possible cooperation to ICCI in making the BOC a landmark event. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce said that ICCI has already held successful BOCs in Turkey,

Malaysia, and Azerbaijan and the Chamber has planned to organize the next edition of BOC in Dubai, which is a hub of business and investment activities.

He said that a 160-member delegation of ICCI representing real estate, construction, IT, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, food processing and packaging, light engineering, logistics, franchising, tourism, and other sectors would attend the BOC and Award Ceremony. He said that both countries have great potential to further enhance bilateral trade and economic relations. He hoped that ICCI BOC would provide a good platform for the private sectors of both countries to hold B2B meetings, exchange ideas, develop strong business linkages, and explore opportunities for business and investment collaborations in areas of interest. He said that ICCI would also organize a small exhibition of Pakistani products on the sidelines of BOC to show their export potential. He said that representatives of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and other prominent businessmen and investors of the UAE would be invited to the BOC. DNA

## Two terrorists killed, cop martyred in Tank joint operation

PESHAWAR: Two terrorists were killed and two injured but fled while a cop was martyred in joint operation of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and security forces in Tank on Friday. SSP CTD Najamul Hassan said that on an intelligence tip-off regarding presence of wanted terrorists, a joint operation was launched in Tank. During operation, cross firing took place between the security forces and the terrorists.

In exchange of fire, two terrorists were killed while their two accomplices were injured but managed to escape. A cop Zahid was also martyred in the fire exchange. The killed terrorists belonging to the banned organization TTP Betni Parake group were wanted by police and CTD in 23 cases. The security forces cordoned off the area after the fire exchange and launched search operation for fleeing terrorists. SSP CTD Najamul Hassan said that the killed terrorists were involved in attacking the police and snatching weapons from the officers in District Tank and DI Khan. He further said that we have reached the terrorists involved in the attack on DI Khan Daraban and Chodwan police stations, 6 of them were from Darban and four from other areas. INP



ISLAMABAD: Youngster eating onion picking from garbage at Vegetable market in the Federal Capital. APP

## CM inaugurates the controlled access corridor bund road PACKAGE-I project

LAHORE: Another mega project instead of being completed in 16 months has been completed in 100 days only. Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project Package-I today. CM visited the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project and inspected the ongoing construction activities at the Package-II. Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the hard work of the concerned officials and contractor on the timely completion of Package-I project in a record period of time.

Commissioner Lahore Division/DG LDA gave a briefing to the CM about the project. CM while addressing the inaugural ceremony stated that owing to an excellent team work along with day and night hard work, the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project Package-I has been completed before the stipulated time. Thanks to Allah Almighty that the project from Niazi Chowk up to Saggian has been completed. Hopefully, the package-II from Saggian up to Babu Sabu will also be completed in coming few days. The LDA and Nespak team prepared a unique design of an international standard at a low cost. CM apprised that the 7.3 km long Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project from Niazi Interchange up to Babu Sabu Interchange is the first high-rise project in Pakistan. LDA, Nespak and the contractor by continuously working for 24 hours completed the project in 100 days only. Nine subways have also been built for transportation at the service road in the Bund Road Project. More than 2 lakh vehicles will pass from this project daily and saving of crores of rupees will be accrued in terms of time as well as fuel. Mohsin Naqvi acknowledged that the Provincial Minister for Housing Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, Secretary Housing Sajid Zafar, Commissioner / DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Chief Engineer LDA, Nespak team, Contractor Habib Construction, Project Director and his whole team deserve commendation on the completion of

the said project in a record time frame. The Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project has been completed and it should be labelled as Ring Road. The Ring Road Circle has been completed with the completion of the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project.

SL-III and Ring Road link with the Multan Road from both sides. This Project was seen impossible to be built timely but the contractor put in a lot of hard work and got both the projects completed simultaneously. It was highly imperative to ensure traffic flow during the construction of the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project. The traffic police under the leadership of Ammara Athar maintained the traffic flow in a highly nice manner. P&D Department has fully supported this project and did not waste even a single hour. CM stated that the Provincial Minister Azfar Ali Nasir should now shift to his house as the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project has been completed. Provincial Minister for Housing, DG LDA and Chief Engineer continuously undertook supervision of this project. I undertook 40-50 visits of the Controlled Access Corridor Bund Road Project and the Secretaries along with the media team used to accompany myself. DG LDA worked with a brisk speed for the completion of this project. The projects being completed under the supervision of DG LDA during the last one year will be remembered for long. Many problems were being faced during the completion of this project but by the Grace of Allah Almighty, all such obstacles have been overcome.

This area will not be less than Gulberg with the completion of Shahdara Bridge, Inamia Colony and Bund Road Project. CM congratulated the residents and the whole team on the successful completion of this project. Had the team not worked in a united manner then this project would never have been completed before time. The difficulties of fog, rain and drainage problems were being faced during the completion of this project. PR

## World Bank suggests Pakistan to eliminate its role gradually in the public procurement of wheat

ISLAMABAD: World Bank has suggested Pakistan to eliminate its role gradually in the public procurement of wheat.

World Bank has recommended few steps for uplift of the agriculture sector, by suggesting implementation of 6 new initiatives for smooth functioning of agriculture sector, without involvement of government. World Bank has suggested Pakistan to reduce wheat market distortion through the rationalization of public procurement.

The government could gradually reduce its role in the public procurement of wheat and its objective must be to maintain a strategic reserve with as little market distortion as possible. The strategic reserve may be used for price stabilization only if prices exceed an acceptable range.

In second recommendation, WB has suggested Pakistan to encourage competition, with the combination of import tariffs, barriers to entry, and a minimum support price has created the conditions for anti-competitive practices, especially in the



sugar industry. Easing barriers to trade and paring down protection of the industry may reduce the incentives for collusion between efficient and inefficient mills. The third recommendation has suggested Pakistan to invest in research and extension services and encourage high-value agriculture (HVA) through research and extension services and the removal of policies that pull resources away from HVA

petitive practices, especially in the low-value commodities. The

fourth recommendation, required Pakistan to strengthen global trade linkages, strengthen institutional capacity and improve the infrastructure required to facilitate trade, both imports and exports, and maintain linkages with traditional and non-traditional suppliers through standing emergency arrangements. Fifth recommendation recommended Pakistan to De-cap milk and meat prices and allow working the market on demand and supply

and said that while this measure may not reduce retail prices in the short run, it would reduce the pressure on farmers to sell their produce at low prices.

This could incentivize more investment in production and storage facilities at the farm level that could, in the medium run, help bring down prices. Sixth recommendation, WB asked Pakistan to make information accessible for research and decision makers, and develop a harmonized platform for federal and provincial governments to monitor the food system.

The platform should track changes in global supply and demand, currency exchange rates, local production and consumption, carry-forward stocks, private sector stocks, production and public procurement in all provinces/areas, as well as trade.

Improve the accessibility of farmers to market information, in order to help them make informed cropping decisions based on weather patterns, pest infestation and future prices. SABAH