



"PTI leaders should follow those principles and scales which they set for the then opposition members (PML-N) during their tenure"

Minister for Planning and Development  
**Ahsan Iqbal**

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## Security forces kill 17 terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Balochistan: ISPR



RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed 17 terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. According to the statement issued by the ISPR, since 20 August 2024, Security

forces are conducting extensive Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) in Tirah Valley, Khyber District, on reported presence of Khwarij. On 28 & 29 August, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarij' locations where after intense fire exchange, 12 khwarij of Fitna-Al-Khwarij were sent to hell. These operations have resulted into major setback to Fitna-Al-Khwarij & its affiliates, and so far, thirty seven terrorists have been sent to hell, while fourteen terrorists have suffered serious injuries. The IBOs will continue till peace in the area is restored and khawrij are eliminated, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country. Meanwhile in the backdrop of cowardly terrorist activities, targeting the innocent civilians in Balochistan on 26 August, the security forces are conducting extensive intelligence based operations (IBOs) to hunt down the perpetrators of these heinous acts. On night 29/30 August, in three separate IBOs in District Kech, Panjgur and Zhob, five terrorists were sent to hell by the security forces, while three terrorists got injured during the intense fire exchange. Sanitization operations will continue until all perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these atrocious acts are brought to justice. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan. PR

## Pakistan is a friendly country to Azerbaijan & has always supported Azerbaijan on the issue of regional integrity: CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja

BAKU: Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja, met with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan, Mazahir Panahov, at Central Election Commission in Baku, on Friday. The Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan is visiting Azerbaijan on a special invitation from Mazahir Panahov to observe the parliamentary elections. During the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan stated that Pakistan is a friendly country to Azerbaijan and has always supported Azerbaijan on the issue of regional integrity. As an election observer, he praised Azerbaijan's electoral preparations. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

## Terrorists to be made an example to accomplish journey of progress: PM

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday vowed that the government as well as the armed forces would collectively make the terrorists an example to accomplish the journey of the country's progress and prosperity. "This is for sure, the armed forces and the law enforcement agencies will collectively make them (terrorists) an example. Without this, the country's journey of progress and prosperity cannot be accomplished. We have unity of thought and action on this," he remarked addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him here. The prime minister, referring to his Thursday visit to Quetta, said that the provincial government and the political leaders unanimously viewed that any talks with the anti-state elements were out of the question. He said the family members of the martyrs he interacted with during his visit, were in high morale despite losing their dear ones in the terrorist incident. Prime Minister Shehbaz said the federal government would implement the proposals put forward by the provincial political leaders during his visit. He told the cabinet members that during the visit, the Quetta Corps Commander gave a presentation on challenges faced by Balochistan and how the terrorists, funded by foreign forces, were sowing hatred against Pakistan among the people. He said the civilian government was also taking effective measures for the youth's uplift. Besides, the officers and the personnel of the armed forces were chasing the terrorists with the federal government's support, he

## PM meets JUI-F President Maulana Fazal ur Rehman

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. Maulana Fazal ur Rehman warmly welcomed the prime minister. The prime minister expressed best wishes for Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. During the meeting, the two sides discussed overall political situation of the country. PM Shehbaz Sharif was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar.



said, and assured the federal government's support for the capacity building of Levies. He told the meeting that both federal and provincial governments were taking measures to engage the youth and protect them from being detracted by the anti-state elements. He said a 10% additional quota had been allocated for Balochistan in the schemes like laptops and agricultural training in China. Besides, the federal government would spend Rs55 billion to solarise agricultural tube wells in Balochistan. The prime minister said that Moody's has recently upgraded Pakistan's rating to indicate the country's improving economic con-

dition. "This is a long journey. This yet needs more concerted efforts to improve the economy. The whole nation, including the provincial governments, are united on this," he said. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the federal government would soon unveil its five-year Home Grown Economic Revival Plan aimed at boosting exports, agriculture, industry, youth's uplift, skill and vocational training. "We have to take this journey ahead. The nations who work hard and face challenges resolutely achieve excellence. Pakistan will soon achieve economic independence and emerge as an economic power as there is no other way out," he added.

## State's insurgents to be dealt with iron hands, says Mohsin Naqvi

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that no operation was going on in Baluchistan and stringent action would be taken against those who did not accept the State and took up arms. Speaking at the 342nd Senate session after Senators Jan Muhammad, Dr Zarqa Taimur, Bilal Ahmed Khan and opposition leader Shibli Faraz's different opinions over the Baluchistan issue, he said that the Apex Committee reviewed the decisions of the National Action Plan (NAP) resolutions and coordinated with the federal and provincial institutions, adding "Parliament is supreme and will remain supreme". Giving details of the last day's meeting of the National Action Plan's Apex Committee chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Quetta, he said that dialogues could only be made with those who respect the Constitution of Pakistan and salute the national flag. He said the meeting decided to provide Rs 5 billion to the Counter Terrorism Department to enhance capacity against terrorism while Rs 8 billion including Rs 1 billion would be given to each division of the province for the development which would be spent with their local Parliamentarians recommendations. Mohsin said that to overcome the shortage of federal government employees as many as 30 to 40 officials would be deputed in the province within two days. He said that the August 26 horrible incident was a planned attack of various terrorist organizations to destabilize Pakistan and was a conspiracy to subvert the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council meeting scheduled to be held in October 2024 in Pakistan.

