



Govt of Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering support for Türkiye's efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism

Foreign Office Spokesperson
Muntaz Zahra

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Ishaq Dar chairs an online meeting from Samoa to review the ongoing privatization process



SAMOA/ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who is currently in Samoa for the CHOGM, on Wednesday chaired an online meeting to review the ongoing privatization process.

Ministers of Privatization, Aviation, Secretaries of Privatisation Division & Commission, Law, Aviation were in attendance. SABAH

President Zardari, PM strongly condemn Ankara terrorist attack



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Ankara, which resulted in tragic loss of lives.

The president extended his deepest condolences and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Türkiye during this hour of grief, President Secretariat Press Wing said in press release.

The president said that Pakistan stood in full solidarity with the Turkish brothers and sisters in this difficult time. "We extend our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in this cowardly attack, and we pray for the swift recovery of the injured," he added.

The president said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was a global menace and Pakistan, having endured the scourge of terrorism, understood the pain and suffering caused by such brutal acts.

He emphasized that terrorists were enemies of peace and humanity, reiterating the need for united efforts by the international community to eradicate the scourge of terrorism and ensure a secure future for all nations.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deep shock and sadness over a terrorist attack in Ankara.

Awais Leghari meets Administrator of Chinese National Energy Administration



QINGDAO: On the sidelines of the 3rd Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference, Federal Minister of Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari held a meeting with Administrator of the Chinese National Energy Administration (NEA) Mr Zhang Jianhua here on Wednesday. The Minister conveyed heartfelt felicitations on the successful holding of the Conference, said a press release.

Emphasizing the important role of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership (BREP) as a global catalyst for energy cooperation, security, and

sustainable development, he underlined that the BREP is not only a testament to China's effective diplomacy but also a beacon of its global leadership in energy security.

During the meeting, Awais Leghari recalled the historic visit of premier Li Qiang to Pakistan, during which both sides expressed their strong resolve of working together for the development of an "upgraded version" of CPEC.

The Minister expressed his deep appreciation to the NEA for its continued cooperation to address our energy shortages in Pakistan, at a time when the country was facing worst power outages in its history.

He recalled that since 2013, both sides have commissioned 15 energy projects that have added more than 8,000 MW of electricity to our national grid.

With the launch of second phase of CPEC, both the leaders expressed their strong desire to deepen and strengthen their energy cooperation, including modernization of power transmission and distribution infrastructure in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony held in honour of students of Palestine who recently arrived in Pakistan to complete their medical education.

PM welcomes Palestinian students to their 'second home'; laments int'l community's silence on genocide

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, while lamenting the silence of the international community to halt genocide in Gaza, assured the Palestinian students of every possible facility and quality education in their 'second home' Pakistan.

Addressing a batch of Palestinian students from the war-torn Gaza, the prime minister said that a batch of 'shining and outstanding students', have now arrived in their second home.

He said the ongoing massacre of Palestinians was known to the entire world. "It is heart-wrenching to watch brutalities and atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces on daily basis. They have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians while thousands had been maimed and injured," he added.

The prime minister said that cities after cities had been demolished, buildings razed to the ground and the international community had yet to act, and regretted, "Speeches, resolutions and commitments are still to see the light of the day. Whether these were UNSC resolutions or ICJA verdict at the Hague, nothing has helped in bringing ceasefire in Gaza where the world had not seen this kind of carnage in the contemporary history."

The prime minister recalled that during his participation in the United Nations General

Assembly session, they heard speeches after speeches of the world leaders about the plight of the Palestinians and as to how Israeli forces had been committing genocide in this part of the world, but the blood continued to spill on the streets of Gaza, hospitals were smashed, schools bombard and the world was mere a spectator.

The prime minister referred to the international community's interference to bring about peace in different parts of the world including Sudan and Bosnia.

In Bosnia, he said, cries were finally heard after a large number of Muslim population was martyred there. The mass graves were unearthed and finally, the global community came to realization, he added.

Prime Minister Sharif regretted the double standards in this world where the powerful and mighty remained untamed. He said the hope of the Palestinian people gave inspiration to the entire world who were facing challenges and where every family was suffering. The prime minister also referred to a recent footage of two minor Palestinian sisters struggling together and said it had touched every heart but not touched those who matter to take decision and save the people of Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon.

The prime minister further shared his sincere sympathies with the people of Palestine, on behalf of himself, the government and the people of Pakistan. He said that the government of Pakistan would take all possible mea-

sures to extend all kind of facilities to the students during their stay.

The prime minister said that it was not just a gathering of the students but of a family. He also thanked all the stakeholders under Gaza Health Outreach programme including Al Khidmat Foundation.

The prime minister said that they would welcome other Palestinian students on their soil and in this regard, he had already issued directives to the relevant authorities. He reassured that the cost of their education would be borne by the government.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, PM's Coordination on Health Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath said that a total of 145 students had arrived Pakistan from Gaza who were admitted to various medical and dental facilities in Islamabad and Lahore. They were being facilitated to get quality education, he added.

President Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Dr Rizwan Taj said that after receiving directive from the prime minister on July 10, they made arrangements in collaboration with all the stakeholders to facilitate Palestinian students to get quality education in Pakistan. A total of 24 students were enrolled in Lahore and the rest 121 in Islamabad who were now getting medical education, he added.

He informed that the medical institutions were not charging any kind of fee from them, adding that those universities that had offered free training deserved appreciation.

Pakistan commends Türkiye's cooperation in enhancing cooperation in fields of trade & other sectors: Mohsin Naqvi

Mohsin Naqvi & Turkish National Defense Minister Yasar Guler reaffirm the commitment to explore new ways to enhance mutual cooperation



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has met with Turkish National Defense Minister Yasar Guler in Istanbul on Wednesday.

