



Pakistan values its relationship with Uzbekistan and highlighted the potential benefits of cooperation in technology

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunications
Shiza Fatima

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Committee formed to persuade Sardar Akhtar Mengal to withdraw resignation: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar informed the National Assembly on Wednesday that a committee has been formed to meet with Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the chief of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M). Speaking on the floor of the House, he said that the committee, comprising Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Mohammad Usman Badini, and Aijaz Hussain Jakhani, had been tasked with persuading Sardar Akhtar Mengal to resolve the issue through negotiations. He said Sardar Akhtar Mengal's father had significant contributions to Pakistan's development. Sardar Akhtar Mengal tendered his resignation from the National Assembly on Tuesday.

In response to concerns raised by an MNA from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that it was agreed with the Chief Minister to resolve differences through dialogue. Acknowledging the presence of talent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa he called for cooperation in addressing the electricity theft issue. He assured that load shedding would be eliminated with the ending of electricity theft in the area.

He said that inflation has decreased to 9.6%, single digit and exports have risen by 14% compared to the previous year due to the government's efforts under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership. Regarding the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) targets, he expressed confidence that the government was on track to meet its targets.

The minister said that the trade deficit was decreasing and Pakistan's economy had been protected from the looming threat of default.

Govt advocates women's active participation in national development: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the government was committed to providing a secure environment to women at workplaces as it believed in their active participation in national development.

"Soon after coming into power, we established a gender unit so that women can work in the office with a sense of security, and the Ministry of Planning is the safest place for women to work," he said. Ahsan Iqbal expressed these views while chairing a committee meeting established by the ministry to address issues related to harassment against women.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning and all female ministry staff. He said the aim behind establishing a Gender Unit was to create a workplace environment where women feel secure and confident in their roles and make the ministry a safety model for women.

The minister mentioned that a state-of-the-art daycare facility had been established to provide peace of mind to working mothers, allowing them to focus on their work without concerns or worry for their children's well-being. APP



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Mr. Mehmet Pacaci, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM Shehbaz awards Rs2.5m to excavator operator for rescuing flood-stranded family

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday awarded Rs 2.5 million to an excavator operator who had rescued a family stranded in the flood in the Qilla Abdullah area of Balochistan.

The prime minister, who invited the rescuer Mohibullah to the Prime Minister's House, appreciated his courage to save the stranded family while risking his own life, according to a PM Office press release.

"The whole nation including me feels proud of you. I deeply adore your love for humanity. You are a nation's hero as you showed the courage to save human lives," the prime minister said.

He said that Mohibullah had fulfilled the national responsibility by rescuing the stranded people without caring about his own life.

Besides awarding Rs 2.5 million from the Government of Pakistan, the prime minister also announced a free-of-charge education facility up to the university level for Mohibullah's children and cost-free healthcare for his family.

"This an honor for me to meet the prime minister of Pakistan. I never thought so. While



rescuing the stranded family, I never knew that the act would get that much popular countrywide," Mohibullah said in the meeting. He also thanked the prime minister for acknowledging his gesture and honoring him by inviting him to the PM House.

Federal cabinet members Attaullah Tarar, Jam Kamal Khan and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairman of PM Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Naqvi, Maulana Azad discuss establishing peace, elimination of terrorism



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Moin Naqvi called on Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee (CRHC) Pakistan Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad here on Wednesday and discussed with him measures to establish peace and eliminate terrorism and sectarianism. Matters relating religious harmony, tolerance, and inter-sect unity also came under discussion during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Moin Naqvi said that the terrorists have no religion, adding that scholars have always guided the nation in the fight against terrorism and still there was a dire need for it.

He stated that to develop an effective narrative against terrorism, a national campaign to consult scholars of all sects will be started soon. He underscored that the war against terrorism is the war for the survival of Pakistan.

The interior minister stressed that scholars need to again play their role to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

"The enemy wants to harm national unity by creating unrest but we will defeat the nefarious designs of the enemy through our unity", he said.

Talking to minister, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad said that the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" is a great narrative that has declared terrorism, extremism, and sectarianism as haram. He added that everyone needs to play their role in promoting inter-sect and interfaith harmony and national unity in the current situation.

He praised the efforts and services of the interior minister towards establishing peace in the country. He said that the entire nation stands united with the valiant armed forces and security agencies to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

Moin Naqvi appreciated Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad's services for religious harmony, national unity and solidarity. INP

Shiza discusses Uzbekistan Ambassador on enhancing bilateral cooperation in IT sector



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunications Shiza Fatima Khawaja and the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov on Wednesday discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the IT and telecommunications sectors.

According to a news release, both agreed on the importance of increasing collaboration in

these areas. Shiza Fatima Khawaja said that Pakistan values its relationship with Uzbekistan and highlighted the potential benefits of cooperation in technology. She said that both countries could gain significantly from each other's experiences in the field. The Ambassador expressed Uzbekistan's eagerness to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in IT and telecommunications.

