



Appreciated the role of Pakistan Army in ensuring peace and stability in the region

Chief of Army Staff
Gen Syed Asim Munir

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Turkish Commander calls on COAS; lauds Pak Army's role in regional peace, stability



RAWALPINDI: Commander Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here at General Headquarters on Monday and appreciated the role of Pakistan Army in ensuring peace and stability in the region. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, during the meeting, matters of mutual interest and measures to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation were discussed. However, they expressed satisfaction over deep-rooted relations between the two countries, based on historic, cultural and religious affinity. The COAS emphasized the need to further strengthen existing military to military cooperation between the two Armed Forces. Earlier on arrival at GHQ, the Commander Turkish Land Forces, laid wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary. PR

UAE Ambassador calls on Shaza Fatima



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja here on Monday. Matters of mutual interest and relating to IT & Telecom sector, digitalization, cybersecurity and innovation were discussed in the meeting, said a news release. The two sides agreed to increase cooperation in the field of IT & Telecom. The meeting was also attended by Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and DG International Coordination Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi.

Commander Turkish Land Forces calls on Defence Minister



ISLAMABAD: Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu Monday called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, whereas the Defence Minister welcomed the dignity and expressed satisfaction over common understanding on regional and global geo-political situation. According to the news release, both sides acknowledged the strong relationship

between their Armed Forces and committed to further expand defence collaboration. The defence minister also appreciated Turkiye's strong support for Pakistan on multiple forums. He also stated that enhanced defence cooperation was an important aspect of the bilateral relationship, characterized by Joint Projects, Joint Exercises and Military Training. — VOM Report



Riyadh: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif speaks at a Closing Plenary-Rejuvenating Growth, at a Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

No peace in world without permanent peace in Gaza: PM

VOM Report

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday here said permanent peace in Gaza was imperative for achieving peace in the world. He was speaking at the plenary meeting of the special session of World Economic Forum on the theme of "Rejuvenating Growth". He said, "The world will not be in peace unless there is a permanent peace in Gaza." As he talked about Gaza, the audience in the hall responded with resounding applause. He said the conflict in Ukraine brought to the world skyrocketing commodity prices and Pakistan could not import and procure vital raw materials for industry and agriculture. "On top of that inflation is breaking the back of developing countries," he said adding coupled with that, Pakistan faced devastation in 2022 due to huge unimaginable floods. The prime minister said, "Pakistan is one of those countries which has nothing to do with the reasons leading to climate change. Our contribution to emissions is not even fraction of one percent." Due to catastrophic floods in Pakistan, large swathes of land were submerged and millions of houses and animals were washed away and stagnant water brought water borne diseases all across the country, he continued. He said his government spent Rs 100 billion from scarce resources for relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees. "We are grateful to the friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries, United Kingdom, the United States and many other

countries for their support at a difficult time." Pakistan's economy suffered losses of 30 billion dollars because of floods and then it approached international entities in Geneva and other places and had to borrow loans at expensive rates due to the natural disaster which was not its fault, he mentioned. "Our country was hit in a way which I had not seen in my life time," he remarked. He gave example of his family to express his determination and resolve to put Pakistan on the road to progress and prosperity. He said his father and his brothers were sons of a poor farmer in undivided India and they migrated to Lahore, Pakistan at the time of partition. With the sheer dint of hard work, in 1965 his father and family raised the largest steel engineering company in Pakistan but it was nationalized on January 2, 1972, he said adding his family stood up and accepted the challenge and in next 18 months set up six new small factories to avoid further nationalization. He said global north and south were dependent on each other and had to work together to face the present challenges. The prime minister said after taking over rein of the country early this year, he was determined to put things in order. Talking about issues facing Pakistan, he said the power sector was in shambles due to massive electricity theft and an elitist culture was doling out to those who did not deserve it. He told that for the first time in the history of the country after getting credible input from agencies he removed high level officers who

were not functioning well and had grey record. "Our revenue sector is in tatters and what we receive annually in revenue, we lose four times due to leakages in the system. Unless we plug loopholes we will not recover from our problems in revenue collection," he explained. He said there were also problems of inflation and debt trap which was a "death trap". He said, "I acknowledge from the core of my heart the support of Saudi leadership for Pakistan for overcoming economic challenges. A friend in need is a friend indeed." He appreciated UK's Department for International Development for its outstanding support for Pakistan in sectors of health and education in the past. He said his government was going for deep rooted structural reforms and meaningful austerity. Pakistan had a very young population – millions of boys and girls – which was not only a challenge but also a great opportunity. "Youth is our biggest asset and we have to provide them with modern tools and technology including education in information technology and artificial intelligence and vocational training so that they can become self earners and establish small and medium size businesses and contribute in the nation building efforts in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia." Talking about his goals to achieve economic progress, he said his government would promote agriculture through modern technology and by providing best seeds and fertilizers to farmers.

Pakistan, Malaysia to hold JMC this year to study markets, explore economic opportunities



RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday met with Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hasan in which they reviewed the broad range of relations with a special focus on enhancing trade and investment ties. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) being held here, two sides agreed to hold the next round of Joint Ministerial Commission meeting in Islamabad during the year.

