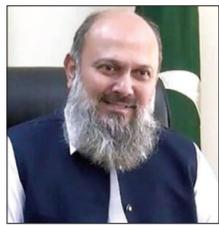




Regions entangled in conflicts including occupied Kashmir, Palestine, and others yearn for peace, while the silence of global powers makes no sense

Interior Minister
Mohsin Naqvi

Jam Kamal calls for promoting a peaceful, inclusive, united Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday called for promoting a peaceful, inclusive, and united Pakistan. He urged to reflect on the true essence of peace—both as individuals and as a nation.

In these challenging times, our country faces not only economic and social difficulties but also the urgent need to heal divisions within our society, he said in a message on International Day of Peace. Peace is not just a global aspiration; it starts at home, in our communities, and in our daily interactions. As Pakistan navigates through economic recovery, political challenges, and societal transformations, it is vital that we stand united, embrace diversity, and resolve our differences with tolerance and respect. The future of Pakistan depends on our ability to live in harmony, to work together for the common good, and to uplift each other as one resilient nation. Let us reject hatred and division, and instead, champion dialogue, understanding, and compassion. Only by fostering peace within can we hope to achieve lasting stability, development, and prosperity for all, he added.

Pakistan's envoy in Madrid presents credential to President Macron

PARIS: Pakistan's Ambassador in Madrid, Spain Dr Zahoor Ahmed has presented credential as the country's Ambassador concurrently accredited to Andorra, to President Emmanuel Macron here at the Elysée Palace. Andorra has a special arrangement; it has two Heads of States (Co-Princes which are President of France and Bishop of Urgell). Ambassadors accredited to Andorra are supposed to present credentials to both of them, a press release issued on Saturday said. President Macron referred to historic arrangement of having two Heads States by the Principality of Andorra. He said that Andorra was a unique country. Having visited to all seven parishes of Andorra, he believed that it had a lot to offer. He also referred to the leadership of the country in mountain tourism and financial services. While presenting his credentials, the ambassador congratulated President Macron on the successful holding of Paris Olympics. He conveyed the greetings of the President and Prime Minister and also expressed the desire to enhance the relations with Andorra particularly in mountain tourism, climate change, multilateral forums, education and financial services. President Macron welcomed the ideas and specially emphasized the importance of cooperation in the field of climate change. APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Chairpersons of the newly constituted Boards of Directors of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs).

PM Shehbaz departs for New York as FM Dar skips UNGA session amid diplomatic engagements

PM Shehbaz says he will present Pakistan's perspective to world, strengthen international partnerships

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday reacted to media speculation regarding Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar skipping the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) scheduled to be held from September 23 to 27 in New York. PM Shehbaz and Dar along with senior government officials were scheduled to visit New York to attend the upcoming UNGA session, however, it was rumoured that Dar cancelled his foreign visit due to uncertain political situation in the country. However, Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch clarified in a statement today that Dar was skipping the UNGA session in view of some important upcoming diplomatic engagements. The deputy premier was also not proceeding for the UNGA session due to the "ongoing preparations for the 23rd Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)," she added. However, Premier Shehbaz's programme for participation in the UN summit remains unchanged, concluded Baloch. PM Shehbaz has departed for New York to represent Pakistan at the 79th UNGA session



from Islamabad today. He will make a stopover in London for two days before reaching New York on September 23. The premier said in an X post, "Departing for New York to represent Pakistan at the 79th UN General Assembly. Looking forward to a busy week full of engagements." "During our interactions we will take up global issues, promoting peace, development & climate action. Will present Pakistan's perspective to the world, advocate our interests & strengthen international partnerships," he concluded. In a briefing two days ago, the FO spokesperson detailed that PM Shehbaz, in his speech at the UN summit, will reaffirm Pakistan's steadfast commitment to multilateralism and express support for the role of the United Nations in forging global peace, security, and

prosperity. The premier will also emphasise the importance of addressing long-standing issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council, including the question of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, he will attend several high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA session, including the high-level meeting on existential threats posed by sea-level rise and the UN Security Council's open debate on leadership for peace. The bilateral meetings with world leaders, meetings with the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres and President of the UNGA, Philemon Yang, and members of the Pakistani diaspora are also on the agenda of the prime minister's visit. The spokesperson said that the prime minister's upcoming participation in the UNGA session would be an opportunity to present Pakistan's policy perspective on important issues on the global agenda and reaffirm Pakistan's strong commitment to the purpose and principles of the UN Charter and international peace and security. The UNGA is the main policy making part of the UN, comprising of all member states, it provides the countries to discuss multilateral discussion of international issues. Agencies

