



*"Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Conference in Islamabad"*

Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture  
**Attaullah Tarar**

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## President Zardari, Vladimir Putin emphasise strengthening bilateral ties



ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin wherein they emphasised further strengthening of bilateral relationship. The informal interaction was held on the sidelines of two-day international forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations-Basis for Peace and Development" here in the Turkmen capital to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher. Both leaders expressed good wishes for each other, according to a President House press release.

Earlier, the president, who arrived here on Thursday for a two-day visit, also addressed the Forum which was also attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Emomali Rehmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and others. In his address, the president lauded the Turkmen leadership and people for hosting the event which also provided him an opportunity to interact with the leaders of regional countries.

## Law minister clarifies judicial commission's power in proposed constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Friday clarified that the power and formation of the judicial commission have been outlined in the proposed constitutional amendments.

Speaking to the media, Azam Nazeer Tarar mentioned that several proposals were discussed during the committee meeting, adding that another meeting would be held at 12 noon on Saturday to continue the discussions.

The minister further stated that the anxiety surrounding the issue has now eased, and the amendments will include provisions for the establishment of a constitutional court and the transfer of judges.

He also revealed that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been invited to share his suggestions on the matter.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

## No country can progress without a high-quality education system: PM

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday emphasized that the provision of quality education and technical training was the government's top priority, as no nation can progress without a high-quality education system. He was chairing an important review meeting on Federal Education and Technical Training Affairs.

The Prime Minister stated that, in today's education landscape, skills development, information technology, and digitization have become indispensable, stressing the urgent need to align Pakistan's education system with these modern principles.

He further highlighted that, in line with the government's commitment to ensuring no child in Pakistan is left out of school, the incumbent administration had implemented an educational emergency.

Additionally, he underscored the importance of holding a National Curriculum Summit to facilitate the introduction of a uniform education system across the country.

The Prime Minister directed relevant authorities to expedite the construction of Daanish Schools in underprivileged areas, including Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Balochistan.

He also instructed that daycare centers be established in all educational institutions in Islamabad to support the convenience of female teachers.

In his directive to set up e-libraries in parks and recreational areas of Islamabad, the Prime Minister emphasized that access to

these libraries should be free, with complimentary internet facilities also provided.

The Prime Minister called for the formulation of a strategy to provide monthly stipends to female students in rural areas of Islamabad, aiming to increase enrollment in these schools.

"Technical training should be integrated into the curriculum of Islamabad schools," the Prime Minister said. He added that students who had dropped out of education for any reason should be offered free technical training, and an awareness campaign should be launched to encourage them to return to school.

"Teachers are the builders of the nation," he said, highlighting the critical need to establish a high-quality teacher training institution in Islamabad. He also directed a third-party audit of teacher training programs and the assessment of teachers' skills.

Special attention, he noted, should be given to ensuring transparency and merit in teacher recruitment. Any negligence in this area, he warned, would not be tolerated.

He asked the relevant authorities to investigate why the buses provided for student transportation in Islamabad in 2017 had remained in disrepair for such an extended period.

During the meeting, the Ministry of Education briefed the Prime Minister on the steps taken by the ministry.

It was shared that, under the Prime Minister's directive, midday meals for children in Islamabad schools had already been introduced, significantly improving enrollment figures. The meeting also revealed that 100 Early

Childhood Education centers had been established in Islamabad. Additionally, modern information technology and digital training centers had been set up in Islamabad's colleges, offering courses in data science, artificial intelligence, and blockchain technology, all linked to the country's top universities.

Moreover, 50 digital hubs had been established in schools across rural Islamabad, while renovation work was underway at 167 school buildings in the capital.

The meeting informed that software technology parks were being developed in five model colleges in Islamabad.

Furthermore, it was announced that the 45 buses provided to schools in Islamabad, which had previously been in disrepair, had been repaired and were now being used to transport female students from rural areas to schools and colleges in Islamabad, benefiting 8,000 women. These buses are referred to as "Pink Buses."

Smart classrooms, equipped with smart boards and digital screens, have also been established in Islamabad schools. Additionally, work has begun on transitioning 100 schools in rural areas to solar energy under a public-private partnership.

In collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), courses have been launched to teach Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Japanese, and German to female students. The meeting was further informed that the construction of Daanish Schools in Islamabad, Shigar, Gilgit, and Bhimber is in the final stages. The Planning Commission has also granted the necessary approvals for Daanish Schools in Balochistan.

## Nobody allowed to disrupt SCO Conference in Islamabad: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure to welcome foreign delegations including 12 heads of the governments for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, scheduled for October 15-16.

"Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Conference in Islamabad," the minister said while talking to the media. "The announcements do not make any difference as Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure," he said while referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf which had announced to hold protest in coming days.

"It (SCO Conference) will go as planned and will elevate Pakistan's prestige and improve its image at international level," the minister remarked.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has personally reviewed the arrangements for the reception of different heads of governments arriving in Islamabad to attend the SCO conference. "This shows the importance of such a grand event in Pakistan which will be instrumental to boost the economic growth in the country," he added.

The minister said all the security arrangements have been finalized in Islamabad with the deployment of all the law enforcement agencies including Pakistan Army and Rangers.

He said all the heads of governments participating in the SCO would be accorded a warm welcome in Islamabad as the whole nation is ready to celebrate the event with national pride.

The whole Islamabad has been decorated which would eventually leave a positive impression of Pakistan in minds of the visiting delegations, he noted.

He believed that the SCO would be a great success for Pakistan and would help enhance regional cooperation with a discussion on many important topics.

## Jam Kamal condemns terrorist attack in Balochistan's Duki area

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attack that killed several miners in the Duki area of Balochistan. In a video message, he stated that only those loyal to the province's development and prosperity should work for its betterment.

Jam Kamal emphasized that another tragic event has occurred in Balochistan, specifically in a region known for its peaceful and hardworking people.

He said that the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and other banned organizations are involved in terrorist activities in the region.

Balochistan is a vast province and rich in minerals, he remarked. He encouraged the people to take charge of how to safeguard Balochistan, as everyone desires improvement in their lives. APP

## Finance Minister chairs CCoSOEs meeting



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) here Friday.

