



Pakistan's support for the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, their right of return to Palestine and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital

Foreign Office spokesperson
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Muhammad Aurangzeb describes recently concluded agreement b/w IMF & Pakistan as an important enabler to execute the reform agenda



BEIJING: Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Finance & Revenue and Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari, Minister for Energy met with Lan Fo'an Minister of Finance China in Beijing. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and other senior officials of the Embassy were also present.

Minister for Finance underscored the special significance of China-Pakistan financial and banking cooperation in the all weather and iron-clad strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries and thanked the Chinese side for its invaluable economic and financial support to Pakistan in time tested way. He informed the Chinese side about the Government's economic reform agenda, including the efforts to strengthen tax revenue generation, energy and SOE reforms and achieve sustainable growth. He described the recently concluded agreement between the IMF and Pakistan as an important enabler to execute the reform agenda.

The Minister for Energy outlined the ongoing reforms in the energy sector. He emphasized the government's resolve to successfully overcome the operational and organizational challenges. The Minister of Finance of China appreciated the Government of Pakistan's resolve for a strong economic recovery while assuring China's continued support to Pakistan's economic development, including through high-quality development agenda and assured the continued support for Pakistan in the strategic partnership. He explained the Chinese experience of structural reforms over the last 30 years and suggested that this could be a good example for Pakistan to emulate. Mr Lan emphasized that both countries have a longstanding partnership.

Later, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue and Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari Minister for Energy (Power Division) also held a useful meeting with the President of China Export and Credit Insurance Corp (SINOSURE) at its Headquarters and discussed the latest reform agenda of the government of Pakistan. During the meeting, both ministers lauded SINOSURE's role in the development of Pakistan, particularly during the first phase of CPEC. They showed confidence that SINOSURE will continue its full support for completing ongoing and new projects under the second phase of CPEC especially now led by the private sector. President of China Export and Credit Insurance Corp (SINOSURE) welcomed the delegation and reiterated Sinosure's commitment towards the execution of socio-economic uplift projects under CPEC including B2B projects. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

PM orders strategy for youth to get equitable job access

PM meets with KP lawmakers, assures development, relief measures in province

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to prepare a comprehensive strategy with respect to provision of employment opportunities to the youth of the country on equal basis. Calling the youth as the assets of Pakistan, the prime minister said the country's development was linked with their welfare and progress. Chairing a meeting regarding Prime Minister's Youth Programme at the PM House, he said, with their immense talent, the youth could change the fate of the country if they were provided with the required resources. The prime minister was of the view that provision of employment opportunities to the youth was the government's top priority. He said all the training programmes at National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) should be focused on creating job opportunities for the students. He directed to conduct a detailed survey of job market and then accordingly start the skill training programmes. During the meeting, it was informed that under PM Laptop Scheme, some 600,000 laptops had so far been delivered to the students. Under this scheme, the government would provide additional 100,000 laptops during current year. The meeting was informed that 64%

students who got training under the Youth Skills Development Programme managed to get respectable jobs during previous three years. It was told that the government funded 100 startups under its PM National Innovation Award who were being placed in designated incubation centers across the country. Similarly, the prime minister was informed that 10 international standard sports academies and a biomechanical laboratory would start functioning this year under PM Youth Sports League. Likewise, under the Prime Minister Green Youth Program, 268 universities across the country would be targeted for training youth on climate change prevention and eco-innovation. "Preparation of National Youth Employment Policy 2024 is in final stages," the meeting was told. The focus of the policy would be to create decent employment opportunities for the youth and increase the proportion of women in the workforce. Similarly, it was told that PM Digital Hub was also being prepared which would be a one-window operation dashboard. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for Information Technology & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairman PM Youth Programme Rana Mashhood, Coordinator to PM Rana Ihsan Afzal and other relevant high officials. Meanwhile, Members of the National and

Provincial Assemblies from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Eng. Ameer Muqam, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, and other high-ranking officials. In the meeting, the prime minister assured the lawmakers that the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly the merged districts, was the top priority of the government. He said the PM-N government had always prioritized worked for the development of the merged districts. Assuring the provision of standard health and education facilities in the merged districts, the prime minister said the government would establish Danish Schools in the area to provide international standard quality education to the local students. The prime minister also emphasized the need to stop electricity theft, promote solar energy, and provide relief to the poor and middle class. He said the government was converting agricultural tubewells to the solar energy across the country that would help development of the agriculture sector, increase the cultivation land and save billions of dollars in term of imported fuel. PM Shehbaz Sharif said recently the government had announced big relief for poor and middle income people in electricity bills.

Pakistan welcomes "Declaration of Unity" by Palestinian factions; lauds China's role

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday welcomed the 'Declaration of Unity' signed by the Palestinian political factions in Beijing while recognizing and commending China's role in bringing the factions together for meaningful negotiations.

"Unity amongst the Palestinian people is of paramount significance in view of the ongoing war crimes against the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza, and the blatant disregard for international law by the Israeli occupation forces," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing here.

Calling upon the international community to intervene immediately to bring an end to the ongoing illegal and incessant aggression in Gaza, she reiterated Pakistan's support for the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, their right of return to Palestine and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Regarding the periodic report of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva on India, she said during the proceedings, important questions were raised about arrests under draconian laws like Public Safety Act and Public Security Act, and frequent suspension of mobile internet service in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "This demonstrates continuing concerns of the international human rights machinery about the dismal human rights situation in IIOJK. We call on the international community to take note of these human rights abuses by India in IIOJK and to bring an end to the suppression of the Kashmiri people," she said and reiterated Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiri people. The spokesperson announced that at the invitation of the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will visit Tehran on July 30, 2024, to attend the inauguration ceremony of the President-elect of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian.

