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Given the immense resources and potential, Pakistan is destined to achieve its rightful position in the comity of nations, Insha Allah

Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir

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Who made failed efforts towards creating despair & despondency in society have been defeated through collective efforts of all stakeholders: COAS Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the Karachi Corps area of responsibility, where he was briefed on operational preparedness and key training initiatives undertaken by the Army.

During his visit, COAS also inaugurated Innovista Indus IT Park, a hub aimed at empowering Pakistan's youth by fostering academia-industry collaboration in the field of Information Technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence. Honourable Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and notable civil community members attended the inauguration ceremony.

Chief Minister Sindh emphasized the importance of IT domain for optimal exploitation of potential of youth and economic growth. COAS highlighted that such projects are aimed at providing the most conducive environment to further promote the growth of IT Industry in the country, which is already accelerating at a respectable pace.

COAS also interacted with the business community of Karachi. COAS appreciated the contributions of business community and entrepreneurs towards the country's economic growth. Participants expressed confidence and praised SIFC for its role towards achieving the positive economic indicators, which are providing an enabling environment for further economic growth.

COAS commended the efforts of Federal and Provincial Governments towards supporting all initiatives and remarked that naysayers who made failed efforts towards creating despair and despondency in the society have been defeated through the collective efforts of all stakeholders. COAS appreciated the praiseworthy role performed by brotherly and friendly countries especially China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UAE in the economic recovery of Pakistan by helping us in multiple domains.

COAS highlighted that Pakistan has remarkable potential in various domains and all must have unflinching trust and confidence in the bright future of Pakistan. Given the immense resources and potential, Pakistan is destined to achieve its rightful position in the comity of nations, Insha Allah. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Corps Commander Karachi. SABAH

New York: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with a delegation of the US-Pakistan Business Council on the sidelines of 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

At UNGA, PM Shehbaz exposes India's 'classical settler-colonial project' in IIOJK

UNITED NATIONS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday slammed India's 'classical settler-colonial project' in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by seizing land, settling non-Kashmiris, and threatening the Muslim-majority population's autonomy and cultural identity.

Such hackneyed Indian tactics employed by all occupying powers, had historically failed and would fail again in Jammu and Kashmir, he said in his address to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The prime minister emphasized the need for India to uphold its commitments and work toward a peaceful resolution, ensuring the people of IIoJK can exercise their fundamental right to self-determination. He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the Kashmiri people, praising their unwavering resolve against India's imposed identity and oppression.

He emphasized that Burhan Wani's legacy ignited the struggle, reminding that every statistic represented a "life affected, a dream delayed, and hope lost". Similar to the people of Palestine, he said, the people of Jammu and Kashmir had been striving to attain their freedom and right to self-determination.

"Instead of moving towards peace, India has backtracked from commitments to implement the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that the resolutions mandated a plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

Condemning India's actions in IIOJK, the prime minister stated that since August 5, 2019, India had taken unilateral and illegal steps to impose a so-called "Final Solution" on the region.

"This has led to a surge in human rights abuses, with 900,000 Indian troops terrorizing the population, imposing prolonged curfews, and engaging in extra-judicial killings and abductions of young Kashmiris."

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed concern over India's escalating military buildup, targeted at Pakistan, emphasizing its aggressive war doctrines that entail surprise attacks and limited wars under the nuclear umbrella.

He said that India had rejected Pakistan's proposals for a mutual Strategic Restraint Regime, and its leadership had repeatedly threatened to cross the Line of Control and seize Azad Kashmir. He categorically warned that Pakistan would respond "vigorously and decisively" to any Indian aggression, utilizing all its capabilities.

He emphasized that for durable peace, India must reverse its unilateral measures taken since August 5, 2019, and engage in dialogue to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. He said the illegal occupation created a fresh hell, every day, in the killing fields of Palestine, and in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. DNA

Ahsan Iqbal, WB official discuss Pakistan's economic growth, governance

ISLAMABAD: World Bank (WB) Country Director Najy Benhassine called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal and discussed the measures Pakistan was taking to achieve economic growth and transformation of governance.

During the meeting, the minister informed the WB official that Pakistan was following a home grown agenda to develop an export led strategy, while talking about the importance of an IMF backed reform agenda to accelerate the country's economic growth, a news release said on Friday.

Under this agenda, he said private sector investments would be prioritized to become the engines of growth. Since Pakistan's economy has been struggling with stability, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that the new economic agenda would help achieve sustained growth. The Country Director also discussed a few social sector related themes that were under priority of the World Bank.

"Some of the World Bank's priority themes, especially those related to health and education are in alignment with government's 5Es framework," the minister asserted. Lauding WB's support provided to Pakistan for rehabilitation of flood affected areas, he said, "World Bank's assistance to vulnerable communities in Sindh and Balochistan after the devastating floods that hit Pakistan in 2022 has played a significant role in improving the livelihoods."

The minister reiterated that enhancing resilience against climate change and disasters was in line with the 5Es development framework that formed the backbone of economic agenda.

Najy stated that building climate resilience was one of the World's Bank's priority areas in developing countries. The Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP) will provide housing reconstruction grants to approximately 35,100 homeowners to rebuild their homes following resilience standards and livelihood grants to smallholder farmers to support livestock, promote climate-smart agriculture and other productive activities.

It will also help restore essential services by rehabilitating damaged community infrastructure and facilities such as water supply, irrigation, roads, and community facilities. Ahsan Iqbal also apprised the WB country director about the new initiatives the Planning ministry has taken to modernize its functioning. He added that the National Economic Transformation Unit would serve as a strategic body focused on facilitating economic growth, enhancing productivity, and fostering innovation. "It will work in close collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector entities, academia, and international partners, to implement evidence-based policies and initiatives that align with Pakistan's long-term economic goal of becoming a one trillion dollar economy by 2035," he remarked. APP

Ban on X imposed due to national security issues, not to curb freedom of expression: Tarar

NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar Friday said that ban on X, formerly Twitter, was imposed due to national security issues, not to curb freedom of expression. The minister, in an interview with Voice of America, dispelled the impression that it was an unannounced ban, saying that the caretaker government had banned X before the February elections due to the issues related to compliance. The "separatists and terrorists" were using the platform against Pakistan which could not be allowed, he added. Tarar said that the terrorists belonging to the so-called Balochistan Liberation Army were using the platform for promoting their anti-state activities. Even the terrorists showed their terrorist activities live on the X without any check, he added.

The minister said the matter of ban on X was sub judice and the Ministry of Interior had already filed its reply in the court in that regard.

"As Pakistanis we can request the management of X to remove anti-state content uploaded by the terrorists," he stressed.

Terrorists, he added, were misusing social media platforms which was totally unjustified. "There must be some system to regulate the social media. Web management system was already in place," he said, adding there was no harm in ensuring cyber and data security through it. He opined that a Digital Rights Protection Authority type institution was needed where the people could file complaints for redressal. A draft for the Digital Rights Protection Authority had been taken up by the Federal Cabinet, but it was deferred, he added.

The cabinet, he said, issued directives for taking suggestions from all stakeholders, including media houses, journalists organizations including Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and political parties so that an effective legislation could be done for future implementation. APP

SBP receives 1st tranche of $1.026 bln from IMF

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said Friday that it received US$ 1026.9 million on Friday under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement from International Monetary Fund (IMF).

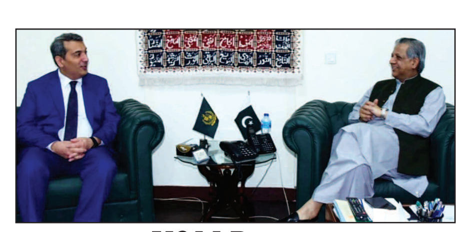
"Following the approval of the IMF Executive Board of 37-month Extended Fund Facility amounting to US $7 billion, SBP has received the first tranche of SDR 760 million, equivalent to USD 1026.9 million, from the IMF today," the central bank said in a press release.

These inflows will be reflected in SBP liquid reserves to be released on Thursday October 03, 2024, it added.

It is pertinent to mention that the IMF board approved the 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme of $7 billion for Pakistan on Wednesday and had authorized the immediate release of the first tranche of about $1 billion.

The staff level agreement between Pakistan and IMF on the arrangement was reached in July this year.

Law minister holds meeting with Azerbaijan envoy



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar had a meeting with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khazar Farhadov.

During the meeting, the Ambassador congratulated Pakistan on the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the two nations, expressing optimism about its practical implementation and exploring areas of mutual interest.

He also emphasized Azerbaijan's interest in expanding collaboration, particularly in the legal domain.

Federal Minister highlighted the close ties between the two countries and proposed extending an invitation to the Azerbaijani Minister of Justice for an official visit to Pakistan. He further reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering stronger cooperation in legal assistance and welcomed discussions on legislative developments in Pakistan that provide new incentives for foreign investment.

Ambassador also requested support for Azerbaijani businesses operating in Pakistan, with a focus on feasibility studies and navigating the regulatory environment.

Both sides discussed collaboration in legal education, training, and capacity building for key stakeholders within their respective justice systems.

To facilitate this cooperation, it was agreed to establish a small working group to finalize modalities and open a communication channel between the two countries.

Pak Embassy hosts Business & Investment Roundtable in Beijing

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has lauded all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China, stressing the need to follow the Chinese model of national development.

"Peace, consistency of policies and implementing reforms in all sectors are prerequisites for progress and development of any country and we can learn this from China," he said while addressing a ceremony held to mark the National Day of China, a news release said on Friday.

The ceremony was organized by China Global Television Network and featured folk performances by cultural troupes from Pakistan and China.

Acknowledging China's role in Pakistan's national development, the minister said China brought investment in Pakistan when no country was willing to make investment in the country.

