



Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council as a renewed promise for fast-tracked, single-window facilitation of foreign investments in profitable ventures in key areas of agriculture, mining, energy, and Information Technology

Foreign Minister  
**Jalil Abbas Jilani**

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## President upholds dismissal from service penalty upon a woman harasser

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of "dismissal from service" imposed upon a bank manager after he was found guilty of the charges of sexually harassing a female colleague at workplace. The president rejected the representation filed by Muhammad Munir Akhtar (the accused), a former employee of the Askari Bank Ltd (ABL), against the decision of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH).

He said that the incidents narrated in the complaint against the accused, when juxtaposed with the evidence, established the guilt of the accused for the charges of harassment, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday. The president, in his decision, observed that the accused had duly admitted the allegations about calls, text messages, and denial to hand over her ATM card to the complainant deliberately. He said that the accused had admitted that he called and sent messages to the complainant and did not give her ATM card due to the reasons best known to him despite the fact that he was required to hand it over to the complainant. "Facts admitted need not be proved", he added. As per details, a female employee of ABL (the complainant) had filed a harassment complaint under section 8 of the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010 against the accused within the departmental hierarchy of ABL stating that she was harassed by the branch staff of the ABL, Hassanabdal. According to her, the accused Muhammad Munir Akhtar, Bank Manager along with his friend had made it difficult for her to work in the branch by creating an offensive workplace environment. She alleged that the accused had forced her to go with his friend and after she was transferred to another branch, when she went to collect her card from the Hassanabdal branch, she was verbally abused by the accused and he refused to hand over her ATM card. The Departmental Harassment Committee probed into her allegations and, after inquiry, concluded that the accused was involved in harassment and was accordingly dismissed from service. The accused filed an appeal with FOSPAH, which was dismissed, after which, he filed a representation with the president. President Alvi wrote that workplace harassment could have very serious consequences for the women who experience it as a harassed woman risked losing her job or the chance for a promotion, if she refused to give in to the unethical demands of someone in authority. "The unwelcome conduct of co-workers makes the working conditions hostile and unpleasant, putting indirect pressure on her to leave the job", he added. He remarked that sometimes a woman employee was so traumatized by the harassment that she suffered serious emotional and physical consequences and became unable to perform her job properly. "The workplace harassment has a cumulative and demoralizing effect that discourages women from asserting themselves within the workplace while among men", he concluded. The president highlighted that the main objective of the Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010 was to create a safe working environment for women, free of harassment, abuse and intimidation with a view toward fulfillment of their right to work with dignity. APP



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Federal Ministers for Information and Broadcasting addressing a press conference along with Special Secretary ECP, DG Political Finance, Spokesperson MoFA, EDG External Publicity Wing and PIO, MOIB.

## Arrangements for conducting peaceful, free elections in Pakistan finalised: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting, and Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Solangi, said on Saturday that all arrangements had been finalized for conducting peaceful, fair, free, and transparent elections in Pakistan on February 8. Briefing the foreign observers and media persons in Pakistan to monitor and cover the February 8 elections, he said that in Pakistan, which is now the fifth largest democracy in the world, elections are only four days away.

Flanked by officials of the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of Interior, and the Election Commission of Pakistan, he said that now Pakistan is the fifth largest democracy in the world.

He said that elections were being held for the National Assembly (NA) of Pakistan and the provincial assemblies of four provinces, including Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). He said that some elements had been spreading rumors in the recent past about the elections, citing the severity of the weather, the law and order situation, or some other issues.

"Full security arrangements have been made at the polling stations, and the government will ensure peaceful and transparent elections on February 8," he added.

"Police would be in the first tier, Rangers and Frontier Constabulary would perform duty in the second tier, while the third tier of security would be with the Pakistan Army as a quick response force."

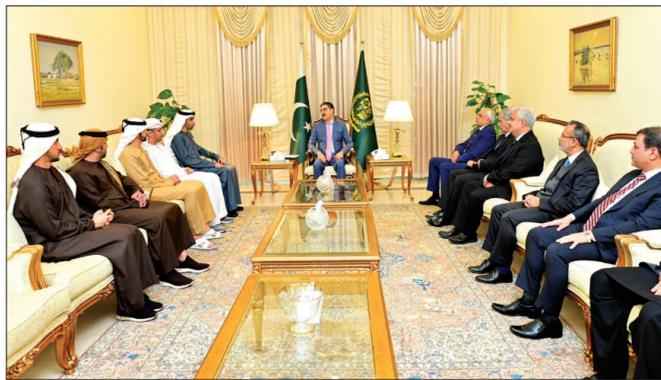
He said media in Pakistan enjoyed full freedom and everyone had the right to express opinion and criticize the government.

"The minister said that the total number of voters in Pakistan was 12,85,85,760, out of which 692,63,704 were male voters and 5,93,22,056 were female voters. To a question, he said that law and order and terrorism were not new issues in Pakistan, as it has been battling the scourge of terrorism for the past few decades. He recalled that the 2008 and 2013 elections were conducted under the shadow of security threats.

