



Stressed that stability and continuity in policies are crucial for the country's development, citing the need for a five-year development plan under the 5Es framework

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor  
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## Pakistan achieved 'Macroeconomic stability, 'economic indicators showing positive trends

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday said that the countries achieved micro-economic stability and all the economic indicators showing positive trends. He said that currently, the country is going through a phase of economic stability and the government will be led on the path of sustainable economic growth with a good economic foundation. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said this while addressing the Inaugural Ceremony of Buna-Raast Connectivity Project Implementation Phase here. He said that all economic indicators, including foreign reserves, workers remittances, policy rates, exchange rate, revenue collection and twins deficits including Current Account are going positive, leading towards growth and adding that foreign investors are showing confidence on the Pakistan economy.

Aurangzeb said that "We have two months import cover and the exchange rate is also stable." He said that during the last two months, foreign companies and potential investors are showing their interest to make investment in the different sectors of the economy. The minister said that the government is working on the digital economy and through the digitization of the economy, "We prioritize documenting the local economy." He said that because of prudent economic policies of the government and through reforms and administrative measures the country received the \$3 billion workers' remittances in the last month of July 2024. He said the government prioritized the tax and energy reforms and over all structural reforms also in cards to achieve the sustainable economic growth in the country. The minister said that "Buna-Raast Connectivity Project" project is an exemplary project between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which is also a huge source for legal transaction of money and an evolved digital economy in the country. He said that Pakistan also endorsed the KSA's government vision 2030 and learnt a lesson from this economic vision for sustainable economic growth in Pakistan.

Buna is the cross-border payment system operated by the Arab Regional Payments Clearing and Settlement Organization "ARPCSO," which is owned by The Arab Monetary Fund "AMF." Buna aim to enable financial institutions and central banks in the Arab region and beyond to send and receive payments in local currencies as well as key international currencies in a safe, cost-effective, risk-controlled, and transparent environment. Buna offers participants modern payment solutions that comply with international standards, principles, and compliance requirements. The Raast SBP 'Raast' Instant Payment System is a transformational initiative that is built on state-of-the-art international standard ISO 20022 and promises to be simple, free, fast, interoperable, and a secure payment option for customers. The SBP launched the second use case of Raast i.e. Person-to-Person (P2P) payments in February 2022. Till date, around 34 million RAAST IDs have been created by customers having performed more than 270 million transactions amounting to around PKR 5.5 trillion (around USD 19 billion). DNA



Rawalpindi: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meets with a student delegation from Harvard Business School (HBS) at the General Headquarters.

## Pakistan desires to revive partnership with Germany back to its glorious past: PM

PM expresses Pakistan's desire to promote global peace, regional connectivity

### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met with German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Svenja Schulze here wherein he expressed Pakistan's strong desire to revive its partnership with Germany back to its glorious past.

In the meeting, the prime minister appreciated Germany's longstanding support for Pakistan's socioeconomic development, according to a PM Office press release. He said that Pakistan and Germany had a history of mutually beneficial commercial and economic ties and lauded Germany's role in Pakistan's industrial development.

Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted Pakistan's commitment to sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and economic growth while sharing his government's priorities including structural reforms for the country's economic revival.

Minister Schulze conveyed the greetings of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to the prime minister and reaffirmed Germany's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan, particularly in trade, investment, and development cooperation. She also shared that Germany was keen to



increase its support for Pakistan's renewable energy sector and climate resilience initiatives. The two sides discussed ways to further enhance bilateral economic cooperation, including increased trade, investment, IT and technology transfer as well as export of skilled labor. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the situation in Gaza and the Ukraine conflict. Minister Schulze also extended an invitation to the prime minister on behalf of Chancellor Olaf Scholz to attend the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in October. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both sides, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and ministers for planning, economic affairs, commerce, and minister of state for IT. Meanwhile, Secretary-General of the Confer-

ence on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. In the meeting, the prime minister the prime minister underlined that as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2025-26, Pakistan looks forward to playing an active role in maintaining international peace and security. He also expressed Pakistan's strong desire for enhanced regional connectivity and commended CICA's ongoing efforts in this regard. He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for CICA's core objective of strengthening regional cooperation as well as promoting peace, security and stability in Asia through confidence building measures.

## COAS General Syed Asim Munir cautions against the perils of misinformation & fake news in the digital age

Emphasizes the significance of education, critical thinking & innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS) Trek-2024, representing 9 different countries, met General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters on Thursday.

According to the statement issued by the ISPR, the interactive session provided a platform to share perspectives on Pakistan's pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability, its unwavering efforts against terrorism, and its commitment to upholding democratic values.

COAS General Syed Asim Munir emphasized the significance of education, critical thinking, and innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges. He highlighted Pakistan's vast potential and encouraged the attendees to form their own opinions based on personal experiences. The COAS also cautioned against the perils of misinformation and fake news in the digital age, urging the students to navigate this landscape with discernment.

The Harvard students expressed their gratitude to the COAS for facilitating a constructive and enlightening interaction. This engagement follows the COAS's earlier interaction with students from various universities at the General Headquarters on 20 August, underscoring his commitment to nurturing and inspiring the nation's youth. PR

## No one will be allowed to enter the Red Zone, as maintaining law & order is our top priority: Mohsin Naqvi

Says those who take the law into their own hands will have to face legal action

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Affairs Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting to review the law-and-order situation on Thursday. Mohsin Naqvi stated that no one will be allowed to enter the Red Zone, as maintaining law and order is our top priority. Interior Minister said that everyone has the right to protest, but it should be at an appropriate place and must not disrupt the daily routines of the public. He emphasized that protecting the lives and property of the people is our first responsibility, and we will ensure the implementation of the law in this regard.

Mohsin Naqvi underscored that those who take the law into their own hands will have to face legal action. During the meeting, the law-and-order situation was also reviewed in detail. SABAH

## PNS HUNAIN visits Jeddah, participates in bilateral exercise



ISLAMABAD: The newly commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN, during maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan, visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and participated in bilateral exercise with Ship of Royal Saudi Naval Forces. Upon arrival at Jeddah port, the ship was received by senior officials of Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) and officials of Pakistan Embassy, a Pakistan Navy news release on Thursday said. During stay at port, Commanding Officer PNS

HUNAIN called on RSNF Navy Western Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Mansoor Bin Saood Al Jayyad and Commander King Faisal Naval Base Rear Admiral Saleh Bin Abdullah Al-Amri. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation between both the navies were discussed.

