



**Urged German govt to fulfill its responsibilities under the Vienna Conventions and ensure the security of the diplomatic missions and staff of Pakistan in Germany**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar**

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## PM committed to promoting environmentally-sustainable mountaineering: Romina Khurshid

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Sunday emphasised efforts have been launched on the PM's directives to set up mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan having structured training and educational facilities specifically tailored to mountaineering, sherpa training and sustainable tourism practices in Pakistan's north to promote world-class environmental-friendly mountaineering, climbing and mountain tourism.

While chairing a second review meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to Establish Mountaineering School in Gilgit-Baltistan held here in the climate change and environmental coordination ministry, Romina Khurshid Alam said, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is very much instrumental for setting up the mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan and other mountain regions of the country."

Establishing such facilities that would help equip aspirant mountaineers and mountain climbers with the knowledge and confidence to enjoy the mountains safely while respecting the local environment, values and cultures of mountain communities and fellow climbers would prove an important initiative for promoting sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing in the country, the PM's climate aide said.

"A plan is being implemented in close coordination and support with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to set up first government-run mountaineering school of the world-class standard in Skardu. It also aims to open new vistas of employment opportunities for the local mountain communities and help promote sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing," remarked the PM's aide.

Romina Khurshid said that the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan has long been celebrated for its scenic towering peaks, including K2, the second highest mountain in the world. The region is rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, attracting adventurers and explorers from around the globe.

However, the region holds a great untapped potential for promoting mountaineering and climbing despite through arrangement of mountaineering skill development trainings and facilities, she added.

"By equipping local and international participants with the necessary skills and knowledge at the proposed mountaineering school to be established in Skardu soon, we aim to foster a new generation of mountaineers and tourism professionals who are committed to preserving the natural and cultural integrity of Gilgit Baltistan," the PM's climate aide stressed.

Earlier, the meeting discussed at length the mountaineering and climbing curriculum, modules for relevant skill development, rescue trainings, identification of site for building mountaineering school, training programme for local tour guides and potential funding opportunities and collaboration opportunities for establishing and managing the proposed mountaineering school facility. APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering dua after unveiling a plaque during the groundbreaking of Jinnah Medical Complex. APP

## Govt determined to provide 100% free medical facilities to deserving patients: PM

**VOM Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said the government was determined to provide state of the art free healthcare facilities to the deserving patients across the country.

Addressing a groundbreaking ceremony of Jinnah Medical Complex here, the prime minister said the Complex was going to be the region's one of the best medical center where the deserving people would get 100% free medical treatment.

"This is the gift of the coalition government not only for the residents of the Rawalpindi and Islamabad but for the people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as well," PM Shehbaz Sharif said.

He said once completed, the medical complex would offer the world's best healthcare facilities with various sections of diseases related to heart, kidneys, lungs, cancer and others. Furthermore, he said a modern first aid emergency section would also be established at the hospital with facility of air ambulance service for patients belonging to hard areas.

He said the nursing schools and laboratories would also be established in the hospital and

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the deserving patients would avail 100% lab tests facility.

The prime minister emphasized that this was the same model envisioned by PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to provide free medical facilities only to the poor and on-payment facilities to the well-off people at the same place.

He specifically thanked Chairman HBL Sultan Ali Allana and Prince Rahim Agha Khan for providing technical consultancy support free of cost for the project. He paid tribute the decades-long services of the Agha Khan Foundation for the country.

He directed the authorities concerned to complete the project in one year. "Although one year is a challenging deadline for the huge project but with determination and hard work, it was quite possible. He also issued directives to continue work on the project

round the clock to meet the deadline. He assured that there would be no funding problems from the government side.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also express his gratitude to the Islamabad Chief Commissioner Ali Randhawa for providing land for the project. He also thanked finance minister, finance secretary and planning minister for their support for the project.

As regards compensation to the land affected people, the prime minister directed to provide one window facility to the affected people to resolve their problems without any delay.

Health Coordinator Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, MNAs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Hanif Abbasi and Raja Khurram Nawaz also spoke on the occasion. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was also present on the occasion.

## In bid to cut power prices, Pakistan to press Chinese IPPs to adopt local coal

"If Chinese IPPs move from imported to domestic coal, the electricity tariff may decrease by Rs2.5 per unit," says energy minister

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to press Chinese independent power producers (IPPs), which rely on imported coal, to switch to locally sourced solid fossil fuel to cut generation costs and provide relief to consumers tormented by bloated utility bills.



"Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Thar region rather than imported coal," Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Awas Leghari told Reuters on Sunday. He added that the transition could save Pakistan more than Rs200 billion a year in imports, translating to a decrease of as much as Rs2.5 per unit in the price of electricity.

"Islamabad may also begin talks on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during the visit to Beijing." Such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves, he said, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms. The power czar will be part of the delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian nation. Neighbouring China has set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan.

"One of the key purposes of going along is the conversion of our imported coal units to the local coal. That would have a huge impact on the cost of energy, of power in the near future. So that is one of the biggest (items on the) agenda," Leghari said in an interview. In April a subsidiary of conglomerate Engro agreed to sell all of its thermal assets, including Pakistan's leading coal producer, Sindh Engro Coal Mining to Liberty Power. Liberty said the decision stemmed from Pakistan's foreign exchange crunch and its indigenous coal reserve potential.

The minister declined to elaborate on the possible talks with China over re-profiling energy debt. Pakistan's power sector has been plagued by high rates of power theft and distribution losses, resulting in accumulating debt across the production chain — a concern raised by the IMF.

The government is implementing structural reforms to reduce circular debt — public liabilities that build up in the power sector due to subsidies and unpaid bills — by Rs100 billion a year, Leghari said. Poor and middle-class households have been affected by a previous IMF bailout reached last year, which included raising power tariffs as part of the funding programme that ended in April.