He proposed the establishment of a joint working group between Uzbekistan's Ministry of Digital Technologies and Pakistan's Ministry of IT and Telecommunications. He suggested initiating a startup exchange program between the two countries. DNA

Dar, Lammy discuss strengthening Pak-UK ties, regional issues

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday met with David Lammy, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, where they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed regional issues of common interest.

According to Foreign Office press release, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the significance of a robust Pakistan-UK partnership, advancing the extensive bilateral agenda, and fostering regional peace and stability. He also praised the efforts of British-Pakistanis in strengthening relations between the two nations.

DPM Dar expressed his eagerness to collaborate with Foreign Secretary Lammy on shared concerns such as climate action, creating opportunities for young people, and enhancing trade and investment. He reiterated Pakistan's aim to elevate their close, historic relationship into an enhanced strategic partnership. Foreign Secretary Lammy congratulated DPM Dar on Pakistan's election to the UN Security Council and reaffirmed the UK's support for Pakistan throughout its term. APP

Aurangzeb engages with SCB on expanding investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Wednesday held a virtual meeting with Global Head of Corporate & Investment Banking at Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Sunil Kaushal to discuss expanding investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by CEO Standard Chartered Pakistan, Rehan Shaikh, Finance Secretary and other senior officers of the Finance Division, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

During the discussion, the minister underscored the positive trajectory of Pakistan's macro-economic indicators and expressed the government's commitment to maintaining economic stability through various reforms.

"Our government is dedicated to creating a conducive environment for foreign investments, ensuring that Pakistan remains a competitive and attractive destination for global investors," Senator Aurangzeb remarked. The dialogue focused on exploring potential



collaborations between the government and Standard Chartered Bank, particularly in sectors such as infrastructure development, digital banking, and sustainable finance.

The Finance Minister assured the delegation of the government's full support in facilitating their initiatives and expressed optimism about further strengthening the partnership with Standard Chartered Bank.

On the occasion, Kaushal expressed his confidence in Pakistan's economic outlook and reiterated Standard Chartered's long-term commitment to the country. APP

Unicef-Pakistan, climate ministry join hands to build climate resilience among children

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan, Abdullah A. Fadil called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam here on Wednesday to discuss boosting collaboration in protecting children from adverse impacts of climate change.

During the meeting held here, both sides pledged to work closely to protect children from devastating consequences of climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods and diseases, spokesperson of the Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Muhammad Saleem said.

The ministry official further said that PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid highlighted during the meeting with Unicef country representative in Pakistan that the children of Pakistan are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves, droughts, glacial lake outburst floods and shifting rainfall patterns threaten their health, education, and overall well-being.

During the meeting, Romina Khurshid highlighted that as the world grapples with the intensifying climate risks, children in Pakistan are emerging as one of the most vulnerable groups and facing severe implications of various climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods, heat waves, the spokesperson Mr. Saleem added.



"What we have learned from recent climate change-caused disasters in Pakistan, is that the country, already one of the most climate-affected countries globally, is experiencing intensified impacts

to their developing bodies and lower adaptive capacity," remarked Ms. Alam. The ministry official also said that during the meeting it was highlighted that addressing the climate vulnerability among children is not possible without targeted interventions particularly in health, education, water and sanitation sections, to protect future of the younger generation.

Suggesting sectoral interventions, the PM's climate aide said that investing in healthcare infrastructure and services to address climate-induced health challenges, with a focus on maternal and child health for strengthening overall health systems; building resilient educational facilities and implementing strategies to ensure that children's education is not disrupted by climate events so as

to ensuring educational continuity; supporting mental health by providing mental health services and psychosocial support to children affected by climate-related stress and trauma and; lastly building resilience of vulnerable communities by prioritising climate adaptation efforts in rural and low-income areas to protect the most at-risk children are inevitable policy measures that are needed for overall protection of the children under 15 from exacerbating impacts of climate change.

The Unicef's country representative assured the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam of his organisation's all-out technical and non-technical support to the government's efforts being taken for tackling climate vulnerability among children.

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From concrete to canopy

MURTAZA TALPUR

Urban centres in Pakistan, mainly cities like Karachi and Lahore, confront intensified flooding, rising temperatures, and stressed infrastructure because of climate change. Rapid urbanization together with poor planning worsens these climate impacts, threatening public health, livelihoods, and access to clean water in these cities. In the midst of these challenges, a team from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) recently visited the Clifton Urban Forest in Karachi.

