



"Furthermore, as we address these challenges, we recognize the importance of collaboration. By uniting the government, civil society, and the private sector, we can ensure that our senior citizens feel secure and valued"

Federal Minister for Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer

Aleem urges transparency in privatisation process



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investments and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has emphasised the importance of ensuring that the privatisation process remains both competitive and successful.

In the 225th meeting of the Privatisation Commission Board, chaired by Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investments & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, a committee for negotiations was constituted to oversee and facilitate the privatisation efforts.

The committee decided to form a Negotiating Committee for the privatisation of institutions. Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan has directed that the process of privatisation should be completed in the atmosphere of competition and the goal of success be ensured so this process can be ensured as transparent as possible, according to a statement.

While presiding over the 225th session of the Privatisation Commission Board, Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said that after the privatisation of the institutions marketing and the sales sector of those departments should remain on a high pitch.

He added that these institutions being privatised should be successful in addition to earning revenue for the Government. In the meeting of the Privatisation Commission Board instructions were issued by the Federal Minister to the Department that the advertisements given in the newspapers for privatisation should be made part of the relevant file which is also necessary.

He added that legal regulations should be implemented fully in the process of privatisation. In the meeting, issues related to the privatisation of more institutions including the Agricultural Development Bank and Utility Stores were also discussed while the appointment of a Financial Advisor also came under discussion.

Apart from this, important decisions were also taken while discussing technical matters in the meeting. The Federal Minister invited all the Members of the Privatisation Commission Board to be more active and participate in the PCB to speed up the process. Briefing the meeting of the Privatisation Commission Board, the Federal Secretary said that all relevant issues have full legal protection therefore all the process is being carried out as per the rules. Members of the Privatisation Commission Board approved various decisions including the proceedings of the previous meeting of PCB. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday chaired a meeting to assess the preparations for the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-CHG) being held in Islamabad. The foreign secretary and officials from the relevant ministries attended the meeting, a post on X handle said. DPM Dar reviews preparations for upcoming SCO-CHG meeting DPM Dar reviews preparations for upcoming SCO-CHG meeting Updates on the conference arrangements were discussed at length and the deputy prime minister expressed his satisfaction with the progress.

Justice Akhtar skips hearing on plea seeking review of defection law verdict

ISLAMABAD: Justice Munib Akhtar on Monday skipped a hearing on a petition seeking a review of the 2022 verdict on the defection clause under Article 63A of the Constitution.

The review plea, filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), was set to be taken up by a five-member larger bench at 11:30am today.

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, the bench was supposed to comprise Justices Akhtar, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal.

Justice Akhtar's decision comes against the backdrop of his removal from the three-judge committee established under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 after the promulgation of an amendment ordinance granting the CJP authority to select any judge as the committee's third member.



In a letter, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a member of the three-judge committee, had announced boycotting the panel over "unfettered and arbitrary discretion" vested in

CJP's role, while protesting Justice Akhtar's removal.

In response to Justice Shah, CJP Isa listed several reasons for Justice Akhtar's removal from the committee, including his alleged indifference to a piling backlog of cases.

On Monday, all judges except Justice Akhtar appeared in the courtroom. Justice Isa noted that the judge had penned him a letter stating "I cannot be a part of this bench". In his letter, Justice Akhtar stated that he could not be a part of the bench formed by the committee under the Practice and Procedure Ordinance.

The chief justice said Justice Akhtar was present at the apex court, and adjourned the hearing till tomorrow Tuesday, saying he would ask the judge to be a part of the bench as the review petition ought to be heard by a five-member bench as per the original case. INP

At invitation of PM Shehbaz, Malaysian PM will visit Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from 2-4 October 2024. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior officials. Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim will hold meetings with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts. They will also discuss regional and global developments. Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture and faith. This visit provides an important opportunity to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia relations. SABAH

NA Speaker denounces growing Israeli adventurism in ME

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned Israel's increasing adventurism in the Middle East (ME), while stating, "Such actions jeopardize regional peace & threaten global security." The Speaker expressed profound grief over the ongoing loss of innocent civilian lives, including women and children, due to Israeli military operations in Gaza and Lebanon.

"This growing Israeli adventurism is a blatant breach of human rights and a direct threat to the stability and peace of the Middle East," said the Speaker in a statement here on Monday. He lamented that nations which claim to uphold democracy, justice, and human rights are silent which is dismaying.

Speaker Sadiq urged the international community, including the United Nations, human rights organizations, and world powers, to take immediate notice of the situation and intervene to stop Israel's continued brutality. He also extended his condolences to the people of Lebanon who have lost their lives. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Gaza and Lebanon, affirming that Pakistan will continue to advocate for the protection of human rights and for the restoration of peace in the region. DNA

Pakistan Navy, Qatar Emiri Navy conduct bilateral Exercise Asad Al Bahr-III



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy and Qatar Emiri Navy on Monday conducted a bilateral exercise, Asad Al Bahr-III, in the North Arabian Sea. The Qatar Emiri Naval Ship AL KHOR participated

in the exercise alongside Pakistan Navy Ships PNS SHAMSHEER and PNS ASLAT, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

During the bilateral exercise, operations including Maritime Interdiction Operations, Search and Rescue, and Air Defence exercises were conducted. Aim of the exercise was to work out interoperability while handling various challenges in regional Maritime arena.