Later, PNS HUNAIN conducted Passage Exercise with HMS AL RIYADH of RSNF and rehearsed various Joint Maritime Drills and Operations. The aim of exercise was to provide an opportunity to enhance interoperability between the navies.

Visit of PNS HUNAIN to Saudi Arabia and participation in bilateral exercise provided an opportunity to flourish and strengthen existing brotherly relations and defence collaboration between the two countries. PR

## Minister orders urgent plan to restore Kachhi Canal water flow

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has directed the experts to present solutions for restoring the water flow in Kachhi canal within two months so a comprehensive flood management strategy can be formulated.

He was chairing a meeting regarding the Kachhi canal project in Islamabad today, attended via video link by Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti and provincial officials.

The Federal Minister said the proposal by experts should focus on finding ways to carry 400 to 500 cusecs of water from the canal. He said 7 lakh 13 thousand acres of land of Balochistan will be irrigated by this canal.

The Minister said provision of water to the local population at the earliest is top priority of the government. He recommended following the Urban canal model of Punjab. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister Balochistan said the damage and ensuing closure of Kachhi canal has drastically affected farming in many areas. He expressed the hope that under the supervision of the Planning Minister, the best plan will be formulated for restoration canal.

## Tarar for providing opportunities to youth by correcting priorities in IT, agriculture, education, sports fields

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday stressed the need to provide maximum opportunities to the youth by correcting the priorities in the fields of information technology (IT), agriculture, education, and sports arena.

Addressing the National Youth Convention here he said Pakistan was a lucky country as its 60% population consisted of youth below 30 years of age who could change the destiny of the nation. "There is a need to correct the direction and economy of the country, bring IT revolution, and promote quality education to the new generation", the minister said.

He urged the young generation to understand the vision behind the creation of a separate state for Muslims in the sub-continent. He remarked that Indian atrocities in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and on

Indian Muslims across the border had vindicated the stance of Muslims for an independent state.

He said that Kashmiris were still struggling to become part of Pakistan with great resolve, resilience, and determination despite the brutality and oppression of Indian rulers.

He told the participants of the convention that the Quaid-e-Azam was supported by a large number of youths in the Pakistan Movement.

"The youth contributed to the creation of this country, and the youth will change the destiny of this country", the information minister remarked.

He said that Muslim migration from Makkah to Madinah and from India to Pakistan had a lesson for everyone.

He said that about 12,00,000 people sacrificed their lives during migration to Pakistan in 1947 as trains carrying Muslims were attacked and passengers butchered mercilessly.



He said countless women and girls were raped and molested during the process of migration.

He said the holy blood of tens of thousands of martyrs was in the foundations of Pakistan which was created on the 27th of Ramadan.

He said that Allah Almighty had created Pakistan on the holiest night of Laila Tul Qadr and he had the belief that this country would prosper, develop, and

survive till eternity.

He said now it was the responsibility and duty of the new generation to work hard to make Pakistan a strong, modern, developed nation.

"Pakistanis are a determined and hard-working nation and Arshad Nadeem's success is a beacon and a source of inspiration for youth", he maintained. Referring to the determination and hard work of Arshad Nadeem, the minister said he made the first javelin by breaking a tree branch in his village near Mian Channu.

He said overcoming all hardships Arshad Nadeem brought the entire nation together by winning the gold medal as the entire nation celebrated his historic victory in a befitting way.

He said under the Prime Minister's Laptop scheme, free-of-cost laptops were given on merit to students of educational institutions. He said that laptops given to youth

under the PM scheme played an important role in keeping the national economy stable during Covid-19. Similarly, he said that the PML-N government launched the Danish School system in Punjab for deserving students in the most backward areas and this step paid dividends.

Making long and alluring speeches was easier than doing something practical for the welfare of the people of the country, he opined.

He said that unfortunately in this digital age, controversies and sensational things attract the attention of the users and constructive achievements fail to get proper coverage.

He stressed the need to fight the tendency of despair and dependency through the creation of hope and providing opportunities to the youth so that their talent could be utilized in a better manner for nation building process. "Our IT exports have tripled within the

last four months and that too at a time when the world is facing recession in the field of information technology", he informed.

He said that a record number of startups were coming in Pakistan and IT experts were emerging which was a good omen.

The minister said that Pakistan's youth had accomplished a lot on their own and it was the responsibility of the governments to provide them opportunities to further hone their talent.

He said that the development of the nation depended on the development of the youth.

He said that the Prime Minister and the government attached great importance to providing opportunities to the youth. He expressed the confidence that by the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan will join the G-20 nation by 2030. He promised that a better Pakistan would be left for future generations. APP

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Javid Husain

# How America lost in Afghanistan

On August 15, 2021, the Afghan Taliban triumphantly rode back into Kabul 20 years after they had been driven out of power by the US and its allies in Afghanistan and the region. The regime that had been imposed on the people of Afghanistan by the US following its invasion in the aftermath of 9/11 collapsed like a house of cards. By August 30, 2021, the last US troops had left, bringing to an end the longest American war and the sad saga of American military misadventure in Afghanistan. The ill-planned US war in Afghanistan had caused thousands of casualties of American troops and troops of its allies, besides the loss of about \$3 trillion to the American exchequer. In the process, hundreds of thousands of Afghans were killed or displaced. The war also caused enormous material destruction in Afghanistan. The US misadventure in Afghanistan led to its biggest military debacle since its defeat in Vietnam. It was a sorry tale of American overreach in terms of its goals and objectives, flawed strategic planning that overemphasized the military to the neglect of political means for a successful outcome, abysmal ignorance of Afghan history and culture, and a crude attempt to impose alien cultural values on an extremely conservative society. There were also inadequate consultations and coordination of policies with Pakistan and Iran, Afghanistan's two most important regional neighbours. Above all, the American debacle brought into the limelight the limits of American power in bringing about national transformation in distant and culturally alien countries. The primary aims of the US invasion of Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11, as publicly stated by president Bush in his statement of April 17, 2002,