Increasing urbanization in Karachi has led to the loss of natural habitats, biodiversity, rising temperatures and air pollution. Amidst this, the Clifton Urban Forest stands out as an extraordinary idea heading for reversing ecological and environmental degradation. Founded by Masood Lohar, this is an innovative project that not merely provides an oasis in a concrete jungle but also sets an example for urban reforestation across Pakistan. The Clifton Urban Forest is an attempt to transform Karachi's barren and deserted landscape into an eco-paradise and green haven. Masood Lohar (environmentalist), the visionary behind this enterprise, was inspired by the Miyawaki method which is a Japanese reforestation technique that focuses on planting native species thickly to create forests in a short span of time. Since the inception (2021) of the project, over 700,000 trees have been planted. The focus is on indigenous species such as *Salvadora persica*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Azadirachta indica* (Neem) and local shrubs. The forest is now home to more than 140 species of birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. The Clifton Urban Forest is creating a biodiversity hotspot, which is not only visually appealing but ecologically functional as well.

In a city like Karachi, where temperature soars above 40 C, these trees and urban forest provide much-needed shade and contribute to lowering urban heat islands. Lohar highlights the importance of the Miyawaki method: "It is a proven technique that can restore degraded lands in record time. Our urban forest is living proof that with the right methods and commitment, we can restore nature even in the most challenging conditions." Within just a few years, the barren land has been transformed into a thriving ecosystem. The forest now landscapes dense clusters of trees, some growing up to 10 feet within the first year, which is significantly faster than conventional reforestation methods.

For the last two decades, Karachi has been encountering frequent environmental challenges, from a lack of green spaces to poor air quality. The Clifton Urban Forest focuses on these issues head-on by offering manifold benefits. It serves as a carbon sink, helping to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. The trees also filter pollutants from the air, making the surrounding environment cleaner and healthier. "Every tree we plant is a step towards better and cleaner air quality for Karachi's residents," Lohar states.

The forest also plays an extremely important role in combatting urban flooding. Karachi experiences erratic rainfall, often leading to severe waterlogging and flood-like situations. The dense vegetation and shrubs of the Clifton Urban Forest helps absorb rainwater, reducing the strain on the city's inadequate drainage system. Moreover, the presence of trees helps in soil retention and prevents erosion. Lohar says, "Forests are not just about trees; they protect our environment from the multiple threats we face in urban settings."

On a social level, the Clifton Urban Forest is fast becoming a community hub. It provides an accessible green space where families can spend time, children can play, and individuals can reflect. The forest develops a sense of ownership among local residents, who are actively involved in its maintenance and upkeep. "This forest belongs to everyone. It is a place where people come to relax, to breathe fresh air, and to be reminded of what is truly important – our connection to nature," he says. One of the most striking features of the Clifton Urban Forest is its duplicability. Lohar believes that urban reforestation is the future for sustainable cities. "If we can do this in Karachi, one of the most contaminated and thickly inhabited cities in the world, then it can be done anywhere," he says.

This urban forest can serve as a model for other cities in Pakistan, where green spaces are disappearing at a disturbing rate. Besides, the project has achieved international recognition, being awarded the Geo for Good Impact Award 2023 that acknowledges the use of Google's mapping tools in creating real-world environmental impact.

Lohar is determined to expand the scope of the project, with plans to introduce more forests across Pakistan's urban centres. He envisions a future where every city has its own urban forest, contributing to ecological resilience and the well-being of its inhabitants. "Our cities are choking on concrete and smog. We need forests to breathe life back into them," he says passionately. The Clifton Urban Forest is evidence to what can be achieved with vision, promise, and community support. It stands as a shining example of how urban spaces can be repurposed for environmental sustainability. "This is just the beginning," he says. "We are on a mission to create a green revolution in Pakistan, and the Clifton Urban Forest is the first step." In a time when environmental degradation is threatening the future of our cities, initiatives like this one offer hope. They show that with the right approach, we can restore balance to our ecosystems and create healthier, more liveable urban environments. As Lohar puts it, "We owe it to future generations to leave behind cities that are not only functional but also in harmony with nature." The Clifton Urban Forest is a living example of how small actions can lead to colossal change. It stands as a reminder that despite all environmental or other challenges, nature can flourish if we give it a chance. This idea should be expanded within Karachi, and similar green spaces need to be developed in other major cities of Pakistan.

The writer is an assistant director, Climate Change Adaptation at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Islamabad.



Raza Hussain Qazi

In the lead-up to COP29, climate finance has emerged as a cornerstone of global efforts to combat climate change, particularly as the world approaches the global annual moot of parties to the Paris Agreement and the global community. With the growing realization of inadequacies, discussions surrounding climate finance have become increasingly urgent, reflecting the heightened recognition that without sufficient financial resources, achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement will remain a distant aspiration. Recent developments in climate finance, such as the establishment of the Fund for Loss and Damage (FLD), have underscored the complexities and challenges of mobilizing the necessary funds to support climate mitigation and adaptation, especially in developing countries. The decades-long debate over the definition and scope of climate finance also appears to be intensifying over the coming months. So far, several key developments have set the stage for what is expected to be a contentious and pivotal moment in Baku this November. One of the most significant pre-COP29 developments is the progress made during the SB60 expert dialogues toward the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance. This goal, which is intended to replace the \$100 billion annual target established in 2009 but never realized, aims to reflect the current and future financial needs of developing countries as they confront the impacts of climate change. The negotiations around the NCQG have been notably complex, with developed and developing countries at odds over the scale and scope of the new target. Developing nations have consistently argued that the \$100 billion target was not only unmet but also insufficient given the escalating costs of climate adaptation and mitigation. They advocate for more ambitious financial goals that reflect their growing vulnerabil-

