



"The success of Balochistan is the success of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan are proud of the brave people of Balochistan who have stood tall against all odds. Armed Forces of Pakistan and law enforcement agencies will continue to render their services in support of the people of Balochistan for peace and prosperity"

Chief of Army Staff  
Gen Asim Munir

## Strengthening ties BOSNIA film screened at PNCA



By Sohail Majeed

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted a movie screening titled "Qou vadis, Aida?", on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The film is not only a cinematic masterpiece, but a painful reminder of the Srebrenica genocide, the worst atrocity on European soil since World War II. The screening was hosted by the Bosnia Embassy in collaboration with Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage at the PNCA Auditorium.

In his opening speech, H. E. Emin Cohodarevic, the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed his views that in such festive moments I think it's important to refer to the current status and perspective of the bilateral relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

It is an undeniable reality that the relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Islamic Republic of Pakistan are special: alongside the enduring link of the permanent support that Pakistan give to Bosnia and Herzegovina on its path to preserve freedom and democracy. Our relations have an out of ordinary dynamic, they permanently develop and diversify. There no single field, either political, defense, economic, cultural or social one, where we not able to give positive examples and good practices.

I am confident that the friendship between the people of the two countries and bilateral relations between two governments will continue to flourish and achieve new heights. Aida's drama and her emotions are the heart of the story. I would like you to take away the feelings and questions the film raises. How many things would have been different if we had more empathy and solidarity? Did this tragedy have to have such a terrible outcome? Before ending my speech, I would like to express my gratitude to the Pakistan National Council of the Art for hosting us this evening, as well as Mr. Danish Iqbal, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Lahore, Mr. Asad Saleem, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Peshawar and Mr. Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majid, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Karachi who so generously contributed to the success of tonight's event. Ambassador Cohodarevic thanked for the expressions of welcome and pointed out that during his mandate he will work on further development and promotion of political, economic, educational and cultural ties between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. DG PNCA, and the Ambassador of Bosnia witnessed the ceremony on the sidelines of the movie screening. The screening was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed house including a number of dignitaries of European Union, African diplomats, civil society and media personnels.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi being presented with the farewell Guard of Honour, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Government committed to steer country out of economic crisis, says PM Shehbaz

VOM Report

MUZAFARABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reiterated the government's resolve to steer the country out of the challenge of economic crisis by bringing structural reforms in the economic sector to provide maximum facilities to the people of the country. He said that the government was fully committed to increase tax to GDP ratio, tap the huge potential of natural and agriculture resources, stop smuggling, power theft, and losses of the State Owned Entities.

Addressing a cheque distribution ceremony among the affected people by torrential rains and snowfall in the area, the prime minister called for setting aside all the differences in the larger national interest to work as a nation to ensure that the country was developing at a faster pace.

Currently, he said the country's tax collection target for the current fiscal year was 1.2 trillion which was not up to the true potential due to tax evasion by certain sections. He said tax evasion was one of the biggest challenge that would be resolved to increase the country's resources. "If we have no resources, how we will build the infrastructure of health, education and other important sectors," he maintained.

He said even the salaries of the federal employees were being paid with the borrowed money.



Therefore, he said this was the right time to take tough and important decisions to resolve all the key challenges, the country was facing. As regards the losses of SOEs, the prime minister informed that the SOEs were incurring losses of hundreds of billions rupees as the loss of only Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was around Rs 825 billion. Similarly, he said the country lost Rs 500 billion every year to power theft. Talking about the losses and damages occurred due to recent rains, snowfalls and land sliding in AJ&K, the prime minister expressed his grief and sorrow over the loss of eight precious lives and prayed for the grant of eternal peace to the departed soul and early recovery of those injured in the incidents. He said that the government of Pakistan always stood with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters in the hour of need.

On the occasion, he also distributed cheques among the affected people.

He said Rs 2 million each would be distributed among the families of the deceased and Rs 500,000 each to those injured in the recent incidents. Similarly, Rs 700,000 each would be given to those whose houses were completely damaged while Rs 350,000 would be given to those whose houses were partly damaged. He directed the Prime Minister AJ&K to complete the survey as soon as possible so that the funds be distributed by March 13.

On the request of the AJ&K prime minister, PM Shehbaz also announced to keep a helicopter of NDMA available for the region in case of emergencies to immediately reach out to the affected people in the hilly areas.

He said Jammu and Kashmir was the jugular vein of Pakistan and it would not leave alone the people of Kashmir in this hour of difficulty. PM Shehbaz maintained that almost over 20 million children were out of school across the country. He said mosques would be utilized to provide education to such children. On the occasion, Fatima was also recited for those who passed away in the recent rains and snowfall in the area. Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwaar-ul-Haq thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his support in this hour of difficulty. He informed that during the recent rains, snowfall and landsliding in AJ&K, eight people were died while 88 houses were completely damaged.