The visit attests to the commitment by the two countries to strengthen leadership level engagement and bilateral cooperation, she added. Similarly, Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi will lead the Pakistan delegation at the 31st ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting, being held on 27 July 2024 in Lao People's Democratic Republic where he will take part in discussions on political and security issues, share Pakistan's perspective and also hold bilateral meetings with the participating dignitaries.

She also apprised the media of the visit of Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov from July 22-25 who called on President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, besides holding extensive talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and co-chairing the Third Round of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Bilateral Political Consultations. During the talks, two sides agreed to intensify efforts in political, economic, and defence cooperation; to foster parliamentary, cultural, and educational exchanges; and strengthen collaboration in multilateral forums.

Continued on Page 4

Ishaq Dar reaffirms Pak's full support in enhancing intra-regional trade among ECO member countries & ECO reforms agenda



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General ECO Ambassador Khusrav Noziri called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Thursday. The outgoing Secretary General apprised the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister about ECO's initiatives and activities as well

as his reforms agenda to revitalize ECO during his tenure.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated the Secretary General's services for the organization. He reaffirmed Pakistan's full support in enhancing intra-regional trade among ECO member countries and ECO reforms agenda.

Noting that former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Dr. Asad Majeed Khan will take up the mantle of ECO Secretary General next month, Ishaq Dar expressed the hope that Dr. Asad Majeed Khan would continue the good work done by Ambassador Khusrav Noziri in his three-year tenure. SABAH

Terrorist Ali Jan killed, two others injured in Hoshan IBO



RAWALPINDI: The security forces have killed terrorist Ali Jan and injured two others during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted on July 24 in Hoshab District of Balochistan. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Thursday, during the conduct of the operation, an intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and the terrorists. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area including kidnapping and target killing of innocent civilians, it added.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of Balochistan," the ISPR said. PR

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to enhance cooperation in IT Telecom sector

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Thursday agreed to enhance ties in information technology and telecommunication sector. The agreement was finalized during a meeting between Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, said a news release.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said Pakistan intended to boost its relations with Saudi Arabia in the field of IT and Telecommunication. She said Saudi Arabia was an attractive market for Pakistani tech companies, urging Saudi Arabia to facilitate Pakistani IT firms registered with Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), in getting visa and travelling to that country. Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan also wanted to jointly work with Saudi Arabia in the field of cyber-security.



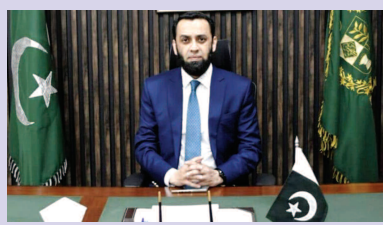
Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy said that Saudi Arabia will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

He also ensured to support and facilitate Pakistani tech companies in getting visa and travelling. Director General International Coordination, MoITT Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi was also present in the meeting.

Rs 1.6 bn dues of media industry paid in transparent manner: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar informed the Information Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Thursday about clearance of Rs 1.6 billion in dues to the media industry by the government in a transparent manner, which would eventually help them to pay every media worker salary in time. The minister disclosed the details about the dues' clearance in the committee meeting which was presided over by Pulain Baloch and briefed about the functioning of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached departments. Pointing out a halt in advertisements to certain media channels on favoritism basis in the past, Attaullah Tarar confirmed seamless distribution of the ads to the channels on merit and in accordance with the criteria. He said there were presence of the dummy newspapers which were being

printed only for the sake of ads, describing the practice a major challenge for the ministry that has been taking concrete measure to address the issue. The minister said there was a proposal in the budget 2024-25 to impose a 10 percent tax on newspaper industry, but the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting opposed the idea that could deal a big blow to the industry which ran through the imported paper. He, during the meeting vowed, more incentives for the newspaper industry. The body was informed that the Information Ministry had been discharging its duties under the Rules of Business 1973 efficiently and its attached departments performance was satisfactory. The minister said that the restructuring of PTV was being done through various administrative measures. Besides, editorial policy had been reviewed to ensure coverage of all the political parties. He informed that the PTV's income had



increased substantially after the launch of the PTV Sports channel. Recalling the past glory of the PTV, he said in the past, its teleplays were watched all over the world, and its past dramas were still popular today. Tarar acknowledged that currently there was a need to improve the drama section in the PTV. The minister said that the PTV Entertainment would be brought under public-private partnership in the near future as part of the initiatives to reform and improve the PTV. He told the panel that the revenue of PTV Sports had doubled but there was a need for improvement in entertainment pro-

grams and news sections of the PTV. The minister said a Center for Digital Communication would be established at Pak-China Friendship Centre soon to promote the country's image and government's initiatives. Attaullah Tarar said he was grateful to Secretary Information Shazra Shahid, who had played a great role in reforming the ministry. He informed the panel that officers of the Ministry of Information were also posted in Pakistani embassies abroad. The body was informed that the External Publicity Wing not only dealt with foreign publications but it was also playing its role for promotion of the soft image of Pakistan abroad. The members of the committee sought a detailed report on the performance of the officers of the Ministry of Information posted abroad. In response to a question, the Federal Information Minister said that amendments were being proposed in the Newspapers Employees (Conditions of Service)