Road to COP29

ities and the urgent need for substantial investment in climate-resilient infrastructure. It will be an uphill task for the negotiators at this COP to determine the scale of this new target, with a focus on ensuring that it is ambitious enough to meet the rising costs of mitigation and adaptation. Additionally, the issue of 'loss and damage' (L&D) has gained prominence in the climate finance discourse. L&D refers to the irreversible impacts of climate change that exceed the adaptive capacities of communities, including the loss of lives, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. This topic is anticipated to be one of the most contentious at the upcoming summit. The established 'Fund for Loss and Damage' (FLD) already held two board meetings with little headway made around the commitments of \$792 million so far. The upcoming meetings will determine the next course of the fund. The third priority will be the Global Stocktake (GST) process set at COP28, which assesses the collective progress of countries in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. The findings from the GST are likely to drive discussions aimed at increasing the ambition of national climate commitments and ensuring that the world remains on track to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 C. As COP29 unfolds, another critical development receiving heightened attention is the involvement of the private sector in climate finance. Public finance alone is deemed insufficient to meet the extensive financial requirements of global climate action, prompting a concerted push to mobilize private capital. The discussions will centre on creating an enabling environment for private finance, ensuring that investments align with climate objectives, and addressing concerns regarding equity and accessibility for the most vulnerable communities. Azerbaijan, the host country of COP29, has already introduced the Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF) with an initial fundraising target of \$1 billion. The anticipated funding sources for CFAF include fossil fuel-producing countries and companies involved in oil, gas, and coal, with Azerbaijan being one of

the founding contributors. For us to prepare for the COP29, there are several steps that can steer the country toward becoming a potential recipient of such climate funding. First, we must develop a comprehensive and data-driven National Adaptation Plan (NAP) based on Provincial Adaptation Plans. If provincial plans have not yet been developed, it is imperative that we do so urgently. The same applies to our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are currently under the revision process. The revised NDCs should clearly outline our climate strategies and specific financial requirements related to mitigation targets along with associated strategies clearly outlined within. Additionally, it is crucial that both key documents highlight specific bankable projects that are aligned with global climate goals, thereby demonstrating our commitment to sustainability and resilience. Likewise, strengthening institutional frameworks by establishing dedicated climate finance units within government ministries and departments is another critical aspect. One through the robust coordination of these units can we demonstrate our commitment to international climate finance institutions, ensuring that funds are allocated and utilized as intended with optimal efficiency. Additionally, improving data collection and reporting mechanisms is vital for building trust with donors, as it provides accountability and demonstrates measurable progress. Moreover, we need to engage the private sector to position it as a key contributor to climate action, demonstrating its capacity for innovation and its ability to implement large-scale changes rapidly. This can be achieved by involving companies across various industries – such as energy, manufacturing, agriculture, and finance – that have a direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilience. This engagement will reflect our commitment to integrating climate considerations into manufacturing, supply chain operations, and business models. Since we have already established a climate fund at the federal level, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

can be an effective means of attracting climate finance to contribute to the fund initially, before we seek external resources. PPPs involve collaboration between government entities and private companies to finance, build, and operate projects. Additionally, the government can facilitate their access to concessional finance, which offers favourable terms and conditions, making it easier for private-sector projects to secure the necessary funding from bilateral and multilateral climate finance institutions as well. One of the most critical steps for the government to take at the COP is to co-design private-sector projects that align with international climate goals, such as the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit the global temperature rise to well below 2 C above pre-industrial levels. Projects that contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, or increasing resilience to climate impacts are more likely to attract funding by enhancing appeal to climate financiers at the event; COPs provide significant opportunities for such interactions. Another critical imperative is the need for the government to start actively participating in international climate dialogues to voice our needs and priorities, ensuring that the global community understands the specific challenges we face and the support we require. We have not observed the necessary participation so far at the critical dialogues; a case in point is the recent SB60 expert dialogue held in Bonn. Participation should be based on solid assessments and with meticulous preparations by the relevant participating and expert representatives. By doing so, we can enhance our ability to secure the necessary climate finance for our resilience and achieve sustainable development. COP29 will be a critical moment for us to advance our climate action, with priorities centered on finance to meet the daunting challenge of climate change.

