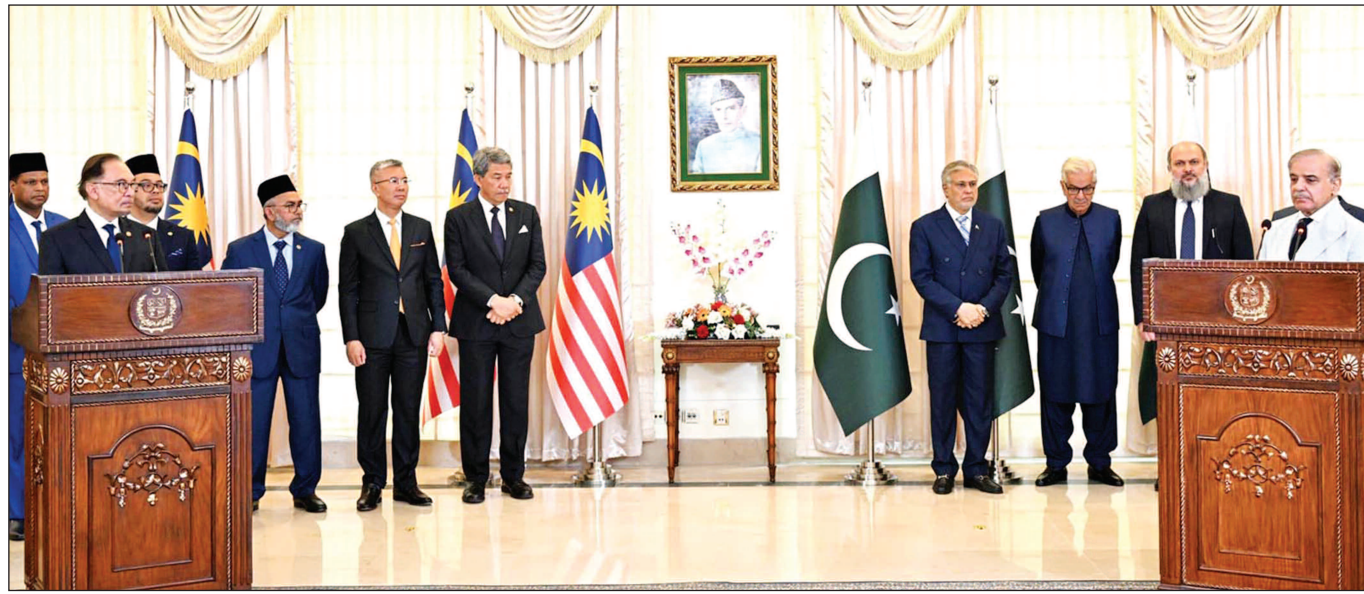




Protest demonstration is a constitutional right of every citizen but the government will not allow anyone to sabotage the visits of foreign dignitaries

Minister for Interior  
Mohsin Naqvi



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim address a joint press stakeout.

## Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen trade, investment cooperation; reiterate stance on Gaza, Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Gaza and Kashmir. In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia. Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products. Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner. In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities of exporting Halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia worth \$200 mil-

lion per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality. He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment. He said both sides were unanimous in believing that the two countries would collectively find

new heights in trade and investment cooperation for a bright future for two nations. Assuring his cooperation to further enhance Pakistan-Malaysia defence and security cooperation, he said that thousands of Pakistani students were currently studying in Malaysia to help strengthen the people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Malaysia's development should be emulated as a role model for all Muslim countries where foreign direct investment and exports were on the increase. He said that both sides also discussed the "heart-wrenching" and

"heart-breaking" situation of Gaza where innocent children, men and women were being killed. He said under the unparalleled genocide and carnage by Israeli forces, the cities were being demolished in Gaza and both sides stressed the immediate ceasefire.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that both sides discussed the Kashmir issue where people were being denied their right to self-determination despite rendering huge sacrifices for the last several decades. Thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred, many were in detention in 3rd class jails and made subject to severe punishment.

## Malaysian PM given guard of honour at PM House

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday was given the guard of honour here as he arrived at the Prime Minister House to meet his counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and hold the delegation-level talks.

As he arrived at the venue of the formal welcome ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed the foreign dignitary who arrived here on a three-day state visit to Pakistan on Wednesday. The national anthems of Pakistan and Malaysia were played as the foreign dignitary stood at the salute dais. The smartly turned-out contingents of the armed



forces presented the guard of honour which the Malaysian prime minister reviewed. Both the prime ministers introduced their respective delegations to each other before proceeding to the bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks. As a tradition, Prime Minister Ibrahim also planted a sapling in the lawn of the PM House.