In the Joint Ministerial Commission meeting, the two sides will study the markets and take full advantage of the opportunities offered in various sectors for tangible economic outcomes, according to a press release. Regular high-level contacts provide a leadership-driven impetus to bilateral trade and investment relations. In this backdrop, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dar invited the Malaysian foreign minister to undertake a visit to Pakistan, which he accepted. Discussing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the two sides emphasized the immediate cessation of hostilities and called for providing urgent humanitarian relief to Palestinians. They also underscored closer cooperation within the framework of OIC for finding a peaceful and durable solution to the Palestinian question.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema.

Ayaz extends felicitation to Ishaq Dar on his appointment as deputy PM



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday extended felicitation to Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister. In his felicitation message, the Speaker said that appointment of Senator Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister indicated the trust on his political sagaciousness and his seasoned leadership, said a news release. He said that Ishaq Dar's appointment as Deputy Prime Minister would lead Pakistan on a new path of progress and prosperity. The Speaker also said that Ishaq Dar is a seasoned politician and renowned economist. The Speaker expressed his confidence that Senator Ishaq Dar would utilize his potential to lead the country on the path of development and prosperity. He lauded his services for progress and development of the country.

Four terrorists killed in Tank IBO, says ISPR



RAWALPINDI: The security forces have killed at least four terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Tank district, the military's media wing reported on Monday.

"On night 28/29 April 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Tank district on reported presence of terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which four terrorists were sent to hell," the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The ISPR said the security forces recovered weapons and ammunition as well from the terrorists who were involved in numerous terrorist activities in the district.

The media wing said residents of the area appreciated the operation by the security forces, who remained determined to eliminate the menace of

terrorism from the country.

A day ago, the ISPR had reported that two terrorists involved in target killing and extortion were shot dead during an intense exchange of fire between militants and security forces in Dera Ismail Khan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As per the military's media wing, the security forces had conducted an IBO in Dera Ismail Khan on reported presence of terrorists on April 28.

"During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists, and resultantly two terrorists; terrorist Faheem Nawaz alias Gaddapuri and terrorist Mohsin Nawaz were successfully neutralised and sent to hell," the ISPR had stated.

The brief statement issued by the military's media wing had stated that weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the slain terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces and innocent civilians via target killings and extortion.

MoCC&EC, HEC mull over climate change inclusion into national curriculum: Romina Khurshid

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination was mulling over inclusion of climate change as part of the national curriculum with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) to start climate awareness at the grassroots level. Prime Minister's Coordinator expressed these views at the launch ceremony of Pakistan's Roadmap

on Plastics. She said the nation must cope with climate change together as it had to learn from each other's experiences. Romina Khurshid said she has demonstrated zero tolerance on the use of single-use plastics and strictly adhered to the avoidance of drinking water in plastic bottles. "Aquatic life is also in trouble because of plastics that demands urgent action and responsibility of all as individuals towards shunning the one-time use plastics," she said. The Minister underscored that Pakistan is among the 175 countries of the



UN which have signed the agreement to eliminate plastic pollution. "Pakistan is the first country in South Asia to launch the "National Plastics Action Partnership" programme of the World Economic Forum," she said. The climate change is not limited to national borders, and it needed to be resolved beyond politics, Romina noted. "The society will have to take actions unilaterally for addressing adverse impacts of climate change on a formal war footing basis. However, by organizing seminars in five-star hotels can be a waste of

money and not a solution to the problem," the Minister noted. Addressing climate change was ne of the Prime Minister's priorities, and therefore under the leadership of the Prime Minister, a committee was being formed including the provinces of Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan to take up serious interventions," she said. She said the exacerbating onslaught of climate catastrophes has gripped other regions as well as there are floods in Asia and droughts in Africa, whereas solution to all these problems has to be done on a now or never basis.

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Protecting free speech

DR NAAZIR MAHMOOD

When Pakistan's greatest war for freedom of expression was raging in the dark decade of General Ziaul Haq in the late 1970s, Ahfaz-ur-Rahman and Nasir Zaidi were at the forefront with their leaders Minhaj Barna and Nisar Usmani. In April 2020, during the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan, Ahfaz bhai lost his battle against cancer. His death was a huge loss to Pakistan's journalist community, and his colleagues, friends and, of course, students such as myself mourned him with deep sorrow. Ahfaz's family – wife Mahnaz Rahman and children Rameez and Tabinda – launched an award in his name, the Ahfaz Memorial Award for lifetime achievement in journalism. This year, Nasir Zaidi received the award.

When the climate for journalism darkens in the country, we remember the likes of Ahfaz-ur-Rahman. He was an irrepressible source of competence and courage for us. Whenever Ahfaz bhai realized that a benign voice was not enough to defend freedom of expression in the country, he would take to the streets with a loud and powerful roar.

Ahfaz-ur-Rahman began his career in the mid-1960s when the first military dictator General Ayub Khan was at his peak, controlling the mighty state machinery. He allegedly rigged the 1965 presidential elections against Fatima Jinnah and was planning to rule forever.

But there were democrats and journalists who could challenge him, and as a young journalist, Ahfaz-ur-Rahman was closely observing the stalwarts of journalism who could stand up to challenge the dictator and his allies who had imposed restrictions on free expression.

Ayub's seemingly indestructible regime was crumbling, and China's Cultural Revolution was in full swing when Ahfaz-ur-Rahman moved to China to work there as a journalist and translator. His two-year stint ended in 1969 when General Ayub's regime came tumbling down only to vault another general to power.

