



The Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and Law Enforcement Agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias

Chief of Army Staff, General **Syed Asim Munir**

ECNEC approves six mega projects worth Rs. 178.1 bn



ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Tuesday approved six major development projects worth Rs 178.1 billion, spanning the sectors of health, agriculture, energy, and transport.

The ECNEC meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad, approved the major projects, including the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment & Research in Lahore, with an allocated budget of Rs. 52,772.520 million.

The project will be financed through the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the Government of Punjab. According to the Office of the DPM, the PC-I envisaged provision of low cost quality and comprehensive Cancer treatment through a 915-bed Institute of Cancer and Research located in Lahore. The Cancer treatment related healthcare services will be integrating various modalities such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and palliative care.

Project also plans to accommodate patients having terminal illness in the hospital. The project will engage highly qualified personnel such as medical and engineering professionals, technologists and administrative workforce. The project is being constructed on Government owned land.

ECNEC also approved the Sindh Livestock and Aquaculture Development Project, with a budget of Rs. 38,360 million, financed through assistance from the World Bank.

The project has two pillars and will support adoption of best management practices through institutional strengthening of livestock and fisheries sector, as well as promoting climate-smart production, value chain development, and inclusive access to markets for dairy, meat, animal products, and fisheries.

Another approved project is the construction of the 84 MW Gorkin Matiltan Hydropower Project (Revised), with a budget of Rs. 35,758 million. It will be financed 20% through the provincial Annual Development Programme (ADP) and 80% through the KP Hydel Development Fund.

The ECNEC also approved several projects in the Transport and Communications sector, including the construction and widening of the 25 km Sibitalli Road and the 91 km Kohlu-Rakhni Road (Revised), with a combined cost of Rs. 8,401.227 million.

Additionally, the upgradation of the 64 km Jaglot-Sakradu Road (S-I) was approved, with a budget of Rs. 33,270.600 million. Another approved project is the construction of the Rathoua Haryam Bridge across the Reservoir Channel on the Mirpur-Islamabad Road, costing Rs. 9,239.534 million.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Cabinet endorses Trade Framework Agreement between Pakistan, Southern Common Market

MQM delegation meets PM; lauds pro-business, export growth policies

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday gave ex-post facto approval and endorsed the signing of Trade Framework Agreement between Pakistan and Mercosur, a South American trade bloc comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. The prime minister, who chaired the meeting of the federal cabinet, said that the South American Market could prove advantageous for the Pakistani products which could not be explored yet, he remarked.

He instructed the authorities concerned to swiftly pursue the agreements and MoUs related to the economy which had been pending for long.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the inflation rate declined to single digit in August this year and appreciated the finance ministry, State Bank governor and other allied departments for their efforts in this regard.

Calling for more efforts to bring in economic stability, the prime minister said that the creation of employment opportunities was among government's priorities.

The federal cabinet approved the signing of an MoU between the Pakistan's Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and Albania's Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs for bilateral political consultation.

On the foreign ministry's recommendation, the cabinet also endorsed the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) 2010. The body approved extension in the tenure of Syed Junaid Ikhlag, Senior Joint Secretary of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training as Chairman of Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), till the appointment of a regular officer on the post.

The federal cabinet formed a committee to discuss the drafts of the Religious Tolerance and Interfaith Harmony Policy that will present its report within a month after consultation with all stakeholders.

The meeting also endorsed the decisions of Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases made in its meeting on August 26, 2024.

The cabinet members also offered Fateha for Member of National Assembly late Rana Afzaal Hussain, the brother of Federal Industries and Production Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Meanwhile, A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and appreciated his economic policies which led to the reduction in the inflation rate to a single-digit.

The MQM delegation, which was headed by party chairman and Minister for Science and Technology, Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and comprised MNAs Dr Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Syed Aminul Haq, also lauded the prime minister's business-friendly policies and measures to boost country's exports, according to a PM Office press release.

The delegation members put forward their proposals for economic development and uplift of the people of the country's economic hubs particularly those of Karachi. Calling the MQM a key coalition partner, the prime minister said that the work on national development initiatives was at a swift pace in coordination with the coalition parties.

He assured the delegation that the resolution of the issues confronting Karachi city was among the government's priorities for it being the most important one and a backbone of the national economy.

Pakistan Navy to observe two newly built warships induction in national fleet on Defence Day



RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Navy is going to observe induction of two newly built warships in the national fleet amid a massive increase in naval defense capabilities; on the occasion of Defence Day.

Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Babar and PNS Hunain will join the fleet of Pakistan Navy simultaneously, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

PNS Babar, the first Miljumb/Babar class ship being built in Turkiye, will officially become part of the Pakistan Navy.

PNS Hunain, the third offshore patrol vessel built in Romania, will also join the Pakistan Navy fleet.

The construction of PNS Babar started on 4th June 2020. PNS Babar was launched on 15th August 2021 while commissioning took place on 23rd September 2023.

