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Price Rs 8 | Pages 4

## Holiday Notice

Dear valued readers, The offices of Daily *The Asian Telegraph* will remain closed on Tuesday (September 17) on the account of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper

## CCOCIP discusses measures to expedite CPEC projects



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Chinese Investment Projects (CCoCIP) which focused on expediting several ongoing projects under the CPEC framework.

The meeting discussed the provision of electricity to the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), import/export policies for Gwadar Free Zone, transit trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries via Gwadar Port, international transshipment of seafood, and the development of the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone, according to a news release.

The Planning minister emphasized the need for a proactive approach in serving investors, adding "We must treat our investors like customers." He directed all relevant ministries to provide their comments on pending matters within few days to ensure smooth progress. "Decisions should be taken swiftly, and investors should not be kept waiting for long, as delays discourage investment," he stressed.

Ahsan Iqbal directed secretaries of the ministries concerned to develop actionable plans and address unresolved issues and end-pendencies. Discussing security measures for Chinese officials working on CPEC projects, he stressed that security protocols should not create an atmosphere of fear or hinder business operations.

The meeting reiterated the government's commitment to resolving any bottlenecks faced by Chinese investors and ensuring that CPEC projects continued to progress without delays.

The Planning minister called for enhanced coordination among ministries and smooth decision-making to boost investors' confidence and accelerate the realization of key projects. The meeting was attended by key government officials, including Federal Minister for Petroleum Division Musadiq Malik, Federal Minister for Energy Awaiz Laghari, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, and secretaries from the relevant Ministries, along with representatives from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Secretariat and the Planning Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## ADB President Asakawa lauds Pakistan's economic reform agenda, reaffirms support

Gunvor Group Chairman, Total Energies VP meet PM to discuss investment in petroleum sector

### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa, accompanied by his delegation, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and commended his government for its comprehensive reforms and reaffirmed ADB's continued support for Pakistan. During the discussions, Asakawa praised Pakistan's long-standing relationship with ADB as one of its founding members. He also reaffirmed ADB's support for infrastructure development, climate resilience, and institutional reforms in Pakistan.

While appreciating ADB's long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan, the prime minister informed the visiting president about a series of reforms introduced by the government. The key reforms include enhancing tax revenues, improving financial sustainability of the energy sector, enhancing climate resilience, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection. The prime minister emphasized that he is personally overseeing the progress of these

reforms to ensure their successful implementation and long-term impact, underscoring the Government's commitment to sustainable economic growth and stability. The prime minister appreciated ADB's generous support of over US\$ 1.5 billion in response to the devastating floods of 2022. He showed Pakistan's keen desire to work with the development partners in climate resilience projects including agriculture. The prime minister and president of ADB also witnessed the loan signing of the Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project amounting to US\$400 million and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project worth US\$320 million. Both these projects are part of the ADB's flood commitments.

Federal Ministers for Planning & Development, Investment & Privatization, Economic Affairs, Finance & Revenue and other senior government officials also attended the meeting. Meanwhile, Gunvor Group Chairman Torbjorn Tornqvist and Vice President Oceania & Southeast Asia Total Energies Mehmet Celepoglu Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed potential investment in Pakistan's

energy sector. During the meeting, the prime minister highlighted that after attaining stability, the country's economy was now moving on the path of growth and development. He said rapid reforms were underway to increase the investment and business activities, and economic policies were yielding positive results.

He emphasized that the government was removing all the barriers for foreign investment in Pakistan.

Chairman Torbjorn Tornqvist expressed the Gunvor Group's keen interest in investment in the petroleum sector of Pakistan. The prime minister was told that the Gunvor Group had already signed an agreement to acquire 50% shares of Total Parco.

The Gunvor Group chairman lauded that positive steps were being taken under the prime minister's leadership for promoting investment in the country. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to provide all possible facilities to the Gunvor Group.

The meeting was also attended by federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Dr Musadiq Malik, PM's Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and other relevant high officials.

## There should not be any politics on constitutional amendments, says Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Monday said that there should not be any politics in the matter of constitutional amendments and as parliamentarians, it is our first duty to legislate. Speaking in the National Assembly, defense minister there was a new clarification in 63A that a vote should be taken but not counted if there is a draft proposal regarding the Constitutional Court. He added that it was also part of the Charter of Democracy (COD) and also practiced in many democratic countries.

Khawaja Asif said that it didn't mean Parliament would be overstepped. He said that a body will be created for a specific case that will look into constitutional matters.

He said people have been waiting for decades to get justice from the apex court while 2.7 million cases are pending in superior courts.

"The current constitutional amendment is an effort to reduce the burden of the courts and carries any political interest. This effort is being made to make life of the common man easy," he added.

Khawaja Asif said after the judiciary restoration movement, the process of appointing judges was decided, at that time a senior judge was contacted by the judiciary, the role of the parliament is a 'rubber-stamp'.

He asked opposition to identify any clause that protects the interests of the government coalition.