Turkish Defense Minister Yasar Guler thanked Federal Minister Mohsin Naqvi for participating in the Istanbul International SAHA Expo. On the occasion, Interior Minister invited Turkish National Defense Minister Yasar Guler to attend the Pakistan's Ideas Expo. During the meeting, mutual interests, Pakistan-Türkiye relations, and cooperation in various sectors were discussed in detail. Moreover, it was mutually emphasized to enhance cooperation and bilateral trade between Pakistan and Turkey. Both ministers praised the current momentum of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Both sides also reaffirmed the commitment to explore new ways to enhance mutual cooperation. Pakistan's meat exports to Turkey was also discussed and Türkiye offered full cooperation in this regard.

Mohsin Naqvi welcomed Türkiye's offer regarding importing meat from Pakistan. He added that Pakistan commended Türkiye's cooperation in enhancing cooperation in fields of trade and other sectors. He underscored that bilateral visits are essential for strengthening bilateral cooperation. SABAH

Amendment approved with broad consensus

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Malik, said on Wednesday that the 26th constitutional amendment was approved after a broad consensus of all the major stakeholders.

Talking to a private news channel, he stated that all stakeholders provided their recommendations, and the amendment was unanimously passed by a two-thirds majority in both houses. He criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for politicizing the amendment without any valid reason. "A full democratic process was followed to introduce this amendment. Initially, there were objections from various parties, including Maulana, but these concerns were addressed through dialogue," he added. DNA

President appoints Justice Yahya Afridi as next Chief Justice of Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday appointed Justice Yahya Afridi, a Supreme Court judge, as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The president made the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi for a period of three years with effect from October 26, 2024, according to a President House press release.

The appointment was made in exercise of the powers conferred under Articles 175 A (3), 177 and 179 of the constitution.

President Zardari also approved October 26 as the date for administering the oath of office to Justice Yahya Afridi as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

NA Speaker takes notice of delay in cancer treatment project worth Rs2 bln

ISLAMABAD: Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday took serious notice of delay in the free cancer treatment project to be developed with the assistance of an international company extending Rs 2 billion funding.

The Speaker was expressing his views during the question hour session underway amid seventh meeting of the 10th National Assembly session that commenced four minutes late against its scheduled time of 1100 hours here after observing the response on a query of Member National Assembly (MNA), Syed Rafiullah.

Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the project was intended to provide lifesaving treatment for cancer patients which should not be halted for the next budget but rather it should be taken up on priority basis to manage the funding from other sources with a proper solution.

He vowed to personally request the Secretary Planning Division and the Minister for Planning to manage funding for the project. The Speaker

directed the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning to seek a proper response from the Health Ministry in writing on delay in the project. The Health Ministry should be held accountable on the matter as this project was crucial importance that can help save human lives, he added. Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Development, Wajiha Qamar informed the House that the project was highly significant and it was for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

"Rs2 billion will be contributed by Rosch and Rs 789 million by the federal government for lungs cancer, breast cancer and hepatocellular cancer," she said.

Qamar underlined that the fulfillment of the codal formalities was important to ensure transparency. However, the PC-I for this project had reached Planning Commission on September 18, 2024 and as per PFM rules it was not to be added in that PSDP as its duration was lapsing in March, 2025.

Pakistan developing 'Climate Prosperity Plan', seeks expansion of grant opportunities, concessional financing

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, said in Washington that Pakistan is in the process of developing its Climate Prosperity Plan and urged Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to expand grant opportunities and concessional financing windows.

The minister was participating in the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) Ministerial Dialogue on the theme "Realizing Climate Prosperity through Financial Reform, Debt Solutions, and Affordable Capital."

The minister emphasized the need to reform global finance to "make debt work for the climate," according to press release issued by finance ministry here Wednesday.

He also endorsed the official recognition of the V20 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as an official intergovernmental group. Aurangzeb is leading the Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and

IMF, being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024. Other delegates include Finance Secretary, Imdad Ullah Bosal; Secretary Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad.

Meanwhile, the minister on the sidelines of annual meetings, met with a delegation from Citibank led by Jay Collins, Vice Chair of Public Sector.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister briefed the delegation on Pakistan's economic stabilization and the ongoing reforms in the areas of taxation, energy, SOEs, pensions, and government right-sizing.

He also outlined the long-term "Road-to-Market" strategy, stating that tapping into international capital markets would be on the government's agenda in due course.

The minister also attended the G-24 Ministers and Governors Meeting and urged all development partners to work closely together to resolve the pressing

issues of climate change, population growth and child stunting faced by developing countries especially Pakistan.

In his statement on becoming the Sec-

Woods institutions.

Aurangzeb also had meeting with Makhtar Diop, Managing Director International Finance Corporation (IFC). Issues relating to expedited evaluation



ond Vice Chair of G-24 Bureau during the fiscal year 2024-25, Finance Minister emphasized the need to address issues including high debt burdens on developing countries, need for climate action and greater representation of developing countries in the Bretton

of bids for Islamabad airport, Diversified Payment Rights (DPR), raising local currency through offshore bond issuance, privatization of DISCOs and HBFC came under discussion. He thanked IFC for its advisory and financial support to Pakistan and

requested the Managing Director to deploy innovative financing models and support private investments in agribusiness, healthcare, water, transportation and digital infrastructure in Pakistan.

He outlined the government priorities of modernizing electricity transmission and distribution networks, which could benefit from enhanced IFC support and technical assistance.

He also appreciated IFC's continued assistance to Pakistan, including in PIAs privatization which the government expected to finalize by the end of the year. He extended the invitation to Diop to visit Pakistan. Aurangzeb also met with his Saudi counterpart, Mohammed Aljadaan and the two ministers resolved to further deepen mutually beneficial economic ties, enhance bilateral trade, and facilitate investments in key sectors. The Saudi Minister shared his experience of reforms in the energy sector. Both sides agreed to advance cooperation in areas

of mutual interest.

Finance Minister had a fireside chat with Director Middle East and Central Asia Department (MCD), IMF, Jihad Azour in the forum "Governor Talks- Pakistan From Stabilization to Sustainable Growth via Structural Reforms."