Annual power use in Pakistan is expected to fall consecutively for the first time in 16 years as higher tariffs curb household consumption, despite summer temperatures surging to near records, which typically boosts air conditioning and fan use.

## Azerbaijan Pakistan strengthening ties through media cooperation

SHUSHA: President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan has praised Pakistan's media for its supportive stance, paving the way for a joint media initiative to foster greater cooperation and counter misinformation.

Azerbaijan Pakistan strengthening ties through media cooperation President Ilham Aliyev has expressed these views while addressing media at opening ceremony of "2nd Shusha Global Media Forum" gratitude for the consistent support from Pakistan's media, describing it as "brotherly" and "friendly". He proposed establishing a joint media working group to promote mutual understanding and counter misleading narratives. This collaboration aims to leverage access to international media outlets, enhancing the reputation and perception of both nations.

President's remarks followed a successful state visit to Pakistan, where he was warmly received by the Prime Minister and President of Pakistan. The trip resulted in the signing of 17 agreements, with a focus on investment opportunities, bilateral trade, defense industry coop-

eration, and uniting the potential of both countries.

With a strong foundation laid, Azerbaijan and Pakistan are poised to strengthen their partnership in the years to come. The president Ilham Aliyev answered the media participant's question and also informed forum about the preparations carried out regarding the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), the fight against the impacts of climate change at the country level, as well as the sustainable approach in the restoration and reconstruction works implemented in the liberated territories, which is going to be held in Baku in November this year.

The forum will feature four panel sessions on "Impact assessment: scoping disinformation," "Policies and initiatives to build a more resilient society against disinformation," The impact of artificial intelligence on reality, media and disinformation: Promoting media literacy," and "Climate movement and media." APP

## Ishaq Dar urges German govt to ensure the security of the diplomatic missions & staff of Pakistan in Germany



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has urged German government to fulfill its responsibilities under the Vienna Conventions and ensure the security of the diplomatic missions and staff of Pakistan in Germany.

Ishaq Dar wrote a post on social media platform X and condemned the Saturday's incident in which a gang of extremists breached the premises of Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt, Germany endangering the lives of its consular staff.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the German government. Ishaq Dar said that we have also pressed them for taking immediate measures to arrest and prosecute those involved in Saturday's incident and hold to account those responsible for the lapses in the security. SABAH

## Hamas welcomes Pakistan decision to declare Israeli state as war criminal

**Hamas says Pakistan's announcement reflects Palestinian cause & longstanding stance**

GAZA: Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has welcomed the Pakistani decision to declare so called occupational Israeli state as war criminal, Jewish fascist criminal and declaring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as terrorist. Hamas has said that Pakistan's announcement reflects Palestinian cause and longstanding stance.

In a statement Hamas said that Islamic Resistance Movement while considering Pakistan's announcement towards supporting the innocent Palestinians facing genocide in the hands of the Jews, welcome this statement. The statement said that Pakistan's announcement reflects the longstanding, historic and principled support of Pakistani government, Pakistani political and religious parties and masses towards Palestinian cause and Muslim Ummah's most important and requiring resolution prob-

lem. Hamas demanded from the Muslim Ummah that for isolating the fascist occupational state at the international level, it should be boycotted at every level.

It has been demanded from the governments of the Islamic countries to make every possible effort for provision of relief to the Palestinian masses facing Jewish barbarism and genocide. It has been said in the statement that to stop ongoing war crimes and genocide in Gaza, pressure should be put on Israel to ensure implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and recent resolution regarding ceasefire. Hamas has also pressed upon the Islamic world to take effective steps in favor of the Palestinian people and for the protection of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other Muslim and Christian sacred places in whole Palestine. SABAH

## PTI seeks 'dead bodies' for political point scoring: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage on Sunday termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) a "terrorist and chaotic" party which sought nothing but "dead bodies" to get people's sympathy for political mileage.

"Whenever there was a protest, they (PTI) always look for the dead bodies and tried to get their own people killed for putting the blame on the police, the government and the (local) administration," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

Their nefarious agenda began with 2014 sit-in which did not end with the May 9 mayhem as they still resorted to hatch conspiracies to derail the system and decimate the economy. Tarar said citing the recent firing in Bannu peace rally arranged by the peaceful traders.

He claimed that the PTI like other political parties became part of the peace rally

and some of their members allegedly opened fire during the rally which caused stampede inflicting injuries to many.

The minister rejected the inquiry commission formed by the PTI led government in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa accusing them of their involvement in the incident.

"They hatched a conspiracy and tried to blame the security agencies for the incident. They are uploading pictures of children belonging to another country on the social media and claiming that the people were martyred by direct firing of the security forces," he noted.

A malicious campaign has been launched in this regard on the social media networking sites to portray a wrong and fabricated story in Bannu, he said, calling the PTI as "Tehreek-e-Taliban PTI" (TTPTI) which, he alleged, was bent upon destabilizing the country by spreading chaos and anarchy.

Tarar said that it was imperative to

expose false propaganda being peddled by the "Tehreek-e-Intishar" party which is also known as "TTPTI".

Their agenda for creating anarchy saw no change with their ouster from the power as they, being in opposition, still worked day in and day out to spread terror in the country to bring political instability and derail economy to default the country, he added.

"This is their mission and manifesto and they have always demonstrated this through their actions," he said recalling its armed attack on the state institutions in 2014 sit-in which also saw unprecedented scenes of chaos and anarchy.

He also recalled the May 9 incidents when the Corps Commander House Lahore was burnt and other state institutions came under attack along with defiling of memorials of the martyrs.