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Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



Mirza claimed that it was his intention to lift martial law as soon as possible and that a new constitution would be drafted; and on October 27 he swore in a new cabinet, naming Ayub Khan prime minister, while three lieutenant generals were given ministerial posts. The eight civilian members in the cabinet included businessmen and lawyers, one being a young newcomer, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a powerful land-

lord from Sind province. However, Ayub Khan viewed his being named prime minister as the president's attempt to end his military career and ultimately to force him into oblivion. Clearly, the country could not afford two paramount rulers at the same time. Therefore, if one had to go, Ayub Khan decided that it should be Mirza. On the evening of October 27, Ayub Khan's senior generals presented Mirza

with an ultimatum of facing permanent exile or prosecution by a military tribunal. Mirza immediately left for London, never again to return to Pakistan. Soon thereafter, Ayub Khan, who now assumed the rank of field marshal, proclaimed his assumption of the presidency. Martial law lasted 44 months. During that time, a number of army officers took over vital civil service posts. Many politicians were excluded

from public life under an Electoral Bodies (Disqualification) Order; a similar purge took place among civil servants. Yet, Ayub Khan argued that Pakistan was not yet ready for a full-blown experiment in parliamentary democracy and that the country required a period of tutelage and honest government before a new constitutional system could be established.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Tech

Katy Perry explains why she collaborated with Dr. Luke for new album

Katy Perry reflects on her experience of writing songs for her new album

Katy Perry has recently explained why she collaborated with Dr. Luke (Lukasz Gottwald), accused of sexual assault by Kesha.

Speaking on Alex Cooper's Call Her Daddy podcast, Katy addressed the allegations, saying, "I understand that it started a lot of conversations and he was one of many collaborators that I collaborated with."

"But the reality is, it comes from me," continued the singer.

Katy stated, "The truth is, I wrote these songs from my experience of my whole life going through this metamorphosis, and he was one of the people to help facilitate all that."

"I am speaking from my own experience. When I speak about 'Woman's



World,' I speak about feeling so empowered now, as a mother, as a woman," explained the musician. Katy added, "I created all of this with

several different collaborators, people that I've collaborated with from the past, from 'Teenage Dream' era. All of that." Deadline reported that Dr. Luke was one of Katy's most important creative partners, producing her first No. 1 single I Kissed a Girl and other hits, including California Gurls. He even produced the single Woman's World from her new record.

Earlier in a 2014 lawsuit, Kesha blamed Dr. Luke of drugging and sexually abusing her in 2005.

However, Kesha and her former producer settled the case last year.

At the time, he said, "I am absolutely certain that nothing happened. I never drugged or assaulted her and would never do that to anyone."

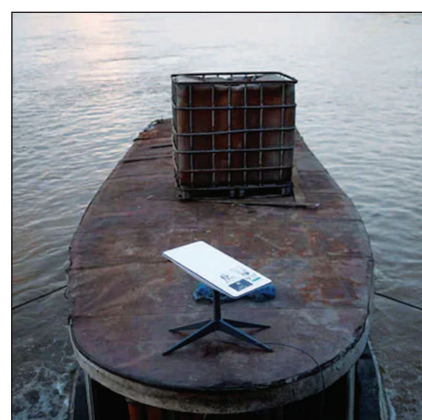
Starlink to comply with Brazil's order to block X

Elon Musk's satellite broadband company, Starlink, announced on Tuesday that it is following the order from Brazil's top court judge Alexandre de Moraes to block access to the social media platform X within the country. In a statement on X, Starlink revealed that it has begun legal action in the Brazilian Supreme Court, arguing that Moraes' order—which has frozen Starlink's finances and barred it from conducting financial transactions in Brazil—constitutes a "gross illegality."

"Regardless of the illegal treatment of Starlink in freezing of our assets, we are complying with the order to block access to X in Brazil," the X post said.

Starlink added that it continues to pursue all legal avenues, as are others who agree that the judge's "recent orders violate the Brazilian constitution."

Starlink had on Monday refused to obey Moraes' order for all internet providers to block domestic access to X.



Tensions between Brazil and Musk's business empire ratcheted up further as the country's telecoms regulator threatened to sanction Starlink after its top court stood behind the controversial decision to ban social network X from the country.

Health

No screens before age of two, Swedish health authority tells parents

Children under the age of two should not be exposed to any screens whatsoever and teenagers should have no more than three hours of screen time a day, according to guidelines announced by health authorities in Sweden.

Parents and guardians should think about how they use screens with their children and tell them what they are doing on their phones when they use them in their presence, the advice says.

The guidelines, announced on Monday, mark the first time that Folkhälsomyndigheten, Sweden's public health authority, has stipulated how parents should regulate screen time.

A child practices handwriting at the Djurgårdsskolan elementary school in Stockholm, Sweden.

Screen use among two- to five-year-olds should be limited to a maximum of one hour, while children

aged between six and 12 should not use screens for more than two hours. Among 13- to 18-year-olds, the limit is three hours.