In the 1970s, Ahfaz-ur-Rahman worked for various newspapers and magazines such as 'Al-Fatah' and 'Musawat'. By the time General Zia toppled ZA Bhutto's elected government and dissolved parliament unconstitutionally, Ahfaz-ur-Rahman had already become a dynamic follower of Minhaj Barna and Nisar Usmani and a leader of journalists in his own right. Thus began the war against General Zia's arbitrary censorship, leading to the arrests of hundreds of journalists. Ahfaz-ur-Rahman was imprisoned, and Nasir Zaidi was one of the four journalists sentenced to public lashing.

Years later, Ahfaz-ur-Rahman documented this struggle in his invaluable book 'Sab se bari jang' which is now also available in English. His last major battle for freedom of expression was against General Musharraf's dictatorship in the first decade of the 21st century. By the time Ahfaz bhai closed his eyes in 2020, he had penned over a dozen books, completed dozens of translations, wrote hundreds of features, and inspired millions of his readers.

Ahfaz-ur-Rahman was also an Urdu poet of considerable reputation with his poems concerning a wide range of political and social issues. He was interested in history, international affairs, politics, literature, and so many other disciplines. His heartfelt affiliation with the victims of atrocities around the world is reflected in his poems. Be it Kashmir or Palestine, Vietnam or Cambodia and Chile, he wrote about the people who struggled for democracy and freedom. This is the reason the Rahman family decided to institute an award for free speech that four journalists have won so far: Amar Jaleel, Asma Shirazi, Hussain Naqi and Nasir Zaidi. Every year, at the award ceremony, an eminent scholar or journalist delivers an Ahfaz memorial lecture at the Art Council auditorium in Karachi, generously provided by Ahmed Shah. Dr Jaffer Ahmed delivered the first lecture in 2022. In 2023 the award committee requested Amar Sindhu and Mazhar Abbas to deliver lectures. Last year, the committee also decided to honour some outstanding mass communication students from Federal Urdu University. This year, the theme of the ceremony was Palestine and the partisanship of Western media against Palestinian victims of Israeli rage.

Zarrar Khuuro who has emerged as a powerful voice of sane journalism in Pakistan delivered this year's lecture on April 20, 2024. He highlighted the duplicity of Western media while covering the ongoing war on an oppressed people in the Middle East. He termed the war a misnomer as it is more of a genocide than an ordinary war between two standing armies. "In fact, it is a war on speech in which Western media is blatantly complicit."

He debunked the perception that Western media is superior to the media in developing countries in any true sense of independent reporting. "There is no need to feel any inferiority complex in front of Western media." Instead of being objective and impartial or neutral, Western media has crossed all limits in hiding facts. They use expressions giving a milder touch to atrocities that are more barbaric than any other war in recent history. In a way, they are complicit in the genocide that they refuse to acknowledge. Zarrar exposed the role Western media has been playing in opinion formation that favours Israel and provokes people against Palestinians. "Israel kept achieving its goals thanks to highly favourable Western media that gave a monstrous look to Palestinians and presented Israeli forces as waging a just war." Western media does not treat Palestinian victims as human beings, portraying them as animals that deserve instant death.

He reminded the audience of multiple incidents in which some top-ranking newspapers dehumanized Palestinians depicting them as animals or rodents. While thousands of Palestinians become targets of Israeli genocide, most of Western media has not displayed any serious sympathy for starving mothers and dying children. "Many Western anchors start questioning a Palestinian guest by asking if they condemn Hamas."

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Rida Tahir

A landmark conviction

375. Therefore, the case highlights the reluctance of CJS actors to acknowledge marital rape under Section 375, as it would challenge patriarchal norms in the country. Let's travel through time to understand the amendments in law and the journey of women's rights activists that criminalize marital rape in the legal system of Pakistan. This is important to explain because it took massive efforts by women's rights activists in the country to criminalize various forms of sexual violence against women. Therefore, the reluctance to use the correct sections of the law marks a significant challenge in tackling violence against women.

man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape". Nevertheless, many core components were still missing from the law in Pakistan, which are essential in a trial of sexual violence. The Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences Relating to Rape) Act 2016 aimed to fill these gaps. Although this amendment did not amend the definition of rape in Section 375, it amended Section 376 (punishment for rape) of the PPC, establishing that whoever commits rape of a minor or a person with mental or physical disability shall be punished with death or life imprisonment, including public servants such as police officers, medical officers,

acknowledge marital rape under Section 375 of the PPC and instead terms the serious offences against women as 'unnatural offences'. Due to this, the correct section that defines the offence of rape will not evolve. In the 1991 case of RvR in the United Kingdom, the House of Lords established that it is a crime for a husband to rape his wife, effectively abolishing marital rape exemption under common law. This case was reviewed by the European Court of Human Rights, which stated that the case was the "evolution of law". The parliament of Pakistan has progressively criminalized marital rape; however, our laws must progressively evolve through the jurisprudence of the high courts and the Supreme Court of Pakistan as they set a binding precedent for the trial courts. The law (Section 375) should be actively applied by CJS actors – by prosecutors when scrutinizing the challan, the police when lodging the FIR, and trial court (and superior court) judges when interpreting the law.

The conviction leaves room for progress across the country. However, capacity-building training needs to continue along with efforts to improve the reporting of these cases. Keeping this in mind, the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has requested the establishment of women police stations in all districts of Sindh while conducting training for law inspectors, investigating officers and the newly appointed judicial magistrates/civil judges/family court judges.