Mohsin Naqvi meets Chinese delegation led by minister Chen Mingguo



VOM Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with a high-level Chinese delegation led by Minister for Political and Legal Affairs Chen Mingguo, on Saturday. Minister for Interior warmly welcomed Minister Chen Mingguo and his delegation upon their arrival at the Ministry of Interior. During the meeting, it was agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields, including counter-terrorism, cross-border cooperation, anti-smuggling, and anti-narcotics efforts. During the meeting, Pakistan-China relations, particularly with Xinjiang, and matters of mutual interest were discussed. During the meeting, it was agreed to conduct joint police and paramilitary forces exercises in Gilgit-Baltistan or Xinjiang and train Gilgit-Baltistan police officers at the Xinjiang Police Academy. During the meeting, it was also agreed that comprehensive measures would be taken against terrorism which is a global issue. It was also decided that a Pakistani delegation, led by the Federal Secretary of Interior, would soon visit Xinjiang to enhance mutual cooperation. Chinese Minister Chen Mingguo also invited Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to visit Xinjiang. Mohsin Naqvi said that Xinjiang province is of vital importance for Pakistan in its relations with China. He underscored that besides being Pakistan's neighbor, we have a 600-kilometer-long border with Xinjiang. He added that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project also passes through Xinjiang. He emphasized that Pakistan wants to completely eliminate smuggling of drugs, arms, and all other goods. He noted that the visit of the Pakistani delegation to Xinjiang would open new avenues for strengthening mutual cooperation. Minister Chen Mingguo expressed the desire to enhance relations with Pakistan in all fields. He said that terrorism is a common problem, adding that Xinjiang had suffered from it for many years. He highlighted that Pakistan can benefit from Xinjiang's experience in counter-terrorism. Pakistan-China relations, particularly with Xinjiang, and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. The Chinese delegation included Xinjiang's Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, Executive Director General of Police, and Vice President of Xinjiang Police Academy. Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Special Secretary Interior Waqas Ali Mahmood, and Additional Secretary Interior Nazar Muhammad Buzdar were also present on the occasion.

Rana Tanveer initiates coordination with provincial govts for SMEs development



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Husain following the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has initiated coordination with the provincial governments for equitable development of the SMEs across the country. In this connection, the federal minister on Saturday held a meeting with Punjab government's Industries department at PCOM, said SMEDA spokesman. Ehsan Bhatta, Secretary Industries Punjab and Ms. Saira Umar, Managing Director PSIC, from the Punjab government attended the meeting. The minister was accompanied by Saif Anjum, Federal Secretary Industries and Production and Socrat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA. A number of the other senior officers including GM SMEDA Ms. Saleha Saeed and Ms. Nadia Jehangir Seth were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer Husain said that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) plays a crucial role in the economy of any country, contributing significantly to employment generation, economic growth,

innovation, and social stability. He said that SMEs are essential drivers of economic development, job creation, innovation, and social progress. The Small Medium Enterprises have momentous role in economic development of the country. Small businesses can play a key role in shaping the national growth strategy, he said, adding the development and progress of Small Medium Enterprises are top priority of the current government. The federal minister said that the government was determined to maintain equitable development of SMEs in all provinces of the country that is why a coordination process has been initiated with provinces on direction of the PM. He assured that the government will facilitate and incentivize SMEs to achieve optimal economic growth in the country. He said that such coordination meetings would also be held with other province on regular basis to maintain a conducive support mechanism for SMEs across the country. Rana Tanveer further said that improving small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan require a comprehensive approach addressing various aspects ranging from regulatory frameworks to access to finance and technology. The federal government will immediately take all necessary steps to facilitate SMEs for economic uplift of the people. INP

J&K dispute settlement vital for global peace: President, PM

President and Prime Minister have called for fair and just settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute for global peace and security. President Asif Ali Zardari said the world cannot achieve progress and development in the absence of peace as wars and conflicts increase the problems and miseries of people. He said we affirm our commitment to principles of peace among nations worldwide. The President said regrettably Israel has unleashed a reign of terror in Palestine and is committing genocide by killing thousands of people in Gaza. The President said that the Hindutva-inspired Modi regime is committing grave human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and is persecuting Muslims and other minorities in India and depriving them of their fundamental rights. These blatant violations of international law and human rights endanger global peace and security. In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says Pakistan strongly believes in fostering peace and stability in the region through dialogue and it is essential to resolve the longstanding disputes to effectively achieve this end. Shehbaz Sharif said that the foundation for any lasting resolution in the region hinges solely on achieving a fair and just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute peacefully through an impartial plebiscite and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. APP