were basically threefold: to defeat and dismantle Al Qaeda, which had launched the 9/11 attacks; to impose a government of Washington's choice on the Afghan people in place of the Taliban government, which had provided sanctuary to Al Qaeda; and to rebuild Afghanistan with a stable government and as "a better place in which to live". The last aim undoubtedly was meant to transform Afghan society in the light of Western cultural and political values. America achieved considerable success in degrading and defeating Al Qaeda through its invasion of Afghanistan and subsequent military operations. It was also able to replace, with relative ease, the Taliban government with the government of its choice after the Bonn Conference. The new Afghan government, however, was far from stable as it was tainted with the stigma of having been brought into power through foreign military intervention and lacked broad-based political support in Afghanistan. As it was dominated by elements of the Northern Alliance, it was alienated not only from the Taliban but also from most of the Pashtuns who constituted the largest ethnic community in the country. Sherard Cowper-Coles, the British ambassador to Afghanistan from 2007 to 2009, recognized in his book 'Cables from Kabul', published in 2011, that "the Bonn settlement that had followed (the Taliban defeat) had been a victors' peace from which the vanquished had been excluded; and that the constitution resulting from that settlement could last as long as the West was prepared to stay in Afghanistan to prop up the present disposition". Apparently, the US-led West, in its quest for total victory in Afghanistan, had not paid the required attention to the disastrous consequences of the Treaty of Versailles, at least as far as Afghanistan was concerned. It was, therefore, just a matter of

time before the Taliban would regroup and pose a serious challenge to the US-imposed political dispensation in Afghanistan. This is precisely what happened. At the grand strategic level, the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 diverted US attention and resources from Afghanistan to another theatre of war, providing the Taliban the opportunity and space to launch the insurgency, which gradually grew in intensity, ultimately leading to America's retreat from the country. At the strategic level, the fundamental blunder committed by the US in Afghanistan was its failure, at least initially, to distinguish between Al Qaeda, which was an international terrorist organization, and the Afghan Taliban which despite its retrogressive and obscurantist ideology was and remains an important political party in the Afghan political spectrum. It was much later in January 2015 that the White House press secretary Josh Earnest clarified that it was "important to draw a distinction between the Taliban and Al Qaeda" and described the former as "armed insurgency". Washington also made the mistake of relying too heavily on the military dimension of its strategy to the neglect of the political dimension. Had it given adequate attention to the political dimension, it would have initiated dialogue with the Taliban much earlier than 2011. Apparently, the US military stood in the way of a political settlement in Afghanistan during the first decade of the US military occupation. It was only in February 2011 that the then US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, on behalf of the US administration, was able to endorse publicly the diplomatic route for a settlement in Afghanistan in her speech to the Asia Society. The Taliban resistance to the American military occupation gathered strength also because of Washington's misguided attempt to transform an extremely conservative and religious Afghan society by imposing Western liberal and cultural values.

This clash of values alienated many Afghans who otherwise might have kept aloof from the Taliban-led resistance. Finally, the indiscriminate use of force by the US-led Nato forces, which caused huge collateral damage to civilian properties and the loss of lives of innocent civilians, including women and children, contributed to the intensification of the Taliban insurgency. The tenacity of the Taliban in a successful struggle against the American military occupation ultimately led to the Doha agreement of February 29, 2020 between the US and the Taliban. The agreement, which basically provided for the complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in return for assurances by the Taliban that it would not allow Afghan soil to be used for terrorist activities against foreign countries, pulled the rug from under the US-propped Afghan government and hastened its collapse. The pro-forma peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha in September 2020, promised in the Doha agreement, therefore remained inconclusive. The following months witnessed the steady erosion of power of the Afghan government and the ascendancy of the Taliban leading to its victory. The irony is that the longest American war, which was launched partly to defeat the Taliban, ended with the Taliban back in power. As explained earlier, the main factors responsible for American failure were its overreliance on the military to the neglect of political means and its abysmal ignorance of the history, culture and character of the Afghans. There are important lessons for Pakistan in the American debacle in Afghanistan. That, however, will be the subject of another article.