Their plan was to pit the people of Pakistan against the Army and with a death of

50 or 60 persons, they wanted to bring the whole system to a standstill, he said, adding such a political party should be declared as a "terrorist organization".

He regretted that the PTI founder ensured safety of his family and left the workers, who were involved in the May 9, to face the law. "The Tehreek-e-Intishar did not provide legal or financial support to them who were actually sent there to die on May 9," he added.

He lashed out at the PTI founder for resettling terrorists in the country to disrupt peace achieved through the sacrifices rendered by the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army.

"You have always been a Taliban apologist and you were a Taliban sympathizer and that is why you are named as a Taliban Khan," he said, regretting role of the PTI's founder in laying foundation of the "TTPTI" which was looking for the dead bodies.

The minister refuted the story published by an international media outlet regarding the lifestyle of the PTI founder in the Adiala Jail.

"I would like to address Ms Christina Lamb who I respect greatly. She has lived in Pakistan and she is watching and observing the politics of Pakistan but, madam you are sadly mistaken; this convicted person, who is ex-chairman of the PTI, lives in a presidential suite. He has an exercise bicycle, a walking gallery and a kitchen at his disposal and he gives a proper lavish menu of what he wants to eat in his entire day," the minister said while dubbing the news story as a fake and fabricated.

He said the PTI founder held three meetings weekly with his lawyers, friends, family and political leaders in the presidential suite that has been created for him in Adiala jail where he had a sitting area and an exercise time.

"We have never believed in political victimization and nor we did any," he said, describing his fabricated story as a tool to defile the outside community.

"Mr Khan himself incarcerated people and put them in death cell including women and he is responsible and he used to openly state that I will not let any medicine to get through them in the prison; I will not let them have home food, and I will not let them meet the people. He used to speak that openly and now he is having lavish lifestyle in jail," the minister said, while recalling the political victimization pursued during the tenure of the PTI government against the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) including its Quaid Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Rana Sanaullah who were actually sent to 7 feet by 8 feet death cells. APP



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## AI journey: fueled by data, not hype

ZAHID ASGHAR

Advanced technology is the driving force behind modern states. Any state or society that lags in technology and innovation risks being left behind. Among the latest innovations, artificial intelligence (AI) stands out as a transformative force impacting all sectors. Unlike missile or nuclear weapon technologies, which require specialized expertise, materials, and restricted knowledge, AI is scalable and accessible to those who build the capacity to use it. The IMF recently ranked Pakistan 117th out of 174 countries in AI readiness. One of the critical components for leveraging AI effectively is having the right kind of data. In the era of rapid technological advancement, two essential requirements are data and the capacity to make sense of it. Data has become the cornerstone of artificial intelligence (AI), large language models (LLMs), natural language processing (NLP), machine learning (ML), and a myriad of other transformative tools. How data is utilized, prepared, and consumed significantly impacts the capabilities of individuals, enterprises, and governments. Despite AI's vast potential and wide-ranging applications, Pakistan seems to not benefit from it a lot mainly because it does not have sufficient data infrastructure which is the basic fuel for AI. For Pakistan's public sector, the data boom presents daunting challenges alongside unique opportunities. To convert these challenges into opportunities, investment in data infrastructure and the capacity to handle both structured and unstructured data is essential. Think of AI as a powerful engine capable of incredible feats, but only with high-quality fuel. In this case, the fuel is data. The more data we have and the better its quality, the more effective AI becomes. This applies to everything from large language models to machine learning algorithms that power various applications.

In Pakistan, over time, the digitization of thousands of documents has led to a proliferation of unstructured data, creating an urgent need for organizations to prioritize this process. The digitization drive has generated a massive amount of unstructured data. But unlike structured data in spreadsheets, this unstructured data is messy and requires specialized tools to analyze for which the public sector has no capacity.

This unstructured data is a goldmine for informed policymaking. Imagine a world where policymakers can instantly access and analyze data on any issue, or parliamentarians can efficiently gather information on past policies. However, unlocking this potential requires more than just fancy software. We need to build internal expertise in data analysis. Relying solely on external consultants isn't sustainable. We need to create a culture shift where data analysis is seen not as a chore but as a critical tool for effective governance.

The public sector faces significant challenges in improving its policies through data-driven, evidence-based approaches due to the complexity of handling unstructured data. Historically, data training has focused on structured data stored in predefined formats, which organizations have managed effectively for decades. Unstructured data, often referred to as the 'white whale' of both private and public sectors, represents a vast reservoir of untapped potential. The public sector possesses a wealth of this data, yet extracting value from it remains exceedingly complex. If a senior leader, public official, or policy analyst asks staff to compile everything known about a particular issue, they should be able to mine the entire database and quickly pull out abstracts, data, information, or policy recommendations. Similarly, if a parliamentarian asks an aide to gather information on policies from the past three decades, they should be able to do so efficiently after the necessary training. Unstructured data is a goldmine that, when properly leveraged, can significantly enhance policymaking. With ongoing developments in AI and LLMs, unstructured data is growing exponentially, and this trend shows no signs of slowing down. It is time for the public sector to build scalable, strategic capabilities. The time is now for partnering and building teams to harness the power of unstructured data. Imagine having hundreds of policies and other documents at your disposal; unstructured data can become a major part of this resource. However, accessing and understanding unstructured data is challenging because it is not stored in the same manner as structured data, like spreadsheets and tables.

There is a dilemma. Given the limited supply of skills within the public sector, relying solely on external expertise is not a viable first option. Local expertise is essential to fully benefit from external capacities. However, building local capacity also requires time and targeted skills. The primary challenge for the public sector is the lack of awareness about how data can exceed the expectations of senior leadership and bureaucracy. This untapped potential is hindered by the absence of clear, standardized success metrics. As the saying goes, 'you need to crawl before you walk'. It is crucial to start with a single sector, develop and execute it, and then expand ML/LLM models to other areas.