He highlighted policy actions taken by the government to regain economic stability, increase tax revenues, make taxation in Pakistan fairer and more efficient and tackle deep-seated structural distortions to move the country from stabilization to growth.

Likewise, Finance Minister held a meeting with Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister, Mehmet Simsek and stated that there existed great potential to enhance the current volume of bilateral trade.

Finance Minister said that Pakistan could learn from Türkiye's experience of power sector reforms and invited Turkish firms to enter into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts. APP

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



Atta-ur-Rahman

Emerging technologies for innovation

is required to spend 500 working hours in industry and the students and faculty have already won many national and international awards for their entrepreneurial activities, although the university is only four years old.

For example the 'Sabzland Initiative' was awarded the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2023 by the BRICS and SCO Young Leaders in Kazan Russia. Edversity was ranked as the top EdTech Startup of 2023, and presented this prestigious Award by the President of Pakistan. Ecozindagi won the Prime Ministers National Innovation Award 2023 with a grant of Rs5 million. In its four-year existence, Pak-Austria Fachhochschule is blazing a historic trail for other universities to follow.

A major emphasis of Pak-Austria Fachhochschule is on developing a world class research center on artificial intelligence with support of over a billion rupees for the Ministry of IT and Telecommunications. Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning have already transformed industries globally, and Pakistan stands to benefit significantly from their application. AI-driven solutions can revolutionize the country's education system, addressing gaps in rural and underdeveloped areas.

The example of Google highlights the immense impact of AI technologies on both economic growth and technological innovation. Google's AI-powered tools, including Google Assistant and DeepMind, have redefined industries and created significant economic opportunities in the United States. In the agriculture sector, AI-powered precision farming presents opportunities for Pakistan to improve productivity and food security. By providing farmers with real-time data on soil health, weather patterns, and pest control, AI can optimize farming practices, increase crop yields, and minimize waste.

Besides artificial intelligence, other emerging technologies in the field of information technology such as robotics, and in other fields such as biotechnology, and advanced agriculture, present transformative oppor-

tunities that could redefine Pakistan's future. The first IT policy was formulated under my supervision when I was the federal minister of science and technology during 2001. It had a huge transformative impact on the IT and telecom sector.

Pakistan can now build on it by investing in 5G and 6G telecommunications. The introduction of 5G and 6G can bring high-speed, low-latency connectivity that enables new applications such as smart cities, advanced agricultural systems, and improved internet access.

By expanding 5G/6G infrastructure, Pakistan can bridge the digital divide, particularly in rural areas, and empower millions of young people to participate in the global digital economy. Companies like Huawei in China and Ericsson in Sweden have demonstrated the transformative potential of 5G technology, enabling the development of smart cities and creating new economic opportunities.

By following their example, Pakistan can modernise its infrastructure, improve service delivery, and enhance the lives of its citizens. Pakistan's wealth of natural resources, including coal, copper, gold, and rare earth minerals, presents significant opportunities for economic development. By integrating AI, robotics, and blockchain into mineral extraction and processing, Pakistan can enhance the efficiency of its mining sector, reduce environmental impact, and ensure transparency in supply chains.

Therefore the Pak Austrian Fachhochschule is in the process of establishing a Centre of Excellence in the field of mineral extraction and processing in close collaboration with the Chinese University of Minerals and Mining so that we do not dispose of our precious mineral resources to foreign buyers at dirt-level prices. The example of Rio Tinto, a global leader in mineral extraction that has used AI and automation to improve productivity, provides a valuable lesson for Pakistan.

Biotechnology and advanced agriculture are two other fields where emerging technologies can have a

profound impact on Pakistan's economy. Advances in biotechnology, such as genetic engineering and precision medicine, can improve healthcare outcomes and address food security.

By developing genetically modified crops that are more resilient to pests and climate changes, Pakistan can boost its agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable food supplies. I had established the Jamil-ur-Rahman Centre for Genomics Research within the University of Karachi from a personal donation in the name of my father that can serve as an ideal platform for such initiatives.

For Pakistan to fully realise the potential of these emerging technologies, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is essential. Encouraging the development of tech startups, creating technology parks, and supporting public-private partnerships will be crucial to building the infrastructure needed for innovation to thrive.

In Africa, Naspers has played a significant role in fostering innovation through investments in startups across various sectors, driving economic growth in countries like Nigeria and Kenya. Pakistan can take inspiration from such models by supporting its young entrepreneurs, particularly in fields like fintech, health tech, and agricultural technology, where local solutions can address pressing challenges.

The answer to our woes lies in quality education, science, technology and innovation. To embark on this path we need an honest, competent and efficient technocrat system of government that can change tracks and launch Pakistan on a technology-driven knowledge economy. This must be backed by a strong and independent judicial system that can root out mega corruption through capital punishment.

The writer is a former federal minister, Unesco science laureate and founding chairperson of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). He can be reached at: ibne_sina@hotmail.com

How Harris and Trump compare on space policy

DR. AMAL MUDALLALI

Two historic space events took place last week: SpaceX made history by successfully catching its returning Starship booster and NASA launched its Europa Clipper, the first mission to Jupiter's moon Europa, where it will look for signs of life. However, space policy has been missing from the policy debates in the 2024 presidential election. It has been a remarkable year for space, with the entry of the private sector to space exploration and robust growth in the space economy. But there has been silence on the campaign trail about these developments. A tweet from NASA administrator Bill Nelson and an article he wrote for Newsweek are the only signs that the Biden administration is paying attention. Aside from Nelson's announcement of the launch of Europa Clipper, there was no statement from the Harris campaign, but J.D. Vance, Donald Trump's vice-presidential candidate, tweeted about it. The only reminder of space in the last two weeks has been Elon Musk's campaigning for Trump. This silence leaves space exploration advocates and the sector speculating about how each candidate plans to handle the issue if elected. Will space exploration, space security and the space economy be high on their agenda? Space is becoming an integral part of defense and security planning for many powers around the world, as it is designated by a number of countries as a war-fighting domain. It is also an arena for competition over access and resources. Hence, space will inevitably be a pressing concern in any US presidential administration.

