



Ordered the collection of video footage from all entry points of the Parliament House and assured members that legal action will be taken based on the evidence gathered

Speaker of the National Assembly  
**Sardar Ayaz Sadiq**

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## Finance Minister reiterates resolve to restructure power sector

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday recounted the structural reforms being undertaken in the power sector to improve its efficiency and service delivery.

The reforms included reconstitution of Boards of Directors of Discos by bringing in professionals from private sector and reducing the number of government nominees to bring in more efficiency in the boards and improve overall service delivery, he said. The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Chairman Board of Directors K-Electric, Mark Skelton, which among others was attended by Javed Kureishi, Member Board of Directors KE, Mubasher H. Sheikh, Member Board of Directors KE, Moonis Alvi, CEO KE, Imran Qureshi, Chief Regulatory Affairs KE, M. Aamir Ghaziani, CFO KE and senior officials of the Finance Division.

The meeting was convened to exchange views around K-Electric's plans for catering to growing energy demands of Karachi and the company's transition to renewables to ensure affordable and sustainable energy for the residents of port city.

The KE team briefed the Minister regarding its plans to include renewable in its generation mix, with a view to lowering down the cost of electricity for Karachi. They also apprised the Minister of other initiatives being taken by KE for improved service delivery to residents of Karachi.

He reiterated the government's resolve to ensure private sector participation in all government-owned discos and gencos and mentioned the start of process of privatizing of three discos in line with the Prime Minister's vision to enable and facilitate the private sector to lead the economy.

The Minister also lauded the initiatives taken by K-Electric for further investment and expansion of its energy and distribution operations, and assured full support for its efforts to transition to renewables and production of cheaper and affordable energy through the use of domestic resources.

## Trade Policy 2025 to be announced soon; Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade Jam Kamal Khan has said the government was working to announce the Trade Policy 2025 which would be presented to the standing committees of the Parliament soon.

Replying to the questions of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 342nd session of the question and answer session of the House, he said the government was committed to facilitating trade and industry and expanding exports. Kamal said that the incumbent government was determined to bring institutional and structural reforms, enhance regional connectivity, and diversify exports to ensure sustainable growth and stabilise the economy.

Jam Kamal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conducted several meetings with relevant ministries and stakeholders to deliberate upon a range of issues so that a comprehensive strategy could be framed to do away with all the challenges being faced by the business and industry in Pakistan. APP



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the K-Electric leadership to discuss energy sector reforms and renewable energy transition.

## PM calls on nation to renew commitment for building Pakistan as per Quaid's vision

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on the nation to renew the commitment for building a Pakistan having peace, justice, and equal opportunities for all citizens as per the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The prime minister, in his message on the 76th death anniversary of the Quaid-e-Azam being observed with deep respect on September 11 (Wednesday), said the Quaid stood out as one of the most visionary politicians and eminent statesmen in history. He adeptly led the Freedom Movement for the Muslims of the Sub-Continent, establishing the world's first Islamic ideological state.

"The Freedom Movement serves as a testament to his political acumen and visionary leadership, reflecting his dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law," he added.

PM Shehbaz said the Quaid's unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy, social justice, and equality laid the foundation for a nation where every citizen could aspire to thrive despite diverse cultures.

"Jinnah's emphasis on unity and faith resonates deeply within the fabric of our society, reminding us that the strength of Pakistan lies in its diversity and inclusiveness."

He further said, "While we honour his legacy,

## MNAs meet PM Shehbaz



ISLAMABAD: Members of the National Assembly Muhammad Siddique Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanjo met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to address issues concerning

their constituencies. During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated.

we reaffirm commitment to realizing the Quaid's vision for Pakistan and addressing contemporary challenges with the determined spirit of a great nation.

"In remembering the Quaid-e-Azam, we are also reminded of our duty to the future generations. It is our responsibility to instill in them the values of integrity, hard work, and

patriotism that Jinnah embodied." "Today, let us renew our pledge to work tirelessly towards the realization of a Pakistan that exemplifies the ideals of our Founding Father — a nation where peace prevails, justice is served, and every citizen has the opportunity to flourish," the prime minister concluded.

## Outgoing FS Syrus Sajjad Qazi played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's diplomatic engagements across the globe: Ishaq Dar

Says for over three decades, Syrus has been at the heart of Pakistan's foreign policy

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar has said that the Outgoing Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's diplomatic engagements across the globe.

This was stated by Ishaq Dar during the farewell reception of Outgoing Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi held at MoFA on Wednesday night. "Today we bid farewell to a distinguished public servant and an upright officer of the Foreign Service of Pakistan. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi has served Pakistan with great distinction over the last 34 years. We celebrate his distinguished career, honour his remarkable service for Pakistan and appreciate his numerous contributions. For over three decades, Syrus has been at the heart of Pakistan's foreign policy, navigating the complexities of global diplomacy with commitment and integrity" Ishaq Dar.