This is a sharp reduction on the current average screen time figures among Swedish children and young people, which is estimated to be four hours a day for nine- to 12-year-olds and more than seven hours a day – not including schoolwork – for 17- and 18-year-olds.

"For far too long we have allowed screens and apps to steal time and attention at the cost of what we know is needed to feel well. We know that use of digital media can have negative health effects, including worsened sleep and symptoms of depression," said the minister of social affairs, Jakob Forssmed.

"With these age-appropriate recommendations there is now an important support for children

and young people, parents and other caregivers, for a more healthy, conscious and responsible use of screens and digital media."

The health agency also recommended that children do not use screens before bedtime and that screens should not be allowed in bedrooms at night.

"Children's health is paying the price for tech companies' profits," said Forssmed.

The guidelines, which are targeted at both adults and children, also include motivation and advice on how to think about the issue.

Forssmed said there were now "concrete and clear recommendations" to make it easier to start up conversations around the subject, including time spent online, what happens there and what children can be exposed to. "There are important and needed conversations," he added.



President Zardari condoles death of Saudi Princess Latifa bint Abdulaziz

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday expressed grief over the death of Saudi Princess Latifa bint Abdulaziz Al Saud. The president conveyed his condolences to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, the royal family and the people of the Kingdom. He also prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss. Engineering goods export up by 26.78 per cent to \$28.426 million in July 2024. The export of engineering goods from the country witnessed an increase of 26.78 per cent during the first month of the current fiscal year 2024-25 compared to the same month of last year. The country exported engineering goods worth \$28.49 million in July (2024-25) against the export of \$22.423 million in July (2023-24), showing a growth of 26.78 per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The engineering goods that contributed in trade growth included transport equipment the export of which went up by 575.55 per cent to \$2.099 million during the month under review from \$0.311 million last year while the export of specialized machinery for a particular industry also rose by 125.61 per cent to \$5.509 million from \$2.442 million. Similarly, the export of rubber tyres and tubes surged by 13.57 per cent to \$6.103 million from \$5.374 million whereas the export of other machinery increased by 19.35 per cent to \$7.030 million to \$5.890 million. Meanwhile, the goods that contributed in negative growth included electric fans the export of which declined by 8.21 per cent from \$2.305 million to \$2.116 million while the export of auto parts and accessories dipped by 3.83 per cent from \$1.798 million to \$1.729 million. On a month-on-month basis the engineering goods exports from the country declined by 9.28 per cent during July 2024 as compared to the exports of \$31.338 million recorded in June 2024, the PBS data revealed. DNA

Rabi-ul-Awwal moon not sighted, Eid Milad-un-Nabi on Sept 17

ISLAMABAD: Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad on Wednesday announced that the moon for the Islamic month of Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446 AH was not sighted at any nook and cranny of the country. Addressing media following a meeting of the Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committee in the federal capital, he said the 1st of Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446 AH will fall on Friday, September 6, while Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) will be observed on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. The Director General of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Syed Mushahid Hussain Khalid, served as the liaison for the meeting, with technical assistance provided by Zain-ul-Abideen from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Chief Meteorologist Dr. Sardar Sarfaraz from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, and Ghulam Murtaza from SUPARCO via telephone. Members of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee included Mufti Zameer Ahmed Sajid, Mufti Muhammad Iqbal Naeemi, Mufti Abdul Salam Jalali, Maulana Abu Bakr Siddiq, Maulana Haroon Rashid Balakoi, Allama Sajjad Hussain Jawad Naqvi, Pir Muhammad Mumtaz Ahmad Zia Nizami, and others. APP

Lawmakers demand Parliamentary committee to probe IPP charges amid energy crisis

ISLAMABAD: A unanimous call from both opposition and government members in the National Assembly has led to the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the issues surrounding Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The session, chaired by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, saw heated discussions over the impact of IPPs on the public and the broader energy sector. Mahrin Bhutto of the MQM-P highlighted the severe public impact due to IPP charges, accusing K-Electric of operating as a "state within a state" ignoring federal and provincial directives. Raja Pervez Ashraf from the PPP called for a comprehensive house committee to address the IPP crisis, emphasizing the need for clarity on this pressing issue. Hanif Abbasi of the PML-N questioned the role of ministers like Musaddiq Malik and Azam Nazeer Tarar in addressing the IPP problem, calling for accountability for those profiting

from billions. He also criticized the inaction regarding the numerous idle IPP plants, suggesting that those responsible be summoned for questioning. Opposition member Ali Mohammad Khan echoed the call for a parliamentary committee to review IPP performance and contracts, describing the situation as a quagmire draining the nation's resources. He criticized the inadequate power generation and ongoing payments for non-operational plants. Federal Minister Musaddiq Malik proposed a meeting with all parties to establish a clear procedure for addressing the issue. During the session, a "Call Attention Notice" was presented regarding K-Electric's power distribution issues by MQM-P's Syed Aminul Haq. Information Minister Attaulah Tarar responded, attributing recent disruptions to excessive rainfall and preventive measures by K-Electric. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik witnessed the signing of Consortium Agreement for Machike-Thalian-Taru Jabba White Oil Pipeline Project.

