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Federal Minister for Law and Justice
Azam Nazeer Tarar

Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China: COAS General Syed Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI: General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters today. The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation.

COAS General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between the two nations. The visiting dignitary expressed admiration for Pakistan's concerted efforts in combating terrorism and extremism, acknowledging the unwavering professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Army.

COAS General Syed Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to the dignitary, reiterating that Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China. Earlier, upon arrival at the General Headquarters, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath, and was presented with a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army, in a ceremonial display of respect and hospitality. PR

FS Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi to represent Pakistan at the 50th session of CFM in Yaoundé, Cameroon: FO Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi will lead the Pakistan delegation at the 50th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) being held from 29-30 August 2024 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. According to a statement issued by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Monday, at the CFM, the Foreign Secretary will share Pakistan's perspective on the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the dire humanitarian situation there; Israel's adventurism in the region that is threatening peace in the Middle East; and the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He will also underline the imperatives of solidarity and unity of the Ummah; rising Islamophobia and xenophobia in various parts of the world; issues of climate change, terrorism and other contemporary global challenges. On the sidelines, the Foreign Secretary will hold bilateral interactions with his counterparts from participating OIC member states. SABAH



RAWALPINDI: General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters today.

Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, calls on PM Shehbaz Sharif

PM appreciates Jansher Khan's achievements



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China General Li Qiaoming Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and trusted friends.

The prime minister highlighted that the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable

for the progress and development of both countries.

He expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges, noting that the defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region. These relations form the foundation of their bilateral relationship.

General Li, in his remarks, affirmed that China, as an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan.

He expressed China's desire to elevate their bilateral friendship to new levels of cooperation and collaboration. Recognizing the role of Pakistan's armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability and combating

terrorism, General Li reiterated the PLA's commitment to further expanding its cooperation with Pakistan to enhance the capacity building of the two armed forces.

The two sides focused on various aspects of the Pakistan-China friendship, particularly the bilateral defense and strategic partnership.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday lauded former Squash World and British Open champion, Jansher Khan's contributions and achievements in the field of sports.

The prime minister said that Jansher Khan's efforts in popularizing the game of Squash and its promotion in the country were worth appreciation as he had brought laurels to the country, adding the entire nation was proud of his achievements.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with former eight times Squash World Champion and six times British Open Champion, who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister reiterated that the government was taking tangible steps for the promotion of Squash and other sports in the country, adding that provision of best facilities in the fields of games and sports were among the government's top priorities.

He also directed the relevant authorities of taking all possible steps for the treatment of former champion.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb stresses the govt's focus on transforming Pakistan into an export-led economy

Reiterates the commitment of govt for making Pak's investment climate favourable & conducive for foreign investors

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Antti Partanen, a representative from FinnFund, a Finnish development financier. The meeting focused on exploring potential investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Finance Minister underscored the significant improvements in Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators and highlighted the government's structural reform agenda, including the digitalization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), energy sector reforms, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms, and privatization measures. He stressed the government's focus on transforming Pakistan into an export-led economy and attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to enhance the country's export base.

Antti Partanen presented an overview of FinnFund's profile and investment initiatives in Pakistan, emphasizing their interest in digital infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, and forestry. He noted that Pakistan's growing young population makes it an attractive destination for financing and expressed FinnFund's willingness to explore investments in various sectors of the country. The Minister reiterated the commitment of the government for making Pakistan's investment climate favourable and conducive for foreign investors.

Meanwhile Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP) at the Finance Division on Monday. The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Parvez Malik, Chairman FBR, Secretary EAD, Secretary PD&SI, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Ms. Tania Airdus CEO Waseela, Salman Nasir CEO Ayesha Spinning Mills Ltd., Kamran Khalid Chief Product Officer Netsol Technologies, senior officers from concerned ministries and FBR, and key stakeholders from the private sector and relevant agencies.

The meeting focused on strategies to enhance Pakistan's revenue generation capacity. During the meeting, participants discussed various initiatives and reforms aimed at broadening the tax base, improving tax compliance, and reducing revenue leakages. The committee explored innovative approaches to enhance the efficiency of tax collection mechanisms and ensure equitable distribution of the tax burden. The Steering Committee Meeting concluded with a strong consensus on the need for concerted efforts to implement the PRRP and achieve its objectives. The government will continue to engage with stakeholders and take necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of the program. SABAH

23 passengers killed after being forcibly offloaded from their vehicles by armed assailants in Balochistan's Musakhel district

President Zardari, PM Shehbaz, others leaders hit out at the terrorists who snuffed lights out of lives of innocent people

MUSAKHEL: In a horrifying incident in Balochistan's Musakhel district, 23 passengers were killed after being forcibly offloaded from their vehicles by armed assailants. According to Musakhel SP Ayub Achakzai, the attack occurred at a checkpoint set up by the armed men on the inter-provincial highway near Rarah Sham area of Khangri, about two kilometres from Dera Ghazi Road. The assailants forced passengers off trucks and buses and shot them after identifying them. The attackers also set fire to 10 vehicles before fleeing the scene.

Police and levies forces arrived promptly and transported the bodies to a hospital. Most of the deceased were reported to be from Punjab. Speaking during a private TV channel, Balochistan government's spokesperson Shahid Rind said that the militants had attacked on two to three fonts where they faced retaliation and resistance from the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs). However, he added, that the terrorists exploited the dark to carry out the Musakhel attack where they offloaded the passengers from the buses and shot them after identification.