Act, 1973 to bring electronic media workers under the ambit of Wage Board award. He added that the privatization of Shalimar Recording Company was being seriously considered as the company was continuously incurring losses. As regards the Center for Digital Communication, the body was informed about the importance of presenting the government's policies and initiatives effectively. Information Secretary Shaheera Shahid underlined the importance of such a platform to curb fake news against the national security and sovereignty. The committee was further informed that Pakistan Television (PTV), Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) and Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC) have appointed Ministry officers as heads under temporary arrangements. Executive Director General and Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mubasher Hasan briefed the standing committee on the working of the Press Information

Department. Mubasher Hassan said that the PID was striving to provide citizens with authentic information through print, electronic and digital media. He informed that 558 employees of the Press Information Department were working across the country with a large number of them deputed in its headquarters in Islamabad. Mubasher Hassan said recruitment in the PID was done after a transparent test. He said the PID officers were appointed as Public Relations Officers who disseminated responsible information to the public and shared their sentiments to the government. "We convey the trends to the government which are based on facts," Mubasher Hasan said to the query of Waqas Akram Sheikh, MNA. The Pulse Analysis Unit prepared reports in this regard, he added. The PIO maintained that the Prime Minister paid serious attention to the public sentiments, and opinion shared in the media, especially newspapers. APP

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Tiresome tourism

AMEER ABDULLAH KHAN

The sun was setting over the ancient temples of Bali, Indonesia, casting a golden glow on the stone walls that had witnessed centuries of devotion. Some viral social media images of a tourist couple making out on the temple steps shattered this solemnity, provoking an outcry from the local community. Thousands of miles away in Hunza, Pakistan, a tourist was seen breaking an entire branch from a cherry tree to savour the fruit, oblivious of the tree's delicate existence and the locals' reverence for their natural heritage. Meanwhile, in Florence, Italy, a traveler's audacious kiss on the lips of a statue of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine and excess, stirred resentment among the city's residents who saw this act as a profound disrespect to their cultural legacy.

At the heart of these events lies the phenomenon of overtourism, characterized by an excessive influx of visitors to destinations unprepared for such volumes. Globally, this issue is straining environments, disrupting local communities, and eroding cultural identities. The globalization of travel and the allure of social media have exacerbated the problem. In cities like Venice, the relentless footfall and the constant presence of cruise ships threaten to erode the very foundations of this floating city. The persistent trample of tourists and the careless disposal of waste blight the historical grandeur of Petra in Jordan. Similarly, in Barcelona, residents are complaining about the noise, the overcrowding, and the inflation driven by short-term rentals, which has forced many locals to relocate. Amsterdam's infrastructure buckles under

At heart of these events lies the phenomenon of overtourism

the pressure of ceaseless tourist crowds, with public transport systems and historical sites bearing the brunt. The heavenly landscapes of the northern highlands of Pakistan are also bearing the brunt of overtourism. Lake Saif-ul-Muluk, once an untouched jewel, has been nearly destroyed by the onslaught of tourists and unplanned commercial activities. The Satrangi, Blue and Green lakes in Naltar Valley, with their mesmerising hues, face a similar plight, as does the idyllic Arang Kel in Azad Kashmir. The tranquil Kumrat Valley teeters on the brink of degradation as its pristine landscapes are threatened by the relentless march of visitors. The effects of overtourism transcend the ecological and infrastructural spheres to the socio-cultural domain. The unique Wakhi and Balti communities are facing the danger of cultural dilution due to the unregulated influx of tourists. The Kalash community, with its ancient traditions, faces the dire risk of extinction as the influx of tourists disrupts their cultural fabric. Additionally, cultural appropriation by tourists unaware of the local history and lifestyles remains a persistent irritant for such communities. It has become an unfortunate reality that visitors at almost every tourist site in Pakistan are first greeted not by its splendour, but by the horrid presence of empty cold drink bottles, chips wrappers, discarded cigarette packs, and ubiquitous plastic shopping bags. The infrastructure in these regions is also ill-equipped to handle large volumes of tourists, as a result of which roads, waste management systems, and health-care facilities buckle under the strain. Countries are adopting various strategies to mitigate the negative effects of overtourism. In Peru, timed tickets are issued upon entry to the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu to restrict the number of visitors. Iceland is promoting off-season travel and eco-friendly practices to mitigate the ecological impact of tourism. Pakistan has much to learn from these strategies, ranging from regulating numbers to promoting responsible tourism and encouraging off-season travel. Additionally, investment in sustainable infrastructure, adaptive planning, eco-friendly waste management systems, and improved road networks is essential. Another potential solution to the problem is imposing a tourism tax. The revenue can be spent on protecting the ecologically-sensitive areas. Visitors spending thousands of rupees should not object to paying an extra few hundred to ensure the preservation of the sites they cherish. Local communities' involvement in tourism planning, ensures that their interests are protected while fostering sustainable practices. Encouraging eco-tourism, which emphasises responsible travel and environmental conservation, is another crucial strategy to mitigate the effects of overtourism. Educational programmes and awareness campaigns can be essential for ensuring that the visitors respect the natural and cultural heritage of the regions they visit. The issue of overtourism is not merely a logistical challenge but a call to preserve the sanctity of our natural and cultural landscapes. By learning from global experiences and implementing sustainable practices, Pakistan can safeguard its ecological and cultural treasures, ensuring that tourism contributes positively to the local economy and the well-being of its people.