Great and emerging power competition in space has ramped up due to the increasing number of powers going to space and landing on the moon, advancements in launch capabilities, the plummeting cost of launches and the growth of the space economy, which was valued at \$570 billion in 2023 by the Space Foundation. For the US, China's rapid rise has been the primary challenge. The two candidates for the Nov. 5 election both have a space background. Vice President Kamala Harris is the head of the National Space Council and former President Trump had a vigorous space record during his first term.

The space policy community emphasizes that space is a bipartisan issue. Both parties have committed to maintaining American superiority in space and addressing the growing threat posed by China. Despite this, space has rarely played a significant role in US elections or been high on the voters' agenda, even though public support for space exploration is strong. The Republican Party platform offers a bullish agenda for space, promising a robust space economy, exploration and emphasizing partnerships. It promises a "manufacturing industry in Near Earth Orbit, sending American astronauts back to the moon, and onward to Mars, and enhancing partnerships" with the commercial space sector. The Democratic platform focuses on supporting NASA and multilateral efforts, including the American presence on the International Space Station, and sending Americans back to the moon and to Mars. At the Democratic National Convention, Harris vowed to ensure that America leads "the world into the future on space and artificial intelligence," outpacing China.

Republicans and Democrats differ on space priorities. One space expert who spoke on condition of anonymity told me that "the sense that Democrats are for Mars and the Republicans are for the moon is true." He explained that Republicans "tend to prioritize human space flight and moon exploration as a prestige project, while Democrats focus on Mars and environmental issues." There is more certainty on continuity in space policy during this election compared to 2020, when people were unsure "if President Biden would keep the Artemis program," said Justin Park, a space industry entrepreneur. But to everybody's relief Biden kept the program intact, especially Artemis. Each candidate is hailed by a different constituency. Nelson recently described Harris as a "space aficionado." Some space luminaries, including former astronauts, established the "Space Cadets for Harris" group under the banner "To boldly go where no woman has gone before." However, others have criticized her limited engagement in the issue as head of the National Space Council. One space expert noted that the council now has a diminished role, with the National Security Council and the Office of Science and Technology Policy filling the gap. He said they "sat at the status quo and held few meetings." This sentiment has been echoed in media reports, with Defense One quoting an anonymous industry executive as claiming that the National Security Council and not the National Space Council was setting military space policy. The Biden-Harris administration has prioritized multilateral work on space, grown the Artemis program and spearheaded a UN resolution for a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons testing.

Internationally, Harris is viewed positively by Europeans on key space issues. European diplomats I have spoken with expect her to "prioritize clear legal norms, promote stability and foster global partnerships." Trump, on the other hand, has a standout space record from his first term, including reinvigorating the National Space Council, establishing the Space Force and, most importantly, creating the Artemis program. With his close ties to Musk, some predict that a second Trump term would see a stronger push toward Mars, with significant influence from the SpaceX boss regarding future American space policy and goals. At the UN, the international community is concerned that former President Trump might scale down, if not abandon, any collaboration on space, although his team was positively engaged in negotiations in all UN space processes.

Dr. Amal Mudallali is a visiting research scholar at Princeton University and former Lebanese ambassador to the UN.

With a population of over 240 million, more than 60 per cent of which is under the age of 30, Pakistan is at a crucial moment in its developmental journey.

The universities have a key role to play in the process of socio-economic development. This was not possible two decades ago because the faculty in universities was weak but the enormous progress in the research landscape of Pakistan over the last two decades, largely due to the programmes initiated by us, has now placed the universities in a position where they can change gears and start focusing their efforts on promoting innovations and entrepreneurship.

A wonderful new entrepreneurial university has been established in Pakistan recently under my stewardship that can serve as an excellent model to follow. This is the Pak Austrian Fachhochschule in Haripur Hazara. It has 13 foreign universities collaborating, four from Austria, one from Germany, one from the United Kingdom and seven from China. Its primary focus is on promoting entrepreneurship with special emphasis on the new and emerging technologies.

The university started functioning about four years ago and presently has about 3700 students in it. The strong emphasis on cultivating innovation and entrepreneurship led to the establishment of the PAF-IAST Technology Park and a Business Incubation Center (BIC). The Incubation Center has already nurtured 18 startups with support provided through mentorship and boot camps designed to foster business development. The startups have collectively generated a total of Rs148 million through grants, awards, and revenue. The emphasis on entrepreneurship was enhanced through practical bootcamps, as the Institute seeks to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset at all academic levels. Every student

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



Pakistan, populous multiethnic country of South Asia. Having a predominately Indo-Iranian speaking population, Pakistan has historically and culturally been associated with its neighbours Iran, Afghanistan, and India. Since Pakistan and India achieved independence from British rule on August 14-15, 1947, celebrated as Independence Day, Pakistan has been distinguished from its

larger southeastern neighbour by its overwhelmingly Muslim population (as opposed to the predominance of Hindus in India). Pakistan has struggled throughout its existence to attain political stability and sustained social development. Its capital is Islamabad, in the foothills of the Himalayas in the northern part of the country, and its largest city is Karachi, in the south on the coast of the Arabian Sea.

Pakistan was brought into being at the time of the partition of British India, in response to the demands of Islamic nationalists: as articulated by the All India Muslim League under the leadership of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, India's Muslims would receive just representation only in their own country. From independence until 1971, Pakistan (both de facto and in law) consisted of two regions—West Pakistan, in the Indus River basin in

the northwestern portion of the Indian subcontinent, and East Pakistan, located more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to the east in the vast delta of the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system. In response to grave internal political problems that erupted in civil war in 1971, East Pakistan was proclaimed the independent country of Bangladesh.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Tom Hardy reveals which version of Spider-Man he'd want to fight

Tom Hardy names one celebrity who recently played Spider-Man

Tom Hardy has recently revealed which version of Spider-Man he'd want to fight.