"I don't think any person or organization disagrees with these things, we will try to bring the constitution back in a form that is compatible with COD," he stressed. INP

## Atta Tarar grieved over demise of senior director Altaf Hussain

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday expressed profound grief and sorrow over demise of Senior Director of Pakistani film industry Altaf Hussain.

The minister, in a condolence message, sympathized with the bereaved family, while highlighting the deceased's contribution for the Pakistani film industry. Altaf Hussain directed many memorable films in his life and contributed to the uplift of the Pakistan's film industry through his sheer hard work and dedication, the minister noted.

He said the death of Altaf Hussain is an irreparable loss not only to the Pakistani film industry but also to the entire country.

The minister lauded the services and contributions of Altaf Hussain for the film industry. He prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in the eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude. APP

## US Under Secretary of State calls on DPM Ishaq Dar



ISLAMABAD: US Under Secretary of State John Bass and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Elizabeth Horst Monday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar in his office.

In the meeting, they discussed Pakistan-US bilateral relations and ongoing collaboration projects, a Foreign Office statement said.

The Deputy PM underlined the importance of positive and productive engagement between Pakistan and the United States.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued

regional stability and prosperity. Under Secretary Bass expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's continued cooperation in assisting Afghans in resettlement pathways to the United States.

The Under Secretary congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister on Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-2026 term and expressed the United States' interest in working closely with the Government of Pakistan during its tenure. APP

## 'SOEs reforms aimed at improving governance, efficiency'

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb says government's reforms of State Owned Enterprises are aimed at improving governance, efficiency and financial sustainability.

He was addressing a banquet, hosted in honour of President of the Asian Development Bank, Masatsugu Asakawa in Islamabad.

The Finance Minister highlighted Pakistan's long-standing partnership with the ADB underscoring its pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's development agenda.

He commended ADB's continued assistance in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, education, and social development.

The Finance Minister asked ADB to further engage the private sector in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, ADB President Asakawa reaffirmed support for the ongoing SOE reforms and their role in strengthening country's fiscal framework. He commended Pakistan's commitment to ensuring transparency and long-term sustainability in managing key financial obligations. APP

## Pakistan-Indonesia Joint Exercise Elang Strike-II conducted at NCTC



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan-Indonesia Joint Exercise Elang Strike-II was conducted between Pakistan Army and Indonesian Armed Forces at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi on Monday.

Exercise Elang Strike-II is second exercise in Counter Terrorism domain between both the countries, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said.

A week-long Exercise Elang Strike-II commenced on 08 September 2024. The exercise

was aimed at mutually beneficial sharing of experience and training methodology between the two armies which have strong brotherly relations.

At the closing ceremony, General Officer Commanding 17 Division was the Chief Guest. Colonel Budi Wirman, Defence Attaché of Indonesia also attended the closing ceremony. The troops displayed highest standards of professional excellence during the conduct of exercise. PR

## Pakistan committed to global ozone layer protection

### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that Pakistan has demonstrated a strong commitment and played its role as a part of global efforts to protect the ozone layer through its participation in international agreements, implementation of national policies, and collaboration with global partners.

The country's efforts in phase-out initiatives under the Montreal protocol to restore and preserve the ozone layer for future generations has been globally recognised and presented as a case study, the PM's climate aide highlighted while addressing as a chief guest at the national experts' dialogue regarding the World Ozone Day 2024 held here on Monday in the climate change & environmental coordination ministry. On the occasion of World Ozone Day

2024 being marked today globally under the theme "Ozone for Life: Solutions for a Warming Planet", she reaffirmed the present government's dedication to preserving the ozone layer and combating climate change. Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that this year's theme emphasises the critical role of the ozone layer in protecting life on Earth and highlights the interconnectedness of ozone layer protection and climate action.

It reflects the ongoing efforts to address both ozone depletion and global warming, reinforcing the importance of continued international cooperation and innovative solutions to tackle these environmental challenges. The United Nations' annual Ozone Day is observed every year on September 16, aiming to celebrate the adoption of the Montreal Protocol and raises awareness about the importance of the ozone layer. It also serves as a reminder of the global commitment to protecting this vital component of Earth's atmosphere, which protects life by blocking harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

"Not protecting ozone layer is a grave risk for human health and environmental sustainability. Because, its depletion poses various risks including increased incidences of skin cancer, cataracts, and adverse impacts on ecosystems," Romina Khurshid Alam warned. "However, Pakistan recognises the importance of this protective shield and has committed to



adhering to the Montreal Protocol's goals for the protection of the ozone layer," she informed the participants. "Highlighting Pakistan's efforts for phase-out of ozone-depleting gases, she said that the country contained use of first generation of ozone depleting substances by 2009 and achieved a 50% reduction in drochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by January 2020. Pakistan is also on track to meet our 67.5% reduction target by 2025, having transitioned many industries to ozone-friendly technologies, Ms Alam emphasised.