## No NRO to be given to PTI founding Chairman: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday reiterated that no National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) would be given to the founding Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and he had to prove his innocence in the courts of law. Responding to various points raised by Leader of Opposition Omar Ayub Khan in the National Assembly, the minister said almost all PML-N senior party leaders remained in jails and proved their innocence before the courts. PTI leadership during their rule always asked for receipts from PML-N leaders but now they were not providing their receipts to the courts in corruption cases like 190 million pounds. "PTI leaders should follow those principles and scales which they set for the then opposition members (PML-N) during their tenure," he said. He went on to say that PTI leadership was now seeking NRO but it would not be given to them rather they should clear themselves from the courts. Regarding provision of facilities to Imran Khan at Adiyala Jail, Ahsan Iqbal said the best possible facilities like 5 stars hotel were available to the PTI founding chairman in the jail. APP

## 'Thalian interchange developed in PTI's regime providing partial relief to commuters'



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Human Rights, and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Friday addressed a calling attention notice about the Thalian Interchange, which is situated between the Chakri and Islamabad Toll Plaza. He noted that this interchange, developed during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration, offers partial relief to commuters traveling to Islamabad International Airport. Senator Tarar's comments were in response to concerns raised by Senator Mohsin Aziz. Aziz had highlighted the lack of a dedicated route from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Islamabad Airport, a route currently only available to traffic from Punjab. This issue was raised during a Senate session point of order, approved by the Presiding Officer. Senator Tarar explained that the Thalian Interchange, located between Chakri and Islamabad Toll Plaza, provides reasonable access to the airport and nearby villages, including Thalian. He

dismissed allegations of provincial discrimination, emphasizing that the federal government aims to facilitate all travelers without political motives. He assured that the matter would be addressed with the Minister for Communications. The Presiding Officer referred the issue to the Standing Committee on Communications. Senator Mohsin Aziz had originally called attention to the fact that there is no dedicated access from the M-1 motorway section to the Islamabad Airport for travelers coming from KP. While there is a designated route from Punjab, travelers from KP do not have similar access. Additionally, Senator Abdul Shakoor raised a separate issue regarding the delay in providing gas supply to Tehsil Gulistan, Qilla Abdullah, Balochistan. Despite the project's inauguration in 2014, work was halted in 2015 after being approved by the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the request of Mashar Mahmood Khan Achakzai. Senator Shakoor requested an update from the Minister for Petroleum on why the project remains incomplete? This matter was also referred to the Standing Committee on Petroleum. APP

## Zardari expresses sorrow over Dir Bala landslide tragedy



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday expressed deep regret and sorrow over the loss of lives caused by landslides in the Dir Bala district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a press release from the President's House, the president extended his condolences to the families of the deceased. The president expressed his sympathies to the families of the deceased during this difficult time. The president prayed for the deceased's forgiveness and beseeched the Almighty to grant the bereaved families the strength to endure their loss with patience.

## Third offshore patrol vessel PNS HUNAIN arrives Karachi

KARACHI: Third Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) PNS HUNAIN arrived in Karachi where upon arrival, an impressive reception ceremony was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard. Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was Chief Guest on the occasion, a Pakistan Navy news release said.



While addressing the ceremony, Commander Pakistan Fleet highlighted that addition of PNS HUNAIN in PN fleet will significantly enhance Pakistan Navy's capability of safeguarding Maritime frontiers of Pakistan. He also emphasized that induction of such multipurpose state of the art platforms will provide vital support to ongoing PN Maritime security

patrol in Indian Ocean. PNS HUNAIN is a multipurpose medium sized Offshore Patrol Vessel equipped with state of the art electronic warfare, anti-air, anti-air warfare weapons and sensors, self protection and terminal defence system. The ship was built and commissioned in July this year at Damen Shipyard, Romania. Reception ceremony of PNS HUNAIN was attended by large number of PN Officers, CPOs and Sailors and families of crew members. PR

## At OIC CFM, Pakistan calls for united efforts to rid Palestine, IIOJK of foreign occupations

YAUUNDE: As the foreign ministers of the OIC member states gathered in the capital city of Cameroon, for a two-day 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan called for unity and resolve to address the challenges confronting the Islamic Ummah including the ongoing foreign occupation of Palestine and IIOJK, terrorism and Islamophobia. Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, who led the Pakistani delegation at the CFM, highlighted the oppressive foreign occupation of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir, and the conflicts across the world, fueled by endemic poverty, terrorist and extremist groups and external interventions. He told the gathering that over 40,000 Palestinians, the majority of them women and children, have been martyred and nearly two million displaced by Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. The foreign secretary called for developing a clear and bold plan to secure imple-

mentations of the goals and objectives agreed upon by the OIC leaders at the 15th Islamic Summit in Gambia and last month's extraordinary OIC Executive Committee meeting in Saudi Arabia. "We must urgently secure an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank; ensure unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza; prevent the spread of the conflict to the entire Middle East, while holding Israel accountable for its criminal assassinations and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran, Lebanon and other States; admit Palestine as a full member State of the United Nations; and establish a viable, secure, contiguous, and sovereign State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," he said. Highlighting the Kashmir dispute, he called for its resolution for a durable peace in South Asia. He said since August 5, 2019, India initiated unilateral steps to annex occupied Jammu and