In a new interview with Comic-Book.com at New York Comic-Con, Hardy shared he's going to end his tenure as Venom in *Venom: The Last Dance*. "I want to fight Spider-Man. I want to fight Spider-Man right now. I'm well up for it... Never say never," said the 47-year-old.

Hardy stated, "Tom Holland, without a shadow of a doubt." In *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, Hardy appeared in mid-credits scene set in the MCU, while Holland briefly appeared in a post-credits scene in *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*.



A few critics and journalists had reportedly attended preview screenings of the movie, sharing their reactions on X, formerly known as Twitter. "*Venom: The Last Dance* takes you on a wild and exhilarating journey from start to finish," wrote Screen Rant's Joseph Deckelmeier. "It's a fun popcorn movie that reminds me of the early 2000's comic book movies," he remarked. Deckelmeier added, "The action is great and is a tribute to action films from the 80's. There's a ton of funny moments. Are there plot holes and some issues with the story? Yes. [Is] it fun? Also, yes." Meanwhile, *Venom: The Last Dance* will release in theatres on October 25.

WhatsApp introduces new feature for hassle-free contact management

WhatsApp has introduced a new privacy feature that offers users enhanced control over contact management across multiple devices, by allowing them to choose whether to store their contacts within the app or sync them with their phone's address book.

This feature, which is easily accessible by navigating to WhatsApp Settings > Privacy > Contacts > WhatsApp Contacts, also enables to add and edit contacts seamlessly across their linked devices, WABetaInfo reported.

The new feature has introduced a new toggle labeled "Sync contact to phone" that appears when users add a new contact. It lets users decide whether to sync a particular contact to their phone or keep it solely within WhatsApp. If users choose to maintain certain contacts exclusively within WhatsApp, then the chosen contacts will not appear in the phone's general contact list. Additionally, WhatsApp has also introduced a new storage system called Identity Proof

Users of Meta's instant messaging app now get to choose how and where their contacts are stored

Linked Storage (IPLS), which securely stores contact information and allows users to restore their contacts even if they lose their phone. This system implements Key Transparency, ensuring that users can verify the authenticity of their contacts and track any changes made to their identity keys.

To enhance security further, WhatsApp has partnered with Cloudflare, which provides independent verification to ensure that contact data is not tampered with. Moreover, by using cryptographic hashes, WhatsApp protects the phone numbers of contacts who do not have an account on the app, without storing or sharing details on its servers.

Health

Everything you need to know about nitrates

Nitrates have been shown to increase blood flow and oxygen delivery to muscles, boosting cycling performance

Nitrates are naturally occurring compounds formed from nitrogen and oxygen. Dietary nitrate is found in vegetables, particularly leafy green ones and beetroot. The go-to nitrate boost for many cyclists is concentrated beetroot juice in shot form.

"Nitrate supplementation may offer several potential benefits for athletes," says Professor Mayur Ranchordas, "including improved endurance performance, reduced oxygen consumption during exercise and enhanced blood flow." However, there are limitations. "Most of the research shows that it's beneficial for recreational athletes, but few studies have shown

benefits in highly trained elites." Nitrate supplementation is widely used to enhance athletic performance in endurance sports. "Dietary nitrate is an important precursor to nitric oxide, which is involved in many different functions linked to performance," says Matthew Black. "These include helping blood vessels open and close, assisting with blood pressure and blood flow, the efficiency of the energy powerhouse that is mitochondria, and the processes by which muscles contract." Additionally, regular nitrate intake can help to lower blood pressure and support cardiovascular health. However, the effects vary among

individuals, with mixed outcomes for blood lactate and sports performance, with gastrointestinal issues a potential side-effect from some formulations. "The majority of the scientific studies that have investigated the effects of beetroot on performance have used 500mg of nitrate, the amount in approximately one pint of beetroot juice," says Ranchordas. Unless you enjoy necking pints of the purple stuff, opt for concentrated shots. The guideline dosage for cyclists is to consume 6-15mmol (400-900mg) of nitrate per day for three days prior to competition. On race day, ingest dietary nitrate two to three hours before the event.



دی اسٹینڈیٹ کی طرف

اسلام آباد

جمرات 24 اکتوبر 2024

پاک فضائیہ مشقیں، ترکیہ، سعودی عرب مصر سمیت دیگر اہم ممالک شریک

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) پاکستان ایئر فورس کی دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ اہم فضائی مشق جاری ہے۔ کثیر القوتی فضائی مشق میں ترکی، امریکا، سعودی عرب، مصر اور اتحادی ممالک کے درمیان مشترکہ آپریشن جاری ہے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف قریب سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں۔

تحریک انصاف کا آئینی ترامیم کو چیلنج کرنے کا فیصلہ

بانی بی بی آئی سے دفاع نمائے والے اراکین قومی اسمبلی اور سینٹ کی قربانیوں کو خراج تحسین پیش، اور کئی اجلاس کا اعلامیہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) تحریک انصاف کے اراکین قومی اسمبلی اور سینٹ کی قربانیوں کو خراج تحسین پیش، اور کئی اجلاس کا اعلامیہ جاری کیا۔ تحریک انصاف کے اراکین قومی اسمبلی اور سینٹ کی قربانیوں کو خراج تحسین پیش، اور کئی اجلاس کا اعلامیہ جاری کیا۔

آئینی ترمیم کیلئے ہمارے 5 اہم ایجنڈا نوکرا کے ووٹ لیا گیا

راولپنڈی (ڈیپیک) اپوزیشن لیڈر عمران ایوب نے کہا کہ حکومت نے 28 ویں آئینی ترمیم منظور کرانی کی، ہمارے 15 اہم ایجنڈے

جمہوریت کی بحالی میں نصرت بھٹو کی خدمات ناقابل فراموش، زرداری

جمہوریت کی بحالی میں نصرت بھٹو کی خدمات ناقابل فراموش، زرداری نے آصف زرداری کو مبارکباد پیش کی اور کہا کہ ان کی خدمات ناقابل فراموش ہیں۔