Conduct of bilateral exercise like Asad Al Bahr-III will not only help in harnessing interoperability with respect to joint operations between both regional Navies but also mushroom avenues of bilateral defence ties. Conduct of joint exercises with regional Navies is a manifestation of PN's resolve of handling traditional and nontraditional challenges in Maritime domain so as to ensure safety and security of seafarers in the region. PR

Awais Leghari expresses displeasure over DISCOs' management with unsatisfactory performance

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Monday expressed displeasure over the management of power distribution companies (DISCOs) with unsatisfactory performance. Presiding over the meeting to review performance of DISCOs, the minister reviewed line losses and bill collection performance for the months of July and August, said a statement issued here.

The Chairmen of the Boards and Chief Executive Officers of DISCOs participated in the meeting. He said that strict administrative action would be taken against officers of unsatisfactory companies. The chairmen and CEOs gave a detailed briefing over the situation, measures and problems of their respective companies. The minister said that every company needed to adopt a more proactive strategy to reduce line losses and improve recoveries so that the financial conditions of the companies could be improved. Furthermore, the minister directed all the authorities to hold a review meeting on the 10th of every month and he would also review the monthly performance of the DISCOs. APP

Pak-Oman to promote interfaith harmony, peace through dialogue: Salik

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain has emphasized the need for Pakistan and Oman to work together in promoting religious harmony, peace, and tolerance through interfaith and intercultural dialogue. Speaking during his three-day visit to Oman, he made these remarks during a meeting with his Omani counterpart Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Said bin Khalfan Al Mamari.

Salik said the challenges faced by the Muslim world today require the promotion of unity, tolerance, and religious harmony. He stressed the importance of unity among Muslim countries, particularly in the current global context, which demands efforts to promote harmony, tolerance, and peace. He highlighted that dialogue between religions and civilizations is essential for global peace, and that respect and tolerance are integral to Islamic teachings.

Salik lauded Oman's security forces for their swift response following the attack on a mosque in Muscat in July, which prevented fur-



ther escalation. He also proposed initiatives for exchanges between religious scholars and experts, to deepen the understanding of Islamic teachings through joint conferences and seminars on key religious topics. Salik further suggested establishing student exchange programmes between religious institutions of both countries, focusing on the study of Shariah, Quranic teachings, and Islamic history. The two officials discussed various proposals to address growing trends of religious intolerance, terrorism, and sectarianism, while also fostering peace and interfaith harmony. DNA

Romina for building resilience for resilient-society

VOM Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that empowering disaster-vulnerable communities with resources and skills to sustain the impacts of recurring and intensifying natural disasters in the country is crucial for reducing their vulnerability over time.

"Providing necessary training and resources help communities better prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and this is inevitable for enhancing their climate-resilience. Because, equipping individuals with skills and resources can lead to sustainable livelihoods, helping communities bounce back economically, socially and psychologically after a disaster," She stressed.

Addressing as chief guest at a high-level dialogue "The Resilient Reflections" here

on Monday, the Romina highlighted, "Communities, infrastructure and ecosystems are interconnected. Building resilience in one area positively impacts the others, creating a more sustainable and adaptive environment overall." Highlighting the significance of community empowerment with resources, knowledge and skills for disaster resilience, Romina Khurshid remarked that when empowered with necessary resources and skills, the resilient communities are better equipped to withstand and recover from natural disasters.

However, "by fostering local leadership and providing education on disaster preparedness, resources and skills to recover, we can enhance the safety and well-being of our climate-vulnerable communities", she said.

The event was organised jointly by Islamic Relief, National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and Asian



Development Bank in support with Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry and attended by senior officials of federal and provincial organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations, academia, researchers and media. She said further that as Pakistan continues to grapple with the escalating impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding and resource scarcity, the present govern-

ment is taking all-out coping measures in collaboration with relevant stakeholders for building resilience and adaptive capacity of the communities, their livelihoods, ecosystems and public infrastructures. Romina Khurshid told the participants that there is need to understand that building resilience is not just a strategy; it's a necessity for our future, which is at stake because of unfolding climate crisis.

"Achieving resilient future, there is dire need for all stakeholders including federal and provincial government organizations and other national and international civil society organizations to work closely to empower vulnerable communities with skills and resources, strengthen public infrastructure and protect ecosystems to navigate the challenges ahead for sustainable and resilient future," the PM's climate aide remarked.