"Our collective determination towards human and environmental sustainability continues as we prepare for the forthcoming hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) phase-down under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, an international agreement to gradually reduce the consumption and production of HFCs. Secretary climate change & environmental coordination ministry Aisha Humera

Ch. said that World Ozone Day 2024 is a testament to the collective efforts of nations in addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Pakistan is proud of the progress we have made and remains resolute in our commitment to protecting the ozone layer and combating climate change. "World Ozone Day serves as a powerful reminder of the collective effort required to protect our planet's delicate balance," the climate change ministry secretary remarked. She said Pakistan is proud to be a part of the global movement to preserve the ozone layer, and we will continue to work diligently to ensure a healthier environment for current and future generations. She said further that the protection of the ozone layer is integral to ensuring a stable climate and a healthy environment. Our ongoing initiatives and international collaborations reflect Pakistan's dedication to these goals.

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## Writing about ideas

DR NAAZIR MAHMOOD

The history of ideas is an interesting field; you traverse from concepts to definitions to ideas to philosophies – and the universe before you appears to be unending. It is history with all its fascinating contours, unfolding layer after layer of ideas as they evolved through centuries and millennia. Philosophy is the bedrock of any history of ideas, be they economic, feminist, fictional, humanist, intellectual, political, or social. Textual analysis is the building block that underpinned the evolution of the history of ideas in the 20th century. It is a challenging discipline that requires an immense capacity for profound intellectual thought as it involves connections and controversies with interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the development of ideas over time. In the nearly eight decades of Pakistan's existence, it is hard to find even eight persons who have contributed to our comprehension of history of ideas. Aziz Ali Dad is one such intellectual who has explored the history of ideas with its vast diversity and dimensions. His collection of writings 'Nomadic Meditations: Essays on the History of Ideas' presents a motley collection of articles and papers that he penned over the years. From civilization and ideas to epistemology and philosophy, the collection offers insights into a wide range of subjects. Spanning hardly 200 pages, it contains five sections beginning with 'Thinking and ideas'. It is interesting to read how Aziz Ali Dad elaborates on the idea of 'unthought' in his essay titled 'Thinking in the age of unthought'. He begins with the observation that "In the case of Pakistan, the intellectual scene related to the philosophical discourses about thinking is completely sterile." He distinguishes 'unthought' from 'absence of thinking' in an insightful manner. "Unthought is typical of human as it stems from his/her escape from thought. It can be termed as the alter ego or unconscious part of thought. The less thought we have the more unthought we have. For instance, the existing state of Muslims is the state of unthought for they refused to engage with the new developments brought about by the flux of time." The section on 'Self and civilization' contains six essays such as 'Sources of the self', 'Crusades and the construction of assassin myth', and 'Islamdom and the terror of modernity'. Aziz Ali Dad asserts that throughout history the self has remained central to human thought and for millennia various disciplines and philosophies have tried to explicate the complex nature of self. "In the overall timescale of history, Pakistan is a nascent entity. Therefore, the project of nation building in Pakistan entails formation of a new self that conforms to the collective identity." In 'Crusades and the construction of assassin myth', the author takes stock of the relationship between the crusaders and the Nizaris of Syria, and the process of the formation of the assassin legend. He examines the misperceptions of the Crusaders about the Nizari Ismailis and how the lack of knowledge about Islam in general and the Ismailis in particular gave way to imaginative speculation to fill the gaps of knowledge. During the Crusades, Christians came to know about Islam as a military force extending its boundaries. "They were unable to understand Islam as a historical and intellectual phenomenon because the religion was new and most of them feared its military prowess." 'Islamdom and the terror of modernity' is an essay that unpacks the terms of Islamdom, modernity, and terrorism with the author's enlightening commentary. After giving some socio-political background to Islamdom and modernity, Aziz Ali Dad delves into how radicals on both sides of the divide – the West and Islamists – analysed terrorism with the jaundiced eyes of ideology and ignored the socio-political and economic structure of the world that breeds terrorism. "The writers writing Islamdom during the 12th century failed to diagnose the root cause of suicide attacks on eminent personalities of the age by 'fideism'." The most interesting section of 'Nomadic Meditations' is about philosophy. Essays such as 'Soul and city in Plato', 'Was Tusi a philosopher?', and 'Philosophical debate or debacle' are all worth reading. Though at times they are a bit of tedious reading but for those interested in philosophical debates, they provide ample food for thought. Plato's 'The Republic' is a seminal text in the history of ideas and Aziz Ali Dad gives us a guided tour on the theoretical grounds for the creation of 'just city'. Plato uses his teacher Socrates' words to identify different classes in the state. The essay about Nasir al-Din Tusi presents the period where the Abbasids and Ismailis were vying with each other for intellectual and political domains. Tusi was born in 1201 (not to be confused with two other Tusis: Nizamul Mulk Tusi and Shaykh Tusi of the 11th century). Nasir al-Din Tusi's famous autobiography 'Sayr wa suluk' gives insights into his intellectual and spiritual developments. Tusi handles the issue of the choice between speculative philosophy and the guidance of an authoritative teacher and the process of resolving this conflict for was the subject matter of the 'Sayr wa suluk'. 'Philosophical debate or debacle' begins with the philosophical debate between Ernst Alfred Cassirer and Martin Heidegger in 1929. The central question for the discussion was 'What is it to be a human being?' Those who have read Thomas Mann's novel 'The magic mountain' could recall that famous place in Switzerland where this debate was held, though the novel was written in 1924. The purpose of the debate was to promote peace and understanding in the wake of the First World War that had ended 10 years earlier but left deep scars on the European intellectual and political landscapes. Aziz Ali Dad's take on epistemology is equally intriguing as the section dealing with this branch of philosophy contains essays such as 'Theory laden observation' and 'Dissecting Deridean deconstruction'. Taking a cue from Norwood Russell Hanson about theory-laden observation in scientific language, the author discusses 'Patterns of discovery: an inquiry into the conceptual foundations of science'. Hanson's investigation into the nature of observation and its relationship with theory are quite distinct from traditional accounts regarding the observation and causality. He rejects the privileged position of observation over theory in the received view.