He said a number of projects were started in the country under the banner of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Reflecting on China's remarkable rise over the past few decades, Ahsan Iqbal praised the country's ability to lift 800 million people out of poverty in just three to four decades—an achievement unprecedented in human history.

He emphasized that China's success lies not only in its modernization but also in its preservation of a unique cultural identity.

"China's success has shown that modernization does not have to come at the cost of losing one's cultural roots," he remarked.

China's distinctive approach—what the minister called the "Chinese style of development"—has allowed it to forge its own path, independent of Western models of democracy and capitalism.

This, he suggested, offered a powerful lesson for Pakistan, adding"every country can find its own way to prosperity, shaped by its unique culture, history, and circumstances."

Central to Ahsan Iqbal's speech was his role in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship initiative under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

He reflected on his pride in transforming CPEC from a concept on paper into a $25 billion reality within just three years.

The impact of CPEC has been profound: from building thousands of megawatts of electricity-generating capacity that helped end Pakistan's chronic power shortages to creating modern motorways, fiber optic networks, and transforming Gwadar into a bustling port city. However, he cautioned against complacency, recalling the damaging consequences of political instability and policy reversals in Pakistan.

He recounted how irresponsible statements and scandalizing of Chinese investments led to a loss of investor confidence, with many opting to invest in other countries like Cambodia instead.

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Powering the future

DR SAHIBZADA ALI MAHMUD

As the digital world evolves, one emerging trend is the unprecedented energy demand required to fuel the AI revolution, particularly with the rise of Generative AI (GenAI). According to the CB Insights Generative AI Predictions for 2024, the computing power required by high-end GPUs (Graphics Processing Units) to run these models is expected to match the electricity consumption of small nations. AI models such as NVIDIA's H100 chips and the much-anticipated Blackwell chips are set to drive this energy demand, and legacy data centres are struggling to keep pace. This brings forth the urgent need for dedicated, energy-efficient AI data centres that can meet the rising demand for GPU-intensive computing.

Pakistan, with its growing IT and technology sector, stands at the crossroads of this technological shift. The potential to establish a large-scale GPU-based data centre is not just a technological need but also an economic opportunity. However, AI data centres are power-hungry, and stable, cost-effective electricity is crucial to sustain such infrastructure. This is where nuclear power plants can play a pivotal role.

The capabilities of Generative AI are directly proportional to the computational power at its disposal. As businesses continue to integrate AI-driven technologies into their operations, from autonomous systems to large language models (LLMs) like GPT-4, the need for high-performance GPUs becomes indispensable. According to recent insights, the rapid proliferation of AI data centres will demand far more power than traditional data centres. In fact, 80 per cent of future data centre power consumption will be attributed to AI workloads.

In this context, a GPU-based data centre designed to cater to AI workloads could transform Pakistan's digital economy, facilitating AI research, development, and deployment. But to ensure this infrastructure remains viable and competitive, it requires a stable and low-cost energy source – and nuclear power offers a fitting solution. Pakistan's nuclear power plants, operated by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), have been a cost-effective and stable source of electricity, with generation costs as low as Rs5-8 per kWh. Nuclear energy offers a reliable supply of electricity without the fluctuations seen in fossil fuel prices, making it ideal for powering data centres that require uninterrupted power 24/7.

A nuclear power plant with generation capacity of around 300MW dedicated to powering a GPU-based data centre could significantly reduce the operational costs of such a facility. With the power demands of GPU data centres set to increase in line with the growth of Generative AI, allocating a portion of the country's nuclear energy capacity for this purpose could be a strategic move. While dedicating a 300-400MW nuclear power plant to a data centre might seem like a reallocation of resources, the economic benefits far outweigh the costs. Removing 300MW from the national grid would require that energy to be replaced by higher-cost sources, such as Independent Power Producers (IPPs). This would marginally increase the overall basket price of electricity but estimates suggest the increase would be minimal – around Rs0.02 to 0.04 per kWh.

However, this slight increase in electricity prices can be more than offset by the economic returns from the GPU data centre. A large-scale AI data centre would serve as a hub for AI-driven services, attracting international clients and fostering local innovation. It would elevate Pakistan's position in the global technology ecosystem, offering services in AI research, data analytics, and machine learning model training. Increased utilization of IPPs for other sectors of the economy could result in a reduction of capacity charges, further mitigating any potential cost impact. The expected higher returns from AI services coupled with the growth of the local AI ecosystem makes the case for reallocation even stronger.

To realize this vision, a public-private partnership (PPP) offers a viable path forward. By leveraging Pakistan's existing nuclear power capacity and attracting private investment in a state-of-the-art GPU data centre, the country can unlock new opportunities for technological advancement and economic growth. The private sector would bring in the capital investment and expertise to build and manage the data centre, while the government ensures a stable supply of electricity through its nuclear infrastructure. This partnership could focus on creating a GPU data centre designed to handle Generative AI workloads, offering services ranging from AI research to data analytics and machine learning model training. In an era where data is the new oil, and AI is driving the industrial revolution, Pakistan can position itself as a regional leader in AI infrastructure. The global trend toward AI-driven solutions is accelerating, and Generative AI models are set to drive innovation across industries. Establishing a GPU-based data centre, powered by a nuclear power plant, is not only feasible but strategically sound for Pakistan. By minimizing electricity costs, ensuring a stable power supply, and leveraging the benefits of a public-private partnership, Pakistan can position itself as a leader in the regional AI infrastructure landscape. Such a move would boost the country's tech sector, create new economic opportunities, and help secure Pakistan's place in the future of AI and data-driven innovation. In an era where data is the new oil, Pakistan stands to gain immensely by capitalizing on this convergence of AI, energy efficiency, and public-private collaboration.

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Can we lead the climate charge?

Hassan Baig

Climate is a critical focus today due to the increasing impact of heatwaves and environmental changes on earth. Extreme weather patterns and long-term shifts in temperatures are affecting the entire globe. The year 2024 was the hottest on record, signalling the onset of new catastrophic trends in the coming years if not properly addressed by the global community.

For Pakistan, the situation is particularly alarming, as it has been ranked the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change. Natural disasters are increasingly affecting our economy, despite the efforts of disaster management authorities to mitigate these impacts. However, these authorities still have a long way to go to achieve the desired results and protect against future climate-related disasters. The likelihood of rising temperatures in the coming years is high, driven by factors ranging from atmospheric carbonization and emissions to fossil fuel use, deforestation, and population growth. Extreme weather conditions are spreading globally, creating ripple effects that result in severe heat events, which reduce the capacity and working hours of the labour force.

Heatwaves can trigger a domino effect, impacting populations worldwide. The summer of 2024 was particularly challenging, especially in North and South America, where heat waves resulted in an incremental increase of 1.4 C. This trend suggests that similar extreme weather events will become more common in future seasons.

There are already numerous reports and research detailing the economic losses, deaths, displacement, and migration caused by climate change. It is reported that approximately 216 million people migrate each year to escape the effects of climate change. By 2050, this number could rise to nearly 500 million, with as many as 1.2 billion people potentially displaced due to extreme weather conditions. The death toll from these events could reach one million by the end of this century if the issue of rising temperatures and heat waves is not properly addressed. Global warming could lead to a temperature increase of around 1.5 C by 2050, with devastating consequences for the world, as estimated losses suggest.

The world first started recognizing in the 1990s that rising temperatures would ultimately disrupt human life on Earth. However, it wasn't until the start of the current century that this realization took solid form. Now that the dangers of climate change are fully acknowledged, there is an urgent need to focus on reducing the use of fossil fuels.

At COP28 in the UAE last year, the global community pledged to gradually reduce fossil fuel usage, but no specific timeline was agreed upon for eliminating it. With COP29 approaching, it is crucial to build consensus on eliminating the harmful factors contributing to global warming to protect humanity. Pakistan, being a disaster-prone country, must prioritize these efforts in the upcoming COP29 discussions.

COP29 presents a valuable opportunity to address global climate challenges, particularly for countries like Pakistan, which are disproportionately affected. It would be an ideal platform for Pakistan to highlight its climate-related struggles, the initiatives it has undertaken to tackle these issues, and potential solutions. Despite contributing less than one per cent to global carbon emissions, Pakistan is among the most severely impacted by climate change. A comprehensive, regional, and inclusive growth model is urgently needed to tackle these challenges. Implementing a robust climate change policy and action plan is essential to safeguard the most vulnerable, including the poor and marginalized communities, who bear the brunt of climate-related disasters.

Pakistan's situation is comparable to other countries facing extreme weather, particularly in Africa, the Middle East, and South America. Humanity's actions are exacerbating global warming, with the increasing frequency and intensity of heat waves and weather-related disasters. The cumulative effects of global warming are wreaking havoc worldwide, and the growing threat to food security and human lives is making developing countries even more vulnerable. Studies indicate that rising temperatures and heat waves are contributing to mental health problems, alongside increasing risks of mortality and morbidity on a larger scale.

Recently, Pakistan has experienced some of the worst torrential rains, compounded by glacial outbursts that led to devastating flash floods in the northern areas, sweeping away buildings and infrastructure. Two years ago, similar torrential rains affected almost all parts of Pakistan, severely impacting the economic landscape, particularly in Sindh, Balochistan, and the northern regions.

The scale of the disaster prompted a visit by the UN secretary-general, and a special conference was convened in Switzerland under the UN's auspices. The estimated cost of damage from these flash floods and heavy rains was approximately $32 billion, with promises of $10 billion in aid from various countries and organizations to support recovery efforts.