PTI dares not to hold another Jalsa after flop show in Lahore: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not dare to hold another public gathering anywhere in the country after a flop show in Lahore which witnessed a minimal turn-out of the people. Talking to the media, the minister said the PTI had miserably failed to galvanize the support of their workers for the public gathering in Lahore, despite the all-out facilitation by the administration which not only kept the roads completely open but also provided a foolproof security in the designated area. No obstacle was placed in any city, including Islamabad, Attock, and Mianwali, from where the PTI had asked their workers to participate in the public gathering, he said, adding their leadership and workers were given free access to enter Lahore from across the country. He said similarly, the PTI had failed to gather the people in their public gathering of Islamabad, which also saw the presence of a small number of the people. The minister challenged the PTI leadership to release drone shots of their public gathering in Lahore, which exposed their support among the masses. Tarar said this showed that the people of Pakistan had rejected them completely, showing

full confidence in the governance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who have been taking crucial steps to provide relief to the masses. He said the people of Pakistan knew that the inflation had been reduced to a single digit, which, during the tenure of the PTI, reached a double digit from the four percent that was achieved under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif. The international financial institutions are acknowledging that the Pakistani economy was taking off, while Bloomberg identified Pakistan's stock market as an emerging and best market in Asia, he said, adding Fitch and Moody had improved ratings for Pakistan as well. He said there has been 14 per cent increase in exports, current account deficit was shrinking, and the policy rate was reduced to attract foreign investment. The progress of Pakistan under the leadership of PM Shehbaz had stunned the opposition which was hell-bent on creating a situation of chaos and anarchy in the country to halt the development process, he added. The minister recalled the letters written by the PTI leadership to the International Monetary Fund against the bailout package to default the country. APP

Dr. Musadik Malik highlights the importance of int'l collaboration to meet the growing energy demands

Says Pakistan & China have shared goals in ensuring energy security

BEIJING: Federal Minister of Petroleum Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik visited the YanChang Petroleum, a leading Chinese energy company, on the sidelines of 8th Silk Route Expo in China on Saturday. The visit underscores both nations' commitment to enhancing strategic partnerships in the fields of energy exploration, innovation, and sustainable development. During the visit, Dr. Musadik Malik was received by YanChang Petroleum's

senior leadership team, led by Deputy Chief Manager, who provided an in-depth overview of the company's ongoing projects and future growth strategies. The discussion focused on several key areas, including oil and gas exploration, refinery cooperation, integrated coal industrial complex, technological innovations. The Minister highlighted the importance of international collaboration to meet the growing energy demands. He said

Pakistan and China have shared goals in ensuring energy security, and this visit is an opportunity to explore new avenues for cooperation that align with both nations' commitments to innovation in the energy sector. The Minister was briefed on the company's latest advancements in energy technologies, including renewable energy integration and carbon capture initiatives. The discussions paved the way for potential joint ventures and col-

laborations in oil and gas exploration. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Manager of YanChang Petroleum said that after in-depth exchanges, we have great potential of cooperation. He said Pakistani companies will have detail discussions on technical and commercial aspects of various prospective projects. It is noteworthy that YanChang Petroleum is one of China's leading energy companies with a diversified

portfolio spanning oil and gas exploration, production, and refining, pipelines, integration of coal, electrification, as well as significant invest-

ments in production of sophisticated chemicals like ethanol. The company is committed to driving innovation in the energy sector. SABAH



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Advancing climate action

ZILE HUMA

The theme of 'International Day for Preservation of Ozone 2024', observed on September 16, was 'Advancing climate action'. The day commemorates the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987 to phase out the substances that deplete the ozone layer. An ozone sheet is a protective layer of gases in our atmosphere to safeguard life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiations of the sun.

The main causes of harm to the ozone layer are Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) which include CFCs, HCFCs, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroform. These substances are used in refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers, etc. The international community has joined hands to protect the ozone layer through various actions to fulfil their commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The protocol is structured and evolved in a way to set various deadlines to phase out ODS making it a successful environmental treaty.

Pakistan has also made significant achievements in protecting the ozone layer through multiple initiatives to eliminate ODS in Pakistan. As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in his message on International Ozone Day, "Pakistan phased out the first generation of Ozone Depleting Substances by 2009, and achieved a 50 per cent reduction in HCFC by January 2020. We are on track to meet our 67.5 per cent reduction target by 2025, having transitioned many industries to ozone-friendly technologies".

Many lessons can be learned from the success of the Montreal Protocol. One reason is its flexible approach due to which it provides the space to include more substances according

Ozone sheet is protective layer of gases in our atmosphere to safeguard life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiations of sun

to emerging technologies and inventions. It also clearly defines the main areas that require to be focused for phasing out ODS. The protocol has helped nations prioritize those areas. The multilateral fund and institutional support also helped nations build capacity, and provided financial and technical support to remove ODS. Most importantly, nations showed their commitment through practical steps by supporting each other and keeping aside their economic interests. The compliance procedure was another reason to successfully implement the Montreal Protocol and achieve its objectives. Such kind of seriousness and commitment directed all nations towards the single agenda of protecting the ozone layer.