He said, "Since 2021, with the change of guard in Kabul, terrorist groups of various hues and colors having safe sanctuaries in a neighboring country have become more active. He said that Pakistan was taking action against terrorists and that peaceful elections would be ensured at all costs."

"Our battle-hardened security forces are fully prepared for the elections," Murtaza Solangi maintained. Responding to a question, he said that the economic initiatives taken during the caretaker government were in the background of the Special Investment Facilitation Council to attract investment. He said that various economic agreements have been signed with friendly countries under the SIFC. The minister said that the caretaker government took important steps to improve the economy. He said when the caretakers came to power in August last year, the dollar was not available in the open market for even 350 to 400 rupees, but due to steps taken by the present dispensation, now the rupee is stabilized and the economy is in a far better position. APP

## Pak, UAE enjoy deep brotherly ties: PM Kakar



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates enjoyed strong brotherly ties which were being further strengthened with time. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Pakistan highly valued the UAE's firm support to its economic and investment sectors. The prime minister was talking to UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a

press release. The caretaker prime minister said that during his recent visit to the UAE, both the countries had signed MoUs which would open a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries. "The UAE is a home to 1.8 million Pakistanis who are playing a role in the progress, prosperity and economic development of both brotherly countries," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying. He also stressed the need for cooperation in the aviation and tourism sectors, besides exploring the prospects in railway connectivity so that the people-to-people contacts

"The UAE is a home to 1.8 million Pakistanis who are playing a role in the progress, prosperity and economic development of both brotherly countries,"

could be further strengthened. Prime Minister Kakar assured the government's support for bringing traders and chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries closer. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar also conveyed his good wishes to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. During the meeting, Caretaker Minister for Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarrar, UAE ambassador in Pakistan and other relevant senior officials were also present. The UAE minister expressed the resolve to further strengthen trade ties with Pakistan.

## FM attends Third Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani attended the Third EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels at the invitation of the EU High Representative/Vice President for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell. Speaking at the roundtable discussion on "Shared Prosperity, Economic Resilience, and Investments", the Foreign Minister called for enhanced cooperation between Europe and its partners to confront global challenges, foster green partnerships, and to attain Sustainable Development Goals. Noting the rapid pace of technological change, he underlined the need to balance risk regulation with optimal utilization of technology for sustainable development. The Foreign Minister called for opposing divisive geopolitical contestation that could further aggravate global and regional tensions. He added that restrictions on trade and investment, and new forms of protectionism were antithesis to the objectives of shared prosperity, sustainability, and inclusivity. Foreign Minister

Jilani also elaborated on Pakistan's vision of connectivity and regional economic integration. He introduced Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council as a renewed promise for fast-tracked, single-window facilitation of foreign investments in profitable ventures in key areas of agriculture, mining, energy, and Information Technology. On the sidelines of the Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum, the Foreign Minister met with the High Representative Josep Borrell; Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib; Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares Bueno; and Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg. The Foreign Minister also held meetings with senior EU officials, including Commissioner for Climate Action Wopke Hoekstra; Secretary General of the EU External Action Service Stefano Sannino; Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU, Frans van Daele; and Special Envoy for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson. APP

## Culture is the only weapon to connect everyone: Jamal Shah

KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage, Syed Jamal Shah, on Saturday emphasized the need for cultural unity and said culture is the only weapon to connect everyone. If we carry out culture with us and present it to the world, the dynamics would be changed, he said this while addressing a press conference along with Sindh Information Minister Ahmed Shah here at Arts Council of Pakistan. The lack of appreciation for culture leads to the losses, we witness today, Shah said and added that unity is vital for increasing cultural connectivity. Highlighting the achievements, Jamal Shah mentioned the establishment of policies and galleries, stating that "we have developed policies for Theatre Academy, Music academy under my supervision". He also commended the cooperation between federal and provincial ministries for the promotion of the culture. Highlighting the heritage conservation efforts, Jamal Shah said ongoing projects are related to forts, and mosques embellishments. He expressed hope for continued support from the upcoming government for these initiatives. APP

## Ashrafi receives special award for promoting peace, inter-religious harmony

ISLAMABAD: The Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries and Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi has been given a special award in recognition of his outstanding services for the development of peace and inter-religious harmony. The Church of Pakistan presented the award to Ashrafi at the Interfaith Religious Harmony Conference, held in Lahore.