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## A menace to democracy

ENGINEER KHURRAM DASTGIR-KHAN

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom," said William Pitt. "It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." Honourable exceptions past and present aside, a judiciary that for 75 years argued for tyrants has fallen slave to the populist creed. As in the past, so today in a complex garb: Pakistan's judiciary is a menace to democracy. The menace does not end with facilitating populism. Prof Mark Lemley's view fits Pakistan since 2009 perfectly: "By simultaneously stripping power from every political entity except the Supreme Court itself...and undercutting the ability of any entity to do something the justices don't like. We are in the era of the imperial Supreme Court." Some courageous judgments and dissents nonetheless shine in history: Justice Cornelius's dissent in Tamizuddin 1955, Asma Jilani Judgment 1972, the 2009 Sindh High Court Bar Association judgment, and Tasadduq Jilani's 2014 judgment on minority rights. During the dark age of 2017-23, the light of constitutionalism was kept burning by bold verdicts such as a few bail verdicts and the 2019 Faizabad dhama judgment. Two dissenting Supreme Court (SC) judges earlier this month eviscerated the majority's short-order on reserve seats. The dissent eschews name-calling, does not mention pulp-fiction writers or nebulous philosophers, and is argued on constitutional grounds. Separate dissents by two senior judges have furnished us previously with significant concepts of "Imperial Supreme Court" and "politicians in robes". There are judges at every level of the judiciary that stand up every day for the law and the constitution through their judgments. A few principled dissents and courageous judgments cannot, however, paper over an undeniable "long train of abuses and usurpations" by the apex court; beginning with sanctifying illegal dissolution of constituent assembly in Tamizuddin 1955, justifying a coup d'etat in Dosso 1958, down to Nusrat Bhutto 1977, and Zulfikar Bhutto's conviction and hanging in 1979. In Zafar Ali Shah 2002, the Supreme Court not only justified another coup d'etat but authorized the dictator to amend the constitution; the court failed to defend the constitution against the 2007 Emergency, and went on to frivolously disqualify two elected prime ministers: Yousuf R Gilani in 2012 and, five years later, M Nawaz Sharif through the travesty of the Panama/Iqama judgment. Three successive chief justices beginning with 2017 ruptured their restraints. They pillaged the constitution and overrode, as per one SC verdict, "trampling of fundamental rights, unlawful deprivation of freedom, and liberty and the complete disregard for human dignity as guaranteed by the constitution." This infamy reached a peak in the Parvez Elahi case 2022 in which the court ravaged Article 63 of the constitution. The 2022 calamity has now been trumped by the Supreme Court majority's short-order on reserve seats. The order echoes the poet Cavafy on the barbarians, positing the populists as "a kind of solution". The groundnorm of Pakistani jurisprudence, it is clear, is not the constitution of the republic but the will of the honourable judges. In the detailed judgment on reserved seats, long overdue, the doctrine of necessity fig leaf will probably be replaced by new fig leaves of "complete justice", "principle of equity", "penumbras and emanations" and allusions to "constitutional fabric". Debate on the SIC short-order has unmoored itself from constitutional bounds, as did the order itself. The decision before the court was an appeal under Article 185 of the constitution against a judgment of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) that in turn upheld a decision by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Appellate jurisdiction is narrow; the apex court is profligate. Neither Article 185 nor 187 of the constitution give carte blanche to the esteemed justices to rewrite or nullify any part of the constitution. Some constitutional clauses are rules, but many are principles. Principles allow room for interpretation; rules do not. The appeal was a case of rules. Instead of providing even a semblance of constitutionally-grounded rationale to reverse the PHC judgment, the Supreme Court majority fabricated an ex cathedra order. The majority created a parliamentary party out of thin air, forced members of Parliament to violate their solemn written oaths and change party allegiance, removed the requirement of election symbol for political parties, manufactured fictional deadlines, and magnified the Panama judgment outrage of one monitoring judge to eight monitoring judges by inviting applications before "Judges constituting the majority in chambers for such orders and directions as may be deemed appropriate." "The Supreme Court declared itself the sole interpreter of the constitution," writes Elie Mystal. "The word 'unconstitutional' appears nowhere in the constitution, and the power to decide what is or is not constitutional was not given to the court in the constitution or by any of the amendments. The court decided for itself that it had the power to revoke acts of [parliament] and declare actions by the [executive] 'unconstitutional.'" Since 2009, the Supreme Court has taken significant steps to restrict the power of the legislature, the executive, the Election Commission, and even lower courts. "The common denominator across multiple opinions," writes Prof Lemley, "is that they concentrate power in one place: the Supreme Court." The exercise of this power is no less arbitrary, petty, and contemptuous of law than that exercised elsewhere in the Pakistani state. Pakistan's executive and legislature have scarcely resisted the court's onslaught. Instead, they have contributed to their own feebleness by retreating ignobly in face of judicial overreach; and failing to forswear bargaining, to legislate bona fide timely, and to bring transparency and legislative oversight to selection of judges. One trembles sitting in the glasshouse of political parties, whose own fealty to constitutionalism and democracy in government and in opposition is execrable. After three-quarters of Pakistan's first century, all institutions of the state bar none have lost their last shreds of moral authority and democratic credibility. Pakistan's judiciary no longer has any entitlement to a higher pedestal. It has become politicized grotesquely through depredations of our regimes, dictatorial as well as elected, and through depredations of its own. The law is "sword, shield, and menace", said Ronald Dworkin. All three are in the mire with the rest of the state. The country is sliding towards fascism masquerading as populism, and the judiciary is greasing the slope.

The writer is a former member of the National Assembly. He tweets/posts @kdastgirskhan

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



As in most Muslim countries, alcoholic beverages are considered culturally inappropriate, but there are several domestic breweries and distilleries. Father and child leaving a mosque after Eid al-Fitr prayer in Lahore, Pakistan. Muslim Pakistanis celebrate the two major Islamic holidays, Eid al-Fitr (which marks the end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (which marks the end of the hajj), as well as the

Prophet Muhammad's birthday (the religious holidays are based on a lunar calendar and vary from year to year). Mohammed Ali Jinnah's birthday (December 25) is a celebrated holiday. Independence Day is August 14, and Pakistan Day is March 23 (celebrating the Lahore [Pakistan] Resolution of 1940). There are a number of other major and minor holidays. Pakistan's cultural heritage dates to more than 5,000 years ago, to the period of the Indus civilization. How-

ever, the emphasis on Islamic ideology has brought about a strong romantic identification with Islamic culture—not only that of the Indian subcontinent but of the broader Islamic world. Literature, notably poetry, is the richest of all Pakistani art forms; music and, especially, modern dance have received less attention. The visual arts too play little part in popular folk culture. Painting and sculpture, however, have made considerable progress as expressions

of an increasingly sophisticated urban culture. Pakistan shares with the other parts of South Asia the great Mughal heritage in art, literature, architecture, and manners. The ruins of Mohenjo-daro, the ancient city of Taxila, and the Rohtas Fort of Sh r Shah of S r are but a few of the places in Pakistan that have been named UNESCO World Heritage sites.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Taylor Swift breaks silence on cancelled Vienna shows, foiled terrorist plot

Taylor Swift defended her decision to stay silent on the 'devastating' situation immediately after the threat

Taylor Swift is defending her silence about the foiled terrorist attack that forced her to cancel her highly anticipated Eras Tour shows in Vienna. After wrapping up a record-breaking five-night stop in London's Wembley Stadium (eight in total), the international pop sensation, 34, took to Instagram on Wednesday, August 21, to officially mark the end of the European leg of the Eras Tour. In a lengthy caption, the multi-Grammy winner first commemorated the three-month long journey across Europe, acknowledging the "passionate crowds" and thanking her "impressive" crew and fellow performers. She then addressed the Vienna shows



for the first time, expressing how "devastating" the situation was and how it "filled me with a new sense of fear, and a tremendous amount of guilt." Swift then explained that the reason for her silence was concern for everyone's safety. "Let me be very clear: I am not going to speak about something publicly if I think doing so might provoke those who would want to harm the fans who come to my shows," she explained, further asserting, "In cases like this one, 'silence' is actually showing restraint, and waiting to express yourself at a time when it's right to." The Bad Blood hitmaker added that she felt a deep sense of gratitude