## Naqvi warns of stern action against protestors during Malaysian PM's visit

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned Pakistan Tehree-e-Insaf (PTI), of stern action against protestors if anyone disrupts law and order at the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan. The government will ensure fool proof security arrangements at the time of visit Malaysian Prime Minister, said the minister. According to the new law, specific place has already been allocated for public and political gatherings with the permission of concerned authorities, he added. Naqvi said that the protest demonstration is a constitutional right of every citizen but the government will not allow anyone to sabotage the visits of foreign dignitaries. He said that knowing well about government's action against protest demonstration during the visit of foreign guest, PTI's call to storm Islamabad is an enemy agenda. Pakistan can not afford even a minor security lapse during the visit of a foreign dignitary. The PTI leadership must review their decision, otherwise the government will not tolerate anyone and an indiscriminate action will be taken against all protestors, the minister added. APP

## ECC discusses issues of national interests, considers & approves various proposal

ISLAMABAD: Chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held here on Thursday discussed different issues of national interests, considered and approved different proposals. Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, along with federal secretaries and senior officers from the concerned ministries and divisions attended the meeting. On the occasion, the ECC discussed a summary by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination regarding the short supply of Anti-Rabies Vaccine

(ARV) at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad Islamabad. The meeting was told that the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) used at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad was manufactured by the National Institute of Health Islamabad and it was currently priced at Rs. 891.65 whereas the same drug was sold at Rs. 2126.40 for WHO-approved ARV and Rs. 1266.14 for non-WHO approved ARV in the market. After due consideration, the ECC approved the proposal to increase the Maximum Retail Price of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) manufactured by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, from Rs. 891.65 to Rs. 1980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose to cover the landed cost of imported material and ensure its sufficient production and supply to the public sector hospitals. APP

## Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to take significant steps towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations. Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI). This meeting underscored the brotherly relations both countries cherish in all fields, according to a release issued. Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic, trade cooperation. The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to



Pakistan and highlighted the long-standing friendship between the two nations. Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides.

The Minister urged for enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality. Moreover, Mr Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of

Pakistan. He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high-quality rice and mangoes all over the world. He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Government of Pakistan had removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow Pakistani exporters to negotiate competitive prices. He encouraged Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan to import rice. A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia. The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the Malaysian market. APP

## Strategic Partnership Between National CERT and COPAIR: Paving the Way for Securing the Digital World

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards bolstering cyber security in Pakistan, the National Cyber Emergency Response Team (National CERT) and the Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) have formalized their collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The ceremony was attended by distinguished leaders from both organizations, including DG National CERT Dr. Haider Abbas and COPAIR President Dr. Amna Munawwar Awan. National CERT is a key government entity tasked with safeguarding the nation's digital assets, sensitive information, and critical infrastructure against the rising tide of cyber threats, cyber terrorism, and cyber espionage. On the other hand, COPAIR serves as a strategic think tank dedicated to policy advocacy in areas such as national security, digital transformation, future warfare, and governance. This partnership aims to tackle the pressing issues of cyber threats and attacks that pose significant risks on both global and national fronts. The MOU outlines a shared commitment to collaborative research and innovation, particularly in the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing within cyber intelligence. By leveraging advanced technologies, both organizations seek to enhance their capabilities in cyber threat detection and response, ultimately fostering a safer digital environment. A key focus of this partnership is the training and mentoring of Cyber Security Scouts in Digital Media Literacy. By equipping young individuals with essential skills and knowledge, the initia-



ive aims to create a new generation of cyber defenders who can navigate the complexities of the digital landscape effectively. In addition, the organizations will produce joint publications addressing cyber vulnerability assessments, preparation, and response practices, thereby promoting a culture of cyber security awareness at personal and organizational levels. The MOU also emphasizes the development of customized educational resources, including books and video lessons tailored specifically for children and youth. This effort aims to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness about cyber security from an early age. Furthermore, the two organizations plan to strengthen

their Research and Innovation Wing, enhancing research capabilities in cyber intelligence. To facilitate ongoing discussions and collaboration, a dedicated Dialogue Forum will be established, providing a platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful conversations about cyber security policies and cyber laws. This initiative will address emerging threats and the regulatory frameworks necessary to combat them effectively. Through this strategic partnership, National CERT and COPAIR aim to foster a resilient cyber environment, ensuring that both individuals and organizations in Pakistan are better equipped to face the challenges of an increasingly digital world.

