



Pakistan and the US have consciously fostered congruence in their relations and we would continue to build on this new threshold. "Pakistan, I assure you, will have a bright future, despite our present challenges"

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States of America  
**Sardar Masood Khan**

## Terrorist killed in DI Khan IBO: ISPR



RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed a terrorist in an exchange of fire during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district on Tuesday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted the IBO in Dera Ismail Khan District based on the reported presence of terrorists.

"During the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists as a result of which terrorist Muhammad Sohail was killed," the ISPR said.

It added that he remained "actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, including target killing of innocent civilians". Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from him.

The ISPR further said that a sanitisation operation was under way to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said.

The operation comes amid a surge in terrorist activities across the country, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. PR

## Aneeq Ahmed stresses national harmony, positivity

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed stressed the importance of reducing hate and delivering good news to foster trust and belief among the people. Talking to PTV, he urged individuals from all walks of life, including political leaders and bureaucrats, to contribute to the country's development and prosperity. He emphasized the need for a collective effort guided by ethical and religious values. The minister said that the ministry made a significant reduction in the Hajj package for 2024, reducing the financial burden on pilgrims. This reduction, from Rs 11,75,000 to Rs 10,75,000 marked the first time in the country's history that the upcoming Hajj had become cheaper than the previous year's Hajj, he added.

In addition to affordability, the minister highlighted improvements in Hajj facilities, including the introduction of short-duration Hajj, allowing pilgrims to return after completion in 22 days. He also lauded the efforts of IT Minister Umar Saif in introducing an application providing comprehensive information for pilgrims, ensuring a seamless Hajj experience. Ahmed mentioned initiatives to promote Pakistan's positive image, such as providing Pakistani women with white-colored 'Abayas' adorned with the flag of Pakistan. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnesses the signing ceremony between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. (USA) for joint venture agreement for the value addition and export of pink salt.

## 'Utilisation of human, mineral resources will lead to a stable Pak'

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reassuring the government's all-out support to the investors, said the effective utilisation of human as well as mineral resources would lead to a stable, prosperous and rising Pakistan. "Our human resource is more important than our mineral resource. The human resource coupled with the mineral resource will lead to stable, prosperous and rising Pakistan," he said addressing the signing ceremony of a joint venture agreement between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) and the US-based Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc for establishing a dedicated facility for crushing and packaging of pink salt for the export purposes. Managing Director of the PMDC Asad Ahmed and President of Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc Ahmed Nadeem Khan signed the agreement that was witnessed by the Prime Minister Kakar, Energy Minister Muhammad Ali and relevant senior authorities.

The prime minister said the practice of exporting raw materials should come to an end as the export of the products after value addition was direly needed. "This is the path for Pakistan. This is the right step. We will be exporting the quality product in the coming days. Pakistan will get rightful branding for its product. This will pave the way for further opportunities," the prime minister remarked who also distributed awards among the individuals who played a key role in the joint venture agreement.

Calling the US a "most valued" trading partner of Pakistan, he said the agreement symbolized the investment climate in the country that would further strengthen the friendship between the two countries and the people.

He said the decision of the US-based firm to invest \$200 million in Pakistan was a resounding vote of confidence in the government's economic policies. Prime Minister Kakar said the investment was not just about the pink salt rather it was about trust, partnership and shared prosperity. He told the gathering that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was playing an important role in creating an enabling environment for foreign direct investment. It served as a one-window facility for the investors besides streamlining processes and removing the bureaucratic hurdles to attract investment in the fields mining, energy, IT, agriculture, livestock, industry and tourism, he added.

The prime minister lauded the friendship of the American people calling them the "most warm and generous" people on earth with openness and liberal values which was a role model for a thriving economy. He said Pakistan was not rich for its geostrategic location rather it was a geo-economic offer as the country sat on the Tethyan Belt of 2800sq km filled with immense mineral resources. Earlier, Energy Minister Muhammad Ali said the agreement was the beginning of a long journey that

would boost the investors' confidence. He said Pakistan had tremendous potential in the mineral sector and the government was committed, focused and had prioritized the sector to exploit the potential through more investment in the pink salt sector. PMDC Chairman Shamsuddin lauded the SIFC's role which led to surge in PMDC's profit by three to four times comparing last year. He said the PMDC's geologists were actively moving around for exploration purposes and hoped that the number of mining leases would continue to grow. Shamsuddin called for further empowerment of the SIFC, strengthening of the Geological Survey of Pakistan besides providing security to miners, and amending the rules to streamline the processes.

Managing Director of PMDC Engineer Asad Ahmed said the agreement represented the culmination of excessive collaboration between the partners and thanked the petroleum ministry and SIFC for effective coordination. Chief Communications Officer of the Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc Mubarak Khan called the agreement the beginning of a great journey and a great opportunity for Pakistan as the pink salt would act as an ambassador at millions of homes internationally. Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc said the project would lead to global monetisation of Pakistan's mineral resources which was one of the richest countries with huge mineral resources.

## President for combined efforts to overcome economic issues

VOM Report

RAWALPINDI: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the entire nation had set a precedent in the world with their collective efforts during Covid-19 pandemic and stressed that such a display of unity was critical to address disconcerting issues in education, health and economic sectors. Addressing a National Health Summit organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), the president said that during Covid-19 pandemic when the deadly wave was hitting the globe, Pakistan emerged as the third best performing country in the world to avert the damages in health and economic sectors. He said it was all possible due to the collective efforts and cooperation of the people and all stakeholders who displayed unison in their efforts to ward off the spread of the pandemic.

"That precedent has carved a path for the future which can guide us in our endeavours to overcome the contemporary challenges," he opined.

Highlighting the importance of physical hygiene, the president said that from the Islamic teachings, it stood proved that personal hygiene was linked with spiritual purity. He said about 90 percent dental cases could be cured if prevention habits were developed by the people including regular brushing of teeth, similar was the case with communicable diseases.

The president urged all the stakeholders and the business community to play their parts in creating awareness among the masses over health-related issues including mental stress and population growth. The serious issue of 26 million out-of-school children required combined efforts and mosques could be utilized to impart education to these children, he added.

The president mentioned Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka where the literacy rate among the children was higher than Pakistan. He also cited the precedent of China that lifted about 700 million people out of poverty by focusing on health and education sectors. "The State can show the path but it is the responsibility of all stakeholders of the society to share the responsibility by addressing issues in the education and health sectors," he added.