The Archbishop Ian Ernest, the Archbishop of Rome, Italy, bestowed the award to the peace loving prominent religious scholar Tahir Holy See and Director of the Anglican Center in Ashrafi. APP

## Kashmir Solidarity Day: Testament of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to resolution of Kashmir disputes: Mushaal Malik

ISLAMABAD: Principal Information Officer (PIO), Press Information Department, Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan said that United Nations resolutions were very clear that Kashmiris will be given the right to self-determination through a free and transparent plebiscite to decide about their future. In his welcome address at a seminar organized by the Press Information department titled "Kashmir Solidarity Day" to be observed on February 5, Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan said that since August 2019 fascist Modi regime of India had increased atrocities on hapless Kashmiris. He said it was the responsibility of Pakistan and Kashmiris to expose the real face of India at the global level. He said that today's event was jointly organized by Kashmiri media and the Press Information Department. He

thanked Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Malik for sparing time for this event. Mushaal Mullick has said that Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering political, moral and diplomatic support for the just struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in determining their destiny through the right of self-determination. Principal Information Officer Dr. Tariq Mehmood Khan and members and representatives of All Kashmir Newspapers Association (AKNA) also addressed on the occasion. DG Information Service Academy Arshad Munir, DG PID Ambreen Gul, President AKNA Amjad Choudhary and members of civil society and other media associations also attended the seminar. Addressing the seminar, the



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister said that the Kashmir Solidarity Day serves as a testament to Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the resolution of the Kashmir issue as per the UN resolutions and provision of justice and peace to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the human rights viola-

tions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Mushaal said that India had been involved in genocide, extra-judicial killings, torture in custody, the use of chemical weapons, violence against children and women, enforced disappearances, pellet gun usage, collective punishment, black laws, false flag

operations, and fake police encounters in its failing effort to suppress the freedom movement of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. SAPM expressed concerns over Modi's move to establish illegal Hindu settlements in IIOJK to alter the demographic landscape and turn Muslim majority into a minority in the region. She said the issuance of Kashmiri domiciles to non-Kashmiri by India had seen a significant increase after the Indian illegal actions of August 5, 2019. Mushaal raised alarms over the unjust and illegal persecution of peaceful Kashmiri leadership. She said that Kashmiri leaders are either languishing in jails or kept under house arrest. She further said that the grave of the late Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gilani had been turned into a sub-jail by India, mak-

ing it inaccessible to visitors. She urged the world to be watchful as false and fabricated charges might be used by Modi-led regime to impose a death sentence on Yasin Malik through biased legal proceedings. SAPM said that Pakistan was a target of Indian terror operations and irrefutable evidence of Indian involvement in targeted killings inside Pakistan was available. She further said that the global reach of the RSS terrorist network was a threat to global peace. Mushaal urged the international community and the UN to stand in solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledge their rights and make efforts to ensure the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the relevant UN resolutions. APP

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## Managing wetlands

RAZA HUSSAIN QAZI

The world observed World Wetlands Day on February 2. This annual global observance highlights the significance of wetlands and the advantages of promoting their conservation. The day also marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. This year's theme was 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing', with the objective of emphasizing the interdependence between wetlands and the diverse dimensions of human wellbeing, encompassing physical, mental and environmental health. This year, the occasion also served as an opportunity for people to deliberate on the importance of wetlands in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by conserving biodiversity, maintaining water quality, and contributing to the climate resilience of both human populations and natural ecosystems. Wetlands should be acknowledged as vital for both human society and the natural environment, emphasizing the intrinsic value of wetland ecosystems and their benefits and functions. This encompasses their contributions to the advancement of sustainable development and enhancing human wellbeing. In November 2022, the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) to the Ramsar Convention 1971 – also known as the Convention on Wetlands – adopted the Wuhan Declaration, which sets out key principles for integrating wetland ecosystems into all frameworks and initiatives for both human and natural systems. It also includes commitments to take appropriate and urgent measures towards halting and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The declaration recognizes the wetlands as one of the key global ecosystems, and their conservation, restoration, management, and wise and sustainable use are vital to effectively address pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges. It addresses existential challenges such as climate change and massive biodiversity loss, while also safeguarding the health and wellbeing of both humanity and the planet as a whole. It is an established fact that among the world's most productive ecosystems, wetlands offer freshwater, food and building materials, flood control, and climate change mitigation. However, despite their priceless worth to both natural ecosystems and human wellbeing, they are facing persistent declines in their extent and quality. It is estimated that approximately 35 per cent of wetlands have been lost since the 1970s, and this trend shows no indication of abatement. Given the intricate nature of the interconnected forces that contribute to or worsen the challenges confronting humanity today, it is time for us to establish connections between wetlands and their intersection with the SDGs and climate change initiatives by adopting different means. The declaration indicates the urgency for their conservation as it is critical to halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity, as well as in mitigating, adapting to, and building resilience in the face of adverse effects of climate change. For the first time, it also emphasizes the role of conservation in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for the benefit of present and future generations. There is a ubiquitous interplay among the SDGs, climate change, and preserving wetlands that can help address several SDG targets. For instance, one relates to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) by ensuring conservation for both human consumption and ecosystem health. Wetlands are integral to the achievement of the SDGs by supporting life on land (SDG 15) and life below water (SDG 14) through preserving biodiversity and providing habitats for numerous species. Wetlands also help buffer against the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and droughts, by storing excess water and providing resilience in ecosystems and communities. Wetlands play a crucial role in addressing climate action (SDG 13) through the sequestration of carbon and the mitigation of climate change impacts. Additionally, they contribute to sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) by decreasing flood risk and improving urban water management, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. They also play a role in urban sustainability by helping in managing stormwater, reducing the risk of floods, and enhancing water quality. Similarly, the influence of wetlands on gender equality (SDG 5) and reducing inequalities (SDG 10) has always remained uncalculated and underappreciated. In numerous societies, women are heavily reliant on wetlands for their sustenance, especially in the realms of fisheries and agriculture. Recognizing and promoting women's participation in wetland management can lead to economic and social empowerment, thereby contributing to gender equality and the reduction of inequalities. Wetlands are vital ecosystems that provide numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits to communities globally. They play a crucial role in bolstering community resilience, especially for women and children, as they offer a variety of essential services. They serve as natural buffers against natural disasters such as floods and storms, thereby mitigating risks and safeguarding vulnerable populations. Their steady supply of clean water for drinking and sanitation plays a critical role in reducing waterborne diseases that often affect children. They also help foster biodiversity, which eventually ensures food security and enhances nutrition. In this regard, the Wuhan Declaration offers a pragmatic framework to signatory countries for incorporating the wetlands into their national sustainable development plans and integrating it with their national policies and strategies. There exists a dire need for national strategic and action plans to be aligned with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), identification of capacity gaps, and creation of enabling conditions to implement national strategies.