The theme of the 2024 International Ozone Day also highlights the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to take action against climate change. According to the United Nations Environmental Programme, "Under the Kigali Amendment, actions to limit the use of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol are expected to prevent the emissions of up to 105 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global temperature rise by 2100". So, the success of the Montreal Protocol not only led to protecting the ozone layer but also helped fight global warming. This year's theme further urges nations to fulfil their commitments under the Paris Agreement and take similar actions to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) to protect the planet from global warming.

The action taken for the protection of the ozone layer exemplifies the success stories of multilateralism and collective action that can be replicated for the Paris Agreement. However, the commitments made under the Paris Agreement are needed to be expedited to achieve the targets. The findings of the Global Stocktake discussed at COP28 also revealed more efforts to limit global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Rich nations that forgot the negative environmental impacts of their unsustainable development process are still busy acquiring their economic interests. Under the Paris Agreement, nations agreed to reduce their carbon emissions and to reach their ambitious targets in the National Determined Contributions (NDCs). But in reality, global carbon emissions are increasing, questioning the success of the Paris Agreement. As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "I must call out the flood of fossil fuel expansion we are seeing in some of the world's wealthiest countries. In signing such a surge of new oil and gas licenses, they are signing away our future."

States across the globe need to understand the climate emergency and learn lessons from the success of the Montreal Protocol. There are multiple areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts that require a multilateral approach and collective efforts to protect our planet. One important area is climate finance. International funds like the Green Climate Fund and Loss and Damage Fund are established but require solid financial pledges from developed nations to collect enough funds to protect developing nations from the brunt of climate-led disasters. Similarly, NDCs should not be the only written documents but must consist of realistic targets to achieve, followed by concrete steps for implementation.

'Advancing climate action' is a call for nations to once again show multilateralism and collective efforts for a single objective: to accomplish the obligations of the Paris Agreement and limit global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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Javid Husain

Lessons from Afghanistan

maintain a puppet government in Kabul, which had already lost control over most of the country barring a few major cities.

The US did succeed in decimating Al Qaeda in Afghanistan but besides that, it had little to show for its two-decade-long military misadventure in Afghanistan. The fact that the withdrawal agreement was signed under the Trump administration and implemented by the Biden administration showed bipartisan support for it and the evaporation of the American public support for continued fighting in Afghanistan. The undeniable reality, therefore, was that the US withdrew from the country only when the resistance led by the Afghan Taliban forced it to do so because of mounting casualties and costs.

The American strategic debacle in Afghanistan carries important lessons that our policymakers can ignore only at their peril. Perhaps the most important lesson is that, while it may appear easy to invade and conquer Afghanistan, it is much more difficult and almost hopeless to maintain for long the foreign occupation of Afghanistan or impose a puppet government on the fiercely independent Afghan people indefinitely.

In an article, titled 'What was the Biden Doctrine?', in the Foreign Affairs issue of September-October 2024, Jessica Mathews points out: "The stark truth was that the United States had lost the war (in Afghanistan) long before August 2021. But defeats are easier to forget than to absorb."

At their peak, the US had about 100,000 troops in Afghanistan in addition to about 30,000 troops from its Nato allies. During the two-decade-long war in Afghanistan, 2,461 Americans were killed and 20,744 were injured. By the time, the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan took place, it had spent over \$2 trillion on the fighting in Afghanistan – equivalent to \$300 million a day.

When the Trump administration signed the agreement with the Afghan Taliban on February 29, 2020 for the withdrawal of US troops, the Taliban-led resistance had broken the back of the American resolve to

fore, advised states against military interventions in the heartland of an alien civilization. The US invasion of Afghanistan and its attempt to impose a puppet government and Western cultural values on its people, which predictably led to opposition by local and regional Islamist forces, were therefore doomed to failure.

Unfortunately, Pakistan had made its own share of mistakes in dealing with Afghanistan during the 1990s. The success of the Afghan jihad in the 1980s, which led to the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989 and the overthrow of the Soviet-installed Najibullah government in April 1992, presented Pakistan with a golden opportunity to strengthen stability in Afghanistan and develop mutually beneficial cooperation. Unfortunately, both Pakistan and Iran ignored Afghan history which cautioned against attempts to dominate Afghanistan.

Initially, it was Iran that, through support to the Northern Alliance against the Taliban who were enjoying Pakistan's support, tried to have its way in Afghanistan. After the capture of Kabul by the Taliban in 1996, it was Pakistan that failed to coordinate its Afghanistan policy with Iran and sought dominant influence in it through support to the Afghan Taliban. In the process, it alienated the Northern Alliance and its supporters besides damaging its relations with Iran. After 9/11, Pakistan under US pressure reversed its position by turning against the Afghan Taliban.

Consequently, by August 2021, when the Americans withdrew from Afghanistan, Pakistan had been left with few friends in the country besides having the problem of the TTP to deal with. It is not surprising that India – in pursuance of its hegemonic designs in South Asia – has been busy filling the vacuum created by the loss of political support for Pakistan in Afghanistan and is actively supporting the TTP's terrorist activities in Pakistan.