چیف جسٹس آف پاکستان 26 اکتوبر کو عہدے کا حلف اٹھائیں گے

پاکستان کی مختلف پارٹیز کی ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی نے چیف جسٹس تقرری کو خوش آمدید قرار دے دیا

پاکستان لکھنؤ ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی نے چیف جسٹس تقرری کو خوش آمدید قرار دے دیا

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ہمارے گھر اور تعلیمی ادارے فلسطینیوں کیلئے حاضر ہیں، وزیر اعظم

اسرائیل نے اسکولوں، اسپتالوں اور پناہ گاہوں پر وحشیانہ بمباری کی جبکہ عالمی عدالت کے فیصلے اور اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کے باوجود عالمی برادری غزہ جنگ بندی کرنے میں ناکام رہی ہے اور اسرائیلی جارحیتوں میں تیزی آ رہی ہے۔

اسرائیل نے اسکولوں، اسپتالوں اور پناہ گاہوں پر وحشیانہ بمباری کی جبکہ عالمی عدالت کے فیصلے اور اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کے باوجود عالمی برادری غزہ جنگ بندی کرنے میں ناکام رہی ہے اور اسرائیلی جارحیتوں میں تیزی آ رہی ہے۔

عوام کو مافیاز کے رحم و کرم پر نہیں چھوڑ سکتے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سے صدر سمانی، وزیر خزانہ کی ملاقات عوام کی خدمت ہی ہماری اولین ترجیح ن لیگ کا منشور ہے

لاہور (پریور پورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ عوام کو مافیاز کے رحم و کرم پر نہیں چھوڑ سکتے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ عوام کو مافیاز کے رحم و کرم پر نہیں چھوڑ سکتے۔

تجلی سفارتی رابطوں پر بات نہیں کریں گے، امریکی حکم خارجہ

واشنگٹن (انٹرنیٹ ڈیسک) امریکی حکم خارجہ کے نائب ترجمان دیانٹ نیل نے ڈائریکٹوریٹ کے ایک بریفنگ میں کہا ہے کہ سفارتی رابطوں پر بات نہیں کریں گے۔

تیسرے نمبر کے جج کو چیف جسٹس بنانے کا مقصد عدلیہ کو آپس میں لڑانا، حامد خان

ملک خوف ناک صورت حال سے گزر رہا ہے، 20 اکتوبر تک سے چند سہ ماہی تین دنوں میں سے تھا

سپریم کورٹ میں جس چیف جسٹس کی ضرورت تھی اسے لائے، احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (جنگ جوائنٹ) وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ سپریم کورٹ میں جس چیف جسٹس کی ضرورت تھی اسے لائے۔

مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر ترکیہ حکومت کا حیرت منگوا کر

وفاقی وزیر داخلہ کی ترکیہ کے وزیر دفاع یاسر گلر سے ملاقات، اشتراک کار بڑھانے کی راہیں تلاش کرنے کے عزم کا اعادہ

اسلام آباد (پریور پورٹ) چیف جسٹس تقرری کو خوش آمدید قرار دے دیا

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Pakistan stands ready to collaborate with all UN Member States to achieve a peaceful & prosperous world for all: President Zardari

Says Pakistan reiterates its full support for the UN Charter & the multilateral system it represents



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that Pakistan stands ready to collaborate with all UN Member States to achieve a peaceful and prosperous world for all. This was stated by President Asif Ali Zardari in his message on the occasion of the United Nations Day being commemorated today (Thursday).

President Asif Ali Zardari said that today, Pakistan joins the international community in commemorating the 79th United Nations (UN) Day. The UN Charter embodies our collective determination to uphold international law and peaceful co-existence. It also provides for the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that guided by the vision of our founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan has consistently championed the principles of the UN Charter. We have maintained a firm and abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a central role for the promotion of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights for all, he said.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that we have also made invaluable contributions to international peace and security, including by serving as a leading military and police contributor to UN peacekeeping operations. Despite its remarkable achievements over the past 79 years, the UN Charter's vision of universal peace, development and human rights for all is currently under threat by the blatant violations of its principles and purposes - nowhere more egregiously than in Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

President Asif Ali Zardari said that the UN remains an indispensable partner in addressing the pressing challenges being faced by the world today, and for shaping a more equitable future for all. We must revitalize the values enshrined in the UN Charter, by prioritizing peace and actively resolving conflicts, as well as by fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of billions around the world. On this auspicious occasion, Pakistan reiterates its full support for the UN Charter and the multilateral system it represents. Pakistan stands ready to collaborate with all UN Member States to achieve a peaceful and prosperous world for all, President Asif Ali Zardari said. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting on Road Shows in China.

Pakistan's textiles, leather industries to emerge stronger, resilient, more competitive: Commerce Minister

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce on Wednesday said that we are confident that Pakistan's textiles and leather industries will emerge stronger, resilient, and more competitive, through coordinated efforts between the public and private sectors.

He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest in the inaugural ceremony of the fifth edition of International Textiles and Leather Flagship Exhibition (TEXPO) of Pakistan being held from October 23 to 25 at the Expo Center Karachi.

On the occasion, the Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan along with Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Kareem Kundi, and Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motilwala performed the digital inauguration of the Texpo 2024.

Jam Kamal Khan said this exhibition is an excellent opportunity to strengthen the existing relationships and forge new partnerships, ensuring mutual growth and success for all stakeholders.

He said that we are working closely with the private sector to promote value addition and product diversification, particularly in non-cotton apparel, performance/active wears, technical textiles, sports and high fashion shoes, leather accessories, while promoting the concepts of circular economy and use of smart and sustainable materials.

He said that we are also focusing on enhancing our design capabilities (replacing the physical samples to 3D prototypes) and creating high-end products that command premium quality in international markets.

The Federal Commerce Minister said that Ministry of Commerce, through its Export Development Fund (EDF), is also financially



supporting businesses in terms of trade promotion, marketing, image building, infrastructure development, skill development and improving ESG compliances.