Kashmir and impose what India's leaders ominously call a "Final Situation" for Kashmir. The foreign secretary said the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) remained one of the most heavily militarized zones in the world, where the Indian occupation forces continue to impose draconian measures including extra-judicial killings, collective punishments, incarceration of Kashmiri leaders as well as demographic changes to transform Kashmir from a Muslim-majority to a Hindu majority territory. Reiterating Pakistan's rejection of all attempts to conduct any farcical "elections" in IIOJK, the foreign secretary asked India to reverse the unilateral measures taken since 5 August 2019, and accept the UN Secretary General's offer of Good Offices. "The situation in Jammu and Kashmir poses an ever-present threat to regional and global peace and security. Even a minor incident could trigger a wider conflict, which could escalate to dangerous

dimensions. The international community cannot afford to ignore this threat any longer." Foreign Secretary Qazi called for implementing the 48th CFM's Action Plan on Jammu and Kashmir, end India's human rights violations in the IIOJK, and demand action by India and the international community to promote a peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said that Islamophobia had emerged as a global crisis, marked by frequent desecration of the Holy Quran, attacks on mosques, negative stereotyping of Muslims and acts of discrimination and violence against them. "We must work within the OIC, including through the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy on Islamophobia, to reach out to the United Nations to develop an Action Plan to Combat Islamophobia," he emphasized. Coming to the resurgence of terrorism to threaten regional and global peace and

security, he said Pakistan was the biggest victim of terrorism having contributed the most to fight terrorism. "The OIC must work collectively to combat all forms of terrorism, including by expanding the scope of the UN counter-terrorism framework and reforming its architecture, including the UN Security Council sanctions regimes, to eliminate all terrorist groups, including ISIL-K, Al Qaida and the TTP, as well as Islamophobic, supremacist, and far-right groups and ideologies," he added. Reiterating Pakistan's desire for the earliest possible normalization of the situation in Afghanistan, he urged the international community to provide sustained humanitarian assistance to the over 25 million destitute Afghans, steps to revive the Afghan economy and banking system, including release of their frozen national assets, implementation of planned infrastructure and connectivity projects and, eventually, easing of sanctions and diplomatic recognition. APP

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan  
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam  
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,  
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad  
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

## The malnutrition crisis

MEHNAZ AKBAR AZIZ

Malnutrition remains one of the deadliest barriers in equity to the holistic development of all Pakistani children. The challenge is huge for Pakistan as it is facing a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 17.7 per cent, exceeding the emergency threshold. Four of ten children under five years of age are stunted, while 17.7 per cent suffer from wasting. The burden of malnutrition is becoming increasingly apparent, with almost one in three children underweight (28.9 per cent), says a Unicef report. Summing up, approximately 30 per cent of children are underweight, 44 per cent are stunted, and 49 per cent of women are moderately anemic.

With a population of 235.8 million (2022), Pakistan ranks number five in the list of countries, by population. The country's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI 2023) is 99th out of 126 countries. Approximately 8.6 million people (24 per cent) are faced with acute food insecurity. A World Bank article indicates that 32 districts in Balochistan, 20 in Sindh and 17 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the newly merged districts are notified as 'calamity hit' with nearly 48 per cent stunting in under-five children. The malnutrition epidemic is a vicious cycle that starts with the anaemic mothers' womb and intensifies in the lactation period and manifests in the first thousand days, starting from conception to the second birthday. The early years of life are key to neural development, which includes formation of new Neurons, Synapses, and Sensory development such as vision, hearing, touch, taste and smell. Furthermore, brain region development is also connected to the early years. Political leadership and policymakers have also failed to make the connection between children's neglected nutrition and dismal school enrollments. This is one of the reasons that Pakistan has 26.2 million out-of-school children, the world's second highest number of children that are out of school. The population of out-of-school children is a result of learning poverty, influenced by inadequate food and nutrition. We are aware of the learning poverty amongst students (through CERP and ASER reports). Impaired cognitive functions, decreased motivation and delayed development all contribute to increased dropout rates. The recent rise in inflation to 24.76 per cent has made wholesome meals impossible for 40 per cent of the population. According to the National Nutrition Survey compiled by the Ministry of Health Sciences and Unicef in 2018, there are statistics to prove intergenerational undernourishment in women and mothers, impacting children and eventually adolescents and causing direct impacts on human capital and labour market outcomes.

According to a World Bank article in 2023, with each cohort of stunted children newborns, a \$7.6 billion burden is added to the economy. Although the federal government has announced a Task Force on Education and declared an emergency and a Task Force on Polio, unfortunately malnutrition is not a political priority nor is it prioritized in the national budget. In recent years, international aid and UN partners only have supported and focused on nutritional provisions for children and lactating mothers. From the government's side, a focused effort was launched by the Planning Commission in collaboration with the National Nutritional Forum a three year multisectoral nutrition programme was announced in 2023, with an allocation of R8.50 billion. The deputy chairman at that time had recommended a dashboard to monitor progress. The active SUN alliance is to be the implementing partner. The Benazir Income Support Program has a component of 'nashonuma' on improved weight gain in expectant mothers and stunting prevention in children. It is a conditional cash transfer programme and implemented in 158 districts with a network of 512 Nashonuma centers and mobile sites. The outreach numbers are impressive - 645800 pregnant women and 630000 children.