President Alvi further stressed upon focusing on priorities and continuity of policies which required public involvement. The provincial governments in the country only spent 25 to 30 percent on education out of their allocated budgets which was not suffice to address issues in this sector, he added. Referring to population growth, he stressed "the demographic transition" involving all segments of society to realize the significance of the matter.

About 24 percent of the population in the country was suffering from the mental stress due to various reasons which should be addressed comprehensively, he said, adding that awareness about the child sexual crimes and drug abuse should be created through different mediums. The president also called for morality-based principles in the world which was overwhelmed by the vested interests and reiterated the removal of disparity in distribution of wealth and accumulation of resources in fewer hands.

## PTA, NCRC, UNICEF & Telenor Pakistan join hands to safeguard children



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and Telenor Pakistan, joined hands in a launching ceremony to safeguard children from online hazards. The ceremony was held for the parental guide titled "Safeguarding your Child in the Digital Age-Guide for Caregivers & Policy Brief on Child Online Protection" at the

Telenor 345 headquarters. Representatives from the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecom, PTA, Telenor, NCRC, and UNICEF Pakistan also graced the ceremony with their presence.

Caretaker Minister for IT & Telecom, Dr. Umar Saif was the chief guest on this occasion. Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Umar Saif emphasised the critical need to safeguard children online in today's digital age. He stressed that it is the collective responsibility of society to establish a secure online environment for children besides educating and supporting them in navigating the digital landscape safely. Chairman PTA, Major General (Retd) Hafeez Ur Rehman reiterated PTA's dedication to promoting a secure online environment, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding the youth and children of the nation. He expressed confidence in the ongoing collaboration of PTA with all stakeholders to ensure children's online safety and promote responsible internet use. APP

## Solangi presents SBP Governor's annual report in Senate

VOM Report



2022-23. This report covers the achievement of the Bank's objectives, the conduct of monetary policy, the state of Pakistan's economy, and the financial system, under section 9A(2) of the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday presented in the Senate the State Bank of Pakistan Governor's Annual Report for the financial year

## Jawad inaugurates AJK's first ever protectorate of emigrants offices

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik on Tuesday inaugurated Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)'s first ever Protectorate of Emigrants Offices in Bagh and Rawalakot.

The initiative marks a significant milestone in the government's efforts to facilitate the citizens of AJK reflecting the Ministry of OP&HRD's commitment to decent public service delivery, said a news release issued here.

During the opening ceremony, the SAPM addressed the general public, sharing his reflections on the lack of such essential services in the region until now. He said the residents of Bagh and Rawalakot, in particular, faced hardships, having to travel long hours and spend



considerable sums to access these services in Rawalpindi.

He further said it was a historic day as we opened two protectorate offices one in Bagh and another in Rawalakot significantly benefiting the people of Kashmir. The newly inaugurated offices in Bagh and Rawalakot will serve as beacons of support for legal labor migration, streamlining processes and providing essential services close to home. APP

## India & Pak, two nuclear powers, should reestablish communication channels for confidence building & strategic restraint: Masood Khan

Says US is the largest single-country export destination for Pak; and last year, we had a trade surplus of \$6 biln in our favor

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States of America Sardar Muhammad Masood Khan has said that the US is the largest single-country export destination for Pakistan; and last year, we had a trade surplus of \$6 billion in our favor. He said that Pakistan is sitting on a treasure trove of minerals. He said that Pakistan qualifies to become the member of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP). He said that Pakistan's political stability will be delivered by its people and political parties. He said that India and Pakistan, two nuclear powers, should reestablish communication channels for confidence building and strategic restraint. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be erased

by realpolitik, he said. This was stated by Sardar Masood Khan while addressing the program titled "Future of Pakistan and the U.S. - Pakistan Relations" at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Washington. "Thank you so much, Daniel Runde, Senior Vice President at CSIS, for hosting this event and centering our conversation on the prospects for Pakistan's economic development. I recall in 2015, you contributed a seminal piece in Forbes arguing that Pakistan had the potential to be a global turnaround story; and advised U.S. policymakers and business leaders to look at Pakistan beyond the security lens. You identified planning and action

around trade and investment, education, and broader economic progress. You had recommended that the United States ought to be Pakistan's preferred partner. You were right then and your counsel is sound today" Sardar Masood Khan said. He said that over the past two years, Pakistan and the US have consciously fostered congruence in their relations and we would continue to build on this new threshold. "Pakistan, I assure you, will have a bright future, despite our present challenges". Sardar Masood Khan said that Pakistan is the 24th largest economy measured by purchasing power parity (PPP). It is the fifth most populous country, with a population of 240 million, 64% of whom are

below the age of 30, 60% of them of working age, and 42% in the middle class according to the United Nations Development Programme. We are bilingual; and we have 190 million mobile telephone and 130 million broadband subscribers. The nation is tech savvy and the economy is digitizing fast. "Our priorities are to create wealth, enhance the quantity and quality of human capital, upgrade manufacturing, modernize agriculture, switch to export-led growth, prepare for climate change, eradicate poverty, make our products competitive, and brand Pakistan as an economic and trade hub. Pakistan is no island; no country is. Pakistan, in fact, sits at the heart of the economic ecosys-

tem of West Asia extending from Central Asia to the Middle East to North Africa. We invite our friends to leverage our unique economic geography" he said. "As I speak, structural economic reforms are underway. We have decided to turn a series of recent crises - the pandemic, the floods, and post-Ukraine supply chain disruptions- into an opportunity to implement a broad range of economic and human development reforms" Sardar Masood Khan said. He said that the World Bank's proposed Reforms for a Brighter Future initiative - Time to Decide, released in December last year, would neatly fit into this paradigm. The Brighter Future reforms are pathways for: 1) rapid growth in

human capital; 2) sustainability in public finances; 3) competitive and outward-oriented private sector; 4) realizing Pakistan's agri-food potential; 5) energy sector sustainability; and 6) strengthening institutions for effective reform implementation. To accomplish economic reforms, we have national consensus to streamline and eliminate non-targeted subsidies, expand tax base, trim non-performing state-owned enterprises, pare back market distortions and increase government's support for the marginalized segments of society. All these reforms are designed to address fiscal and external deficits and rev up our growth engines. SABAH

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## People's verdict

MIR ADNAN AZIZ

**E**lectoral fraud is as old as choosing a ruler itself. The high priests of Rome would add days and even months to the Roman calendar to keep compliant officials in office longer than their tenure or strike days off to shorten that of non-compliant ones. Athens is considered the birthplace of democracy. Here, in the 1960s, archaeologists made a remarkable discovery at a landfill. They discovered a heap of 8,500 ostaraka or ceramic tokens used as ballots. Researchers deduced that these were votes from 471 BC, organized by an opposing group to be cast by dubious means.