Pakistan needs to chart its Afghanistan policy keeping in view the history of this important neighbour, and our own vital strategic, economic and cultural interests. We should develop political, economic and cultural cooperation with the current government in Afghanistan, build bridges of understanding with other political forces in the country, and strengthen cultural links with various Afghan ethnic communities. We should do so consistently without any interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, despite the Afghan Taliban's obscurantism and retrogressive policies. It is the business of the Afghan people, not ours, to determine Afghanistan's internal policies and governing system. We should also coordinate our Afghan policy with Afghanistan's other neighbours especially Iran, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan as well as Russia to avoid the mistakes of the 1990s. As for the issue of TTP bases in Afghanistan, it would be preferable to engage the present Afghan government in a high-level dialogue to prevent the use of Afghan territory for any terrorist activities in Pakistan. While we should firmly defend Pakistan's territorial integrity, we should banish the idea of any cross-border military adventurism in Afghanistan which will further complicate our position vis-a-vis the Afghan Taliban and the region.

As the experience of the American military intervention in Afghanistan shows, it would be better to deal with such issues politically rather than by military means. The resolution of the terror problem within Pakistan would require firmness in stopping terrorist activities combined with an offer of talks within the framework of Pakistan's constitution to meet any legitimate demands.

The writer is a retired ambassador and author of 'Pakistan and a World in Disorder – A Grand Strategy for the Twenty-First Century'. He can be reached at: javid.husain@gmail.com

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

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. The Muslim League

accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authors of the Plan. This provided the All-India Muslim League an excuse to withdraw its acceptance of the Plan and the party observed August 16, as a 'Direct Action Day' to show Muslim solidarity in support of the Pakistan demand.

In October 1946, an Interim Government was formed. The Muslim League sent its representative under

the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with the aim to fight for the party objective from within the Interim Government. After a short time, the situation inside the Interim Government and outside convinced the Congress leadership to accept Pakistan as the only solution of the communal problem. The British Government, after its last attempt to save the Cabinet Mission Plan in December 1946, also moved towards a scheme for the partition of India. The last British Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, came with a clear mandate to draft a plan for the transfer of power. After holding talks with political

leaders and parties, he prepared a Partition Plan for the transfer of power, which, after approval of the British Government, was announced on June 3, 1947.

EMERGENCE OF PAKISTAN

Both the Congress and the Muslim League accepted the Plan. Two largest Muslim majority provinces, Bengal and Punjab, were partitioned. The Assemblies of West Punjab, East Bengal and Sindh and in Balochistan, the Quetta Municipality, and the Shahi Jirga voted for Pakistan.

To be continued....

Sabrina Carpenter achieves new milestone with 'Short N' Sweet' album

Sabrina Carpenter breaks record for Female Solo Artist with most number one weeks

Sabrina Carpenter has shared exciting news with her fans on Instagram, revealing her latest achievement on the UK charts.

Sabrina Carpenter achieves new milestone with Short N Sweet album

The 25-year-old singer posted Billboard's announcement stating that her new song 'Taste' has made history. According to Billboard, "Sabrina Carpenter has become the female solo artist with the most combined weeks at number one in a calendar year as 'Taste' spends its fourth week at the top of the charts."

Carpenter has joined Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande as the only women to chart at least three songs on the



chart's top five simultaneously.

Currently, her songs hold strong positions on the chart:

- "Espresso" is predicted to hold steady at number 2
- "Please Please Please" remains consistent at spot number 4
- "Taste" spends its fourth week at number 1

This success follows her 2021 album Emails I Can't Send, which produced hits like Nonsense, Feather, and Because I Liked a Boy.

Her newly released album Short N' Sweet marks her highest-charting effort on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

London hospitals trial drones for delivering blood samples, paving way for faster transport

London's Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust is launching a pilot project to transport urgent blood samples via drones.

The six-month initiative aims to reduce sample transport time between hospitals from over 30 minutes to less than two minutes.

Currently, samples travel by van or motorbike couriers, facing significant delays due to London's traffic.

This new system, regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority, will allow blood samples from patients undergoing surgery to be transferred much faster, especially for those at high risk of complications from bleeding disorders. Prof Ian Abbs, chief executive at Guy's and St Thomas', expressed his enthusiasm for the project, highlighting how it aligns with the Trust's priorities of improving patient care and reducing environmental impact.

"We are proud to be the first trust in London to trial this innovative approach," he said. The pilot, developed in collaboration with healthcare logistics firm Apian and drone delivery company Wing, is part of a broader



effort to incorporate drone technology into healthcare logistics.

Recent research suggests that drones can safely transport blood stocks without impacting the viability of the samples.

According to a 2016 study published in Transfusion, a team led by Timothy Amukele at Johns Hopkins Hospital tested the transportation of blood products by drones.