## Tech

# Ancient Magma ocean discovered at Moon's South Pole



Scientists have uncovered evidence that the Moon's south pole was once covered by a vast ocean of liquid molten rock, BBC reported. This discovery supports the Lunar Magma Ocean theory, which posits that magma formed the Moon's surface around 4.5 billion years ago. Indias Chandrayaan-3 mission to the Moon, which touched down in the south pole in August 2023, finally collected these findings. This historic mission aimed at reaching a location where no other spacecraft had ever successfully landed. The data collected by

the mission strengthen the view that the early Moon, around 4.5 billion years ago started to cool and solidify, producing a lighter mineral called the ferroan anorthosite. This is a molten rock that gradually formed the outer surface of the moon. Dr Santosh Vadawale of Physical Research Laboratory, who is also the co-author of Nature, had also commented on the observation "The theory of early evolution of the Moon becomes much more robust in the light of our observations." Until Chandrayaan-3, the findings of the existence of magma oceans were mainly identified from the mid-latitude areas that had been visited by the Apollo mission. This was during the landing of Chandrayaan-3, Prof. Vadawale and his team at the mission control and commanding the rover Pragyaan, that mapped the lunar surface for 10 days. It operated under extreme cold and hot conditions and conducted chemical analysis on the lunar regolith using its alpha particle X-ray spectrometer.

## Review explores the use of medicinal plants against women's diseases in the rural communities of Pakistan

Gynecological complications and STIs continue to threaten women's health throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. Some of the key challenges in these nations include limited access to modern medical facilities, poor infrastructure, socioeconomic deprivation, and long-established cultural norms. Medicinal plants have been historically used for home remedies and primary medications in rural areas of developing countries. In fact, current estimates indicate that about 80% of people living in rural areas remain dependent on herbal medicines. Pakistan has a rich flora with 1,572 genera and 5,521 species, most of which are limited to the regions of Hindukush, Himalaya, and Karakorum. Furthermore, Pakistan has 28 herbal processing units that use medicinal plants to produce various formulations, including 75 extensively manufactured crude herbal products.

A significant proportion of women in Pakistan's rural communities use herbal medicines to treat their illnesses. These women often experience gynecological problems due to poverty, unhygienic living conditions, and hard physical labor. Existing evidence indicates that Pakistani rural populations use 217 plant species from 89 families for various health purposes. The most prominent plant family is Apiaceae, which includes 19 medicinal species, followed by Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Lamiaceae, Solanaceae, and Amaranthaceae families. Herbs and trees account for 58% and 23% of all medicinal plants used in Pakistan, respectively, followed by 17% of shrubs and 2% of subshrubs. Most of these plants are used to treat women's illnesses. Leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits, roots, bark, and stems account for 29%, 22%, 14%, 14%, 13%, 7%, and 5% of all plant parts used, respectively.

Immunology eBook Compilation of the top interviews, articles, and news in the last year. Studies investigating the medicinal values of various plant parts have reported that leaves are used to treat menstrual disorders and menopausal symptoms. In contrast, flowers are used to manage menstrual discomforts and regulate menstrual cycles. Seeds are often used to treat fertility problems and hormonal imbalances, while fruits are used to improve women's wellbeing during pregnancy and lactation. Roots are also used to treat uterine issues, whereas barks and stems are used to treatment various gynecological complications. Existing literature indicates that plant families predominantly used in Pakistani rural regions contain a wide range of bioactive compounds with diverse biological and therapeutic properties.



## Health

# دلشاد ٹیٹا کی گراف

اسلام آباد

محنت المبارک 23 اگست 2024ء

## آئندہ 24 گھنٹوں میں پنجاب میں مزید بارشوں کا امکان

لاہور (پہلو پورٹ) آئندہ 24 گھنٹوں میں پنجاب کے بیشتر اضلاع میں بارشوں کا امکان ہے۔ ترجمان ٹی ڈی ایم اے کے مطابق دریائے سندھ میں ٹیٹا درجے کی سیلابی صورتحال برقرار ہے، دریائے پنجاب راوی، جہلم اور ستلج میں پانی کا بہاؤ نائل لیول پر ہے، رودگوہوں میں سیلابی صورتحال کے پیش نظر ٹی ڈی ایم اے و دتتالی نظامی ادارت میں ڈی ایم اے کے مطابق 54 گھنٹہ ہنگ 153 روٹنگز کے ساتھ ڈی ایم اے کے مطابق 26 گھنٹہ تک ہے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے سی آئی آئی اے کے چیف جرنل، سفیر کیرات مری کے ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

## افغانستان سے لائے جانے والے اسلحے کے استعمال کے ثبوت ایک بار پھر منظر عام پر دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاک فوج کی جرات مندانہ کارروائیوں اور قبضے میں لائے گئے اسلحے کی تفصیلات جاری

افغانستان سے لائے جانے والے غیر ملکی اسلحے کے استعمال کے ثبوت کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک بار پھر منظر عام پر دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاک فوج کی جرات مندانہ کارروائیوں اور قبضے میں لائے گئے اسلحے کی تفصیلات جاری کی گئی ہیں۔

## پی ٹی آئی کا ترتر نول جلسہ ملتوی 8 ستمبر نئے جلسے کی اجازت، نوٹیفیکیشن جاری

انتظامیہ جلسے کو سیکورٹی فراہم کرے گی، ایسی بھی شہری کے بنیادی حقوق کو متاثر نہیں کریں گے 7 بجے جلسہ ختم کرنا ہوگا، یہ جلسہ انتظامیہ کی ڈیوٹی ہوگی، ڈسٹرکٹ مجسٹریٹ

لاہور (پہلو پورٹ) پی ٹی آئی عمران خان کا کہنا ہے کہ جلسے ملتوی کرنے کو کوئی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔ انتظامیہ کے ہونے والے جلسے کے لیے سیلابی صورتحال کے باعث جلسے ملتوی نہیں کیے گئے۔