In more recent history, one of the most monumental characters who ascended to great influence in American politics was William Magear Tweed, a 19th-century fireman-turned-politician. His motto was: "I don't care who does the electing, so long as I get to do the nominating". Kenneth Ackerman describes him in his book 'Boss Tweed' as one who "orchestrated massive voter fraud, used patronage and bribery to sway judges, drained the city's coffers and made money through such shady deals as faked leases and selling overpriced products and services to the city on a massive scale."

The book also recounts how Tweed courted immigrants and turned the New York Supreme Court into a "naturalization mill". This was evident by the fact that in a span of 20 days, he expanded the pool of eligible immigrant voters from a few hundred to 60,000 by bribing the judges.

In 1861, the foundation stone for the New York County Courthouse was laid. Tweed purchased a marble quarry in Massachusetts to supply the stone. His appointed contractors inflated invoices raising the original \$0.25 million budget to \$12 million. The building earned infamy as the Tweed Courthouse.

A 10.5-carat diamond solitaire adorned Tweed's chest. The Common Council he headed consisted of 20 Aldermen (municipal legislators) and 20 Assistant Aldermen. With the power to appoint policemen and precinct commanders, judge criminal trials and license saloons, they gained notoriety as the 'Forty Thieves' (rings a bell!).

## The book also recounts how Tweed courted immigrants and turned the New York Supreme Court into a "naturalization mill"

Eventually, it was Thomas Nast, a political cartoonist, who would bring about the downfall of Boss Tweed. The Nast cartoons irked Tweed to a degree that he is said to have burst out: "Stop them damned pictures. I don't care so much what the papers say about me. My constituents don't know how to read, but they can't help seeing these damned pictures!"

Undeterred, Nast's scathing images in Harper's weekly helped New York voters to oust Tweed from the corrupt leadership of Tammany Hall, a political machine that had embezzled hundreds of millions of dollars and bribed critics into silence. Nast's cartoon depicted this fall as that of Roman Consul Caius Marius who was exiled in disgrace to the ruined city of Carthage. He portrayed Tweed as wearing a crown of dollars leaning on an empty treasury box with a broken sword and yet glaring in defiant disbelief.

Countries and nations have moved on from these beginnings of corruption and patronage to build a governance system and society built on justice, accountability and order. Unfortunately, our power elite remains ever-mired to alter realities through deception. Magicians make people disappear, cut people in halves and pull out rabbits from hats. Harmless illusions otherwise, they become sinister acts when perpetrated in reality.

Political philosopher Juan Linz asserted that democracy can never be consolidated until it becomes the only game in town. This, he said, can only be achieved when (i) each power centre actor accepts the legitimacy and supremacy of the system (ii) when citizens identify with the existing constitutional order and (iii) when any change to the existing order can take place only through due process and within a binding constitutional framework.

Unfortunately, our power elite has always dismissed these essentials. Realities have always been altered through deception. Roman philosopher Seneca cautioned centuries ago that "to err is human but to persist is diabolical". The past cannot be undone but the future can be different only if mistakes of the past are acknowledged and shunned.

There has been so much corruption and injustice, so much greed leading to shattered dreams. Patronage and want have been exalted; sincerity and honesty have been scorned. Laying their faith in an incarcerated individual, the people have thwarted the attempt to eject bunnies out of hats.

Each audacious and oppressive attempt has been foiled as the people moreover the women, salute to them, have spoken despite all odds. No individual or power centre, however strong, has any right whatsoever to infringe upon this resounding verdict by the people. Not anymore!

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OSAMA AL-SHARIF

# Regional time bomb ready to explode during Ramadan

**F**or the US and its Arab allies, the holy month of Ramadan, which begins in less than a month's time, is a virtual cutoff date for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to conclude the five-month-old war on Gaza. This has not been stated publicly by the Biden administration, but such a message was delivered to Israel behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of a number of Arab countries have been discussing plans for the day after in Gaza. These include the launch of a universal political process not only to rehabilitate the devastated Strip, but also to revive the two-state solution and clear the way for the creation of a Palestinian state in return for full normalization between Arab states and Israel.

There is only one major obstacle facing this approach: Netanyahu and his far-right coalition. It now appears that Netanyahu and Co. live in a parallel universe, wholly detached from what the rest of the world is busy discussing and hoping to deliver after more than 100,000 Palestinians have been killed, injured or gone missing in Gaza.

The US and Netanyahu have rarely been on the same page since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack and Israel's declaration of war on Gaza. While the Biden administration stood firmly behind Tel Aviv as it waged the most destructive war on a civilian population in modern times, Netanyahu always made it clear that his agenda for Gaza had nothing to do with what the Biden administration, the Arab world or Israel's Western allies had in mind for the endgame.

After more than five months of a brutal and disproportionate military response, Netanyahu's goals have become more evident: he is not only after Hamas, he also wants to destroy Gaza — home to 2.2 million Palestinians, 70 percent of whom are refugees — and turn it into a wasteland.

At the Munich Security Conference, Blinken spoke of opportunities to integrate Israel into the region through normalization deals, while paving the way for the creation of a Palestinian state. However, Netanyahu and his partners voted to reject any unilateral international recognition of a Palestinian state. On Monday, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich threatened to cancel the Oslo Accords and dissolve the Palestinian Authority if such a recognition is made.

In recent weeks, the US, UK and France have joined other Western countries in openly stating that recognizing the state of Palestine was on the table. French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday

begged Israel to switch to low-intensity operations in Gaza to decrease civilian casualties — especially after the International Court of Justice's preliminary ruling last month on South Africa's case, which found plausible grounds for genocide — Netanyahu ignored all pleas and allowed his army to pummel through Khan Yunis, attacking hospitals, residential buildings, medics, mosques and universities with the same indiscriminate bombing.