Such initiatives need to be replicated in other provinces as well. As we move forward in the journey to eliminate violence against women, we see light at the end of the tunnel. We must walk towards the light. This conviction is definitely a step forward.

The writer is a barrister. She tweets/posts @RidaT95 and can be reached at: ridaatahir@gmail.com

Spousal violence against women is a pressing issue in Pakistan, linked to a distressing array of mental, physical, emotional, and economic health challenges.

According to estimates published by the WHO, approximately one in three (30 three) women worldwide has experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime. Pakistan is no exception. Almost 34 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-49 have experienced IPV, according to the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-2018. Therefore, recent news regarding Sindh's first conviction for marital rape is a step forward.

However, continued efforts, including continuous legal and gender sensitization training, are necessary along with the concerted efforts by all criminal justice system (CJS) actors to prevent IPV in all its forms. It is important to highlight that Pakistan is yet to see the first conviction for marital rape under Section 375 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). As per the judgment dated January 15, 2024 by the Additional Sessions Judge (South), the convict was punished under Section 377 (unnatural offences) of the PPC to three-year rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs30,000.

Section 377 of the PPC states that: "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life..." It was introduced in the penal code in 1861, during the British rule of the Subcontinent. Modelled on the Buggery Act 1533 in England, it criminalizes sexual activities "against the order of nature." The section on rape in the PPC is

Approximately one in three (30 three) women worldwide has experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime

The Offence of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance 1979 removed 'rape' from the PPC. Under Section 6(1) of the Hudood Ordinance, Zina bil-jabr was defined as "sexual intercourse with a woman...to whom he or she is not validly married."

However, after years of advocacy by women activists, the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act 2006 was passed by the parliament of Pakistan. This inserted 'rape' and its punishment into the PPC through Sections 375 (rape) and 376 (punishment for rape). The definition stipulated in Section 375 stated that: "a man is said to commit rape who has sexual intercourse with a woman... (i) against her will and (ii) without her consent." Marital rape was read into the law because the phrase "he or she is not validly married" was removed. By comparison, in India, exception 2 of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code explicitly states that "sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a

or jailers, who, taking advantage of their official position, may commit rape of vulnerable persons.

It was through the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act 2021, in the backdrop of the Lahore-motorway rape case, that the definition of 'rape' stipulated in Section 375 of the PPC was redefined. The new definition of rape encompasses gender-neutral language and increases the scope and the ambit of the complex crime of rape. It covers all facets of rape and penetration of a sexual nature, including through objects. Therefore, after the amendment, marital rape falls within the definition of rape stipulated in Section 375 of the PPC. As per the judgement dated 15.01.2024 by the Additional Sessions Judge (South), neither the FIR was lodged under Section 375 or 376, nor did the trial court examine the applicability of Section 375 (rape) to the facts of the case.

While the conviction is the first step in the right direction, it also highlights the reluctance of CJS actors to

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Today in History

Pakistan

Later on, in his correspondence with Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he included the Muslim majority areas in the north-east also in his proposed Muslim state. Three years after his Allahabad Address, a group of Muslim students at Cambridge, headed by Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, issued a pamphlet, Now or Never, in which drawing letters from the names of the Muslim majority regions, they gave the nomenclature of "Pakistan" to the proposed State. Very few even among the Muslims welcomed the idea at the time. It was to take a decade for the Muslims to embrace the demand for a separate Muslim state.

QUAID-I-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH
 Meanwhile, three Round Table Conferences were convened in London during 1930-32, to resolve the Indian constitutional problem. The Hindu and Muslim leaders, who were invited to these conferences, could not draw up an agreed formula and the British Government had to announce a 'Communal Award' which was incorporated in the Government of India Act of 1935. Before the elections under this Act, the All-India Muslim League, which had remained dormant for some time, was reorganized by Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had

returned to India in 1934, after an absence of nearly five years in England. The Muslim League could not win a majority of Muslim seats since it had not yet been effectively reorganized. However, it had the satisfaction that the performance of the Indian National Congress in the Muslim constituencies was bad. After the elections, the attitude of the Congress leadership was arrogant and domineering. The classic example was its refusal to form a coalition government with the Muslim League in the United Provinces. Instead, it asked the League leaders to dissolve their parliamentary party in the Provincial

Assembly and join the Congress. Another important Congress move after the 1937 elections was its Muslim mass contact movement to persuade the Muslims to join the Congress and not the Muslim League. One of its leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, even declared that there were only two forces in India, the British and the Congress. All this did not go unchallenged. Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah countered that there was a third force in South-Asia constituting the Muslims.

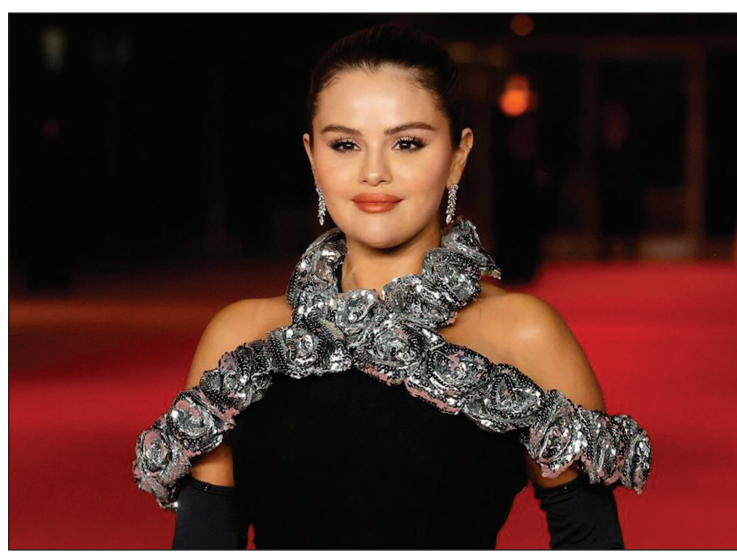
To be continued...