Underscoring the provincial government's resolve to address the law and order issue, Rind said that Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan Bugti had summoned a meeting wherein "important decisions" would be made. "To find a way out of this situation, a wholesome approach is required by any political government or security forces and support is needed from all schools of thought," he said. Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari hit out at the terrorists who snuffed lights out of lives of innocent people. They expressed grief over the loss of lives and said it was the murder of humanity. They offered condolences to the bereaved families and resolved to bring the perpetrators to justice. The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure best possible treatment of the injured. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also condemned the terrorist attack in the strongest terms and expressed deep sympathy and condolences to the victims' families. Naqvi stated that the terrorists demonstrated extreme cruelty by targeting the innocent people

near Musakhel. He pledged that the terrorists and their accomplices would face severe consequences. The minister also acknowledged the immense sacrifices made by security forces and all segments of society in the ongoing fight against terrorism. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the incident of terrorism. He expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those who died in the cowardly act of terrorists, according to a statement issued from his office. The terrorists and their facilitators will not be able to escape an exemplary end, he said, adding that the Balochistan government will pursue the terrorists.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar Advocate strongly condemned the brutality of the terrorists. "The terrorists showed brutality by targeting innocent passengers near Musakhel," he was quoted as saying in a statement on X posted by PML-N. "The terrorists and their facilitators will not be able to escape an exemplary end," he said. Attaullah Tarar said the terrorists showed brutality by targeting innocent passengers. He said the terrorists and facilitators involved in this incident will be brought to justice. He expressed heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families. Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori termed the incident worrying, saying: "No matter how much this incident is condemned, it is not enough.

"Killing passengers by offloading them from the bus is the worst kind of brutality," he said in a statement on X. "The elements involved in this abominable act will reach their end," he said. "With the support of the people, the security forces will eliminate these elements soon." Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz have also condemned the terrorist attack and expressed deep sorrow on the tragic incident. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur have strongly condemned the terrorist incident in Musakhel district of Balochistan. In separate statements in Peshawar on Monday, they both expressed grief over the killing of twenty-three passengers after their identification in the incident. SABAH

No constitutional amendment can be made in joint session: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, clarified on Monday that no constitutional amendment can be made during a joint session of Parliament, dismissing all rumors on the matter as baseless. Addressing the National Assembly Business Advisory Committee (BAC), he said, "No constitutional amendment can be made during the joint session of Parliament, and all rumors suggesting otherwise are entirely baseless."

The committee also decided that the current National Assembly session would continue for two weeks, with the possibility of adjusting the duration if necessary. There was a suggestion to convene a joint session of Parliament next week, either on Wednesday or Thursday. Members of the committee praised the role of Parliament, religious scholars, and others in matters related to the Khatm-e-Nubuwwat case. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated that Khatm-e-Nubuwwat is an integral part of faith and cannot be compromised. The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, and several Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and others.

Govt will be able to reduce power tariff within one year: Sardar Awais Leghari

Says issues of tariff & capacity charges will be resolved keeping in view the relevant laws & taking all the stake holders into confidence

MULTAN: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari said that government is trying its best to resolve issues relating to power sector and complaints of electricity consumers.

Talking to media in Multan on Monday, Awais Leghari said that government will be able to reduce power tariff within one year.

He said that steps are being taken to reduce electricity theft up to 40 percent as compared to the last financial year.

Sardar Awais Leghari said that WAPDA is going to introduce prepaid meters for the consumers so that they could use electricity according to their affordability.

He said the issues of tariff and capacity charges will be resolved keeping in view the relevant



laws and taking all the stake holders into confidence.

He said that distribution companies have been directed to solve the complaints of consumers at earliest and improve their customer care and complaint centers. SABAH

21 terrorists killed in retaliatory operation in Balochistan: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: As many as 21 terrorists were killed as security forces launched retaliatory operations after attacks of militants in different areas of Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday.

According to military's media wing, the terrorists attempted to conduct numerous heinous activities in Balochistan on Sunday-Monday midnight. "The cowardly attacks conducted on behalf of inimical and hostile forces were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting mainly the innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Lasbela Districts. Resultantly, numerous innocent civil-



ians embraced martyrdom," the statement read.

It further stated that in Musa Khel District, terrorists stopped a bus in the general area Rara Sham and maliciously targeted innocent citizens, working in Balochistan to earn their

livelihood. The ISPR said, "Security forces and law enforcement agencies immediately responded and successfully thwarted the evil design of terrorists and sent twenty-one terrorists to hell in ensuing clearance operations, ensuring security and protection of local populace. However, during the conduct of operations, 14 brave sons of soil including 10 security forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies, having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom."

The Sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists. The military vowed that the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators, and

abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts, targeting innocent civilians, will be brought to justice.

"Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the statement concluded.