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Hassan Baig

# The rise of AI

more focused on exploring whether the use of AI is going to complement and augment human efficiency or replace it. An MIT project titled 'Shaping the Future of Work Initiative' is precisely about the use of AI as a tool to aid and support human efficiencies, not to replace them. However, AI could prove to be a double-edged sword. The labour market could possibly be hit by developments in AI as pointed out by the managing direc-

game changer for the knowledge economy, boosting economic growth and development. It can take care of the impact of climate on economic growth for countries like Pakistan by forewarning the government and the people about possible climate disasters. AI has an edge over humans as its fast workmanship mechanism is almost error-free. Data today has gained prime importance and is, in fact, a goldmine, giving strength to

such platforms. However, there are some drawbacks. It is believed that the rise of AI will lead to an increase in cyberattacks, which is why companies are more invested in securing their businesses from cyberattacks.

Other fears that people have regarding the rise of AI are related to the use of this tech in war. If military robots are used in future wars, they could trigger unending conflicts without understanding the consequences of large-scale human destruction. That is why AI's use needs to be regulated worldwide. AI has also become the most important tool to disseminate information – genuine or fake. Pakistan, like almost 60 per cent of the world, is conducting elections this year. Policy experts believe that AI-backed disinformation may impact election results. Social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, etc can easily be used to spread misinformation. AI tools are also being effectively used by world leaders in their favour to get the desired results. Now that the world has started using AI for their election campaigns, the election scenario has changed.

The future is AI. The technology will upgrade and assist humans in almost all fields: right from education to health, climate change to aviation, the hotel industry to the automobile sector, due to its fast and accurate generative capabilities. While emphasizing the importance of open access to AI to facilitate and enhance human capabilities is essential for growth, accountability and transparency in AI development and deployment is a must.

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The entry of artificial intelligence (AI) has generated a wider debate on the impact of this cutting-edge technology. People are not sure whether AI is going to augment and complement humans in their work or completely replace it. And while AI is a revolution in itself and has garnered a lot of attention across the world, the most pressing question is how to regulate its use. There are concerns that the technology may pose a threat to human existence if not properly regulated and utilized. The lack of critical thinking in machine intelligence is a real threat to humanity, which has to be taken care of. Bill Gates' prediction that "AI is about to supercharge the innovation pipeline" clearly outlines the edge this new technology has over other technological revolutions. There is no doubt that AI can perform several human functions with greater ease, accuracy and speed. However, it is up to humans to decide how to control this technology and how to achieve optimum results. Many CEOs and researchers suggest controlling and regulating AI to prevent the technology from posing a threat to humanity. AI has the potential to turn dangerous for human existence in the future if it is not regulated and properly controlled by governments.

According to various surveys and research, "If science continues undisrupted, the chance of unaided machines outperforming humans in every possible task is estimated at 10 per cent by 2027 and 50 per cent by 2047." AI-related discussions are