## President Arif Alvi given farewell guard of honour

A smartly turned-out contingent of armed forces presented a guard of honour to President Arif Alvi

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday was presented a farewell guard of honor at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, marking the culmination of his term.

The smartly turned-out contingents of the armed forces presented the guard of honor which was reviewed by the outgoing president.

The national anthem was played as the president stood at the saluting dais.

Later, he also shook hands with the officers and staffers of the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The farewell guard of honour was given a day before the next presidential election scheduled to be held on Saturday.

Dr. Arif Alvi was sworn in as the 13th President of Pakistan on September 9, 2018.

## 4 terrorists killed in N Waziristan IBO

"Weapons, ammunition, explosives also recovered from killed terrorists," says ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Four terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the North Waziristan district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Friday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that during the operation, an intense exchange of fire took place between the troops and the terrorists, as a result of which the terrorists were killed.

"Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area," the statement noted.

It added that a sanitisation operation was underway to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, adding that locals of the area appreciated the troops and "expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism".

The development comes just a day after two terrorists — including a terrorist ring leader named Shamrooz alias Sheenay — were killed in separate operations conducted by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan witnessed a spike in terrorist attacks in Balochistan and KP provinces during the past few months, which also marred the pre-election phase in some provincial pockets.PR



## Senator Mushahid urges new govt to take all political parties on one page

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Friday urged the new government to take country out of current economic challenges by bringing all political parties on one page. In his farewell speech during last Senate Session, he demanded to release all political prisoners from the Jail, stating that dialogue is the only solution to all differences.

He suggested the new government to award general amnesty to all political prisoners as a healing touch. He lauded the efforts of Senate for the missing persons of all provinces and demanded of the relevant authorities to release all of them. He stressed the need to uphold relationship between all major institutions as it is only way to resolve all issues of the country. Mushahid Hussain Syed also presented the role of Founder of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, stated that he is an example of true democracy.

"Quaid-i-Azam was a true democratic leader", he said adding, we should follow his vision.

Meanwhile, Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah highlighted the role of Senate Committee of Agriculture during last 12 years, stating that being a member of the Committee he worked a lot for the agriculture sector.

The Committee, he said, successfully helped Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) in restoration of the lease of its 1400 acres land from CDA. He said that unfortunately agriculture sector in Pakistan could not get deserving attention in economic manifesto.

As per rules the committee can only pass recommendations but it has no other power, he said and added this way Federation system cannot be completed. He also suggested to empower Senate by giving it rights to manage financial matters of the country.

Senate is called House of the Federation and representing all political parties so without empowering, it is just like a debating society, he said. He also suggested that prime minister should be selected from both houses. APP

## NA passes resolution appreciating women's contributions to society

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly celebrated International Women's Day by acknowledging the remarkable contributions of Pakistani women, especially highlighting the legacy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, in a majority vote resolution while members of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) were in opposition to the resolution. Ms. Sehar Kamran, moved the resolution in the Lower House of Parliament, while Ms. Sharmila Faruqi, and Shaza Fatima Khwaja, also submitted similar resolutions. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq put the resolution, which garnered majority support despite objections from members of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC). Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed disappointment that the opposition chose to oppose the resolution without considering its contents, emphasizing the importance of transcending politics for such significant matters. He also observed that the opposition had not submitted its own resolution and instead resorted to block a tribute to the legendary daughters of the nation. He advised the opposition to realise importance of the matter and instead of opposing for the sake of opposition, should add its voice for the promotion, protection and well-being of the women of Pakistan. APP

## COAS Asim Munir promises army's support for people of Balochistan

Army chief visits Balochistan's Awaran district where he was briefed on security situation of province



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Friday promised the people of Balochistan that they will be supported by armed forces and law enforcement agencies for peace and prosperity in the province, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"The success of Balochistan is the success of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan are proud of the brave people of Balochistan who have stood tall against all odds. Armed Forces of Pakistan and law enforcement agencies will continue to render their services in support of the people of Balochistan for peace and prosperity," said the army chief.

The army chief made these comments during his visit to the Awaran district of Balochistan where he was briefed on the security situation of the province.

According to the military's media wing, the army chief was also informed about the efforts being taken by the Pakistan Army in the socio-economic development and agriculture potential of Balochistan.

During his visit to Awaran, COAS Munir interacted with the local elders, farmers and fami-

lies of shuhada and assured them of the army's unstinting support for their security and welfare while paying rich tribute to the sacrifices rendered by the martyred.

While interacting with the notables and farmers of Awaran, the army chief emphasised the importance of agriculture and the army's commitment to the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI).

"Farmers will be provided with all kinds of agricultural facilities, including the provision of easy agricultural loans, seeds, fertilisers, solar tube wells and guidance by agriculture experts so that they can cultivate their lands and become partners in the progress and development of Pakistan," said the COAS.