For this strengthening infrastructure,

Romina Khurshid Alam said, is crucial for economic stability and public safety, adding that upgrading roads, bridges, and water management systems ensures that they can endure the impacts of climate change, reducing the risk of catastrophic failures.

Recognizing the multifaceted risks that Pakistan faces, including frequent flooding, droughts, and seismic activity, she said that empowering local communities through a holistic approach that integrates environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction, and community engagement is crucial.

"By fostering an inclusive environment for communities to sustain, recover and thrive in the disaster times, we can help the voices of the climate-vulnerable communities get heard and considered in decision-making processes, ultimately leading to a more equitable and resilient society," Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised.

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

In defence of a new court

HAFIZ AHSAAN AHMAD KHOKHAR

Constitutional courts exist in both common law and civil law countries, though they take different forms. In civil law countries, these courts are typically separate, specialized institutions, while in common law countries, constitutional matters are often handled by the general judiciary, particularly supreme courts with broad powers of judicial review. However, some common law countries, like South Africa, have adopted dedicated Constitutional Courts. There has been consistent demand from inside and outside parliament, particularly from political parties, for an exclusive court to handle matters related to constitutional and legal interpretation. This court would deal with the enforcement of fundamental rights and inter-governmental issues under one umbrella, from the federal capital to the provinces, and would be known as the Constitutional Court. The establishment of a Constitutional Court is not at odds with the concept of separation of powers or the independence of the judiciary. By creating such a court in Pakistan, there would be no compromise on the enforcement of fundamental rights granted to citizens by the constitution. Instead, there would simply be a transfer of jurisdiction from the existing Supreme Court and high courts, as outlined under Articles 184(3) and 199, respectively, to the newly proposed Constitutional Court through a constitutional amendment. This new court would ensure uniformity and clarity in jurisdiction to handle such matters in a country like Pakistan, with its federating units. It would allow the Supreme Court and high courts to focus their energy, time, and resources on the early resolution of legal issues affecting common citizens, addressing the significant backlog and making the regular justice system more efficient. Therefore, establishing a Constitutional Court in Pakistan requires a clear and strategic roadmap to ensure its successful implementation and long-term effectiveness. While Pakistan has a robust judiciary, with the Supreme Court holding constitutional jurisdiction, the establishment of a dedicated Constitutional Court could offer several advantages. In many cases, existing judicial systems are overburdened with a wide range of civil, criminal, and administrative cases, which can slow the resolution of crucial constitutional matters when they are handled by the general judiciary. The establishment of Constitutional Courts has proven successful in many countries, including those with both civil and common law systems. Although the structure and jurisdiction of these courts vary, their successes offer valuable lessons for Pakistan. Countries such as Germany, South Africa, and Italy have established dedicated constitutional courts, providing a model that Pakistan could benefit from. With the increasing volume of constitutional work and the rise in cases filed against government bodies, Pakistan's Supreme Court and high courts have become overburdened. As a result, their core appellate functions have suffered, leading to significant case backlogs at every level of the judicial system. Too much time is being spent on civil, criminal, and private litigation that often spans decades, leaving our justice system vulnerable and contributing to its low ranking within South Asia. Currently, the Supreme Court of Pakistan handles both constitutional and general legal matters, leading to a significant backlog and delays in the delivery of justice. Establishing a dedicated Constitutional Court could alleviate this burden by focusing on complex constitutional issues, allowing the Supreme Court and high courts to concentrate on other cases, particularly those within their appellate jurisdiction. The first step towards this reform would be passing a constitutional amendment under Article 239, which would create the Constitutional Court. This requires broad political consensus in parliament, as constitutional amendments need a two-thirds majority. It is crucial for all political stakeholders to recognize the court's potential in promoting stability and justice, thereby reducing resistance. Following the amendment, specific laws must be enacted to define the court's jurisdiction, structure, and powers. A Constitutional Court in Pakistan should focus exclusively on constitutional matters, such as disputes over fundamental rights and federal-provincial tensions. By providing authoritative rulings, it would clarify ambiguities in the constitution, creating a more stable legal framework and reducing the risk of constitutional crises that have historically fueled political unrest. The court's role would be to ensure that all laws and executive actions comply with the constitution, reinforcing the rule of law. Given Pakistan's federal structure, the Constitutional Court would also serve as an impartial arbiter in disputes between the central and provincial governments, ensuring both operate within their constitutional limits. Additionally, it would act as a neutral body to resolve conflicts between the executive, legislature, and judiciary, helping to prevent political deadlock or instability. To succeed, the court should have a clearly defined mandate, avoiding jurisdictional overlap with other courts. Judges must be selected for their expertise in constitutional law and impartiality. Timely case resolution is crucial to preventing the backlog issues that plague Pakistan's current judicial system. A dedicated Constitutional Court should focus exclusively on interpreting the constitution, resolving disputes between branches of government, and safeguarding fundamental rights. This separation would enable the current Supreme Court to concentrate on its appellate duties. A Constitutional Court could strengthen the protection of fundamental rights by promptly addressing violations and ensuring that laws and government actions align with the constitution. It is important to clarify that, while the Supreme Court would remain the apex court for non-constitutional matters, finality should be granted to constitutional rulings made by the Constitutional Court. The success of a Constitutional Court would rely on adopting best practices and maintaining clarity in its jurisdiction, ensuring independence, efficiency, and impartiality. Lessons from constitutional courts worldwide can help Pakistan establish a court that strengthens democracy, upholds rule of law, and ensures constitutional governance.