So, we come to Ramadan and what that could mean for Gaza, Rafah and the boiling West Bank. Ignoring US requests to rein in West Bank settlers and reduce civilian deaths, Israel has continued to look the other way as Jewish settlers carry out their terror

religious war. Netanyahu's objectives are aligned with those of firebrand, ultrareligious and ultranationalist Jews who aim to hijack the narrative and derail all efforts to generate a political process following the Gaza debacle. And, yes, he wants to prolong the war, which is hurting Israel as well, for his own political survival.

But despite such a harrowing scenario of what could take place in the coming few weeks, the US appears to be completely detached from reality. Yes, the US president is frustrated with Netanyahu, but his administration is incapable, or unwilling, of applying pressure on him for domestic reasons. Biden is unlikely to stop the runaway Netanyahu train. And no Israeli politician is mustering the courage to stand up to him during a time of war.

Ramadan in the Occupied Territories has always been a tense period, even in relatively quieter times. Now, it is a ticking time bomb set to explode as a result of the Rafah situation and the extreme measures taken against Palestinians in the West Bank.

All attempts to lure or pressure Netanyahu will fail unless the US takes decisive action against the current Israeli government. If not, the extremists will prevail and will create precedents in East Jerusalem and at Al-Aqsa. They will push hard with their scheme to terrorize West Bankers and strangle them economically to push for a slow transfer, or what Ben-Gvir calls "voluntary migration." In Gaza, the situation is even worse. A ground offensive in Rafah will result in bloodshed and force hapless Palestinians to breach the border with Egypt seeking safety.

All the Israeli talk about facilitating the movement of millions of Palestinians to the north of Gaza is a farce. Netanyahu's goal of repeating the Nakba is going as planned. This will be his lethal legacy and, so far, nothing is stopping him.

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## Israel has continued to look the other way as Jewish settlers carry out their terror campaign throughout the West Bank

that recognition of a Palestinian state was "not a taboo" for Paris. In response to such statements, Netanyahu's office said that "now is not the time to be speaking about gifts for the Palestinian people."

And when US President Joe Biden and his team said openly that they do not support a ground offensive in Rafah, the last enclave where more than 1.8 million Palestinians have sought refuge, Netanyahu was defiant, claiming that Israel would not be denied a conclusive victory.

To add insult to injury, Netanyahu has rejected any proposal to reach a lengthy truce with Hamas in exchange for a hostage release. Such a deal had involved the Americans, Egypt and Qatar, as well as the Israeli Mossad. He risked breaking up with Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot, two key members of his war Cabinet, for deciding on his own the fate of any deal concerning the return of Israeli captives held by Hamas.

And when the Biden White House

campaign throughout the West Bank. At the same time, the Israeli army has maintained its daily incursions into towns and refugee camps with deadly results.

Now, Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir wants to raise the ante by barring almost all Palestinians in the West Bank from entering East Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque during the holy month. Such a move would inflame the West Bank and, by extension, the region. If the butchery in Gaza continues well into Ramadan, with Rafah becoming the center of military operations and with millions of Palestinians barred from praying at Al-Aqsa, the tinderbox will indeed ignite.

Perhaps that is what Netanyahu and his far-right partners want: to trigger an intifada and cast it as a religious war. Ben-Gvir's actions and provocations will give fodder to Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, the Houthis and many nonstate actors in the region to claim that Israel is indeed waging a

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

### Pakistan

After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer

terms. **CABINET PLAN**

In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan,

which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implica-

tions, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authors of the Plan. This provided the All-India Muslim League an excuse to withdraw its acceptance of the Plan and the party observed August 16, as a 'Direct Action Day' to show Muslim solidarity in support of the Pakistan demand.

To be continued....

# Drew Barrymore debuts new 'big hair' she 'cannot lie about'

Drew Barrymore, Camila Mendes get new hair look during live show

Drew Barrymore is debuting a new hairstyle with longer hair. Thanks to celebrity hairstylist Chris Appleton, the 48-year-old daytime television anchor transformed from playful waves to a huge blowout on Monday. Appleton, 40, and Riverdale actress Camila Mendes were invited by the Charlie's Angels star to participate in a makeover segment on The Drew Barrymore Show. The host, 48, first introduced her guests on the show and said she had "some fun questions" that were tucked away in "fabulous old velcro curlers." Minutes before the makeover began, Barrymore removed her exten-



sions during the live show as she asked hairstylist Chris Appleton about his plans regarding the two ladies. "I think I'm gonna do you both," the U.K.-born stylist said regarding their makeovers. "While you dismantle whatever's — I'm interested to see what comes out of that," Appleton told Barrymore while making his way over to start on Mendes, 29. "A lot," the host joked while removing her hair extensions. Appleton took a bright yellow roller and took out a sheet of paper from within as she started to style the Upgraded actress for a straightforward "day-to-night" look.

## Showbiz

## Tech

# Super Quasar: Brightest object in universe which eats sun every day 'hiding in plain sight'

Researchers claim that a quasar, which is 500 times brighter than our sun and the brightest object in the cosmos, was "hiding in plain sight". A quasar driven by the fastest-growing black hole ever found was discovered by Australian astronomers. With a mass almost 17 billion times that of the sun in our solar system, it consumes one sun per day, according to The Guardian. Over 12 billion years passed before the light from the heavenly object reached Earth. Scientists at the Australian National University's NSW Siding Spring Observatory in Coonabarabran initially noticed it with a 2.3-metre telescope. They subsequently used the Very Large Telescope of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), which has an 8-metre primary mirror, to confirm the discovery. Nature Astronomy has published the results of the ANU researchers' work with the ESO, the University of Melbourne, and the Sorbonne Université in France. Christian Wolf, the primary author and associate professor at ANU, claimed that it was the most brilliant object in the universe and



that its amazing pace of growth implied a "huge release of light and heat." He also expressed doubt that its record would ever be surpassed. An "accretion disc" with a diameter of seven light years is the source of the light. Before it reaches the event horizon, the material is drawn into and swirling around the black hole in that disc. Massive quantities of heat and light are produced when that material collides with other materials. "It looks like a gigantic and magnetic storm cell with temperatures of 10,000 degrees Celsius, lightning everywhere and winds blowing so fast they would go around Earth in a second," Wolf said.