The Committee considered a proposal by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives for categorization of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund, a non-profit public owned organization working for enhanc-

ing resilience to natural disasters, as a strategic State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) under Paragraph 9 of the SOEs (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023. The Cabinet Committee reviewed the proposal and decided to declare the entity as an essential SOE, according to a press release issued by finance ministry. The Committee also considered and approved two separate proposals submitted by the Industries and Production Division for appointment on the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) as well as the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Steel Fabricating Company Limited.

## Acting President calls for promoting cooperation with UAE

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousef Raza Gilani on Friday said that Pakistan greatly valued its long-standing relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and highlighted the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in key sectors such as Information Technology, renewable energy, agriculture and tourism. The acting president expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Yousef Raza Gilani applauded the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the economic transformation of UAE and extended condolences on the sad demise of His Highness's close family members, late Sheikh Tahnoon bin Mohamed Al Nahyan and late Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan. During the meeting, the ambassador stated that bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UAE have been following an upward trajectory over the years. UAE has encouraged its companies to invest in Pakistan, particularly in the areas of communications, climate change and renewable energy. He further informed that the UAE would like to increase the number of flights to facilitate travelling and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. APP

## Saudi investors urged to invest in Pakistan's communications sector



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday urged Saudi investors to invest in Pakistan's lucrative projects, particularly in the communications sector.

The minister was briefing the Saudi Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Saudi Delegation on the second day of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Forum, said a news release.

The minister highlighted the profitable M6 and M9 motorway projects and proposed connecting Karachi Port to the existing motorway, as well as expediting the Karachi-Hyderabad-Sukkur motorway's completion.

He emphasized that the government departments in the pipeline that could provide immediate returns through privatization, said highlighted the government reforms in different department over the past six months.

He shared plans to present projects to the Saudi business community under public-private partnerships.

The minister welcomed Saudi participation and investment in various sectors.

The Saudi delegation expressed strong interest and cooperation, with Saudi Minister for Investment stating, "Our hearts beat with the people of Pakistan; this is our home. We will make this visit to Pakistan as productive as possible."

## Ahsan and Saudi Investment Minister explore strategies to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Friday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to increasing its trade volume with Saudi Arabia by collaborating with the current Saudi leadership.

During a meeting with Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Faleh, the minister highlighted that trade between the two countries stood at \$4.6 billion in 2022. He stated that the relationship between the two countries was unique and had always withstood the test of time. However, he stressed that the challenge now is to align the relationship with modern realities by enhancing trade. "Our political relationship will strengthen with robust economic cooperation," the minister asserted.

Reflecting on the beginning of Chinese cooperation in the form of CPEC projects, he recalled, "In 2013, I was entrusted with the responsibility of

launching a game-changing project with China. It started with a piece of paper, and within 3-4 years, Pakistan secured \$25 billion in investments under CPEC." Quoting the success of CPEC, the minister added that by 2017, Pakistan had reached a point where every American and European businessman was keen on joining CPEC projects. "Unfortunately, due to the poor policies of the then-new government, our policies were discontinued, weakening the economy," he remarked.

When the current government took office again, the challenge was to stabilize the economy for long-term growth. To achieve this, the government created the 5Es framework, which, according to the minister, was developed after consulting 1,000 opinion leaders and sector experts.

Discussing Pakistan's future trajectory, the minister said that the country's most pressing challenge over the next 5-7 years would be increasing exports. "Our



weakness is that, over the past 77 years, we have failed to adopt an export-led growth strategy."

He further noted that a significant challenge Pakistan faces is the capacity of low-skilled labor working in Saudi Arabia. "If the labor class returns to Pakistan, it will result in a considerable decrease in FDI," he added.

The minister suggested training Pak-

istan's workforce and upgrading their technical capabilities to retain them within the Saudi economy.

Both sides discussed areas in which bilateral trade could be increased. The minister pointed out that both countries could export meat to third-world countries, as Pakistan's agricultural products are on par with those from developed nations.

Highlighting Pakistan's position as the third-largest milk producer in the world, the minister noted that Pakistan's livestock provides an average yield of 1,800 liters, whereas the global standard is 6,000-8,000 liters. He stated that increasing agricultural productivity is a key focus for the government. "Our agricultural products can compete with those of New Zealand and Denmark if we improve our standards," he said.

Talking about Saudi Arabia's vast natural resources, the Planning Minister praised the Kingdom for effectively transforming its deserts into water-rich regions.

The minister also pointed out that a planet with 70% water should not face water scarcity. He referred to the possibility of desalination through both power generation and chemical methods. "In 2013, solar power cost 12 cents per unit; today, it is much cheaper," he noted.

The minister suggested that Saudi Arabia lead a project focused on desalination technology, with research facilitated by

China. Both sides expressed optimism about the immense potential offered by the Pakistan-Saudi-China partnership.

Highlighting Pakistan's Vision 2025, the minister said it was a three-pronged agenda that also included Vision 2035 and Vision 2047. He explained that Pakistan's goal is to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2035 and a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047, which will coincide with the country's centennial celebrations of independence. "To celebrate that milestone with positive zeal, Pakistan will greatly value the collaboration of its Saudi friends," he added.

On the occasion, the Saudi Minister announced that Saudi Arabia is working on lowering the cost of desalination, which will enable the provision of portable water to its population. He also expressed his willingness to share the Kingdom's National Transformation Plan for the next five years and extended his cooperation in making Pakistan a trillion-dollar economy. — VOM Report



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## Paradox Modi

MASOOD LOHAR

Assuming office as the chief minister of Gujarat in 2001, Narendra Modi's rise subsequently and the metamorphosis that would follow was a surprise occurrence to very few. This period saw the catalyzing of not only reformation in the state but also for the economic topography of the Indian infrastructure set up by Modi, with a focus on ports, which contributed majorly to sustaining the change and further channeling his way to the national zenith.

At the outset of the Modi administration, Gujarat's strategic location along the coast was offset by other considerations. The ports were inadequate, and infrastructure was deficient. But Modi saw beyond the present stagnation and had chalked up an extensive programme for modernizing Gujarat's ports and infrastructure to make them a world trade hub.

One of the building blocks of this strategy was the Mundra Port. The Adanis had set off Mundra as a small project which later grew up to be the largest private port in India. This was an example of what Modi wanted to do with his economic vision at large, to bring more trade and investment by creating business opportunities and using the strategically favourable position of Gujarat.