Four Babur class ships equipped with vertical launching system are being inducted into Pakistan Navy.

Under the Pak-Turkiye agreement, two ships are being built in Istanbul and two in Karachi.

Three other Babur class ships PNS Badr, Tariq and Khyber are currently in various stages of preparation. The Babur class ship is capable of fighting on surface, underwater and air simultaneously. The 2888-tonne Babur-class ship can counter air threats by vertical launch system.

The third Yarmouk-class offshore patrol vessel (OPV) 2600 for the Pakistan Navy has also been built at Galati Shipyard in Romania.

The last two OPVs have a displacement of 2600 tons compared to the first two ships of the Yarmouk class. The Yarmouk class ships have the status of Guided Missile Corvettes in the Pakistan Navy due to their unmatched capabilities.

All ships of the Yarmouk class, including PNS Hunain, are suitable for surface and air warfare as well as search and rescue operations. The 98 meter long PNS Haneen has a speed of around 24 knots.

With the help of vertical launching system, PNS Hunain can launch surface-to-air missiles. Along with the 76 mm main , PNS Haneen is also equipped with two 20 mm secondary guns. All four ships of the Yarmouk class have been attributed to important battles in Islamic history. After PNS Yarmouk and Tabuk, PNS Hunain will also be the best addition to the strength and capabilities of Pakistan Navy. PNS Yamama, the fourth and final vessel of the Yarmouk class, is undergoing completion after its launch in February this year. The Babur class ships are the epitome of Pakistan-Turkiye defence cooperation. And there is evidence of a defense partnership between the two countries. PR

Rs 23 bln USF, Rs 3.960 bln Ignite budgets approved



ISLAMABAD: The Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee approved a budget of Rs. 23 billion for the financial year 2024-25 during its 50th policy meeting on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, with Secretary IT Azfar Manzoor also in attendance, said a news release.

The committee also approved the release of the first quarter's budget for the current financial year, amounting to Rs. 5.5 billion, to the USF. USF Chief Executive Officer Chaudhary Mudassar Naveed briefed the meeting on ongoing and future projects. Shaza Fatima Khawaja also presided over the 44th Ignite Policy Committee meeting, where a budget of Rs. 3.960 billion for FY 2024-25 was approved for Ignite. The committee further authorized the release of the first quarter's budget of Rs. 639.87 million to Ignite. During the meeting, Ignite officials provided updates on current and upcoming programs.

Govt working on right sizing of institutions to streamline system, says Qaiser

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday said that the government is working on right sizing of the institutions to streamline the system.

All such entities which are not producing results would be restructured without further delay, he said while talking to PTV.

The government has already taken austerity measures to strengthen national economy and national institutions, he said.

About Pakistan Steel Mills, he said, we have evolved a mechanism so that all such organizations could be made profitable or announce golden handshake for the employees drawing salaries from these non-profitable departments.

In reply to a question about extra expenditure and unnecessary facilities to some officials, he said that all out efforts are being made to avoid wastage of national money. APP

Aurangzeb vows to continue with tax reforms, rightsizing for macroeconomic stability

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's resolve to carry forward the reforms agenda, aiming at broadening of the tax base and rightsizing of the federal government to achieve macroeconomic stability what he called 'basic hygiene' for sustainable growth.

In a televised message, the minister said 43 percent of sectors in the economy were paying less than 1 percent tax, curtailing the tax to GDP ratio to as low as 8.8 percent adding that this ratio needed to be lifted up to over 13 percent. The minister requested all the potential taxpayers to come forward and contribute in country's economy. He particularly requested wholesalers, retailers and distributors to contribute in the economic uplift of the country, adding the government would try its best to bring simplicity in tax system and accommodate their recommendations.

However, the minister stated in clear terms that government was not going to take back its decision as it would be counterproductive and cre-

ate difficulties for other sectors. "One thing I want to be very clear, this is not going to be taken back, because if we do this, the other sectors, who are annoyed, would go in further difficulties."

The minister, who is also Chairman of High-Powered Committee on Rightsizing of the Federal Government, also expressed resolve to right-size different ministries and autonomous bodies to bring down the size of federal government. He said six ministries have been given two weeks to prepare implementation plan for rightsizing, keeping in view their employees, resources, properties and litigation matters. "Once the programme is executed, other ministries would be taken for the same process."

He said, ministries and autonomous bodies were given opportunity to share their performance and justify what they have contributed in national economy. He said, the government would need to bring legislative changes in Civil Servant Act 1973 with the help of coalition partners to carry forward the rightsizing process smoothly. APP

Corps Commanders' Conference underscores critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent measures

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army's Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held here at GHQ on Tuesday underscored the critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent cybersecurity measures.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presided over the Corps Commanders' Conference, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. At the commencement of the conference, the participants offered Fateha and paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuit of peace and stability of Pakistan.

The forum was briefed on the prevailing geo-strategic environment, national security challenges, and strategic and operational responses to emerging threats.