Later on, the army chief inaugurated Cadet College Awaran and interacted with faculty members and students. He also appreciated the establishment of another Cadet College in Balochistan for the people of the area.

He reiterated his commitment that the Pakistan Army will continue development and relief activities in Balochistan in collaboration with the concerned civil departments.

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Balochistan's Corps Commander. PR

## Envoy urges Pakistani investors to invest in Ethiopia

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, on Friday urged the Pakistani business community to invest in Ethiopia that offered comparative advantage in form of important geographical location, cheap and clean energy and skilled human resources.

Addressing a Business Forum on Ethiopia-Pakistan Bilateral Trade at Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Lahore, the ambassador said his country was hosting the Invest Ethiopia Conference from April 28-30 in Addis Ababa to showcase extraordinary investment opportunities in Ethiopia, said a press release issued here.

According to Ambassador Jamal Beker, it was a high time for the business community of Pakistan to explore the lucrative market of

Ethiopia which was a gateway to the African continent of more than 1.4 billion people.

He said Ethiopia was a signatory to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement which meant that



whatever produced in Ethiopia could easily be traded to the entire Africa. The ambassador highlighted the economic reforms carried out by the reformist Government of Ethiopia to build a home grown economy to achieve a robust and sustainable economic growth by creating an enabling

environment for business community and foreign investors.

He said under its economic reforms, Ethiopia had laid a major focus on its five economic sectors including agriculture and agro-processing, manu-

facturing, mining, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and tourism. The government had set up a one-window facility and introduced multiple incentives to attract the foreign direct investment, he said, adding "do not mislocate yourself, Africa is the

business, trade and investment destination of the 21st century." He said Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, had charted the country on the path of progress and prosperity with his visionary reforms paving the way for Ethiopia to become a manufacturing hub of Africa. The ambassador said Ethiopia was producing cheap, clean and green energy close to 98 per cent from hydro and geothermal sources. "We are exporting energy to Kenya, Djibouti, Sudan and other neighbouring countries since our prime focus is to foster regional integration by sharing our resources," he added.

As regards the efforts for boosting trade volume between Ethiopia and Pakistan, he said the Embassy of Ethiopia in Islamabad last year in March mobilized a 75-member trade delegation to Ethiopia that helped connect both countries business community.

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## Why should women march?

BY BENAZIR JATOI

International Women's Day (IWD) is here and with it Aurat Marches in various cities around the country will take place, painstakingly and passionately organized by grassroots organizers and activists. This time the day has come upon us at a time where a questionable election has taken place, where political opposition is still being targeted and freedom of speech and social media is under threat. It is a women's day after the recent bravery and resilience of the Baloch women's march and sit-in in Islamabad, led by the dynamic Mahrang Baloch, demanding the state to give them answers and return their missing brothers, fathers and sons from enforced disappearance.

The world beyond Pakistan also looks like it is at breaking point, with a devastated part of the Middle East now not just under a brutal occupation, but also actively bombarded and at the brink of famine, with women and children the overwhelming victims. Taking all this into consideration, IWD should be seen in light of the threats to personal and political freedom and the challenge to dissent and democracy. Now, more than ever, the need for intersectional feminism and collective feminist solidarity, especially with the Palestinian cause, is needed. One of the simplest ways to describe intersectional feminism is to recognize the various and combined social identities we all possess – social class, gender, religious and ethnic background, which overlap and interconnect – and which contribute to the layers of discrimination we may face. When I am asked about women discriminated against in the legal system, I always say a rich, educated, well-connected woman in Pakistan is less disadvantaged, or at least discriminated against differently, than a poor man who encounters the same legal system to seek redress. Similarly, a poor woman from a Hindu background, like Daya Bheel, who was killed in December 2022, will be more prone to social and structured discrimination and violence. Poor, non-Muslim citizens, women and men, are less able to access the police, the courts, or the media. And when powerful policymakers and politicians make decisions, regardless of their gender, they are less likely to take into consideration the interdependence of all these factors and how they affect the most vulnerable people. Globally, as well, Western governments' rules-based order is dividing opinion in the Global South, which questions double standards on different conflicts – and this is a fundamental challenge for all progressive ideologies, including feminism.

One of the key things a feminist movement in Pakistan is, and should remain, is political. This is because feminism is intrinsically a political ideology; a de-politicized movement is not a feminist movement. De-politicized feminism is attractive to capitalist systems, where women don't come together to question structural issues but instead gain and compete for economic and social status alongside men – a seat at the top table – all the while leaving the majority of women behind. It tears at the fabric of collective organizing on issues that address both structural and political that affect rural and urban communities. It wants women in the system – just women who are apolitical, who do not question. The various Aurat Marches make well-thought-through and well-articulated demands, with their essence lying in challenging pre-existing political, social and economic structures that hold patriarchy and inequality at their very foundation and create unfair systems that disadvantage the majority of people. Aurat Marches demand freedom – azaadi – from sexual, domestic and cyber violence and harassment, poverty and enforced disappearance. They question the political process in the recent general elections. They make demands for the rights of minority citizens and ask for the reimagining of political participation, where oppressed communities take center stage.