Their findings showed no adverse effects on red blood cells, platelets, or plasma during flight, even under varying temperatures.

KP reports first poliovirus case as three more diagnosed with disease

Khyber Pakhtunhwa has reported its first poliovirus case while two other children were also diagnosed with the disease pushing the country's tally to 21 of this year.

The virus has been detected in a 15-month-old boy in Balochistan's Killa Abdullah, a three-year-old boy in Karachi's Kearnari district and a nine-month-old girl in KP's Mohmand district.

The virus primarily affects children under the age of five years, who are malnourished or have weak immunity because of being under-vaccinated or not vaccinated for polio and other childhood diseases.

The illness invades the nervous system and causes paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. Despite rigorous efforts by the govern-

ment towards eradication of the disease, Pakistan remains in the grip of poliovirus. It is one of the two remaining polio-endemic countries in the world, along with Afghanistan, and the number of cases on a yearly basis has significantly dropped in the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on September 8 launched a special anti-poliovirus campaign to ensure the complete eradication of the crippling disease from the country.

Under the drive, around 286,000 polio workers were slated to administer polio vaccines to some 30 million children under the age of five in the door-to-door campaign from September 9 to 15.

Last month, the Sindh government had also commenced a 10-day immunisation drive against the disease. The virus's spread is not

limited to these three provinces as Islamabad reported its first polio case in 16 years when the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio at the National Institute of Health confirmed the detection of the type 1 (WPV1) variant of the disease in a child from Union Council Rural 4 of the federal capital on September 6.

So far, Balochistan has reported the highest number of poliovirus cases with 14 children being affected by the disease. Whereas, Sindh's tally stands at four and Punjab, Islamabad and KP have reported one case each so far.

Meanwhile, taking action on the first poliovirus case in the KP, KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has directed the health secretary to immediately suspend the relevant district health officer (DHO) and Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) coordinator.



Health

India-sponsored sham elections in IIOJK not substitute for right of self-determination, says AJK PM

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chudhary Anwar ul Haq visited the Islamabad residence of former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan and discussed, in detail, the issues of mutual interests, including the overall current political situation in the country, it was officially said. According to an AJK government handout issued late Friday, both the leaders also most particularly discussed the prevailing political and human rights abusive situation in the Indian illegally occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir state. Rejecting the ongoing so-called state assembly election drama being staged by the Indian government in the IIOJK under the vigil of over a million occupying Indian military and paramilitary troops, AJK Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Chaudhry said that sham polls held in the disputed territory cannot be a substitute for Kashmiris' birthright to self-determination. The AJK PM was accompanied by the AJK State Education Minister Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Health Minister Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali, Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, Member AJK Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni, Sardar Ahmad Sagheer, and Sardar Iftikhar Rashid on this occasion.

CM seeks report from IGP into recovery of bodies of two girls from Jaranwala

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif taking strict notice of recovery of bodies of two girls from Satyana Road of Jaranwala has sought detailed report from the Inspector General of Police. The chief minister expressed heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families and emphasized the need for swift justice and thorough investigations into the tragic incident. CM Maryam Nawaz directed police to intensify efforts in uncovering the circumstances surrounding the case.

Law to takes its course in case of chaos, warns Azma Bokhari

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Saturday denied that roads were blocked with containers ahead of the PTI rally. "No road is blocked and no road will be blocked," she said. Addressing a press conference, she warned that no one would be allowed to take law into their own hands. They were allowed to hold a public gathering within constitutional boundaries, she said. She stated that Ali Amin Gandapur was bringing weapons and troublemakers in the rally and he must seek apology in the public rally for his misbehaviour in the Islamabad gathering. She said law and order situation would be monitored through the latest technology by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the PTI would be facilitated in every possible way. She claimed that the KP government was misusing public resources by bringing Rescue 1122. INP

CDA's Technology & Digitalization Wing block inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: In line with directives of the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the authority on Saturday officially launched its Technology and Digitalization Wing block. The launching of Digitalization Wing was a significant step towards modernization as the milestone marks a new era in the operations of the municipal service provider as it transitions to a corporate model and collaborative working culture, aiming to streamline services and enhance efficiency. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that embracing modern technology and adopting corporate best practices was vital for the future of public service delivery. As part of this initiative, the newly established Technology and Digitalization Wing block, has been made operational. The block was equipped with state-of-the-art hardware and software to enhance efficiency. A corporate-style work environment has been introduced, featuring open desks work environment and an open-door policy to enhance efficiency and transparency. The implementation of this modern technology was part of a broader initiative aimed at increasing transparency in office operations and improving overall performance.