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Ambassador  
Dr Jemal Beker Abdula

The changing patterns of contemporary Horn of Africa politics cannot be understood without knowing Addis Ababa's unwavering commitment to peace and stability in the region. The Ethiopian government's determination to ensure peace and stability in East Africa has convinced leading Addis Ababa-based state authorities to play a valuable role in introducing and supporting various peacekeeping efforts and the inter-state level proposal for conflict resolutions. This support mainly focused on the emerging interconnectedness of regional and international efforts to address the question of violent non-state actors in the Horn of Africa. The presence of Al-Shabaab and Daesh violent non-state actors and clandestine terrorist entities in Somalia causes great danger to Horn of Africa states particularly peacekeeping contributing countries. The widespread terrorist activities of the Al-Shabaab group have been internationally considered a serious threat to the entire East African regional security, and the Somalia-based origin of this non-state element dragged the attention of the entire region towards Somalia. The cross-border terrorist activities of this Somalia-based extremist group have challenged the legitimate state structure of the country parallel to expanding its activities to the territorially adjoining nations. The covertly designed violent activities of this non-state actor have jeopardized the position of East African nations in their home region by disturbing everyday life, increasing the number of displaced people, and preventing the chances of foreign investment and economic development. Thus, the transnational violent activities of Al-Shabaab mainly

## Challenges in Transitioning from ATMIS to a New Peace Support Mission: The Ethiopian Perspectives

target the countries supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) and the states advocating the operations of peacekeeping forces in the Horn of Africa. In this regard, Ethiopia plays a prominent role in establishing and advancing the functions of AMISON and the reasons for its creation in the region to help to rebuild, restore peace and stability and development in Somalia. The Ethiopian government's direct and indirect military operations under a greater terror-combating national plan made Addis Ababa relevant to the regional responses to Somalia's question of peace, mainly through AMISON. Under different political administrations, the Ethiopian government has always remained highly committed to investing its diplomatic, political, and military potential in controlling terrorism in Somalia. In this way, Addis Ababa became the frontline state in investing its multifaceted national potential in combating the rise of terrorist groups in the East African region. This factor has made Ethiopia a significant contributor to AMISON, which later became the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in 2022, according to the Peace and Security Council (PSC). The PSC's decision to convert AMISON into ATMIS originated from its 1068th meeting of PSC, and highlighted the issue of peace and stability in the region generally, and the Somali Peninsula specifically. Addis Ababa's vision for launching direct and indirect military campaigns against terrorist outfits in Somalia was inherited with the objective of preventing the presence of Al-Shabaab significantly beyond Somalia's territorial jurisdictions. For the achievement of regional peace and stability, Addis Ababa's military support to the Somali government remained vibrant in preventing the strongholds of Al-Shabaab and its growing transnational violent attacks. Aligning with the multidimensional

Addis Ababa's efforts for providing essential training, mentoring, and logistical support to the leading law enforcement agencies of Somalia, such as the Somali National Army, Police and intelligence to ensure, defeat, and sustain peace and stability clearly depicts Addis Ababa's commitment to Somali cause. No one can undermine and deny the sacrifices Ethiopia paid for restoring, rebuilding and sustaining Somalia's peace and development. Indeed, Ethiopian foreign policy after the reformist government gave great importance and priorities to the neighboring countries as a result it strives to ensure regional integration and cooperation. Ethiopia remained an anchor state in the Horn of Africa that advance regional integration through policy harmonization and mutual benefits and respect. To this end, Ethiopia's peace and stability cannot alienate its neighbors. Hence, Ethiopia will not tolerate any external forces that tried to destabilize and create hostile environment and erode the trust between or among the region that has a ramifications on the success gained on the terrorist entities. In this perspectives, Ethiopia communicated to the regional and international communities the serious concerns of Addis Ababa regarding the transition of ATMIS into a new peace-supporting mission with the support of the United Nations and the African Union. The statement recalled the sacrifices of Ethiopian defence forces in preventing the overwhelming role of non-state violent entities in Somalia and rationalizing Addis Ababa's mission for ensuring peace and security in the region. Several international and regional reports and various formal government statements from different countries have acknowledged the critical role of Addis Ababa in the support of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in the Somali Peninsula in fighting against the anti-peace ele-