The success of the Mundra Port was not only of scale but also of impact. It contributed to the major upsurge in exports from Gujarat, which covers a wide range – from agricultural products to manufactured goods – evident from this boom in trade that catalyzed wider economic growth by making Gujarat attractive to both domestic and international investors. This led to a high pace of development in sectors like petrochemicals, textiles, and automobiles. Special Economic Zones also gave a further boost to its industrial base.

Yet Modi's term in Gujarat was also highly controversial. His governance drew intense flak for the 2002 Gujarat riots, which went massively out of control and caused large-scale loss of life. Riots, led by Hindu extremist groups, made heinous attacks on the Muslim community and were far from the ideals of secularism in India.

The period of communal violence left a big blot on Modi's legacy, with allegations of complicity and tardy response haunting him to this day. Critics have contended that such events undermined the secular values the founding fathers of India enshrined and also polarized the state, leading towards a more divisive national climate.

The continued success story of Modi's national ascension was working with this sense of relevance – he could bring together a broad base of support, stroking not only the brush of economic successes but also creating a very polarizing political narrative.

After becoming prime minister in 2014, Modi tried to implement the Gujarat growth model in India and pursue a political agenda that has raised discussions on religious identity and nationalism. National programmes, like Make in India, were a replica of the principles he implemented in Gujarat as they revolved around infrastructure development and economic reform.

Today, Gujarat can flaunt ports, a total of 42 minor ports and one major port – Kandla Port – which together handle about 40 per cent of the country's total cargo. The Mundra Port alone handles over 150 million tonnes of cargo in a year, playing a vital role in India's trade infrastructure. Billionaires such as Gautam Adani, Uday Kotak, and Pankaj Patel are byproducts of the immense wealth created due to this wave of trade and economic activity.

Recent happenings, like the overindulgent wedding of Mukesh Ambani's son, have brought to the forefront the increasing importance of Indian business leaders on the global front. Ambani also has investments in Indian ports through his subsidiary Reliance Industries.

What happened in Gujarat under Narendra Modi can be treated as the epitome of planning and infrastructure impact. The resultant growth of the state into one of the most important participants in India's economic development did succeed in bringing wealth creation on board but also raised India to the status of a principal global trading post. That said, some of the profoundly abominable parts of Modi's legacy from his tenure, specifically the communal violence in Gujarat, will forever stain his name. As India turns out to widen its coverage around the world, the lessons learned from the success and disputed matters arising from Gujarat will be interwoven into the fabric of economic policies and development strategies for any nation.

Sectarianism too challenges Pakistan, but it can learn from its neighbour's growth in trade and economy. Pakistan, despite having a strategic coastline, faces congestion and poor infrastructure at its main ports – Karachi and Port Qasim. Gwadar's development is impeded by its very location in the back of beyond and lawlessness. To take pressure off the capital and main ports, Pakistan needs to decentralize port management – like India – by developing minor, agricultural, and private ports. This would be of significant commercial interest in terms of agricultural and fish exports.

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DALIA AL-AQIDI

## Domestic concerns overshadow global crises in US election

Concerns about the economy, healthcare and other domestic matters. Despite their complexity and importance, foreign affairs remain a secondary issue for many American voters, who are more concerned with the immediate, day-to-day challenges they face at home. Though profound globally, US foreign policy's impact might be relegated to the background as voters cast their ballots, broadly prioritizing what directly affects their own lives.

Several key factors contribute to why global events, particularly those in the Middle East, wield limited influence over the US presidential election. First and foremost is the distinct set of priorities held by American voters. Domestic issues consistently overshadow international concerns. Another significant reason is the inherent complexity of foreign policy. International relations involve a web of diplomacy, military strategy, economic sanctions and cultural considerations, which makes foreign policy challenging to distill into clear, digestible talking points during a campaign.

Politicians frequently find it difficult to frame these issues in a way that resonates with voters, who may not fully grasp the nuances or the broader implications of international events. As a result, candidates often sidestep deep discussions of foreign policy, preferring to focus on more tangible domestic issues that are easier to communicate and debate.

Lastly, there is the matter of long-standing bipartisan support for Israel, which further diminishes the likelihood that recent global events will significantly sway voter opinions. Both Republicans and Democrats, despite their many differences, have historically maintained strong backing for Israel, making the conflict there less of a

divisive issue in American politics. This enduring consensus means that, while international developments involving Israel may be deeply significant on the world stage, they rarely serve as a point of contention or a substantial influence on the electorate.

There is, however, a potential challenge facing the Democratic Party in this election, one that could shake its voter base in unexpected ways. Arab American voters, historically reliable party supporters, have shown growing signs of disillusionment, signaling a shift that could erode Democratic support. Simultaneously, within the Jewish community – long considered a steadfast Democrat stronghold – concerns are rising over the party's approach to foreign policy, particularly about Israel. Although distinct in their priorities, both groups share a growing sense of dissatisfaction that could prove problematic for Democrats as they head into a crucial election.

For Arab Americans, the Biden administration's policies on Middle East conflicts, particularly regarding the Palestinians, have fallen short of their expectations. While this demographic may not be large enough to alter the national outcome drastically, its concentrated presence in key battleground states makes Arab Americans' discontent significant. Many of them feel that the current administration's efforts are insufficient and this perceived neglect could cost the party votes in areas where every ballot counts.

At the same time, Jewish voters are voicing their own frustrations, particularly regarding Washington's response to Israel's ongoing conflict with Hamas. Many in the Jewish community believe that the administration should take a firmer stance

to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza and work more decisively to end the conflict in Israel's favor. This sense of dissatisfaction threatens to undermine the party's long-held support within the Jewish electorate.

Recent polls show that Kamala Harris is struggling to maintain the support that helped President Joe Biden secure Michigan in 2020. The potential loss of this key state underscores how vital these shifting dynamics could be to the overall electoral map.

Several recent polls make one thing clear: for the average American voter, the economy and the rising cost of living remain the top priorities. These bread-and-butter issues – jobs, inflation, healthcare costs – are the concerns that resonate most with everyday people and the challenges they experience firsthand.