In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the forum deliberated on a range of measures to neutralize these threats.

The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army, with the unwavering support of the people, will not allow the hard-earned successes against terrorism to be reversed.

The forum emphasized that the Army is a disciplined institution, upholding the



highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and loyalty to the state and institution.

The institution's well-established and rigorous system of accountability ensures that these values are preserved with unwavering commitment, allowing no room for exceptions or partiality.

This strict adherence to accountability fortifies the Army's integrity, ensuring that no individual is above the law or exempt from scrutiny.

Recognizing the urgency and significance of a robust and effective legal system, COAS emphasized that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and Law Enforcement Agencies in tak-

ing swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias.

The forum also expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against illegal spectrum operating in collusion with terrorist networks.

In a show of solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, who continue to suffer gross human rights violations, the forum honored the martyrs of the Freedom Movement. The blatant continued violence and genocide of Palestinians by Israel were also condemned in the strongest terms.

The forum expressed confidence in the operational preparedness and readiness of the Pakistan Army and vowed to continue to uphold the standards in pursuit of professional excellence.

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Climate exodus

AYIZA RAHMAN

This year has been a year of elections, the most ever observed in a calendar year in international history. It has also been a year of increasing far-right populism. A common theme across all elections has been increasing rightwing populism, fanning the flames of anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies. Over time, this has cultivated hostile anti-immigrant and anti-asylum sentiments. Ahead of the EU vote, far-right parties gained significant traction, where anti-immigrant platforms were leading the polls in countries such as France and Germany.

A key driver of this shift is populist rhetoric framing immigrants as threats to national identity and security. This further exacerbates public fears amid growing economic instability. A recent manifestation of this was the Islamophobia-driven pogroms ablaze in the UK proving the result of such divisive political rhetoric.

As climate disasters become one of the leading drivers of migration, what will this mean for the future of global migration and refugee crises? Slow-onset events such as droughts, rising temperatures and sea levels, and sudden disasters, like glacial lake outburst floods and the adjacent costs of the loss and damage, will be contributors to the largest exodus of displaced people in the coming years.

Such stressors hit agrarian societies like Pakistan hardest, exacerbating food insecurity and destroying community livelihoods, forcing migrations to urban centers and eventually abroad. Climate migrations are already taking place across the globe in high-risk regions. The poorest in the world are being forced to escape their homes because of the Global North hegemony that is predominantly responsible for the climate crisis in the first place.

However, developing legal and safe immigration pathways for climate migrants is not a palatable political concept. Instead, populism necessitates the clamping down of already militarized borders, the pursuit of strengthened anti-immigrant laws, and painting those seeking a better life as a threat to their economy, livelihoods, and society at large.

Seven of the world's biggest GHG emitters collectively spent \$33 billion on border and immigration enforcement during 2013-2018, which is twice the amount they spent on climate finance for disasters in the Global South.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was the first to establish the link between climate and migration but met with much resistance from countries fearing it would encourage illegal immigration. It took a decade of dialogue for climate-driven migration to finally be part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Before the loss and damage and adaptation agreements, the plight of migrants was invisible on the agenda. It was not until COP21 that the Task Force on Displacement was established. Although it's a start, there is a long and perilous road ahead.

A major bottleneck is also the lack of clarity on a legally binding definition of what constitutes a climate migrant. They are not covered by the existing 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 addendum relating to the status of refugees, which grants them eligible and legal grounds for protection. The far-right has already drawn borders on what constitutes deserving refugees and migrants, leaving further ambiguity about climate migrants. Our colonial histories, multinational fossil fuel corporations, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and militant border securities are tools of the Global North to build a wall against future migrants and refugees. There is much historical precedent to suggest the West would be hesitant against forced migrants. Examples include the brutal treatment of asylum seekers trapped in Australia's Christmas Island detention centre or the hostility faced by Syrian and Palestinian refugees fleeing war to Greece on lifeboats in inhumane conditions. The lives lost became just another drop in the ocean. These are not examples in silos, but a continuum revealing a larger anti-immigrant pattern.

Mass migration is not new to the Subcontinent given our histories with partition, but future migration patterns will be informed by changing climate. In South Asia, this will largely be internal displacement. According to the Global Report on Internal Displacement, as of 2022 South Asia recorded a total of 12.6 million internal displacements by disaster, 90 per cent of which were triggered by floods. Pakistan had one of the highest numbers of internal displacements caused by disaster, with a record 8.2 million movements predominantly caused by the 2022 floods.

Addressing climate displacement demands mobilizing climate finance to fund local adaptation relative to mitigation, ensuring frontline communities are protected and not forced into migration. The government must leverage climate financing, strengthen locally led adaptation efforts, invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, improve disaster warning systems, and meet mitigation targets to offset future calamities.