He said that in this transformative journey, the Government of Pakistan stands as a firm partner to the industry. We are focused on creating a conducive business environment that fosters investments in new technologies and infrastructure, encourage product diversification, support sustainable manufacturing, and ensure that our exporters have support needed to access new markets and enhance economy of scales, he added.

He said that we are also scaling up the efforts in skills development, ensuring that our workforce is equipped with the expertise necessary to handle emerging technologies and future needs.

He expressed confidence that the future of Pakistan's textiles and leather sectors is bright. Sustainability, innovation, and digitization are at the heart of this future, he said. He said that with the adoption of eco-

friendly techniques, embracing circular economy principles, and driving investments in latest technologies, Pakistan is positioning itself for sustainable and value-added textiles and leather production.

He said that Pakistan is at the forefront of embracing trends like digital transformation in supply chains and e-commerce, which are unlocking new opportunities for growth. We envision Pakistan in setting benchmark for environmentally responsible manufacturing and ethical labor practice, he added. The Federal Minister welcomed the foreign delegates in the TEXPO and said, that we are honored to host over 52 countries, which is not only a testament to Pakistan's vital role in the global textiles, apparel and leather industries but also a commitment to advancing these sectors towards a brighter and sustainable future. The contributions and ideas exchanged over the next few days will undoubtedly shape future of our industries, improving the lives of millions around the world, he said. APP

Justice Hasan Rizvi of SC issues extra note regarding NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD: Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi of Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday issued extra note in case pertaining to NAB amendments. In a 22-page note, Justice Rizvi wrote, "Although I agree with the conclusion he reached, I regretfully find myself unable to endorse the reasoning. The majority judgment did not provide sufficient justification for the issues at hand. More importantly, unreasonable remarks were made about the Hon'ble former judges of this Court, whose judgment we are reviewing on appeal. In my humble opinion, judicial comity requires that, even when we disagree with the decisions of other judges, we do so with respect and constructive criticism should focus on legal principles rather than disparaging those who authored the original decision."

It said, "Generally, an intra court appeal (ICA) is a legal mechanism that allows for an appeal within the same court, to a larger or more senior bench, rather than to a higher court. The purpose of the ICA is to provide a remedy for reconsideration when a party is dissatisfied with the decision of a single judge or a smaller bench, without requiring escalation to another tier of the judicial hierarchy. This ensures that errors or inconsistencies in legal judgments are reviewed within the same court, promoting fairness and thoroughness in judicial decision-making."

He stated, "Mr. Imran Ahmad Khan Niazi ('the respondent') filed a petition under Article 184(3) of the Constitution challenging the validity of the National Accountability 2022 Amendments' on the touchstone of the Fundamental rights. The petition was fixed before a three-member bench of this Court. During the hearing, the Original Bench, in paragraph 24 of the impugned majority judgment, limited the scope of the case by observing that although the respondent sought the nullification of nearly all the 2022 amendments, it was not convinced that every section of those amendments violated the Fundamental Rights of the people of Pakistan. The Original Bench concluded that prima facie judicial scrutiny was required only for sections 2, 8, 10, and 14 of the First Amendment and sections 2, 3, and 14 of the Second Amendment."

Amir Muqam pledges all-out support to Kashmiris on 77th Foundation Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and State & Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Engineer Amir Muqam, in his special message on the occasion of 77th Foundation Day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), said that October 24 is the day to renew the pledge to continue Kashmir freedom struggle till it reaches to the logical end. "On this day, we have to renew the pledge that we will not sit until the people of occupied Kashmir get their right to self-determination," he said. The minister said that today, despite the presence of more than 800,000 Indian troops, the brave Kashmiri youth are expressing their affection with Pakistan with great courage and determination and hoisting the Pakistani flag on the streets and squares of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), said a press release issued here on Wednesday. APP

IBCC organizes conference on advancing tech-driven assessment solutions



ISLAMABAD: The 2nd IBCC Annual Conference, under the theme "Building a Brighter Future: The Role of Technology in Assessment," successfully wrapped up its first day at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad.

The conference, which brought together national and international educational boards, industry leaders, and policymakers, is an important step towards advancing technology-driven assessment solutions in Pakistan. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director of the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC). He warmly welcomed participants, highlighting the importance of collaboration between national and international bodies to promote innovative and standardized assessment systems. The opening ceremony was graced by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, as the Chief Guest. In his keynote, he stressed the role

of technology in modernizing Pakistan's educational landscape, particularly in the assessment sector, to ensure fairness, transparency, and adaptability in the digital age.

Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, also graced the event as a guest of honor, highlighting the necessity of utilizing technology for educational reforms.

The first keynote session was delivered by Prof. Dr. Zubair A. Shaikh, President of Muhammad Ali Jinnah University, on the topic "The Future of Educational Assessment in the Digital Era: A Global Perspective."

He outlined how educational systems worldwide are adapting to new technologies, urging Pakistani institutions to follow suit in order to remain competitive and progressive. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, also delivered an impactful session on "Indigenous Issues in Assessment and the Way Forward."

He shed light on the unique challenges Pakistan faces in its assessment frameworks and discussed how technology can provide tailored solutions to these issues while respecting local contexts. A high-profile Panel Discussion on "Integrating Technology into Examination Systems: Challenges and Solutions" brought together top education leaders and technology experts.

NA body focuses on maintenance, cleaning at Parliament Lodges

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on House and Library on Wednesday focused on many key issues including the construction of additional family suites and servant quarters, maintenance and cleaning at the Parliament Lodges and car-parking facilities.

Chaired by Deputy Speaker NA Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah at Parliament House here, the Committee expressed concern regarding the cleanliness of the Parliament Lodges, noting that outsourcing cleaning services has not improved the situation.

The members also voiced reservations about the undue delay in constructing additional family suites and servant quarters adjacent to the Parliament Lodges, pointing out that these delays have significantly increased project costs.