The writer is an advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He can be reached at: hafizahsaan47@gmail.com



CHRIS DOYLE

Why European inertia is not good for the Middle East?

The story of the last year has been one of acute international failure over Gaza. Israel has conducted a genocide unhindered by any international flak that might have forced its belligerent prime minister or his extremist government coalition to think twice. Only the international legal system threatens to put a brake on Israeli actions. The International Court of Justice has ruled on the plausible danger of genocide in Gaza and the illegality of Israel's occupation. The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor is seeking arrest warrants against Israeli and Hamas leaders. This failure of accountability has energized Israeli actions in Lebanon, as it plays out its Gaza playbook to the north. Overconfident following the shameful silence of its key allies, Benjamin Netanyahu had little hesitation in opening up the northern front. The assassination of Hassan Nasrallah was just the latest in a whole batch of moves designed to stoke the fires of conflict. If anyone was in any doubt about the brazen contempt Netanyahu has for his allies, his routine mockery of the Biden administration is Exhibit 1. Once again last week, the White House claimed Israel

was willing to agree to a 21-day ceasefire as called for by the US, the EU, the UK and others. As soon as Netanyahu got off his plane in New York, he wrecked all hopes of any such deal. He has done this on Gaza routinely. The US has failed to hold its truculent and unruly ally to account. But why are the European states being so timid? The reaction of most European countries to the escalation over Lebanon has centered on two priorities: evacuating their citizens and expressing concern. Finally, they have largely called for de-escalation, at best a ceasefire. Even the evacuation of nationals has been a dubious effort. Many still languish under bombardment in Lebanon. As for the expressions of concern, this is the same disease that has beset policy toward the obliteration of Gaza. It is utterly irrelevant, designed to fill the gaping policy void. A few states stand out for ducking this trend, with Spain, Ireland and Norway speaking out. Spain condemned Israel's attack on Hezbollah's paging devices. What is also noticeable is that the latest EU statement on Lebanon made no mention of Gaza. Israel is winning the argument, as it did with the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, on decoupling Gaza from Lebanon. This is naive. A ceasefire in Gaza and one between Israel and Hezbollah would be inextricably linked. A Gaza ceasefire would make one in the north far easier. The reality is that the Israeli lead-

ership does not want one on either front. It believes that it can deliver a military victory on both fronts, while also cracking down and even annexing the West Bank. The other feature is that the Europeans make reference to UN Security Council resolutions on Lebanon, notably 1701. The Palestinians, meanwhile, have long since given up hope that any resolutions dealing with their occupation will get referenced, let alone implemented. One explanation for this European malaise is that the continent's politicians and publics are still fixed on local, internal issues, with isolationism dominant. They are unwilling to devote serious attention to issues outside their immediate geographical interest. The EU system is engulfed in choosing its next 26 commissioners, triggering power plays in Brussels. Sweden is focused on burgeoning gang crime, Italy on immigration. Belgium is trapped in postelection negotiations. Austria has also just had elections. Baltic and Eastern European states fret about Russia. Poland is handling calamitous floods. The honeymoon for the new British Labour government has ended early. The one arguable exception to European inertia is France. As ever, its leaders treat Lebanon as if it was of vital French interest. Yet, as was seen after the 2020 Beirut explosion, President Emmanuel Macron has little influence despite grandiose statements. France part-

nered the US in leading the call for a three-week ceasefire, but Netanyahu just dismissed it. Are European leaders right to be disengaged? On one level, one wonders what they could do. Unity is lacking. But a coalition of major European powers including Germany, France and the UK could lead the way. Britain today has a less Europhobic government. Many Lebanese and Syrians are leaving Lebanon and some will make their way to Europe. Security should also be a major concern. After Israel assassinated Nasrallah's predecessor as Hezbollah leader in 1992, the group's response was to launch attacks against soft Israeli and Jewish targets in Turkey and Argentina. This may be its option again now, with European targets on the agenda. But it still feels like these leaders are tiptoeing nervously around an erupting volcano, hoping they do not get caught up in the lava flow. All the talk has been of trying to avoid a war when, for some time, those on the ground have been saying "we are in a war" and the Israeli leader was indicating that he wanted one, including on multiple fronts. Now even the blinkered Europeans cannot ignore this grave reality. They need to step up before Lebanon becomes the next Gaza.