Kitchen table conversations across the nation are not about global conflicts or diplomatic maneuvering, but about the price of groceries, the cost of gas and how to make ends meet. This reality speaks volumes about the mindset of the American electorate.

Foreign policy, meanwhile, consistently ranks at the bottom of voters' concerns. No matter how consequential international events may be, most Americans feel they are distant and abstract compared to the tangible issues they confront daily.

Therefore, politicians who hope to capture the attention and support of the electorate must address these day-to-day concerns, for it is here – in the practical, lived experiences of the American people – that elections are won or lost.

*Dalia Al-Aqidi is executive director at the American Center for Counter Extremism.*

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

## Today in History

### Pakistan

The British conceded separate electorates in the Government of India Act of 1909 which confirmed the Muslim League's position as an All-India party. Attempt for Hindu Muslim Unity The visible trend of the two major communities progressing in opposite directions caused deep concern to leaders of All-India stature. They struggled to bring the Congress and the Muslim League on one platform.

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) was the leading figure among them. After the annulment of the partition of Bengal and the European Powers' aggressive designs against the Ottoman Empire and North Africa, the Muslims were receptive to the idea of collaboration

with the Hindus against the British rulers.

The Congress Muslim League rapprochement was achieved at the Lucknow sessions of the two parties in 1916 and a joint scheme of reforms was adopted. In the Lucknow pact. As the scheme was commonly referred to, the Congress accepted the principle of separate electorates, and the Muslims, in return for 'weight age' to the Muslims of the Muslim minority provinces, agreed to surrender their thin majorities in the Punjab and Bengal. The post Lucknow Pact period witnessed Hindu Muslim amity and the two parties came to hold their annual sessions in the same city and passed resolutions of identical contents.

The Hindu Muslim unity reached its cli-

max during the Khilafat and the Non-cooperation Movements. The Muslims, under the leadership of the Ali Brothers, Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali, launched the historic Khilafat Movement after the First World War to protect the Ottoman Empire from dismemberment. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) linked the issue of Swaraj (self-government) with the Khilafat issue to associate the Hindus with the Movement. The ensuing Movement was the first countrywide popular movement.

Although the Movement failed in achieving its objectives, it had a far-reaching impact on the Muslims of South Asia. After a long time, they took united action on a purely Islamic issue which momentarily forged solidarity among them. It also produced

a class of Muslim leaders experienced in organizing and mobilizing the public. This experience was of immense value to the Muslims later during the Pakistan Movement. The collapse of the Khilafat Movement was followed by a period of bitter Hindu Muslim antagonism. The Hindu organized two highly anti Muslim movements, the Shudhi and the Sangathan. The former movement was designed to convert Muslims to Hinduism and the latter was meant to create solidarity among the Hindus in the event of communal conflict. In retaliation, the Muslims sponsored the Tabligh and Tanzim organizations to counter the impact of the Shudhi and the Sangathan.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

### Ariana Grande set to rule acting world after successful career in music

Ariana Grande will be next seen on big screens in the movie Wicked alongside beau Ethan Slater

Ariana Grande has seemingly garnered all praise for her remarkable performance in the upcoming movie Wicked. An Insider exclusively shared with Life & Style magazine that the singer-turned-actress left her fans stunned with her appearance in the 2-minute trailer of the film. The source shared that it seemed she had delivered an outstanding performance in the upcoming movie and is ready to become the star of the film industry. Notably, alongside Ariana, the renowned actress, Cynthia Erivo, will be seen portraying the character of Elphaba in the new movie. Speaking of Ariana sharing screen with The Outsider actress, the source



shared, "Working with Cynthia, who is so unapologetically herself, has been inspiring. After being a people pleaser forever, Ariana is taking the reins." "She is more confident and comfortable in her skin than ever," added an insider.

Previously, speaking of her working experience in the forthcoming Musical-Fantasy film, Ariana told Vanity Fair that she is really proud of her work and she had put all her physical efforts into winning the audience. The Grammy Award winner remarked, "I am really proud of my hard work and of the fact that I did give 100 per cent of myself, including my physicality, to this role."

## Tech

### WhatsApp working on new 'search' feature for future update

WhatsApp is working on a feature that will protect its users from getting deceived by fake images or images that may have been altered before being shared with them.

The new feature enables users to search shared images on the web and it is designed

to help users identify potentially misleading or fake images that they receive, WABetaInfo reported. For instance, if a user receives an image that may seem altered or taken out of context, the new WhatsApp feature will enable users to search for similar images or the original version of the image on the web to verify its authenticity.

The new search feature is currently under development and will be rolled out as part of a future update of Meta's instant messaging app. However, a beta version of feature is already available for users of the WhatsApp beta for Android 2.24.21.31 update, which can be downloaded from the Google Play

Store. According to WABetaInfo, when users initiate a search for an image, it will be uploaded to Google for the search, without being shared with WhatsApp, ensuring that the messaging app itself does not store or process the image or its caption.

Users may also use this feature to verify the legitimacy of images shared in their conversations from news stories, social media posts, or memes, which might be manipulated to spread misinformation. It's important to note that the image search feature will be available for all images, regardless of how they were shared or frequently forwarded. This means users can search for more information about any image they receive, whether it was sent by a close contact or came through a forwarded message. However, the ability to search 'links' on the web will only be available for frequently forwarded messages.