## Full-fat vs low-fat: Which milk is better?

Most of us often get confused between the various types of milk when buying as deciding between full-fat and low-fat milk is a hard decision. Over the last three decades, the fat-free trend increased tremendously, with people opting for low-fat milk because it has become the new thing, Yahoo News reported.

However, in recent times, youngsters are once again moving towards full-fat milk, thanks to a TikTok video going viral. So let's end the debate once and for all.

**Full-fat milk vs low-fat milk**  
 Full-fat milk also known as whole milk or cow milk, contains a fat content of at least 3.25%. No fat is removed from the milk during processing. It is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, as well as other vitamins, Aarp.org reported. Whereas low-fat milk also known as skimmed

milk or fat-free milk contains between 1-2% fat. A 2021 study looked at 72 patients with metabolic syndrome and found that full-fat dairy diets did not affect blood pressure or cholesterol when compared to low-fat dairy diets. It was published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Another research published in the Journal Circulation in 2016 followed over 3,300 persons over 15 years and found that people with the highest blood levels of certain fatty acids — found in full-fat dairy — had a 44% reduced risk of type 2 diabetes.

A major concern among adults is that high saturated fat levels may not be good for older adults but a 2018 study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that individuals who consumed more whole-fat dairy products

and had greater fatty acid levels also had a decreased risk of heart disease and mortality from all causes. Dr Dariush Mozaffarian, a cardiologist and dean of the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, said, "I think what all these studies together say is that we need to stop making blanket recommendations such as 'avoid full-fat dairy!'"

**Lactose intolerance**  
 Lactose intolerance is a fairly common condition in which lactose — a naturally occurring sugar present in milk — triggers digestive symptoms such as nausea, diarrhoea, bloating, and gas. If you are lactose intolerant, Mozaffarian recommends that you stick to dairy products that are naturally lower in lactose, such as hard cheeses and yoghurt. You can also look for lactose-free or lactose-reduced milk products.



## Health



اسلام آباد، بھارت کے وزیر اعظم نریندر مودی اور امریکی فرم کی سربراہی میں موجود ہیں

8 فروری کے انتخابات، جعلی تحقیقات کیلئے جوڈیشل کمیشن بنایا جائے، بیٹری مشن

بلوچستان میں جعلی انتخابات کی تباہ کاریوں کو روکا گیا، دو ہزار سے زائد لوگوں کو سزا دی گئی

اسلام آباد (خبر پورٹ) بھارتی حکومت نے 8 فروری کے انتخابات کیلئے جعلی تحقیقات کیلئے جوڈیشل کمیشن بنایا جائے، بیٹری مشن بلوچستان میں جعلی انتخابات کی تباہ کاریوں کو روکا گیا، دو ہزار سے زائد لوگوں کو سزا دی گئی۔



صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی کا راولپنڈی ٹیچر آف کامرس کے کیمپ کے افتتاحی سیشن میں خطاب

کلا نے ہمیشہ ملکی استحکام، خوشحالی کیلئے کردار ادا کیا، گورنر خیبر پختونخوا

معاشرے میں عدل و انصاف کی فراہمی کی جتنی فراوانی ہوگی معاشرہ اتنا ہی پرسکون اور پرسن ہوگا، وفد سے گفتگو

کلا نے ہمیشہ ملکی استحکام، خوشحالی کیلئے کردار ادا کیا، گورنر خیبر پختونخوا نے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ معاشرے میں عدل و انصاف کی فراہمی کی جتنی فراوانی ہوگی معاشرہ اتنا ہی پرسکون اور پرسن ہوگا۔

نتیجہ جاری نہ ہوئے تو آئی ایم ایف پروگرام منسوخ ہوگا، سٹیٹس گورنر

راولپنڈی (خبر پورٹ) آئی ایم ایف پروگرام منسوخ ہوگا، سٹیٹس گورنر نے کہا کہ نتیجہ جاری نہ ہوئے تو آئی ایم ایف پروگرام منسوخ ہوگا۔

راولپنڈی (خبر پورٹ) آئی ایم ایف پروگرام منسوخ ہوگا، سٹیٹس گورنر نے کہا کہ نتیجہ جاری نہ ہوئے تو آئی ایم ایف پروگرام منسوخ ہوگا۔



سیالکوٹ، پی ٹی آئی کی ریجنل اتھارٹی کے اجلاس میں شرکت کرنے والے وفد کے اراکین

سندھ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کی ترقی کے لیے حکومت کو سوشل میڈیا ایپس سے فحش مواد ہٹانے کا حکم

کراچی (خبر پورٹ) سندھ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کی ترقی کے لیے حکومت کو سوشل میڈیا ایپس سے فحش مواد ہٹانے کا حکم دیا گیا۔

کراچی (خبر پورٹ) سندھ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کی ترقی کے لیے حکومت کو سوشل میڈیا ایپس سے فحش مواد ہٹانے کا حکم دیا گیا۔

ایم کیو ایم کی ن لیگ اور پی پی پی حکومت سازی میں تعاون کی یقین دہانی

تحدہ قومی موومنٹ پاکستان نے حکومت میں شامل ہونے کیلئے ن لیگ سے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی

اسلام آباد (خبر پورٹ) ایم کیو ایم پاکستان نے مسلم لیگ ن اور پی پی پی کے ساتھ مل کر حکومت سازی کے لیے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی۔

بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے کان کنی کے شعبے میں اصلاحات لارے، ایس آئی ایف سی کان کنی، آئی ٹی، زراعت، لائیو اسٹاک پر کام کرنی

پاکستان اہم جیو اسٹریٹجک پوزیشن کا حامل، امریکا ہمارا تجارتی شراکت دار، معاہدے سے نمک کی برآمد میں اضافہ ہوگا، ایس آئی ایف سی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے ون ونڈو آپریشن مہیا کر رہی ہے، نگران وزیر اعظم

بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے کان کنی کے شعبے میں اصلاحات لارے، ایس آئی ایف سی کان کنی، آئی ٹی، زراعت، لائیو اسٹاک پر کام کرنی۔