Given the ambiguity around the status of climate migrants, a holistic and legally binding definition is crucial. Instead of hardening borders and fueling anti-immigrant narratives, the West has a moral obligation to assist victims of climate injustices. Some countries are now considering climate visas to facilitate migration and residency for those displaced by climate change. The effects of climate change are a transboundary and national security issue requiring regional cooperation, information sharing, and policies that support safe and legal immigration pathways for those most vulnerable to disasters.

The writer is a development and policy graduate with an interest in climate change and its various intersections. She can be reached at: ayiza.rahman97@gmail.com



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

The university camel race

put them in a search committee. In Punjab, search committees are bound by short-listing criteria that comprise: academic qualifications like the ranking of the university the applicant earned their PhD degree from (weighted 35 per cent); professional and leadership experience like experience as senior academic, management in teaching/research or leadership (CXO, DG) at a large public/private organization (weighted 30 per cent); and publications such as research articles in conferences, journals, books/book chapters and patents (weighted 35 per cent). Other provinces use similar shortlisting methodologies, though weights may vary a bit. Note that the third criterion disqualifies almost anyone who does not have a background in academia.

KP and Balochistan have added other score categories for their shortlisting, such as awards/honours and financial management. Short-listed candidates advance to the interview stage in which candidates are evaluated on another three criteria: The first one is 'strategic vision and leadership abilities' (35 per cent). Its description includes "plans for growth and progress of the institution ... keeping in view specific needs", "leadership abilities and managing change, strategic planning" and an "ability to create a peaceful environment". Providing supporting evidence will favour applicants who have been previously appointed to a VC position. In part, that is why the pool of applicants for VC openings is a large pool of current VCs (with some new entrants) – a game of musical chairs.

The second is 'knowledge pertaining to higher education' (35 per cent). It is described as "knowledge of major developments, trends and challenges in higher education", "significant international exposure and ability to create linkages", and "understanding scholarly purposes of a university" – all things that can be acquired by paying attention to ongoing debates in higher education and reading a good book. Even then, looking at the constitution of 'search' committees raises the questions, are they competent to evaluate

the responses? The third is 'personal traits', described as communication, presentation, team building, and conflict management skills (30 per cent). That is a lot of ground to cover meaningfully in an interview. A recent search committee conducted 38 VC interviews in a single day. Even if the committee worked for 12 hours back-to-back that day, that comes to a little over 18 minutes per candidate. I cannot imagine what the committee could have learned in that time to let them make a confident recommendation for such a high-stakes appointment.

The bottom line is that there is a mismatch between what the search committees evaluate applicants on, and the problems VCs must face once they are in office. The challenge confronting all public universities is financial sustainability and (in cases further along) insolvency. Financial management is included in the evaluation criteria, but it is only one of a laundry list of items, but perhaps the only one that has mattered for years.

What has this long-standing search process wrought us? Last year, I had the opportunity to read through hundreds of plans VC candidates had submitted for openings at several public universities in Islamabad. With each plan I read, my reactions oscillated between bewilderment and disappointment. These so-called plans were just items on the application submission checklist – something that had to be included but without any serious thought given. In the same vein, the inclusion of financial management is just lip service. Just this past Saturday, Dr Riaz Ahmed, an associate professor of Applied Chemistry at the University of Karachi, and member of the university syndicate, was 'disappeared' and detained by the police for hours – without charge. According to his statement to the media, the professor was going to put on record his (one) dissent on the recommendations of the Unfair Means (UFM) committee at his university syndicate. These are the kinds of political pressures universities are under. That is

why many VCs in the country come in with one objective: to not rock the boat so as not to jeopardize their next gig, sometimes long before the one they just landed is up. Even now, some VC applicants are as little as two years into their four-year tenure but are already looking to abandon their current post and jump ship to another.

That is a lack of commitment I can expect from an entry-level employee who is job-hopping but does not behove the head of an institution. Most come in without having given any thought to the individual circumstances of the universities they are joining and have no serious plans to address deep-rooted issues. This is evident in the types of issues universities' highest governing bodies, the senate and syndicate, spend their time on. That said, there are always a few positive exceptions that buck the trend and prove the rule.

The way VCs at some universities come in – clueless, spending their time without a handle on the most pressing challenges, helplessly flailing until their tenure expires, as if the job has been forced on them – reminds me of camel racing. The only difference is that the poor camel jockeys (children) are in fact victims, forced into the position, while VCs willingly compete for theirs. However, I see the same visible lack of control and helplessness. The current VC selection process is deeply flawed and needs urgent reform. Broadly, the search ought to be led by the university's board of governors, which itself should consist of people familiar with its challenges and an understanding of the context it operates within.

Today, for most public institutions, the criteria for selection should prioritize financial acumen and a proven track record of institutional leadership, rather than academic qualifications and research output. We need VCs who are committed to the long-term sustainability of their institutions, not just political handmaidens looking to prove themselves loyal to land their next gig.

The writer (she/her) has a PhD in Education.