By leveraging modern technology in this block, the CDA aims to enhance transparency and improve operational efficiency. Initially, this corporate culture and advanced technology has been implemented in the Technology and Digitalization Wing, with plans to extend it to other wings of the CDA in the near future. One of the main features introduced by the wing was an advanced e-filing system, paperless working environment which was set to replace the traditional paper-based filing system. This shift was expected to reduce reliance on physical documents, cutting down on paper usage and reducing operational costs. This transition promises to streamline processes, making it easier to access and manage documents efficiently. This transformation was aligned with the broader national vision of a Digital Islamabad, with the CDA playing its role in bringing that vision into practice at its operational level. INP



Capital Development Authority



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairs the virtual meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSEs) at the Finance Division.

Yousaf Raza Gilani underlines need to promote interfaith dialogue & uphold justice & fairness in every aspect of life

VOM Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Makhdoom Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani underlined the need to promote interfaith dialogue, fostering open and respectful conversations among different communities and uphold justice and fairness in every aspect of life. The Chairman Senate was addressing the closing session of the 1st International Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyeen Conference organized by National Ramatul-lil-Aalameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority (NRKNA) at National Skills University, Islamabad on Saturday. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani called for peaceful resolution in conflict situation, encourage leaders to embody the ethical principles of humility, integrity and responsibility exemplified by the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). He observed that the vision, teachings and principles of Holy Prophet (PBUH) encourage us to build bridges of understanding and to foster a spirit of brotherhood. "Let us commit to building world where peace prevails over conflict, where love triumphs over hatred, and where coexistence becomes our shared reality" the Senate Chairman observed. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us that conflict resolution and peace were rooted in dialogue, empathy, and justice thus offering invaluable guidance for achieving global



peace and resolving conflicts. The Chairman Senate also referred to Madina Pact and treaty of Hudaibiyah. He said that Madina Pact remains a powerful example even today on how different communities can live together in harmony, respecting each other's beliefs and traditions. Similarly, the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, which exemplifies the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) commitment to peaceful negotiations. The treaty ultimately led to a period of peace and stability, allowing the message of Islam to spread more effectively. He observed that Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) brought a way of life that provides the foundation for humanity to develop a complete system was described by Allah as Rahmatan lil Alamin—a mercy to all the worlds. "His teachings embody universal values of love, kindness, and harmony, extending not just to Muslims, but to all of humanity, he further observed while addressing that it encourages us to radiate mercy, promote peace, and eliminate hatred and discrimination. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani also acknowledged and commended NRKNA Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem and his team for excellent arrangements made for this event and for assembling a cohort of distinguished speakers to enlighten the participants on an important subject. Chairman Senate said that the topic of this conference is both timely and relevant keeping in view the common societal, regional and global challenges on the front of peace, stability and harmony.

Bilawal Bhutto reaffirms party's commitment to the ideals of peace, justice, democracy & human dignity

Says ongoing Indian atrocities in IIOJK & the Israeli brutality in Palestine pose a grave threat to global peace & stability

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed party's commitment to the ideals of peace, justice, democracy and human dignity. In his message on International Peace Day, Bilawal Bhutto stressed that peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, equality, and respect for human rights. Bilawal Bhutto said true peace can only be achieved when every individual, regardless of their background or beliefs, is treated with fairness and dignity. He highlighted that Pakistan, as a nation, has faced challenges in its pursuit of peace but has remained resilient in its quest to build a harmonious and prosperous society. Bilawal Bhutto urged global community to work together in addressing shared challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, which are critical to fostering lasting peace. He also warned international community that ongoing Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the Israeli brutality in Palestine pose a grave threat to global peace and stability.

Friends of Palestine announce global campaign to stop the genocide in Gaza

GAZA: Friends of Palestine have made a call to all Muslims and free people of the world, to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the Al-Aqsa flood on October 7, and to participate widely in the activities of global solidarity with the Palestinian people and to condemn the aggression and pressure to stop the war of extermination in the Gaza Strip. Considering the days: (Friday 4/10 - Saturday 5/10 - Sunday 6/10 - Monday 7/10) as days for the implementation of the widest mass events in all cities and capitals. Let Monday 7/10/2024 be the anniversary of October 7 as the day of Global Strike, and participate in mass marches in all capitals and cities of the world to condemn the aggression and pressure to protect Gaza and stop the war of extermination. Also considering Monday 7/10/2024 as the universal day for all religions to Fast, and pray for the victims of the war of genocide in Gaza. SABAH

FBR urges people to file income tax returns before deadline Sept 30

KARACHI: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) cautioned citizens against last-minute rush, advising them to file their income tax returns before the deadline as there will be no extensions granted. FBR spokesperson, Bakhtiar Muhammad, urged taxpayers to submit their taxes before September 30, 2024 to boost Pakistan's economy. By doing so, the government aims to promote a culture of tax compliance, which is crucial for the country's economic stability and growth. The spokesman stated that the date of filing the tax return will not be extended even by a day, the electricity and gas connections of those who have not submitted the returns may be disconnected, while those who have not submitted the returns will have their SIM blocked. He further added that the individuals facing difficulty in submitting the returns, they can apply and individual relief can be taken from the concerned tax commissioner. Responding to a query, he said that FBR is committed to improving the capability of our tax system through the application of modern techniques. This includes leveraging data analytics and AI to identify and combat tax evasion, upgrading tax infrastructure, and enhancing audit and verification processes, added. INP