Ishaq Dar said that as the Foreign Secretary and earlier as Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey and to Hungary, he made his mark in promoting Pakistan's foreign relations and developing partnerships with countries around the globe. He played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's diplomatic engagements across the globe, Ishaq Dar said.

Deputy PM and Foreign minister said that Syrus's ability to assess situations with clarity and provide thoughtful, strategic advice has been invaluable to the Government of Pakistan. During high level meetings, he stood out with his profound insight rooted in deep understanding of the foreign policy priorities and national interest of Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar said that as we worked closely together over the last several months, I found Syrus to be a brilliant individual with sharp intellect and with strong commitment to the service of Pakistan. One of his most commendable qualities that stands out is his unshakable honesty. I found him to be true to the principles of transparency and ethical governance, Ishaq Dar said. "Over a short period of time, I came to rely on his wise counsel and his deep understanding of Pakistan's foreign policy challenges and priorities. His ability to calmly assess even the most difficult situations; offer sound advice; and, most importantly, remain steadfast in his principles has been inspiring" Ishaq Dar said.

"I also witnessed the confidence he inspired in others, at the leadership level, within our Ministry and among foreign counterparts. I saw first-hand his dedication to this Ministry and for the welfare of all the officers and staff. I will miss his steady presence in the halls of our ministry, as I know many of you will too. I am confident that he has inspired a new generation of diplomats which will continue to serve Pakistan for the next several decades. I am confident as a member of the Federal Public Service Commission, Syrus will continue to make his contributions in building the Foreign Service of Pakistan" Ishaq Dar said. SABAH

## Interior Minister meets ANP President Senator Aimal Wali Khan



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan. During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were discussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi said that terrorism is condemnable in

all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against the terrorism. He stated that Awami National Party has bravely fought against terrorism. He also paid homage to the martyrs of Awami National Party, who embraced martyrdom in the war against terrorism.

He stressed that it's time to rise above political and parochial differences and to purge Pakistan of the terrorist groups. He is also reiterated the commitment to eliminate terrorists with the support of public.

President Awami National Party Aimal Wali Khan assured ANP's full support for counterterrorism and said that terrorists have martyred innocent people.

## Tarar visits residence of Asma Shirazi to condole her brother's death

ISLAMABAD: Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday visited the residence of Senior Anchor Person Asma Shirazi to express his condolences on demise of her brother. The minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the family on the death of Asma Shirazi's brother Mohsin Shirazi and recited Fateha for the departed soul. Prime Minister's Coordinator Badr Shehbaz Waraich, Information Secretary Ambreen Jan, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Principal Information Officer also accompanied the minister.

The minister described the death of Mohsin Shirazi as an irreparable loss for the bereaved family. Terming the bonds between the siblings as priceless gift of nature, he said at this hour of sorrow, he shared grief of the bereaved family.

He prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

## APO and NPOs to address digital transformation challenges in marketing, Asad Islam

### NPO Pakistan and APO Japan Host International Workshop to Boosting Productivity through Digital Transformation

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Asad Islam Mahni, Additional Secretary Industries & Production Division, inaugurated the four-day International Training workshop on Strategic Marketing for Digital Transformation.

He commended the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for its significant contributions to the development of the Asia-Pacific region. He emphasized that now is the time to renew our commitment to achieving APO's vision of "Inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific."



The International workshop, organized by the APO in collaboration with Pakistan's National Productivity Organization (NPO), brings together 18 international participants from APO member countries Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Turkey along with 10 local participants from Pakistan.

Continued on Page 4

## Ethiopian cultural night showcases growing people-to-people ties, Amb Beker

### Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori Awarded Ethiopia's Highest Honor for Services

VOM Report

KARACHI: In a prestigious ceremony held at Governor House, Governor Sindh H.E. Kamran Khan Tessori was awarded Ethiopia's highest honor, the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Award, by Ethiopian Ambassador and Special Envoy H.E. Dr. Jamal Beker.

The award was presented in recognition of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's exceptional contributions to strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker for the honor. He emphasized that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia have reached new heights of strength and cooperation. During the event, which fea-

tured an Ethiopian cultural show, Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker praised the Governor's role in fostering public ties between the two nations.

He highlighted Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's pivotal efforts in promoting bilateral relations, including his significant role in facilitating the launch of Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan.

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker said efforts of the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad and support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, business community, civil society and media had helped strengthen the people-to-people relations between the two countries.

He said the start of the Ethiopian Airlines had laid the strong foundation for people-to-people relations between the two countries, who had strengthened the bilateral ties by enhancing the bilateral, regional



and multilateral cooperation in diverse areas. The Ambassador said today

Ethiopian cultural night was a testament to the growing people-to-people relations between the two countries. He also highlighted the diverse culture and rich heritage of Ethiopia which is called as a land of origins, a land of Bilal Habeshi and King Nejashe and the land of coffee. H.E. Zubair Motiwala, TDAP Chief Executive, also acknowledged the growing bilateral relations between the two countries, but stressed the need to exploit the immense business and trade potential between the two countries.