For public policy officials, understanding that rigorous, quantitative research and education are the best guides for effective public policy is essential. Embracing the power of unstructured data through NLP and AI can revolutionize the way policies are crafted, evaluated, and implemented, ultimately leading to more informed and impactful governance in Pakistan. The road ahead won't be easy. Building expertise takes time, and we can't jump straight into the deep end. A good first step is to focus on a single sector, develop successful AI models, and then gradually expand. This 'crawl before you walk' approach ensures a solid foundation for future growth. Investing in data and AI isn't just about chasing the latest tech trends. It's about building a better future for Pakistan. By embracing data-driven approaches and empowering ourselves with the latest developments in the field, we can revolutionize policymaking, leading to more informed decisions and impactful governance.

The writer is a professor of economics at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.



Ghazi Salahuddin

# Trump on the horizon

kind of divine intervention. In his speech, Trump said that he felt safe because "I had God on my side". This is how religion is invested in his campaign. For his followers, he dodged that bullet because he is the man of destiny. Here is a classic example of how the cult of personality works.

While the world is getting ready for the possibility of America being led by Donald Trump, we in Pakistan may also have our reasons to closely watch the rise of a leader who is like, well, Donald Trump. But don't let me be diverted by what is happening in Pakistan. That would be too disconcerting. And we cannot visualize the outcome of many crises that are brewing.

Trump is certainly a valid excuse for my column this week. On Thursday, he accepted his nomination as the presidential candidate of the Republican Party and the acceptance speech he delivered is being carefully examined for clues as to what his second administration could be like.

A national convention that nominates the party's presidential candidate every four years is always a grand spectacle. Democrats and Republicans have both had some historic moments on such occasions. However, the Republican convention held this week in Milwaukee was marked by an extraordinary sense of drama. Trump, the party's charismatic leader, had just survived an assassination attempt at a campaign rally.

In fact, the visuals that the assassination attempt provided have raised the electoral spirits of the Republicans. That the bullet just brushed his ear was seen as some

He loathes the laws we live by". Finally, the editorial, calling Trump "a chilling choice", urged "voters to see the dangers of a second Trump term clearly and to reject it". For that matter, what does a second term of Trump really promise? I have noted how the acceptance speech Trump made has prompted serious analyses. He spoke for an hour and a half, the longest acceptance speech in America's political history. There were some mixed messages, for sure. A number of assertions he made were found to be false or not accurate or out of context in fact-checking done by the media.

Besides, Trump does not always do what he threatens. This time he did seem to be promoting a softer image, compared to what he aimed to do during his first term. For instance, he had tried to ban nationals from a list of Muslim-majority countries. He had refused to accept his defeat in the 2020 elections, and it was his campaign of misinformation and falsehoods that led to the attack on the Capitol in Washington by his loyalists on January 6, 2021.

American elections will be held on November 5, near the end of a year that is remarkable for the number of countries that have held national elections. There were also unscheduled parliamentary elections in France and presidential polls in Iran. This should ideally presage a new era for democratic governance and people in general should feel more empowered and liberated in a social sense.

But just look at the rising social unrest in many of the countries that have held elections earlier this year. Pakistan's example would fall among countries where elections were not credible, - though not for

the first time. Violent protests by the students in Bangladesh this week also indicate that the democratic process has not functioned effectively.

In some ways, Trump's victory, which is largely expected, is not likely to be seen as a vindication of democracy by the liberal and broad-minded elements of the country. Some of America's traditional allies may not be pleased with this outcome. Yet there are bound to be cogent reasons why a conservative leader who professes to be a saviour can gain the loyalty of such a large number of people. "Trump got to be president by sowing discord and division", wrote columnist Maureen Dowd. "His incredible rise was possible due to a coarsening of culture, plagued by the nastiness on social media, and a decline in our society and our courts".

Another columnist, Bert Stephens, expressed an opinion that may tickle the brains of many of us in Pakistan. He said: "There is nobody in America whom the gatekeepers hate more than Trump. Ergo, there is nobody in America whom the haters of the gatekeepers love more than Trump".

All this means that moves made on America's political chessboard in the coming weeks will hold the attention of the world. Sadly, the Democratic Party is not really alive and kicking in this bitter contest for power, mainly because of the role that President Biden had assigned to himself. But things may radically change - for better or worse.

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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



Large domestic sugar subsidies have been primarily responsible for an increase in sugarcane production. Other crops include chickpeas, pearl millet (bajra), corn (maize), rapeseed, and mustard, as well as a variety of garden crops, including onions, peppers, and potatoes. Pakistan benefits greatly from having two growing seasons, rabi (spring harvest) and kharif (fall harvest).

The cultivation and transportation of illicit narcotics remains a large sector of the informal economy. Pakistan is one of the world's leading producers of opium poppy (for the production of heroin) and also produces or transports cannabis (as hashish) from Afghanistan for local markets and for reexport abroad.

Animal husbandry provides important domestic and export products. Livestock includes cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry.

These animals provide meat and dairy products for local consumption, as well as wool for the carpet industry and for export and hides and skins for the leather industry. The contribution of forestry to national income remains negligible, but that of fisheries has risen. Fishing activity is centred in Karachi, and part of the catch of lobster and other shellfish is exported.