اسٹریٹجک پوزیشن کا حامل ہے، بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے کان کنی کے شعبے میں اصلاحات لارے، ایس آئی ایف سی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے ون ونڈو آپریشن مہیا کر رہی ہے۔

طالبان کے ساتھ واضح مشاورت کی ضرورت ہے اقوام متحدہ

نیویارک (ایزیٹک ڈیسک) اقوام متحدہ کے سیکریٹری جنرل انتونیو گوتیرش نے کہا ہے کہ طالبان کے قہر کے دور حکومت سے افغانستان کے بارے میں اقوام متحدہ کے زیر اہتمام ہونے والے اجلاس میں شرکت کے لیے ناقابل قبول شرائط رکھیں۔

پینلز پارٹی موقف پر قائم، اپنی شرائط پر ن لیگ کو ووٹ دے گی، بلاول

پینلز پارٹی موقف پر قائم، اپنی شرائط پر ن لیگ کو ووٹ دے گی، بلاول نے کہا کہ ن لیگ اپنی شرائط پر قائم رہے گی۔

اسلام آباد (خبر پورٹ) پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ ن لیگ اپنی شرائط پر قائم رہے گی۔

حکومت سازی، پنجاب اسمبلی کا اجلاس 22 فروری کو طلب کر نیکا فیصلہ

پنجاب میں مخصوص نشستوں کی آئینی حیثیت متنازعہ ہونے کا خدشہ، پی ٹی آئی کے مخصوص نشستوں سے محروم ہونے کا امکان موجود

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) پنجاب میں حکومت سازی کے معاملے پر پنجاب اسمبلی کا اجلاس 22 فروری کو طلب کر نیکا فیصلہ کیا جائے گا۔

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) پنجاب میں حکومت سازی کے معاملے پر پنجاب اسمبلی کا اجلاس 22 فروری کو طلب کر نیکا فیصلہ کیا جائے گا۔

این اے 117، علیم خان کی کامیابی کا نوٹیفیکیشن ہائیکورٹ چیئرمین

تمام امیدواروں کی موجودگی میں رزلٹ مرتب کرنے کا حکم جاری کیا جائے، درخواست گزار کی پی ایم اے نوٹیفیکیشن

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) این اے 117 کے حلقے میں رزلٹ مرتب کرنے کا حکم جاری کیا جائے گا۔

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) این اے 117 کے حلقے میں رزلٹ مرتب کرنے کا حکم جاری کیا جائے گا۔

تلسیٹویوں کی نسل کشی، برازیل نے اسرائیل سے اپنا سفیر واپس بلالیا

اسرائیل نے تلسیٹویوں کی نسل کشی پر برازیل سے اپنا سفیر واپس بلالیا۔

اسرائیل نے تلسیٹویوں کی نسل کشی پر برازیل سے اپنا سفیر واپس بلالیا۔

وزیر اعظم آزاد کشمیر کا دورہ امبورو ہسپتال، شعبہ گائے اور ایمر جنسی فری کر نیکا حکم

ہمارے پاس فنڈز نہیں، ہسپتال انتظامیہ کا کورا جواب، چوہدری انوار الحق کا سول سیکرٹریٹ کا سربراہانہ وزٹ، پاپیٹرنگ حاضری چیک

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) وزیر اعظم آزاد کشمیر نے امبورو ہسپتال کا دورہ کیا۔

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) وزیر اعظم آزاد کشمیر نے امبورو ہسپتال کا دورہ کیا۔

پنجاب، مونیسا سے سنگین صورتحال برقرار مزید 13 بچے چھل بسے

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) پنجاب میں مونیسا سے سنگین صورتحال برقرار ہے۔

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) پنجاب میں مونیسا سے سنگین صورتحال برقرار ہے۔

اے این ایف کارروائیوں میں 631 کلوگرام منشیات برآمد

گرفتار ملزمان کے خلاف انسداد منشیات ایکٹ کے تحت مقدمات درج کر کے تحقیقات کا آغاز کر دیا گیا ہے

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) اے این ایف نے 631 کلوگرام منشیات برآمد کی۔

لاہور (خبر پورٹ) اے این ایف نے 631 کلوگرام منشیات برآمد کی۔

ایم کیو ایم کی ن لیگ اور پی پی پی حکومت سازی میں تعاون کی یقین دہانی

تحدہ قومی موومنٹ پاکستان نے حکومت میں شامل ہونے کیلئے ن لیگ سے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی

اسلام آباد (خبر پورٹ) ایم کیو ایم پاکستان نے مسلم لیگ ن اور پی پی پی کے ساتھ مل کر حکومت سازی کے لیے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی۔

اسلام آباد (خبر پورٹ) ایم کیو ایم پاکستان نے مسلم لیگ ن اور پی پی پی کے ساتھ مل کر حکومت سازی کے لیے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی۔

ایم کیو ایم کی ن لیگ اور پی پی پی حکومت سازی میں تعاون کی یقین دہانی

تحدہ قومی موومنٹ پاکستان نے حکومت میں شامل ہونے کیلئے ن لیگ سے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی

اسلام آباد (خبر پورٹ) ایم کیو ایم پاکستان نے مسلم لیگ ن اور پی پی پی کے ساتھ مل کر حکومت سازی کے لیے تین نکاتی آئینی ترمیم پر رضامندی ظاہر کی۔

**FBR collects revenue of Rs.5,150 trln since July 2023 to mid of Feb 2024 against Rs.3,973 trln over the same period last FY**



ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected revenue of Rs.5,150 trillion since July 2023 to mid of February 2024 against Rs.3,973 trillion over the same period last FY – almost 30% tax revenue growth. During the course of this period, tax refunds grew by more than 28%.

The month wise revenue collection for July 2023 to January 2024 is as under: 2022-23 Rs. Billion 2023-24 Rs. Billion % Growth July 462 538 17 August 494 669 36 September 688 834 21 October 516 707 37 November 534 736 38 December 735 985 34 January 545 680 25 Overall growth in the domestic taxes has been around 40%, while import duty and related taxes grew by 10% over July 2023 to January 2024 period. Growth in revenues gained momentum as GDP has revived and FBR collection has come under tighter scrutiny.