H.E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of Ethiopia in Karachi, lauded the Ambassador of Ethiopia for his exemplary efforts to promote bilateral relations between the two countries. The Honorary Consul said Ethiopia and Pakistan shared striking cultural similarities which we had witnessed today in this

Ethiopian cultural night. A large number of individuals from different walks of life including officials of the Government of Pakistan, Parliamentarians, diplomatic corps, business community, civil society and media attended the cultural night which featured dance and singing performances of the Ethiopian singers and dancers.

Prominent figures included H.E. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), H.E. Khalid Tawab, Ex-Minister of Sindh for Commerce and Industry, H.E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Karachi. The cultural night was hosted by the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad in collaboration with the Sindh Governor House, Pakistan Ethiopia Business Council and Bukhari Groups.

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## On the edge of default

IRFAN AHMAD CHATHA

As Pakistan looks for a spot on the IMF Board's agenda, the prudent course during this downtime is to reflect on its debt sustainability and develop a broader understanding of the factors that have kept Pakistan amongst the 'commitment type' of sovereign borrowers instead of 'opportunistic type'. The former type of sovereign builds a reputation that it is unlikely to default. Notwithstanding the importance of the complex scenarios incorporated in the debt sustainability analyses conducted by national and international stakeholders, let's focus on the fundamental 'i-g' measure of debt sustainability. This denotes the difference between the average interest rate on government debt and the GDP growth rate. When the differential is negative, it implies that the economy is growing faster than the interest rate on debt, making it easier for governments to manage their debt levels even with primary deficits. In the last ten years, Pakistan has had negative difference only once. In five out of the last ten years, the difference was 10 percentage points or higher. This also explains the persistent upward trend in markup payments to GDP ratio. One of the reasons for a positive i-g difference is accumulation of public debt. When a country has a higher stock of public debt, as is the case with Pakistan, then the risk premium on its government bonds rises, resulting in higher interest rates on otherwise safe and liquid assets (for instance, government treasury bills). High-yield government securities increase the misallocation of credit, leading to lower aggregate productivity and output. The evidence of misallocation lies in the banking system's balance sheet. Investments are more than double the advances and the investments in government securities are higher than 90 per cent. A higher dependency ratio (the ratio of dependents to the working-age population) is linked to a lower i-g differential. This is because an aging population is assumed to save more, reducing interest rates. Despite having a dependency ratio 12 percentage points higher than the average for lower middle-income countries, such dynamics don't hold true for Pakistan because of lower tendency to save. The savings-to-GDP ratio for Pakistan is 13 per cent whereas the average for lower middle-income countries is 19.2 per cent. Debt sustainability heavily depends on the composition of debt - external vs domestic debt, and long-term vs short-term debt. Almost all the defaulting countries of this century had a higher external debt-to-GDP ratio. The recent default by Sri Lanka was also triggered by large external debt. As the country was unable to get timely financial assistance from international creditors, it had to default due to depletion of forex reserves. Pakistan's default risk in the last five years has also been stimulated by record high external debt-to-GDP ratio (37.6 per cent) stemming from the depreciation of the rupee, slow economic growth and reliance on external assistance to finance mega infrastructure projects and current account deficits. Nevertheless, one thing should be clear: unsustainable debt is bad whether it's domestic or external. Domestic debt is usually considered less risky. But in a high interest rate period, domestic debt is as risky as external debt. The role of debt tenor in debt sustainability is not straightforward. Short-term debt typically carries lower interest rates because lenders face less risk over a shorter period. However, the need to frequently refinance short-term debt exposes the borrower to the risk of rising interest rates, which can increase debt servicing costs and pressure debt sustainability. While debt with longer tenors may have higher interest rates due to the increased risk over time, it offers more stability as the borrower locks in the interest rate for a longer period. This reduces the need for frequent refinancing and mitigates the risk of interest rate fluctuations, enhancing debt sustainability. Successive governments of Pakistan have generally preferred long-term borrowing to short-term borrowing. The long-term debt share in total debt mostly remains above 65 per cent. Even in the last three fiscal years, when markets considered Pakistan at high default risk, the long-term debt was more than 80 per cent of the total debt. This is no less than an achievement because the government's ability to sell securities with longer maturities is a sign of investor confidence in the economy and government's ability to repay. Moreover, according to textbook logic, Pakistan was not at risk of default because during times of high default risk, sovereigns can easily raise short-term debt. This helps maintain fiscal discipline and reduces the likelihood of default by keeping the sovereign wary of consequences of its borrowing decisions immediately. However, for practical reasons, short-term debt should have been preferred in recent years of higher interest rates. It would have allowed Pakistan to benefit from future decreases in interest rates. High-interest rates are often associated with economic uncertainty. Committing to long-term debt at high rates could increase the overall cost of borrowing for a long time, even after rates fall. Short-term debt typically has a lower coupon rate than long-term debt, which could reduce the immediate debt servicing burden. Despite the debt sustainability challenges and the imperfect debt management, Pakistan has never (officially) defaulted. This can be attributed to the government's demonstration of a strong commitment to maintaining fiscal discipline through various austerity measures, tax reforms, and public expenditure controls, albeit with varying degrees of success. Credit goes to Pakistan's bilateral relationships as well for complementing its engagement with international financial institutions like the IMF, World Bank, and ADB. The strongest domestic factor, however, is political will. In theory, sovereigns could default without facing direct legal consequences, yet most countries avoid default. The leading theoretical frameworks explaining the behaviour of sovereign borrowers particularly focus on the role of reputation in influencing borrowing costs and the likelihood of default.