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

Pakistan



The Muslims, under the leadership of the Ali Brothers, Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali, launched the historic Khilafat Movement after the First World War to protect the Ottoman Empire from dismemberment. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) linked the issue of Swaraj (self-government) with the Khilafat issue to associate the Hindus with the Movement. The ensuing Movement was the first countrywide popular movement. Although the Movement failed in

achieving its objectives, it had a far-reaching impact on the Muslims of South Asia. After a long time, they took united action on a purely Islamic issue which momentarily forged solidarity among them. It also produced a class of Muslim leaders experienced in organizing and mobilizing the public. This experience was of immense value to the Muslims later during the Pakistan Movement. The collapse of the Khilafat Movement was followed by a period of bitter Hindu-Muslim antagonism. The

Hindus organized two highly anti-Muslim movements, the Shudhi and the Sangathan. The former movement was designed to convert Muslims to Hinduism and the latter was meant to create solidarity among the Hindus in the event of communal conflict. In retaliation, the Muslims sponsored the Tabligh and Tanzim organizations to counter the impact of the Shudhi and the Sangathan. In the 1920s, the frequency of communal riots was unprecedented. Several Hindu-Muslim unity conferences were held to remove the causes of conflict, but, it seemed nothing could mitigate the intensity of communalism.

They now wanted preservation of their numerical majorities in the Punjab and Bengal, separation of Sindh from Bombay, constitution of Balochistan as a separate province and introduction of constitutional reforms in the North-West Frontier Province.

To be continued...

Inside Salam Hayek's luxurious 58th birthday bash

Salma Hayek updates fan with birthday photo dump



Salma Hayek celebrated her 58th birthday on Monday by sharing a surprise post with her fans. The actress posted a carousel of photos on Instagram, captioned: "Birthday bikini dump, happy 58th birthday to me! P.s none of these are throwbacks."

The pictures showed Hayek posing in a vibrant, plunging one-piece swimsuit, accessorised with a straw hat, black sunglasses, and gold hoop earrings, against a stunning backdrop of the sunset and sea.

Hayek's birthday post featured 18 photos of her enjoying her special day on a boat.

The pictures showed her lounging in various bikinis and cover-ups, posing for the camera, and even taking the helm as captain. Throughout the photos, Hayek looked relaxed and happy, celebrating another year of life in style.

Ahead of her birthday, the Drunk Parents star also uploaded more boat day footage which she captioned as, "This was my summer song for 2024," before adding the Spanish translation: "Esta fue mi canción del verano de 2024."

The Velocity of Gary star also revealed that the song playing in her birthday post was "Beso (Fruta Fresca)" by Carlos Vives and Wakin, and the two artists responded with love and appreciation on social media.

Showbiz

Tech

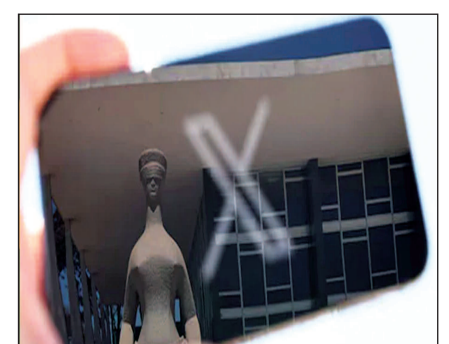
Starlink informs Brazil regulator it won't comply with X suspension

Elon Musk-controlled satellite internet provider Starlink has told Brazil's telecom regulator Anatel it will not comply with a court order to block social media platform X in the country until its local accounts are unfrozen. Anatel confirmed the information to Reuters on Monday after its head Carlos Baigorri told Globo TV it had received a note from Starlink, which has more than 200,000 customers in Brazil, and passed it onto Brazil's top court.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes last week ordered all telecom providers in the country to shut down X, which is also owned by billionaire Musk, for lacking a legal representative in Brazil.

The move also led to the freezing of Starlink's bank accounts in Brazil. Starlink is a unit of Musk-led rocket company SpaceX. The billionaire responded to the account block by calling Moraes a "dictator."

The decision to freeze Starlink's accounts stems from a separate dispute over unpaid



fines X was ordered to pay due to its failure to turn over some documents.

The Supreme Court did not respond to a request for comment.

On Monday, a five-member panel of the court is set to decide whether to uphold Moraes' ruling. Law experts consulted by Reuters have said they believe the panel will likely confirm Moraes' ruling.

The Best Breakfast Foods To Fuel Kids Through The School Day

Walk into any classroom and you're bound to see at least a few kids nodding off at their desks. One reason for that is because, sure, calculating fractions and learning how to ask where the bathroom is in French may not be all that riveting. But part of the problem is that many kids aren't starting off the day with a breakfast that gives them enough energy to focus in class until lunch.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 13% of school-age kids skip breakfast in the morning. This jumps to 27% for middle and high schoolers. Certainly any breakfast is better than none, but if you want your child to start the day with a breakfast that truly nourishes their body and mind, pediatric nutritionists have a few tips, including information about how a kid's nutrient needs change as they enter middle school and high school. In general, there are four main nutri-

ent groups to focus on when figuring out what your child should eat for breakfast. "Carbohydrates, protein, fiber and healthy fats are important nutrients to get at breakfast," said registered dietitian Tok-Hui Yeap, a certified pediatric nutrition specialist. She explained that these four core components will give children the energy they need to function and focus at school.