At least 38 people, including police and Levies personnel, were martyred in different gun attack incidents in Balochistan's Kalat, Musakhel and Bolan districts. Eight people, including Balochistan Levies personnel, were martyred in different incidents in Kalat district on Sunday night, said police. PR

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Not my vote

MAURA FINKELSTEIN

I registered to vote in 1998, and I have voted Democrat ever since. I have not always felt good about the candidates on the Democratic ticket. In fact, I have usually felt angry, disillusioned, disappointed and dirty after casting my vote. Still, it felt like part of the job of being a citizen of a pseudo-democracy. It was not the only work to be done, but it was something. This November, however, I plan not to vote for the Democrats in the election. If the party's presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, does not change her policy on Israel, I will not be casting a ballot for her. And I will not be the only one. More than 700,000 Americans have cast an "uncommitted" vote in the Democratic primaries, demonstrating their rejection of the Democratic Party's "ironclad" support for Israel. If Harris wants the progressive vote, she has to support an arms embargo on Israel and stop funding the Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. This is a red line for many of us who have not bought into her liberal cult of personality. When President Joe Biden finally dropped out as the 2024 Democratic nominee on July 21, I was not one of the many people celebrating his endorsement of the vice president. Harris was on the wrong side of history as San Francisco's district attorney when she opposed criminal justice reform, and she has been on the wrong side of history in regards to Israel, which she is a staunch supporter of. Still, a small part of me hoped she would be savvy enough to understand the power of the "uncommitted" movement – which is conditioning voting on support for an embargo on Israel and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza – and the level of outrage felt by those opposed to the ongoing genocide, funded these past 10 months by US aid. I was wrong. At a rally in Detroit on August 7, Harris was met by a group of anti-genocide, pro-Palestine protesters chanting, "Kamala, Kamala, you can't hide! We won't vote for genocide!" In a democracy, this is a perfectly reasonable and acceptable (if not necessary) action. Politicians serve the people, and the people have the right (and the responsibility) to make demands on their political leaders, especially when the latter are asking for their votes and campaign donations. Yet Harris decided to respond: "You know what? If you want Donald Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking." What purpose does this attitude serve? The protesters were merely expressing their demand that Harris pledge to stop arming Israel amid its genocidal war on Gaza. A war that has brought the official death toll in Gaza to more than 40,000; some estimates project that number to reach 186,000 or even higher. A war that has put one million children at risk of famine, according to the international nonprofit organisation Save the Children. A war that has decimated Gaza's health sector, bringing back polio infections for the first time in 25 years. Many of us spend our days scrolling through the most horrific images imaginable – toddlers beheaded by Israeli air strikes, people burned alive in their tents, emaciated children who die of starvation, political prisoners brutally raped by Israeli soldiers. The atrocities go on and on. My days and nights are haunted by these images, and none of this would be possible without US aid, without our tax dollars. But Harris doesn't want to engage these very reasonable demands – to stop funding this slaughter, this genocide, this horrific violence. Instead, she wants to be celebrated for being charismatic, for her affect, for her vibes. This politics-as-vibes is not new. It is nothing more than celebrity culture bleeding into politics. Another word for it is fascism. I am reminded of Erik Larson's 2011 book *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*, which tells the story of William Dodd, the US ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1937 and his family. Over the years since the book was published, I have thought occasionally of Dodd and often of his daughter, Martha, who accompanied him to Berlin. The ambassador was chairman of the history department at the University of Chicago at the time of his appointment, and he just wanted to be left alone to finish his book about the antebellum American South. He was somewhat concerned but not too alarmed about what was happening in Germany, telling President Franklin Roosevelt, "Give men a chance to try their schemes" as the Nazi Party prepared to deny Jews citizenship. Martha, on the other hand, was swept up by the "glamour" of the Nazi Party and its social scene. So many liberals I know are a form of William or Martha Dodd. Like William, they are either too consumed with their own comfort to care too much about the daily atrocities experienced and endured by Palestinians, or, like Martha, they approach politics through the frame of celebrity culture and good feelings, happy to fangirl Harris, whose charisma and Beyoncé-scored inspire-ads overwhelm the pesky reality of genocide. This is, after all, about feeling good. "Don't spoil our fun!" they scream at me (and so many others) on social media. This anti-outrage is deafening. But you cannot just live off vibes. In a memoir written a few years after she left Nazi Germany, Martha admitted to just not really liking Jews all that much. This casual anti-Semitism foreshadows today's liberal attitudes towards Palestinians, a disregard rooted in Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism, which is driving a genocide. This is a make-or-break moment – we must pressure the Democrats to change their position on Gaza before the elections in November. While we should all be doing absolutely everything we can to stop the genocide, the bare minimum right now is demanding that a presidential hopeful, in need of our votes, commits to ending US funds to Israel. It is not that complicated. Harris may be the lesser of two evils when it comes to Donald Trump, but the lesser of two evils is still evil. If she wants to win in November, she needs to give us more than vibes and celebrity culture – she needs to make a real commitment to ending the genocide in Gaza, first and foremost by not funding it. Anything less than this will lose her the progressive vote and, quite possibly, the presidency. If this happens, the liberals across the country will likely blame a nebulous "leftist-progressive" block, but in the end, this loss will be on Harris herself.