The writer is an associate research fellow at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad.



Asghar Soomro

During last month's monsoon rains, frequent news reports surfaced about school roofs collapsing across various parts of Sindh, leaving parents filled with anxiety and fear for their children's safety. In Basiro village, Khairpur district, 12 eighth-grade students sustained head injuries when a large piece of concrete plaster fell from the ceiling in their classroom at a government high school. Fortunately, no fatalities occurred, but this incident raises serious concerns about the safety of students enrolled in public schools. Tragically, such shocking incidents have occurred before, without prompting any meaningful change in the usual apathetic behaviour of the authorities, who remain indifferent to the plight of poor children. Nearly a decade ago, I wrote an article in another newspaper in frustration over a similar issue. This followed a tragic incident where a school corridor wall collapsed in Qabool Pur village, district Tando Mohammad Khan, resulting in the death of an eight-year-old first-grade student and injuries to several others. Yet, in a short span of time, we tend to move on. The news fades, and the

# Building blues

case is set aside. This is the general reaction of the public, and the media rarely follows up on such stories. The Sindh High Court's Sukkur Bench has taken cognizance of the Khairpur incident, summoning the concerned authorities. However, it offers a little hope, as such cases often fail to hold anyone accountable. The reason lies in the lengthy and complex legal process, which is further hindered by weak or missing evidence to establish negligence or guilt. As a result, cases of public

this incident seems destined to meet the same fate - ending without fixing responsibility on any specific party/individual. A problem well stated is half solved, so let's first examine where the issue lies before discussing solutions to this longstanding malaise of vested interests, incompetence, neglect, and corruption. First, the frequent damage to school roofs, whether caused by heavy or light rain, is largely due to negligence on the part of school administrations. Headmasters often

Every fiscal year, barely half of the Annual Development Budget (ADB) for education is utilized. In the last fiscal year (2023-24), the situation was even worse, setting a new low. Out of the Rs16 billion allocated under the ADB for education, Rs4 billion were earmarked for new projects, and the rest for ongoing ones. However, only Rs6 billion was released - and that too towards the end of fiscal year. It defies understanding how the same cycle of poor planning and execution repeats itself year after year, without anyone ever being held accountable. And this is happening in a province where school infrastructure is in desperate need of extensive upgrading and improvement. Out of a total of 40,978 schools in Sindh, 5159 are shelterless. Furthermore, 36225 schools are primary schools, of which 60 per cent consist of just one or two rooms, many of which lack basic facilities such as toilets, drinking water and electricity. Given this dire state of school buildings, how can the province justify a 50 per cent underutilization of its budget? Where does one even begin to address this issue? When the rulers claim that they want to see the poor and disadvantaged children educated and successful, it feels like self-incrimination, as their actions tell an entirely different story.

The writer is an education expert and can be reached at: asghar-soomro@gmail.com

## Nearly a decade ago, I wrote an article in another newspaper in frustration over a similar issue

interest seldom lead to meaningful accountability. Both sides have presented their own defence: the engineers from the Works and Services Department claim that they had declared the school building dangerous after a technical assessment, yet the school administration reopened the building after the summer vacations, believing it to be safe from its outward appearance. Meanwhile, the school administration argues that they had no choice but to use the building, as the upper portion of the building was under construction. We will have to see which side can substantiate their claim in the court, but unfortunately

fail to take the necessary precautions before the monsoon season. Rooftops are not inspected to ensure proper drainage, and without such basic maintenance, rainwater accumulates, damaging the infrastructure and causing plaster to fall. In addition to negligence, another significant issue is the centralized system of maintenance and repair at the provincial level. The cumbersome processes of procurement and fund disbursement further delay essential repairs, exacerbating the problem. Apart from this, there are serious issues related to planning capacity, execution, and time management - along with questionable intent.