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Abdul Hannan Mansoor

A case for unions

Enshrined in Article 17(1) of the constitution of Pakistan is the fundamental right for every citizen to form associations or unions, tempered only by lawful restrictions safeguarding national sovereignty, integrity, public order, and morality. During his presidency from 1973 to 1977, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto found robust support from the National Students Federation (NSF) and the Pakistan People's Party, championing a socialist agenda. However, Bhutto's democratic tenure abruptly ended on July 5, 1977, when Operation Fair Play, orchestrated by General Ziaul Haq, plunged Pakistan into martial law. General Zia, perceiving student unions as potent adversaries to his military regime, swiftly imposed a ban on February 9, 1984 – despite the constitutional guarantees in place. This pivotal moment marked a stark collision between constitutional rights and authoritarian rule, profoundly impacting Pakistan's political landscape. It underscores a recurring struggle between demo-

cratic ideals and autocratic governance, resonating with ongoing debates over civil liberties and political freedoms in the nation's journey toward democracy. These actions flagrantly violate Article 17 of the constitution, yet the ban on student unions was justified by claims of their aggression and promotion of violence. Today, the ban persists for the same reasons that motivated General Zia to impose it. There is a pervasive culture of familial politics in Pakistan, exemplified by dominant parties like the PPP and PML-N. These parties prioritize maintaining their power and wealth, neglecting the revival of student unions to protect their personal interests even as Pakistan's economy deteriorates. Recent revelations indicate that administrators in both public and private universities oppose student unions to evade accountability, exploiting students by fulfilling their demands unchecked. In Pakistan, there's a widespread misconception that student unions merely serve as extensions of national political parties. In reality, political parties operate their own distinct student wings, rendering student unions with a distinct purpose. Pakistan finds itself in a critical state of decline, largely attributed to incompetent and irresponsible political leadership. One compelling reason to lift the ban on student unions

is to cultivate future leaders and foster political awareness among students. This initiative aims to instill democratic values deeply, as currently, despite Pakistan's democratic foundation, these principles seem obscured. Despite the prohibition, several attempts have been made to address the issue. In 1989, the government of the time repealed Martial Law Order 1371, which originally imposed the ban. The case (1993 SCMR 1781) has caused controversy regarding the current status of student unions. While it initially appears to uphold a ban, closer examination reveals its intent to regulate rather than prohibit student unions. Senate Resolution no 355 was passed in 2017, urging the government to support and revive student unions. More recently, in 2019, under significant student pressure in Sindh, a Student Union Bill was introduced to lift restrictions. However, this bill did not progress into law as the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic diverted parliamentary attention. The issue at hand holds profound significance and demands urgent resolution to dispel misunderstandings regarding the ban on student unions. The revival of student unions has the potential to bring about substantial benefits for Pakistan. By reintroducing student unions, the dynamics of national politics could

undergo a transformative shift, injecting fresh perspectives and youthful energy into the governance and policymaking processes. This would not only enhance democratic engagement but also empower students to actively participate in shaping the future of their country. Furthermore, alongside the revival of unions, there is a compelling case for granting students formal representation in parliament. Given that a significant majority – 66 per cent – of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30, with a large proportion being students, their inclusion in the legislative process is not only equitable but also essential for addressing the issues and concerns directly affecting them. This representation would provide a platform for students to advocate for their rights, articulate their aspirations, and contribute meaningfully to national decision-making. In essence, lifting the ban on student unions and ensuring student representation in parliament are pivotal steps towards fostering a more inclusive and participatory democracy in Pakistan. It is an opportunity to harness the potential of the youth, empower future leaders, and forge a path towards a more prosperous and equitable society.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

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



But the bulk of the manufactured products coming into the export trade consists of cotton goods, so that Pakistan remains as dependent as ever on its leading cash crop. The other manufactures exported come mostly from industries based on agriculture, such as leather and leather goods and carpets; exports of rice and petroleum products are also important. The shift toward manufactured agricultural exports, which have a higher add-value content than primary commodities, has been encouraged by the government. The trade deficits and shortages of foreign exchange have made it necessary for the government to restrict imports and to provide financial incentives to promote export trade. Major imports consist of machinery, chemicals and chemical products, crude oil, refined petroleum, food and edible oils, and motor vehicles. Pakistan's most important trading partners are the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and China. The government has traditionally been a major employer, and just as in other former colonial countries with a well-developed civil service, government positions are coveted for the financial security that they offer. Combined with public administration, defense,

construction, and public utilities, services account for roughly one-fourth of GDP and employ about one-fifth of the workforce. Tourism traditionally has contributed little to the economy, but the country has consistently attracted a number of tourists who engage in "adventure" tours, particularly in the high mountains of the north, where the Karakoram Highway provides access to some of the loftier peaks for hikers and climbers. Likewise, the ruins at Mohenjo-daro and Taxila—designated UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1980—attract a number of interested outsiders each year. Remittances from workers abroad constitute a large (though extremely difficult to measure) source of revenue. At any given time there are several million Pakistanis working abroad, throughout the world; officially, the income that they send home (as well as money remitted by Pakistani immigrants abroad) amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Much income is likely transferred through unofficial channels—either by hand or through the services of the traditional system of money exchanges known as hawala—and the total amount of money remitted from abroad is likely much higher than official statistics. The trade union movement dates to

the late 19th century, but, because Pakistan's industrial sector (inherited at independence) was so small, organized labour as a proportion of total employment is still in the minority. This has not prevented it from becoming an important political force. Before the 1971 civil war, there were considerably more than 1,000 registered unions, most of them organized within individual establishments. Countrywide unions based on a common craft or a particular industry were very few. Most of the unions were situated in the urban centres and were affiliated with one of three national labour confederations. After the civil war and the emergence of Bangladesh, the number of unions declined to a few hundred, affiliated with one umbrella organization, the Pakistan National Federation of Trade Unions. Because of the country's relatively high rates of unemployment, employers have remained in a strong position, and many of them have been able to bypass working agreements and laws. Only the unions in the larger industries (e.g., cotton textiles) have had the necessary coherence to fight back. Labour laws introduced in 1972 met some of the demands (job security, social welfare, pensions) of organized labour but also sought to control polit-