## AI technology can boost human efficiency in almost all sectors of the economy right from industry to investment and climate change

tor of the IMF on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. During the meeting, she warned that the world might lose almost 40 per cent of its jobs due to AI development, giving rise to inequality, insecurity and social unrest. Chinese Premier Li Qiang on the occasion emphasized that 'red lines' should not be crossed when using AI technology. Goldman Sachs has already warned that AI technology could lead to the loss of 300 million jobs worldwide, but it also says that the technology is likely to boost economic growth by 7.0 per cent. Many countries, unfortunately, do not have a skilled workforce to get the benefits of the AI technological revolution. AI technology can boost human efficiency in almost all sectors of the economy right from industry to investment and climate change. The education and health sectors can achieve optimum results by utilizing AI-driven tools. The WHO has also outlined five broad areas where the technology could be applied to benefit humanity at large. AI could be a

security and business promotion. Generative AI is the main data tool being used for robots and chatbots including Midjourney and ChatGPT. There is a race to control the world and hi-tech businesses through AI-backed social media platforms. Companies are investing billions of dollars to develop such platforms to capitalize on big businesses. The future lies in AI-backed platforms like Xai and Eleven Labs, which have gained unicorn status after their latest round of fundraising. AI has gained such high importance in the context of business promotions that the CEO of OpenAI is planning to invest billions of dollars in the network of AI chip factories. One can imagine the importance of AI from the fact that the US edutech platform 'Coursera' adds a new user every minute on average for its AI courses. There is another feature of AI, especially for art lovers – to generate AI art using Google Labs. There are millions of possibilities for AI-generated features for business promotions. Cyber security is another feature of

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## Today in History

### Pakistan

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

Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim League election campaign was based on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an

unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms,

#### CABINET PLAN

In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress lead-

ers 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.

#### PARTITION SCHEME

In October 1946, an Interim Government was formed. The Muslim League sent its representative under the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with the aim to fight for the party objective from within the Interim Government.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Miley Cyrus poses for steamy photoshoot ahead of Grammy performance

Miley Cyrus will be setting the stage on fire, performing her hit song Flowers first time at the Grammys event



Miley Cyrus recently took to Instagram, showcasing her steamy black underwear set, garnering appreciation from her fans. The Hannah Montana star pulled off the look with a ravishing pair of black sunglasses and matching pointed-toe pumps, posing with her hands on hips. She bent her leg rightwards, typically idealizing the mainstream Hollywood glamour with her back-combed hair. The songstress left the caption to her fans, deciding on what it truly represents. There were speculations revolving around The Black Mirror actress' Grammy nominations. Cyrus' other photos from the shoot went viral on X, formerly known as Twitter in the form of Polaroid images, aesthetically lying on the table. The 31-year-old singer will be setting the stage on fire, performing her hit song Flowers first time at the Grammys event after its release in January 2023. The seasoned hitmaker spent her Friday afternoon, preparing for her big performance that is scheduled for Sunday, February 4 live at the event. The empowerment song, Flowers is anticipated to be the show-runner for Record and Song of the Year, as per Variety.

## Tech

# WhatsApp to release chat lock feature for web version

Meta-owned WhatsApp is working on a new chat lock feature that will allow users to lock their private talks within the web client of the service, improving the security of such exchanges. WhatsApp is reportedly working on adding a closed chat option to its online client, per a WABetaInfo report. The encrypted chats are probably going to be kept in a special tab with the intention of providing an extra degree of protection and privacy for personal communications. According to the source, the feature is currently under development and will be included in a future web client update. In the meantime, Android users may no longer save their conversation history, photos, and videos on Google Drive, the world's most popular messaging platform, for free. Due to this modification, customers may soon have to worry about their Google Drive storage limit being exceeded by WhatsApp data, which may lead them to think about purchasing a Google One membership as a



workaround. Chat backups were being kept on your Google Drive account by Meta-owned WhatsApp, regardless of whether you were using Google's free or premium cloud storage plan. This increases the amount of space used by backups from Google Photos, Gmail, and other sources on your Google Drive by using the storage connected to the Gmail account connected to your WhatsApp. If you don't want to pay for the Google One plan and don't want to use up all of your Google Drive capacity for conversation backups, you can choose not to back up your WhatsApp talks to the cloud.

## Health

# These are top 6 heart attack signs in women, doctor reveals

Do you believe heart disease is exclusively a male disease? But, this is not true. Health experts have debunked this myth. Heart disease stands as the foremost cause of female mortality, claiming over 300,000 lives annually in the United States. However, awareness of its signs and symptoms remains a critical gap. On National Wear Red Day, observed on February 2 to spotlight cardiovascular disease, CBS News chief medical correspondent Dr Jon LaPook provided invaluable insights into the top six signs women should recognize. Dispelling the misconception that heart disease primarily affects men, Dr LaPook underscored its status as the leading cause of female mortality. National Wear Red Day serves as more than a fashion statement; it's a call to bring attention to

this pervasive health concern, where heightened awareness directly correlates with saving lives. Dr LaPook detailed the most prevalent symptoms of heart attacks in women, focusing on well-known indicators such as chest pain and shortness of breath. Additionally, he stressed lesser-known signs like nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and pain in the jaw, back, or other areas, underscoring their importance in early detection. Examining risk factors associated with heart disease, Dr LaPook highlighted high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, and inactivity. Access to healthcare emerged as a crucial factor, with a passionate plea against smoking, recognizing its decline as pivotal in reducing heart disease rates. Beyond symptom recognition and risk mitigation, Dr LaPook stressed the significance of early detection through regular monitoring of key