Notwithstanding, growth in import taxes fell largely because of (i) downward adjustments in import tariffs over the years, and (ii) more recently restrictions on import licenses imposed by SBP to contain balance of payments position in the wake of foreign exchange constraints. The revenue collection from imports do however incorporate the impact of the improvements in the valuation of imports that yielded Rs 151 billion collections as well as anti-smuggling drive (that witnessed almost 69% growth in FY vis-à-vis FY 22-23). There is scope to enhance anti-smuggling efforts by looking into increasing customs force in Baluchistan which is currently only 378 anti-smuggling staff (compared to 20,000 personnel in the province undermine the enforcement efforts). The revenue mobilization from domestic taxes is a welcome shift. The domestic tax collection is now over 64% of the total revenues collected during the current financial year. Concurrently the import taxes shared has declined to 36% from more than 50% just 3 years ago. The tax wise collection reveals following trends: Tax Up to Jan-2023 Rs. Billion Up to Jan-2024 Rs. Billion % Growth Major Contributors Income Tax 1,751 2,447 40 Banks, POL, Textile, Power, Food, Services Sales Tax 1,480 1,766 19 POL, Power Food, Autos, Iron & Steel, Chemical Federal Excise 190 307 61 Tobacco, Cement, Beverages, Airlines, Fertilizers, Autos Customs Duty 552 629 14 POL, Autos, Iron & Steel, Electronics, Food Grand Total 3973 5,150 30 Source: Federal Board of Revenue SABAH



**RAWALPINDI: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the members of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at National Health Summit on Dental Hygiene.**

## Individuals & not the institution impose martial law: CJP Qazi Faez Isa

**Justice Syed Masnoor Ali Shah says court could not examine merit of the case since the verdict had already been announced**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa has wondered whether the Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto reference is an opportunity for the Supreme Court and armed forces to rectify their past mistakes and restore their reputation. "Isn't this an opportunity for both institutions to get rid of the accusations hurled against them," the top judge remarked on Tuesday during a hearing of a presidential reference related to the death sentence awarded to the former PM Bhutto in 1979. The 9-member larger bench of the Apex Court — led by CJP Isa and comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Masnoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Musarrat Hilali — heard the presidential reference seeking to revisit the "controversial" death sentence awarded to former PM Bhutto in 1979. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and amicus curiae with expertise on the criminal and constitutional sides attended Tuesday's hearing.

CJP Qazi Faez Isa also said that individuals and not the institution impose martial law. "Isn't the verdict in the Bhutto reference draw a line for the judiciary and the army," he added. The Supreme Court also decided to hear the heirs of the late PPP founder and complainant Ahmad Raza Kasuri in the presidential reference. CJP Isa directed all respondents to keep their arguments short and said that the top court wanted to conclude the hearing of the case before the retirement of a judge part of the larger bench. Amicus Curiae Makhdoom Ali Khan told the bench that the interviews of former judges Naseem Hassan Shah, Dorab Patel, and Aslam Riaz were on record to prove the biases of the judges who awarded capital punishment to the PPP founder. He said former judge Qaiser Rashid Khan had said that "even a cat cannot be awarded death penalty based on the evidence" present in the ZA Bhutto case. Makhdoom Ali Khan also said that the court can announce the verdict in the ZA Bhutto case under Article 187.

During the hearing, Justice Syed Masnoor Ali Shah remarked that the court could not examine the merit of the case since the verdict had already been announced. However, the court can look into how the former PM was sentenced to death. "If the court has to ascertain whether the judges announced the verdict under duress then what would be the evidence [to back the claim]," he remarked. He said that is the evidence that there was pressure on judges, adding that justice Naseem Hassan Shah's interview is of general nature and it is not related to the current case. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail remarked that it is the responsibility of the judge to do justice. In its written order of Tuesday's proceedings, the Supreme Court said amicus curiae Khalid Javed Khan has submitted his response to the court, while the PPP chief's counsel Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani and Zahid Fakhruddin Ibrahim will present their arguments after amicus curiae. The hearing of the case has been adjourned till February 26. SABAH

**There are currently total of 23,456 prisoners/detainees in foreign prisons: MOFA**

**VOM Report**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights was held here at Parliament House on Tuesday with Senator Walid Iqbal in the Chair. The Senate Committee deliberated on the matter of Pakistani citizens who are imprisoned or detained abroad, both convicted or under trial. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) submitted that there are currently total of 23,456 prisoners/detainees in foreign prisons, mainly in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, India and China, out of 15,587 are convicted and 7,869 are under trial. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed inquired about MoFA's initiatives to provide relief to these prisoners or establish a repatriation program. He also highlighted that Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, announced the release of 2,100 Pakistani prisoners during his visit to Pakistan at the request of former PM Imran Khan. The Committee accordingly sought information from MOFA about current status of prisoners whose release was agreed upon by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman as aforesaid. At the same time, Senator Walid Iqbal highlighted the non-existence of a Uniform Consular Protection Policy in the light of the government's Constitutional duty to ensure due process of law for all citizens of Pakistan wherever they might be. He informed the Committee that Chief Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the Lahore High Court (as he then was) had directed the formulation of a Uniform Consular Protection Policy in his judgment in the Asma Shaif case in 2017. However, about seven years have passed, but no policy has been formulated so far. The Committee thereupon directed MOFA to formulate the Uniform Consular Protection Policy within the next 90 days and procure government approval for its implementation. On the same subject, representatives of the Ministry of Interior briefed the Committee that Pakistan had entered into Prisoner Transfer Agreements with eleven countries, ten of which were fully effective and one was under process as it had yet to be ratified by a foreign government. Copies of those eleven Prisoner Transfer Agreements were also presented before the Committee. The Committee observed that, while these were government to government agreements, their intended beneficiaries were citizens of Pakistan; therefore they should be easily accessible and publicly available to everyone. Accordingly, the Committee unanimously recommended that all present and future Prisoner Transfer Agreements be placed on the web-sites of the Ministries of Interior, Human Rights, Overseas Pakistanis and Law & Justice.



**Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a National Price Monitoring Committee meeting to review prices of essential commodities.**



**KARACHI: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi in a Group photo with participants after distributing awards and certificates of appreciation among the members of Floral Art Society of Pakistan who won the Bloom Oman competition. APP**

## Character build of children vital along with education, training: Governor

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Tuesday emphasized the need of character building of children along with education and training. He was speaking after inaugurating three new programs for education and training of children at Children's Library Complex Lahore. The event was attended by Secretary School Education, Muhammad Ahsan Waheed, Chairman Board of Governors Children Library Complex Dr Nasir Javed, Managing Director Punjab Textbook Board, Naveed Shehzad Mirza, Managing Director Children Library Complex, Ahmed Khawar Shehzad and other personalities. Governor Punjab inaugurated Knowledge Value and Skill Based Education, Space Race Pakistan and Virtual Reality Platform. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the future of the country and the nation hinges on good education of children. He said that the increase in the number of out of school children is alarming. He emphasized that we all have to forget our petty differences and play a role to address this issue. INP

## PML-N has prepared a comprehensive strategy for the development of Punjab & relief to the people: Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE: In a significant political development, two more newly-elected independent members of the Punjab Assembly have officially joined the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), strengthening the party's position in the province. Ahsan Raza Khan, the successful independent candidate from PP-180 Kasur, and Colonel (ret'd) Ghazanfar Qureshi from PP-128 Jhang-IV, chose to align themselves with the PML-N on Tuesday. The decision was announced during a meeting with PML-N Senior Vice President and Chief Minister-designate Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in Lahore. During the meeting, Maryam welcomed both Khan and Qureshi into the PML-N fold and extended her congratulations. Maryam expressed gratitude for their support and

emphasised the crucial role they would play in steering the country towards development. Addressing the gathering, Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated, "Your support will bring the country back from disaster to development. We aim to take Pakistan towards stability by ending the chaos. The PML-N has prepared a comprehensive strategy for the development of Punjab and relief to the people." Highlighting the party's commitment to progress, she added, "PML-N will carry forward the tradition of development, construction, and prosperity of the people with new enthusiasm." In response, Ahsan Raza Khan and Colonel (ret'd) Ghazanfar Qureshi congratulated Maryam Nawaz Sharif on her nomination as the Chief Minister of Punjab, expressing confidence in her leadership and the party's vision for the province. SABAH

## UK's Climate Finance Accelerator Roundtable Event Concludes Investor Roadshow, Announces CFA Phase III

**The Climate Finance Accelerator Pakistan concludes its two-day Investor Roadshow 2024 with a high-level roundtable discussion**

KARACHI: The Climate Finance Accelerator Pakistan (CFA) concluded its two-day Investor Roadshow 2024 with a high-level roundtable discussion on Tuesday. The event, chaired by James Naughton, Head of Development Finance and Investment, DAI Global and co-chaired by Clementine Le Nagard, and Ellen Paton from UK Department for Energy Security and Net-Zero, brought together 20 influential leaders and experts from the banking, corporate, and development finance sectors to discuss the future of climate finance and low-carbon initiatives in Pakistan. The roundtable discussion aimed to engage in a meaningful and result-oriented conversation about the challenges and opportunities in scaling climate finance in Pakistan. It also explored innovative strategies to make climate finance more accessible and viable, with a focus on transitioning the CFA into a sustainable, locally embedded institution within Pakistan by 2025.

In his opening remarks, Clementine Le Naughton highlighted the UK's interest in climate change and its commitment to supporting Pakistan in achieving a sustainable future. "The UK is committed to working with Pakistan to address the challenges of climate change," said James. "A sustainable future is not only beneficial for Pakistan but also for the world. Through initiatives like the Climate Finance Accelerator, we can create innovative solutions that will benefit Pakistan and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change."

Khurram Lalani, Team Lead of the CFA Programme, emphasized the role of the CFA as a key platform for climate mitigation projects in Pakistan. He highlighted the importance of the programme in fostering innovation and creating bankable projects that contribute to Pakistan's sustainable future. "The Climate Finance Accelerator Programme is at the forefront of creating innovative solutions for Pakistan's future," said Khurram Lalani. "Through our efforts, we aim to support climate mitigation projects that not only reduce carbon emissions but also create long-term financial viability for Pakistan." The roundtable discussion concluded with the announcement of the launch of CFA Phase III in Pakistan in April 2024. The new phase of the programme aims to build on the success of the previous phases and further strengthen Pakistan's capacity to address climate change through innovative financing mechanisms. The Climate Finance Accelerator Roundtable event underscored the CFA's commitment to fostering practical solutions and long-term strategies for low-carbon, mitigation projects in Pakistan. It highlighted the importance of collaboration between the UK and Pakistan in addressing climate change and emphasized the role of innovative financing mechanisms in achieving a sustainable future. SABAH

## Bilawal Bhutto says he foresees a 'dangerous stalemate' if 'someone' doesn't change their position over govt formation

**Says if I have to vote for PML-N, I will do so on my terms**

ISLAMABAD: With the talks between the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) dragging on, Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday warned that he foresees a "dangerous stalemate" if "someone" doesn't change their position over government formation. Bilawal Bhutto said that Asif Ali Zardari will not do anything which could annoy me. "Progress [in talks] can only be made if 'someone' is willing to change their position [...] We stand by our position and will not change it," Bilawal said without naming PML-N. He made these comments during a media talk outside the Supreme Court of Pakistan after attending the hearing of a presidential reference against Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's death sentence. Bilawal Bhutto said that this deadlock over talks would neither be beneficial for the democracy nor the economy. When asked if he was in touch with the establishment, Bilawal Bhutto said: "Where is the evidence that I am involved with the establishment? Give evidence before accusing me." He said that the people did not give a majority to just one party. "The people



have given such a decision on which all the stakeholders will have to come to a consensus." "Political stakeholders have to sit together and decide. If I have to vote for PML-N, I will do so on my terms," added Bilawal. Bilawal Bhutto said he would not change his stance regarding cooperation

with the PML-N for the formation of government in centre. "If someone else wants to change their stance, there can be progress. If they are not ready to change it, I foresee a stalemate," former foreign minister Bilawal said, adding that it would not benefit democracy or the parliamentary system. "If I want to give the PML-N a vote, I will have to give it on my terms and not theirs," he continued. "The delay [in forming the government] is because of non-serious," he said, adding that this harmed Pakistan's democracy. "The faster this is resolved, it will be better for stability and the incoming government."

Bilawal Bhutto said that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto reference is the historic case and it is the test of the judiciary, adding that he is hopeful that the judiciary will provide justice to the creator of the Constitution of Pakistan.