Showbiz

Inside Selena Gomez's most 'human' experience

Selena Gomez last year surpassed Kylie Jenner, becoming the most-followed celebrity on Instagram

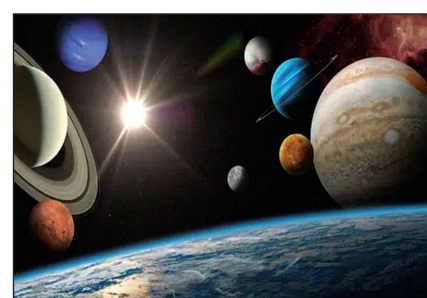
Formerly the most followed person on Instagram, Selena Gomez claims that giving up the platform was "the most rewarding gift" because it allowed her to "feel more human." One of the best things The Only Murders in the Building star could have done for her mental health, according to her, was to break away from social media. She said that her account has been managed by a social media team for the past four years and that the extended hiatus has significantly improved her general happiness. The Who Says singer recently disclosed the following when attending the 2024 TIME 100 Summit: "I took four years off of Instagram and I let my team post for me," and added: "I felt like it was the most rewarding gift I gave myself. I was more present. I was happier." The singer, 31, claims that she would much rather pick up the phone and



have a genuine discussion to catch up with friends than spend endless hours browsing through and chatting on social media. And while not everyone has the resources to hire someone to manage their accounts, Selena emphasised how "important it is to take breaks." The former Spring Breakers star claimed that giving up social media allowed her to devote more time and energy to other areas of her life and to live a more present-day life. The Rare beauty mogul explained: "You get the chance to actually engage with the world a little bit better," she said, adding, "You get the chance to spend your energy in other places." The Calm Down vocalist surpassed well-known model and reality star Kylie Jenner to become the most followed woman on the social media network just a year ago, with an astounding 429 million followers.

Tech

Thousand more solar system objects found shocking scientists



More than 1,000 previously undiscovered space rocks have been found in the solar system after covertly interfering with other cosmic objects for decades. A new study demonstrates how artificial intelligence and citizen scientists worked together to find the asteroids concealed in Hubble Space Telescope archive photographs, according to Live Science. According to Nasa, more than 1.3 million space pebbles have previously been found by

scientists; the majority are located in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. There are probably millions or perhaps hundreds of thousands of asteroids out there that have yet to be found. But it's likely the case that the remaining space rocks are the smallest and thus faintest entities in the solar system as a whole, making them incredibly elusive. In the current study, 1,031 previously unclassified asteroids from historical Hubble data were highlighted by researchers and published on March 15 in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics. Artificial intelligence that was trained to recognise the faint light streaks produced by the small space pebbles by hundreds of citizen scientists was able to identify them. "We were surprised to see such a large number of candidate objects," study lead author Pablo García-Martín, a researcher at the Autonomous University of Madrid in Spain, said in a statement.

Health

Apple cider vinegar can really help in weight loss?

Apple cider vinegar can possibly help people lose weight, claims study

Drinking apple cider vinegar has become a popular way to lose weight in recent years, but can it really help people slim down? A new study found that Lebanese teenagers and young adults who drank up to one tablespoon of apple cider vinegar daily for 12 weeks dropped an average of 15 pounds, according to Health. Study author Rony Abou-Khalil said that the researchers set out to analyse a potential solution to obesity that would align with the growing inter-

est in non-pharmaceuticals. "We were motivated to explore potential natural remedies for weight reduction that could offer safe and effective alternatives to traditional interventions," he said. They chose to test apple cider vinegar, which has been used for many years as a health tonic and is prepared from crushed and fermented apples. While using apple cider vinegar on a daily basis might aid in weight loss, there are more effective

and proven weight loss methods. "To lose weight, you need to be in a calorie deficit, i.e. take in fewer calories than you burn," Melissa Mitri, a private practice dietitian explained. "You can do this by reducing your calorie intake in your diet, exercising more, or, ideally, combining both." Ultimately, these old standbys are probably a surer path to long-term weight loss than jumping on the apple cider vinegar trend.