Ahad Cheema meets with EIB delegation to discuss development initiative



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD, Sep 04 (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema on Wednesday met with a high level delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and discussed strategic collaborations and potential investments in key development projects in Pakistan. The delegation led by Head of Division for Asia & Pacific Edvardas Bumsteinas, alongside key representatives from the EU Delegation in Pakistan, said a news release. The minister emphasized on the strategic importance of this visit for Pakistan, and opined that this engagement would help explore various avenues for close collabora-

tion between the EIB and Pakistan. He highlighted that EIB's priority areas such as climate action, and high-impact global investments in water, energy and transport sectors align with Pakistan's development needs. He expressed appreciation for the EIB's €50 million loan for the Rehabilitation of the Warsak Hydro Power Project, noting its critical role in restoring the plant's capacity. The delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB) has shown interest in several key projects including those financed by other international financial institutions such as the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). They are particularly keen on exploring opportunities to provide loans for a range of significant initiatives in Pakistan. Among these are the N-5 road widening project, which aims to improve road connectivity and transportation efficiency particularly in flood hit areas. Additionally, the delegation is interested in water filtration and industrial water recycling

projects in Karachi, which are vital for addressing urban water supply challenges, and in renewable and hydropower energy projects, which align with global trends towards sustainable energy solutions. Meanwhile, this interest underscores the EIB's commitment to supporting critical infrastructure and development efforts that are essential for Pakistan's economic growth and sustainable development. The minister urged on the mission to explore the possibility of extending technical and financial assistance to National Transmission Dispatch Company (NTDC) and Pakistan Railways. Earlier, during a technical session held under the chairmanship of Kazim Niaz Secretary MoEA, a list of 12 potential projects for co-financing was shared and discussed at length. The minister expressed hope that the EIB would consider funding some of these key projects to support Pakistan's development agenda. Edvardas Bumsteinas responded positively, indicating that he would discuss these projects with senior officials at the EIB HQ to explore possible funding opportunities. The minister thanked the EU Ambassador and Head of Cooperation for their continuous support and assured the EIB and EU Delegation of the Ministry's full cooperation in ensuring the efficient utilization of their assistance in Pakistan.

Jam Kamal Khan emphasizes Pak's vast potential in exporting key agricultural products, such as onions, bananas, dates, citrus fruits & mangoes

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Mir Jam Kamal Khan held separate meetings with the Council for Agriculture and Food Processing, and the Council for Meat, Poultry, Fish, and Seafood Products, to discuss strategies for enhancing Pakistan's export potential in these sectors. During his meeting with the Council for Agriculture and Food Processing, the minister emphasized Pakistan's vast potential in exporting key agricultural products, such as onions, bananas, dates, citrus fruits, and mangoes. He noted that with a focused strategy and targeted facilitation, the export of these products could be doubled within the next two to three years. He noted a record onion export of \$225 million this year as a positive indicator of the country's export capabilities. However, council members expressed concerns over the impact of taxation on the sector's competitiveness, warning that it could hinder Pakistan's ability to compete with regional markets. They argued that significant foreign exchange could be earned through value addition and processing of these products, rather than exporting them as raw materials. The minister agreed, stressing the need to prioritize products in which Pakistan excels, particularly onions, mangoes, dates, and bananas, which are available year-round. He called on the council to provide input for a concrete proposal that could be presented to the National Export Development Board (NEEDB), headed by Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He encouraged the council to develop projects aimed at enhancing the sector, which could be funded by the Export Development Fund (EDF). Addressing the challenges posed by climate change, the minister suggested that the Ministry of Climate Change devise strategies to guide farmers in selecting the right crops for the right seasons, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices. In a separate meeting with the Council for Meat, Poultry, Fish, and Seafood Products, which was also attended by the Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, the minister highlighted the untapped potential in Pakistan's livestock sector. He stressed that better utilization and value addition could significantly boost exports. Council member Bilal Tata pointed out the lack of a proper production mechanism, which leads to price fluctuations due to gaps in supply and demand. He urged the government to focus not only on exports but also on imports to stabilize the market and to curb livestock smuggling for sustainable sector growth. Tata also proposed the creation of disease-free zones to meet international export standards and tap into new markets. The issue of tariffs was also raised, with the minister assuring that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is keenly aware of these concerns and that the government is working on measures to support the business community. Regarding the fisheries sector, the minister suggested adopting cage fish farming, similar to controlled poultry farming, to boost production. SABAH