Another important demand is the urgent need to break free from the IMF-loan cycle. I agree when Palesteeni feminists say: "The discourse on development and aid is nothing more than political subordination that aims to subject us, discourage our struggle and fragment its social foundation." They of course apply it to the apartheid they are under yet the concept of aid and what it does to fracture collective struggle rings true for us as well.

Real change cannot be reimagined under the dictates of an IMF programme that keeps us in its never-ending cycle. Various demands surround the better electoral participation of women voters, with 10 million women still missing off the electoral roll. The demands and the issues highlighted by the various Aurat Marches are varied and they question state and society on behalf of all oppressed and vulnerable people, not just women. That is what intersectional feminism looks like. The most controversial demand, the one many, mainly young men, like to challenge, is the demand for freedom. They ask us: freedom from what? To become Westernized, to not follow your religion, to dress as you please? These reductive arguments are missing the point but more dangerously, they help mobilize – based on a false comprehension of what Aurat March is and what it symbolizes – reactionary mobs that threaten the physical safety of Aurat March organizers and participants. They manage to set us back the little progress made in the way of mobilization and divert attention from the larger demands of seeking freedom from both political and social oppression and violence. All year round, dedicated feminists and male allies speak truth to power and question the state on anti-women, regressive laws, policies and cultural norms. They question patriarchal, absolute power and seek its shift to the people. They demand that discriminatory laws be repealed and more importantly, dangerous legal precedents be set aside. Only recently in the case against Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, the court questioned the period of iddat observed by her before her second marriage. This judgment is not just against her, it is an affront to all women and threatens our freedoms. It sets back so much of the progress made by family courts in Pakistan and opens the floodgates where women can be questioned over such personal choices of marriage and divorce.

The writer is a lawyer and consultant. She tweets/posts @BenazirJatoi



Zile Huma

# Invest in women for progress

The theme of International Women's Day 2024 is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' which is being celebrated to emphasize and highlight the importance of empowering women for development and prosperity.

According to the United Nations, "Women and girls make up 49.7 per cent of the global population, yet women and girls are often ignored in discussions on demographics, with their rights violated in population policies".

Though women should be involved in every sector, one important area is mitigation and adaptation to climate change where the vulnerabilities of women and the significance of their participation in the decision-making process are being ignored.

Climate change is adversely impacting women all around the world and causing gender discrimination. The theme of International Women's Day, 2024 is also applicable in climate-led crises advocating investment in women to empower them to tackle climate-change-related emergencies. During a disaster caused by climate change, relief efforts must take care of the needs of women and local cultures and traditions. In many backward and traditional societies, women cannot evacuate their places without men in their houses and relocate to other places. So, rescue workers and volunteers must be trained and aware to take care of local values and cultures in their relief work.

It can be very helpful to include female staff in the relief work due to their better understanding of gender

sensitivities and making it easy for affected women to communicate with them about their needs and issues.

Similarly, in an emergency when all healthcare units, medical staff, and facilities are diverted towards relief work, women-related health issues are ignored. It's important to dedicate some doctors and medical staff at health units to dealing with women-related health emergencies. In addition to that, climate change disasters also negatively impact women's financial empowerment

Similarly, during any emergency, women and girls are vulnerable to crimes. Kidnapping and abduction become common phenomena for trafficking and other unlawful activities. Incidents of gender-based violence also increase due to financial hardships and displacements. As a result of financial losses and the inability to feed many children, incidents of early child marriages of girls and child labour increase and women and girls become victims of violence in many cases.

According to a Wilson Centre report,

vigilant against such crimes and report to the dedicated helpline. The lack of limited research at the local level on the impacts of climate change on gender also fails to provide evidence-based policies to the legislators and policymakers. This leads to a failure to tackle gender sensitivities during a climate-led catastrophe effectively. The governments should generate scholarships and grants to support research in this area. Moreover, researchers and academicians, especially women, should be involved in the policymaking process along with other stakeholders.

It is equally important to train women from local communities directly impacted by climate change in mitigation and adaptation efforts. Women from local communities can be selected as leaders and master trainers to impart training and guidance to other women amid any emergency caused by climate change.

We need to invest in our women to tackle climate change crises, secure our future, and accelerate growth and development. Without the empowerment of women, climate-led disasters will continue to deepen the gender divide and create human rights issues. Nations must ensure to take into account gender perspective while devising policies and legislations. The theme of this year's International Women's Day also highlights the importance of investing in our women to accelerate progress.