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding in London. X: @Doylech

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



The army earlier had pledged a hands-off policy in political matters, but domestic conditions had so deteriorated that that promise had to be reconsidered. Moreover, in October 1995 some 40 army officers were arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government and kill the president and prime minister. Given the intensifying woes, Bhutto no longer saw eye to eye with President Leghari, and when he ignored her advice in dealing with the army high command and with changes in the Supreme Court, their relationship reached the breaking point. Leghari, uncomfortable with the constant intrigue, was ready to take direct action against Bhutto and her husband. That moment came in September 1996, when Benazir's brother Murtaza Bhutto was killed in a police shootout, and Asif Ali Zardari was accused of complicity in Murtaza's death. In November, Leghari dismissed Bhutto's govern-

ment was meant to keep the country on the rails, not to correct Pakistan's multidimensional problems. Bureaucrats were purged for compromising their professionalism by colluding with the PPP, the national economy underwent scrutiny by expert economists, and a serious effort was made to restore law and order. In the meantime, the politicians clamoured for a return to more-formal civilian politics. Bhutto was the most vociferous, having accused Leghari of stabbing her in the back. Ignoring these assaults, the caretaker government began the process of establishing a Council for Defense and National Security (CDNS), comprising the president, the prime minister, the defense minister, the interior minister, and the chairman and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Although high-ranking military officers appeared favourably disposed to the formation of the CDNS, many politicians were wary and were reluctant to lend their support.

Bhutto's appeal to the Supreme Court that her government had been unconstitutionally dissolved was denied, and the 1997 elections, which went forward on schedule, were judged fair in spite of claims of fraud by the PPP. Of the more than 200 seats contested in the National Assembly, the PPP won fewer than 20. Only in Sind did the PPP have anything resembling a respectable showing. The PML-N of Nawaz Sharif was the big winner, taking all the provinces either outright or through coalitions with provincial parties. Although only one-third of the eligible electorate had voted, no party in the history of Pakistan had done better in an election (taking two-thirds of the vote), and Sharif could claim a veritable mandate. With the armed forces standing by, and with the president still armed with extraordinary powers, Sharif assembled another government. Mindful of the need to limit the power of the president, Nawaz Sharif gained parliamentary approval of the

13th amendment to the constitution, which withdrew the president's authority to remove a government at his own discretion. A 14th amendment, which prevented party members from violating party discipline, was struck down by the Supreme Court, an action that set the stage for a confrontation between the prime minister and the high court. Sharif attempted to have the number of Supreme Court members reduced from 17 to 12. However, this attempt to tamper with the judiciary stirred up the Pakistani bar, which entered the fray and demanded that Sharif be disqualified as a member of the parliament. Although the prime minister relented, by December 1997 Sharif, with assistance from the parliament, had extended his powers to such a degree that even President Leghari was forced to resign. Sharif also accrued enough power to relieve the chief justice of the Supreme Court of his duties.

To be continued....

Showbiz

'Discarded' Anna Delvey calls 'DWTS' experience 'waste of time'

Anna Delvey opens up on 'experience' on 'DWTS' after elimination in week 2

Anna Delvey doesn't seem too happy with her all-over "experience" of Dancing with the Stars, after being ousted from the dancing competition show. The recently eliminated contestant got candid with co-host Julianne Hough, saying that she would be taking "nothing" with her from Season 33 of the ABC reality show, and she said this "because that was the truth." "You guys told me what I'm supposed to do. I tried to do it and then I still was rejected," said Delvey, aka Anna Sorokin, on co-star Tori Spelling's misSPELLING podcast. "And, I'm taking away nothing. This is what I'm taking away from it, because your advice was worthless."



"The advice ... did not pay off for me, even though I tried to follow it. And this is how I felt. I know... people were trying to interpret my answer in different ways, but no, not really. I really did not take away much from this experience." She added, "I think I had to be on the defensive, especially after all the backlash that I received being cast on the show, even though the producers [tried] to defend me. And I think everyone on the cast was generally very nice to me. But in the end, I don't know." Delvey got eliminated with her and partner Ezra Sosa Week 2, along with Spelling and her partner Pasha Pashkov.