Glacial outburst is a relatively new phenomenon impacting the earth's weather patterns, and Pakistan is among the most affected countries. Recognizing this, the UNDP has initiated projects to address the issue. The phenomenon of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) is a critical concern, and it is essential to tackle it swiftly to prevent further losses in Pakistan. The second phase of the UNDP-funded project, GLOF-2, is currently being implemented. Projects like GLOF are vital for mitigating climate risks and reducing the damage caused by climate change, particularly in vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

Reports indicate that the UK plans to support Pakistan in implementing seven innovative climate change projects. Unfortunately, Pakistan is ill-prepared for such challenges, as evidenced by the devastating torrential rains and flash floods two years ago, which wreaked havoc on the economy. At that time, the country was unable to present adequate disaster response plans to donor nations to secure necessary support.

The upcoming projects include floating solar farms, the use of AI for emissions reduction, clean energy generation from agricultural waste, e-bikes, and other low-carbon initiatives for clean energy. However, more projects and policies are needed to reduce carbon emissions. There is significant potential for clean energy generation, particularly from wind, solar, and battery-based power, which could be effectively used in electric vehicles and bikes. These areas must be actively promoted and supported to achieve meaningful results.

Pakistan faces numerous policy challenges, such as operationalizing the Climate Change Authority, which was established under an Act by the Ministry of Climate Change. The ministry's primary role is to engage stakeholders in formulating a comprehensive policy framework to protect the country from the impacts of climate change. However, the government is currently considering abolishing this ministry, along with others, as part of a downsizing effort.

This decision will be crucial, as it would shift all responsibilities to the Climate Change Authority. While there is no harm in centralizing these functions under the authority, it is essential that the authority be strengthened and empowered to effectively carry out its policy-making and enforcement duties.

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

Today in History

History of Pakistan

Insisting on austerity measures and demanding that the country learn to live within its means, his administration was a breath of fresh air in an environment known for profligacy and inefficiency. The prime minister struck a blow against the landed gentry by imposing a temporary levy on agriculture, and he made no secret of his intention to strike at the big absentee landlords and their carefully hidden sources of wealth.

Qureshi's tactics brought new funds into the Pakistan treasury, but even then they were hardly enough to return the country to solvency. Nevertheless, he persisted, even moving against the drug lords and demanding police reform so that law enforcement could more effectively deal with a deepening national problem of narcotics addiction. However, Qureshi's reforms also produced problems and a stable of critics. The devaluation of the rupee and the restrictions imposed on the country's commercial life elevated the price of gasoline, natural gas, and electricity, as well as staple food commodities. Generally speaking, though, the criticism leveled against the caretaker prime minister's policies emanated from the sidelined politicians who suddenly posed themselves as benefactors of the country's poorer classes.

National elections were held again in October 1993. In a close contest, the PPP won a plurality—though not a majority—of seats in the National Assembly; Nawaz Sharif's new Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) was a somewhat distant second, though his party received a slightly higher percentage of the popular vote. Fewer than half of registered voters cast a ballot, and election results were close throughout the country. Overall, however, Balochistan was the only province where the PPP failed to outdistance the PML-N.

To be continued.....

Showbiz

Johnny Depp surprises children's hospital as Captain Jack Sparrow

Johnny Depp continues pirate tradition with latest hospital visit

Johnny Depp, attending the San Sebastián Film Festival, made a surprise visit to the Donostia University Hospital in San Sebastián, Spain, dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow.

The hospital shared photos and expressed gratitude, "From all the staff of the Donostia University Hospital, we would like to express our infinite gratitude to Johnny Depp for his time, his support and his energy, as well as to @sansebastianfes for having facilitated this visit." spent time with patients in the Pediatrics and Oncology ward, speaking and playing with them while staying in character. This is not Depp's first hospital visit as Jack Sparrow; he has previously visited children's wards worldwide.

Depp is in Spain for the film festival, where his directed film, Modi: Three Days on the Wing of Madness, debuted. At a press conference, Depp discussed relating to the film's subject, Amedeo Modigliani, "Each has their story.

Sure, we can say that I've been through a number of things here and there. But, you know, I'm alright... I think we've all been through a number of things, ultimately. Maybe yours wasn't, didn't turn into a soap opera, televised, in fact." Depp's comments seemingly referenced his 2022 defamation trial with Amber Heard.

Tech

Most detailed infrared map of Milky Way ever released shows 1.5b cosmic objects

Astronomers at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) have created the most detailed infrared map of the Milky Way ever made, revealing more than 1.5 billion cosmic objects. Using the VISTA telescope, located at ESO's Paranal Observatory in Chile, this unprecedented survey has reshaped our understanding of our galaxy's structure.

The map, which took 13 years to compile through observations spanning 420 nights, uncovers previously hidden stars, planets, and other celestial phenomena obscured by dust and gas.

The VISTA (Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy) telescope's infrared camera, known as VIRCAM, was pivotal in penetrating the dense clouds of dust and gas that permeate the Milky Way.

This allowed astronomers to observe objects that emit infrared radiation but were previously invisible to conventional telescopes.

These include "failed stars" — or brown dwarfs, which fall between giant planets and small stars — and free-floating planets that don't orbit any star.

An infrared view of the NGC 6188 nebula and the NGC 6193 cluster.

The map also tracks hypervelocity stars, which have been ejected at incredible speeds from the galaxy's core after close encounters with its supermassive black hole. The colossal dataset produced from the survey consists of over 200,000 individual images, covering an area of the sky equivalent to 8,600 full moons. This dataset is nearly ten times larger than the team's previous map, released in 2012, and includes not only newborn stars and ancient globular clusters but also stars whose luminosity changes periodically, which are crucial in calculating cosmic distances.

Health

Pakistan's poliovirus tally surges to 23 this year after new case found in KP

ISLAMABAD: The total number of poliovirus cases in Pakistan climbed 23 after a 10-month-old baby girl in district Kohat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was diagnosed with the virus.

The infant from Tehsil Darra Adamkhel, which marked KP's second polio case this year, was left paralysed on September 12 after contracting the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1).

This second case in the country's northwestern province comes days after it confirmed its first polio case in the Mohmand district on September 6. Earlier, the province had remained polio-free following the serious and non-stop efforts of the provincial government, polio workers and national and international organisations working together towards the polio eradication.

These efforts were particularly observed in KP's southern districts, including Kohat, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Upper and Lower Waziristan, Kurram tribal district, and Orakzai district. The latest polio case in KP was reported a day after authorities on Wednesday confirmed that a 30-month-old boy from Pishin, Balochistan, had been struck by the poliovirus, marking the province's 15th case. So far, Balochistan remains the epicenter of the outbreak with 15 confirmed cases, while Sindh has reported four. Meanwhile, Punjab and Islamabad have each recorded one case, while KP has reported its second. Such rapid growth in the number of cases has resulted in increased scrutiny of the country's polio eradication efforts. According to officials from the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI), the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health confirmed the presence of WPV1 in the latest case from Kohat.

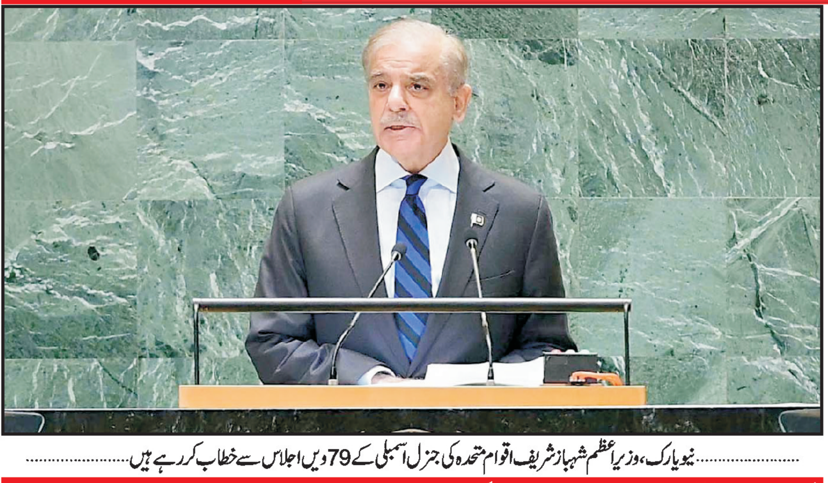
The virus's continued circulation has prompted health officials to intensify efforts to close immunity gaps in vulnerable areas. The confirmation of the latest polio case comes a day after Muhammad Anwarul Haq, the national coordinator for the Polio Emergency Operations Centre, emphasised the urgency of addressing gaps in efforts to fight this disease. "Every missed vaccination is an opportunity for the virus to win," he warned.

Haq called for collective action from both the government and the public, highlighting that the solution lies in ensuring timely and repeated vaccinations for all children. Pakistan's polio eradication programme organised an anti-polio campaign in 115 districts of the country this month in which 33 million children under the age of five years were given polio vaccinations.