ical activity by industrial workers. Labour union activity was severely constrained by the military government of 1977-88 but was subsequently revived during the first administration (1988-91) of Benazir Bhutto. Taxation accounts for the main source of government revenue: the government levies sales taxes, income taxes, customs duties, and excise taxes. Sales and income taxes account for the largest proportion of all revenues, with nontax receipts constituting a large portion of the balance. Government expenditures exceed revenues by a large amount. Income tax rates have been comparatively high, but the tax base has been so small that individual and corporate income tax revenues have remained substantially lower than excise, sales, and other indirect taxes. The government has been able to maintain heavy expenditures on development and defense because of the inflow of foreign aid and worker remittances. Buses and trucks have displaced rail as the principal long-distance carrier. A program of deregulation of the road transport industry was undertaken in 1970 and encouraged the entry of a large number of independent operators into the sector.

To be continued.....

Showbiz

Lady Gaga to dazzle at Paris Olympics opening ceremony

Alongside Lady Gaga, Celine Dion is also in talks for a special performance

Lady Gaga is confirmed to headline the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games this Friday, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Despite speculation surrounding other potential performers like Celine Dion, Dua Lipa, Ariana Grande, and Aya Nakamura, the ceremony's lineup remains largely under wraps. This week, NBC News reported that speculation grew after Gaga and Dion were seen travelling to Paris before the worldwide multisport Olympics. In videos posted to social media on Monday, the A Star Is Born actress could be seen greeting admirers out-



side her car in the capital of France. The pop star has had a packed schedule in recent years, juggling multiple projects. She's been filming the highly anticipated Joker sequel, Folie à Deux, alongside Joaquin Phoenix, and performing her Las Vegas residency show, Enigma + Jazz & Piano. Additionally, she embarked on a worldwide concert tour, The Chromatica Ball, in 2022, supporting her sixth studio album, Chromatica. The singer's upcoming performance at the Olympic opening ceremony marks her return to televised stages since her emotional rendition of Hold My Hand at the 2023 Oscars.

Tech

Instagram bans 63,000 accounts used in sextortion scams in Nigeria

Instagram owner Meta Tuesday said it banned thousands of accounts in Nigeria for linking to sextortion scams, BBC reported. These fraudsters usually develop fake personalities, particularly of young females to lure their targets to send them obscene images, which they in turn use to extort their targets. Sextortion is damaging psychologically, some victims have been reported to commit suicide due to the pressure from the scammers and societal stigma. On Wednesday, Meta shared in a blog post it had removed about 63,000 accounts that sought to engage in these scams. It noted that "financial sextortion is a horrific crime that can have devastating consequences." Also, Meta closed 5,700 Facebook groups that scammers used to share information on how to defraud people. Law enforcement agencies and specialists have been continuously advising the public to be careful with the increasing cases of sextortion on social media platforms.

It was in May when 16-year-old Murray Dowey from Dunblane took his own life after becoming a victim of these scammers. The BBC also reported that they found guides to sextortion for sale on social media. Sextortion scammers often pose as potential dating partners and ask victims to send nude photos in exchange for receiving such images from the scammer. Once the images are received, the scammers demand payment to prevent the images from being posted online. Meta was forced to reveal that the account it targeted belongs to a large group of Nigerian cybercriminals called "Yahoo Boys," which is included in the list of dangerous organisations and individuals prohibited by the company. To prevent sextortion, Meta uses several tools, such as automatically pixelating nude images in the conversation and allowing users to mute and report suspicious contacts.

How to Eat Your Way to More Youthful Skin

"You are what you eat." It's a phrase we've all heard, but when it comes to achieving radiant, youthful skin, this adage has never been more relevant. Imagine your diet as a powerful skin-care tool. Foods for youthful skin work alongside your favorite serums and creams to enhance your skin from the inside out. Holistic nutritionist Jennifer Hanway explains, "The power and potency of diet for skin anti-aging is still so underestimated. The level of understanding is far higher than it used to be when I first started specializing in beauty nutrition in 2017, but I still think it is an underutilized tool in most people's beauty regimen." By viewing diet as a crucial part of your routine, you can amplify the effects of in-office treatments and your daily skin care efforts. "When we combine the power of skin nutrition with other treatments, that's when we really see incredible results," Han-

way adds. Embracing a diet rich in specific nutrients and antioxidants not only supports skin health but can also help reverse signs of aging. Here's a smart, science-backed guide on the foods and supplements you should prioritize to keep aging at bay. When it comes to maintaining youthful skin, dietary protein is often overlooked. "One of the most undervalued nutrients for skin health is actually dietary protein," says Hanway. "We usually think of protein as crucial for muscle development, but amino acids—the building blocks of protein—are essential for skin health, including collagen and elastin production and regeneration." Adequate intake of dietary protein provides your skin with the raw materials it needs to form new skin proteins she says, specifically, proline, glycine and hydroxyproline are critical for colla-

gen synthesis. Hanway advises incorporating lean proteins like grass-fed beef, pasture-raised chicken and wild-caught fish. "For those on a plant-based diet, organic tofu, tempeh and quinoa are excellent choices." Antioxidants are crucial in the fight against free radicals, the unstable molecules that accelerate skin aging. "Antioxidants in food provide significant benefits for aging," explains Omaha, NE dermatologist Joel Schlessinger, MD. "When the sun hits your skin, it triggers a chain reaction where free radicals damage your skin cells by stealing electrons. If left unprotected, this process can lead to wrinkles, dark spots, and other signs of aging. Antioxidants work by supplying those extra electrons to the unstable molecules, preventing them from causing damage."