## پاکستان عالمی وائس سلامتی کے فعال کردار کیلئے پرعزم ہے، وزیر اعظم

یونٹا کرکس اور ڈیوٹی کے تحت عالمی وائس سلامتی کے فعال کردار کیلئے پرعزم ہے۔ وزیر اعظم

اسلام آباد (پہلو پورٹ) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کے فیصلے کے تحت، پاکستان میں دہشت گردی کو روکنے کے لیے بین الاقوامی اداروں کے ساتھ ساتھ مل کر کام کرنا ضروری ہے۔



لاہور، امیر جماعت اسلامی حافظ محمد امین نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں خطاب کر رہے ہیں



اسلام آباد، پی ٹی آئی کے سربراہ محمد آصف خان نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں خطاب کر رہے ہیں

## معیشت بند کرنے والے نہیں کھولنے والے ہیں، حافظ محمد امین

لاہور (پہلو پورٹ) امیر جماعت اسلامی حافظ محمد امین نے کہا ہے کہ معیشت بند کرنے والے نہیں کھولنے والے ہیں، ایک دن کی ہڑتال معیشت چلانے کیلئے ہے۔

## جاوید وڑائچ قائمہ کمیٹی دفاعی پیداوار کے چیئرمین منتخب

اسلام آباد (پہلو پورٹ) قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی دفاعی پیداوار کا اجلاس، چیئرمین جاوید وڑائچ قائمہ کمیٹی دفاعی پیداوار کے چیئرمین منتخب ہو گئے۔

## ایرانی پارلیمنٹ نے صدر مسعود پزیشکیان کی نامزد 19 رکنی کابینہ کی منظوری دیدی

تہران (مائیک ڈیسک) ایران کی پارلیمنٹ نے صدر مسعود پزیشکیان کی نامزد 19 رکنی کابینہ کی منظوری دیدی۔

## گلم ٹیکس گورنر کے متعلق 30 ستمبر تک توسیع

اسلام آباد (پہلو پورٹ) گورنر کے متعلق 30 ستمبر تک توسیع کی گئی ہے۔

## کشمیر اور فلسطین کے مسلمانوں کو مذہبی بنیاد پر تشدد کا سامنا ہے، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب

کوئی مذہب عقائد کی بنیاد پر تشدد کی اجازت نہیں دیتا، پاکستان ہر مذہب اور عقیدے کے ماننے والوں کو برابر کا احترام دیتا ہے۔

## امریکہ میں نئے پاکستانی سفیر نے ذمہ داریاں سنبھال لیں

واشنگٹن (مائیک ڈیسک) امریکہ میں نئے پاکستانی سفیر رضوان سعید نے اپنے سفارتی ذمہ داریاں سنبھال لیں۔

## سرکار نے دفعہ عمران میں ملک کو بنا دینا

لاہور (پہلو پورٹ) سرکار نے دفعہ عمران میں ملک کو بنا دینا کی کوشش کی ہے۔

## پاکستان کے قیام میں شہدا کا خون شمال قیامت تک قائم رہے گا

اسلام آباد (پہلو پورٹ) محکمہ اطلاعات نے شہداء کے خون کی شہادت کا تذکرہ کیا ہے۔

## انٹک، سکول وین پر فائرنگ، 2 بچے جاں بحق، 5 زخمی

صدر زرداری وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف، وزیر داخلہ، بلاول بھٹو، عمر ایوب، پیپلز ٹی وی کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر اور دیگر کی واقعہ کی مذمت کی ہے۔

## میجر ثناء نے اقوام متحدہ کا صنفی مساوات کا ایوارڈ حاصل کر لیا

اسلام آباد (پہلو پورٹ) میجر ثناء نے اقوام متحدہ کا صنفی مساوات کا ایوارڈ حاصل کر لیا ہے۔

## پیننگ بازی، پیننگ سازی ناقابل ضمانت جرم قرار، پنجاب کابینہ نے ترمیم منظور کر لیں

پیننگ بازی، پیننگ سازی ناقابل ضمانت جرم قرار، پنجاب کابینہ نے ترمیم منظور کر لیں۔

## ECC accords conditional approval to 0.1 mln sugar exports



ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Thursday gave conditional approval to the export of an additional 0.100 million metric tons of sugar, the summary for which was submitted by the Ministry of Industries and Production.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the ECC put condition that in view of procedural delays encountered during export of sugar, the period allowed for export of sugar from the date of allocation of quota by respective Cane Commissioner should be extended from forty-five (45) days to sixty (60) days.

In addition, it said, export proceeds should be received in advance in case of Afghanistan only through banking channel however, export proceeds in case of LC may be allowed within a period of 60 days of opening of LC for export of sugar to other destinations.

It said, the benchmark for retail price of sugar may be delinked from the permission to export sugar as retail price is not directly under the control of sugar mills. The condition of revoking of export quota in case of non-payment of dues of the growers from proceeds of export of sugar should be applicable only to the non-compliant mills rather than PMSA as a whole, it added.

Moreover, the ECC decided to monitor the market situation on a monthly basis and review its decision as per emerging needs, and instructed the Sugar Advisory Board to develop a comprehensive sugar policy within two months to address the sector's challenges and ensure sustainable growth.

Meanwhile, the ECC also considered and approved the following Technical Supplementary Grants including Rs. 276.250 million in favor of the Ministry of Interior to HQ Frontier Corps KP (N) TSG for Project Implementation Letters (PILs).

It also approved Rs. 1951.995 million on account of payment of security charges — Reko Diq Project to Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) and Rs. 20 billion as a special allocation for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam during CFY 2024-25.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Industries & Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan; Minister for Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan; Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry; Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema; Minister for Petroleum, Mussadiq Masood Malik; Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Khan Leghari; Dy Chairman Planning Commission, Federal Secretaries, and other senior officials of the relevant ministries. APP



ISLAMABAD: Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Yong Ye Thursday called on President Asif Ali Zardari.