ments. So, it can be maintained that the Ethiopian role must be connected to the greater multilateral efforts for installing durable peace and sustainable development in Somalia. The contribution of Addis Ababa to the greater cause of peace will enable the region to benefit from the Ethiopian vision of development in which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad has already introduced its energy diplomacy with the completion of a mega hydropower project and coupled with infrastructure connectivity, and port diversification that enhance regional integration and collective prosperity. Given the serious threat of cross-border terrorism, it is crucial for the countries committed to maintaining peace in the Horn of Africa to develop and enhance their existing counterterrorism measures. The formal decision-makers of Ethiopia advocate for more comprehensive and coordinated regional counterterrorism approaches, with the support of the international community, to establish East Africa as a prominent terror-free area. Ethiopia's significant contribution to multilevel counter-radicalization efforts has earned the nation high ranks and demonstrated its deep commitment to keeping the Horn of Africa safe from the threats of non-state actors. A comprehensive overview of Ethiopian foreign relations suggests that the country has become a hub of regional counterterrorism campaigns, and the formulation of new or upgraded anti-terror alliances can only be effective with the active involvement of Ethiopia. Ethiopia's active participation in the Somalia-centric counterterrorism efforts could enable the participating countries to achieve the desired objectives from their multilateral anti-terror collaboration. In the light of these, leaders of the region should unite their policies, resources, capacities, and actions to fight and eliminate the terrorist groups from Somalia peninsula and ensure peace and stabilities in the region.

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

## History of Pakistan

## Today in History



Almost immediately complaints arose of electoral fraud, and voter discontent soon degenerated into violent street demonstrations. Bhutto and his party had won by a landslide, but it turned out to be an empty victory. With riots erupting in all the major metropolitan areas, the army, increasingly disenchanted with Bhutto, again intervened in Pakistan's politics. Ignoring the election results, the army arrested Bhutto and dissolved his government. The prime minister

was placed under house arrest, and on July 5, 1977, Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, Bhutto's personal choice to head the Pakistan army, took the reins of government. Zia declared his intention to hold a new round of elections that would be fairer and more transparent. However, it soon became apparent that the army had no intention of allowing Bhutto to return to power. Bhutto's subsequent arrest on charges that he ordered the assassination of a political rival, and

Zia's insistence that he be tried for this alleged crime, brought an end to the Bhutto era and ushered in the Zia ul-Haq regime. Zia ul-Haq's initial declaration that he would return government to civilian hands was at variance with his behaviour. His subsequent change in direction hinted that there were powers behind the scene that were determined to eliminate Bhutto as an active player. Zia in fact called for a complete change in direction once

the decision was made not to conduct new elections, to arrest and try Bhutto, and, ultimately, to ignore the pleadings from the governments of other countries to spare Bhutto's life. Found guilty and sentenced to death, Bhutto was hanged on April 4, 1979. After Bhutto's death, Zia ul-Haq, president since 1978, settled to the task of redesigning a political system for Pakistan.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Sofia Vergara reunites with 'Modern Family' co-star at 2024 Primetime Emmys

Sofia Vergara was nominated in a category for her leading role in the Netflix's miniseries 'Griselda'

Sofia Vergara had an unexpected Modern Family reunion at the 2024 Primetime Emmy Awards as she appeared for her Griselda nomination. On Sunday night, September 15, after making a sizzling red-carpet appearance in a red busy dress, the 52-year-old actress found herself seated in front of Jesse Tyler Ferguson and his husband, Justin Mikita, at the awards ceremony in Los Angeles. While Vergara was nominated for the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology series category for her leading role in the Netflix miniseries at the 75th annual Primetime Emmy Awards, she appeared with Ferguson, 48, on the ABC series from



2009 to 2020. Notably, the much-popular sitcom, in which Vergara starred as Gloria Delgado-Pritchett while Ferguson played her onscreen stepson, Mitchell Pritchett, bagged a whopping 20 Emmy Awards. Striking an alluring pose, Vergara captured the moments of delightful reunion in some selfies and pictures with Ferguson and Mikita, 39. In addition to her Modern Family reunion, Vergara also crossed paths with her fellow America's Got Talent judge, Heidi Klum. The two posed for a slew of pictures, which Vergara later posted on her official Instagram account.

## Tech

# SpaceX's historical Polaris Dawn mission set to return home

WASHINGTON: SpaceX's historical Polaris Dawn spacewalk mission is set to return to Earth on Sunday. The crew of four has become the first ever private crew to conduct a spacewalk and their touchdown is expected to take place off the coast of Dry Tortugas, Florida at 3:36am Eastern Time (0736 GMT). A live webcast will be carried by SpaceX starting around an hour beforehand. The four-member team led by fintech billionaire Jared Isaacman launched Tuesday from the Kennedy Space Center, quickly journeying deeper into the cosmos than any humans in the past half century as they ventured into the dangerous Van Allen radiation belt. They hit a peak altitude of 870-miles (1,400km) — more than three times higher than the International Space Station, and the furthest humans had ever travelled from Earth since the Apollo missions to the Moon. Then on Thursday, with their Dragon spacecraft's orbit brought down to 434 miles,



Isaacman swung open the hatch and climbed out into the void, gripping a structure called "Skywalker" as a breathtaking view of Earth unfolded before him. "SpaceX, back at home we all have a lot of work to do, but from here, Earth sure looks like a perfect world," he told mission control in Hawthorne, California, where teams erupted in applause. He went back inside after a few minutes and was replaced by a second astronaut, SpaceX engineer Sarah Gillis, who, like Isaacman, performed a series of mobility tests on SpaceX's sleek, next-generation suits.