روزنامہ
دی ایشین ٹیلی گراف
اسلام آباد
ہفتہ 28 ستمبر 2024ء

آئی ایم ایف سے ایک ارب 2 کروڑ ڈالر کی پہلی قسط موصول، کے پی حکومت کے کچھ نکات پر تحفظات

اسلام آباد (خبر نگار، بیورو رپورٹ) آئی ایم ایف کے ایگزیکٹو بورڈ کی منظوری کے بعد پاکستان کو سات ارب ڈالر کے پروگرام کی پہلی قسط موصول ہوگئی۔ ترجمان سٹیٹ بینک کے مطابق آئی ایم ایف کی جانب سے ایک ارب دو کروڑ 69 لاکھ ڈالر کی پہلی قسط موصول ہوگئی ہے جس سے سٹیٹ بینک کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں بھی اضافہ ہوا ہے اور اس کی تفصیل تین اکتوبر کو جاری کی جائے گی۔ واضح رہے کہ آئی ایم ایف ایگزیکٹو بورڈ نے گزشتہ دنوں 37 ماہ پر مشتمل سات ارب ڈالر کے پروگرام کی پاکستان کے لیے منظوری دی تھی۔ خیبرپختونخوا حکومت نے عالمی مالیاتی ادارے (آئی ایم ایف) کے ساتھ طے پانے والے معاہدے کے کچھ نکات پر تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ مشیر خزانہ خیبرپختونخوا مزمل اسلم نے ایک انٹرویو میں کہا کہ گزشتہ روز ہونے والے کابینہ اجلاس میں معاہدے کے بعض نکات پر سوالات اٹھائے گئے اور مزید وضاحت طلب کی گئی۔



نیویارک، وزیراعظم شہباز شریف اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی کے 79ویں اجلاس سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

عالمی تنازعات نئے ورلڈ آرڈر کی گونج، غزہ میں بچے زندہ دفن، دنیا تماشائی بنی ہوئی، دارالحکومت القدس والی آزاد فلسطینی ریاست قائم کی جائے، وزیراعظم

غزہ میں جاری مظالم نے دنیا کو ہلا کر رکھ دیا، صرف زبانی مذمت کافی نہیں، بربریت کو فوری روکنا جائے، بھارت میں اقلیتیں، ہندو انتہاپسندوں کے نشانے پر ہیں، وزیراعظم کا جنرل اسمبلی سے خطاب

نیویارک (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ غزہ میں اسرائیل کی جانب سے نسل کشی جاری ہے، غزہ میں جاری مظالم نے دنیا کو ہلا کر رکھ دیا، صرف زبانی مذمت کافی نہیں بلکہ اس بربریت کو فوری طور پر روکنا ہوگا۔ پاکستان اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کے مطابق دارالحکومت القدس والی آزاد فلسطینی ریاست کا قیام چاہتا ہے۔ بھارت میں اقلیتیں ہندو انتہاپسندوں کے نشانے پر ہیں۔

معاشرے میں مایوسی پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کرنے والوں کو شکست ہوئی، جنرل سید عاصم منیر

پاکستان کے پاس مختلف شعبوں میں بے پناہ صلاحیتیں موجود، قوم کو ملک کے روشن مستقبل پر مکمل یقین اور اعتماد ہونا چاہئے، اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے نوجوانوں کو آئی ٹی کی جانب لانا ہوگا

راولپنڈی، کراچی (سٹاف رپورٹر، بیورو رپورٹ) چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے کہا ہے کہ معاشرے میں مایوسی پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کرنے والوں کو شکست ہوئی۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف نے کراچی کا دورہ کیا۔ پاکستان کے پاس مختلف شعبوں میں بے پناہ صلاحیتیں موجود ہیں اور قوم کو ملک کے روشن مستقبل پر مکمل یقین اور اعتماد ہونا چاہئے۔ خصوصی سرمایہ کاری سہولت کونسل (SIFC) کی کارکردگی کو سراہا گیا۔

کراچی، آرمی چیف جنرل سید عاصم منیر پاک فوج کی آپریشنل تیاریوں بارے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

این ٹی ڈی سی کا ٹرانسمیشن نیٹ ورک بجلی کی ترسیل میں رکاوٹ، نیپرا

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) نیشنل الیکٹرک پاور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی (نیپرا) نے کہا ہے کہ نیشنل ٹرانسمیشن اینڈ ڈسپیچ کمپنی (این ٹی ڈی سی) کا ٹرانسمیشن نیٹ ورک بجلی کی ترسیل میں رکاوٹ ہے۔

پی ٹی آئی کا آج ملک گیر احتجاج، راولپنڈی میں دفعہ 144 نافذ، رینجرز تعینات

راولپنڈی، لاہور (سٹاف رپورٹر، بیورو رپورٹ) حکومت پنجاب نے راولپنڈی ڈویژن میں 2 دن کیلئے دفعہ 144 نافذ کر دی۔ محکمہ داخلہ نے دفعہ 144 کے نفاذ کا نوٹیفکیشن جاری کر دیا ہے۔ ڈویژن میں اسلحہ رکھنے اور نمائش پر بھی دفعہ 144 نافذ کی گئی ہے تاہم قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کے نمائندگان کو پابندی سے استثنیٰ ہوگا۔ حکم نامے کے مطابق راولپنڈی ڈویژن کے اضلاع راولپنڈی، اٹک، جہلم اور چکوال میں دفعہ 144 نافذ ہوگی۔ ضلعی انتظامیہ کی سفارش پر راولپنڈی اور اٹک میں رینجرز کی تعیناتی کیلئے بھی وفاقی وزارت داخلہ کو خط لکھا گیا۔ پی ٹی آئی نے راولپنڈی لیاقت باغ میں آج (ہفتہ کو) احتجاج سے متعلق حکمت عملی مرتب کرلی۔ پارٹی ذرائع کے مطابق وزیراعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا علی امین گنڈاپور احتجاج کی قیادت کریں گے، اسلام آباد سے پی ٹی آئی قیادت قافلوں کی صورت میں لیاقت باغ جائے گی۔

سکول بلڈنگز کی چیکنگ کا حکم، سیاحت کو فروغ دینگے، مریم نواز

قدرتی حسن سے مالا مال پنجاب کے علاقے کسی سے کم نہیں، عوامی امور پر نظر، تمام مسائل حل کر رہے ہیں، وزیراعلیٰ کا خطاب

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب کے سیاحتی مقامات کو فروغ دیں گے، قدرتی حسن سے مالا مال پنجاب کے علاقے کسی سے کم نہیں۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے صوبے بھر میں سکول بلڈنگز کی چیکنگ کا حکم دیا۔

محسن نقوی سے امریکی وفد کی ملاقات، جرائم کی سرکوبی پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (خبر نگار) وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی سے امریکی وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ پاکستان کی سکیورٹی میں ہی امریکہ کی سکیورٹی ہے، امریکی نائب سفیر کی جانب سے ملاقات میں عزم کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ وانسداد منشیات سے ملاقات کرنے والے وفد میں امریکہ کی نائب سفیر نیٹلی بیکر، کنٹری ڈائریکٹر آئی این ایل لائن نیلسن، پولیس ایڈوائزر ایڈ پریسٹن اور پولیس پروگرام سپیشلسٹ فیصل گل تھے

لاہور، وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہی ہیں

مریم اورنگزیب سے تھائی یونین کے وفد کی ملاقات، شرمپ فارمنگ کے فروغ پر اتفاق

وزیراعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف کا وژن ہے کہ پنجاب کی بنجر زمینیں آباد ہوں، اکتوبر میں جھینگے کی پہلی پیداوار حاصل ہوگی، وفد سے گفتگو

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) سینئر صوبائی وزیر مریم اورنگزیب سے تھائی یونین کے وفد نے ملاقات کی جس میں شرمپ فارمنگ کے فروغ کیلئے مل کر کام کرنے پر اتفاق ہوا۔ مریم اورنگزیب نے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزیراعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف کا وژن ہے کہ پنجاب کی بنجر زمینیں آباد ہوں، جدید فارمنگ سے زراعت اور کسانوں کو ترقی ملے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب نے صوبے کی زراعت کو جدید بنانے، فوڈ سکیورٹی کو یقینی بنانے کے انقلابی وژن کا آغاز کیا ہے۔ شرمپ فارمنگ کی حوصلہ افزائی سے وزیراعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف نے جدید فارمنگ کے حوالے سے پنجاب کو جدید دنیا کی فہرست میں شامل کیا ہے۔ شرمپ فارمنگ کے آغاز سے ایک ارب ڈالرز زرمبادلہ کمانے کے علاوہ ہزاروں نوجوانوں کو روزگار ملے گا۔ مریم اورنگزیب کا کہنا تھا کہ پنجاب شرمپ فارمنگ ماڈل دیگر صوبوں کے لئے بھی ایک قابل تقلید مثال بنے گا۔ پہلے مرحلے میں 100 ایکڑ پر 100 ٹن شرمپ فارمنگ کا آغاز کیا جارہا ہے جبکہ اکتوبر میں جھینگے کی پہلی پیداوار حاصل ہوگی، ان شاء اللہ بنجر زمینیں آباد ہوں گی۔ ساڑھے 8 ارب روپے سے زرعی تحقیق وترقی اور ہنرمندی کے منصوبے پر عمل درآمد ہوگا۔ مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ حکومت جھینگے کی پیداوار کے فروغ کے لئے سیڈ اور فیڈ کی فراہمی میں مدد کرے گی۔ ہیچری کے لئے کسانوں کو بلاسود قرض ملیں گے، کسان اور زراعت کے شعبے کو ترقی ملے گی۔ فارم پروسیسنگ اور فیڈ کے علاوہ سٹوریج کے حوالے سے بھی حکومت کسانوں کی مدد کرے گی۔ گریجویٹ نوجوانوں کو یونیورسٹیوں کے ذریعے تحقیقی مراکز میں مواقع دیئے جائیں گے۔ شرمپ منصوبے کے تحت کاروبار کے لئے زمین لیز پر دی جائے گی۔ شرمپ فارمنگ کے فروغ کے لئے نجی شعبے کو مراعات فراہم کی جائیں گی۔ مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ پنجاب کی فوڈ باسکٹ کی ڈائیورسٹی کے پیش نظر شرمپ فارمنگ ہمارے فارمرز کی ضرورت ہے۔ مقامی آبادی کو روزگار اور کاروبار کے نئے مواقع ملیں گے جبکہ کسانوں کی تربیت کے لئے بین الاقوامی ماہرین کی خدمات حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ ملاقات میں پنجاب میں شرمپ فارمنگ کے آغاز و پیداوار، شرمپ ہیچریز، ریسرچ، ایکسپورٹ، ڈیمانڈ اینڈ سپلائی چین اور لوکل فارمرز کی ٹریننگ سے متعلق امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ مریم اورنگزیب نے شرمپ فارمنگ میں تکنیکی معاونت پر تھائی وفد اور راوا کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