Recently the US ambassador to Pakistan announced the delivery of 486 tons of specialized nutritious foods to treat more than 29000 severely undernourished children in Pakistan. USAID has been an active partner in financing and supporting partners, such as the WHO and Unicef. It is worth mentioning that the US role in supporting women and children in emergencies and urgent humanitarian needs has remained exemplary, especially in the 2022 floods. With USAID funding, Unicef supported flood-affected communities in Balochistan and Sindh, through antenatal care. It provided support to nearly 74,000 pregnant women and primary healthcare services to more than 10,000 children of age five and younger. One has to acknowledge the US support for Basic Health Units like the one in Khairpur, a front-line facility that helped respond to Pakistan's acute malnutrition emergency and improved lives and health outcomes in flood affected districts across Sindh. Such units provide ready-to-use therapeutic food, nutrition counseling, screening, and treatment to improve the health of children under five years old and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. In 2023, Unicef has been active with financial support from USAID in treating up to 85000 acute undernourished children and with the World Food Program is treating children and lactating mothers with moderate acute malnutrition. In the past decade, USAID's focus and commitment to supporting Pakistan in combating malnutrition is remarkable as an agency that supports the bodies of the UN such as Unicef, WFP and WHO. The National Nutrition Forum, SUN platform, local NGOs and USAID, Unicef, WFP, WHO, and World Bank have been in the front lines to respond to the severity of malnutrition. The ball remains in the government's court to announce a malnutrition emergency and have a database and dashboard available for the most vulnerable areas. It needs to adopt a strategy and a national plan that is backed by solid cooperation with the provinces. The government should establish a web of local and international partners, to provide long-term sustainable relief. As our country grapples with multiple economic challenges and a huge population with abject poverty, it is clear that the responsibility of the state is to make sure that each child born in Pakistan attains his/her full potential. It is also the responsibility of parliament, media, the private sector and each one of us to hold the state accountable on the most pressing issue of malnutrition.

The writer is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. She tweets/posts @MehnazAkbarAziz



Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

# Absolute victory

August 30 has a special significance in modern history. Exactly 102 years ago, the founder of the modern Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, managed to achieve a decisive victory against the Western colonial forces in the Battle of Dumlupinar on August 30, 1922. The day is also known as Turkish Armed Forces Day.

In the last century, at the time of the First World War, the Ottoman Empire, with its capital at modern-day Turkish city of Istanbul, was ruling over three continents of the world from the last six centuries, and most of the Muslim countries of the present world were under the control of the Turks. Historically, India has never been under the control of the Caliphate. Interestingly, while fighting the war of independence, the Turks received sincere support and practical help from the people of only one region in the world and that country was India under British rule.

Indians not only had a special relationship of eternal devotion with the Turkish nation, but they also considered the protection of the Caliphate as their religious duty.

The name of our national language 'Urdu' itself is a word of Turkish language. Many Turkish origin cuisines and garments are now an important part of our culture. Under the leadership of Maulana Muhammad Ali Johar, the Muslims of the Subcontinent started the Khilafat Movement in support of the Turks, and people belonging to every school of thought came out on the streets to join the ambitious movement. Several Hindu leaders, bright traditions of the past and hopes for a bright future. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was also a great admirer of Ataturk and on many occasions, he praised the passionate struggle of Turkish people during the war of independence. The Republic of Turkiye is one of the first countries that recognized Pakistan immediately after independence in 1947. Turkiye is the only country that was with Pak-

about Pakistan-Turkiye relations four years ago in February 2020 published in The News entitled 'One nation', and highlighted an incident attributed to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. During the visit to Ankara in July 1993, late Turkish president, Suleyman Demirel, acknowledged the historical bilateral ties between both countries. However, he emphasized that there should be a focus on boosting economic cooperation. It was the era of the nineties when poverty, economic depression, inflation and unemployment were on the rise in Turkiye, but the Turkish leadership was determined to combat all challenges and transform their country into a peaceful, developed and economic power. Today, the Turkish Victory Day delivers a clear message that in today's world only the country with sufficient capital, advanced technology, skilled manpower and most importantly, a strong military has the ability to assert its stance. All those countries who have nothing to contribute positively for mankind ultimately become worthless in the eyes of the international community.

## 102 years ago, founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, managed to achieve a decisive victory

including Mahatma Gandhi, Lala Lajpat Rai and Swami Shradhanand, actively participated in the movement to show solidarity with Muslims. That era is also known for Hindu-Muslim unity in Indian history. When the fundraising campaign for the financial support of the Turks was started, the women of India donated their precious jewelry. Under the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, British imperialism and other Western colonial powers were finally defeated on August 30, 1922, and the geopolitical situation ultimately led towards emerging a modern republic for Turkish people on the world map with the

istan even before independence. Still the bilateral friendship is permanent, as the top leadership of both the countries have a similar position on various global issues at the diplomatic level. In the past such news reports also emerged that a proposal of issuing dual passports and joint citizenship to the people of the two countries is being considered. During my various visits to Turkiye, I personally observed that as soon as Pakistan is mentioned, the Turkish people of the older generation get lost in the pleasant memories of the past, but today's young generation also looks a little bit confused about us. I wrote

The writer is a member of the National Assembly and patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council. He tweets/posts @RVankwani