## Pakistan calls for de-escalation of hostilities in ME

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called for de-escalation of hostilities and conflict resolution in the Middle East. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch expressed deep concern over the escalating hostilities in the Middle East, and urged

all parties to prioritize peace. She said in recent months, Israel has increasingly acted in violation of international law and the UN Charter resulting in grave humanitarian crisis. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the recent invasion of Lebanon has further intensified these tensions, affecting the lives of innocent civilians. She said the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and the wider region deserve to live free from fear and violence. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan reiterates its call for the UN Security Council to uphold peace and security in the region, safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty, and put an end to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. INP

## NDRMF Business Policy 2024 envisions a major shift in the disaster and humanitarian sectors, CEO NDRMF

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Bilal Anwar said the Fund has launched its first Business Policy 2024 that helped in repurposing and redefining it over a course of 18-month to change the donors' mindset for well-informed disaster resilience interventions. The document is a 10-year long-term policy intervention being implemented after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NDRMF, Bilal Anwar said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund. "Resilience building is a long-term process and its challenging amid growing climate catastrophes as every intervention has its impacts but



a long-term strategy is necessary and the NDRMF Business Policy is addressing it. Continued on Page 4

## The Environmental Journalists Forum successfully conducts first election

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The Climate Journalist Forum holds its first official election in Capital. Climate journalists from print, electronic, news agencies and digital media casted their votes through show of hand and expressed satisfaction with the newly elected body, anticipating positive changes and stronger support for their work on environmental issues. Some climate journalists casted their votes online via Zoom, ensuring wider participation in the electoral process. The Climate Journalist Forum is holding its election to select new leadership responsible for guiding its mission. The forum aims to support journalists by enhancing their training and providing opportunities for climate-related reporting and media coverage. The Forum's leadership has been elected unanimously by all its members. Ali Jabir from APP has been elected as President, Rozina Ali from 24News as Senior Vice President, Saadullah Saeed from the Public Purview as Vice President



Male, Ayesha Naz from GTV as Vice President Female, Asghar Hayat from GNN as General Secretary, Sohail Majeed Butt from Asian Telegraph/VOM News Agency as Joint Secretary, Fouzia Ali from Dunya News as Finance Secretary, Mukhtar Ahmed from NNI as Information Secretary, whereas the Governing Body Members elected are Amina Janjua from Neo News, Saqib Rathore, Digital Media, and Aftab Jahan from NewsOne TV.



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## Evaluation troubles

DR NAYAR RAFIQUE

Human capital forms the foundation of an organization's success. Recognizing this, organizations invest significant resources in hiring the best available talent and training them according to the organization's vision, making them valuable assets for growth. While hiring and training are essential, monitoring and evaluating human resource performance in line with organizational standards is equally important. This is typically done through performance appraisals, a critical system for enhancing employee satisfaction and organizational effectiveness. Performance appraisal systems serve as a mechanism to assess employee performance, significantly influencing job satisfaction, motivation, and commitment to the organization. By evaluating employees, organizations can determine how effectively they meet their responsibilities and identify areas for improvement, leading to more targeted training and development efforts that boost productivity toward achieving organizational goals. This process not only keeps the organization informed about workforce performance but also provides input for allocating resources and creating growth opportunities for employees. Given the universal nature of performance appraisal objectives, organizations worldwide use various techniques and tools to assess employee performance in alignment with their standards, strategic goals, and vision.

In Pakistan, the most widely used performance appraisal method is the traditional ranking or rating system through the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) or Performance Evaluation Report (PER). This method involves an employee being ranked by their immediate supervisor based on both objective and subjective attributes. The recognition and feedback from this process can significantly enhance job satisfaction and motivation, making employees feel more valued and integral to the organization's operations.

One of the most common employee performance appraisal systems, with some structural variations, is the 360-degree system. This method involves feedback from both vertical and horizontal dimensions, where supervisors, managers, peers, and subordinates all provide input on an employee's performance. Another approach is Management by Objectives (MBO), in which employees and supervisors mutually assess progress toward quantifiable goals. Additionally, Behaviorally Anchored Rating Scales (BARS) is a common technique where immediate supervisors rate an employee's performance based on specific behaviours. Other methods include the critical incident method, skills-based appraisals, and employee self-assessment. In Pakistan, employee performance evaluation in most public and semi-public sectors follows a formal hierarchical approach. This process typically involves an assessment by the employee's immediate supervisor or manager using the well-known performance assessment tool, the Annual Confidential Report (ACR). The primary purpose of the ACR is to evaluate an employee's performance over the year, focusing on professional, personal, and behavioral attributes across various dimensions such as efficiency, effectiveness, and contributions to the organization's growth. The ACR also allows supervisors to provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their subordinates. In addition to its evaluation function, the ACR serves as an accountability tool, ensuring that employees are assessed based on predefined criteria. The information gathered from ACR provides valuable input to decision-makers – including immediate supervisors, the human resources department, and higher management – on issues such as employee strengths and weaknesses, benefits and compensation, career progression and promotions, and training and development needs. The ACR derives its name from its annual frequency and the confidentiality of its assessment process. The confidentiality aspect of the ACR serves several purposes: first, it ensures the privacy of sensitive personal information and performance insights, protecting them from other employees and stakeholders. Second, it promotes an unbiased, pressure-free evaluation process, allowing assessors to provide honest feedback without fear of repercussions. Third, confidentiality maintains the formal flow of information necessary for organizational control over decisions related to training, promotions, benefits, disciplinary actions, salary adjustments, and other human resource matters.