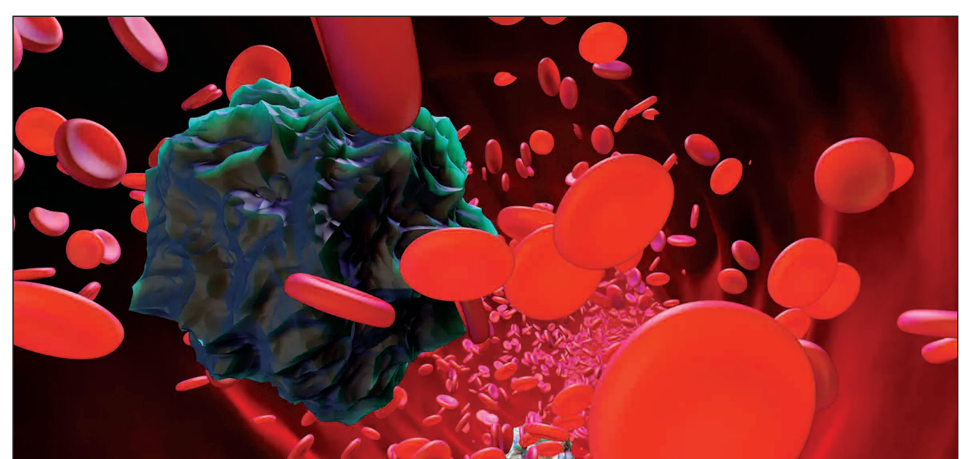
## Health

### Study Details Perinatal Risks of Blood Cancers Diagnosed in Pregnancy

Women diagnosed with hematologic cancers during pregnancy had increased risks for serious maternal morbidity and obstetric complications, according to results of a large observational study from France, though their survival outcomes were reassuring. The adjusted odds of any severe maternal morbidity during hematologic cancer-associated pregnancies was nearly 23 times higher compared with pregnancies in the general population, while the risk for preterm birth was nearly 12 times higher: Severe maternal morbidity: 26.2% vs 1.5%, respectively (OR 22.71, 95% CI 17.72-29.10). Very preterm birth: 9.8% vs 1.2% (OR 11.90, 95% CI 7.91-17.91). Preterm birth: 35.4% vs 5.4% (OR 11.76, 95% CI 9.34-14.81). However, overall survival (OS) with about 6 years of median follow-up was no different for women diagnosed with a hematologic cancer during pregnancy

and those diagnosed after a pregnancy (adjusted HR 0.91, 95% CI 0.62-1.34, P=0.63). Five-year OS rates were 91.2% and 90.3%, respectively, reported Rudy Birsens, MD, of the Cochin Hospital in Paris, and colleagues in Lancet Haematology. opens in a new tab or window. The survival data are "both important and reassuring for women and their families," Birsens and colleagues wrote. "However, hematologic malignancies during pregnancy present a complex situation, with a high risk of maternal and obstetric complications. It is therefore critical that these women receive care in highly specialised centers that are equipped with the necessary human and technical resources to manage both hematological and maternal complications." In addition to the findings on severe maternal morbidity and preterm birth, the researchers also

found women with a hematologic cancer diagnosed in pregnancy to be at significantly higher risk for intensive care unit admission (30.8% vs 0.7% for pregnancies in the general population), a delivery stay beyond 7 days (40.2% vs 9.8%), pre-eclampsia (4.3% vs 2.1%), psychiatric disorders (6.4% vs 3.2%), malnutrition (4% vs 1.1%), thrombosis (1.8% vs 0.2%), and infections (12.8% vs 8.1%). "Perhaps the most striking data to emerge from [the] study relates to preterm birth," wrote Pietro Di Ciaccio, MBBS, of Canberra Hospital, and Georgia Mills, MBBS, of the Northern Beaches Hospital, both in Australia, in a commentary accompanying the study. opens in a new tab or window. "Preterm deliveries, whether spontaneous or induced, pose considerable risks of neonatal complications, including respiratory distress, infection, and admission to neonatal intensive care units."





# شاہین ٹیٹا کی گرفت

اسلام آباد

## وفاقی پولیس کی تنخواہیں پنجاب کے برابر کر نیکا اعلان، جنجوعوں نے جتھوں کے منصوبے خاک میں ملادئے، وزیراعظم

کسی بھی خاندان کا فرد فرضی کی ادائیگی اور لاکھوں پاکستانیوں کے لیے جان نچھاور کرتا ہے تو ان کا دکھ تا قاتل بیان ہوتا ہے، میں اسلام آباد پولیس کے تمام افسران اور جوانوں کو سلام مقصدیت پیش کرتا ہوں اور آپ کی فرض شہی اور بھاری پر سلام پیش کرتا ہوں جہاں آپ انتہائی محنت اور لگن سے اپنے فرض ادا کر رہے ہیں۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ میں وزیر داخلہ سٹیج پر گیا اور لاکھوں پاکستانیوں کے لیے جان نچھاور کرتا ہے تو ان کا دکھ تا قاتل ہوتا ہے لیکن انقلابی نے فرمایا کہ شہباز شریف صاحبہا ہر شاہ تفریق سے آگے بڑھیں اور ان کے ساتھ ساتھ

اسلام آباد (ذرائع خصوصی) وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے اسلام آباد پولیس میں پیش کردہ درخواستیں منظور کرانے کے لیے جی جتھوں کے منصوبوں کو خاک میں ملادیا۔ وزیراعظم نے سول انڈسٹری اور لاکھوں پاکستانیوں کے لیے جان نچھاور کرتا ہے تو ان کا دکھ تا قاتل ہوتا ہے لیکن انقلابی نے فرمایا کہ شہباز شریف صاحبہا ہر شاہ تفریق سے آگے بڑھیں اور ان کے ساتھ ساتھ

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معاہدوں کو آئندہ دنوں میں عملی جامہ پہنانے کے، اویس لغاری

اسلام آباد (خاف رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر اسلام آباد اویس لغاری نے کہا کہ آئی جی جنجوعوں نے اسلام آباد پولیس میں ہنگامی طور پر ایک ایف آئی ایم کے ساتھ شہباز شریف کے لیے جان نچھاور کرنے کے لیے جی جتھوں کے منصوبوں کو خاک میں ملادیا۔ وزیراعظم نے سول انڈسٹری اور لاکھوں پاکستانیوں کے لیے جان نچھاور کرتا ہے تو ان کا دکھ تا قاتل ہوتا ہے لیکن انقلابی نے فرمایا کہ شہباز شریف صاحبہا ہر شاہ تفریق سے آگے بڑھیں اور ان کے ساتھ ساتھ

## آئینی ترامیم پر اتفاق رائے کب تک ہوگا کچھ نہیں کہہ سکتے، فضل الرحمٰن

اسلام آباد (خاف رپورٹر) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور ترکمانستان کے درمیان بہترین تعلقات ہیں، بہتر علاقائی روابط سے اقتصادی تعاون مضبوط بنائے گا۔

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## 1723 ارب کے اضافی ٹیکس ایمنسٹی سکیموں پر پابندی

پاکستان کی قسم کی ٹیکس چھوٹ یا مراعات نہیں دے گا، وزارت خزانہ اضافی بجٹ کے اخراجات کی منظوری پارلیمنٹ سے لے گی