The writer is a graduate of University of Oxford in Public Policy. She tweets/posts @zilehumma\_1

## Yet women and girls are often ignored in discussions on demographics, with their rights violated in population policies

and increase the burden on them for family responsibilities. According to UN Women, "Agriculture is the most important employment sector for women in low- and lower-middle income countries, during periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women, as agricultural workers and primary procurers, work harder to secure income and resources for their families".

In some cases, girls are forced to leave their education to support their mothers in the fields, which also widens the gap of gender inequality. In case of climate-led disasters, governments should announce insurance policies for women-owned lands and agriculture women workers to protect against any calamity and protect their financial vulnerabilities.

"During periods of drought, women across East Africa travel further distances to collect water for their families. Further distances travelled into less familiar terrain heightens women's exposure to the risk of sexual and physical violence".

It is important to sensitize and activate law-enforcement agencies during emergencies led by climate change to keep an eye on gender-based crimes. The establishment of a gender cell and a dedicated helpline number can play an important role in reducing such crimes. Normally, women and local people are not aware of remedies available to them to report and take action against such incidents. Awareness campaigns can play an important role in sensitizing women and local communities to be more

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

## Today in History

### History of Pakistan



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

#### SIMON COMMISSION

The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India. The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims.

#### ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL

Several leaders and thinkers, having insight into the Hindu-Muslim question proposed separation of Muslim India. However, the most lucid exposition of the inner feeling of the Muslim community was given by Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) in his Presidential Address at the All-India Muslim League Session at Allahabad in 1930. He suggested that for the healthy development of Islam in South-Asia, it was essential to have a separate Muslim state at least in the Muslim majority regions of the north-west. Later on, in his correspondence with Quaid-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 Con-

ferences 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 Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had returned to India in 1934, after an absence of nearly five years in England.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

## Tech

# Ariana Grande releases Eternal Sunshine: 'Best project till date'

Eternal Sunshine marked Ariana Grande's seventh studio album

Ariana Grande tuned into the celebrations of International Women's Day 2024 with the release of her highly anticipated album Eternal Sunshine. Taking the ecstatic news to social media, the Bang Bang hitmaker sent her fans into a frenzy by posting a carousel of pictures along with a caption that read, "Eternal sunshine out now." Shortly after the 13-track album was released, fans rallied to Grande's comments section to rave about her latest musical feast. Batgirl star Leslie Grace expressed her contentment over the timing of the release, "This is hitting at just the right moment. I've just boarded a 5 hour flight... bought to have just the



musical experience I've needed on repeat [hands up emoji]." Alfredo Flores, an American director and videographer who had previously worked with Grande, 30, on the Ariana Grande: Dangerous Woman Diaries documentary, enthusiastically wrote, "I can't believe you just said that!! Eternal sunshine, weeeeeek." A fan wrote, "Laying in bed, staring at the ceiling, blasting the album. [white heart emoji]." Another fan branded the newly released album "Your best project to date." The third fan chimed in, gushing over the album, "CRYING!!!! CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS MASTERPIECE! THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR HEART SO BEAUTIFULLY!!!!"

# Elon Musk says considerations underway to remove likes and reposts from X content

Elon Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur, revealed that his social media platform, X, is contemplating the elimination of displaying like and repost counts on posts. The revelation was made during Musk's address at the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media, and Telecom Conference on Wednesday. Moreover, Elon Musk shared that X is on the verge of securing a money transmitter license in New York, with expectations of gaining approval in the coming months. The move aligns with the platform's broader strategy, aiming to introduce financial features, including the capability to send payments to other users. The consideration to remove like and repost counts stems from Musk's perspective on content clarity. He expressed concerns that such metrics might clutter the user experience on X, emphasizing a potential shift towards a more streamlined presentation of posts. Elon Musk, who acquired X (formerly known as Twitter) for a substantial \$44 billion in October 2022, has already imple-

mented changes by adding the number of views to each post since taking over the platform. Elon Musk, after buying Twitter, claimed that the microblogging site under his ownership would be an 'everything app,' including not just messaging but also banking and shopping. This development comes on the heels of X's recent legal victory, where the social media giant emerged successful in a \$250 million copyright lawsuit. A day before Musk's announcement, a US District Judge in Nashville, Tennessee, Aleta Trauger, largely dismissed the lawsuit filed by 17 music publishers. The publishers alleged copyright infringement for nearly 1,700 songs, accusing the platform of enabling unauthorized sharing of music. Judge Trauger emphasized that the publishers could not pursue a theory of "comprehensive general liability for infringement" against X. This legal triumph positions Musk's platform to navigate the evolving landscape of social media with potential alterations in the presentation of engagement metrics.