Originally published as: 'Why I am not voting for Kamala Harris'. Courtesy: Aljazeera.com



CHRIS DOYLE

Time for US to end its ambiguity on Israel-Palestine

As the Democratic National Convention wound down last week, one was left wondering if the positions of either the Biden administration or a potential Kamala Harris White House on Israel-Palestine had become any clearer. It remains a divisive issue within the party. The Palestinian issue was tightly controlled at the convention. Not a single Palestinian-American was permitted to speak. This went down badly, not least with Arab American voters in key states such as Michigan. Even Harris' speech contained the usual carefully constructed ambiguities. She specified the atrocities against Israelis last October but could not name one atrocity, let alone the perpetrator, against the Palestinians. Donald Trump, in contrast, is under close to zero pressure to be anything other than a die-hard supporter of the Israeli far-right coalition government and hostile to Iran. On this issue, he is in a comfort zone. But for President Joe Biden and Harris, Israel-Palestine is a migraine-level headache. Muddling through might be the most apt way to describe Democratic policies. Constructive ambiguity is not a strategy. It is a mechanism to bypass awkward domestic pinch points such as the party's convention and

the November elections. This sort of works on the domestic American scene, but it fails spectacularly when it comes to the Middle East and on the ground. This may come back to hurt Harris in the weeks ahead. This ambiguity has coursed through the hyperactive diplomacy of the last few weeks. Senior US figures and foreign ministers of allied states have all jumped on planes and dutifully done their tours of the region. The messaging is dreadfully familiar: we support Israel's right to defend itself, we urge all parties to pull back and de-escalate, and the people of Gaza have suffered too much. But it is never stated what is causing that suffering. The US markets a ceasefire deal without a ceasefire. Instead of an end to hostilities by all sides, it simply proposes a hostage-prisoner exchange during a pause in Israeli bombardment. None of this impresses the actors in the Middle East. If the US truly wants a ceasefire, it has all the tools required to coerce Israeli acquiescence, should the lead actors in Washington so choose. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for starters, knows the Biden administration is not going to cut the military umbilical cord to Israel, as evidenced by the \$20 billion of arms sales approved this month. He smells weakness in his sleep. He tolerates the US' diplomatic roadshow but never engages with the substance. Biden presented a plan at the end of May claiming it was Israel's, something Netanyahu has never owned up to. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, forever failing in the Middle East, embarrassed himself by declaring last week that Israel had accepted an American "bridging proposal." Netanyahu repeated the trick, his silence speaking volumes about his opposition. Note that we have only vague indications as to the contents of this bridging proposal, which appears more a bridge between the US and Israel than one between belligerents. Anytime a deal approaches, Netanyahu tosses additional obstacles in the way or escalates the regional temperature with a provocative assassination in Beirut, Damascus or Tehran. The latest hurdle is the insistence that Israel retains military control of the Philadelphi Corridor, which itself is a violation of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty. Be in no doubt, Netanyahu has plenty of other landmines and traps to deploy if needed. Even better for the Israeli leader, every time he escalates matters in the region, triggering Iranian threats of retaliation, the US and its loyal states all circle the wagons around Israel and mute their concerns about Gaza. Palestinians see straight through US policy. They cannot see Biden and Blinken as serious as long as they refuse to pressure Israel and continue to supply the bombs that decimate Palestinian schools and hospitals in Gaza. Warm words and empathy are seen for what they are – hollow soundbites. It is seen as sick when Harris says she will "always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself," as if flattening schools acting as shelters is in any way defensive. What should be defining US policy is ending the Israeli decimation of Gaza, which many see as genocide. Playing for time and entertaining Netanyahu's latest posturing is no way forward. It is time for the US to ditch the ambiguity, game-playing and complicity in Israeli atrocities. Crystal clarity must be the order of the day. The US has to read the riot act to its awkward ally. Firstly, no more American planes or bombs should be used to obliterate starving Palestinians in Gaza. Secondly, seek a proper, viable ceasefire deal. There must be an immediate and full cessation of hostilities, with a hostage-prisoner exchange as part of the package, as well as full humanitarian access. Thirdly, the continued Israeli military presence within Gaza has to end, no ifs, no buts and no exceptions. An international presence in Gaza has to be on the agenda. Finally, the US should also make clear that full accountability for all parties in this conflict would have its backing. That decision alone would change the calculations of all parties, not least Israel. The lack of ambiguity would be the game-changer.

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding in London. X: @Doylech

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



Mohammed Ali Jinnah, earlier a prominent Muslim member of the Congress, assumed leadership of the league following his break with Congress leader Mohandas K. Gandhi. A firm believer in the Anglo-Saxon rule of law and a close associate of Iqbal, Jinnah questioned the security of the Muslim minority in an India dominated by essentially Hindu authority. Declaring Islam was endangered by a revived Hindu assertiveness, Jinnah and the league posited a "two-nation theory" that argued Indian Muslims were entitled to – and therefore required – a separate, self-governing state in a reconstituted subcontinent. The British intention to grant self-government to India along the lines of British parliamentary democracy is evident in the Government of India Act of 1935. Up to that time, the question of Hindus and Muslims sharing in the governance of India was generally acceptable, although it was also acknowledged that Hindus more so than Muslims had accommodated themselves to British customs and the