Alicia "Chacha" Miller, a registered dietitian specializing in pediatric nutrition, offered similar guidelines. She explained that carbohydrates and protein are important for providing the brain and body with energy, and healthy fats help keep blood sugar levels steady. You know how kids will be bouncing off the walls one second and need a nap the next? Keeping blood sugar levels steady helps prevent that. Like Yeap, Miller said fiber at breakfast is important, too. Fiber supports gut

health and keeps the digestive system functioning, helps keep blood sugar levels steady, and keeps hunger pangs away longer than a breakfast that doesn't have fiber. If you aren't sure how much of these four key nutrients your child needs, MyPlate.gov can serve as a helpful resource, breaking down nutrient needs by life stage (such as preschoolers, kids, teens and young adults) and showing what meeting these needs looks like.

Sara Quinteros, another registered dietitian with a specialty in pediatric nutrition, told HuffPost that when kids enter middle school, they become hungrier because of the rate at which they're growing. She said a lot of middle schoolers gravitate toward carb-heavy foods. While carbs are an important nutrient, she said, it's important that those kids are getting enough protein too, as it helps support their growth and satiate their hunger.



Health

Eight bills referred to concerned committees



ISLAMABAD: As many as eight bills were referred to the concerned committees on Tuesday for further deliberation and consideration as well.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 184) introduced by Noor Alam Khan, this bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It pertains to suo motu powers and proposes that a bench of nine judges should decide on such cases. The bill was referred to the committee.

The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced by Sohail Sultan, this bill seeks to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. It proposes increasing the punishment for cheque bounce cases. The bill was referred to the committee.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Amendments to Articles 51, 59, and 106) Noor Alam Khan introduced this bill to allocate reserved seats for overseas Pakistanis in the national and provincial assemblies.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar acknowledged that the government is working on this issue, emphasizing the significant role of overseas Pakistanis in the country's development.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Articles 177, 193, and 208) Noor Alam Khan also introduced this bill, which seeks to prevent individuals with dual nationality from being appointed as judges of the courts.

The Contempt of Court (Repeal) Bill, 2024 Noor Alam Khan introduced a bill to repeal the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003 (V of 2003).

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 198) introduced by Changaze Ahmed Khan, this bill proposes amendments to Article 198 of the Constitution.

The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Noor Alam Khan introduced this bill, which proposes that bureaucrats should not hold dual nationality. The Allocation of Special Seats for Deserving Persons in Universities Bill, 2024 introduced by Syed Rafiullah, this bill aims to reserve special seats for deserving students in universities and higher education institutions.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced by Danyal Chaudhary, this bill seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, by increasing the number of judges to address the growing number of cases.

However, the bill was deferred by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Senate has discussed the bill in detail and highlighted the need for judicial reforms in the country. The bill also faced objections from Gohar Ali Khan of the Sunni Ittehad Council. APP



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting today with Mr. Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmith, a leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries.

CDWP okays eight development projects worth Rs144.3 bln

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PDSI) & Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that approved eight development projects worth of Rs144.3 billion.

"Out of these, five projects worth Rs15.35 billion have been approved by the CDWP forum, while it recommended three projects of Rs129 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for its consideration," a news release said.

The meeting was attended among others by Secretary Planning Awas Manzoor Sumra, Additional Secretary Planning, Members of the Planning Commission, JCE (Ops), JCE (Ep), as well as respective federal secretaries, heads of provincial departments and representatives from federal ministries and provincial governments.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the prime minister for entrusting him with the position of Deputy Chairman for the fourth time.

He highlighted the significance of the forum in relation to developmental projects, emphasizing that approval for development projects by CDWP exceeding one billion rupees was granted.

He pointed out that in 2018, the PML-N government left Pakistan's development budget at 1,000 billion rupees.

However, six years later, the challenge remained to even maintain this figure due to the country's economic crises and the 2018-2022 era's mismanagement.

He stressed that the shrinking development budget demanded a focus on sustainable



growth, currency stabilization, and economic stability through resource mobilization.

The deputy chairman also noted that a more than 50 percent of the total expenditure was consumed by debt servicing.

He emphasized the need to expand the tax net and promote exports. Despite these challenges, he expressed optimism, acknowledging the government's efforts to reduce the inflation rate from 35 percent to 9.5 percent.

Ahsan Iqbal further stated that as 100 percent of federal government's net resources were consumed by debt servicing and development budget was based on borrowing essential to ensure value for money through due diligence. He called on all provinces and ministries to exercise the utmost caution and responsibility when planning new projects.