# Eating moldy bread may not make you sick — but here's the catch

Green bubbly stuff stuck on a few slices of bread should definitely not be eaten, but what if you are in a rush to make a quick sandwich and accidentally consume a moldy loaf of bread? While it is likely to taste really bad, doctors say that it will not make you sick. Still, mold is "something you want to avoid," says Dr Christopher Scuderi, a family physician in Jacksonville, Florida. People should not panic at first and then spit it out, according to Dr Christine Lee, a gastroenterologist at Cleveland Clinic. "If you do accidentally swallow it, it's not a huge

## Moldy bread are best to avoid but they might not be as harmful when eaten in rush, as per doctors

deal, though," Dr Lee explains: "If it's just a bite, aside from the ick factor, it shouldn't be harmful, as long as you have an intact immune system." It's also helpful to drink lots of water to help flush out any potential toxins or allergens from the mold," Dr Scuderi says. "Hydrate well and dilute it down, and you'll probably be OK."

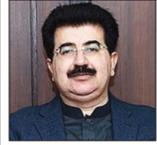
"The risk of getting sick from eating moldy bread is low," Dr. Lee says. "But there are some variables to know about that could increase your risk." However, if you have a medical condition that can make you immunocompromised or if you consume immune-suppressing medications, you are probably more likely to get sick from that moldy loaf of bread, she added, according to Parade. "Your risk also goes up if your intestinal mucosal barrier is broken—for instance, an ulcer, colitis, or another break in the skin that would allow mold or fungus to enter your bloodstream," she further added.



## Health



## Sadiq Sanjrani, Zaffar Zehri, Muhammad Khan Lehr took oath as MPs



QUETTA: Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Mir Zaffar Zehri and Muhammad Khan Lehr on Friday took oath as members of Balochistan Assembly. Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola presided over the session of the Assembly.

The session was adjourned to meet again on Saturday for the election of the President.

## Saudi officials complete survey for 'Road to Makkah' project at Karachi Airport: Secy Religious Affairs

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Religious Affairs, Dr. Syed Atta-ur-Rehman, on Friday informed that Saudi officials had successfully concluded the survey for the 'Road to Makkah' project at Karachi Airport, marking a significant step forward in facilitating the Hajj pilgrimage process.

He confirmed this development, emphasizing the project's importance in streamlining immigration and customs procedures for pilgrims.

"This year, Saudi immigration and customs clearance of Hajj pilgrims will be completed at Karachi Airport," he stated, highlighting the convenience and efficiency this initiative would bring to pilgrims.

The implementation of advanced immigration technology is on the horizon, with Secretary Religious Affairs expressing optimism about its potential impact. "There is a strong possibility that the Saudi authorities will introduce the latest immigration technology at Karachi Airport," he remarked, hinting at the potential for quicker processing times.

Dr. Syed Atta-ur-Rehman also underscored the use of modern technology in baggage handling, stating, "With the help of modern technology, immigration can be completed in less than a minute."

The integration of RFID technology would enable the swift delivery of pilgrims' luggage, minimizing the risk of loss or misplacement, he added. Furthermore, to enhance organization and efficiency, he said pilgrims' belongings would be labeled and coded based on eight zones, facilitating smooth sorting and delivery processes.

"Pilgrims' goods will be delivered directly to residences through the 'Road to Makkah' project," the Secretary Religious Affairs affirmed.

He said the inclusion of pilgrims from Sukkur and Quetta in the 'Road to Makkah' project through Karachi Airport, and those from Peshawar via Islamabad Airport, demonstrated the project's extensive reach and accessibility.

The secretary also highlighted that more than 60 percent of government pilgrims would benefit from the initiative this year, with provisions in place for private Hajj scheme participants as well.

Expressing gratitude for Karachi's inclusion in the 'Road to Makkah' project, he commended Saudi authorities and Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki for the collaborative efforts to enhance the pilgrimage experience. APP



MUZAFFRABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwaar-ul-Haq during visit at AJK. ONLINE

## Education key to unlocking full potential of women : First Lady

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: First Lady, Begum Samina Alvi on Friday said that education was the key to unlocking full potential of women and girls as investing in their education and empowering them with knowledge and skills would help creating a more equitable and prosperous society for all.

"Education is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is about empowering individuals to become agents of change in their communities and beyond," she said while addressing an event organized in connection with the International Women Day by Serena Hotels. She stressed to pledge to work towards gender equality in all spheres of life, including technology and innovation. "Together, we can create a future where women have equal access to opportunities and can contribute fully to society," she said, adding currently, the ratio of women in Pakistan was almost 50 percent, but the country still had a long way to go in terms of their inclusion and empowerment. "According to the Global Gender Gap Index-2023, Pakistan ranked at 142nd position out of 146 countries.