Tech

WhatsApp, Cloudflare collaborate to strengthen messages security

Meta application WhatsApp and network service Cloudflare are working together to strengthen the security of end-to-end encrypted messages by implementation of robust auditing process for Key Transparency with the help of auditing tool Plexi. The auditing tool has been introduced by the partnership between the two companies. It will work to monitor and verify the integrity of public keys to ensure that user communication is secure, reported WABetaInfo. Ensuring that user keys have not been altered or compromised, this new feature permits for the verification of the public keys used in end-to-end encryption. Notably, Key Transparency forms a secure framework enabling users to trust that their messages are reaching the intended recipients without the risk of interception or manipulation by unauthorised parties. Moreover, this additional layer of auditing does not suggest any lacking in WhatsApp's

Key Transparency auditing process introduced by Meta app, network service for safer end-to-end encrypted message

current security. However, it builds upon the already robust end-to-end encryption in place, offering even greater transparency and reassurance for users that are concerned about the integrity of their communications. With these advancements, WhatsApp and Cloudflare are setting a new standard in digital communication security with the assistance of these advancements, ensuring that privacy remains of prime importance in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Health

Ultra-processed foods are silently altering your metabolism, scientists warn

A total of 42 ultra-processed food-responsive metabolites were identified in adolescent urine samples. Of these metabolites, 21 showed positive associations with ultra-processed food intake. Among known metabolites identified in urine samples, ultra-processed food intake showed a significant positive association with indoxyl glucuronide and other partially characterized glucuronides. These glucuronides are involved in detoxification processes, notably the elimination of dietary substances through glucuronidation pathways. A total of six ultra-processed food-responsive metabolites were identified in young adult plasma samples. Of these metabolites, 4-hydroxyglutamate and two structurally unknown metabolites showed positive associations with ultra-processed food intake. 4-hydroxyglutamate has previously been linked to metabolic syndrome

and may be an indicator of metabolic stress. A total of 25 metabolite patterns, identified using robust sparse principal component analysis (PCA), explained 61.7% of the variance in ultra-processed food-mediated metabolic changes in adolescent urine samples. A significant positive association of ultra-processed food intake was observed with one urinary metabolite pattern ('xenobiotics and amino acids') and one plasma metabolite pattern ('lipids, xenobiotics, and amino acids'). Both metabolite patterns shared 29 metabolites that were primarily associated with xenobiotic metabolism, which involves the breakdown and elimination of foreign substances like food additives. study finds that ultra-processed foods can induce changes in urine and plasma metabolite levels in adolescents and young adults through

various pathways, including xenobiotic metabolism, amino acid metabolism, and lipid pathways. The study identifies indoxyl glucuronide and other partially characterized glucuronides as major urinary metabolites positively associated with ultra-processed food intake. Glucuronides are produced during glucuronidation, a key biological detoxification pathway. Regarding diet-related glucuronidation, evidence suggests that gut microbiome plays a key role in modulating microbial transformation of dietary substrates and glucuronide levels and biosynthesis of microbial metabolites. It is also well-established in the literature that ultra-processed foods can induce gut microbiota dysbiosis, which in turn is associated with a range of health adversities, including immunological and neuropsychological disorders.



Senior citizens are not only the foundation of our society but are also a source of wisdom, knowledge & experience: Zardari

ISLAMABAD: On the International Day of Older Persons, President Asif Ali Zardari said, "we affirm our commitment to improving care and support systems for older persons. This day, we honour the contributions of our senior citizens for transferring their experience and wisdom to younger generations as well as their role in the progress and prosperity of our country."

He said senior citizens are not only the foundation of our society but are also a source of wisdom, knowledge, and experience. Our religion calls upon us to look after our parents and elderly people with love, compassion and utmost care. Our parents and the elderly make tremendous sacrifices by investing time, love, energy and resources in bringing up children. It is our moral and religious obligation to treat them with respect and dignity and take care of them in old age.

He said Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also places a responsibility upon the state to provide necessities of life for all citizens who are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment. Pakistan has taken a number of steps for the welfare of senior citizens. As populations age, they become dependent and their need for specialized care increases, and therefore, it is imperative to provide affordable and accessible medical facilities to our elderly. He said, "I call upon the federal and provincial governments, as well as civil society, to prioritize better healthcare, strengthen social security, protect the rights of the elderly, and provide them a friendly and healthy environment." SABAH

Federal, provincial govts need to resolve issues of flood victims on priority basis: Bilawal

QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the federal and provincial governments to resolve the issues of flood victims on priority basis. This was stated by him while addressing a ceremony held in Quetta on Monday for the flood victims. Bilawal Bhutto was of the view that rehabilitation of the flood victims was the part of agreement signed between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and PPP before forming the government. The flood victims of Balochistan were not getting their due rights as promised by the government, he added. The chairman PPP further stated that he has arranged the funding for the construction of homes for the flood victims. The PPP also constructed homes for the flood victims of Sindh and it would also be followed in Balochistan, he maintained. Bilawal said that the flood victims were homeless since 2022 and he was trying to give them their own shelter before the next flood. INP

Kashmiris to uphold ideology of accession of entire J&K State to Pakistan at all costs: AJK