Mohsin Naqvi pays homage to Martyrs on International Peace Day

ISLAMABAD: In his special message on International Peace Day, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the Almighty Allah created the world for peace and harmony. He added that homes, streets, neighborhoods, societies, villages, cities, countries, regions, and continents look beautiful and livable only with peace. He stated that chaos and disorder cause widespread devastation and pose multiple threats to peace. The Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed concern that societies are currently divided into groups, factions, and sects, harming the efforts for peace around the world. He said that regional conflicts have endangered peace in every region, severely affecting the desire for peace. He emphasized that global powers must take

practical and pragmatic steps toward sustainable peace beyond verbal commitments. He reiterated that regions entangled in conflicts including occupied Kashmir, Palestine, and others yearn for peace, while the silence of global powers makes no sense. Mohsin Naqvi also highlighted Pakistan's constructive role in ensuring global peace, particularly during difficult times. He said that Pakistan has played the role of vanguard in UN peace missions. He added that several brave soldiers of Pakistan's peace missions were martyred during efforts to restore peace and stability in dangerous and turbulent regions. He stated that the sacrifices of martyred brave officers and soldiers in the path of peace will always be remembered. He also stressed the need to remember those people who sacrificed their lives to establish peace in the country. APP

Rana Mashhood says every sector shows improvement due to govt's measures



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said every sector was showing improvement and progress due to initiatives taken by the incumbent government. He stated this while addressing "Cycle For Life" rally organized in collaboration with the Mujahid Group Of Industries, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Khubaib Foundation, Anti-Narcotics

Force, Islamabad Administration, Capital Development Authority and Islamabad Cycling Association. Rana Mashhood said that the rally was aimed to promote environmental preservation, raise awareness about the dangers of drugs and engage youth in healthy activities. He said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the country was advancing towards the path of development and growth in the exports of textiles and

information technology, increase in the stock exchange index, and growth in other sectors reflected the result-oriented policies of the government. The PMYP Chairman further stated that Premier Shehbaz Sharif had inaugurated the National Volunteer Core to include the youth in the policy-making, development and governance engagements. Pakistan has talented youth and a pivotal role in advancing the country towards fast-paced development, he said adding, "We are dedicated to preparing our youth to excel in diverse fields and they have to "Say no to drugs". Rana Mashhood said that the Green Youth Movement (GYM) an initiative of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme was creating awareness and sensitizing Youth about the effects of climate change. "By harnessing the youth's creativity, energy, and commitment, we can drive meaningful change and create a legacy of sustainability for future generations," he added. The Chairman PMYP added that Pakistan produces less than 1 percent of the world's carbon footprint and was suffering the biggest consequences of climate change which needed to be addressed with the help of the World Climate Change Organizations. Mashhood said that PMYP had taken various initiatives in the fields of education, technical education, arts and culture, sports, science, math, innovation awards and others to empower youth. Many youths besides parliamentarians, journalists, sportsmen, and others participated in the cycle rally. INP

Chinese company to invest \$5 bln to boost Pakistan's textile exports

ISLAMABAD: China's RUYI Group has planned to invest Dollar 5 billion to boost Pakistan's textile exports, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The company's senior management team visited here the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and announced their plan for the investors and to establish two export-oriented Green (Zero Emission) textile cities in Lahore and Karachi. According to Jamil Qureshi, Secretary of SIFC, the group will collaborate with 25 leading companies from the China Textile Council and China Garments Association. With an anticipated investment of around USD 5 billion, the project is expected to generate significant annual value and boost Pakistan's textile exports by up to USD 10 billion. Earlier, a nine-member delegation from RUYI Group, led by Chairman Qiu Yafu, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. The group plans to establish international standard textile parks in Pakistan, aiming to increase the country's textile exports and position Pakistan as a global textile and garment hub. These textile parks are projected to create

employment opportunities for 300,000 to 500,000 locals. The prime minister praised the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, noting that their economic ties grow stronger each day. He welcomed the Chinese textile group to Pakistan, commending their investment in the country's textile sector. He also highlighted that this firm was the first investor in the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, a project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting also decided to form working groups in Islamabad and Beijing to address issues between Pakistan and the Chinese enterprises. The Chinese textile group is a large-scale Sino-foreign joint venture enterprise with diversified shareholders. It boasts the largest woollen garment and cotton dyeing industry chain in China and consistently contributes to the textile industry through its advanced technology. Currently, the group's brand matrix includes more than 6,000 stores worldwide, operating in 84 countries and regions, making it the most influential Chinese enterprise in the global fashion field. INP