River water is used in large parts of the country to irrigate agricultural areas. The Balochistan plateau has a remarkable indigenous method of irrigation called the qan t (or k r z) system, which consists of underground channels and galleries that collect subsoil water at the foot of hills and carry it to fields and villages. The water is drawn from the channels through shafts that are sunk into the fields at suitable intervals. Because the channels are underground, the loss of water by

evaporation is minimized. The exploration of Pakistan's mineral wealth is far from complete, but some two dozen different types of exploitable minerals have been located. Iron ore deposits are mostly of poor quality. The most extensive known reserves are situated in the Kalabagh region, in western Punjab. Other low-grade ore reserves have been found in Hazara, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Small reserves of high-grade iron ore have been identified in Chitral and in the Chighazi area (located in northwestern Balochistan), as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Deposits of copper ore equaling or surpassing the reserves of iron ore have been found, but most sites remain unexploited. There are enormous reserves of easily exploited limestone that form the basis of a growing cement industry, a major component of the manufacturing sector. Other minerals that are

exploited include chromite (mostly for export), barite, celestine (strontium sulfate), antimony, aragonite (calcium carbonate), gypsum, rock salt, and marble and granite. Pakistan has modest quantities of petroleum and some large natural gas fields. The first oil discovery was made in 1915. Pakistan intensified the search for oil and natural gas in the 1980s and was rewarded with the discovery of a number of new oil fields in the Potwar Plateau region and in Sindh. A number of fields have been developed, particularly near Badin, in Sindh. Despite the continued search for new and richer fields (including some offshore exploration and drilling), Pakistan has had to import increasing amounts of oil from abroad to satisfy growing consumption, making the country vulnerable to fluctuations in world oil markets.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# The truth behind Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt's daughter's name announcement

Shiloh Jolie-Pitt recently published her name change announcement in 'The Los Angeles Times'

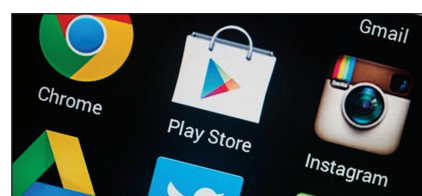
Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's daughter, Shiloh Jolie-Pitt, had her name change publicly announced in a newspaper. However, the step wasn't a strategic move against her estranged father, as California-based family law expert David Glass told People Magazine that the announcement was legally unavoidable. Glass told the outlet that Shiloh's petition to drop "Pitt" from her last name, published in The Los Angeles Times, adheres to state regulations requiring such filings to be printed in a newspaper before the name-change process can proceed. "In reality, it could not have been avoided," Glass said, further explain-



ing, "She has to file a formal petition with the court to change her name. And she has to run an ad four weeks in a row before the hearing is scheduled, in addition to giving both of her parents written notification." Glass emphasized that these name change petitions typically proceed without issues unless the individual has a criminal history and is attempting to evade punishment or liabilities: "I've never seen one opposed in court. Brad could come to court and say, for example, that Shiloh has been alienated against him by the mother. ... But because she is no longer a minor, she can essentially call herself whatever she wants."

## Tech

# Google to remove low-functioning and low-quality apps from Play Store



Google has announced a mass app deletion set to take place on 31 August. The company is updating its Spam and Minimum Functionality policy to ensure apps meet higher standards for functionality and user experience, Forbes reports. Targeted apps include those "that are static without app-specific functionalities, for example, text only or PDF file apps, apps with very little content and that do not provide an engaging user experience, for example, single wallpaper apps, and apps that are designed to do nothing or have no function." Google is raising its quality threshold, recognising that many seemingly harmless apps are used as conduits for malware or

as decoys for more dangerous alternatives. By focusing on apps that serve little legitimate purpose, Google aims to tighten its net. It is expected that some popular apps with millions of installs and legitimate low-quality apps may also fail to meet the new standards. For developers, Google warns that apps must "provide a stable, responsive, and engaging user experience." Apps that crash, lack basic utility, or fail to offer engaging content will not be allowed on Google Play. These changes are part of broader enhancements to Play Store security. Google's 17 July policy changes include enhanced malware prevention, requiring developers to remove third-party code from known malware providers and introducing stricter rules on spyware prevention and enforcement. Developers should not be surprised by these changes and have six weeks to ensure compliance. The upcoming Android 15 promises the most comprehensive set of privacy and security updates in a single release.

## Health

# Dried fruit consumption linked to lower type 2 diabetes risk

ISLAMABAD: Consuming more dried fruits is associated with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes in a newly published study. The study hopes to resolve conflicting evidence regarding their value for people hoping to keep their blood sugar levels under control due to the fruits concentrated amounts of sugar.

The study which appeared in BMC Nutrition & Metabolism found that increasing dried fruit intake by about 1.3 pieces daily may lower the risk of type 2 diabetes by up to 60.8%. Dried fruits are flavorful convenient and healthful and are less perishable making them attractive snacks. The study looked at consumption of dried prunes dried apricots and raisins.

In addition to being rich in macro and micronutrients dried fruits include plenty of fiber that may help control blood sugar levels and improve

digestive health. They also contain flavonoids that have been linked to improved insulin sensitivity and they have anti-inflammatory properties.

The concern is that they contain concentrated amounts of natural sugar that may result in rapid spikes in glycemia (blood sugar) shortly after eating. This can undermine an individual's attempts to maintain stable glucose levels. Until recently their consumption was largely discouraged for people at risk of type 2 diabetes although the authors of the study describe a recent shift in this view. The study analyzed Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) data based on UK Biobank data for approximately 500 000 people. These data included 421 764 participants responses to questionnaires regarding the number of dried fruits they habitually consumed daily. One prune single apricot and 10 raisins were all considered

one portion for the purposes of the questionnaire. Additional response options included less than one do not know and prefer not to answer. The GWAS study also included genotypic and various phenotypic data for participants. Their questionnaire answers were compared to type 2 diabetes statistics derived from the IEU OpenGWAS database including 61 714 people with type 2 diabetes and 593 952 controls.