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 Congress policies in these provinces hurt Muslim susceptibilities. There were calculated aims to obliterate the Muslims as a separate cultural unit. The Muslims now stopped thinking in terms of seeking safeguards and began to consider seriously the demand for a separate Muslim state. During 1937-39, several Muslim leaders and thinkers, inspired by Allama Iqbal's ideas, presented elaborate schemes for partitioning the subcontinent according to two-nation theory.

#### PAKISTAN RESOLUTION

The All-India Muslim League soon took these schemes into consideration and finally, on March 23, 1940, the All-India Muslim League, in a resolution, at its historic Lahore Session, demanded a separate homeland for the Muslims in the Muslim majority regions of the subcontinent. The resolution was commonly referred to as the Pakistan Resolution. The Pakistan demand had a great appeal for the Muslims of every persuasion. It revived memories of their past greatness and promised future glory. They,

therefore, responded to this demand immediately.

#### CRIPPS MISSION

The British Government recognized the genuineness of the Pakistan demand indirectly in the proposals for the transfer of power after the Second World War which Sir Stafford Cripps brought to India in 1942. Both the Congress and the All-India Muslim League rejected these proposals for different reasons. The principles of secession of Muslim India as a separate Dominion was however, conceded in these proposals. After this failure, a prominent Congress leader, C. Rajgopalacharia, suggested a formula for a separate Muslim state in the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was rejected at the time, but later on, in 1944, formed the basis of the Jinnah-Gandhi talks.

#### PAKISTAN MOVEMENT

The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War every section of the Muslim commu-

nity.

#### MEN, WOMEN, STUDENT, ULEMA AND BUSINESSMEN

Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim League election campaign was based on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provin-

cial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms.

#### CABINET PLAN

In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Adele's secret strategy for her next career chapter after extended break from music

Adele instructs team to pitch to major film studios

Following the conclusion of her multi-million dollar residency in Munich, Adele has announced she will be taking an 'incredibly long' break from music. The Hello singer, who is valued at \$220 million, has been somewhat secretive about her future plans. However, insiders suggest a major career pivot is on the horizon—potentially towards the big screen. Adele shared her need for rest with fans, explaining, "I have spent the last seven years building a new life for myself and I want to live it now." Despite this hiatus, it seems her creative ambitions are far from over. Sources reveal that she has been diligently preparing to transition into act-



ing, having taken intensive lessons from a top Hollywood coach for over a year. "When Adele commits to something, she does it 100 per cent," the source told DailyMail.com. As she steps away from the spotlight, it looks like the stage might be making way for a new role in her impressive career. One Hollywood insider has suggested that Adele may need dialect coaching. Her natural Cockney accent could limit the variety of roles available to her, according to the source. Another insider confirmed that the singer will indeed return to touring, residencies, and music in the future, promising that her comeback will be announced with much fanfare.

## Tech

# SpaceX set to blast billionaire's private crew into space on Polaris Dawn mission

Private astronaut crew members are in the final stages of preparations for a groundbreaking SpaceX mission on Tuesday that aims to execute the first-ever private spacewalk using the company's new spacesuits and a redesigned spacecraft. According to Reuters, the crew - including a billionaire entrepreneur, a retired military fighter pilot and two SpaceX employees - is scheduled to launch at 3:38am ET from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (Nasa) Kennedy Space Center in Florida. They will be embarking on the space agency's fifth and riskiest private space mission as they blast into space aboard the Crew Dragon capsule on Tuesday. The mission, named Polaris, was previously postponed due to a minor helium leak but has now been permitted to proceed. However, the launch faces a 40% chance of favourable weather, according to the US Space Force launch weather modeling. SpaceX has other launch opportunities Tuesday at 5:23am and 7:09am.



"Crew safety is absolutely paramount and this mission carries more risk than usual, as it will be the furthest humans have traveled from Earth since Apollo and the first commercial spacewalk," Elon Musk, SpaceX's CEO, wrote about the mission last month on his social media site X. The SpaceX mission, called Polaris Dawn, will last about five days in an oval-shaped orbit that passes as close to Earth as 190kilometre and as far as 1,400km, the farthest any humans will have traveled since the end of the US' Apollo moon program in 1972. The spacewalk is planned for the mission's third day at 700km in altitude and will last around 20 minutes.

## Health

# Potassium supplementation may help prevent AFib after heart surgery

It's common practice for patients to receive intravenous potassium supplementation after any form of heart surgery if their potassium levels drop below 4.5 mEq/L (Milliequivalents per liter). However, a new study, published in JAMA Network-Trustee Source, suggests that potassium supplementation only at levels below 3.6 mEq/L is non-inferior to standard practice as a way to lower the risk of atrial fibrillation (AFib) after surgery. Nearly one-third of Trustee Source of people who undergo the estimated 1.5 million cardiac surgeries a year worldwide experience atrial fibrillation, which is the most common clinical arrhythmia worldwide. Estimates suggest that it affects up to 3% of the Western population ages 20 years or older. The risk of AFib increases among young people, but it can sometimes occur in young people.