## Two children killed, five injured in firing on school van in Attock

President Zardari, PM Shehbaz, Ayaz Sadiq, Mohsin Naqvi, Maryam Nawaz, Bilawal, others condemn firing on school van in Attock

ATTOCK/ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Two children were killed and five others were injured when unidentified assailants opened fire on a school van in Attock District's Dheri Kot area on Thursday.

According to Rescue 1122 officials, the children injured in the attack were aged between five to 12 years old. The school van's driver was among the five persons injured in the incident. They have been shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital for treatment, they added.

The two children both girls named Arwa Fatima and Rameen Shafiq died on the spot. While the unidentified gunmen have fled the scene, according to Rescue 1122. The Attock police reached the site of the incident.

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfraz Alpa said the incident occurred due to "personal enmity". "The gunfire was aimed at the driver but also caused harm to the children," the RPO said.

He added that a case had been registered against the suspects and raids were being carried out to arrest them. RPO Sarfraz expressed the hope that the culprits would be arrested soon. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

Attock Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, in conversation with a private TV channel said that the gun attack on the school van was a result of the driver's personal enmity. He added that a forest official and his friend were killed

due to this enmity last month and the van driver was attacked to avenge the murder. The DC explained that the driver was injured in the attack, but the children were also attacked.

According to the DC, two girls — seated in the passenger seat with the driver — were killed in the attack, while the driver himself is injured. He added that the police and administration are busy in search operation.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the firing on a school van in Attock. In a statement, the President said targeting innocent children is a highly despicable act. He said strict action should be taken against the culprits. He said prayed for the departed souls and recovery of the injured.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said such kind of attack on children is quite cruel and gruesome act. He expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls and early recovery of the injured.

The Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to take stern action against the responsible and provide best treatment facilities to the injured children.

In the wake of the attack, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has sought a report from Rawalpindi Commissioner Abdul Aamer Khattak. The chief minister has also expressed deep sorrow over the death of the two children in the attack. CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz also

directed relevant authorities to provide the best treatment facilities to the children who have sustained injuries.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has also strongly condemned the targeting of the school van, expressing deep sorrow over the tragic deaths of the minors.

Describing the attack as "heartbreaking", the governor ordered authorities to swiftly investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families. Praying for the injured children to get well soon, he said that those "targeting innocent children did not deserve to be called human beings". "The shooting incident on children inside the school van is a monstrosity. Those exhibiting barbarism are not entitled to any concession," Naqvi asserted.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also condemned the attack, calling for the "strictest possible action" of the perpetrators. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said his "heart was crying tears of blood" after hearing about the deaths of the children. "Those with the blood of students on their hands are beasts," the PPP MNA said in a statement shared by his party on X.

Bilawal Bhutto said he stood with the bereaved families and prayed for them to have patience. He also expressed the hope that proper treatment of the injured children and the driver would be ensured. — VOM Report

## Jam Kamal highlights State Life Insurance's vital role in supporting families

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, emphasized the significant impact of State Life Insurance policies on families across the country during his address at the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) Summit 2024.

The event, held at a local hotel, celebrated SLIC's achievements and highlighted the contributions of its leadership and team.

Jam Kamal acknowledged the longstanding support that State Life Insurance has provided, helping numerous families sustain themselves over the years. "State Life Insurance policies have been a lifeline for many, enabling families to survive and thrive," he stated. The minister commended the SLIC team, especially the executives, chairman, and board members, for their dedication to the corporation's success.

He also addressed criticisms regarding the healthcare program managed by State Life, noting concerns over financial management and resource allocation. "There has been criticism about the costs and management, but overall, the services provided to the private sector and citizens are substantial. The program's scale and reach are something we often underestimate," he remarked.

Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Kamal recalled how the province actively pursued the federal-level healthcare initiative, integrating it into the provincial budget despite reservations regarding costs and auditing challenges.

## Cabinet 'okays' privatization of Petroleum division departments

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved the privatization of two departments under the Petroleum Division.

According to sources, the cabinet has given the green signal for the privatization of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and the Saindak Metals Limited (SML). As part of the privatization process, the Petroleum Division's department, ENAR Petrotech Services Pvt Ltd will be dissolved. However, the government is yet to decide on the fate of other departments under the Petroleum Division, including the Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pak-Arab Refinery Limited, and the Sui Gas Companies.

The Petroleum Division has left the decision regarding the privatization of these companies to the government. The future of the PSO's privatization and the impact on the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) agreement will be considered by the government. Additionally, the privatization of Pak-Arab Refinery Limited will not be possible without the consent of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The government will make decisions regarding the privatization of the Sui Northern and Sui Southern Gas Companies. The Pakistan Arab Refinery Limited is a joint venture between Pakistan and the UAE, according to government sources. APP

## At UN, Pakistan urges 'new thinking' to effectively prevent conflicts, build peace



UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for "new thinking" to shape effective approaches to prevent conflicts, resolving disputes — such as Kashmir & Palestine — and building peace in conflict-hit countries.

He also called for an end to external exploitation, which fuels violence and terrorism; good faith efforts at resolution of conflicts — at the local and regional levels; regional and international support for security and counter-terrorism operations; and a review of ill-considered sanctions that mostly punish the poor.

The meeting — convened by Sierra Leone, the Security Council president for August — was held against the backdrop of a rise in conflict globally. "The root causes of these conflicts range from the legacies of colonialism, internal struggles for scarce food, water and pastures, external competition for precious national resources and interventions designed to suppress the struggle of peoples to reclaim their own political and economic destinies," Ambassador Akram said.

"The consequences of foreign occupation are nowhere as clear as in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine," the Pakistani envoy said, as he called on the Security Council to end Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. APP

## Ideology of accession to Pakistan most important spiritual ideology for Kashmiris: AJK PM

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the ideology of accession to Pakistan is the most important spiritual ideology for him and the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir state.

"Whoever will try to sabotage it then the law will take its course," the PM stated.

PM Anwar ul Haq said he had inherited this ideology from his father and would pass it on to the next generation. "Our parents, us, and our future generations have always advocated for this ideology and we will continue to do so in the future until it is translated into reality." Anwar expressed these words while talking to various public representative delegations here late on Wednesday.