An analysis of or comparison with the health benefits of fresh fruits was beyond the scope of this study. Thus the study does not suggest dried fruits are superior to fresh fruits for blood sugar control. Michelle Routhenstein MS RD CDCES a preventive cardiology dietitian at EntirelyNourished.com who was not involved in the study explained what is nutritionally beneficial about dried fruits for Medical News Today.





# دشمن کی طرف

اسلام آباد

22 جولائی 2024ء

**سپیکر قومی اسمبلی نے قائمہ کمیٹیوں کے چیئرمین کا کافی گارڈیوں کا مطالبہ مسترد کر دیا**

اسلام آباد (خبر) سپیکر قومی اسمبلی ایاز صادق کا بازنائے قائمہ کمیٹیوں کے چیئرمین کا کافی گارڈیوں کا مطالبہ مسترد کر دیا۔ اسپیکر نے کہا کہ ان کے مطابق قائمہ کمیٹیوں کے چیئرمین نے سپیکر ایاز صادق سے کافی گارڈیوں کا مطالبہ کیا تھا، تاہم کمیٹیوں کے چیئرمین کے لیے پہلے سے موجود کافی گارڈیوں کا مطالبہ نہیں کیا گیا۔ اسپیکر نے کہا کہ ان کے مطابق قائمہ کمیٹیوں کے چیئرمین نے سپیکر ایاز صادق سے کافی گارڈیوں کا مطالبہ کیا تھا، تاہم کمیٹیوں کے چیئرمین کے لیے پہلے سے موجود کافی گارڈیوں کا مطالبہ نہیں کیا گیا۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف جناح میڈیکل کالج بنیاد رکھنے کے بعد دعا کر رہے ہیں، وزیر اطلاعات عطاء اللہ تارڑ بھی موجود ہیں۔

## جرمی میں افغان شہریوں کا پاکستانی قونصل خانے پر حملہ، پرچم اتار دیا

جرمنی میں افغان شہریوں کا پاکستانی قونصل خانے پر حملہ، پرچم اتار دیا۔

برلین، جرمنی میں افغان شہریوں کا پاکستانی قونصل خانے پر حملہ، پرچم اتار دیا۔ قونصل خانے پر حملہ کرنے والے افراد نے قونصل خانے کے پرچم کو اتار دیا اور اسے جلانے کی کوشش کی۔ پولیس نے موقع پر پہنچ کر حملہ کرنے والوں کو روکا اور انہیں گرفتار کر لیا۔ پاکستانی قونصل خانے نے اس واقعے کی مذمت کی ہے اور پاکستانی حکومت سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ وہ ان افراد کو تیز سے عدالت منتقل کرے۔

## عوام کی ترقی کے معاملے پر سیاست نہیں ہونی چاہیے، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (ذرائع خصوصی) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ تمام نامزندانہ مقاصد کے لیے پاکستانی لوگوں کو ترقی دینا ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ عوام کی ترقی کے لیے حکومت کو سیاست نہیں ہونی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کو عوام کی ترقی کے لیے اپنی تمام طاقتوں کو جمع کرنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کو عوام کی ترقی کے لیے اپنی تمام طاقتوں کو جمع کرنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کو عوام کی ترقی کے لیے اپنی تمام طاقتوں کو جمع کرنا چاہیے۔

## نیب کی عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## بجلی طلب میں اضافہ، شارٹ فال 6 ہزار میگا واٹ سے متجاوز، لوڈ شیڈنگ میں اضافہ

اسلام آباد (خبر) وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ بجلی کی قلت کی وجہ سے لوڈ شیڈنگ کا سبب بن گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کو بجلی کی قلت کو دور کرنے کے لیے اپنی تمام طاقتوں کو جمع کرنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کو بجلی کی قلت کو دور کرنے کے لیے اپنی تمام طاقتوں کو جمع کرنا چاہیے۔



پشاور صوبائی تعلیم بھانڈا خان آفریدی فریئر لاکھانج کے فارغ التحصیل طلبہ بگڑے دس دنوں سے ہیں۔

## کشمیر بے گناہوں کا نعرہ، خطے میں امن کی ضمانت بھر دار شہریت

پشاور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## ایک پاور پلانٹ سے 750 روپے فی یونٹ بجلی خریدنے کا انکشاف

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## پاکستان میں پہلی مرتبہ عام شہریوں کیلئے ایئر ایمو بیلیٹس سروس شروع

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## تحریک تحفظ آئین پاکستان کی جھڑپوں کا کال

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## پنجاب میں مومن سولن بارشوں کا چھوٹا سہیل آن سے شروع ہوگا

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## ہنگامہ دہی سپریم کورٹ نے کوٹے پر بھرتی سے متعلق ہائی کورٹ کے حکم پر عملدرآمد روک دیا

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## بلوچستان، حالیہ بارشوں میں 31 زخمی

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## پشاور پولیس چوکی پر معلوم افراد کی فائرنگ، اہلکار جرح

پشاور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔

## ایئر ایمو بیلیٹس سروس شروع

لاہور، پاکستان اسمبلی میں عمران خان اور شری بی بی نے ساتویں روز بھی تفتیش کی۔ انہیں نیب کے محققین کے سامنے پیش کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موقف کو بیان کیا اور اپنے حق میں ثبوت پیش کیے۔ تفتیشی کارروائی جاری ہے۔



## Pakistan strongly condemns attack by a gang of extremists on its consulate in Frankfurt, Germany

FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch says we are conveying our strong protest to the German Govt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns Saturday's attack by a gang of extremists on its consulate in Frankfurt, Germany and the failure of the German authorities to protect the sanctity and security of the premises of its consular Mission.

According to a statement issued by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 it is the responsibility of the host government to protect the sanctity of the consular premises and ensure the security of diplomats.