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

## Today in History

### Pakistan

The Congress Muslim League rapprochement was achieved at the Lucknow sessions of the two parties in 1916 and a joint scheme of reforms was adopted. In the Lucknow pact. As the scheme was commonly referred to, the Congress accepted the principle of separate electorates, and the Muslims, in return for 'weight age' to the Muslims of the Muslim minority provinces, agreed to surrender their thin majorities in the Punjab and Bengal. The post Lucknow Pact period witnessed Hindu Muslim amity and the two parties came to hold their annual sessions in the same city and passed resolutions of identical contents. The Hindu Muslim unity reached its climax during the Khilafat and the Non-cooperation Movements. The Muslims, under the leadership of the Ali Brothers, Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaikat Ali, launched the historic Khilafat Movement after the First World War to protect the Ottoman Empire from dismemberment. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) linked the issue of Swaraj (self-government) with the Khilafat issue to

associate the Hindus with the Movement. The ensuing Movement was the first countrywide popular movement. Although the Movement failed in achieving its objectives, it had a far-reaching impact on the Muslims of South Asia. After a long time, they took united action on a purely Islamic issue which momentarily forged solidarity among them. It also produced a class of Muslim leaders experienced in organizing and mobilizing the public. This experience was of immense value to the Muslims later during the Pakistan Movement. The collapse of the Khilafat Movement was followed by a period of bitter Hindu Muslim antagonism. The Hindus organized two highly anti Muslim movements, the Shudhi and the Sangathan. The former movement was designed to convert Muslims to Hinduism and the latter was meant to create solidarity among the Hindus in the event of communal conflict. In retaliation, the Muslims sponsored the Tabligh and Tanzim organizations to counter the impact of the Shudhi and the Sangathan. In the 1920s, the frequency of communal riots was unprecedented. Several Hindu-Muslim unity conferences were held to remove the causes

of conflict, but, it seemed nothing could mitigate the intensity of communalism. They now wanted preservation of their numerical majorities in the Punjab and Bengal, separation of Sindh from Bombay, constitution of Balochistan as a separate province and introduction of constitutional reforms in the North-West Frontier Province. It was partly to press these demands that one section of the All-India Muslim League cooperated with the statutory commission sent by the British Government under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon in 1927. The other section of the League, which boycotted the Simon Commission for its all-White character, cooperated with the Nehru Committee, appointed by the All-Parties Conference, to draft a constitution for India. The Nehru Report had an extremely anti-Muslim bias and the Congress leadership's refusal to amend it disillusioned even the moderate Muslims. ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL Several leaders and thinkers, having insight into the Hindu-Muslim question proposed separation of Muslim India. However, the most lucid exposition of the inner feeling of the Muslim com-

munity was given by Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) in his Presidential Address at the All-India Muslim League Session at Allahabad in 1930. He suggested that for the healthy development of Islam in South-Asia, it was essential to have a separate Muslim state at least in the Muslim majority regions of the north-west. Later on, in his correspondence with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he included the Muslim majority areas in the north-east also in his proposed Muslim state. Three years after his Allahabad Address, a group of Muslim students at Cambridge, headed by Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, issued a pamphlet, Now or Never, in which drawing letters from the names of the Muslim majority regions, they gave the nomenclature of "Pakistan" to the proposed State. Very few even among the Muslims welcomed the idea at the time. It was to take a decade for the Muslims to embrace the demand for a separate Muslim state. Meanwhile, three Round Table Conferences were convened in London during 1930-32, to resolve the Indian constitutional problem.

To be continued....

## Angelina Jolie poised for second oscar win as Maria gets eight-minute standing ovation

Angelina Jolie's maria sparks Oscar buzz with rapturous Venice Film Festival reception



Angelina Jolie is generating Oscar buzz after her latest film, Maria, received an enthusiastic eight-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival. Despite lukewarm reviews from critics, Jolie's portrayal of the iconic opera singer Maria Callas has captivated audiences, with fans already tipping her for a second Academy Award. The film, which marks the conclusion of Pablo Larraín's trilogy on troubled women of wealth, premiered to rapturous acclaim, showcasing Jolie's powerful performance. The dramatic reception at the festival has fueled speculation that Jolie could be a strong contender for Best Actress at next year's Oscars, as the applause

underscored the film's emotional impact and Jolie's compelling portrayal. Jolie's performance in Maria has sparked Oscar buzz, mirroring the rapturous reception that Brendan Fraser's comeback in The Whale received, which eventually won him the Best Actor Academy Award. Jolie, visibly moved by the response, was seen wiping away tears and turning away from the cheering crowd as the film garnered an impressive eight-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival. Fans are already rallying behind Jolie for a potential Best Actress win at the 2025 Oscars, marking 25 years since she took home the Supporting Actress prize for Girl, Interrupted.

## Showbiz

## Tech Google launches programmes to support developers in Pakistan

Google hosted the Think Apps 2024 event in Lahore which brought together over 350 top developers of Pakistan, as well as global and regional industry leaders and experts, according to a statement released on Thursday. After the success of the Think Apps 2023, this year's event targeted on developers to harness AI to innovate, grow and sustain Pakistan's expanding application industry. One of the biggest opportunities for Pakistani developers is creating high-quality, sustainable games. Beyond that, reaching users across the world remains a top priority. To double down on its commitment to supporting developers, Google is launching new programmes in 2024: Game design masterclass: This programme brings together Pakistan's most talented game developers from the country's top studios, teaching them to create high-quality games through a dedicated 6-month program. Google ads academy: These are in-person

offline hackathon workshops in Lahore and Islamabad where marketing professionals from across Pakistan's top studios can access in-person training, focusing on app growth strategies. Build with AI and Cloud AI Study Jams: Developers can also deepen their expertise through hands-on AI and Cloud training. To date, more than 9,300 developers have been trained under this program. These programmes build on existing initiatives by Google to support developers in Pakistan, including Google App Academy, which has reached over 800 participants to date. These online workshops for marketing professionals provide in-depth knowledge on critical marketing topics maximising reach and profitability, and are localised in Urdu. Additionally, Google is deepening engagement at key events like the Google Developer Conference (US), CXO meetups in APAC, and APAC's App Summit, connecting leaders of Pakistan's top gaming & app studios talent with global peers.