colonial manner of administration. Moreover, following the failed Indian Mutiny, Hindus were more eager to adopt British behaviours and ideas, whereas Indian Muslims bore the brunt of British wrath. The Mughal Empire was formally dissolved in 1858, and its last ruler was banished from the subcontinent. Believing they had been singled out for punishment, India's Muslim population was reluctant to adopt British ways or take advantage of English educational opportunities. As a consequence of these different positions, Hindus advanced under British rule at the expense of their Muslim counterparts, and when Britain opened the civil service to the native population, the Hindus virtually monopolized the postings. Although influential Muslims such as Sayyid Ahmad Khan recognized the growing power imbalance and encouraged Muslims to seek European education and entry into the colonial civil service, they also realized that catching up to the more progressive and advanced Hindus was an impossible task. It was this juxtaposition of an emerging feeling of Hindu superiority and a sustained sense among Muslims of inferiority that the All India Muslim League addressed in its claim to represent the Muslims of India. Unlike other Muslim movements of the period, the Muslim League articulated the sentiments of the attentive and at the same time more moderate elements among India's Muslim population. The Muslim League, with Jinnah as its spokesman, was also the preferred organization from the standpoint of British authority. Unlike Gandhi's practices of civil disobedience, the lawyer Jinnah (who was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, London) was more inclined to promote the rule of law in seeking separation from imperial rule. Jinnah, therefore, was more open to a negotiated settlement, and, indeed, his first instinct was to preserve the unity of India, albeit with adequate safeguards for the Muslim community. For Jinnah, the Lahore (later Pakistan) Resolution of 1940, which called for an independent Mus-

lim state or states in India, did not at first imply the breakup of the Indian union. World War II (1939–45) proved to be the catalyst for an unanticipated change in political power. Under pressure from a variety of popular national movements—notably those organized by the Congress and led by Gandhi—the war-weakened British were forced to consider abandoning India. In response to the Congress campaign that Britain quit India, London sent a mission headed by Sir Richard Stafford Cripps (the Cripps Mission) to New Delhi in early 1942 with the promise that Congress's cooperation in the war effort would be rewarded with greater self-rule and possibly even independence when the war ended. Gandhi and the other Congress leaders, however, could not be appeased, and their insistence that Britain allow for a transfer of power while the war raged produced an impasse and the failure of the mission.

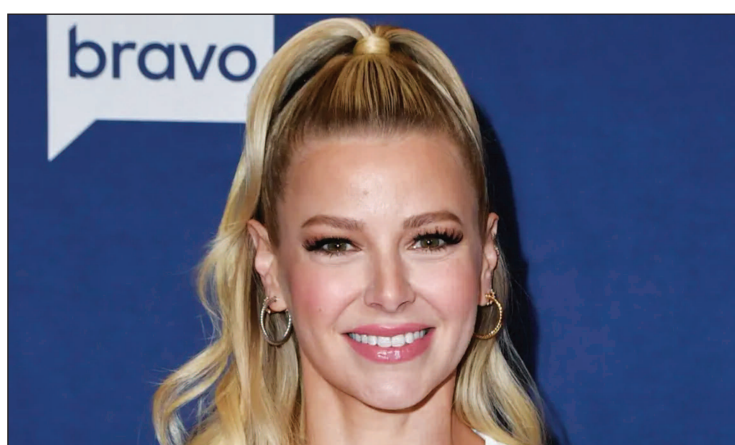
To be continued....

Showbiz

Ariana Madix celebrates 100 shows as Roxie Hart on Broadway

Ariana Madix receives heartfelt messages from boyfriend and *Vanderpump Rules* stars

Ariana Madix took to social media to celebrate a major milestone—100 performances as Roxie Hart in Broadway's *Chicago* Musical. The *Vanderpump Rules* star shared her excitement with her 2.4 million Instagram followers on Friday after reaching the milestone in New York City. "Tonight I hit 100 shows at @chicagomusical, and I'm counting my blessings because I can't believe I get to do this eight times a week," Ariana wrote, pairing her heartfelt message with a black-and-white photo of her character's iconic sparkling heels. She went on to express her gratitude: "Thank you to everyone I'm lucky enough to share the Ambassador The-



atre with, and thank you to every one of you who has come to see the show. Love you, Rox. It sure is heaven, nowadays." In her post, she also took a moment to reflect on her journey in *Chicago*, embracing the support and love from both her castmates and devoted fans as she continues to shine on the Broadway stage. Reflecting on the milestone, the *Vanderpump Rules* star expressed her excitement, writing, "100 ladder climbs, 100 Joe Friscos, 100 baby wows, 100 courtrooms, 100 stage doors, 100 son of a b****s, 100 times on and backstage with the best people."

Tech

Diplomacy takes digital leap

ISLAMABAD: The 21st century has ushered the world into a digital revolution that is reshaping how nations interact and engage with one another and how the artificial intelligence (AI) influences decision-making. Historically, diplomatic communication was a slow and cumbersome process. For millennia, diplomats used to rely on letters, face-to-face meetings, and time-consuming travels. Espionage and intelligence gathering were also a significant challenge, with diplomats needing to protect sensitive information, while trying to understand other countries' positions. The Cuban missile crisis of 1962 served as a stark example of the difficulties faced in the pre-digital diplomacy. The potential for miscommunication highlighted the critical need for timely and effective communication tools, which were lacking at the time. Today, digital tools have revolutionised diplomacy. The rise of new technologies has led to a shift in international communication, diminishing the traditional 'gatekeeper' role of the foreign ministries. Foreign policy communication is now more transparent and publicly engaged. Communication is no longer solely under the control of diplomats, reflecting a broader trend towards transparency and public engagement. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) have brought revolutionary changes to diplomatic practices. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of virtual meeting platforms, demonstrating their potential to enhance diplomatic interactions. For example, the United Nations utilised VR to simulate crisis scenarios and train its peacekeepers, paving the way for a broader adoption of immersive technologies and preventing any disasters. The AR, which overlays digital information onto the real world, has also proven valuable, enhancing productivity and efficiency in diplomatic settings by providing real-time guidance and information. Dr Aneel Salman, Chairperson of Economic Security at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), highlighted the remarkable change the new technologies had brought to the world of diplomacy.