However, despite these objectives, the ACR system in Pakistan has often been criticized for being biased, inefficient, subjective, and exploitative. It is frequently regarded as a flawed mechanism, prone to discrimination and favoritism, as it relies heavily on the subjective perceptions of supervisors, who may allow personal biases or preferences to influence their evaluations of subordinates. In many settings, the system is unidirectional, as it only involves employee performance feedback from supervisors. In less developed countries like Pakistan, where true leadership is often lacking in management, supervisors may use the ACR as a tool to exploit employees who do not align with their personal or professional agendas. As a result, many employees spend more time trying to please their managers than focusing on their actual performance. By leveraging these relationship dynamics, employees often secure better ACR scores from their supervisors, even with subpar performance. In contrast, those who refrain from indulging in such behaviour may receive lower scores despite excellent performance. In societies like Pakistan, these deviations occur openly, as there are no effective mechanisms to address the grievances of lower-level staff against their supervisors or managers.

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ROSS ANDERSON

## How Israel and the West lost their moral compass

Many thousands of words have been written about the killing of Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week and I am not about to add to your ennui by contributing more. In any case, you will already have made up your mind about whether the Hezbollah leader was a resistance hero who fought the might of Israel's military to a standstill in 2006 or a puppet of Iran who ordered the deaths of hundreds of innocent people — or, arguably, both. So, no. What does concern me, however, is the morality (or lack of it) of those who order what can only be described as extrajudicial executions.

I suppose the most prominent in recent memory was that of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, shot dead by US special forces at his compound in northern Pakistan on May 2, 2011, with his body then unceremoniously dumped at sea. The media were not invited to the execution, so the abiding image is the photo taken inside the White House situation room as events unfolded — Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and assorted other bigwigs staring rapt at live video as though they were attending a private screening of the latest Hollywood blockbuster. Look carefully and you can see a nascent secretary of state, Antony Blinken, peering over a shoulder from the back of the room. As Lady Macbeth observed, "all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little

hand" when it has blood on it. More recently, a US drone strike at Baghdad airport in January 2020 killed Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, head of the overseas Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It also, incidentally (a word I use advisedly), killed nine other people, including the Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, who had the misfortune to lose his life alongside the most powerful person in Iran after the supreme leader and has thus become merely a footnote to history.

Since then, the mantle of Lord High Executioner has largely passed to Israel, which has not been slow in putting it to use and boasting about it. Last week, the Israeli military published the photos of 11 Hezbollah commanders it claimed to have killed in a week of mayhem in Lebanon, and the glee with which they did so was almost palpable. The moral argument, if it can be called that, advanced by Israel and the West is that they are the good guys at war with the bad guys, that they are democratically elected governments fighting in defense of the rule of law. The question they do not answer is this: when the good guys behave in exactly the same way as the bad guys (just with bigger guns), what exactly is it they are fighting for? The law, they say, but no law permits indiscriminate mayhem.

US President Joe Biden used a curious phrase to describe the death of Nasrallah: it brought, he said, "a measure of justice." Biden is no sprightly youth, but even he must surely know that America has moved on from the days of cowboys in the

Wild West dispensing justice from the barrel of a Colt 45. He may not know what justice looks like nowadays, but I do: it is when a criminal is investigated, arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced in a court of law. Justice must have a moral element, and it is not dispensed with a 2,000-lb bunker-buster bomb dropped on a densely populated residential suburb of Beirut. It is often argued that traditional arrests and prosecutions are impossible when the "enemy" lurks in the shadows, protected by layers of security and numerous identities, refusing to play by the rules of traditional warfare — but that is the whole point of being the so-called good guys: we have rules, they do not.

If you think this happens only in the Middle East, you would be wrong. In 1989, Northern Ireland was in the depths of a period known euphemistically as "The Troubles" — a 30-year insurgency by republican paramilitaries in pursuit of a politically united Ireland, with the support, either overt or tacit, of about half the population. They were opposed by the other half of the population, who wished to remain part of the UK, along with loyalist paramilitaries and the British state. Between the late 1960s and 1998, more than 3,500 people died.

Pat Finucane was a human rights lawyer in Belfast. His clients came from both sides of the divide, but unionists viewed him as a republican mouthpiece. In February 1989, two loyalist gunmen smashed through the front door of Finucane's home with a sledgehammer, shot him twice

as he enjoyed a Sunday meal with his family, then fired 12 more bullets into his face at close range while his three children covered under the table.

Numerous independent investigations have established that the murder was carried out with not only the collusion of the British security services, but also their active participation. British agents provided information on Finucane's precise whereabouts at a specific time and date and supplied one of the pistols used to kill him.