People with AFib may have a much faster heart rate than usual, and the heart does not pump blood around the body efficiently. Blood may collect or pool in the heart, increasing the likelihood of clots. There are four chambers in the heart - two atria and two ventricles - and atrial fibrillation occurs when those chambers don't function properly due to abnormal electrical activity, which causes the atria and ventricles to contract at different speeds. Advanced age, high blood pressure, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, binge drinking, and a history of underlying heart disease are all factors that can contribute to the development of atrial fibrillation. However, it is the most frequent postoperative adverse event, and according to the authors of the new study, it can lead to expensive hospital bills, longer hospital stays, and a higher risk of death. Researchers conducted a randomized clinical trial

at 23 cardiac surgical centers in the United Kingdom and Germany between October 2020 and November 2023, utilizing 1,690 patients with no history of atrial dysrhythmias who were scheduled for isolated coronary artery bypass grafting surgery. Of those, 843 were in the group with the "relaxed" standard for supplementation. The lowered threshold for potassium supplementation did not result in any further adverse developments or increased heart dysrhythmias, and the cost savings per patient in the "relaxed" group had a mean difference of \$111.89. "Potassium travels in and out of cardiac cells every time the heart beats. When potassium levels are very low, people are at much higher risk of arrhythmias including life-threatening ventricular fibrillation and even AFib. Severely elevated potassium levels are also unsafe and can lead to very slow heart rates and a condition called heart block.





## SC dismisses review appeals against removal of restaurants from Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the review appeals and upheld its verdict for the removal of restaurants including Monal, Lamontana and Gloria Jean from the Margalla Hills National Park.

The top court also withdrew its observation in which it had stated that the restaurants should be given priority in lease process of any other location.

The court, in its 13-page order authored by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, said, "The cases were not heard in chambers nor by a single judge. They were heard in open court by this Bench (of three judges) and the short order dated 11 June 2024 was dictated in open court in the presence of everyone."

"The documents filed by the Firm and its partners in the review petition and the listed applications confirm that the Firm and/or its partners are in illegal possession of the land situated in the Margalla Hills National Park ('the National Park') and illegally running restaurants (La Montana and Gloria Jeans)."

The court observed that the utter disdain and contempt for the laws of Pakistan and the degradation/destruction of the National Park was made possible by the complicity of those who were required to protect, preserve and conserve it; they were in the service of Pakistan, but were unmindful of their duty to serve the people, instead they served moneyed interests.

The order said, "The owner of Monal restaurant and of La Montana and Gloria Jeans had voluntarily offered to vacate the land of the National Park in their possession within three months, this court had appreciated this gesture of theirs and recorded this in order dated 11 June 2024, which was confirmed in the detailed judgment."

## Rana Tanveer urges opposition sit together for sake of strengthening parliament, democracy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain extended an offer to the opposition on Tuesday, urging them to unite to strengthen parliament, democracy, and the country's overall progress. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said that this is the right time to work together for the common people's prosperity, development, and upliftment. Recalling events from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, he said that during the PTI sit-in, institutions like PTV and parliament were attacked. He also said the civil disobedience campaign initiated by PTI leaders, during which people were asked not to pay their bills. The minister also recounted the incident where the doors of Maryam Nawaz's hotel room were broken in Karachi. He said that opposition leaders were arrested on fabricated charges during the PTI government. He said that PTI founder avoided meeting opposition members in the National Assembly.



Chairman PM Steering Committee & Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan presided meeting on Gems Stones.

## President Zardari lauds services of AQ Khan Hospital Trust, assures his support

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday commended the services of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust for providing accessible and free medical and healthcare to the needy people and assured of his support to the organisation.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Member of the National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the Trustees including Habib-ur-Rehman, Raja Arshad Mehmood and Advisor Chaudhry Ghulam Yasir Abbas.

Dr. Dina Khan briefed the president about the role of the hospital in providing medical services to the people. She also apprised the president about certain problems being faced by the Trust and highlighted that



some former trustees had committed financial embezzlement and had misused the accounts of the Trust. President Zardari said that the entire nation was indebted to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for his services to the nation, and assured the

resolution of the issues faced by the Trust. He commended the work of AQ Khan Hospital Trust and appreciated the generous donations by the people for the noble cause of providing much-needed free health services to the underprivileged.

## Remarks in PTI public rally challenged Pakistan's integrity: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said that the remarks in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) public rally had challenged Pakistan's integrity. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that the rally had undermined Pakistan's integrity, unity, and federation.

He condemned linking Pakistan's existence with any individual, describing it as deplorable. He also strongly denounced the remarks made by Ali Amin Gandapur about attacking Punjab and his comments targeting women, political leadership, and the journalist community.

He criticized the remarks made by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which he said hurt the sentiments of political leaders and media workers.

He termed September 8 as a "black day" in the country's history in which Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had challenged the federation.