He urged that no compromise should be made on quality while preparing PC-I documents, and that national priorities should be considered while formulating any project. "Poorly prepared project documents should be promptly returned to the respective ministries."

Ahsan Iqbal said the government was committed to turning around the economy by implementing 5Es National Economic Trans-

formation Plan and restore 6 percent annual growth by 2029.

The CDWP approved a project "Reaching Out of School Children (OOSC) in AJK" worth Rs 7183.515 million, besides recommending the Establishment of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment & Research, Lahore at the cost of Rs52772.520 million to ECNEC for consideration.

They forum also okayed four projects titled "Establishment of National Center of Artificial Intelligence (Revisited)" worth Rs1854.446 million; "Establishment of National Center of Excellence in Big Data and Cloud Computing (Revised)" worth Rs2383.186 million; "Establishment of National Center in Robotics and Automation (Revised)" worth Rs2043.663 million and "Establishment of National Center for Cyber Security (Revised)" worth Rs1887.794 million. It recommended a project related to Transport & Communications namely "Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) Phase-II" worth Rs61308 million ECNEC for consideration.

The CDWP also recommended a project "Kachi Canal Project Restoration of Flood Damages 2022" worth Rs14701.427 million the ECNEC.

Plan devised to bring barren land for cultivation under Green Pakistan Initiative: NA told

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Dr Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that under Green Pakistan Initiative, a plan has been devised to bring barren land in the country under cultivation and enhanced per acre crops productivity through employing various modern techniques.



Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Syed Naveed Qamar and others regarding the news in the media of 4.8 million acres of land being given for corporate farming resulting in diversion of water, he said 812,000 acres of land has been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation.

He said it would a joint venture and so far Punjab and Sindh have transferred land. However, other provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan have not yet transferred land. The minister said a company has also been registered under green initiatives. Under the plan, 40 per cent revenue each would be given to the respective province and investors while remaining 20 per cent revenue would be purely specified for research and development (R&D) in this sector.

He said required irrigation water for the scheme would be provided from share of the respective province. Around 400,000 acres command area would come under the Cholistan scheme in Punjab, he said.

He said the project would cost Rs 211 billion under which 296 kilometer long canal would be constructed. It would consist of 176 km long Cholistan Canal and 120 km Marur Canal, he added.

He categorically said that water distribution in the said canals would be purely met through the share of respective provinces and Indus River System Authority (IRSA) would issue proper certificate in this regard.

The Cholistan Canal would get water for four months from share of Punjab province while for 2 months it would feed through flood water, he said. Responding to a point raised by Syed Naveed Qamar, the minister said the federal government could not ask from the provinces about their water share distribution in their respective provinces after the 18th constitutional amendment.

He went on to say that two provinces- Punjab and Sindh have signed agreement so far and identified land for the said scheme under Green Pakistan Initiative. Musadik Malik said that telemetry system was being installed on water distribution system which would completely address reservation of provinces in judicious water distribution as per the water accord. He said the project mainly aimed at enhancing per acre yield through drip irrigation, tunnel farming and productive farming which required massive investment. It was also an attempt to bring barren land under cultivation, he added. The minister also urged the Speaker to set up a committee of the House under chairmanship of Naveed Qamar or Khurshid Shah to thoroughly discuss the issue.

Pakistan, Thailand discuss collaborative cultural initiatives, shared heritage

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Thailand on Tuesday explored potential joint cultural and art projects aimed at fostering mutual understanding and appreciation of their shared heritage.

According to a Foreign Officer press release, an eight-member Thai delegation, led by Chairayon Suk-learn, Director General of Religious Affairs, and including the Most Venerable Anil Sakya, met with Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui to discuss strengthening bilateral relations.

The discussions centered on enhancing bilateral relations and celebrating the profound cultural bond between Pakistan and Thailand, rooted in their shared Buddhist heritage.



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Jam Kamal emphasizes enduring bond between Pakistan, Malaysia, highlighting growing economic ties

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday emphasized the enduring bond between Pakistan and Malaysia, highlighting their shared values and growing economic ties. He was speaking as the chief guest at the 67th Malaysian National Day Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh were present on the occasion. Jam Kamal praised Malaysia's remarkable journey since independence, noting its economic success, cultural harmony, and commitment to environmental sustainability and social justice. "Malaysia's progress is a testament to the power of diversity and forward-thinking vision," he remarked. He emphasized the friendship between Pakistan and Malaysia, rooted in mutual respect and shared values such as faith and fraternity. He highlighted the positive trajectory of trade

relations between the two countries, acknowledging steady growth over the years. However, Jam pointed out that there is still vast untapped potential for further collaboration, particularly in sectors like information technology, agriculture, manufacturing, and halal products. Jam Kamal Khan also called for increased Malaysian investments in Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, and tourism sectors, stressing the need to leverage the strengths of both nations for mutual benefit. He praised the recent economic reforms undertaken by both countries, which he said create fertile ground for private sector collaboration and global competitiveness. Jam Kamal Khan expressed Pakistan's eagerness to explore opportunities for cooperation with Malaysia on regional and global platforms, such as ASEAN and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). APP