## US approves Emergent's smallpox vaccine for people at high risk of mpox

FDA's approval follows Emergent's application for an Emergency Use Listing of ACAM2000 vaccine with WHO

In a bid to deal with mpox infection, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved expanded use of Emergent BioSolutions' EBS.N ACAM2000 smallpox vaccine to include people at high risk for the disease, the company said on Thursday. Earlier this month, the World Health Organization declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years as a new variant of the virus, known as clade Ib, spread

rapidly in Africa. The FDA's approval follows Emergent's application for an Emergency Use Listing of ACAM2000 vaccine with the WHO. Emergent last week said it would donate 50,000 doses of its smallpox vaccine to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other impacted countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda to address the mpox outbreak. According to the US Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention, ACAM2000 has more known side effects and risks than Danish biotech Bavarian Nordic A/S's BAVA.CO Jynneos vaccine, which is approved in the United States for both smallpox and mpox. ACAM2000 - a live, replicating virus vaccine - is known to cause myocarditis/pericarditis - swelling in or around the heart muscle - in 1 in 175 new ACAM2000 vaccine recipients, according to the FDA.



## Health



## PTI Senator Dost Muhammad Khan says 'Imran Khan expert in terrorism'

ISLAMABAD: An interesting situation arose during Friday's Senate session when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Senator Dost Muhammad Khan said that if you want to end terrorism, then release Imran Khan because he is an "expert in terrorism." PML-N senior leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui who was presiding over the session in the absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, pointed out to Senator Dost Muhammad Khan to please correct his statement.

"You probably meant to say that Imran Khan is an expert in eliminating terrorism." Caught up in the moment, the PTI Senator immediately responded, "you are from the opposing party, that's why you are saying this, Sir."

During this, the Leader of the Opposition and PTI leader Senator Shibli Faraz and Senator Mohsin Aziz tried to explain the situation to Dost Muhammad Khan but were unsuccessful. Senator Shibli Faraz even tried to explain in Pashto but failed to convince his fellow colleague.

Senator Dost Muhammad Khan continued to insist, "I repeat, Imran Khan is an expert in terrorism," and remained firm in his statement.

Senator Siddiqui while smiling on the situation addressed to Senator Dost and said that if you insist then it's alright. SABAH

## China-Pakistan collaboration in education strengthened

URUMQI: The 2024 Online Summer Camp for Training Local Chinese Teachers in Pakistan successfully concluded, marking the end of a comprehensive four-day programme aimed at enhancing the skills and expertise of local educators on Friday.

The event, which took place from August 23-26, was hosted by Xinjiang Agricultural University (XAU) and co-organized by the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (CIUAF), alongside the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Education International Exchange Association.

A total of 37 local Chinese teachers and international Chinese language enthusiasts participated in the summer camp, representing seven universities, five Confucius Institutes, and two Confucius Classrooms across Pakistan. The camp was to bolster the teaching capabilities of its participants, ensuring a robust and competent teaching force in the country.

The training sessions were enriched by the involvement of professors and experts from prominent Chinese academic institutions, including Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Hebei University, Zhejiang Normal University, and XAU. Teachers from various Confucius Institutes also contributed their valuable knowledge and experience to the program.

The summer camp's curriculum was divided into two modules, each tailored to meet the specific needs of the participants. DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Tukiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Defence Attache, Brig. Gen. Umut Onol, KPK Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi and others cutting cake on the occasion of Victory Day reception at a local hotel. APP

## 93 Pakistanis heading to UK on Chevening, Commonwealth scholarships

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students from every corner of the country have been given British High Commissioner Jane Marriott's top tips for living in the UK, ahead of a year studying at British universities.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship programme and 46 Chevening and 47 Commonwealth scholarships have been awarded to Pakistanis, says the press note issued from British High Commission in Islamabad on Friday.

These long-standing programmes have developed a network of over 1,500 Commonwealth and nearly 2,000 Chevening alumni in Pakistan, who regularly meet to discuss live issues.

Scholars come from diverse backgrounds, representing the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan. This year's cohort come from Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and the Federal Capital Territory.

Over 60 percent of this year's Chevening scholars are women. The British High Commission strongly encourages people from all backgrounds and across Pakistan to apply. British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said:

"The Chevening programme helps develop a new generation of Pakistani leaders and changemakers. Many of our alumni have gone one to achieve extraordinary things back home. Not only do they get the benefit of studying at some of the best universities in the world, they also get to experience the best of



living in the UK. From climate studies to football coaching, I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve, and encourage all those interested to apply early."

Fareeha Gull Hashmi, Assistant Manager of Oral History Project Citizens Archive of Pakistan and upcoming Chevening scholar, said, "I am thrilled to be joining the University of Essex for my MA in Heritage and Museum Studies. This programme is exactly what I was looking for to help me on my journey to improve heritage and cultural preservation in Pakistan. I can't wait for my journey to begin." The cohort includes those on a scholarship in Football Science, with the support of Swindon Town Football Club. For the first time, this year's cohort also saw an additional scholarship for Heritage and Museum Studies with the support of Essex University. This scholarship will cover tuition fees, living expenses, and travel costs. This, and a University of Essex Scholarship for Climate Studies, are again available in this year's application cycle, as are additional scholarships from the Uni-

versity of Birmingham.