health metrics like weight, blood pressure, and overall well-being. Waiting for symptoms to manifest was discouraged, with a call for women to adopt lifelong healthy habits. Dr LaPook extended the conversation to heart health during pregnancy, framing it as a significant "stress test" for the heart. He urged women to enter pregnancy in good overall health, highlighting the need for accessible healthcare. Acknowledging disparities faced by Black women in maternal health, Dr LaPook delved into multifactorial issues contributing to increased mortality rates. As women nationwide absorb this vital information, Dr Jon LaPook leaves them with a compelling call to action: "It's not something where you want to wait until you have symptoms and then say, 'OK, now I'm going to really get into it.'"





## Elections postponed in four constituencies after candidates' demise

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has postponed the elections in four constituencies of the national and provincial assemblies, citing the unfortunate deaths of the candidates. Delayed elections impact one national constituency and the remaining provincial ones in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, specifically NA-8 Bajaur, PK-22 Bajaur, PK-91 Kohat, and PP-266. Independent candidate Rehan Zeb Khan, running for National Assembly constituency NA-08 and provincial assembly constituency PK-22 in Bajaur-IV, was assassinated, leading the ECP to cancel elections. Additionally, elections for NA-91, Kohat-II, were postponed following the passing of Asmat Ullah Khan. Following the demise of Israr Hussain, son of Talib Hussain and a candidate for the Punjab Assembly constituency PP-266 (Rahim Yar Khan XII), the ECP has postponed the elections in that particular constituency. The ECP spokesman states that, exercising the powers granted to the relevant Returning Officers (ROs) under Section 73 of the Election Act, 2017, the proceedings of the general election in the mentioned constituencies have been abruptly concluded. The remaining contesting candidates will not be required to submit fresh nomination papers or deposit further dues once the revised schedule for these areas is released, as stated by the electoral watchdog. APP

## Nawaz Sharif pledges to end unemployment upon return to power

GUJRANWALA: PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Saturday pledged to eliminate poverty and unemployment in the country if he secures victory in the upcoming Feb 8 general elections.

Addressing a public gathering in Gujranwala, the three-time prime minister noted that if his government had not been ousted, not a single person here would have been unemployed.

Citing Transparency International's report, Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan's ranking on graft index improved under Nawaz Sharif-led government. "Not only corruption, the price of bread, flour and sugar were also at the lowest", he reiterated.

He pointed out that his government also ended load-shedding and terrorism while the prices of petrol and electricity were the lowest. "The IMF [International Monetary Fund] had also acknowledged the country's development pace during my tenure," he added. Nawaz further said that the judge, who was in line to become new Chief Justice and awarded him sentence, resigned and went home. "That judge was involved in my ouster," he added. "Had my government remained, people would have been satisfied; they would have been able to make ends meet, unlike today," the PML-N supremo maintained. Addressing the youth of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif assured them that he will once again build motorways, universities and hospitals across Pakistan, in addition to tackling unemployment and poverty in the country. INP

## Former govts have dragged the country into a war that claimed the lives of 85,000 Pakistanis: Sirajul Haq

NAROWAL: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Sirajul Haq has said that the former governments have dragged the country into a war that claimed the lives of 85,000 Pakistanis.

Addressing an election rally in Narowal on Saturday, Sirajul Haq said the ruling parties are responsible for the prevailing security and economic crises. "Innocent people have become soft targets of violent attacks occurring in parts of the country and the darkest side of the ongoing violence is that they do not know the perpetrators involved in heinous crimes."

If people want peace and prosperity, they must vote for the JI on February 8, he said, adding the PPP and the PML-N are not the solution to country's problems.

They had been the governments of the same ruling elite who kept deprived of the basic facilities, he said. Yet, he added, they sought more

terms in power, shamelessly appealing the masses to vote for them again. The former ruling parties, he said, must showcase their past performance before making new tall claims. Voting for them again tantamount to push the country into complete darkness, he asserted.

The JI chief said the PPP ruled Sindh consecutively for 15 years. Yet, the interior Sindh is the region topped in poverty, unemployment and low literacy as compared to other parts of Pakistan, he said, asking the People's Party what its government had delivered during this long period. Similarly, he said, the PML-N enjoyed power for decades and had not brought about any relief to the masses. The tested rulers would never bring about any change as they come to power just to keep the status quo intact, he said. SABAH



District Judiciary Judges in a group photo with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail at the Federal Judicial Academy Islamabad.

## Reforms of economy underway: Dr Shamshad Akhtar



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on Saturday said that the process of transformation of the economy was underway in the country. The structural transformation in every sector of the economy took some time and they were making all-out efforts in this regard.

While addressing members of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) during her visit to FPCCI along with Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, she said that the leadership was committed to transforming the economy of the country. Dr. Shamshad said that the government launched a joint action to contain currency

smuggling and narrow the difference in dollar rates in official and open markets.