Health

دلشاد حسین ٹٹا کی گرفت

اسلام آباد

نوجوانوں کو روزگار کی فراہمی ترجیح، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان ای سی او دوران کے دوران ای سی او بحال کرنے کے لیے اپنی تعیناتی کے لیے کوشش کر رہا ہے۔ پاکستان ای سی او بحال کرنے کے لیے اپنی تعیناتی کے لیے کوشش کر رہا ہے۔

کرم، جائیداد تنازعہ پر تصادم، راکٹ حملہ اور فائرنگ سر 37 افراد زخمی

کرم (بیورو رپورٹ) شیرکوٹھا کے طعنہ کرم میں جائیداد کے تنازعہ پر دو پولیس کے مابین فائرنگ کے تبادلے اور گرفتار کرنے کے نتیجے میں کرم سے کم از کم 37 افراد زخمی ہو گئے۔ پولیس اور مسلح انتظامیہ کے مطابق طعنہ کرم کے علاقے کے پشاور اور ماہی نیک کے مابین کے تنازعہ پر فائرنگ کا سلسلہ گزشتہ شام شروع ہوا تھا جو پورا رات جاری رہا۔

محبت المبارک 26 جولائی 2024ء

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پختونخوا میں قومی ورثوں کی حفاظت کے لئے اقدامات

راولپنڈی (بیورو رپورٹ) پاکستان اور پنجاب حکومت کی جانب سے شیرکوٹھا میں قومی ورثوں کی حفاظت کے لئے اقدامات کیے گئے۔



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پاکستان اور ترکمانستان میں دو طرفہ تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق ہوا، ترجمان دفتر خارجہ

پاکستان اور ترکمانستان کے مابین دو طرفہ تعاون میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ وزارت خارجہ کا ترجمان نے اس بات پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔

کشمیر میں معیارِ تعلیم بہتر کرنے کیلئے کوششیں تیز کرنا ہوگی، پیر سٹر سلطان حکومت میں معیارِ تعلیم بہتر کرنے کیلئے کوششیں تیز کرنا ہوگی، پیر سٹر سلطان

حکومت اپنی برطرف سے معیارِ تعلیم بہتر کرنے کے کامیاب طلباء و طالبات کو لائڈ میڈیل حاصل کرنے والوں کو خصوصی مبارکباد دینا ہوں۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف پرامن مشترکہ پروگرام کے حوالے سے اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہے ہیں

ایف بی یو پشاور کی جانب سے 42 مفت میڈیکل ٹیسٹیں کا انعقاد

راولپنڈی (بیورو رپورٹ) ایف بی یو پشاور (ناٹھ) کی جانب سے پشاور کے مختلف علاقوں میں 42 مفت میڈیکل ٹیسٹیں کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔

بانی پی ٹی آئی کو جیل میں سہولیات کی فراہمی پرفریقین کو نیش

ایم اے اے ایڈ (ماتریگ ڈیک) امریکہ نے کہا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کے قانونی امور سے متعلق معلومات پر کوئی پوزیشن نہیں لیتا۔

بجلی کے نیشنل کونسل پر ممبران کا احتجاجی مظاہرہ

راولپنڈی (بیورو رپورٹ) سمیں ایڈ (ماتریگ ڈیک) امریکہ نے کہا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کے قانونی امور سے متعلق معلومات پر کوئی پوزیشن نہیں لیتا۔

31 اگست تک سیاست کے مستقبل کا نئی شکل آئے گا، شیخ رشید پاکستان کو بچانا دو انٹینسٹی حافظ عاصم منیر، ڈی جی آئی ایس آئی اور انسٹیٹیوشنل کی ذمہ داری ہے

حصول کو سیاسی انجام 31 اگست سے پہلے آجائے گا۔ سابق وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ موجودہ حکومت کی کوئی پوزیشن نہیں ہے۔

بانی پی ٹی آئی کی سوچ جمہوری نہیں، رانا ثنا اللہ

بیرون (ماٹریگ ڈیک) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے سیاسی امور رانا ثنا اللہ نے آصف علیٰ خان کے خلاف ایک ٹی وی پروگرام میں کہا ہے کہ

9 مہمی حملوں کا اعتراف، ریاستی اداروں کو کردار ادا کرنا ہوگا، عرفان صدیقی عدالت کے سامنے سوال رکھیں گے سرکاری شخصیات پر حملوں میں لوٹھ کو سیاسی جماعت کہا جا سکتا ہے

اسلام آباد (سی رپورٹر) مسلم لیگ کے چیئر پرسن عرفان صدیقی نے کہا ہے کہ پی ٹی آئی کے خلاف 9 مہمی حملوں کا اعتراف کرنا ہوگا۔

حکومت کو بھرتی لاسے خطرہ ہے، انڈر کی لڑائی سے گرجا جی، فیصل اوڈا

اسلام آباد (جنگ) فیصل اوڈا نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت کو بھرتی لاسے خطرہ ہے۔

گورنار اے ایم، جماعت اسلامی حافظ عظیم میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں



راولپنڈی، چیئر مین ویمنٹ سوشلزم پیٹی او ڈی ایس راولپنڈی حسن دوچار کی زیر صدارت اجلاس جاری ہے

راولپنڈی پولیس کی مختلف کارروائیاں، 3 خواتین سمیت 36 سناج دشمن گرفتار

راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر) پولیس نے خیانت فریوٹ، شراب پلانز اور غیر قانونی طور پر درآمد کردہ شراب کو ضبط کیا۔

Mohsin Naqvi condemns firing at check post in Upper Orakzai, pays tribute to Martyred Sepoy Ayub



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday condemned the firing at check post in Upper Orakzai and paid rich tribute to Sepoy Ayub who embraced martyrdom in the attack. Interior Minister expressed deep condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family.