MIRPUR: AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, paying rich tributes to the martyrs of Mang, Monday said that the Kashmiris owed a debt of gratitude to them as their struggle and sacrifices culminated in the liberated state. Addressing a public gathering in the historic Mang town, Poonch Division, he said, "The martyrs of Mang liberated the region by sacrificing their lives and the ideology of accession of the entire state of Jammu & Kashmir to Pakistan propounded by them will be upheld at all costs." Terming Pakistan a center of hope for the Muslims all around the world, the prime minister said that a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan was a guarantor for Kashmir's ongoing freedom movement. Castigating the Modi government for holding sham elections in occupied Kashmir, he said that the poll exercise being conducted under the supervision of one million troops had no legal standing before the international law. He said that the implementation of the United

Nations Security Council resolutions was the only feasible solution to the Kashmir problem. The prime minister also condemned the continued bloodshed and violence in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said that the people in IIOJK had been deprived of their basic rights. "India has robbed Kashmiris of their identity, snatched away from them their rights and privileges", he said, adding that the Muslims were being turned into a minority in IIOJK. The AJK PM said that the people in Azad Kashmir enjoyed full civil liberties. The state government, he said, was spending a big chunk of its budget on subsidies to ensure provision of wheat flour and electricity at affordable rates. "The funds are being spent regardless of community or regional bias", he added. The PM said that no one would be allowed to ruin the system of the state for which the forefathers had made unprecedented sacrifices. APP

Senate body briefed that many filtration plants & tube wells water are unsafe for human health in Islamabad

Say out of 108 water filtration plants, 69 are safe & 39 are unsafe

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, chaired by Senator Shahadat Awan, was held at Parliament House on Monday. Senator Shahadat Awan expressed dissatisfaction with the clarity in the brief presented by the authorities to the Committee. During the briefing on groundwater depletion in Balochistan and the steps taken by the Ministry of Water Resources, he highlighted that no survey had been conducted since 2021. He emphasized that groundwater depletion is a critical issue, however the same has been overlooked. He further asserted that had the survey been conducted after 2021, the situation might not have deteriorated to its current state. Citing the example of groundwater depletion in neighboring country Iran, Senator Awan stressed upon the need of avoiding similar crisis in Pakistan. Additionally, he enquired about the availability of accurate data regarding the number of tube wells installed after 2015. He further explained that there is a discrepancy in the facts provided to the Committee, particularly

concerning the number of dams. He emphasized that the purpose of the Committee is to find out a solution to the problem and that can only be achieved if the accurate facts and figures are provided. He also stressed upon the issue of the use of solar panels in the province of Balochistan, that has led to increased water extraction and the meeting aims to identify the steps being taken to address this issue. The Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources commented that the lack of adherence to written directives has worsened the water situation in the province. The Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources also added that the Balochistan Irrigation Department has been requested to monitor water levels and provide the Ministry with their policy regarding dams. He also noted that the water level in Quetta has dropped due to the installation of turbines and suggested regulating tubewell usage and enforcing laws in Quetta. He further added that there is a discrepancy in the facts provided to the Committee, particularly

been implemented. The Secretary (Ministry of Water Resources) also remarked that there is no engineering solution to the issue, as groundwater levels are critically low, and the only way to mitigate the problem is to halt the installation of solar panels on tube wells. The Chairman Committee, urged the Balochistan Irrigation Department to commit to preventing the installation of any further tube wells in the province. He also advised the Ministry to collaborate and work together to resolve this matter and to share their correspondence with the Committee. Furthermore, the Secretary, (Ministry of Water Resources) presented a survey conducted by PCRWR in June 2024 regarding emerging water quality problems in Islamabad. He reported that, of the 127 tube wells, 105 are safe and 22 are unsafe. Out of 108 water filtration plants, 69 are safe and 39 are unsafe. Regarding the 12 waterworks, 7 are safe and 5 are unsafe, and of the 41 rural water supply sources, 8 are safe and 33 are unsafe. He further noted that amongst

37 parameters tested for drinking water, two major contaminants namely; nitrates and microbial organisms were found. The Chairman Committee, Senator Shahadat Awan while reviewing the presented survey, expressed concerns over the unsafe water supply since 2019 in the capital. He voiced dissatisfaction over such a situation in the federal capital, where the contamination of water is alarming. He urged the Secretary of Water Resources to consult with the CDA on this critical issue. Senator Awan also questioned why despite warnings from the Ministry, no action had been taken regarding the 22 unsafe tubewells in Islamabad. He recommended that the CDA ought to conduct another test, particularly since officials from water management claim that 80% of the water situation in Islamabad has improved, yet this report, from June 2024, shows otherwise. He further requested the verification and analysis of water supply sources in Islamabad to ensure the accuracy of the data on water safety. SABAH

Commerce minister assures, SCCI of trade-friendly policies

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday assured support to the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and pledged trade-friendly policies. In a virtual meeting with the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing trade-friendly policies aimed at boosting industrial growth and enhancing trade volumes, said a press release issued here. Jam Kamal Khan assured the business community of full support in addressing the challenges they face, with a focus on ensuring the growth of local industries and improving trade with Afghanistan and other neighboring countries. During the meeting, SCCI President Fuad Ishaq raised pressing concerns about the escalating power and gas issues, which he said are gradually leading to the closure of industries. He also highlighted the challenge of high tariffs, which are further burdening the industrial sector. Fuad pointed to the decline in trade volume with Afghanistan. "In 2013-14, our trade with Afghanistan was valued at \$3 billion, but it has now plummeted to \$800 million," he said, underlining the significant drop. He urged the government to address the issues surrounding transit trade and bilateral trade with Afghanistan, which are negatively impacting the local business community.