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ محمد نواز شریف نے کہا کہ حکومت نے 1723 ارب روپے کے اضافی ٹیکس ایمنسٹی سکیموں پر پابندی لگا دی ہے۔

## پی ٹی آئی کی التواء کی درخواست تاخیری حربہ ہے، چیف جسٹس

ساعت سے پی ٹی آئی کے وکلاء غائب ہونے پر چیف جسٹس برہم، مزید التواء دینے سے انکار، انہیں ہڈی لائن چاہیے لیکن سپریم کورٹ ایسی کوئی ہڈی لائن نہیں دے گی، ریمارکس

اسلام آباد (پبلشر رپورٹر) چیف جسٹس قاضی فاضل عباسی نے اپنی فیصلہ میں کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی کے وکلاء کو ساعت سے غیر حاضر ہونے پر مزید التواء دینے سے انکار کر دیا اور کہا کہ تاخیری حربے استعمال کرنے پر ہمیں ہڈی لائن چاہیے لیکن سپریم کورٹ ایسی کوئی ہڈی لائن نہیں دے گی۔



اسلام آباد، پی ٹی آئی کے رہنما عرابیہ میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

## ججی میں پی ٹی آئی کی کارروائی، فتنہ الخوارج کے 3 دستگیر دہلاک

کوئٹہ (بیورو رپورٹ) بلوچستان کے ضلع گجی میں خاؤد کے علاقے دویا میں کیڑا کی پی ٹی آئی کے خلاف کارروائی ہوئی، 3 ملزمان کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔



اسلام آباد، پیر (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمان پریس کانفرنس کر رہے ہیں

## آئینی ترامیم کیلئے نمبرز پورے، حکومت تمام جماعتوں سے مشاورت کی خواہاں، بلاول بھٹو

حکومت اپنا زور لگانے کے بجائے اتفاق رائے چاہتی ہے، ہمیری کوشش ہوگی کہ تمام جماعتوں کو ساتھ ملاؤں، چیئر مین پی ٹی آئی

اسلام آباد (بیورو رپورٹ) چیئر مین پی ٹی آئی بلاول بھٹو نے کہا کہ حکومت تمام جماعتوں سے مشاورت کی خواہاں ہے۔

## خود کو جھڑے سے بھاننے کی خبریں دیکھ کر حیرانگی ہوئی، بیرسٹر سیف

پیٹور (بیورو رپورٹ) صحافی اطلاعات خیر بختو خاں بیرسٹر سیف نے کہا کہ خود کو جھڑے سے بھاننے کی خبریں دیکھ کر حیرانگی ہوئی، بطور

## دکی کوئلے کی کان پر مسلخ افراد کا حملہ، 20 افراد جاں بحق، 7 زخمی

ہرثم کی دہشت گردی کو جڑ سے اکھاڑنے کے لیے پے پے پور میں وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کی دہشت گرد گولہ کی شدید مذمت، رپورٹ طلب

کوئٹہ (بیورو رپورٹ) بلوچستان کے ضلع گجی میں خاؤد کے علاقے دویا میں کیڑا کی پی ٹی آئی کے خلاف کارروائی ہوئی، 3 ملزمان کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔

## امن کوششوں میں پی ٹی آئی سب سے آگے ہوگی، بیرسٹر گوہر

امن کوششوں میں پی ٹی آئی سب سے آگے ہوگی، بیرسٹر گوہر

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) چیئر مین پی ٹی آئی بیرسٹر گوہر نے کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی سب سے آگے ہوگی۔

## آئینی عدالت سمیت 3 ترامیم لارے ہیں، خواجہ آصف

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) وزیر دفاع خواجہ آصف نے کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی میں لارے بات سناٹ وزیراعظم ذمت سے بھی آگے چلی گئی، گنڈاپوری کابینہ کی اس کے ایجنڈے میں

## فتنہ الخوارج اور کالعدم پی ٹی ایم کا گٹھ جوڑے فتناب، کال منظر عام پر

یکال پشتون کا رڈ کے ذریعے غیر ہتھیاروں کو دروازے کی سازش کے خارجی طارق کی تانے بانے کی جوڑی نشانی ہے، دفاعی ماہرین

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) فتنہ الخوارج اور کالعدم پی ٹی ایم کا گٹھ جوڑے فتناب، کال منظر عام پر

## لیکشن کمیشن کا پبلسرکس زخموں پر مشاورت جاری رکھنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) لیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان نے پبلسرکس زخموں پر مشاورت جاری رکھنے کا فیصلہ

## آئینی ترامیم پر مشاورت، قومی اسمبلی کی خصوصی کمیٹی کا اجلاس ختم

کوشش ہے کہ اتفاق رائے پیدا کیا جائے لیکن ابھی کچھ نہیں کہہ سکتے کہ کب تک اتفاق رائے ہو جائے گا، فتنہ خوارج

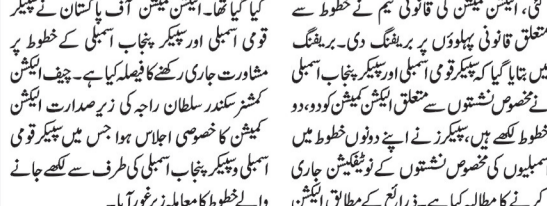
اسلام آباد (خاف رپورٹر) آئینی کمیٹی نے مشاورت کے لیے قومی اسمبلی کی خصوصی کمیٹی کا اجلاس ختم کیا۔

## اسلام آباد، چیئر مین بینٹ یوسف رضایا کیلئے عرب امارات کے سفیر ملاقات کر رہے ہیں



اسلام آباد، چیئر مین بینٹ یوسف رضایا کیلئے عرب امارات کے سفیر ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

## اسلام آباد، وزیراعظم سواتی کے سابق وزیر داخلہ



اسلام آباد، وزیراعظم سواتی کے سابق وزیر داخلہ

## آئی میں شہادت کی دعوت



آئی میں شہادت کی دعوت



## PTI's request to adjourn intra-party elections review, a delaying tactic: CJP



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Friday remarked that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s request to adjourn the review appeal regarding intra-party elections was a delaying tactic.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan adjourned the hearing until October 21 on the review petition. The CJP stated that no further adjournments would be granted.