یہ ملک کو تباہ کر رہے ہیں، قوم کو پاکستان کیلئے نکلنا پڑیگا، بانی پی ٹی آئی

راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر) بانی پی ٹی آئی عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ قاضی فائز عیسیٰ توسیع کے مفاد میں پی ٹی آئی کو کرش کر رہا ہے، چیف جسٹس اب 63 اے کے پیچھے پڑ گیا ہے تاکہ فلور کراسنگ کو جائز قرار دیا جاسکے اور انہیں توسیع مل سکے، دنیا کے کسی چیف جسٹس نے ایسا نہیں کیا جو پاکستان کا چیف جسٹس کر رہا ہے قاضی فائز عیسیٰ جیسی حرکتیں کر رہا ہے مجھے وہ ذہنی طور پر تندرست نہیں لگتا، تھرڈ امپائر بھی توسیع چاہتا ہے اس کیلئے اسے پی ڈی ایم کی ضرورت ہے، آج (ہفتہ کو) ہم لیاقت باغ میں بھرپور احتجاج کریں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے اڈیالہ جیل میں صحافیوں سے غیر رسمی گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ جو کچھ ہو رہا ہے یہ تین ایمپائرز اور تین کھلاڑی ہیں چوتھا ان کے ساتھ پی ڈی ایم ملی ہوئی ہے ان سب کو ایک دوسرے کی ضرورت ہے، قاضی فائز عیسیٰ نے پہلے سے ہی توسیع کا منصوبہ بنا رکھا تھا ہمارا انتخابی نشان لینے کا چیف جسٹس کا فیصلہ جانبدارانہ تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سپریم کورٹ کے ججز نے مخصوص نشستوں کے کیس کے فیصلے میں یہ واضح کر دیا ہے چیف جسٹس نے پہلے فراڈ الیکشن کو تحفظ دیا اب یہ پی ٹی آئی کی نشستیں چھیننا شروع ہوگیا ہے، قاضی فائز عیسیٰ توسیع کے مفاد میں پی ٹی آئی کو کرش کر رہا ہے، ن لیگ اور پیپلز پارٹی فیملی جماعتیں ہیں ان کے پارٹی الیکشن کو کوئی نہیں پوچھتا ہمارے تین پارٹی انتخابات کالعدم کر دیئے گئے۔ بانی پی ٹی آئی نے کہا کہ چیف الیکشن کمشنر کو پتہ ہے کہ جس دن الیکشن فراڈ کھلا اس پر آرٹیکل چھ لگے گا

سمندری حدود کی موثر پٹرولنگ، فشری ایڈوائزری بورڈ کو فعال کیا جائے، رانا ثنا اللہ

تمام صوبائی اکائیاں اپنی نمائندگی کے مطابق اپنا کردار ادا کریں، وزیراعظم کے مشیر کی زیر صدارت بین الصوبائی رابطہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس

اسلام آباد (خبر نگار) وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے بین الصوبائی رابطہ وعوامی امور رانا ثنا اللہ خان نے صوبوں کے درمیان سمندری حدود کی موثر پٹرولنگ کی ہدایت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ فشری ایڈوائزری بورڈ کو فعال کیا جائے، سیکرٹری برائے بین الصوبائی رابطہ کو اس کا ممبر بنایا جائے، بورڈ کا پہلا اجلاس اکتوبر کے پہلے ہفتے میں منعقد کیا جائے، تمام صوبائی اکائیاں اپنی نمائندگی کے مطابق اپنا کردار ادا کریں۔ وزارت بین الصوبائی رابطہ سے جاری بیان کے مطابق وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے بین الصوبائی رابطہ وعوامی امور رانا ثنا اللہ خان کی زیر صدارت بین الصوبائی رابطہ کمیٹی کا 30واں اجلاس وزارت بین الصوبائی رابطہ میں منعقد ہوا۔ اجلاس میں چاروں صوبوں کو درپیش مسائل کے بارے میں چھ نکاتی ایجنڈے پر بات چیت ہوئی اور مسائل کے حل کے لئے اہم فیصلے کئے گئے۔ اجلاس میں صوبائی وزیر برائے لوکل گورنمنٹ حکومت پنجاب، وزیراعلیٰ سندھ کے مشیر برائے فشریز، پارلیمانی سیکرٹری برائے فشریز حکومت بلوچستان، وفاقی سیکرٹری برائے بین الصوبائی رابطہ، چیف سیکرٹری کے پی کے، صوبائی سیکرٹری برائے فشریز حکومت بلوچستان، صوبائی سیکرٹری برائے ہاسنگ اربن ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ پبلک ہیلتھ انجینئرنگ ڈیپارٹمنٹ حکومت پنجاب، ڈی جی پاکستان میری ٹائم سیکورٹی ایجنسی، سیکرٹری برائے کوسٹ گارڈز اور دیگر وفاقی وصوبائی اعلی حکام نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں حکومت بلوچستان نے انٹر پروونشل کوآرڈینیشن کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ سندھ سے تعلق رکھنے والے صنعتی ٹرولرز اپنی فشنگ بوٹس پر ممنوعہ جال کے ذریعے مچھلیاں پکڑتے ہیں اس کمرشل سرگرمی کی وجہ سے نہ صرف غریب ماہی گیروں کا نقصان ہو رہا ہے بلکہ سمندری لائف اور ماحول پر بھی بہت برے اثرات پڑ رہے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے رانا ثنا اللہ نے کہا کہ صوبوں کے درمیان یہ ایشو بہت اہمیت رکھتا ہے کیونکہ اس کی وجہ سے ایک عام آدمی کا روزگار اور اس کے خاندان کی زندگی بہت متاثر ہو رہی ہے اور اس کے حل کے لیے وفاق اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرے گا۔

راولپنڈی، سربراہ جے یو آئی (ف) مولانا فضل الرحمان تعلیم القرآن میں خطاب کر رہے ہیں

ٹماٹر، پیاز آلو، دالیں، آٹا، دودھ کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) ملک میں مہنگائی کی ہفتہ وار شرح میں 0.05 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے، جس سے 100 سے زائد اشیائے ضروریہ کی قیمتیں مزید بڑھ گئیں جبکہ سالانہ بنیادوں پر مہنگائی کی شرح 12.80 فیصد رہی۔ وفاقی ادارہ شماریات کی جانب سے جاری اعدادوشمار کے مطابق ملک میں ہفتہ وار مہنگائی کی شرح میں پھر سے معمولی اضافہ ہوگیا ہے۔ حالیہ ہفتے مہنگائی کی شرح میں 0.05 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے جب کہ حالیہ ہفتے سالانہ بنیادوں پر مہنگائی کی شرح 12.80 فیصد رہی ہے۔ حالیہ ہفتے میں روزمرہ استعمال کی 116 اشیائے ضروریہ کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ اور 9 ضروری اشیا کی قیمتوں میں کمی جب کہ 26 اشیا کی قیمتوں میں استحکام رہا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق حالیہ ہفتے کے دوران ٹماٹر کی قیمتوں میں 5.78 فیصد، پیاز کی قیمتوں میں 5.49 فیصد، دال چنا کی قیمتوں میں 1.01 فیصد، آلو کی قیمتوں میں 0.94 فیصد، گڑ کی قیمتوں میں 0.82 فیصد، آگ جلانے والی لکڑی کی قیمتوں میں 0.64 فیصد، ایل پی جی کی قیمتوں میں 0.15 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ اسی طرح تازہ کھلے دودھ کی قیمتوں میں 0.26 فیصد اور دہی کی قیمتوں میں 0.32 فیصد اضافہ ہوا جب کہ دال ماش کی قیمتوں میں 1.80 فیصد، دال مونگ کی قیمتوں میں 1.35 فیصد، چینی کی قیمتوں میں 1.30 فیصد، کیلوں کی قیمتوں میں 1.27 فیصد، دال مسور کی قیمتوں میں 0.93 فیصد جب کہ آٹے کی قیمتوں میں 0.66 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ ان کے علاوہ انڈوں کی قیمتوں میں 0.28 فیصد اور کوکنگ آئل کی قیمتوں میں 0.18 فیصد کمی واقع ہوئی۔

نیب ترامیم کے صدارتی آرڈیننس کیخلاف درخواست سماعت کیلئے منظور

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) نیب ترامیم کے صدارتی آرڈیننس کے خلاف لاہور ہائیکورٹ نے درخواست باضابطہ سماعت کے لیے منظور کرلی۔ عدالت نے وفاقی حکومت اور دیگر فریقین کو نوٹس جاری کرتے ہوئے جواب طلب کرلیا جبکہ اٹارنی جنرل کو آئندہ سماعت پر عدالتی معاونت کے لیے طلب کر لیا ہے۔ جسٹس شجاعت علی خان نے درخواست پر سماعت کی۔ درخواست گزار منیر احمد کے وکیل اظہر صدیق نے دلائل دیے۔ درخواست گزار کا موقف تھا کہ صدارتی آرڈیننس ہنگامی صورتحال میں ہی جاری ہوسکتا ہے لیکن ترامیم پاکستان تحریک انصاف کے بانی پر دباؤ ڈالنے کے لیے کی گئی۔ درخواست میں موقف اختیار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ قائم مقام صدر کی طرف سے آرڈیننس کا اجرا سیاسی مقاصد کے لیے کیا گیا ہے