This month, the British High Commission launched Chevening Connect in Karachi, a new debate series bringing together industry experts and Chevening alumni. The first debate, on tackling climate, looked at the technical, economic and political leadership needed to support Pakistan with adaptation and resilience.

Applications for Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK from 2025-26 will close on 5 November. Applications for the South Asia Journalism Programme, a two-month journalism fellowship with the University of Westminster, are open and will close on 10 October. Applications for the Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies fellowship, a five-month fellowship, are open and will close on 5 November 2024. To find out more about eligibility and to apply, visit chevening.org.

Applications for the Commonwealth Scholarships for 2025-26 will open later this year. For more information, visit the CSC website at cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk.

## Sanallah confident of government's ability to provide prompt relief to consumers

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanallah Friday has reassured the public that the government is taking concrete steps to reduce electricity bills and expressed confidence that these measures would yield tangible results which will provide much-needed relief to consumers in the coming months.

In an interview with private news channel Sanallah said that the government is taking concrete steps to address the issues faced by consumers, including high electricity bills and inflation.

"The government is fully committed to providing relief to consumers," Sanallah said, adding, we understand the difficulties faced by the common man and are working tirelessly to address them."

Sanallah also highlighted the government's efforts to increase power generation capacity, improve energy efficiency, and enhance regulatory oversight to prevent profiteering.

Sanallah warned that Imran Khan will not find any relief in the coming days, as the government will continue to take decisive action against those who engage in unlawful activities.

He emphasized that the rule of law will prevail, and those who challenge the state's authority will face consequences. Responding to another query about Cabinet share with PPP, he confirmed that the offer stands, but the party's decision is still pending.

"The government has expressed willingness to consider their request, acknowledging the party's significant contribution to the government's formation, he added.

"We believe in collaborative governance and want to work together with all stakeholders, including the PPP, to drive progress and prosperity in Pakistan," Sanallah said. He added that the government is open to constructive criticism and suggestions from the PPP, which will help refine policies and initiatives for the betterment of the country.

## NA sub-committee on education visits ICT schools, colleges

ISLAMABAD: Prof Engr Abdul Aleem Khanzada, MNA and Convener of the Sub Committee of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training, along with other sub-committee members recently visited the schools and colleges in rural and urban areas of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The purpose of the visit was to assess the challenges in the education sector, appreciate the achievements of the Ministry, and suggest remedial measures for improvement wherever needed.

The Sub Committee aimed to ensure quality education with equity, and this visit was a crucial step in identifying areas that require attention.

During the visit, the Sub Committee Members engaged with educators, students, and stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of the education landscape in ICT. APP

## Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh presents copy of credentials as Pakistan's Ambassador to the US



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh on Friday presented copy of credentials as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth

Horst were present during the traditional ceremony at the US Department of State. In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Sheikh looked forward to contributing to cementing Pak-US bilateral ties to the best of his abilities. To that end, he particularly emphasized the significance of enhancing the frequency of high level interaction, economic linkages and people to people contacts between the two countries. Meanwhile Adnan Asad, Pakistan's Honorary Consul General in Orlando, Florida called on Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh. Ways and means to strengthen Pak-US business ties and promotion of US investment in Pakistan were discussed during the meeting. SABAH

## Senate Standing Committee meeting amidst NEPRA criticisms & rising electricity costs

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Power was held on Friday under the Chairmanship of Senator Mohsin Aziz. During the meeting significant concerns were raised about the current state of the power sector and regulatory practices.

NEPRA Chairman Waseem Mukhtar admits to decreasing electricity demand. Chairman of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), Waseem Mukhtar, acknowledged a continuous decrease in electricity demand, revealing that the authority does not intend to add more capacity to the grid. Mukhtar stated, "Our electricity demand is continuously decreasing."

The Committee Members Challenge Nepra's Independence and Tariff Decisions. Senator Shibli Faraz criticized Nepra's independence and questioned its recent tariff adjustments. He inquired whether Nepra had increased electricity costs by three rupees instead of the anticipated five. Faraz demanded transparency regarding the increase in electricity prices over the past two years and urged the provision of detailed reports on power projects nationwide. Similarly during the meeting Owais Leghari

Addresses IPPs and Future Energy Projects. Owais Leghari, highlighted ongoing efforts to review and revise Independent Power Producers (IPPs) agreements, including those related to the Diamir Bhasha Dam. He warned that the cost of hydroelectricity from the Diamir Bhasha Dam will be high, stressing, "Diamir Bhasha Dam will increase electricity prices." Furthermore the Committee also commented on the Task Force to Scrutinize IPP, a task force has been established to closely examine IPPs, following recommendations from the Muhammad Ali Report. This report suggests a detailed study, including heat audits, though the focus has shifted towards arbitration rather than direct audits. Additionally the Committee Debates Load Shedding and Project Costs. Owais Leghari also discussed the implications of load shedding and questioned the need for 1875 MW capacity if load shedding persists. Senator Mohsin Aziz raised concerns about the high cost of wind projects in Pakistan compared to international standards, urging a reassessment of why local projects are significantly more expensive. SABAH

## IHC seeks report regarding missing persons' recovery

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday sought progress report from attorney general of Pakistan regarding recovery of PTI activist Azhar Mashwani's two missing brother.