She said that the government had done many good works for the betterment of the country. She said that the trade deficit narrowed by 3.6 percent to \$1.3 billion in December 2023 compared to \$1.9 billion in the same period last year. She further said that the export potential and export market would expand due to the efforts of the government.

The minister said that the government encountered the external and domestic challenges. She said that the challenges were enormous but the government took proactive measures to overcome them.

She said that the Pakistan Credit Guarantee Company had been formed for Small and

Medium Enterprises (SMEs). She said that the companies had to stand on their own feet and should not rely on subsidies.

The minister said that subsidies should be utilized for the development of the country and for the education, health, women empowerment and other welfare sectors.

Dr. Shamshad, while advising FPCCI members, said that they should move towards the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for debt purposes instead of knocking doors of banks.

She said that the performance of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained positive in December 2023 and it had emerged as a new entity. She further said that the benchmark KSE-100 index gained 1,924 points closed at 62,451 points as of December 29, 2023. While the market capitalization of PSX increased by Rs 334 billion and settled at Rs 9,063 billion as of end December 2023.

The minister said that a substantial change was being introduced to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to improve its performance. She said, "We need to raise the economic growth of this country."

Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana briefing the FPCCI members said that they were working hard on reforms in FBR and they were close to their implementation.

Earlier, FPCCI President Arif Ikram Sheikh lauded the efforts of the caretaker government and demanded to consult with FPCCI while making fiscal budget to facilitate the business community.

Later, Arif Sheikh presented a memento to the Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. APP

## FDE nullifies ministry's order of reinstating Director FCE

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) on Saturday revoked order of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training's (MOFE&PT) to reinstate Dr. Samia Dogar to her former position as Director, Federal College of Education (FCE).

Mr. Majid Umer, an associate professor at FCE, has been directed to look after the administrative matters of FCE as a principal.

Earlier, the MOFE&PT on December 12, 2023 had issued the reinstatement order of Dr. Samia Dogar following a directive from the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment.

However, after 48 days, the FDE, an attached/subordinate department of MOFE&PT, took the unprecedented step of canceling the reinstatement orders, raising eyebrows and concerns among the educational community. Critics argue that such a move challenges the established hierarchy within government offices, as the FDE is an attached department of the MOFE&PT.

It is pertinent to mention here that Dr. Samia Dogar, a Professor of BPS-20 position, had previously been removed from the directorship of FCE and the administrative control of FCE was abruptly transferred to the FDE on March 1, 2023.

Dr. Samia was attached to Islamabad Model College for Girls, G-10/4, allegedly as a form of punishment, further complicated the situation, leading to a violation of seniority lists and recruitment rules specific to the FCE. The Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment issued a directive to MOFE&PT, directing the immediate reinstatement of Professor Dr. Samia Dogar to her previous position. This decision followed an appeal filed by Dr. Samia against Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary, Secretary of MOFE&PT, under Section 6 of the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010.

The ombudsman expressed serious concerns about the proceedings of the inquiry committee of MOFE&PT, highlighting the violation of Dr. Samia's due process rights leading to the reinstatement of Dr. Samia by MOFE&PT on December 12, 2023.

An assistant professor at FCE stated, "Dr. Samia Dogar's journey has been marked by legal battles and workplace challenges. I expect she will choose to challenge the decision through legal channels instead of obeying the orders of FDE because FDE has no authority to issue the orders to FCE by cancelling the orders of its ministry." Another teacher of FCE, speaking on the condition of anonymity, expressed concerns about the need for training of FDE officers regarding the rules of business, suggesting a lack of awareness of the proper protocols.

She said that cancelling the ministry's orders by FDE had raised eyebrows and questions about the hierarchical structure within the education sector. FDE's overturning the orders of its controlling office is both unprecedented and against the established rules of business. This move of the FDE will open a new Pandora's box of litigation as FCE falls under schedule-2 of the rules of business, while the FDE is under schedule-3. The Ministry, being the higher controlling office, is expected to have authority over both entities. INP

## Bilawal Bhutto accuses Nawaz Sharif of 'robbing' people of their rights by attempting to form a 'puppet' govt

Promises that if he was elected as PM, he would build three million houses for the poor and double the income of the people

THARPARKAR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of "robbing" people of their rights by attempting to form a "puppet" government, a term he extensively used against another former prime minister Imran Khan during his tenure as premier.

Speaking at a rally in Tharparkar, Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that while other politicians were focused on their own interests and seeking support from "elsewhere", he stood alone as a leader seeking votes directly from the people. "I do not have anyone else's support; I am standing here only with the people's support," he said while taking a jibe at Nawaz Sharif for allegedly becoming the "new ladla" (darling) of the establishment.