She said that in Saturday's incident, the security of Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt was breached, endangering the lives of its consular staff. We are conveying our strong protest to the German Government, FO spokesperson said.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that we urge the German Government to take immediate measures to fulfill its responsibilities under the Vienna Conventions and ensure the security of the diplomatic missions and staff of Pakistan in Germany.

FO spokesperson said that we also urge the German authorities to take immediate measures to arrest and prosecute those involved in Saturday's incident and hold to account those responsible for the lapses in security.

## Mohsin Naqvi strongly condemns the firing attack at a police check post in Peshawar



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has strongly condemned the firing attack at a police check post in Peshawar.

Mohsin Naqvi paid rich tribute to Constable Saeed, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty. The Minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of the martyred constable and said that Constable Saeed had rendered the highest sacrifice by laying down his life while performing his duty. He added that we salute the sacrifice of Constable Saeed, who laid down his life for the country.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that sacrifices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police in the war against terrorism will always be remembered. He emphasized the nation is united in its resolve to combat terrorism and has shown unwavering determination at every level. SABAH

## Governor Kundi raises alarming concerns over law and order in KP

MANSEHRA: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday raised serious concerns about the deteriorating law and order situation in the province, criticizing the provincial government for failing to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

Addressing a press conference in Mansehra, Governor Kundi emphasized that despite the ongoing severe lawlessness, the federal government respects the mandate given by the public to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to govern the province, and rejects any notion of imposing governor rule.

He highlighted that since the 18th Amendment was approved in 2011, maintaining law and order has been the responsibility of the provincial government. Kundi lamented that even after the Bannu incident, the provincial government has not lived up to public expectations, failing to convene an in-camera session of the provincial assembly.

The Governor called for an urgent in-camera

session of the assembly and cabinet to brief the members and ministers on the worsening law and order situation, noting the martyrdom of armed forces personnel and the kidnapping of judges in the southern districts.

Faisal Karim Kundi revealed that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had served him with a defamation notice for 500 million rupees. However, Kundi advised Gandapur to first address the issue of corruption in job appointments and transfers, accusing him of setting rates for these transactions and making appointments based on bribes.

Addressing the possibility of an alliance between PTI and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led federal government, Governor Kundi expressed skepticism. He argued that such an alliance was almost impossible as Maulana Fazlur Rahman was seeking retribution, having labeled Imran Khan's party as foreign agents. APP

## Railways collect over Rs 76 mln from ticketless passengers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has collected an amount of over Rs 76 million from ticketless passengers in a crackdown during the last six months with the help of railway police and train staff. "Around 59,143 passengers found travelling without tickets in different trains and collected the said amount from them, which is deposited in the official bank account of the department,"

sources in the Ministry told APP. They said that it was not the first time that action was taken on a large scale against ticketless passengers, adding that these types of crackdowns had taken place daily. The sources said that ticketless travelling was illegal, and those who were caught without a ticket were charged a ticket price for the whole journey of the train besides the penalty. Those who do not pay

are handed over to the railway police.

To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways Police claimed to have arrested a total of 43,84 accused due to their involvement in violations of rules and laws and also registered some 3,803 cases against them in eight Railways divisions in one and half year. "Around 688 cases were registered in Peshawar Division, 584 in Rawalpindi, 11,03 in Lahore, 369 in Mughalpur workshops, 378 in Multan, 238 in Sukkur, 365 in Karachi, and 78 in Quetta Division," they added.

They said the Railways Police Help Desks had been established at all the major railway stations across the country, and the performance of the Railways Police has been quite satisfactory during the last year. Regarding the performance of the railway police, they said, "Police are performing duties efficiently despite the limited resources, and the performance of the railway police will be further improved to the optimum level during the next year."



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing Second Review Meeting of PM's Committee to establish mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan held here in the Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry. (Story on page 1)

## COP-29 Presidency notifies multi-stakeholder int'l advisory committee for inclusive 'Climate Action'

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations' 29th Global Climate Change Conference (COP29) Presidency has notified its diverse and multi-stakeholder international advisory committee for inclusive climate action under its motto, "In Solidarity with a Green World".

The COP29 Presidency in the prevailing highly charged milieu due to the galloping impacts of global warming and climate change has come up with a comprehensive selection of a 21-member international advisory committee also called COP-29 IAC to ensure that voices and perceptions of all concerned are considered at the global fora to provide inclusive results based on shared solutions.

The Committee comprises notable dignitaries who will extend beneficial and critical viewpoints shedding light on various facets of climate action. The COP-29 forum in the past couple of years has become a household name from a mere oblivious international forum with all eyes glued to it for well-planned and mutually agreed strategies to combat the menace of climate change.

The COP-29 IAC aimed to represent diverse voices of climate advocates from different communities such as finance, academia, government, entrepreneurship, and civil society to provide multi-stakeholder guidance and expert advice to the COP-29 Presidency on key issues in the sphere of climate change. It also intended to facilitate international collaboration and partnerships that enhance and

promote COP-29 initiatives; ensure that preparations and decisions are informed by the latest scientific research, best practices, and innovative solutions; assist in the identification and mobilization of resources for COP programs and projects and promote transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement in COP-related processes.