## Health

# Pakistan's mpox tally rises to 7 as another case reported

ISLAMABAD: A 44-year-old man, hailing from the Gujarat district in Punjab, has tested positive for monkeypox virus or mpox after arriving in Pakistan from a gulf state marking the seventh mpox case in the country this year and the sixth since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared an emergency last month. After being suspected of carrying the virus, the patient, who landed at Islamabad Airport on September 14 (Saturday), was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). The health officials confirmed that samples sent to the National Institute of Health (NIH) tested positive for mpox. The patient is reported to be in stable condition. "This is the seventh confirmed case of mpox in Pakistan this year," said a health official in the federal health ministry. "Five previous cases were confirmed at the Khyber Medical University laboratory in Peshawar, while

this latest patient is being treated in Islamabad," the official said. Mpox is a virus that causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions and, while usually mild, it can kill. Children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are all at higher risk of complications. Earlier on Wednesday, one more mpox case was reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), taking the total tally of the virus to six in Pakistan, provincial Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah said. Moreover on Sunday, at least three passengers travelling to Karachi were suspected of monkeypox in a single day at the Jinnah International Airport, media reported citing sources. All three passengers returned to Pakistan from Middle Eastern countries, the sources added. Following global health concerns, WHO has approved MVA-BN as the first pre-qualified vaccine

against monkeypox virus, according to The News on Saturday. "This first pre-qualification of a vaccine against mpox is an important step in our fight against the disease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa and in future," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The development comes as the United Nations' health centrebody had declared the mpox outbreak as an "international health emergency" in July. The spike in mpox cases in Peshawar has triggered concerns among health experts and the public alike, with calls for increased awareness and stricter travel guidelines. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, particularly in light of the WHO's recent emergency declaration regarding the virus, he added and lauded Border Health Services (BHS) to finally detect an mpox case other than Peshawar.





## Salik highlights revered tradition of Naat recitation, citing Quranic endorsement of sending blessings on Holy Prophet

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday hosted a grand Naat and awards ceremony at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), marking the significance of Rabi-ul-Awwal and the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference 1446 Hijri. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, presided over the ceremony as the chief guest, while other federal ministers, parliamentarians, esteemed religious scholars, and prominent guests from across the country were in attendance.

The event was part of a series of initiatives undertaken by the ministry to commemorate the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, during which the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) occurred. This year marks the 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference, which serves as a platform to emphasize the teachings and life of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). Addressing the gathering, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain underscored the significance of Naat recitation, describing it as a deeply revered tradition among Muslims. He noted that sending blessings upon the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an act endorsed by Allah and the angels, as mentioned in the Holy Quran. The minister emphasized that Naat recitation is an expression of love and devotion towards the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and that all Muslims should strive to emulate the noble character of the Prophet (PBUH) in their daily lives.

Renowned Naat reciters from across the country graced the event with their melodious renditions, expressing their love and reverence for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The minister expressed his gratitude to all participants for attending and contributing to the success of the event.

He said it is essential for a Naat reciter to be well-versed in the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. Particularly, they should have studied the life of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) with great attention and care, he added.

Reflecting on the importance of Naat, the minister stated, "Love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an essential part of our faith. Reciting and listening to Naat brings a sense of spiritual fulfillment and rejuvenates our faith." He further added that Naat has a rich tradition dating back to the time of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his Companions, particularly highlighting the contributions of celebrated poets such as Hassan bin Sabit, Kab bin Malik, and Abdullah bin Rawaha who used their poetry to uplift Islam and glorify the Prophet (PBUH).

The minister concluded the ceremony with a heartfelt prayer, asking Almighty Allah to guide all Muslims to follow the exemplary life of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and to establish a society based on the principles of brotherhood, tolerance, and justice. He also prayed for the prosperity and progress of Pakistan. APP



ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of a building decorated with colorful lights, in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations, in the Federal Capital. ONLINE

## Embracing Holy Prophet's teachings key to overcome prevailing challenges: President Asif Ali Zardari

President condoles demise of Balochistan Minister Sarfaraz Domki

### VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has called upon the nation and the Muslim Ummah to abide by the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as a guiding light to overcome the prevailing challenges. The president, in his message on 12th Rabiul Awwal, 1446, greeted the nation on the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and said that Allah Almighty had set the Holy Prophet's life as a role model to guide every aspect of life.