This represents a very sorry state of affairs due to low economic participation, educational attainment, access to healthcare services and workforce participation. These challenges are not just obstacles; they are injustices that must be addressed with urgency and determination," she remarked. She highlighted that Pakistan, as a member state of the United Nations, fully endorsed



the Charter of the United Nations which strived to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination of gender. The constitution of Pakistan also ensured fundamental rights and provided ample guarantees to women against all forms of discrimination, exploitation and marginalization, in addition to the right to equality, to grow and lead a healthy and prosperous life, she said. Samina Alvi also stressed on girls' education to make the country's women strong enough to face the challenges of life with the strength of their minds. Besides, she also stressed the need to make continuous efforts to equip our women with vocational skills to utilize their potential and also to save them from economic exploitation. By using digital platforms, she said the women could overcome many of the barriers they might encounter in traditional job pursuits. "We need to work towards

increasing access to digital resources, providing education and training in technology, and building supportive environments that enable women to excel in tech-related fields," she said adding this included initiatives such as mentorship programs, scholarships, and providing digital technologies.

"This, in turn, will promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan by providing an enabling environment for women to enter the workforce and contribute to national development," she added. Highlighting her key area of focus on raising awareness about breast cancer, Samina Alvi said she had been advocating for better access to screening and treatment services for women across Pakistan. "Breast cancer is not just a health issue; it is a social justice issue. Every woman, regardless of her socioeconomic status deserves the right to quality healthcare and the opportunity to live a healthy life," she added.

## Joint operation of Pakistan Navy and Maritime Security Agency to search for missing fishermen



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency are conducting a joint search and rescue operation for the missing fishermen. According to the Public Relations Department of the Pakistan Army (ISPR), a joint search and rescue operation of the Pakistan Navy and PMSA is underway to find the fishermen who went missing after the sinking of a fishing boat near Hajambro Creek. The fishing boat Al Asad with a crew of 45 people sank in the open sea near Hajambro Creek on March 5 due to bad weather. And initiated timely action with the support of PMSA.

According to ISPR spokesperson, aircraft and helicopters of Pakistan Navy as well as ships and boats of PMSA are busy searching for the missing fishermen. Pak Navy and PMSA will continue search and rescue operations for the missing fishermen along with the local administration and concerned stakeholders. PR

## Maryam Nawaz launches tree plantation drive

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday launched a tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling in Dargai Gill Forest Park Sheikhupura. According to official sources here, on occasion of the World Women Day, Maryam Nawaz being the first woman Punjab CM planted a sapling of 'Banyan' known as 'Bargad'.

Speaking at the event, the CM said that tree plantation campaign would be helpful in dealing with the climate change. She said that trees play a significant role in reducing environmental pollution besides playing major role to stop cutting of land and increasing land's fertility. Maryam Nawaz was briefed that on Women Day, 600,000 saplings would be planted across the province. Tree plantation will be carried on banks of rivers as well. Overall more than 10 million trees would be planted during spring tree plantation campaign. It is pertinent to mention that it is unique honour of planting 12,000 saplings at once on the Women Day. Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb also planted a sapling while MPA Sania Ashiq and others were also present. APP

## Individuals denying women their inheritance rights should be disqualified from participating in elections: Sirajul Haq

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Sirajul Haq has emphasized that individuals denying women their inheritance rights should be disqualified from participating in elections.

Speaking at a women's rally on International Women's Day at The Mall, Sirajul Haq attributed the deprivation of Pakistani women to feudal lords and certain ruling dynasties within the parliament. Sirajul Haq advocated for compulsory education for girls, asserting that the state should ensure free education for them. He proposed the establishment of state-of-the-art women's universities in every district, along with a dedicated transport system for females. He called for stringent measures to protect women in workplaces, urging strict punishment for those who abuse and harass them. He said the JI, if voted to power, would provide interest-free loans to women for starting their own businesses.

The rally, organized by the JI women's chapter, was dedicated to the women and girls of Palestine and Kashmir. Sirajul Haq commended the chapter for advocating on behalf of those facing the atrocities of occupied forces and standing firm for freedom.

Expressing regret over the prime minister's silence on Palestinians in his maiden parliamentary speech, Sirajul Haq criticized those in power for their reluctance to speak out against Israel due to fear of the US.

Later, at a seminar in Mansoorah organized by the JI central Punjab chapter, Sirajul Haq called for an election audit through a judicial commission and the resignation of the chief election commissioner. Sirajul Haq announced the JI's plan to organize the Palestine Solidarity March in Islamabad on March 10 in front of the US Embassy, highlighting the need for a united stance in support of Palestine. SABAH

## Justice Malik Shehzad takes oath as LHC CJ



LAHORE: Justice Malik Shehzad Amad Khan on Friday took oath as the Lahore High Court chief justice. Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman administered oath to the newly-appointed chief justice at the Governor's House. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also attended the ceremony. Supreme Court Justice (ret'd) Khalilur Rehman Ramdey, Justice (ret'd) Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary, Lahore High Court Justice Ali Baqir Najafi, Justice Shahid Bilal Hasan, Justice Miss Alia Neelum also participated in the ceremony. It should be noted that President Arif Alvi had approved the appointment of Justice Malik Shehzad as the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court. INP

## Closing Ceremony of Pakistan Navy's Exercise Sea Spark 2024

Chief of the Naval Staff was the Chief Guest of the function

The closing ceremony of Pakistan Navy's exercise Sea Spark 2024 was held in Karachi, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the chief guest of the ceremony.