Mohsin Naqvi prayed for the speedy recovery of Constables Javed, Rahmat, and Polio Worker Afaq, who were injured in the firing by terrorists in District Swat.

Interior Minister said that Sepoy Ayub sacrificed his life while performing duty.

He added that our brave soldiers have made history by sacrificing their precious lives in the war against terrorism.

He emphasized that the war against terrorism is Pakistan's war for survival and the efforts to make Pakistan peaceful will continue till the elimination of last terrorist.

British parliamentarian reaffirms support for Pakistanis in UK Parliament

ISLAMABAD: British parliamentarian Jeremy Corbyn, former leader of the opposition and an eminent human rights activist, has reaffirmed his unwavering support for Pakistanis in the UK Parliament. In a meeting with Member of the Punjab Assembly Sultan Tariq Bajwa, Corbyn expressed his commitment to more effectively advocating for the rights of Kashmiris and Palestinian Muslims, highlighting his dedication to these causes on international platforms.

During their discussions, pressing issues such as the Kashmir conflict and the plight of Palestinians were brought to the forefront, said a news release received here Thursday.

Sultan Tariq Bajwa seized the opportunity to address the misconceptions and realities surrounding human rights violations in Pakistan.

He elaborated on the legislative measures and initiatives undertaken by the current government to address these issues and shed light on the severe human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

This meeting marked a significant step towards fostering a deeper understanding and cooperation between Pakistani representatives and British parliamentarians in addressing crucial human rights issues globally. APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan chaired a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority.

Rana Sanaullah attends Commonwealth Sports Ministers moot in Paris

PARIS: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah Khan on Thursday represented Pakistan at the 11th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting in Paris, held on the sidelines of the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The ministerial meeting is being held under the overarching theme 'Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies Through Sport'.

The moot also aims to explore practical inter-sectoral approaches to maximise the impact and benefits of sport on current and emerging development issues and challenges.

On Wednesday too, Minister Rana Sanaullah also participated in a discussion focused on 'Leveraging Quality Physical Education & Sport for Sustainable Social Legacies,' where he highlighted Pakistan's commitment to empowering youth through initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and the Youth Talent Hunt Programme, aimed at not only identifying future athletes but also instilling long-lasting social values.

Apart from participating in the opening cere-



mony of the Paris 2024 Olympics and visiting UNESCO headquarters, Rana Sanaullah Khan actively engaged in discussions at the forum on utilizing high-quality physical education and sports to achieve sustainable social outcomes. APP

Ahsan calls for enhancing digital, innovative literacy



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has called for enhancing digital and innovative literacy besides pen-literacy to compete the challenges of modern era. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held in connection with groundbreaking of Center of Excellence at Allama

Iqbal University in Islamabad. The Minister said we should also prioritize development emergency besides educational emergency to pave the country on path of development and prosperity. He said according to the 2023 Digital Census Report, literacy rate in Pakistan is sixty-percent

which is very less and there is dire need to take it to ninety percent if we want real development in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said education plays a vital role in national development and raising awareness in the society.

He said Islam has also emphasized consistent thinking, deliberation and research.

He urged the students and academia to take guidance from the golden principles of Islam to explore the world in the backdrop of changing international scenario and to meet the modern age requirements. INP

MoHR to launch app for people welfare

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has launched the Awaz App, a groundbreaking mobile application designed to address and report human rights violations effectively. This initiative marks a significant advancement in the country's efforts to enhance the protection and welfare of individuals.

The Awaz App is a testament to the Ministry of Human Rights' commitment to utilizing technology for social good, ensuring rapid responses to critical human rights issues. The App allows users to report human rights violations, including cases of missing or abducted children, directly through the platform. These reports are immediately forwarded to relevant authorities for redressal.

Upon receiving a report, the app activates an Alert System that triggers a coordinated response involving law enforcement, government departments, and community organizations. Crucial information about reported inci-

dents is disseminated through various channels, including social media, WhatsApp groups, news outlets, and public announcements.

This approach maximizes public awareness and engagement. Law enforcement agencies are mobilized to initiate search operations and investigations to locate missing or abducted individuals promptly. The app's primary objective is to ensure the safe recovery of victims, with comprehensive support services provided once they are found. These services include counseling, legal aid, and medical assistance.

While inaugurating, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, highlighted the App's role in fostering a safer and more responsive environment for addressing human rights issues. "The Minister stated, "We are proud to introduce the Awaz app as a pivotal tool in our ongoing efforts to protect and uphold human rights. This app embodies our commitment to leveraging technology for justice and ensuring that every voice is heard and acted upon."

Rana Tanveer directs to open fertilizer model centers in every district

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday directed the fertilizer companies to establish model centers in every district to facilitate farmers and ensure the availability of fertilizers at fair prices.

This decision was made during a meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee chaired by the minister, which aimed to review the availability and prices of fertilizers in the country. In this regard, he said the farmers would be able to buy fertilizer at the original price at the centers and this initiative would end the manipulation of agencies and dealers.