One of the gunmen, who was also a police informer, pleaded guilty to the murder and served a few years of a 22-year sentence before being released in 2006. No member of the British security establishment has ever been held to account for their involvement. Famously, Prime Minister David Cameron told the Finucane family at a meeting in Downing Street in 2011: "There are people in buildings all around here who won't let it happen."

Well, not any longer. New government in Westminster, new policy: after 35 years, there is now to be a full, judge-led public inquiry into Finucane's extrajudicial execution, at which the full involvement of the British state and its agents will be laid bare. As Martin Luther King observed: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." When the history of these years in the Middle East comes to be written, we should hope that moral justice is served.

Ross Anderson is associate editor of Arab News.

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



Ranking military officers assumed the most important positions in the government, and all civilian members of the secretariat had to pass scrutiny by army officers. The massive induction of serving military officers in the secretariat also was aimed at providing Musharraf with the same command and discipline structure found in the Pakistan army. The major dilemma facing Pakistan's new rulers, however, was their lack of experience in civil affairs. Moreover, on-the-job training in the day-to-day life of the country quickly caused strains within the services.

Nawaz Sharif was arrested, charged and tried for high crimes, and, after being found guilty, sentenced to a long prison term. However, under international pressure he subsequently was released and sent into exile (Saudi Arabia), with the understanding that he would remain

out of the country for 10 years. The actions of Pakistan's generals were coldly received by many in the outside world. Washington was quick to criticize the coup leaders, and Clinton signaled his disapproval by altering his March 2000 South Asian itinerary so as to spend only a few hours in Pakistan while stopping in India and Bangladesh for longer visits. However, the strain in U.S.-Pakistan relations was caused by a wide array of issues: Pakistan's sustained political instability, its repeated failure at constructing civil society, the impediments to a resolution of the Kashmir question, and—most significantly—what seemed to be the country's nuclear arms race with India.

As was the case in previous military governments, Musharraf's announced intent was to return Pakistan to civilian rule as soon as feasible. The chief executive's plan to achieve this goal was similar in

certain aspects to that put forward by Ayub Khan a generation earlier. Civilian rule had fragmented, and a return to full civilian control would first require the establishment of local democracy—hearkening back to Ayub Khan's "basic democracies"—a system devoid of competitive political parties.

However, like the generals before him, Musharraf chose in June 2001 to consolidate his power by forcing the retirement of President Rafique Tarar, dispensing with the title of chief executive, and making himself president. The general also effectively became head of government, since the position of prime minister had been vacant since Sharif's ouster.

In July, as president, Musharraf traveled to Agra, India, where he met with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to discuss regional security and, importantly, the status of Kashmir. No real progress was

made, but the meeting set the stage for subsequent summit meetings between Musharraf and his Indian counterparts. The president appeared to be slipping into a role that promised a period of reflection on how to reconstruct the country's domestic and foreign policy, but that all was changed within two months by the new reality created by the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Following Pakistan's humiliating defeat in (and loss of) East Pakistan and Zia ul-Huq's subsequent emphasis on Islamization, the Pakistani army increasingly had been inclined to define its purpose in spiritual terms. Musharraf, long a key planner in Pakistan's military hierarchy, was linked to these trends. Initially, this constituted recruiting Islamist militants for clandestine operations in the Kashmir region.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

### Andrew Garfield reveals why he left gymnastics at age 12

Andrew Garfield explains what made him start acting in a magazine interview

Andrew Garfield has recently revealed why he left gymnastics at the age 12.

Andrew Garfield has recently explained why he gave up gymnastics at age 12 while living with his parents in England.

In a new interview with Esquire magazine, the Spider-Man: No Way Home actor said, "I quit the sport at age 12 in what was the first rebellion against my dad and his value system at the time: success and gold medals above any sense of joy, comfort, or pleasure."

Andrew's father was a swimming coach when he quit gymnastics, how-



ever, he tried it out but ended up leaving it as well.

"It was like this Truman Show feeling where you're like, 'I feel there is more. And I can't identify what that more is, but I know it exists, and if it doesn't exist, I am in big trouble,'" explained The Social Network actor. Andrew told the outlet that it was his mother, who died from pancreatic cancer back in 2019, who motivated him to start acting.

Meanwhile, Andrew can be seen alongside Florence Pugh in a new movie, We Live in Time, which is going to release in theatres on October 11.

### What new chat feature is WhatsApp launching?



Meta's messaging application, WhatsApp, is rolling out a redesigned typing indicator for individual and group chats, which is currently accessible for some beta testers.

Previously, if a user typed in a chat, the typing indicator appeared at the top of the screen in the application bar under the group name — it highlighted who was typing the message, reported WABetaInfo. However, with the launch of this new update,

the typing indicator will now appear right in the conversation screen in the form of a chat bubble. As a result, this feature will now make it faster and convenient for users to identify who is typing without taking their focus away from the ongoing conversation.

Notably, this update also applies to the voice recording indicator. This now appears within the chat interface in a similar manner giving a consistent experience for both typing and recording activities.