The president highlighted that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) established a just society where every individual, regardless of their

wealth or social status, could live with dignity. He also emphasized the Holy Prophet's teachings encouraged his followers to speak out against oppression and support the marginalized as an integral part of their faith.

"Today, as the world faces division and oppression, it's imperative to spread the message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who embodied love, tolerance, and human rights. He treated all individuals, regardless of their faith, with respect and dignity. Embracing this spirit, we must promote global brotherhood, justice, and love," President Zardari remarked. President Zardari said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) would continue to be a source of guidance forever. 12th Rabiul Awwal serves as a reminder of a transformative message that turned the darkness into a beacon of light.

He emphasized that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) considered those who benefited others as the best of humanity.

"So on this auspicious occasion, we need to disseminate the Holy Prophet (PBUH)'s mes-

sage of love and compassion to humanity. His life exemplifies service to humanity, from caring for orphans and supporting the poor to inquiring after the sick," he remarked.

The president urged the countrymen to dedicate the day to the welfare of humanity and incorporate the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) into our daily lives. He also prayed to Allah Almighty for Pakistan's peace and prosperity and sought strength to adhere to the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed grief over the death of Balochistan Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Mir Sarfaraz Chakar Domki.

The president lauded the political services of late Mir Sarfaraz Domki and expressed his sympathies for the bereaved family, according to a President House press release.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

## Process initiated with all political parties on proposed constitutional package: Azam Nazeer

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday informed the National Assembly that the process of talks has been initiated with all the political parties in the Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) on the proposed constitutional package.

Responding to points raised by PTI lawmaker Asad Qaisar, the minister said it would be the government's efforts to evolve consensus on the document.

He urged the opposition parties to come up with positive recommendations instead of undue criticisms, assuring that these would be accommodated in the proposed constitutional package.

He called upon the opposition to come forward and support the positive move in order to provide relief to the people suffering for the last over last seven decades.

Azam Nazeer said any legislation in line with the constitutional structure was the prerogative of the Parliament. The proposed constitutional package envisaged formation of the judicial commission as per the spirit of the 18th amendment and Charter of Democracy (CoD), he said.

He said under the package, it was proposed to empower the judicial commission to regulate and evaluate the performance of the judges of the high courts. He said the judges enjoyed official perks and privilege and it was his sole responsibility to dispense timely justices to the masses. Justice delay was tantamount to justice denied, he added.

The minister said that during formation of the incumbent government, proper consultation was made with different parties including Pakistan Peoples Party, PML-Z, IPP, ANP, Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Dr Abdul Malik etc. After formation of the government, it was our top priority to bring judicial reforms as it was unfinished part of CoD, he added.

He said that the 18th constitutional amendment ratified all wrong doings made with the 1973 constitution. He paid tribute to the parliament for the said landmark amendment. He said the package was a set of amendments to the Constitution. As per procedure, a constitutional amendment first needed to be cleared by the federal cabinet, he added. He said the constitutional package has not been presented before the federal cabinet yet.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, called on Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in the Federal Capital. ONLINE

## Govt, Maulana Fazl agree to wait on constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui has claimed that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and the government have agreed to wait for a few more days before finalising their stance on the constitutional amendments that have shaken up the country's political scene.

Speaking to the media outside the Senate, the veteran politician claimed that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has not sought any time to decide about his support for the amendments, adding that he had only said the suggestions must be scrutinised in detail.

The Maulana stated that, in principle, he agreed with several aspects of the amendments but would like to scrutinise the details himself as he had to face the people.

Irfan Siddiqui shared insights into their meeting from Sunday night, stating that Maulana's reaction was generally positive. Both the government and Maulana agreed to take a few more days to finalise their positions, allowing Maulana Fazlur Rehman to establish a well-informed stance. "Maulana's reaction was positive during the 2-3 hours meeting. It is expected that he will review the specifics of the proposed amendments and provide his opinion in the coming days," he added. Siddiqui added that it could take around a week to 10 days for the constitutional amendments to move forward. He further declared that the sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate were likely to be postponed indefinitely. INP



ISLAMABAD: President, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Masatsugu Asakawa in a meeting with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Minister, Ahad Cheema. INP

## Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz distributes 'Children Heart Surgery Cards'

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Children Hospital in Lahore on Monday and inaugurated 'Maryam Masihai Programme'.

During her visit, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also distributed "Child Surgery Cards" among the children suffering from heart ailment. On this occasion, the chief minister said that by using this card children of heart disease will get free treatment and if the space will not available in government hospitals then the patient will be referred to any private hospital where the patient will receive free treatment. She said that this scheme will be implemented in two phases.

She said that during first phase this facility is being provided in six government and some fixed private hospitals of the province. Children of heart ailments will avail facility of free operations from Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) and Children Hospital in Lahore and Children

Hospital Multan, Rawalpindi Cardiology Institute. In second phase this facility will be provided in Wazirabad, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur and Sargodha hospitals.

A dashboard will be established for monitoring of Children Heart Surgery Program. Chief Minister said that she inaugurated this facility as being a mother because she aware about the pain and grief of parents whose children expired due to non-availability of these facilities.