آئین میں ڈپٹی وزیر اعظم کے عہدے کی کوئی گنجائش نہیں، سیر سٹریف

پشاور (پبلک سروس) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ آئین میں ڈپٹی وزیر اعظم کے عہدے کی کوئی گنجائش نہیں ہے۔



ریاض، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف عالمی اقتصادی فورم کے اختتامی سیشن سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

وفاقی وزیر داخلہ کا پاسپورٹ آفس کا دورہ، ڈائریکٹر تبدیل

لاہور (پبلک سروس) وفاقی وزیر داخلہ حسن نواز شریف نے پاسپورٹ آفس کا دورہ کیا اور ڈائریکٹر کو تبدیل کیا۔



ریاض، نائب وزیر اعظم اسحاق ڈار ملائیشیا کے وزیر خارجہ جی جی ہائی سے ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

پنجاب حکومت نے گندم کے معاملے پر پٹی حکت عملی طے کر لی

لاہور (پبلک سروس) پنجاب حکومت نے گندم کے معاملے پر پٹی حکت عملی طے کر لی۔

فیصلہ کر گئی، احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) احسن اقبال نے فیصلہ کر لیا۔

نواز شریف کو پارٹی صدر منتخب کرنے کیلئے جنرل کونسل کا اجلاس 11 مئی کو طلب

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) نواز شریف کی پارٹی میں اجلاس منعقد ہوگا۔

ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس سسٹم ناکامی کی تفصیلات سامنے آئیں

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) ٹریک اینڈ ٹریس سسٹم ناکامی کی تفصیلات سامنے آئیں۔



جھنگ، بھرتیوی کی اسمبلی میں شہداء کی شہادت اور صلوات اعلیٰ علیہم اجمعین سے دعا کی گئی

سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون کریں گے، صدر مملکت

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون کریں گے۔

آئین کے اندر ڈپٹی وزیر اعظم کا کوئی عہدہ نہیں، سیر سٹریف

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) آئین کے اندر ڈپٹی وزیر اعظم کا کوئی عہدہ نہیں ہے۔

سینیٹ بینک کا شرح سود 22 فیصد پر برقرار رکھنے کا فیصلہ

کراچی (پبلک سروس) سینیٹ بینک آف پاکستان نے سٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے فیصلے کا رد کیا۔

وزیر اعظم کی سعودی ولی عہد کے گالا ڈنر میں شرکت، اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال

ریاض (ٹریک اینڈ ٹریک) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے سعودی ولی عہد کے گالا ڈنر میں شرکت کی۔



اسلام آباد، صدر ایچ آصف زرداری اور وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے ملاقات کی

حکومت کا کسانوں سے گندم خریدنے کا اقدام ہائیکورٹ چیلنج

لاہور (پبلک سروس) حکومت کا کسانوں سے گندم خریدنے کا اقدام ہائیکورٹ میں چیلنج کیا گیا۔

وزیر اعظم کی بل گیٹس سے ملاقات مل کر کام جاری رکھنے کے عزم کا اعادہ

واشنگٹن (ٹریک اینڈ ٹریک) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے بل گیٹس سے ملاقات کی۔

غزہ سے ہجرتی، امریکی یونیورسٹیوں میں احتجاج زور پکڑ گیا

واشنگٹن (ٹریک اینڈ ٹریک) امریکی یونیورسٹیوں میں احتجاج زور پکڑ گیا۔

وزیر اعظم کا عہدہ سنبھالنے پر مہاراجا کو

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) وزیر اعظم کا عہدہ سنبھالنے پر مہاراجا کو...

اسحاق ڈار کی ملائیشیا، ہم منصب سے ملاقات، دوطرفہ تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (پبلک سروس) اسحاق ڈار کی ملائیشیا میں ملاقات ہوئی۔

190 ملین پاؤنڈ کیس، اعظم خان سمیت 8 نام ای سی ایل سے خارج

وفاقی کابینہ سفارش پر اعظم خان، راجہ منظور، عارف رحیم بھٹی اور دیگر تینوں کو خارج کیا گیا۔

پاکستان کاربن کرپٹ مارکیٹ سے فائدہ اٹھانے میں آزاد جموں و کشمیر حکومت کی مدد کر سکتا ہے

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راولپنڈی، آری چیف جنرل عامر سہیل سے ترک بری افواج کے کمانڈر ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

حکومت کا کسانوں سے گندم خریدنے کا اقدام ہائیکورٹ چیلنج

لاہور (پبلک سروس) حکومت کا کسانوں سے گندم خریدنے کا اقدام ہائیکورٹ میں چیلنج کیا گیا۔

وزیر اعظم کی بل گیٹس سے ملاقات مل کر کام جاری رکھنے کے عزم کا اعادہ

واشنگٹن (ٹریک اینڈ ٹریک) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے بل گیٹس سے ملاقات کی۔

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آڈیو لیکس کیس، جسٹس بابر ستار نے متفرق درخواستیں خارج کر دیں

ایف آئی سی، جج اور بی بی اے کو باج پانچ لاکھ روپے جرمانہ ادا کرنے کا حکم تو بین عدالت کی کارروائی کا بھی عندیہ نہیں ہے۔

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Dutch Embassy celebrates King Willem-Alexander's birthday



ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Netherlands in Islamabad on Monday hosted a reception to celebrate the birthday of King Willem-Alexander. Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, who was the chief guest, cut a cake along with Ambassador Henny de Vries to mark the Dutch King's birthday. The event brought together a distinguished audience, including high-ranking government officials, prominent figures from the civil society and members of the diplomatic corps. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Henny de Vries said "Today, as we gather to commemorate King Willem-Alexander's birthday on King's Day, we emphasize the enduring partnership and friendship between the Netherlands and Pakistan during these turbulent times globally." "It is in times like these that it is even more important for us all to stand still and appreciate and celebrate what connects us, rather than what divides us". The event served not only as a commemoration of the King's birthday but also provided an opportunity to strengthen the enduring relationship between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Throughout the past year, the Embassy, in collaboration with partners in Pakistan, coordinated a series of successful projects and events spanning various sectors, including on human rights, water management, and climate initiatives. Highlighting the cultural diversity and artistic talents of both nations, the event featured a captivating performance by two Dutch artists in collaboration with talented Pakistani local musicians. They played a blend of national anthems and traditional songs, symbolizing the unity and shared values between the two cultures.