مخصوص نشستوں کا فیصلہ، مفروضوں پر مبنی، الیکشن کمیشن کی نظر ثانی کی درخواست دائر

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) الیکشن کمیشن کی جانب سے مخصوص نشستوں کے حوالے سے کیس میں سپریم کورٹ میں دائر نظر ثانی درخواست میں اضافی دستاویزات جمع کر ادیئے گئے ہیں، دستاویزات کے مطابق سپریم کورٹ کے فیصلے کو مفروضوں پر مبنی قرار دیتے ہوئے عمل درآمد روکنے کی استدعا کی ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق الیکشن کمیشن کی جانب سے نظر ثانی کیس میں جمع کرائی جانے والی اضافی دستاویزات میں الیکشن کمیشن نے سپریم کورٹ مخصوص نشستوں کے فیصلہ کو مفروضوں پر مبنی قرار دیدیا۔ الیکشن کمیشن نے سپریم کورٹ سے فیصلہ پر عمل روکنے اور نظر ثانی پر فیصلہ ہونے تک عدالتی فیصلہ پر حکم امتناع دینے کی درخواست کی ہے الیکشن کمیشن کی جانب سے جمع ہونے والے اضافی دستاویزات میں کہا گیا ہے کہ سپریم کورٹ کا مخصوص نشستوں فیصلہ مفروضوں پر مبنی ہے سپریم کورٹ تشریح کی آڑ میں آئین کو دوبارہ نہیں لکھ سکتی ہے کمیشن کے مطابق عدالت نے تفصیلی فیصلے میں اپنے 12 جولائی کے احکامات سے انحراف کیا ہے الیکشن کمیشن کے مطابق تفصیلی فیصلہ میں عدالت نے 41 ارکان کو تحریک انصاف تک محدود کردیا جبکہ آئین کے مطابق آزاد ارکان کی سیاسی جماعت میں شمولیت کی معیاد تین دن ہے اور سپریم کورٹ نے ارکان کو 15 دن دیکر آئین کے الفاظ کو بدل دیا ہے

پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے چینی کمپنیوں کی منتقلی خوش آئند، عبدالعلیم خان

بیجنگ (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وفاقی وزیر عبدالعلیم خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے اہم چینی کاروباری کمپنیوں کی منتقلی خوش آئند ہوگی، چین سے تعلیم، ٹیکنالوجی اور مختلف شعبوں میں دوطرفہ سرمایہ کاری کریں گے، سی پیک کے علاوہ چین سیبیلٹ روڈ انیشیٹو منصوبے کے شراکت دار ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے بیجنگ میں 25 اہم چینی کمپنیوں کی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مشترکہ بزنس کانفرنس کے دوران خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وفاقی وزیر عبدالعلیم خان نے کہا کہ پاکستانی آبادی میں 70 فیصد نوجوان کاروبار کیلئے بہتر لیبر اور زیادہ صارفین مل سکتے ہیں، آئی ٹی کی بہتر فورس موجود، شمالی امریکا اور یورپ سے نسبتاً 70 فیصد کم لاگت آئیگی

ہمارا معاشی مرکز صرف ایکسپورٹ ہونا چاہئے، احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (خبر نگار) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ ہمارا معاشی مرکز صرف اور صرف ایکسپورٹ ہونا چاہیے، پاکستانی بندرگاہوں کو دنیا کی 50 بہترین بندرگاہوں میں شامل کرنے کے لیے فوری اقدامات ضروری ہیں، ملک کے اقتصادی استحکام کے لیے مضبوط لاجسٹک انفراسٹرکچر کلیدی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ تفصیل کے مطابق وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال کی زیر صدارت کراچی کی بندرگاہوں کے مسائل حل کرنے کے لیے وزیر اعظم کی تشکیل کردہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس ہوا۔ اجلاس میں سیکریٹری بحری امور، سیکریٹری ریلوے، منصوبہ بندی کمیشن کے ارکان اور متعلقہ وزارتوں کے سینئر افسران نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ پاکستان 77 سالوں میں ایکسپورٹ پر مبنی اقتصادی پالیسی نہیں اپنا سکا، ہمارا ویژن 2010 اور ویژن 2025 سیاسی حادثوں کا نشانہ بنا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اب ہم ایکسپورٹ پر مبنی معیشت کی طرف سفر شروع کر چکے ہیں، آئی ایم ایف کے پروگرام کے ذریعے پاکستان کو 3 سال کے لئے انشورنس پالیسی مل گئی ہے، پوری قوت کے ساتھ ہمیں اقتصادی ترقی کو اپنا ایمان بنانا ہوگا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ نیشنل گروتھ اسٹریٹجی میں زرمبادلہ کا مرکزی کردار ہوگا، دنیا میں ہر کامیاب ملک زرمبادلہ کو بڑھا کر اقتصادی ترقی کر رہا ہے، گوادر، کراچی، چابہار اور بن قاسم بندرگاہوں کو دنیا ایک سنہرے موقع کے طور پر دیکھے، وزارت سمندری امور کو اپنا سکوپ بڑھانے کی شدید ضرورت ہے۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ سمندری امور سے متعلق پالیسی کا جامع فریم ورک بنانے کی ضرورت ہے

سیاست تو فرعون بھی کرتا، دنیا و دین دار کی سیاست میں فرق کو سمجھنا ہوگا، فضل الرحمان

آج بھی بہت سے لیڈر بغیر وضو کے نماز کے لئے کھڑے ہو جاتے ہیں اسرائیل ایک ناجائز بچہ ہے: ختم نبوت وشہدا کانفرنس سے خطاب

راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر) جمعیت علمائے اسلام (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمان نے کہا ہے کہ سیاست تو ابوجہل اور فرعون بھی کرتا تھا لیکن دنیا دار اور دین دار کی سیاست میں فرق کو سمجھنا ہوگا آج بھی بہت سے لیڈر بغیر وضو کے نماز کے لئے کھڑے ہو جاتے ہیں اسرائیل ایک ناجائز بچہ ہے مسئلہ فلسطین پر مسلمان حکمران نہ صرف اندھے، گونگے اور بہرے بنے بیٹھے ہیں بلکہ کچھ گماشتے ٹی وی پر آکر کہتے تھے کہ اسرائیل کو تسلیم کرنا وقت کی ضرورت ہے ان کے منہ توڑ دینا چاہئے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز دارالعلوم تعلیم القرآن میں ختم نبوت وشہدا کانفرنس سے خطاب میں کیا انہوں نے کہا کہ میرے لئے دارالعلوم تعلیم القرآن آنا سعادت سے کم نہیں دارالعلوم تعلیم القرآن شیخ العلما مولانا غلام اللہ کا ایک شاہکار ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ طاقت حاصل کرنا ریاست کی ذمہ داری ہے طاقت اسلام کی طاقت ہونی چاہئے لیکن ہم آج یہودیوں کے سامنے جھک رہے ہیں یہ وہ یہودی ہیں جنہیں خیبر سے ہم نے نکالا انہوں نے کہا کہ اسرائیل ناسور کی صورت میں عرب کے سینے پر ہے اسرائیل پاکستان کے قیام کے ایک سال بنا لیکن بانی پاکستان قائداعظم محمد علی جناح نے کہا تھا اسرائیل ناجائز بچہ ہے آج بابائے قوم کی بات کیوں نہیں کی جاتی فلسطین میں 50 ہزار سے زائد لوگ شہید کر دیئے گئے امریکہ اور نیٹو ممالک سرائیل کی سپورٹ کر رہے ہیں ان کے ہاتھوں سے مظلوموں کا خون ٹپک رہا ہے پہلے تم نے کہا کہ عراق میں خطرناک ہتھیار ہیں پھر آپ نے اپنی غلطی تسلیم کی پھر بھی صدام کو پھانسی دی امریکہ اسرائیل کو خطرناک مہلک ہتھیار دے رہا ہے میرے پاس کچھ لوگ آئے کہ افغانستان میں خواتین کو تعلیم کا حق نہیں دیا جارہا میں نے کہا خواتین کی تعلیم کی بات کرتے ہو مگر فلسطین میں ظلم تمہیں نظر نہیں آتا فلسطین کے معاملے پر مسلم حکمران گونگے بنے بیٹھیں ہیں ہم صرف نام کے مسلمان رہ گئے ہیں ظاہری مسلمان ہیں مگر اندر سے کھوکھلے ہیں حماس حکومت نہیں تنظیم ہے ایک تنظیم نے مسئلہ فلسطین کو اجاگر کر دیا کچھ گماشتے ٹی وی پر آکر کہتے تھے کہ اسرائیل کو تسلیم کرنا وقت کی ضرورت ہے