Keto diet linked with better brain health in new research

A potential mechanism supporting the improvements seen in aging male mice on ketogenic or keto diets has been discovered by the researchers. Cycling male mice between a control diet and a ketogenic diet results in an improvement in the signalling that takes place between synapses in the brain, the researchers proposed. Earlier, a proof-of-concept study showed that giving male mice a cyclic ketogenic diet reduced their midlife risk of death and prevented memory decline associated with normal aging. It was published by John Newman, MD, PhD, one of the authors of the paper. "After reading two seminal papers published in 2017 that showed its beneficial roles in the overall health of aged mice, including brain performance, we decided to study the effect of the ketogenic

Diet may not be only good for gut but likely to benefit cognition, motor ability, blood sugar levels

diet," Christian Gonza lez-Billault, professor at the Universidad de Chile, and director of the Geroscience Center for Brain Health and Metabolism (GERO), told Medical News Today. The researchers kept 19 male mice aged 20–23 months, considered as an "old age" in mice, either on a control diet, or a ketogenic diet, cycled with the control diet every other week in order to investigate the previous findings further.

The results revealed that the ketogenic diet was associated with lower blood sugar, improved memory and motor ability in older mice. It was also shown by the researchers that there was improved plasticity in the hippocampus brain region of older mice. "We focus our attention on aged mice because previous work showed that the effect of the diet in young animals was milder and, in some cases, did not show significant differences with a control diet. These previous antecedents suggest that one of the beneficial roles of the diet would be maintaining resilience in aged mice, improving their physiological functions as they age," said Gonza lez-Billault. Additionally, small studies in humans have also suggested that the keto diet is likely to benefit cognition, particularly in older adults with dementia.



Health

SC adjourns case pertaining land dispute

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday adjourned hearing for one month in a case pertaining a land dispute in Chitral. Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, a division bench of the top court heard the case. During the course of proceeding, the CJP noted that the case has been pending for ten years. Addressing the petitioner, he questioned that how he lost his case in three subordinate courts. The petitioner prayed the court to adjourn today's hearing as his lawyer was not available and case file was not with him. The court granted one-month time to the petitioner and adjourned the case.

ECP rejects propaganda against ECE

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), while strongly rejecting propaganda by Umer Ayub Khan, on Monday said that ECP, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other members of ECP have been continuously misrepresenting. In this connection, a wrong statement was given on a TV channel in which an allegation was levelled that total expenditure on general elections 2024 stood at Rs 14.5 billion but the ECP demanded more expenditures to the then government to get an opportunity for postponing the elections, said a statement. In fact, the total expenditure on general elections 2018 was over Rs 28 billion. In light of expenditure on general elections 2018 and other factors like inflation, increase in number of voters, polling stations, polling staff and printing of additional ballot papers, the ECP estimated the expenditure for the general elections 2024, the statement said. However, the ECP made efforts to keep the expenses minimum and the expenditure on general elections 2024 stood at around Rs 33.5 billion. DNA

LDA's adopting digital processes commendable, says CM Maryam

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has praised the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) for launching an online approval system for residential building maps under her guidance. It should be mentioned here that the citizens under the new system were able to obtain approvals from the LDA office or wait in long queues. CM Maryam has commended the LDA for implementing this online system, which includes map approval requests, map uploads, processing, and payment all handled digitally. In the case of objections, corrections can be made online, and the approved map can be downloaded. She emphasized that institutions across Punjab were being digitized to eliminate the file culture in government departments. Maryam Nawaz highlighted that digital reforms at the LDA were progressing rapidly, promising to relieve citizens from the influence of agent mafias and corruption. The Dastak pilot project was yielding excellent results and it will be expanded gradually, she noted. INP

Salik meets Grand Imam in Cairo, proposes enhanced Pakistan-Al-Azhar cooperation

ISLAMABAD: The Grand Imam, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, Sheikh of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, on Monday received Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, at his office on the sidelines of the 35th International Conference of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs being held in Cairo. The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Egypt, Sajid Bilal, and senior officials from Al-Azhar Al-Sharif. During the meeting, Salik briefed the Grand Imam on the efforts of the Government of Pakistan towards promoting interfaith harmony, fostering peace, brotherhood, and unity within the country. He expressed Pakistan's deep respect and admiration for His Eminence, recalling the cherished memories of the Grand Imam's

one-year stay in Pakistan. The discussions also covered potential avenues for further cooperation between Pakistan and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif in promoting a peaceful, progressive, and welfare-oriented interpretation of Islam. The situation in Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and their implications for regional and global peace, were also addressed. The Grand Imam appreciated Pakistan's participation in the conference and welcomed the proposal for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and Al-Azhar in spreading peaceful and progressive Islamic teachings. Both sides agreed to accelerate existing collaborations, ensuring continued interaction in the months ahead. Salik also extended an invitation to the Grand Imam to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Destructive power of geopolitics, hyper-nationalism steering global conflict, obscuring imminent threat of climate change