The new typing indicator also appears in individual chats. By integrating with the chat screen, it maintains a consistent experience. Moreover, when many users are typing at the same time in group chats, their profile icons will now show within the chat. This will give users a clear indication of everyone who is active. The new update is part of WhatsApp's dedication to making a more dynamic conversation experience with the introduction of features that provide real-time feedback during chats.

## Health

### DRAP issues urgent recall for fake anti-rabies vaccine

KARACHI: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has issued a public alert concerning the availability of a counterfeit anti-rabies vaccine, "Shore-Rab," circulating in the market.

This vaccine, manufactured by an unregistered Indian company, is suspected to be fake, posing serious health risks to those exposed to rabies infections.

The affected batch of the unregistered vaccine is labeled as "RO10821." DRAP has warned that using this vaccine could be dangerous, espe-

cially for individuals who have been bitten by dogs. The authority has called for immediate action to prevent its use, stating that the quality and safety of the product remain uncertain and could lead to further rabies infections.

In response to this public health threat, DRAP has notified its field force, provincial drug authorities, healthcare professionals, and pharmacies to be on high alert. Pharmacies and distributors are urged to review their stocks immediately and report any presence of the counterfeit "Shore-Rab" vaccine to DRAP.

The authority has also instructed its field force to conduct thorough surveillance of the market to identify the suppliers of the fake vaccine. Medical professionals have been advised not to administer this vaccine under any circumstances and to ensure that only registered anti-rabies vaccines are used for treatment.

DRAP has initiated a comprehensive investigation into the supply chain of the counterfeit vaccine, emphasizing the need for stringent actions to safeguard public health.









## Making cities environmental-sustainable vital for achieving green economy goals: Romina

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said that climate change-caused extreme weather events, particularly heat waves and urban flooding incidents are posing grave risk to the lives and livelihoods of the people and public infrastructure.

Building climate-resilience of the cities against adverse impacts of climate change is crucial for making the urban environmentally-sustainable and resilient-livable places, Alam highlighted.

During the meeting with a delegation led by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, she outlined several initiatives aimed at transforming the capital into a model of environmental sustainability.

Presiding over the meeting, the PM's climate aide stressed promoting concepts and implementing policies for climate-resilient urbanisation not only can help us address immediate environmental and climate change-related challenges but also promote long-term sustainability, equity, and quality of life in urban areas. She further said that making cities climate-resilient is not possible without involving a multifaceted approach that includes planning, infrastructure development, community engagement and relevant policy implementation.

The PM's climate aide highlighted that the country's several cities are facing significant climate risks, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. With increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall, and rising sea levels, the need for climate adaptation strategies has never been more urgent.

"The climate change and environmental ministry is taking all-out measures and implementing policies and frameworks to create sustainable urban environments for making cities environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilient so that they can withstand the impacts of climate change while improving the quality of life for residents," Romina Khurshid Alam told the meeting participants.

During the meeting, Ms Alam emphasized that Islamabad will enhance its green cover and flowering plants, positioning itself as a benchmark for other cities to emulate in achieving sustainability goals.

She also highlighted the importance of addressing climate-related health issues, advocating for the relocation of paper mulberry trees to mitigate pollen allergies affecting residents.

Romina Khurshid suggested that revamping parks across Islamabad to enhance the city's green spaces and improve recreational areas for residents. It should be aligned with broader environmental goals, including increased tree planting and promoting biodiversity within urban settings.

The CDA chairman briefed Khurshid Alam on various projects focused on urban planning, renewable energy, environmental health, transport, zero waste, and water management, all aimed at developing Islamabad as a smart city. Notably, the meeting concluded with an agreement for the Climate Ministry and CDA to collaborate on afforestation projects covering 700 acres near Baharakahu.

Additionally, the CDA is developing an extensive bicycle route network to promote sustainable commuting options throughout the city, the chairman informed the meeting. APP



**MOSCOW: Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan meets Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk in Moscow to discuss trade relations and infrastructure projects.**

## President confers Nishan-e-Pakistan award on Malaysian PM

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to further enhance bilateral cooperation



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan.

The top civilian award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, services chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials.

During the ceremony, it was highlighted that the Malaysian prime minister was an avid

reader of Allama Iqbal and acknowledged that his work had been a source of inspiration for him.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world.

He has also been a voice for the causes of self-determination movements and has particularly stood against oppression across the world. He continues to work tirelessly to counter Islamophobia striving to create inter-faith harmony by fostering understanding and respect between different cultures and reli-

gions.

The president also hosted a state dinner in honour of the visiting Malaysian prime minister and his delegation.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday pledged to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, economy, banking, food technology, and agriculture while also agreeing to work together on shared interests.