The committee will offer strategic guidance and assistance to the COP-29 Presidency enabling sector-specific geopolitical, market, and other expert advice and knowledge. It also aims to review and provide feedback on COP strategies, policies, and programs; act as a consultative body to the COP-29 Presidency's negotiated and non-negotiated outcomes, ensuring a diversity of perspectives; recommend approaches for addressing global challenges within the COP framework; engaging with Parties and non-Party stakeholders to propose and promote practical solutions for climate-related topics to support the COP-29 outcomes; and provide recommendations for improving the impact and sustainability of COP-29 initiatives. The COP-29 IAC will meet monthly operating through both in-person and online meetings. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; Co-chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center and former World Bank President, Ismail Serageldin (Egypt); former President of Latvia (1999-2007), Vaira Vike-Freiberga; Board of Directors of Fortescue Metals and Fortescue Future Industries;

Chair of the Board, The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, Vice-President of the ExxonMobil (2000-2013) Jean Baderschneider; President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Maria Fernanda Espinosa; Environmental Advocate and Turkish lead actor of Drama Ertugrul, Engin Altan Duzatan; Former Minister of Environment, Brazil and the member of the COP-28 Advisory, Izabella Teixeira; Former President of Malawi, Joyce Banda; Former Mexican Foreign Secretary and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Patricia Espinosa Cantellano; Hungarian diplomat and president of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, Csaba Korosi; Director of China's National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, Xu Huangqing; Former President of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev; Former President of Romania, Emil Constantinescu; Former Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif of Malaysia and Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri are the members of the COP-29 IAC.

Dr. Suleri is the only expert from South Asia to be a member of the IAC, a high-level forum convening former heads of states, ex-ministers, artists, innovators, and experts of global prestige. APP

## Turkmenistan's FM arrives in Pakistan today

Rasit Meredow will hold extensive talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and call on Pakistani leadership

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rasit Meredow is paying a three day visit to Pakistan from today (Monday).

He will hold extensive talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and call on Pakistani leadership.

Talks between the two sides will cover all aspects of bilateral relations. They will also exchange views on regional and global developments.

## Muqam visits residence of PIO, offers fateha for departed soul of his father

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday visited the residence of Principal Information Officer (PIO), Mubashir Hassan



and offered fateha for the departed soul of his father, Ghulam Sabir who passed away due to protected illness on Saturday.

Engr Amir Muqam expressed his deep condolences over the sad demise of the father of PIO and prayed Allah Almighty to may rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

He also prayed patience and fortitude for the members of the bereaved family. Senior bureaucrat Ahmad Hassan and officer of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar, Aftab Hassan, the sons of late Ghulam Sabir were also present.

Meanwhile, people from cross section of the society including officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, civil officers, journalists, media professionals, lawyers and civil society are coming to the residence of Mubashir Hassan and offering fateha for eternal peace of his father. Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud, District Police Officer Mardns Zahoor Afridi and General Manager PTV Asad Naqvi besides others also offered Fateha.

The Qul of late Ghulam Sabir will be held at BISE Colony, Jamrud Road in Peshawar on Monday.

## NA speaker rejects new cars demand by Standing Committees chairmen

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq rejected the chairman's Standing Committees' demand for new vehicles, National Assembly Secretariat sources.

Several chairmen complained that the vehicles provided were old and inefficient, to which Ayaz Sadiq replied, the vehicles provided to them were from 2017 and 2019 models. "The vehicle I am using is also of 2015 model," Speaker Ayaz Sadiq replied as per sources.

"There are not enough funds to buy new vehicles and the Prime minister has also banned the purchase of new vehicles," he said. Sources further claimed that the finance ministry had also refused to provide funds for the new vehicles. Speaker's order to repair only old vehicles and give them to the chairman standing committees as old vehicles of the NA secretariat are usable. "The defects have been removed on the speaker's order," the speaker replied. INP

## Pakistan's first air ambulance transfers patient



LAHORE: A rescue air ambulance, an initiative undertaken by the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, successfully transferred a patient for the first time in Pakistan.

The patient, identified as Halima Bibi – a 40-year-old woman from Mianwali, suffered paralysis after falling from a roof two days ago. She was initially treated at Mianwali's District Headquarters Hospital, where surgeons

referred her to Rawalpindi for further treatment. Following CM Maryam Nawaz's directive, Halima Bibi was shifted from Mianwali to Rawalpindi within the critical "golden hour" in an air ambulance.

The patient's family expressed gratitude to Maryam Nawaz, calling her an "angel" for facilitating the transfer. Punjab Chief Minister emphasised that quality and timely medical treatment is the right of every citizen and will be ensured. She also announced the commencement of Pakistan's first air ambulance operations while appealing to the nation to pray for Bibi's recovery. First female Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had made an announcement of launch of the air ambulance service within weeks in her maiden address at the Punjab Assembly. INP



RAWALPINDI: A vendor waiting for customers on the Murree Road footpath in the city. ONLINE

## PTI leader Shafqat Mahmood announces quitting politics

LAHORE: Shafqat Mahmood, a once prominent leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Sunday announced quitting politics but stressed that the decision was not due to coercion. "34 years back, I resigned from a government job and entered politics. But after deliberations, I have now decided to retire from politics," Shafqat Mahmood, a former federal minister, said in a post on X, previously known as Twitter.

"There's no pressure on me [to quit PTI] and neither do I plan on joining any other political party," Shafqat Mahmood said, explaining that he took the decision due to "time" and his "age". Reflecting on his political decades-long career, the former federal minister said he saw several ups and downs. "I have served as a member of the Senate and the National Assembly."

Not only that, he said that he was also appointed as a federal as well as provincial minister. Shafqat Mahmood, on a lighter note, said he also "visited" jail during his political career.

The now-former PTI leader said that as the federal education minister, he rolled out the Single National Curriculum for the first time in history and also oversaw education-related affairs during the pressing period of COVID-19.

When he was the education minister during the coronavirus period, the students were in awe of him as he not only introduced several relaxations but also passed students without exams. He thanked Imran Khan and PTI for giving him the opportunity to "serve". Shafqat Mahmood also extended his gratitude towards the voters of his constituency, who elected him to parliament twice. SABAH