PML-N believes in dialogue, consultation: Rana Sanaulah

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaulah said on Wednesday that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), being a pro-democratic party, believes in dialogue and consultation. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the PML-N leadership offered dialogue and consultation for the betterment of Pakistan several times. Shahbaz Sharif, being an opposition leader in the past, offered a charter of economy to bring the country out of an economic quagmire. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on the other hand, was always involved in undemocratic activities, they chose the way of anarchy against the principles of democracy. PTI gave the mandate of dialogue to Mahmood Khan Achakzai, on the other hand, the leadership of PTI consistently negated dialogue with PML-N. Today, all the political stakeholders, except PTI, believe that political stability is in strengthening democracy. DNA

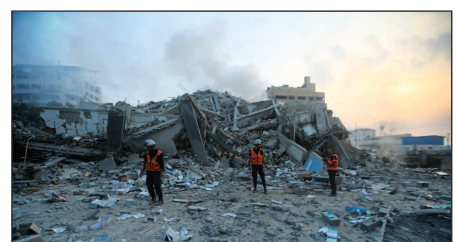


RAWALPINDI: Maj Gen Amer Ashfaq Kayani, Acting Secretary Defence, and Maj Gen Abdel Rehman Mahmoud Wahdan, Egyptian Asst Head of the Armed Forces Operations Authority for Civil & Military Coordination, signing the Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) of 14 Pak-Egypt MCC Meeting, at Ministry of Defence.

100 Palestinians martyred in last 24 hours in Israeli attacks on Gaza

Two Israeli soldiers killed in the attack by Al-Quds Brigades & Al-Qassam Brigades

GAZA: In the last 24 hours, 100 Palestinians have been martyred in Israeli attacks on Gaza. The massacre continues in Gaza for the 334th consecutive day. On Wednesday morning, one civilian was martyred and several others were injured as a result of the occupation army's bombing. One person was martyred and six wounded by the occupation forces' bombardment of the al-Mudauna family's house in al-Daraj area of Gaza. A number of civilians were injured early this morning when the occupying forces bombed a house in the vicinity of al-Daraj Clinic, east of Gaza City. The Palestinian Ministry of Health has confirmed that 100 martyrs and wounded were brought to hospitals in the Gaza Strip in the last 24 hours. The Ministry of Health further said that 33 civilians were martyred and 67 were injured in the bombing of the Israeli army. The Ministry of Health said that the number of martyrs in the Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023 has reached 40,819. Apart from this, 94,291 others have been injured. Meanwhile, the new head of Hamas, Yahya al-Sinwar, was indicted in an American court. A New York court has indicted Hamas leader Yahya al-Sinwar and five other leaders. According to the US Department of Justice, the men



are trying to destroy the state of Israel. Meanwhile two Israeli soldiers were killed in the attack of Al-Quds Brigades and Al-Qassam Brigades. According to a foreign news agency, the Al-Quds Brigade, the military wing of Islamic Jihad, and the Al-Qassam Brigade, the military wing of Hamas, killed two Israeli soldiers during a joint operation in Gaza. The video of the killing has been released. These operations were carried out in the central areas of Gaza, al-Zaytoun and al-Taqdam, where the Mujahideen ambushed enemy soldiers. A video released by Al-Quds Brigades showed them killing an Israeli soldier, while Al-Qassam Brigades released footage of another soldier hiding in a building behind Stars Hall in al-Zaytoun neighborhood. The Palestinian resistance is fighting the Israeli occupation forces in various areas of the Gaza Strip, and the Mujahideen are using snipers, explosives, and other tactics. APP

Malaysia-Pak bilateral ties establish in all spheres since countries' independence: Malaysian Ambassador



ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, has said that Malaysia values its relations with Pakistan immensely and admirable bilateral relations have been established in all spheres since the countries' independence. Today, on Malaysia's Independence Day, I would like to express that the strategic partnership established between Malaysia and Pakistan, which affects the all sectors of economy and including trade in every sector, the High Commissioner said while addressing the 67th Malaysian National Day ceremony held here Wednesday. He said, "Malaysia's 'strategic partnership' with Pakistan holds a not only immense potential and both Malaysia

and Pakistan share a deep-rooted bond, and we are committed to further strengthening our brotherly ties, particularly in areas such as trade, investment, and technological collaboration." The High Commissioner said that Malaysia was the third largest trading partner of Pakistan and bilateral trade between Malaysia and Pakistan was \$1.8 billion. He said that there were huge opportunities of cooperation in the Halal Industry, Green Technology, Energy, Tourism, Education and Industry and Trade between Pakistan and Malaysia. He said that with the theme 'Malaysia MADANI. Jiwa Merdeka', this year's celebration highlighted the spirit of togetherness across all segments of society, reflecting the holistic unity of a developed and progressive nation that safeguards its diverse populace and fosters a shared national identity. Malaysia-Pak bilateral ties establish in all spheres since countries' independence: Malaysian Ambassador "It is not merely a celebration but, more importantly a reflection of the resolve on the journey of nationhood that brought Malaysia the strength partnership with Pakistan holds a not only immense potential and both Malaysia

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