Parliament committed to building consensus for tackling collective challenges like energy crisis: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that Parliament is the right platform to deliberate upon and find workable solutions to common problems. Addressing the conference "Parliamentary Consultation on Strategic Options for Electricity Distribution Systems in Pakistan" he said that the energy sector in Pakistan has been grappling with challenges for decades. He also said that although Pakistan has become successful in tackling the issue of load shedding, however, rationalizing the energy sector is pivotal for tackling the high cost of electricity in Pakistan. Ayaz Sadiq said that energy cost is a global challenge. Energy costs have skyrocketed even in developed countries, as has happened in Pakistan. The government is committed to rationalizing the energy cost for end users, he added. While highlighting the importance of the right person for the right job, he said that soon after taking oath as Speaker of the National Assembly, he conducted interviews of all officials and officers of the National Assembly Secretariat to depute the right person for the right job. APP

SC issued judgment for removal of restaurants to protect environment: CJP

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday remarked that the top court has issued judgment for removal of restaurants from Margalla Hills National Park to protect the natural environment. The court reserved its verdict on the review petition against the verdict for removal of restaurants including Monal from national park. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the review petition against the verdict for removal of restaurants. Lawyer Naeem Bukhari appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioner. The CJP remarked that the country was destroyed by climate change, but the goal here is to just make money. If permission was given to build a small hut, big palaces were built.

He said that if restaurants are built everywhere in the National Park area, then Islamabad may be affected by landslides. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa questioned, "What is the FIAs business with this matter, because many times people get cases filed against themselves. He remarked that this is a matter of fundamental rights, the rights of ani-

mals in the national park. Addressing the lawyer, he said that even though the High Court decision was there, you continued to do commercial activities and run the restaurant in violation of the rules. The Chief Justice said that the Supreme Court had given the decision with the consent of all the parties then why review petition is moved. Lawyer Naeem Bukhari earlier argued that everyone knows what happened in 1954.

He said that he did not ask to close the restaurant willingly, he spoke under compulsion. We had two options in front of us either finish the restaurant ourselves or it will be demolished. My client Dr. Amjad is a 66% shareholder who was not heard from while he was abroad.

Lawyer Naeem Bukhari said that FIA had conducted an inquiry against the restaurant owners in the past, after which no crime was proved. During the hearing, Director Legal, Brigadier (ret'd) Falak Naz said that I was deeply saddened by the remarks made by the court regarding me because my lack of knowledge was mentioned in the judgment. APP

Gilani emphasizes concerted, comprehensive efforts to ensure human development, address climate crisis

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the need for concerted and comprehensive endeavors to effectively prioritize focus on human development, invest in human capital, and address the challenges of climate change.

In this regard, he called for forging robust partnerships between government institutions, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to ensure a cohesive and effective humanitarian response.

The Chairman Senate was addressing the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) annual report launch event to acknowledge INGOs' contributions to Pakistan. He acknowledged PHF and its member organizations for consistently providing much-needed relief and assistance to the deserving and the affected during challenging circumstances over the years.

He said that the true strength of a nation lies in its ability to empower marginalized and vulnerable communities. "Coming from South Punjab, I can personally relate to the struggles and aspirations of communities seeking opportunities and support to not only uplift their lot but also fuel



national progress", the Chairman Senate remarked in his address.

He observed that inclusive development is not just a moral imperative but it is essential for the progress and prosperity of the country. "This belief is deeply rooted in the political ideology that has guided me throughout my career. An ideology that prioritized humanitarian values and bet-

terment of deprived communities", he said, adding that former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto championed this ideology.

He lauded PHF for playing a crucial role in building a more inclusive and resilient Pakistan. While referring to the report, the Chairman Senate stated that the achievements highlighted in the Annual Report 2023 are

a testament to their dedication and unwavering humanitarian zeal. He expressed his appreciation that PHF member organizations have reached over 21.2 million beneficiaries across 152 districts of Pakistan, with a funding volume exceeding 450 million dollars. He said that humanitarian assistance and development initiatives have not only alleviated the sufferings of flood-affected communities but have also laid the groundwork for sustainable development in marginalized areas.

Natural disasters like floods can devastate entire regions, leaving behind a trail of destruction and despair, he said adding, "the challenges we face are great, but so too is our resolve". He assured his support for humanitarian and development endeavors besides acknowledging the contributions made by INGOs in addressing the needs of our people, especially in times of crisis and making humanitarian assistance even more timely, comprehensive, and inclusive.

He hoped for positive outcomes of the discussions from this event saying that it will inspire us all to continue working together, fostering hope, resilience, and prosperity for every community in Pakistan.