He said Fuji Fertilizer Company established a few model centers last week whereas the minister directed Engro Fertilizer Company to share proposals for establishment of model centers on a priority basis. "The government is committed to protecting farmers from exploitation by middlemen and agencies," Rana Tanveer said. He instructed the provinces to take strict action on hoarding and price manipulation. The committee expressed satisfaction over the availability of fertilizer stock. DNA

China top investor in Pakistan with \$568m FDI in FY24

ISLAMABAD: China has emerged as the largest investor in Pakistan in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) with a net foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$568.2 million. The second and third highest ranks in terms of net FDI were held by Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, with net investments worth \$358.51 million and \$268.19 million, respectively. It is pertinent to note that the total FDI in FY24 stood at \$1.9bn, up 16.88% YoY compared to FDI of \$1.63bn in FY23, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting official data issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

China held the majority proportion (29.88%) of direct investments in the country, however, investment from the respective country has declined substantially by 17.95% YoY when compared with the figure of \$692.52m in FY23.

Hongkong's contribution in net FDI stood at \$358.51m (18.85%) in the FY24, up by 43.3% YoY compared to \$250.18m in SPL. The third major investor during FY24, United Kingdom's share was 14.1% with a direct investment of \$268.19m, declining by 0.61% YoY. Other major important investors were the United States, Singapore and Canada with a net FDI of \$137.29m, \$100.06m, and \$95.52m respectively. The Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), which represents an investment in the equity market (both direct and indirect) during FY24 stood at positive \$175.68m. The United Kingdom emerged as the biggest portfolio investor during the month, as it invested \$18.27m. In FY24, total foreign investment was reported at \$1.52bn as compared to foreign investment of \$600.75m incurred in the corresponding period last year. DNA

Canadian High Commission invites renowned Canadian leader Elaine Alec to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Canadian Indigenous leader Elaine Alec, CEO of Naqsmist Storytellers Inc., Founder of Cultivating Safe Spaces, and Author of "Calling My Spirit Back," arrived in Pakistan on the invitation of Canadian High Commission to lead a series of workshops and consultative sessions with Pakistani government officials, and community planners.

These workshops, held in collaboration with representatives from the Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department, Government of the Punjab, and a local development partner, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), aimed to support individuals and minorities in the region on comprehensive community planning and inclusive consultation models to advance the rights, perspectives, and prosperity of communities. Community members and leaders also participated in the training sessions.

Elaine Alec is a renowned Canadian Indigenous Leader and Community Engagement and Strategic Planning expert from Sylix (Okanagan) and Secwepemc (Shuswap) nations based in British Columbia, Canada.



During her visit, she shared Indigenous Planning Practices in Canada, the history of Comprehensive Community Planning and Community Development, and teachings of the Cultivating Safe Spaces (CSS) framework—an educational initiative designed to foster inclusive and respectful environments, crucial for effective planning and governance, with the participants.

Elaine also shared her personal journey and reflections on Canada's Indigenous history and culture on how meaningful reconciliation can be supported at individual, community and government levels.

Canada, at home and around the world, is working to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. It involves listening to, learning from, and working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, as well as with local communities around the world, to address the unique challenges that communities continue to face. This workshop, implemented together with the Canadian Indigenous leader and planning expert, and local partners was reflective of Canada's commitments to protecting and promoting human rights, including the rights of women and girls and minorities in Pakistan.

Leslie Scanlon, High Commissioner of Canada said that "Canada is built on the ancestral lands of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and has a lot to share from our ongoing experiences on our path to truth and reconciliation with our Indigenous communities. We, at home in Canada, are listening, learning and advancing reconciliation in partnership with leaders of indigenous communities. Elaine Alec is one of those leaders.

As our reconciliation journey continues in Canada, there are many lessons that can be learned from the Canadian experience that we want to share with Pakistan.

The workshop with Elaine Alec was delivered keeping in mind the unique experiences of Pakistan's diverse local communities, so that together, we can learn from each other and support communities to be safe, healthy, and prosperous."

Elaine Alec said "The invitation to Pakistan is humbling and a testament to the universal relevance of cultivating safe spaces and Indigenous knowledges for planning, governance and decision-making. This invitation also marks a significant step for Canada in recognizing the importance of Indigenous voices at the international level, particularly in foreign affairs, as it brings an Indigenous advocate to discuss the realities of Indigenous peoples to a global audience in Pakistan. By sharing these teachings, we aim to empower individuals and organizations to embrace inclusivity, healing and emotional well-being to support community-driven planning for minorities." APP



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Punjab Socio-Economic Registry.

Pakistan welcomes "Declaration..."

Continued from Page 1

The two sides also exchanged views on global and regional developments including the situation in Afghanistan and IIOJK.

Spokesperson Baloch said that outgoing Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, arrived here on Wednesday for a three-day visit to meet with the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the minister of commerce.

Secretary General Noziri is on his farewell visit to Pakistan as he concludes his term next month. Starting next month, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Dr. Asad Majeed Khan will assume the position of the ECO Secretary General for a three-year term. The spokesperson apprised the media of a two-day Regional Conference on Export Control Programme for Dual-Use Goods in Central Asia

being hosted by Pakistan on July 24-25 and being attended by senior officials and experts from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the US, the EU, the UN, and other international organizations to discuss national approaches to strategic trade controls and promote international cooperation in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

To a question, she said Pakistan had taken up the matter of an attack on its consulate in Frankfurt with the German government and continued to take measures and work with the host government to ensure the safety of its diplomatic missions. Asked about the reports of US Administration seeking a budget of \$101 million for Pakistan, she called it an internal debate of the US Congress and US Administration. However, she said traditionally, such aid is meant for the civil society area and promoting strategic priority areas of the US. APP