The Committee highlighted the grievances of parliamentarians who were not provided with accommodation and directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to carry out repair and maintenance work impartially. The committee directed CDA to make serious

efforts to complete the construction of the additional family suites and servant quarters without any further delay. It also directed the CDA to provide details regarding the resolution of long-standing litigation related to the construction of additional family suites and servant quarters.

The CDA apprised the Committee that tenders for the construction project have been published, with openings scheduled for 11th November 2024. The CDA also informed the Committee that Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has recommended the project to ECNEC for approval.

Additionally, the Committee addressed ongoing issues with car-parking facilities, emphasizing the need to prevent vehicle obstruction at entry and exit points. The Committee also recommended to implement biometric attendance for CDA staff at the Parliament Lodges, as many staff members have been found absent during duty hours. Concerns were also raised regarding debris left from maintenance work in front of residential blocks. The CDA was directed to remove this debris promptly.

KSrelief announces to build 1,000 houses for families in KP, Punjab

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has announced a major initiative to build 1,000 permanent houses for families in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab which were displaced by the devastating 2022 floods. This project is part of a broader series of public facility initiatives announced by KSrelief, aimed at rebuilding communities and fostering resilience across Pakistan. The announcement came during an event held recently where Engineer Ahmed Ali Al-Baiz, Assistant Supervisor General of Operations at KSrelief, formalized the initiative by signing Cooperation Programs (JCP) with Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The 1,000 houses, each comprising two rooms, a kitchen, and a washroom, are expected to provide safe, permanent housing for approximately 7,000 individuals focuses on the flood-hit regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, with 500 houses in Dera Ismail Khan (KP) and 410 in Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan (Punjab). By providing secure, resilient housing, this KSrelief initiative aims to support the recovery process and enhance the long-term well-being of affected communities. — VOM Report

Various bar councils welcomed Justice Yahya Afridi's appointment as CJP

ISLAMABAD: Various bar councils of the country have welcomed the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice of Pakistan and said that Justice Yahya Afridi is a non-political, non-controversial and neutral personality. They said that his appointment as chief justice will strengthen the relationship between the bar and the bench and will help make justice in a free and fair way. Punjab Bar Council (PBC)'s Vice Chairman Chaudhry Babar Waheed, Chairman Executive Rao Fazal ur Rehman Abid said in a joint statement that they congratulate Justice Yahya Afridi on being named Chief Justice of Pakistan and hope that he will take the relationship between between the Bar and the Bench to improvement. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council's Vice Chairman Sadiq Ali Moman and Executive Chairman Syed Taimur Ali Shah in their statement called the appointment of Justice Yahya Khan Afridi as the Chief Justice of Pakistan as a matter of justice and said he will take steps to uphold the law, enforce the constitution and uphold the requirements of justice and increase the dignity of the judiciary. APP

Senators' group leaving Friday to observe Uzbekistan's elections

ISLAMABAD: A three-member group of senators, led by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Irfan Siddiqui, will depart for Tashkent, Uzbekistan on Friday, October 25, to observe the elections there.

The observer group invited by Uzbekistan's Central Election Commission comprises Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Sarmad Ali and Mutahidda Quomi Movement (MQM) Senator Amer Chishti.

Uzbekistan is gearing up for its parliamentary elections on October 27, 2024. The delegation will engage in meetings with members of the Uzbek Assembly, government officials, and the Chief Election Commissioner. On October 27, they will visit several polling stations to observe the electoral process. They will also visit the shrine of Imam Bukhari in Samarkand.

The Uzbek Election Commission mentioned in its invitation that the choice of senators was made in accordance with the recommendations of the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ahsan inaugurates first International Conference on 3D Printing

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday inaugurated the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology. The National Center for Physics (NCP) at Quaid-i-Azam University hosted the inaugural session of the First International Conference on 3D Printing and Vacuum Technology, said a press release.

The three-day conference, running from October 23 to 25, 2024, will bring together more than 50 eminent researchers and scientists from around the globe to discuss the latest advancements in these transformative technologies.

In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized the pivotal role of science and technology in driving national development and progress. He called on scientists, researchers, and innovators to work tirelessly to position Pakistan at the forefront of technological advancements. Addressing the audience, which included esteemed figures like Dr. Ansar Pervaiz, Dr. Qaisar Ahsan, and Dr. Muhammad Maqsood, the Minis-

ter highlighted the profound potential of 3D printing and vacuum technology.

These innovations, he noted, are not just technological milestones but are catalysts for reshaping industries, redefining economies, and revolutionizing everyday life.

By enabling precise manufacturing in controlled environments, these technologies offer solutions across healthcare, aerospace, construction, and

made groundbreaking progress in healthcare, especially in bioprinting, where countries like the USA and Germany have pioneered the creation of living tissues, custom-designed implants, and prosthetics. He said that the aerospace and defense sectors have also benefited from these innovations, with NASA using 3D printing to manufacture rocket parts, reducing costs and enabling new possibilities for space exploration.

Reiterating the government's dedication to fostering a supportive ecosystem, the minister highlighted initiatives such as the Pakistan Innovation Fund and Centers of Excellence to drive innovation.

He stressed that progress would require collaboration among the government, private sector, academia and research institutions. The aim is to equip the youth with the necessary skills to lead in these emerging fields through universities, vocational institutes, and training centers, he added. The minister stressed the importance of a stable political environment and policy continuity for Pakistan to fully capitalize on emerging technologies like 3D printing and vacuum technology. He pointed out that countries like Singapore, India, and Malaysia have successfully integrated these technologies by maintaining consistent governance and policies.



energy sectors, he said adding, "We are standing at the intersection of two remarkable innovations—3D printing and vacuum technology—that have transformed production, manufacturing, and research worldwide. This conference marks the beginning of Pakistan's formal journey into the Fourth Industrial Revolution." Highlighting global examples of 3D printing and vacuum technology, the minister drew attention to remarkable achievements in healthcare, aerospace, and infrastructure. He explained that 3D printing has