This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Senator Sherry Rehman, and senior government officials also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the Malaysian prime minister, the president said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Malaysia and was committed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

He added that the visit of the Malaysian prime minister would further boost bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He expressed concern over the current situation in Gaza and called on the international community to take measures to prevent Israel from committing genocide and atrocities against the Palestinian people. The Malaysian prime minister apprised the president that he held a very good discussion with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Naval Chief inaugurates Bahria University College of Medicine



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday inaugurated Bahria University College of Medicine (BUCM) in the Federal Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Naveed Ashraf appreciated the Bahria University's services and achievements in providing quality education in various fields, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

He underscored that while there were many opportunities and challenges ahead, BUCM would evolve into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education.

The Naval Staff emphasized that the professionalism, commitment and dedication of faculty members were crucial to establish the campus as one of the leading medical institutes in the country. Earlier, during his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan Navy in developing the campus.

The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available for students.

The Naval Chief also visited various facilities at the campus and appreciated state of the art infrastructure. The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officials from Health Ministry, Pakistan Medical & Dental Council and Higher Education Commission, former rectors and faculty members of Bahria University and students.

## Planning minister reviews 'PBS DataFest 2024' preparations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) DataFest 2024.

According to press release issued by planning division, the meeting was attended by key officials including Secretary Planning, Awais Manzoor Sumra; Chief Statistician, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar and Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member SS/RM.

The discussion focused on ensuring the success of the event, which aims to unleash the power of data for development. The DataFest 2024 is set to be a pivotal national event, designed to promote data literacy and foster innovation, integration, and growth through the strategic use of data. During the meeting, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that empowering decisions with data is key to driving Pakistan's progress in all sectors. APP

## NDRMF Business Policy 2024...

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There have been repeated discussions with relevant bodies, provinces, fund implementing partners (FIPs), researchers, practitioners and experts related to the subject which resulted into culmination of our efforts in the form of the strategy," Bilal Anwar said.

The Business Policy, he said has bagged huge acclaim from the donors who have demanded a framework under the Policy to continue their operations in line with the national document.

The Policy has been aligned with the National Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Plan, National Disaster Management Plan, National Flood Protection Plan IV, Disaster Risk Financing Strategy and National Climate Finance strategy which is in the offing, he added.

"Previously, the disaster risk management has been a supply-driven realm curated by the donor agencies whereas the NDRMF approach at present is demand driven that has been worked out after extreme strides in the field and keeping in view our extensive knowledge of national challenges and needs or priorities of the community," he said.

Bilal Anwar pointed out that the Fund was educating the donors fraternity to look countries from their communities' lens based on their indigenous priorities to align their fundings accordingly. He added that there was a huge knowledge gap across the country as the funding in disaster risk management was implemented without risk financing.

"The National Catastrophe model (NATCAT) Data Center has been established with the support of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) whereas a special application to be built on its data is underway," he said.

"The NATCAT unlike the conventional databases is a progressive tech-based solution using most-modern approach and solutions," he said, adding that it could help drawing risk profiling of intended regions and use that risk modelling to assess future disaster before time."

The NDRMF CEO underlined that there have been nine periods identified by this system and it could undertake 400 years modelling in case of flood and gauge its impacts. The NATCAT covered the entire country whereas it has the capability to provide limited and selected area projections as well, he said.

He informed that the Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) Strategy has been recently approved by the government which was enacted in the aftermath of devastating 2022 floods' impacts and losses borne by the government.

The government, he said used to divert the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) fundings which was not sustainable. The DRF Strategy would assist in creation of

alternative fundings like the insurance sector, he said, adding, "The National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) and NDRMF are devising an insurance product for all government schools across the provinces to help provide funding to rebuild schools after any disaster."

The NDRMF in a major stride, he said is engaging the private sector recognizing the significant potential in tapping into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives. Though they do contribute in climate resilience there remains a strong need to further enhance collaboration and investment in climate resilience projects to maximize impact.

"The NDRMF is taking all its products and initiatives to the donors and partner organisations to guide further on working out innovative finance solutions. The fund will pitch these ideas to the private sector that will provide them a source of polling funding to spend in high impact areas," Dr Bilal Anwar said. The Fund has further accredited entities to its existing number of FIPs and has expanded its accreditation system that received some 46 fresh applications and 39 out of these have been fully accredited, he added.

A dedicated capacity building programme has been developed for the remaining seven entities, he said.

Bilal informed that in Balochistan the Fund has focused on small entities and some 36-38 entities have been accredited whereas a special award ceremony would be held in that regard.

"The NDRMF is making efforts to get its accreditation recognition from the World Bank, European Union and other global development entities," he added.

Commenting on the COP29 preparations by the country, he said the NDRMF is supporting the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination by extending financial and technical assistance in establishing the COP pavilion, pre-COP events and writing position papers on different agenda items like Article 13, Article 6 and others under the Paris Accord.

The Fund is also assisting in formulation of the National Climate Finance Strategy that would be launched at the COP29, he said.