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday called for urgent climate action while emphasizing that the destructive power of geopolitics and hyper-nationalism, had steered the world towards global conflict, while obscuring the imminent threat of mutually assured destruction posed by climate change. During a seminar on transboundary resilience, Senator Sherry Rehman issued this urgent warning during a pre-COP29 seminar organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), stating that unless immediate action was taken to address the negative impacts of climate change, humanity would be living in a world of "want, lack, and scarcity." The seminar, titled "Strengthening Transboundary Resilience: Enhancing Regional Cooperation," brought together several distinguished experts to discuss critical issues and potential solutions for regional cli-

mate resilience. Keynote speaker, Additional Commissioner of Indus Waters at the Ministry of Water Resources, Usman e Ghani provided an in-depth overview of the Indus Waters Treaty. He highlighted the treaty's various elements, from data sharing to dispute resolution and its lasting relevance as a potential mechanism for transboundary water resilience. Ghani said that the treaty could become a powerful tool for cooperation if both sides fully committed to its implementation. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan, and the session's chair, expressed optimism about the upcoming COP29, hosted by Azerbaijan. He emphasised the importance of global solidarity, the mobilisation of international climate finance and the need for an inclusive process, stating that COP29 will be the most "significant" international event of 2024. UNDP country representative, Dr.

Samuel Rizk addressed the pressing issue of water scarcity, describing it as a defining global challenge. He stressed that water scarcity is a "zero-sum game" and that the central goal of climate diplomacy should be to identify scenarios where all parties can benefit to create win-win situations. Dr. Najibullah Sadid, an independent scholar with experience at the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW), discussed Afghanistan's water issues, including water quality and connectivity with Central Asian states. He called for a long-term vision in policymaking, criticising the current short-sighted approaches in the region. Country director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Farrah Naz highlighted the agricultural challenges facing South Asia, which is already home to 40 per cent of the world's poor and malnourished. She warned that climate change is projected to reduce

crop production by 10-40 per cent in the region by the end of the century, exacerbating food insecurity. Urbanisation, rising sea levels, and increasing soil salinity are all contributing to the region's growing challenges. In his remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of IRS, stressed the necessity of cooperation in the face of global threats, particularly climate change. He noted that climate change transcends borders and has the potential to serve as "low-hanging fruit" in diplomatic negotiations, as it presents a common threat that all parties can rally around. Finally, Talha Tufail Bhatti, an environmental scholar leading the "Strengthening Regional Climate Resilience Program" at the IRS, said that the institute's is looking forward to hosting more seminars of this nature, expressing the importance of continued dialogue and collaboration in the fight against climate change. APP



ISLAMABAD: National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) signed a landmark Joint Venture Agreement with the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). The agreement, which aims to provide specialized training in chip design and manufacturing, was formalized today at NAVTTTC headquarters in Islamabad. The signing ceremony was attended by the Honorable Minister for Federal Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as chief guest.

'PTA announces new initiatives to boost internet accessibility'

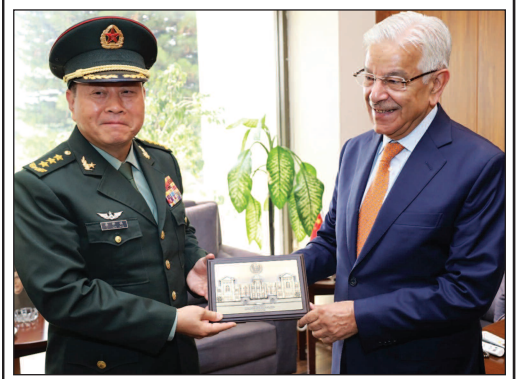


ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly started its session at the Parliament House in Islamabad this evening with Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the chair. The House offered feteiha for the departed souls of officials of security forces and the law enforcement agencies, who embraced martyrdom in various incidents of terrorism. It also prayed for the departed souls of civilians and other people, who died in different incidents and road accidents. The National Assembly was informed today that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority worked out various initiatives to increase accessibility of the public to the internet. Responding to a question during the Question Hour in the House today, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar said PTA has allowed six gigahertz spectrum band for unlicensed operation for Radio Local Area

Network in Pakistan. The Minister further said with unlocking at this band, Pakistan has become the 10th country in Asia Pacific to embrace six gigahertz for WiFi. He said currently, only sixty countries worldwide have unlocked six gigahertz for RLAN WiFi services. Azam Nazeer Tarar said this development aims to facilitate deployment of next generation WiFi technologies across Pakistan, empowering business and individuals with high speed, low latency connectivity. This initiative underscored Pakistan's commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring nationwide access to advanced technologies. The Minister said the PTA has also formulated the telecom infrastructure sharing framework for the growth and sustainability of the telecom sector in Pakistan. Answering another question, Minister for Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the New Gwadar International Airport project is substantially completed and operationalization of the new airport is expected by the end of this year after formal handovers and trials. He

added the New General Aviation Aerodrome near Muridke is substantially completed and will be operational by the end of next month. It is anticipated that general aviation organizations and flying schools will be relocated to the new aerodrome within three to four months. Several reports of various standing committees of the National Assembly were presented before the House. These include: "The State vs. Mubarak Ahmad Sani and another", "The Establishment of Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal Bill, 2024", "The Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024", "The Apostille Bill, 2024", "The Privatization Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024" and "The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2024". According to the statement of objects and reasons, the bill is aimed at amending Section 17(3) of the ICT Local Government Act, 2015 and words "People's Representative Act, 1976" will be substituted with the "Elections Act, 2017. The House adopted a motion electing Sajid Mehdi, Raja Qamar Ul Islam, Ms. Sofia Saeed Shah, Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi and Ms. Shahida Begum as Members of the Board of Governors of National Book Foundation. The National Assembly also adopted another motion, electing Nuzhat Sadiq, Dr. Nafisa Shah and Khawaja Izzar-Ul Hassan as Members of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education.