"Being a democratic person, everyone has permission to promote their ideology, but the state will not allow spreading hatred or sectarianism, and wherever peace is endangered or disrupted, the government will perform its duties," he warned.

The AJK PM continued that his government provided historic subsidies on electricity and flour to the public and bore a budget deficit of 71 billion. APP



Prime Minister says we are working with coalition parties for development and prosperity of the country. He said this while talking to Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who called on him in Islamabad tonight. They discussed overall political situation of the country.

## SC accepts federal govt's application seeking omissions of certain portions from the court's 6th Feb & July 24, 2024 revised verdict in Mubarak Sani case

Court says the paras excluded from the verdict cannot be cited as precedent in any judgment

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday accepted the federal government's urgent application seeking omissions of certain portions from the court's 6th February and July 24, 2024 verdicts in the Mubarak Ahmed Sani case after taking input from the religious scholars. The Supreme Court has approved the federal government's appeal to expunge controversial paras from the contentious Mubarak Sani case verdict.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, heard the Centre's plea alongside the Punjab government's petition seeking a second review of the top court verdict of February 6, 2024. In a short verdict consisting of two pages, the top court said the paras excluded from the verdict cannot be cited as precedent in any judgment. The detailed judgment will be issued later on. During the hearing Attorney-General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, Additional Attorney-General for Pakistan Malik Javed Iqbal Wains, Additional Prosecutor-General, Punjab Ahmed Raza Gillani appeared in the court. Meanwhile no one

appeared on behalf of the respondents. Meanwhile on Court Notice, Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani, in-person (through video-link from Turkey), Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, in-person Mufti Sher Muhammad Khan, in-person, Maulana Tayyib Qureshi, in-person, Syed Jawad Ali Naqvi, in-person (through video-link from Lahore), Sahibzada Abul Khair Muhammad Zubair, in-person, Dr. Farid Ahmed Paracha (on behalf of Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman), Maulana Dr. Ata-ur-Rehman, in-person, Mufti Syed Habib-ul-Haq Shah (on behalf of Mufti Munib-ur-Rehman), Hafiz Ahsaan Ahmed, ASC (on behalf of Professor Sajid Mir) and Mufti Abdur Rasheed (on behalf of Maulana Muhammad Ijaz Mustafa) appeared in court presented their arguments.

At the outset of the hearing on Thursday, AGP Mansoor Usman Awan informed the bench that the Parliament and some clerics had asked the federal government to approach the SC regarding the matter. He further said that a letter was received from the NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and directives were also issued by Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Admitting that a "second review" of the original verdict could not be held, the AGP noted that the government, hence, had approached the court as per the Code of Civil Procedure. AGP Awan urged the court to hear the clerics' arguments since the matter was a religious one. "I don't want to say but am helpless; I pray in every prayer that may God prevent me from making any wrong decisions," CJP Qazi Faez Isa said. "A person is known by their actions and words," he observed. The chief justice stressed that the Parliament's words were highly respected by the court. The court then decided to seek assistance from clerics present in the courtroom, including Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Mufti Sher Muhammad, Sahibzada Abul Khair Muhammad Zubair of the Milli Yaqjehti Council, and Jamaat-i-Islami's Dr. Fareed Ahmed Paracha. CJP Isa then noted that the court had also sought assistance from Mufti Taqi Usmani but he was in Turkey. Therefore, the scholar joined via video link. Mufti Muneer Rehman's representative was also present in the court. Mufti Taqi Usmani, in his arguments, urged the court to omit paragraphs 7 and

42 from the July 24 revised judgment. He pointed out what he said were "mistakes" in those paragraphs.

Paragraph 42 of the judgment stated: "Details of the Constitutional and legal provisions and judicial precedents have proved that after declaring both groups of Ahmadis as non-Muslims, according to the constitution and law, they have the right to practice their religion and express and preach it, provided that they will neither use religious terms for Muslims in public nor present themselves as Muslims in public. "However, they have the right to 'privacy of home' in their houses, places of worship, and specific private institutions within 'reasonable limits' prescribed by law." Explaining his stance, the cleric said: "The term 'tableegh' (to preach) was used in paragraph 42, which meant that unconditional permission was granted."

Upon hearing that, CJP Isa read out section 298 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) which details punishment for a person who with the "deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings" of a person, "utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person or makes any gesture in the sight of that person or

places any object in the sight of that person". In response, Mufti Usmani pointed out that as per Section 298, "a non-Muslim was not allowed to preach while posing as a Muslim". He said that since the Ahmadiyya community was "among the minority but do not identify themselves as non-Muslims", section 298 of the PPC did not apply, therefore, paragraph 42 of the judgement needed to be rectified. "Taqi Usmani sahib, I apologise. I want to clarify that those who were issued notices had submitted many documents to us. If we had reviewed them in detail, then perhaps an entire book would have been made out of that decision," the CJP said in his response to Usmani.

"I could not review all those documents, which is my mistake. Point out the mistakes and your objections to the court order to us. If we do not understand something, we will ask," the top judge added. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa observed that Pakistan was an Islamic republic, hence the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) ahadith were referred to in court orders. "I am not above any mistake," CJP Isa acknowledged. He observed that "lengthy verdicts" were needed to be writ-

ten in such matters. The top judge highlighted that the Feb 6 decision was "now left behind" after the court reviewed it. "Now we must look ahead," he said.

"My stance is that we usually give examples of America and Britain [so] why should we not give our own?" the chief justice asked. "If someone does not appear for a matriculation exam, he also does not risk failing in it," he remarked.

Here, Mufti Usmani said, "You should have given more time to the real issue than the issues decided in the order." Meanwhile, in his arguments, Maulana Fazlur Rehman noted that the court had so far held "many hearings" and now was having a "review" of its decision. At this, Justice Isa pointed out that it was not a "review", to which the JUI-F chief replied that it was a "third view" of the court's decision. Maulana Fazlur Rehman highlighted that various scholars and the CII had come forward with their opinions against the SC's ruling. Noting that Maulana Fazlur Rehman had used the plural form of "decision", CJP Isa asked him if there were more verdicts under consideration. To this, Maulana Fazlur Rehman asked the court to ignore the use of the plural. SABAH