According to ISPR, all combat assets of Pakistan Navy, ships, aircrafts, submarines have demonstrated practical actions in the context of war. A successful demonstration of live missile firing was also presented during SeaSpark. Targeting the enemy fleet through joint opera-

tions at sea was also practiced, at SeaSpark 2024, the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff also made recommendations regarding exercise activities. In the exercise, Pakistan Navy as well as PMSA, Pakistan Army, Air Force personnel and combat assets participated in joint operations. According to ISPR, the Chief of the Naval Staff expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the operational preparations and exercise. PR



## In response to PTI's letter, IMF says it encourages transparent, peaceful resolution of electoral disputes

IMF says as international institution, it has "narrow mandate on economic issues"

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday gave a cold shoulder to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's demand for an election audit, stating that as an international institution, it has a "narrow mandate on economic issues".

A spokesperson of the Washington-based lender confirmed that it had received a letter from a PTI official sent on Khan's behalf on February 28 on the Fund's engagement with Pakistan under the loan program.

"The IMF, as an international institution with a narrow mandate on economic issues, does not comment on domestic political developments. However, given the importance of the institutional environment for economic stability and growth, we do encourage the fair and peaceful resolution of all electoral disputes," the IMF said. The spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson shared that its engagement with Pakistan is focused on helping the government implement strong policies to deepen financial stability, address the longstanding economic and underlying balance of payments challenges, and restore sustained and inclusive growth for the benefit of all Pakistani citizens.

"This includes stronger public finances, through high-quality revenue measures to broaden the tax base while scaling up the support for the most vulnerable, restoring energy sector viability, improving institutional governance and anti-corruption effectiveness, SOE reform, building climate resilience, and creating a level playing field for private businesses to promote investment and job creation," said the IMF.

The spokesperson said that keeping the above objectives in mind, the

lender looks forward to engaging with to complete the second review under the ongoing Stand by Arrangement and support the development of a new medium-term economic program if the government requests it.

The response to the letter by an IMF spokesperson comes hours after the global lender's Communications Department Director Julie Kozack during a press briefing in Washington, DC shared that the Fund is set to dispatch its mission to Pakistan following the formation of a new cabinet.

Commenting on the IMF mission's arrival in Pakistan, she said: "The IMF stands ready to hold a mission for the second review of the Stand-by shortly after a new cabinet is formed." Last week, the PTI asked the IMF to factor in the country's political stability in any further bailout talks.

In its letter to the Fund, as per PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan, the party maintained that the February 8 general elections were subjected to "widespread intervention and fraud in the counting of votes and compilation of results".

"In view of the policies and principles the IMF stands for, there should be no doubt that the abuse of power by a small number of holders of public office to impose their likes and dislikes on Pakistan's populace as aforesaid, and thus to ensure their continuing personal gain, would not be promoted or upheld by the IMF," PTI alleged. The letter was also dispatched at a time when newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, after assuming the top office for the second consecutive time, issued directives to immediately enter negotiations with the IMF for a new loan under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Agencies

## Ulema urges world to pressure Israel to allow Muslims to worship in Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramazan

ISLAMABAD: Ulema and Mashaikh on the call off Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) in their summons on Friday denounced Israeli coercion and tyranny, expressing solidarity with the oppressed Palestinians.

Condemning the egregious violations of human rights in the holy land, the religious scholars and leaders emphasized that humanity was suffering in Palestine, with Israel's actions transcending all moral boundaries. They condemned the international community's failure to address the escalating humanitarian crisis, urging organizations like the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to intensify efforts for a ceasefire during Ramazan. This, they stressed, would allow Palestinians to worship freely during the holy month.

During the sermons, the Ulema and Mashaykh lamented the dire situation in Palestine, high-

lighting the relentless Israeli attacks, widespread hunger, poverty, and the scarcity of essential resources. They decried the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, a sacred site for Muslims, calling upon the international community to pressure Israel to allow Muslims to worship there freely during Ramazan.

The religious scholars and leaders said with more than 30,000 Palestinians martyred and hundreds of thousands injured, Gaza had become a symbol of devastation and despair. They urged for concrete action from the international community, emphasizing that mere rhetoric was insufficient in addressing the plight of Palestinians. In an appeal to the OIC leadership, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, they called for safeguarding the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and upholding the rights of Palestinians. APP