The SCCI president further advocated for the establishment of a new industrial estate to support the business community and encourage industrial expansion, which he believes is critical for revitalizing the region's economy. Minister Jam Kamal Khan expressed the government's strong commitment to protecting and supporting the business community. He acknowledged the challenges faced by industries due to the economic situation and pledged to take necessary steps to resolve the issues related to power, gas, and tariffs. Regarding the declining trade with Afghanistan, the minister emphasized the need to address the issue in order to improve access to Central Asian markets. The virtual meeting ended with a shared understanding of the urgency to resolve the business community's challenges and to work towards sustainable solutions that would bolster industrial growth and increase Pakistan's trade footprint regionally and globally.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha over the sad demise of the brother of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Future economy depends on technology: Ahsan

VOM Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Measures Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that future economy depends on technology that has to be introduced in every sector to compete with the world. He said that the youth skilled in technology are a valuable asset of the country, preparing the youth to increase digital exports is the top priority of the government, under the vision 2025 and 2030, the government is taking steps to provide the latest knowledge to the youth. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized in honor of newly admitted students at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Narowal Campus at Narowal on Monday. The Federal Minister explained, "Future economy depends on technology, the whole world has come a long way in the IT sector, our new generation has to come forward in this vital field." "Pakistan stands at a critical juncture where it cannot afford to lag behind in adopting the latest technology, we have to introduce technology in every sector to compete with the world," he stressed. Ahsan Iqbal said that modern technologies have the potential to revolutionize indus-



tries, enhance decision-making processes and create new economic opportunities. He also emphasized the need to equip the youth of the country with modern skills so that they not only earn good resources for themselves but also help them to play a key role in the socio-economic development of the country. In order to face the challenges and take full advantage of emerging technologies, he said, "We need to focus on artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain technology, open source intelligence, quantum computing, cyber security, digital media literacy, infrastructure development and education. Indeed, our youths have the

potential to take Pakistan forward through digitalisation." Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the youth skilled in digital technology are the valuable asset of the country and the architects of our future, preparing the youth for increasing digital exports is the first priority of the government. He said that the roadmap of Vision 2025 was chalked out keeping in mind the emerging technologies. He mentioned, the journey of development after 2018 was blocked by the so-called transformation, development is not possible without political stability. He emphasized the need for e-governance and digitization of all public services, asserting that the government is determined to bring digital transformation in the country. "In today's era, no country can develop without innovation and investment in various sectors of the economy. I want to say to the people related to technology that they should make their children educated in IT so that the country can progress towards development," he suggested. He also answered the questions by people related to the industry from Narowal district. The UET Narowal Vice Chancellor Shahid Munir also addressed the event and answered the questions of the students.

Renowned scholar Dr. Zakir Naik arrives in Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Eminent religious scholar and preacher Dr. Zakir Naik was warmly received by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Dr. Syed Attaur Rehman on his arrival at Islamabad International Airport on Monday.

According to the ministry spokesperson, Parliamentary Secretary for Religious Affairs Shamsir Ali Mazari and Prime Minister Youth Program Chairman Rana Mashhood were also present at the airport to welcome Dr. Naik.

During his visit, Dr Zakir Naik is scheduled to address public gatherings in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore and will also lead Friday prayers and address gatherings during his stay in Pakistan. In addition to public events, Naik is expected to meet senior government officials and participate in various public engagements as his visit is scheduled to continue till October 28, 2024.

Petrol price slashed by Rs2.07 for next fortnight

High-speed diesel price slashed by Rs3.40 per litre; new fuel rates take effect from Oct 1

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has slashed the price of petrol by Rs2.07 per litre for the next fortnight. The new prices will be effective from October 1, according to an official notification issued on Monday. As per the official statement, the price of high speed diesel (HSD) came down to Rs246.29 from Rs249.69 after a reduction of Rs3.40. Petrol, also called mogas, is mainly used in private transportation, small vehicles, rickshaws, and two-wheelers. Higher fuel prices significantly impact the budgets of the members of the middle and lower-middle classes, who primarily consume petrol for commuting. On the other hand, a significant portion of the transport sector relies on high-speed diesel. Its price is considered inflationary since it is predominantly used in heavy goods transport vehicles, trucks, buses, trains, and agricultural machinery such as tractors, tube wells, and threshers. The consumption of high-speed diesel particularly contributes to the increased prices of vegetables and other food items.