Bilawal Bhutto promised that if he was elected as prime minister, he would build three million houses for the poor and double the income



of the people. Bilawal criticised Nawaz Sharif, without mentioning his name, saying that an individual was attempting to mislead the public by falsely claiming credit for the Thar Coal project. "If it were his project, I wouldn't be speaking here today but rather him. After February 8, we will further develop the Thar Coal project, running trains from Tharparkar to Karachi," he added. Bilawal said that Nawaz Sharif

wants work done for him and he remains in control and imposes his authority on Pakistan.

"We must be wary of his puppet government in Karachi, as he is trying to deceive the people. Mian sahib's facilitators are contesting elections in Sindh and we need to be alert to safeguard our rights," he said while taking a jibe at MQM-P which went into alliance with PML-N in November last year. He said Nawaz Sharif was making attempts to impose his government on Pakistan and establish a puppet setup in Karachi.

Bilawal said that he would not allow the Karonjhar Mountain in the district to be damaged by the elite, stating, "I will cut off the hands that move towards Karonjhar. Here, if anyone has the right to do business, it is the locals first." Bilawal Bhutto said the people of Tharparkar had proven that they stood with his party ahead of general elections 2024. The former foreign minister said his relation with

public was not political but it based on love.

He said the mission of his party was to end poverty, inflation and unemployment. "The taxes of the hardworking people of Pakistan should be spent on them, not in subsidising the lives and businesses of the elite or in funding defunct federal ministries," he said. He asked the people to vote for his party in the Feb 8 polls in order to make a government that will work for public.

The people of Tharparkar have proven that they stand with the PPP and our mission to end poverty, inflation and unemployment. The taxes of the hardworking people of Pakistan should be spent on them, not in subsidising the lives and businesses of the elite or in funding defunct federal ministries. The Peoples Party has shown how inclusive development can work in Thar. On 8th February vote Teer and choose a government that will work for you. SABAH

## We regret inconvenience faced by the public at our Liaison Office in Lahore in initial days of operation from its new premises: FO

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch says we regret the inconvenience faced by the public at our Liaison Office in Lahore in the initial days of operation from its new premises. As announced earlier, the consular services were suspended for a few days as the Liaison Office was temporarily closed on account of relocation to a new site, FO Spokesperson said.

According to a statement issued by FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Saturday, since the resumption of consular services on 1 February 2024, our dedicated and efficient staff has been working extra hours to service the public. We expect the backlog to clear over the next few days. We appreciate public's understanding during this time of transition, she said.

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also opened its Liaison Office in Gujrat, which is expected to relieve pressure on the Lahore Liaison Office.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains committed to facilitate the public and to provide efficient and timely consular services. SABAH

## US advises its citizens to 'remain vigilant' during Feb 8 election

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the United States has issued a travel advisory for its citizens as Pakistan braces for general elections, slated to be held on February 8. In its advisory, the US embassy asked Americans to remain vigilant and aware of the locations of political rallies occurring in areas they intend to visit.

"On February 8, election day, areas around polling stations may be crowded, and US citizens not eligible to participate in Pakistan's elections should avoid them.

The embassy warned that disruptions to internet and cellular service could occur leading up to and throughout election day and immediately following. It further said that political parties are, and will be, actively campaigning in advance of election day, including marches, rallies, and speeches, which are normal activities in any democratic process.

Public gatherings have the potential to block traffic, disrupt transportation, and otherwise create obstacles to free movement and safety, the embassy added. "In some instances, political activities in Pakistan have been targeted for violence." US citizens were asked to avoid areas of large public gatherings and exercise caution if unexpectedly in the vicinity of a large gathering or demonstration.

The US embassy asked its citizens to review their personal security plans and monitor local media for updates. Americans in Pakistan were also asked to keep a low profile and carry identification. They were also asked to cooperate with the police. DNA



SAHIWAL: Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated a 5-storey Surgical Tower and MRI block at a Teaching Hospital.

## China funds three projects in Turbat for education and health

ISLAMABAD: Funded by the Chinese government, three significant initiatives in education and health were unveiled in Turbat, the historical capital of Makran and the second-largest city in Balochistan.

Commissioner Makran, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, officially inaugurated three projects under the Government of Balochistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

The first initiative, valued at Rs 5 million, includes providing solar panels and computer systems to the Government Girls Model High School in Turbat.

A library equipped with solar panels and a computer lab was also established at Turbat University, alongside the construction of parking sheds for school buses and vehicles.

At the event, Zumurd Wahid, the Principal of Government Girls Model High School in Turbat, Director of Education Abdul Ghafoor Dashti, and various staff members expressed their gratitude towards the Chinese government.

They emphasized that the people of Turbat would always remember the support in the education sector.

In the second initiative, Commissioner Makran Saeed Ahmed Umrani visited the Law faculty of the University of Turbat, unveiling a new solar system and computer lab for law students, funded by a Rs 5 million grant from the Chinese government. The third project focuses on the ICU of the civil hospital in Turbat. With a Rs 4 million grant, the ICU has been upgraded with digital beds and essential medical facilities. INP