آئینی عدالتیں پہلے ہی موجود مزید نہیں بننے دیں گے، سلمان اکرم راجہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) پاکستان تحریک انصاف کے وکلا نے آئینی عدالت کے قیام کیخلاف سپریم کورٹ کے باہر احتجاج کیا۔ وکلا نے حکومت و آئینی ترامیم کیخلاف شدید نعرے بازی کی۔ پارٹی رہنماؤں نے اعلان کیا کہ آج (ہفتہ کو) راولپنڈی میں حکومت کیخلاف تاریخی احتجاج کیا جائیگا، اس وقت جمہوریت کو تماشہ بنا دیا گیا ہے، آج قانون کی پامالی عروج پر ہے، آئینی پیکج کا مقصد صرف سیاہ عدالت قائم کرنا ہے، تین لوگوں نے اپنی توسیع کیلئے آئین کو روندنا ہے، سپریم کورٹ سے بڑی امید ہوتی ہے، یہ کوئی سیاسی معاملہ نہیں ہے، یہ اب سپریم کورٹ کے اختیار بھی ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں، پاکستانیوں کو سمجھنا ہوگا کہ ہمارے ساتھ ہو کیا رہا ہے۔ تفصیل کے مطابق بانی پی ٹی آئی کی کال پر جمعہ کے روز سپریم کورٹ کے باہر آئینی ترامیم کیخلاف احتجاجی مظاہرہ کیا گیا۔ احتجاجی مظاہرے میں پی ٹی آئی رہنماؤں سمیت انصاف لائرز فورم کے اراکین نے شرکت کی۔ احتجاجی مظاہرے کے دوران وکلا نے آئینی ترامیم نامنظور، ظلم کے ضابطے ہم نہیں مانتے اور دیگر نعرے بازی کی۔ اس موقع پر احتجاجی مظاہرے کے موقع پر سپریم کورٹ کے باہر سخت ترین حفاظتی انتظامات کئے گئے تھے۔ سپریم کورٹ کے باہر خاردار تاریں اور پولیس کی نفری بھی تعینات کی گئی تھی۔ کسی بھی ناخوشگوار واقعہ سے نمٹنے کیلئے اسلام آباد پولیس کے دستے سپریم کورٹ کے باہر ڈیوٹی پر تعینات کیے گئے تھے۔ اس موقع پر پی ٹی آئی رہنماء سلمان اکرم راجہ کا کہنا تھا اگر قانون کی حکمرانی نہیں ہوگی تو کچھ بھی نہیں ہوگا، میں سب پاکستانیوں سے اپیل کرتا ہوں

اسلام آباد، پی ٹی آئی وکلاء سپریم کورٹ کے سامنے احتجاج کر رہے ہیں

احتجاج ہمارا حق، آخری سانس تک آئینی ترامیم کی مخالفت کرینگے، شبلی فراز

ملک میں آئین وقانون کے ساتھ کھلواڑ کیا جارہا، القادر ٹرسٹ اور توشہ خانہ ٹو کیس میں بانی پی ٹی آئی کی گرفتاری نہیں بنتی، گفتگو

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) پی ٹی آئی رہنما و سینیٹ میں قائد حزب اختلاف سینیٹر شبلی فراز نے کہا ہے کہ ملک میں آئین اور قانون کے ساتھ کھلواڑ کیا جارہا ہے، فسطائیت کا ماحول بنا ہوا ہے، آئینی ترامیم کو شیطانی ترامیم کہتا ہوں، ایک خاص حکمران ٹولے کے مفادات کیلئے سارا کھیل رچایا جارہا ہے، بانی پی ٹی آئی پر جتنے بھی مقدمات بنائے گئے وہ ایک ایک کر کے ختم ہوگئے، القادر ٹرسٹ اور توشہ خانہ ٹو کیس میں بانی پی ٹی آئی کی گرفتاری نہیں بنتی، دونوں کیسز میں سزا دینے کے لیے ہر ممکن کوشش کی جارہی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پی ٹی آئی رہنما شیخ وقاص اکرم کے ہمراہ میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ سینیٹر شبلی فراز کا کہنا تھا کہ توشہ خانہ کا کیس بانی پی ٹی آئی پر 4 مرتبہ بنایا گیا، تاریخ میں ایسی مثال کہیں نہیں ملتی، القادر ٹرسٹ اور توشہ خانہ ٹو کیس میں بانی پی ٹی آئی کی گرفتاری نہیں بنتی، ان دونوں کیسز میں سزا دینے کے لیے ہر ممکن کوشش کی جارہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بشریٰ بی بی پر صرف ایک کیس ہے، جان بوجھ کر تاخیری حربے استعمال کر کے بشریٰ بی بی کو جیل میں رکھا گیا ہے، بشریٰ بی بی ایک غیر سیاسی خاتون ہیں، بشریٰ بی بی کو جیل میں رکھ کر بانی پی ٹی آئی کو کرب پہنچانے اور کمزور کرنے کی کوشش کی جارہی ہے۔ شبلی فراز کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر سزا دینی ہے تو دیں، ان کو خود بھی معلوم ہے اگر سزا سنائی تو دوسری عدالت سے سزا فوری ختم ہو جائے گی، بانی پی ٹی آئی ذہنی اور جسمانی طور پر مضبوط ہیں، بانی پی ٹی آئی کو کوئی نہیں توڑ سکا، ملک میں اس وقت جان اور مال کا تحفظ نہیں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اگر ملک میں ایک نامور شخص کو انصاف نہیں مل رہا تو عام شخص کو کیا امید ہوگی، سیاسی، قانونی اور آئینی طور پر ملک کے ساتھ کھلواڑ کیا جارہا ہے، ان آئینی ترامیم کو میں شیطانی ترامیم کہتا ہوں، لوگوں کو اٹھایا جارہا ہے، کوشش کی جارہی ہے لوگ غیر آئینی ترامیم کیلئے ووٹ دیں، ایک خاص حکمران ٹولے کے مفادات کیلئے سارا کھیل رچایا جارہا ہے۔ رہنما تحریک انصاف کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ اس وقت ملک میں تذبذب کا ماحول بنا ہوا ہے، تمام سختیوں کے باوجود ہم سیاسی جدوجہد جاری رکھیں گے۔

حیدرآباد، امیر جماعت اسلامی حافظ نعیم الرحمان جلسے سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

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Pakistan eyes tourism boom to strengthen foreign exchange, trade

ISLAMABAD: In a crucial meeting led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, stakeholders from Pakistan's tourism and hospitality sector highlighted the vast potential of tourism in increasing foreign exchange and driving trade enhancement. The meeting took place on World Tourism Day, a day dedicated globally to recognizing the importance of tourism in fostering international understanding, economic growth, and cultural exchange, according to press release issued by commerce ministry.

Acknowledging the opportunities in this sector, Jam Kamal assured full support from the Ministry of Commerce, including the provision of Export Development Fund (EDF) for tourism-related export initiatives. The meeting was attended by high-level officials, including Nawabzada Mir Zarain Khan Magsi, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Culture, secretaries from all four provincial tourism departments, the Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, and representatives from the public and private sectors.

The gathering sought to address challenges in the tourism sector and explore avenues for exponential growth. In a presentation, Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director of PTDC said that Pakistan was blessed with a diverse range of tourism attractions, including natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, adventure tourism opportunities, and religious tourism. Despite this wealth of resources, the tourism sector contributes only 5.8% to Pakistan's GDP, amounting to PKR 5.59 trillion, with domestic tourism spending at PKR 3.85 trillion and 2.2 million international visitors in 2023.

Jam Kamal Khan emphasized that few countries in the world have the level of tourism potential that Pakistan possesses, remarking that the sector, connected with various industries, can significantly boost revenue streams.

He lauded the new visa policy, which grants visa-free entry to citizens of 126 countries, positioning Pakistan as a competitive global destination.

The recent relaxation in Pakistan's visa regime, which waives fees for citizens of 126 countries, has rapidly increased tourist arrivals.

According to PTDC data, domestic tourism is also on the rise, with 10 million Pakistanis visiting the northern areas in 2023 alone. However, the council members called for the removal of post-visa hurdles to further facilitate foreign tourism.

Despite the progress, stakeholders believe there is potential for even greater growth.

Aftab Ur Rehman Rana projected that with the removal of policy impediments and improved tourism infrastructure, Pakistan could earn up to $6 billion from tourism.

Key recommendations included developing 30 countries as friendly tourist destinations and improving direct flight connections to attract more international visitors. Nawabzada Mir Zarain Magsi highlighted the untapped potential in Balochistan, a region with vast opportunities for coastal and religious tourism.

He emphasized that Balochistan's beautiful beaches and deserts, coupled with religious heritage sites, could attract more tourists with better collaboration between the federal and provincial governments. APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with the delegation of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Rana Tanveer expresses satisfaction on implementation process of SME policy

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday expressed satisfaction on the implementation process of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Policy.

He chaired the 12th Meeting of National Coordination Committee on SME Development at the SMEDA Head Office. Federal Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum and Joint Secretary Nisar Ahmad Phularwan accompanied the minister in this meeting.

SMEDA CEO Socrat Aman Rana gave a presentation to update the implementation process of the SME Policy 2021 & Action Plan on this occasion. Rana Tanveer Hussain also appreciated SMEDA's active coordination with provincial working groups to expedite the formulation of implementation strategies in all provinces and administrative units.

He said the SME sector was the back-bone of economy that was why the federal government was spearheading SME development to create a conducive business environment for SMEs, enabling them to address the prevailing challenges.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had established a Steering Committee on SMEs for monitoring and tracking SME development in the country. The committee had been entrusted to oversee initiatives and ensure the implementation of the National SME Policy, he added. The decisions made in NCC meetings were critical for SME development in Pakistan, and all relevant departments had been advised to make every effort to implement these decisions with full commitment and adherence, he said.

He further said the SME Census was crucial

for informed policy-making and advised the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) to actively prioritize and expedite the process of conducting a national-level SME Census.

He said the Prime Minister was keen to improving access to finance for SMEs and under his direction the State Bank of Pakistan had proposed to re-define SMEs by increasing their threshold. However, he urged the SBP to simplify the loan application farms for ease of SMEs.

Similarly, he also emphasized to simplify the cumbersome regulatory procedures at both the federal and provincial levels to foster a conducive business environment for SMEs, as suggested in the SME Policy.

Later, Rana Tanveer Hussain also chaired a meeting of the Consultative Group on the National Women Entrepreneurship Policy and Action Plan. SMEDA CEO Socrat Aman Rana gave an exclusive presentation in this regard.

Referring to the draft of National Women Entrepreneurship Policy, the minister said, "Women entrepreneurship plays a vital role in promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, and driving economic growth."

After a thorough review of the Policy, the minister advised to get final comments from the stakeholders on this policy within a week so that the policy may be submitted for approval of the Cabinet at the earliest possible.