Denouncing the criticism on COP Pavilions, Dr Bilal Anwar said the criticism on the COP pavilions established by the country at previous conferences was unfair.

"Pakistan's pavilion has enhanced its utility in the previous two to three COPs as during the COP27 due to 2022 floods it has garnered much attention whereas during the COP28, some 29 events were organised throughout the moot at the pavilion. Pakistan this time has a wonderful story to tell at COP29," Dr Bilal said.

## PPP workers will participate in JI's march for Palestine: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday said that the party workers would participate in the March for Palestine being organized by the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

A JI delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman formally invited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take part in the march during a meeting here at the Zardari House. The two leaders discussed the war imposed on the Middle East by Israel and the current situation in the region. Talking to the media, Bilawal said that the world community remained indifferent to the ongoing brutal killings of women and children in Palestine. The top Palestinian leader was martyred in Iran. Israel had no regard for human rights, rather it was violating them with impunity, he added.

The PPP chairman said that the war imposed by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon was inching towards Iran. "Israel is, in fact, on a drive to forcefully occupy the Palestinian lands for completing its agenda of a 'greater Israel'."

"The PPP stands firm with the Muslims all over the world," he added. INP

## SC strikes down 2022 ruling on defection clause under Article 63-A

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday annulled the decision on Article 63-A and admitted the review petitions for hearing. A five-member bench announced the short order after hearing parties and admitted pleas for review.

Article 63-A aims to restrict the voting powers of lawmakers by making them bound to the decision of the "Party Head" whoever is formally declared the head of the party.

The penalty for violating Article 63-A is disqualification from the National Assembly and the vacation of the defecting lawmaker's seat, the Constitution states.

A five-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and also including Justices Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal — resumed hearing today the review plea filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in June 2022.

At the outset of the hearing, CJP Isa inquired Zafar if he was able to meet Imran as per the

court's directives, to which the lawyer replied in the affirmative. "Yes, I met him yesterday but it was not in private. There were jail authorities present during the meeting," Zafar lamented. He stated that Imran wanted to speak before the court himself and presented his arguments via video link.

"Okay, let's move forward. You may present your arguments," the chief justice said, addressing Zafar, who replied that Imran be allowed to put forward his contentions first. "Ali Zafar sahib, you are a senior lawyer and a senator as well. You know how court proceedings work," Justice Isa noted.

The PTI senator then stated that Imran had objections on the bench. "If the permission for the PTI founder to appear via video link is not granted, then he has told me to state a few things before the court," Zafar said. The lawyer insisted that he has to work according to the directions of his client, at which the top judge remarked, "You are not only your client's counsel but also an officer of the court." INP

## Speaker NA, Egyptian & Ethiopian envoys; discuss bilateral ties, issues of regional, int'l interests



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan highly values its cordial ties with Egypt and intended to further expand the existing relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation.

This was stated by him while speaking during a meeting with Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab Abdel Hamid Hassan who called on him at the Parliament House on Thursday.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the brotherly relation between Pakistan and Egypt was based on common religion, culture, history, mutual respect and brotherhood. He expressed grave concern over the current situation in



the Middle East and condemned Israeli aggression in Palestine and Lebanon. He urged upon the international community to play its role in ending Israeli occupation and aggression so that durable peace can prevail in the region.

While highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, he said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in strengthening the bilateral relations. He further said the exchange of parliamentary delegations would enable parliamentarians of both countries to learn from each other's experiences.

The Speaker NA also said enhanced contacts between Parliamentary



Friendship Groups (PFGs) of both countries would result in strengthening of bi-lateral relations as well. Ayaz also extended invitation to his Egyptian counterpart to visit Pakistan along with parliamentary delegation.

Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Ihab Abdel-Hamid Hassan appreciated the remarks of the speaker for further expanding relations between both brotherly countries and parliaments.

He further said Egypt attached great importance to its cordial relation with Pakistan. He also commended Pakistan's efforts for promotion of durable peace in the region. Later on, Ambassador of Ethiopia to

Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula also called on Ayaz Sadiq at the Parliament House. The matters pertaining to bilateral relations and important regional and international issues were discussed during the meeting.

The Speaker NA said that Ethiopia was the gateway to the African Continent and Pakistan accorded great importance to its friendly relations with Ethiopia. He further said Pakistan according to its "Look Africa Policy" sought to strengthen its trade and diplomatic relations with African countries including Ethiopia.

He also stressed the vast opportunities for both countries to achieve growth in their trade, industry, and education sectors through enhancing bilateral ties.

Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula endorsed the views of speaker regarding further enhancement of bilateral relations and also lauded Pakistan for its praise-worthy role in promotion of regional stability.

He said Ethiopia sought to further solidify its relationship with Pakistan. He said enhancing parliamentary contacts between both countries was essential for strengthening of bilateral relations. — VOM Report