"The minister expressed regret over PTI's avoidance of dialogue with other political parties and alleged that PTI attempts to gain power through backdoor means. He also regretted the PTI leadership's actions targeting defense installations on May 9 and highlighted that the memorials of martyrs were attacked by PTI workers. He criticized PTI for failing to work towards strengthening democracy and Parliament. The minister said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are highly patriotic and have made significant contributions to the country's progress. He said that the people of the two provinces have made sacrifices to safeguard the nation's borders."

## Govt. committed to promote Islamic banking in country: NA told

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is committed to promote Islamic banking in the country.

In response to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he said that the government plans to launch new Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion under Islamic Finance this month.

He explained that two schemes under the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were launched in July 2023, involving Rs 70 billion in instruments, though these schemes were later suspended. The minister highlighted that Islamic financial instruments are asset-backed, with certificates issued against tangible assets. In 2023, certificates worth Rs 80 billion were issued against assets such as the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Islamabad Metro. He said that the government has identified new assets valued at Rs 1,000 billion and has secured the necessary approvals to proceed. Consequently, Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion will be issued this month. The minister also reported a 30 percent increase in Islamic banking accounts and announced plans to issue new certificates based on the recently identified assets.

## Defence, Martyrs Day commemorated in Ankara



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Defence and Martyrs Day was commemorated in Ankara, Türkiye, paying tribute and homage to the indomitable courage of the armed forces and martyrs who sacrificed their lives in successfully defending the motherland from threats to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability.

According to a message received here, Turkish Minister of Trade Prof. Dr Omer Bolat graced the occasion as chief guest and Commander Turkish General Staff (TGS) General Metin Gurak as guest of honour. Among other guests were Former Minister for Interior Eflak Ala, Member Parliament Dr. Hasan Sert, Governor Ankara Vasip Sahin, Former Chairman SSB Prof. Dr Ismail Demir, Turkish ambassador designate to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, Deputy Commerce Minister Mustafa Tuzcu, Deputy Chief of TGS General Kemal Yeni, high rank-

ing Turkish civil and military officials, ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, defence & military Attaches, media persons and members of Pakistani community.

In his remarks, Turkish Minister of Trade Prof. Dr Omer Bolat appreciated exemplary and historic bilateral relations, in particular flourishing defence ties and excellent cooperation between the armed forces of Pakistan and Türkiye. Referring to Ambassador Junaid as his special friend, Minister Bolat acknowledged his role in further strengthening of bilateral ties and economic cooperation between the brotherly countries. Minister Bolat highlighted that trade volume between Pakistan and Türkiye has increased by 42% in the first eight months of the year and both countries are committed to reaching the 5 billion USD trade target, set by the leadership. APP

## US ambassador Blome highlights "Recharge Pakistan" initiative at Islamabad launch event

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome on Tuesday addressed the launch of the "Recharge Pakistan" initiative here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The ambitious climate project aims to bolster flood resilience and enhance water security across vulnerable regions in Pakistan.

Ambassador Blome began his remarks by recognizing PIPS, an independent research and training facility for parliamentarians established with U.S. funding. He emphasized the institute's significant role in educating and supporting Pakistani lawmakers through extensive training and policy research.

The "Recharge Pakistan" initiative, which sees a \$5 million contribution from the United States, is designed to address critical water management challenges exacerbated by climate change. Groundwater, vital for drinking water, agriculture, and livestock, is under threat as climate change disrupts natural water recharge processes. Ambassador Blome likened groundwater to a battery that powers essential life functions but is increasingly unable to recharge due to changing environmental conditions. APP

## No compromise on dignity of Parliament: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday held a meeting with leaders and members of parliamentary parties to address the matter of recent arrests from the premises of Parliament.

During the meeting, the leaders condemned the events of previous night and urged the Speaker to take action on the issue.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed his commitment to resolving the issue collaboratively and agreed on the need to establish a comprehensive protocol for handling such incidents in the future.

Terming the reported arrests highly distressing, he said that the respect of all the members of Parliament was of paramount importance. He assured that there would be no compromise on the dignity of Parliament.

The Speaker issued a directive for an immediate and thorough investigation into the arrests. He summoned the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Islamabad to his office to inquire about the incident and instructed him to ensure

that the arrested members were produced in the Parliament in accordance with legal procedures.

He also gave special instructions to the IGP to ensure respectful treatment and provide the best facilities to the arrested members, and sought a detailed report of the incident.

It was told that a complete investigation into the incident was underway, and footages of the event were also being obtained.

Maintaining the sanctity and respect of Parliament was his top priority, the Speaker reiterated.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers and members of the Parliament, including Rana Sanaullah, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Abdul Aleem Khan, Syed Khurshid Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Noor Alam Khan, Shandana Gulzar Khan, Khalid Hussain Magsi, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Syed Aminul Haque, Anjad Ali Khan, Shahida Akhtar Ali, Ali Muhammad Khan, Sahibzada Hamid Raza, and others.