A large number of senior officials from provincial and federal departments including SBP, FBR, TDAP, PIDC and SECP participated in the meeting. — *VOM Report*

Naqvi calls on INL delegation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, met with the delegation of US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the Ministry of Interior on Friday. The delegation included US Deputy Ambassador Natalie Baker, Country Director INL Lynn Nelson, Police Advisor Ed Preston, and Police Program Specialist Faisal Gill.

Federal Interior Minister appreciated INL's exceptional cooperation in enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's police and paramilitary forces, citing several notable projects as praiseworthy. He emphasized for further strengthening this cooperation and making it more sustainable. He underscored the need for prioritizing high-impact projects through a master plan.

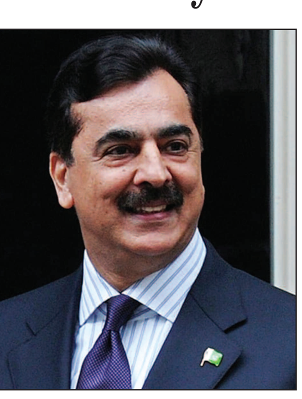
Interior Minister said that FIA is one of the most important investigative agencies of Pakistan. He expressed the desire to make the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) a dynamic organization, akin to the FBI, with INL's cooperation. He said that this project will be of pivotal importance in combating organized crimes in Pakistan.

He also stressed the need of restructuring the National Police Academy so that it can be made an international standard institution. He emphasized that it is also need of the hour to modernize the Frontier Constabulary which serves as a reserve police force across the country. Regarding Anti-narcotics efforts, Naqvi said that all possible measures are being taken.

The US delegation extended their condolences over the loss of precious lives in recent terrorists incidents.

US Deputy Ambassador Natalie Baker said that INL has been working in close cooperation with the Government of Pakistan for more than 42 years and expressed the desire to make this cooperation stronger and sustainable. She emphasized that Pakistan's security is integral to US security.

Gilani urges tourists from around world to explore Pakistan's beauty



ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday called on tourists from around the world to explore Pakistan's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

Gilani, in his message on the World Tourism Day, said, "Pakistan is rich in natural beauty, and by promoting tourism, we can create employment opportunities and contribute to the overall prosperity of our nation."

He highlighted the significance of Pakistan in religious tourism, noting that the country was home to important religious sites for Buddhists, Sikhs, and Hindus, attracting pilgrims from across the globe.

"Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with stunning mountains, high-altitude ranges, deserts, rivers, and scenic regions," he added.

Romina Khursheed for promoting hygiene practices

KARACHI/LASBELA: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khursheed Alam, underscoring the importance of hygiene for living a healthy life, on Friday, urged the female students to spread the message of health and hygiene among their communities.

She was addressing a ceremony held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Uthal town of District Lasbela Balochistan on conclusion of Health and Hygiene training under "She Power" project. She, at the occasion, also distributed health and hygiene kits among the students.

Romina Khursheed, addressing the ceremony, said that the role of women is equally important in our society. She expressed pleasure on being among the daughters of Balochistan and said that she would continue visiting them.

She underscored the importance of hygiene practices for healthy life and urged that safety and precautionary measures should be practiced in day-to-day life as done during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

She appealed the daughters of Balochistan to spread the message of health and hygiene among their communities as special messengers being the literate and aware members of the society.

The Hygiene kits consisting essential hygiene products were provided under the "She Power" project launched by the Embassy of Peoples Republic of China as a health sector initiative with objectives of improving the health and well-being of young girls.

The She Power project is aimed at promoting use of hygiene products and foster health awareness as well as addressing the critical health related requirements of girls in the Balochistan and 20,000 health and hygiene kits would be distributed among the female students across the region under the initiative. Senator Samina Zehri, CEO Asian Synergy Neelam Hamid, and officials of revenue, health and education departments attended the ceremony.

President visits family of martyred DC Zakir Baloch

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday paid a visit to the family of Shaheed Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch and expressed his profound condolences to the grieved family.

Zakir Baloch was martyred in an attack in Mastung, Balochistan.

During the visit, the president expressed his profound condolences and prayed for elevation of ranks of martyred DC Zakir Baloch.

President Zardari said Zakir Baloch was martyred while fulfilling his responsibilities. He said that entire nation salutes the sacrifices of the martyrs and their families for the nation. He also appreciated the spirit of patriotism of the martyr and prayed for the heirs to bear this irreparable loss.

APACE celebrates 75-years of Sino-Pak Friendship

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Association of Chinese Foreigners in Pakistan & All-Pakistan Association of Chinese Enterprises (APACE) celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Among the notable highlights of the event was the performance by renowned Pakistan singer Umair Shahid, known by his Chinese name Omi, whose heartfelt song on China-Pak friendship resonated deeply with attendees, said a press release issued here Friday.

The event drew prominent figures from both nations, including Shi Yuanqiang, Minister of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, MNA. Danyal Chaudhry and Jiang Zaidong, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan.

These dignitaries gathered to reflect on the enduring partnership that has flourished over the past seven decades, characterized by mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for future cooperation.

Yet, it was Umair Shahid's performance that truly stole the spotlight. The Song "Wo men bu yi yang", tweeted by Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan, went viral two years ago all over the social media and TV Channels, not only captivated audiences in Pakistan but also resonated within Chinese communities. This song is identity of Pak – China Friendship and millions of people listened to it both in China and Pakistan.

As Shahid performed, it became evident that his words served as a bridge linking the two cultures, traditions, folk music and such combined activities that bind Pakistan and China together.

The event also featured a rich array of traditional Chinese cultural presentations, including Chinese Opera, folk dances and traditional music. These performances showcased the beauty of Chinese heritage and added a festive flair to the celebrations. Umair Shahid, is indeed making significant strides in promoting the China-Pakistan relationship through his music.

Pakistan urges OIC to boost efforts for 'just' settlement of Kashmir dispute based on UN resolutions

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called on the Islamic Cooperation Organization (OIC) to scale up its efforts for the mitigation of the Kashmiri people's sufferings and finding a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with United Nations resolutions that grant the Kashmiri people the right to self-determination.

Speaking to OIC's Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir, which met on the sidelines of the 79th session of UN General Assembly, Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif underscored the need for the 57-member organization to transform its pronouncements on the decades-old dispute into "tangible actions."

"The OIC and its Member States should use their influence to urge India to improve the human rights situation in Kashmir; release the political prisoners; repeal draconian emergency laws; remove military presence from populated areas; and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," Khawaja Asif added.

The five-member group's state members, besides Pakistan, who were present were : Turkiye's Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz, Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister ELnur Mam-

madov, Saudi Arabia's Minister Plenipotentiary at Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Haitham Al-Aalki, and Niger's Director of International Organizations at the Foreign Ministry, Hama Knsaye Souleymane. the meeting was presided over by OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of the World Kashmir awareness forum, attended in his capacity as a True Representative of the People of Jammu and Kashmir.

The group members supported the Kashmir cause and called for a peaceful settlement of the dispute between India and Pakistan.

In his opening remarks, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif emphasized that for lasting peace in South Asia, the Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In the last 77 years, he told group members, India has tried different methods to consolidate its occupation, but since 5 August 2019 New Delhi had intensified its campaign to "Indianize" Kashmir, and transform its people into a disempowered community.

In the last five years, Khawaja Asif said the Indian authorities have taken a series of legislative, judicial and administrative steps, aimed at altering the demographic structure and political landscape of Kashmir, including gerrymandering of the electoral constituencies, allowing the addition of non-Kashmiris to voter rolls, issuance of domicile certificates to outsiders, giving Lt. Governor more powers in administrative matters, and introduction of new laws on ownership of land and property.

To crush dissent, he said, the Indian authorities have created an environment of fear and intimidation, with draconian laws, such as Public Safety Act (PSA), Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) offer impunity to the Indian forces to arrest or kill any person and destroy any property. Since 5 August 2019, 914 Kashmiris have been killed and another 2447 injured or tortured, with the number of political prisoners remaining in thousands and properties of Kashmiri activists being confiscated as a punishment.

The Indian authorities have outlawed 14 political parties under a counterterrorism law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the defence minister said, adding that the office of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in Srinagar has also been seized.

Eid prayers at Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid have not been allowed for the last five years, with Friday prayers also prohibited from time to time, he said. The chief cleric at the Mosque and a renowned Kashmiri leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, is intermittently placed under house arrest, denying him the opportunity to lead the Friday prayers.

Noting curbs on media, the defence minister said the Srinagar Press Club has remained shut since 2020, with the elections of Jammu and Kashmir Bar Association not allowed, and one of its former Presidents, Miyan Abdul Qayyum, arrested for his defiant political views. APP

Minister Muqam welcomes PM's address at UNGA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Friday praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), highlighting the premier's focus on key global issues, particularly the situations in Kashmir and Palestine.

Minister Amir Muqam commended the Prime Minister for bringing international attention to the ongoing atrocities in Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

In his statement, the minister remarked that the Prime Minister's speech fully reflected the aspirations of both the Kashmiri and Palestinian people. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has courageously addressed the issue of human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the plight of Palestinians. His speech, was historic and deeply resonated with the sentiments of oppressed Muslims around the world," stated Muqam.

During the address, the Prime Minister also shed light on the importance of resolving the long-standing issues in Kashmir and Palestine, calling for immediate international intervention to ensure peace and justice. The Federal Minister applauded this as a bold and necessary stance.

Furthermore, Muqam lauded the Prime Minister for speaking out against Islamophobia and advocating for the Muslim Ummah at the global forum, stating that Shehbaz Sharif had won the hearts of Muslims worldwide by addressing these critical issues. The Federal Minister also praised the Pakistani delegation for walking out during the speech of the Israeli Prime Minister, calling it a commendable and principled move, symbolizing Pakistan's firm stance on the Palestinian issue. APP

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