Funds allocated for repair, maintenance of Chakdara-Upper Dir road

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar Monday informed the National Assembly that approximately Rs. one billion had been allocated by the National Highway Authority (NHA), for the repair and maintenance of Chakdara-Upper Dir road.

In response to a calling attention notice regarding the deplorable condition of the Chakdara-Upper Dir road, he said that process to award the contract for the road maintenance is currently underway, and the work is expected to commence next month. The minister said that authority is dedicated to upgrading roads within its resources. APP

Aleem announces significant developments for motorway expansion



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday announced the significant developments for the motorway expansion from Mansehra to Gilgit, Babu Sar top and Skardu region. He made the announcement while addressing the 14th passing-out ceremony of 289 police officers at the NHMP Training College in Sheikhpura.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Secretary of Communication Ali Sher Mehsud, IG Salman Chaudhry, Additional IG Ali Sager Kayani, Commandant DIG Syed Hashmat Kamal, patrol officers, and their families, said a press release issued here.

The minister highlighted plans to deploy Motorway Police to Gwadar and Karakoram areas, emphasizing the institution's integrity and its role in fostering integrity within the community. He underlined the importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in driving

prosperity for Pakistan and reiterated commitments to enhance institutions, ensure quality selection process, and provide comprehensive training to officers.

The minister announced an additional one-month extension for training completion and salary increments for officers. IG Motorway Police Salman Chaudhry commended the role of Motorway Police despite resource limitations and praised Commandant College Syed Hashmat Kamal for their training initiatives. Commandant Training College DIG Syed Hashmat Kamal expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasized focus on personality development alongside professional training. At the ceremony, Patrol Officer Faisal Mahmood Khan received the All-Round First position, Honor Cap Yasmin Nawaz secured the second position, Patrol Officer Kamran Shabir received the best academics award, and Aneesul Islam clinched the best fire award. Patrol Officers Farqan Ali and Tahira Noor Sabri were also recognized for best parade, while Taj Nabi was honored with the best discipline award. APP



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurating Islamabad Traffic Police Facilitation on Wheels & Islamabad Traffic Police Education on Wheels. APP

President confers Nishan-i-Imtizaz (M) upon Commander Turkish Land Forces

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conferred Nishan-i-Imtizaz (Military) upon Commander of the Turkish Land Forces General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, in a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, senior military leadership and other senior officials. The Nishan-i-Imtizaz (M) was conferred upon General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu in recognition of his illustrious services.

Later, the visiting Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, also called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The meeting was also attended by the Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir. The meeting discussed matters pertaining to defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Both sides emphasised the need for further expanding bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of Pakistan and Turkiye.

Talking to the Commander of Turkish Land Forces, the president said that Pakistan was proud of its relations with Turkiye, which had always supported Pakistan on core issues. He expressed satisfaction over the collabora-



tion between Pakistan and Turkiye on a number of projects that would further strengthen bilateral ties.

The president highlighted the need for increasing people-to-people contacts, as well as promoting cooperation in the areas of agriculture, education, art and culture to bring the people of Pakistan and Turkiye further closer.

He said that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was a true and sincere friend of Pakistan who had made telephonic calls to him on his election as well as at the beginning of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak. This showed his commitment to broadening

Pak-Turkiye ties, he added.

Commander of Turkish Land Forces General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu reiterated the desire to further improve defence cooperation with Pakistan.

He said that both countries could significantly contribute to the promotion of regional peace and stability.

The president congratulated the Commander of Turkish Land Forces on receiving the Nishan-i-Imtizaz (Military) and hoped that he would continue to play his role to further strengthen defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

According to citation read out in the ceremony, Turkish commander 'is a sincere and close friend of Pakistan' and played a prominent role in promoting and strengthening the defence relations between two brotherly countries.

General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu is an officer of high intellect and his excellent administrative qualities earned him the reputation of being a courageous and professionally competent officer.

He had served on different military posts.

In recognition of his excellent services and outstanding achievements, he was promoted to the rank of General in 2021 and appointed as commander of Turkish Land Forces in August 2023.

Senate adopts Special Committee's 4 recommendations about Money Bill

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday adopted four recommendations of the Special Committee related to Money Bill, the Tax Laws (Amendment), Bill, 2024. Convener Special Committee Farooq Hamid Naek presented the committee's report in the House. After through discussion on the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the committee unanimously recommended amendments in clause 2, in sub-clause (e), after the word "law", the words "or a mixed question of law and fact", shall be inserted; in clause 3, in sub-clause (e), after the word "law", the words "or mixed question of law and fact, shall be inserted.

In Clause 4, - (a) in sub-clause (f), in section 132, - (i) in sub-section (1), for the second proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely: - "provided further that where an appeal is not decided within the aforesaid period, the Appellate Tribunal may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, condone the delay for an aggregate period of thirty days."; in sub-section (2), in clause (b), for the word "should" the word "if" shall be substituted; and (iii) in sub-section (3), for the words "to the aforesaid hearing schedule by the taxpayer and the commissioner" the expression "by the taxpayer and the Commissioner, to the hearing schedule as prescribed," shall be substituted.