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard PTI's review appeal regarding the intra-party elections.

Earlier, during the hearing, the Chief Justice remarked that the case had originally been scheduled for May 29, and that an adjournment request had been made by Ali Zafar until June 4.

The CJP noted that the intra-party election case had become linked to the election symbol 'bat'. He stated that he had never seen a request for adjournment based on family engagements, adding, however, that adjournments could be sought in cases of illness or a death in the family.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa described PTI's adjournment request as a delaying tactic and reiterated that the court would not grant further postponements.

The CJP emphasized that while the hearing was being adjourned, at least the truth should be presented before the court.

Justice Musarat Hilali observed that even PTI's associate lawyers had failed to appear in court, stressing that such an attitude should not be adopted before the Supreme Court.

The CJP responded that the court was adjourning the hearing in the interest of justice, not to entertain the adjournment request.

In its order regarding today's hearing, the court noted that PTI's lawyer, Hamid Khan, had requested a postponement citing family engagements. However, the lawyer had not specified the nature of these family engagements.

The court stated that PTI had filed the review petition against the judgment dated January 13. It also mentioned that if the PTI counsel had family commitments, the party could hire other lawyers to represent them.

The court pointed out that under Section-6 of the Practices and Procedure Act, a lawyer could be replaced in a review petition. It then rejected the request to postpone today's hearing but noted that the time for hearings could be adjusted in the interest of justice.

The court concluded that the next hearing would take place on October 21 and no further adjournments would be granted. APP



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, called on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. (Story on page 1)

## President Zardari for railroad connectivity with Turkiye to boost trade, economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts

Says Turkiye was on its way to becoming an economic power



ASHGABAT: In his meeting with the Speaker of Turkish Parliament, President Asif Ali Zardari has highlighted the need to improve railroad connectivity between Pakistan and Turkiye to boost trade and economic cooperation as well as people-

to-people contacts. He called for further improving bilateral ties and exchanges of delegations to bring the two brotherly countries further closer. President Asif Ali Zardari and the Speaker of Turkiye's Parliament, Numan Kurtul-

mus, held a meeting in Ashgabat on the sidelines of the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development", on Friday. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, were also present during the meeting. During the meeting, the President said that Turkiye was a great and sincere friend of Pakistan and the Muslim World and had been taking principled positions on the issues faced by the Muslim Ummah as well as raising its voice against injustice.

The meeting expressed concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Palestine and Lebanon where Israel was killing innocent people. It was emphasized that the Muslim World needed to make sincere and serious efforts to address the challenges being faced by the Ummah. The President said that Turkiye was on its way to becoming an economic power and expressed his best wishes for the success and prosperity of Turkiye. SABAH

## Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib take over as Commander Karachi, Commander Pakistan fleet



KARACHI: Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi took over as Commander Karachi and Rear Admiral Abdul Munib assumed the Command of Commander Pakistan Fleet during Change of Command ceremonies held here on Friday.

Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi handed over the command of PN Fleet to Rear Admiral Abdul Munib and Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem handed over the command of Commander Karachi to Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, a news release said. Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib take over as Commander Karachi, Commander Pakistan fleet

Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College (Lahore), Naval Command College (USA), and National Defence University (Islamabad). The Admiral has an illustrious naval career comprising vast experience in various Command and Staff appointments. His key appointments include Deputy Chief Of Naval Staff Operations, Director General Naval Intelligence, and Commander Pakistan Fleet. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Admiral was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Rear Admiral Abdul Munib is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College (Lahore), Naval Command College (USA), and National Defence University (Islamabad). The Admiral has an illustrious naval career comprising vast experience in various Command and Staff appointments. His key appointments include Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Operations, Director General C4I, and Director General Naval Intelligence. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Admiral was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

## JUI-F Chief, Bilawal discuss proposed constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on Friday for discussions on proposed constitutional amendments.

During the meeting, both leaders held consultations on the suggested changes to the constitution, reflecting a significant move towards collaboration between the two major political forces, said a news statement. The JUI delegation included spokesperson Aslam Ghauri and JUI FATA chief Maulana Jamaluddin, while the PPP delegation was comprised of senior members Naved Qamar, Murtaza Wahab, and Jamil Soomro. APP

## Constitution ensures supremacy of law in modern democracies: Mashhood



DUSHANBE: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday highlighted the critical role of the Constitutions in safeguarding society, promoting justice, and ensuring the supremacy of the law in modern democracies. Addressing the International Parliamentary Conference and the 30th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, Rana Mashhood emphasized that the Constitution is the cornerstone of any nation, providing a framework that guarantees fundamental rights, justice, and equality for all citizens.

During his speech, he stressed the importance of upholding the supremacy of the Constitution, particularly in protecting vulnerable communities and ensuring that national laws remain the highest authority.

"Constitutions are the bedrock of democratic societies. They protect the rights of individuals, ensure equality, and provide a clear legal structure that strengthens the rule of law. It is the responsibility of each parliamentarian to ensure that the constitution is upheld and to advocate for the rights of the oppressed wherever they may be," said Rana Mashhood.

He also underscored the collective responsibility of parliamentarians to raise their voices against the ongoing atrocities faced by the people of Gaza and Indian-occupied Kashmir. The Chairman PMYP called on the international community to pay greater attention to the human rights violations in both regions and demanded that action be taken to protect innocent lives and restore peace.

"We must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of people in Gaza and Kashmir. It is our moral duty, as custodians of justice, to stand in solidarity with those who face oppression and to use our platforms to raise awareness and demand accountability," Rana Mashhood stated.

Additionally, he reiterated the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Tajikistan, noting that both nations share deep-rooted cultural, historical, and political bonds. He praised the ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various sectors, including trade, security, and regional stability.

"The relationship between Pakistan and Tajikistan is built on mutual respect and common goals. As we commemorate this milestone in Tajikistan's constitutional journey, we also reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries," he remarked.

Rana Mashhood also acknowledged the significance of the event in promoting global dialogue on the importance of democratic governance, the rule of law, and human rights. He expressed hope that such international forums will continue to foster cooperation, understanding, and a shared commitment to peace and justice across the world.

## PPP draft includes establishment of Constitutional Court: Bilawal



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Friday said that the proposed draft of constitutional amendments presented by his party included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and amendments to Articles 175 A, B, D, E, and F.