The court stated that the AGP has given clear statement that the two missing persons were not in the custody of law enforcement agencies. It said that the AGP's statement is worhtful as he is a law officer.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case where AGP Mansoor Usman Awan appeared before court. The attorney general said that the all resources are being utilized to recover the missing persons, adding that he was viewing the matter personally.

The court adjourned the case with above instruction. Meanwhile, the same bench granted time to capital's police for recovery of former security in charge of PTI's founder Umar Sultan. SSP Khanzaib informed the court that the police were viewing the CCTV footage and investigation is underway in this regard. The court asked sought report and adjourned hearing till next week. APP

## BISP & Riphah International University to collaborate on market-oriented skill trainings for BISP beneficiaries

### Rubina Khalid proposes engaging fresh graduates of media & mass communication for internships in BISP's media wing

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), held a meeting with a delegation of Riphah International University, to explore possible avenues for collaboration between BISP and Riphah in providing market-oriented skill training for BISP beneficiaries and their family members.

During the discussion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of international certifications in fields such as hospitality, nursing, midwifery, and home care, highlighting how these qualifications can improve job prospects for beneficiaries. The delegation shared that Riphah International University has already launched several skill develop-

ment programs in partnership with NAVTTC. Additionally, Senator Rubina Khalid proposed engaging fresh graduates of media and mass communication for internships in BISP's media wing. She also suggested organizing a graphic design competition at the inter-university level to raise awareness about BISP's mission.

Senator Rubina Khalid reaffirmed BISP's commitment to empowering women, a vision championed by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. She urged the swift finalization of modalities with Riphah University to launch these skill development programs, which will also include education on basic work ethics and hygiene. SABAH

## Efforts afoot to address Isoolites water woes

ISLAMABAD: As the federal capital's population continues to grow unhindered, the city's natural resources are under extreme pressure with water availability becoming the top most challenge for the authorities. Although Capital Development Authority (CDA) - the top civic amenities provider to the capital residents - is making every possible effort to overcome the shortfall in water availability through numerous measures, the situation demands a holistic approach for a long-term solution. Since Islamabad's population grew more than double during last 20 years or so, the pressure on already available resources like Simly, Rawal and Khanpur dams has increased manifold. Then the development of more and more housing societies to meet the residential demands of people shifting to capital from other cities has made the situation further challenging. Depleting underground water resources and climate change is another looming challenge. "Although the situation is challenging, yet the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated several measures to address the shortfall," stated Sardar Khan Zimri, Director General of Water Management at the CDA. "With the population growth and emergence of new settlements, increase in water

demand is natural and the Authority is fully cognizant of its duties," he said. "Therefore, we are looking for more options and proposed construction of two new dams, Shahdra and Chiniof Dam, to augment existing water supply." To improve efficiency of water system, Zimri said, the CDA plans to modernize water distribution network and sewage treatment plants. "These upgrades aim to reduce water losses and enhance overall effectiveness of water management system." Zimri said the CDA Board has approved pre-feasibility studies for Shahdra and Chaniot Dam to speed up the planning process and has requested WAPDA to conduct pre-feasibility study for Dotara Dam, a site located 41 km upstream of Khanpur Dam. "If the civic agency succeeds in laying gravity tunnel from Dotara Dam via Shahdra, it would be able to generate around 10 to 13 megawatt electricity as well." He also mentioned to a project for enhancing water storage capacity of Khanpur Dam, controlling seepage, unfair use of water and its theft through open channels resulting in loss of 40 to 50 per cent water share for the Capital. "The CDA has requested WAPDA to conduct pre-feasibility and once federal capital gets its due water share, the CDA would be able to supply water to at least 10

more sectors," Zimri said. "We have also decided to resume work on non-completed water conduction pipeline from Shah Allah Ditta reservoir to Sector I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16 etc. Tenders have been called for three missing portions from Shah Allah Ditta to Sector G-13 with starting work on one portion. Moreover, the CDA Board's has also approved amendments in building by-laws for rooftop rainwater harvesting." Additionally, the CDA, he said has installed 94 filtration plants across Islamabad to ensure clean drinking water for residents as per the WHO standards. "The quality of water supplied through these plants is regularly monitored by the CDA Lab and cross-checked by organizations like PCRWR, NIH, and Pak-EPA." Zimri informed that CDA is also undertaking significant long-term projects to secure more reliable water supply and "one such project is the 'Conduction of Water from Indus River System at Tarbela Dam for Islamabad and Rawalpindi. This project aims to develop a perennial source of potable water to meet both current and future demands for twin cities."

The growing population has rose water demand to around 120 million gallons per day (MGD) and if this trend continues the demand would further

increase exerting extra pressure on available water resource. Similarly, the groundwater table that was around 10 meters deep in 1960s has now gone down to 60 to 120 meters.

Moreover, climate change is also impacting water availability with altering precipitation patterns as Islamabad experiences an average annual rainfall of about 1300 mm that is insufficient to counterbalance the high demand. Meanwhile, the residents have urged to frame a comprehensive strategy for once and for all settling this issue as rising population may lead to difficult times ahead. "We need timely measures to ensure that our future generations live in a better environment with all required basic facilities available for them," said a concerned mother Maria Ahmed, another resident emphasized that keeping in view urgency of the matter, the government should take immediate action to address the water issues. Fatima, a business woman also commented that she has been living in Islamabad for last 20 years but seeing the situation in recent years, I feel that it is high time for urgent measures. Their concern is justified but if we look into this issue in broader perspective, water provision and conservation is a shared responsibility of both the civic agencies as well as the residents. DNA