The committee also recommended amendments in sub-clause (g), in section 133, - (i) in sub-section (2), after the word "law", the words "or a mixed question of law and fact", shall be inserted;

(ii) in sub-section (3), after the word "law" the words "or a mixed question of law and fact", shall be inserted;

(iii) in sub-section (4), for the expression "a Special Bench, constituted", the expression "Special Bench or the Special Benches, as the case may be, to be constituted by the Chief Justice, as deemed necessary", shall be substituted; and (iv) in sub-section (7), after the word "law", the words "or a mixed question of law and fact", shall be inserted. Briefing the House, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said the bill contained some amendments to tax laws. It would help streamline the legislative process related to the taxes cases pending in the tribunals, he added.

He said all the three political parties including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had representation in the Special Committee.

He said small cases related to the tax would be decided by the Commissioner while big cases would be directly referred to Tax Tribunal.

As per the new amendment, he added, the time lines for deciding of the tax cases would be fixed and in case of more time reasons for delay would have to be recorded. The minister said neither new tax was being imposed through the Money Bill, rather the revenue collection process was being streamlined.

The recommendations will be forwarded to the National Assembly which will decide about their incorporation into the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024. APP

ECP summons KP CM Gandapur over asset declaration discrepancies

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday to clarify discrepancies found in his declaration of assets and liabilities submitted for the general elections of 2024. The ECP has instructed CM Gandapur to personally appear on Tuesday and provide clarification regarding his assets. Previously, the ECP agreed to hold a hearing on a petition seeking the disqualification of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. A two-member bench issued a brief order on the petition, noting that Ali Amin Gandapur had failed to submit his assets to the election commission.

JJUI Kafeel Nizami filed a petition to disqualify Gandapur, alleging that he made false statements about his property in the nomination papers, consequently questioning his integrity. The petition urged the ECP to remove Gandapur from the position of chief minister. In the petition, Kafeel Nizami, informed the ECP that 735 kanals of land in DI Khan were temporarily transferred to Ali Amin Gandapur, despite Asif Khan being the original owner. His acquisition of a Land Cruiser vehicle through the sale of the same land disqualifies him from holding a Provincial Assembly seat due to providing false information. APP



Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to UAE visited Abu Dhabi International Book Fair being held at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center.

Ministry unveils innovations to enhance Hajj facilities, introduces short-term package: Secy



ISLAMABAD: He said notable among these innovations was the introduction of short-term Hajj packages spanning 20 to 25 days, complementing the traditional 40-day pilgrimage. Additionally, Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman unveiled the enhanced services such as separate room accommodations for families, a dedicated Hajj app facilitating communication and providing essential information, and specialized bags with modern features.

He mentioned the meticulous selection process for Moavineen-e-Hujjaj through the National Testing Service (NTS) to ensure the competence of Hajj assistants, bolstering pilgrim support services. Highlighting the ministry's endeavours to streamline logistical operations, Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman announced significant improvements in infrastructure and services. He said the expansion of the "Road to Makkah" facility to Karachi airport, alongside Islamabad, promised to expedite departure procedures for pilgrims. He said medical personnel, selected through NTS, guaranteed expertise in addressing health-related concerns during the pilgrimage. Extensive training programmes focused on spiritual preparedness, with an emphasis on worship and prayers, were conducted for pilgrims, he added. He said the provision of a dedicated train facility from Mina would enhance transportation options, while the transition towards a paperless system facilitated efficiency in the entire Hajj process. Concluding his remarks, Dr. Syed Atta-ur-Rehman affirmed the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony's steadfast commitment to enhancing the Hajj pilgrimage experience. APP

Narowal Science Fair-2024 inspires young students to become scientists

VOM Report

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday participated as a special guest in the ongoing science fair at University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Narowal Campus.

The students of different departments of the university presented their final year projects for exhibition at the Innovation Center of the University of Engineering and Technology sub-campus Narowal.

The projects exhibited by the students of various departments including electrical, mechanical, civil, biomedical engineering, computer engineering were inspected by the minister.

Students of various universities including Agriculture University Faisalabad, UMT Sialkot Campus, ITU University of Narowal, Veterinary University Narowal Campus participated in the ongoing Science Fair at UET Narowal Campus.



Later, Ahsan Iqbal handed over the new buses provided to the University of Engineering and Technology Narowal Campus, besides planting a sapling in the university. The minister also participated in the prize distribution ceremony in the seminar hall of UET Narowal Campus.

Speaking on this occasion, he said "UET Narowal Campus was my dream for which I have worked hard to achieve."

Ahsan Iqbal said the solution of most of the problems of all sectors of life including health, food and industry was related to the field of engineering. "Behind all the

progress in today's world is the hard work of engineers."

He said today's era was of technology and artificial intelligence, adding "Universities want to enlighten engineers to the sciences according to the modern requirements of this era."

The minister said if anyone wanted to create his/her space in the world of education and research, there was the need to go through the process of continuous learning. Recalling the government initiatives to make advancement in different fields, he said it established departments like National Center for Satellite Technology, National Center for Nanotechnology, National Center for Quantum Computing. Besides, Ahsan Iqbal said the government allocated billions of rupees for engineering universities to equip their laboratories with modern equipment to lay the foundation for innovation and creativity. "Our children should focus on innovation. Our history is full of great scientists in the sciences."