Speaking to the media in his chamber at Parliament House, he said that the government has given time to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms.

Bilawal said that while the PPP's final document has been released, the draft from Maulana Fazlur Rahman has not yet been formally received.

He also mentioned that the PPP's draft has been with Kamran Murtaza for over a week.

"If the government has a two-thirds of majority and still seeks consensus, it is commendable," he said. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that the government intends to work within the framework of the constitution and the law, noting that the PPP has always pursued constitutional amendments through consensus. "The PML-N has the right to amend the constitution in line with the Charter of Democracy," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the government, Bilawal said, "I appreciate their willingness to insist on consensus among all political parties. However, if consensus cannot be reached, how long will the government wait?" He reiterated that only the PPP's full draft has been released, and the JUI's draft is still pending. APP

## Ancient banyan tree saved, relocated to Jallo Forest Park

LAHORE: Ancient banyan tree was saved and relocated to Jallo Forest Park on CM Punjab Orders.

In compliance with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a 100-year-old banyan tree has been saved from being cut down and relocated to Jallo Forest Park. As part of the "Plant for Pakistan" initiative, the remnants of the tree have been used to establish a one-acre forest within Jallo Forest, Lahore. The tree was originally located at the Educational Complex in Township, Lahore.

Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb, in her statement, emphasized the importance of protecting and restoring trees, urging the public to make tree conservation a habit and instill the same values in their children.

"Trees breathe, serve as habitats for countless animals, and are an essential part of the ecosystem," she stated. She further added that the Chief Minister has specifically instructed that no trees should be cut down for developmental projects.

## Women's socio-economic empowerment, access to WASH facilities interlinked: Romina Khurshid

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday said that women's socio-economic empowerment and tackling hygiene issues are closely interconnected. Because, improving access to hygiene and sanitation facilities directly impacts women's health, dignity, and access to equal economic opportunities for them.

Addressing a high-level hygiene kits distribution event under the 'She Power' initiative, the PM's climate aide Ms Alam said that access to adequate and safe [menstrual] hygiene and sanitation facilities for girls and women has remained mostly a neglected area in the country, especially in rural and low-resource settings of Balochistan province.

"By addressing hygiene challenges in ways that directly improve women's access to education, work, and leadership opportunities, we not only promote women's empowerment but also foster healthier, more equitable communities," she stressed.

The 'She Power' initiative was recently launched in different far-flung



parts of Balochistan including recently in Quetta by the non-governmental organization Asian Synergies in support of the climate change and environmental coordination ministry and the Chinese government. It aims to improve the health and quality of life of the province's young women with a focus on health, hygiene, and education. It reflects the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, aiming to improve socio-economic conditions in the region.

Rumina Khurshid Alam said that given the successful outcome of the initiative in the shape of enhanced awareness of good hygiene practices, particularly managing their menstrual

hygiene safely, all efforts would be made to coordinate with other provincial governments to implement the 'She Power' initiative in girls schools. The initiative was launched last month in Balochistan's remote districts of Gwadar, Lasbella and Quetta city with the distribution of over 20,000 hygiene kits among schoolgirls of government schools.

The kits contain essential hygiene products including sanitary pads, soap, hand sanitizers, and educational materials on hygiene practices, aimed at promoting better health practices among young girls in the province.

The PM's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid hoped that the landmark initiative would help reduce the school dropout ratio among schoolgirls, and enhance their school performance and their overall health by ensuring that they can manage their menstrual health with dignity. She also highlighted that local health workers and community leaders had been also engaged in promoting this initiative, ensuring that the messages resonate within cultural contexts. This grassroots approach will hopefully help overcome barriers related to stigma and misinformation

surrounding menstrual health. Addressing the participants of the event, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Sanina Mumtaz Zehri termed the initiative a game-changer step as it promotes open discussions amongst school girls in Balochistan about their menstruation and hygiene.

The initiative has helped reduce the stigma associated with menstrual health. This cultural shift will encourage girls to feel more comfortable attending school during their menstrual cycles, she added.

Ms Zehri highlighted that lack of access to sanitary products, clean water, washing soaps, and safe spaces to manage hygiene and sanitation needs has always led to social stigma, and health complications, often keeping women out of school and the workforce.

Ms Zehri said, "Women, mainly in rural settings, of the Balochistan province, often bear the burden of fetching water and their inadequate access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities only aggravate the risk of illness, which affects not just their health but also their ability to work and participate fully in life."

## Islamabad Traffic Police issues Diversion Plan for SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have announced a comprehensive traffic diversion plan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, scheduled for October 14, 15, and 16, 2024.

Over 1,100 traffic officers will be deployed across the city to manage traffic flow. Citizens are advised to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience caused by road closures and diversions due to high profile movement.

According to the ITP spokesperson, traffic traveling from Peshawar to Rawat via GT Road will be diverted through Taxila, Motorway, Chakri Interchange, Chak Beli Road, and Rawat. Drivers are urged to follow these routes to avoid the blocked roads during the summit.

Vehicles traveling from Lahore to Peshawar via GT Road will be redirected to Rawat, Chak Beli Road, Chakri Interchange, Motorway, and Taxila. The ICT Police have advised motorists to use these alternatives to ensure smooth travel.

Traffic coming from Margalla Road heading towards Rawalpindi will be diverted to 9th

Avenue. Additionally, traffic from Faisal Avenue to Zero Point will also be redirected to 9th Avenue, ensuring a clear route for other vehicles. For those commuting from Bhara Kahu to Rawalpindi, the police have recommended using Korang Road, Bani Gala, and Lehtrar Road as alternative routes. These roads will provide easier access for vehicles traveling during the summit. Islamabad Traffic Police issues Diversion Plan for SCO Summit Traffic coming from Rawalpindi to Islamabad will be redirected to 9th Avenue via Saddar and Murree Road. Motorists should use these alternative roads to avoid congestion on the usual routes. Moreover, traffic between Zero Point and Koral Chowk on the Expressway will be completely closed. Citizens can use the service road as an alternative route to bypass this closure. For those traveling from Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed Road to Faizabad, the police have instructed to use 9th Avenue from the Stadium Road signal, providing an accessible route during the event. APP