She said that this is sincere effort to facilitate mother and infants. Maryam Nawaz said that around 5000 children expired every year due to non-availability of such facility.

She said that this programme is first of its kind in Pakistan where children from KPK, Sindh and Balochistan will also take benefit. Now children will not wait for their treatment any more.

## FS Amna Baloch notes the importance attached by Pakistan to its relations with the United States

ISLAMABAD: Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, John Bass on Monday held delegation-level talks with Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides held wide ranging discussions on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including progress on the existing dialogue mechanisms on trade, energy, security, health, climate change and counter-terrorism. The Foreign Secretary noted the importance attached by Pakistan to its relations with the United States. She underlined the need to upgrade the bilateral mechanisms, especially in the economic and defence fields, and working towards building a broad based and meaningful bilateral relationship. Under Secretary Bass thanked the Foreign Secretary for the opportunity to engage substantively on issues of mutual interest. He said the US desires to partner with Pakistan in its efforts to strengthen and stabilize the economy. He expressed appreciation for the resilience shown by Pakistan in the face of recent challenges like floods and terrorist attacks. SABAH

## Pakistan cooperates with China advancing research in Medicine

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan wished to further deepen cooperation with China and other nations in advancing research and innovation in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). This was stated by Khalil Hashmi, Pakistani Ambassador to China while addressing here the 7th Belt and Road Forum for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Development.

Officials from other countries also expressed the wish to further deepen cooperation with China and other nations in advancing research and innovation in TCM, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). At the Forum, Bruno Masier, President of the World Trade Point Federation (WTPF), highlighted the crucial role of TCM in global healthcare systems. "Traditional Chinese medicine has long played a vital role in healthcare, especially in China," Masier stated. "Today's forum is not only about exploring the development of TCM, but also about understanding how traditional medicine can contribute to the advance-

ment of healthcare systems as a whole. We hope to see more growth in traditional medicine globally, fostering greater development in the medical field." "To truly unlock the potential of TCM, we need to combine the diagnostic precision and advanced treatment technologies of Western medicine with the preventive and holistic healing strengths of TCM, providing more comprehensive healthcare services to people around the globe," Hashmi noted. Co-hosted by WTPF and the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS), the forum as part of the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) focused on promoting TCM and global health collaboration. During the forum, several major developments were announced to enhance the global integration of TCM. These included the establishment of the Expert Committee of the Belt and Road Forum for Traditional Chinese Medicine Development, aiming to support the high-quality incorporation of TCM into the Belt and Road Initiative. DNA

## Senate passes resolution demanding Sept 7 as Finality of Prophethood Day

ISLAMABAD: The Upper House of the Parliament on Monday unanimously passed the resolution demanding the government to declare official celebration of the Finality of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) Day on September 7th as a national holiday in connection with the day of declaration of Qadianis as non-Muslims. The 12th meeting of the 342nd Senate Session started almost 11 minutes late with the recitation of the Holy Quran under Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair.

Senator Atta-ur-Rehman of Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) moved the resolution stating: "Commemorating the historical day of September 7, 1974; the day when the Parliament of Pakistan unanimously declared Qadianis as a non-Muslims minority; Noting that indeed that day was historical not just for Pakistan but for the entire Muslim world as the long sustained struggle of the Muslims ultimately became successful; Realizing that it is imperative to highlight and remember the

historical moments, the Senate of Pakistan, therefore, recommends to the Government that the day may be celebrated officially and be declared as a national holiday." Speaking on the motion, he said the Day was historic as the Parliament put a bulwark against the invaders on the sanctity of the Finality of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The occasion demanded the government to create awareness among the young generation, by declaring it a national holiday, on the matter of critical religious

importance, he added.

Maulana Atta underlined that the Parliament session continued for 13 consecutive days to declare these rebel Qadianis as non-Muslims. "The government should announce medals for those Parliamentarians who played crucial role in ensuring protection of the Finality of Prophethood (Peace Be Upon Him) to remember their meritorious contributions for Islam," the JUI-F Senator said. The Senate session was protracted without taking up the remaining agenda of two amendment bills. APP



## CDA Chairman for timely completion of Islamabad Model Jail

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Monday directed the authorities concerned to expedite construction work on Islamabad Model Jail to ensuring its timely completion. The CDA chairman in that regard chaired a meeting which was attended by the Project Director of the Public Works Department (PWD) along with other relevant officers of CDA and PWD.

The meeting discussed the modalities of smooth transition of the construction work on the Islamabad Model Jail from PWD to CDA. Discussions were held to ensure that the transition process takes place efficiently and promptly for making CDA an executing agency for the project in consultation with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Planning, Development and Initiatives.

Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that till the complete transition, PWD should work in full coordination with CDA to ensure seamless progress of the project.

A briefing was also given on the current status of the completed and ongoing work at the Islamabad Model Jail. Chairman Randhawa stressed the importance of completing the Phase-I of construction work by the assigned deadline. This phase includes the completion of critical infrastructure such as the boundary wall, barracks, the administrative block, roads and watchtowers (sentry posts). APP