'China corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy'



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday, during a call on by People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces Commander of China, General Li Qiaoming, said that friendship with China was a corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy based on convergence of views on regional and global issues. The Minister welcomed the Chinese Ground Forces' Commander and appreciated long history of Pak-China relations in all fields, a news release said. He said these relations were focused on welfare of peoples of both countries and not against any other country. He added that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with China. The Minister appreciated existing bilateral mechanisms, like Strategic Dialogue, Consular Consultations and Counter Terrorism Consultations. He mentioned that the strategic relations between the two neighbouring nations were based on mutual trust. He pointed out that Pakistan deeply appreciated China's diplomatic and material support in its fight against terrorism at regional and international fora. Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed the views that Pakistan-China Security Cooperation was pillar of regional stability. Cooperation in security/intelligence sharing had increased amidst growing threats and advent of CPEC, he added. He reiterated that Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan. A peaceful Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan and to the whole region, he added. The visiting dignitary commended Pakistan's efforts in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as Pakistan Armed Forces' role in combating terrorism. Both sides acknowledged the strong relationship between their Armed Forces and committed to further expanding defense collaboration. DNA

Pak Army organizes free medical camp at Tando Adam Sindh

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army organized a free medical camp at Tando Adam in Sanghar district. Doctors from District headquarters hospital Sanghar along with Pakistan Army treated the patients in the medical camp. Laboratory tests including dengue, malaria, hepatitis B and C, pregnancy tests, urine RE, blood sugar and ultrasound were available at the medical camp. The patients were provided with free medicines and supplements along with medical advice. The local people were appreciative of Pakistan Army for organizing the free medical camp. INP

Foreign investment shows confidence in country's economy: Rana Mashhood

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that foreign investments showed remarkable confidence in the country's economy and Pakistan was moving towards the right direction due to the tireless work of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Talking to the media here on Monday, he said that as many as 3,000 new companies had been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in July while foreign investment has been made in 86 companies which was a testament to the improvement in the economy. He said that the provision of maximum relief to the masses was the priority of the government and that it was making all-out efforts to achieve it. The Chairman PMYP expressed hope that the restoration of the economy will soon bring political and financial stability to the country. APP

Abdul Aleem Khan for trade corridor till eastern Europe

Ambassador of Belarus H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa called on federal minister



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields. In the meeting, H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa highlighted the "Transport Week" to be held in Belarus in the coming month of September and its representation from Pakistan. He invited Federal

Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to participate in this inter country event in Belarus. Ambassador of Belarus discussed with Federal Minister regarding Pakistan's participation in the "Joint Memorandum" of transport with Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Ambassador of Belarus H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa discussed joint projects in the fields of communication and transport and reviewed the possibilities of increasing the existing bilateral relations. Talking in the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that mutual relations between Pakistan and Belarus, especially in trade matters can be increased further. He said that a series of trade corridors through transit routes and roads network will be good omen for the entire region. Ambassador of Belarus H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa said that his stay in Pakistan is pleasant, the people are friendly and the vegetables and fruits are excellent. Ambassador of Belarus was given briefing by the Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority on possible cooperation opportunities in transportation and other various ongoing projects related to Afghanistan, China and Central Asian states.

UN urges tripartite dialogue for safe return of Afghan refugees to their homeland



ISLAMABAD: United Nations high level delegation led by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Indrika Ratwatte called on Minister for States and Frontier Regions Division Amir Muqam in Islamabad today. The Minister for SAFRON, welcomed the participants and elaborated Pakistan's role in hosting the Afghan Refugees for four decades. He also outlined the public sentiment after the recent events and Pakistan's stance on safe and voluntary return of Afghan Refugees. Indrika Ratwatte thanked Pakistan for hosting the Afghan refugees for over 40 years and acknowledged the fact that it has stretched its

resources to share this burden. He also informed that during his recent visit to Kabul, he was engaged with the Interim Afghan Government, and convinced them to create a conducive environment for the returning Afghan refugees. Furthermore, he stressed that the Pakistan, through Ministry of SAFRON may like to consider the Afghanistan's request for a dialogue in the Tripartite meeting which can be instrumental in finding a sustainable solution to the ongoing Afghan refugees' safe return. Minister for SAFRON Amir Muqam agreed to the fact that the solution for Afghan refugees issues lies in a safe and peaceful Afghanistan. He informed that Pakistan has made all sincere efforts in providing extension to the registered Afghan Refugees however the international community should also share the burden now and fulfil its commitments especially with regards to the 3rd country resettlement cases.