## PM's aide Romina launches Recharge Pakistan excess floodwater management initiative

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that Pakistan regularly experiences seasonal flooding, especially during the monsoon season, which poses significant risks to human life, property, agriculture, and infrastructure.

But, managing this excess water can help overcome the risks and prove a boon to the country's socio-economic development, she added.

Addressing a launching ceremony of the 'Recharge Pakistan Programme' as chief guest here Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that the present government is concerned over wastage of excess floodwaters during summer monsoon season, which gush down the country's river system untapped for want of for various reasons, particularly inadequate storage facilities in the country.

She further that addressing this concern of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Recharge Pakistan programme is being launched by the climate change and environmental coordination in collaboration with

different national and international stakeholders to building country's flood resilience through nature-based adaptation for integrated flood risk management and conservation of excess flood water so as to utilise it for meeting growing water needs of domestic, industrial and agriculture sectors.

Managing floodwater through the Recharge Pakistan Programme would be a crucial step for several reasons, as it would help protect lives, property, the environment, infrastructure from the devastating impacts of flooding and help recharge the groundwater level, she contended.

The PM's climate aide said, "Recharge Pakistan is basically an unique collaborative initiative as it would be implemented by different national and international development partners in close collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh and Balochistan governments. Explaining about the interventions to be carried out under the Recharge Pakistan Programme, Romina Khurshid Alam said that among other key flood risk management measures, wetlands would be restored for storing excess floodwater and green

infrastructure interventions would be conducted in the Indus Basin for sustaining the exacerbating risk of floods and retain excess floodwater for irrigating agricultural and community lands by slowing run-off.

This would significantly help cope with the country's flood-caused climate vulnerability through nature-based adaptation interventions and integrated flood risk management, she added. Over the last century, the country's average temperature has spiked by 0.57 C and the average annual precipitation has increased by 25 per cent, aggravating the flood risk, particularly during summer months, she highlighted.

As a result, there has been a substantial increase in the occurrence of devastating floods, landslides and drought events, which are surpassing the capacity of the country's existing water infrastructure to stave off any massive economic damages and loss of human life, Alam added.

The Indus River is experiencing floods with increasing intensity and frequency. The communities along the Indus, including upstream watersheds and downstream wetlands and floodplains, are disproportionately vulner-

able as they depend on the river for food and water as well as their agriculture, livestock and fishing-based livelihoods.

"However, the Recharge Pakistan would be a major flood risk prevention initiative and boost the country's water storage capacity and improve groundwater resources to meet galloping population, agricultural and industrial needs," the PM's climate aide highlighted.

More importantly, by means of an integrated flood risk management approach, involving the restoration and rehabilitation of water flow paths connected to wetlands and irrigation water supply channels and the development of recharge basins and retention areas, the project would directly benefit an estimated 680,000 people and indirectly support more than seven million people, most of them in flood-prone rural and marginalized communities, PM's climate aide said.

On the occasion, Senior US Embassy official said that the US government, WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF) and CocaCola were jointly collaborating for the programme which was the first ever large-scale project by the partners and government of Pakistan.

## APO and NPOs to address digital...

Continued from Page 1

The primary aim of the workshop is to empower marketing professionals to craft and implement effective digital marketing strategies that drive business growth.

Honorable Additional Secretary warmly welcomed the international delegates and expressed his gratitude to both the APO and NPO for addressing this timely and critical topic. He highlighted that collaboration between APO and NPOs will foster solutions to the emerging challenges in marketing for digital transformation. Speaking at the opening ceremony, he emphasized that the workshop represents a key initiative towards enhancing the region's capacity for digital transformation.

CEO NPO Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry extended his appreciation to the Additional Secretary, the APO Program Officer, and the distinguished international resource speakers. He also welcomed the international and local participants, noting that Pakistan is already on the path to digital transformation. He further briefed the audience on the NPO's key initiatives, including the National Productivity Mas-

ter Plan and the Productivity Measurement System. The Master Plan will offer a strategic framework to boost productivity across Pakistan, while the Measurement System will facilitate productivity-linked wages—an essential step towards improving work efficiency and outcomes.

The CEO further elaborated that renowned experts from Malaysia and Pakistan will guide participants on the latest trends, tools, and best practices in strategic digital marketing. Topics will include digital marketing strategies, data-driven decision-making, and customer-centric approaches, ensuring that the workshop provides a comprehensive learning experience.

Mr. Dong Jin Lee, Program Officer at the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in Tokyo, Japan, underscored the importance of this event, stating, "The workshop will provide a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and networking among marketing professionals across the region. We remain committed to supporting productivity growth and competitiveness in member countries through initiatives like this." Participants have expressed their enthusiasm for the workshop, anticipating engaging sessions and practical insights they can apply within their respective organizations.