



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

Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator
Muhammad Aurangzeb

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Parliamentary committee 'agrees on' Justice Yahya Afridi name as next CJP



ISLAMABAD: The Special Parliamentary Committee, constituted for the first time in the country's history for the appointment of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), has agreed on the name of Justice Yahya Afridi as the next chief justice of Pakistan, sources told media.

The development came after the first round of in-camera meeting of the parliamentary panel comprising government and opposition members held in the afternoon at room no 5 of the Parliament House. However, the members belonging to the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) skipped the meeting, prompting the committee members to meet again tonight. In a statement, the National Assembly Secretariat said that the SIC members have taken the final decision not to attend the parliamentary panel's meeting. "The committee has been apprised of the SIC's decision." The secretariat noted that a sub-committee, comprising four members — Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Ansar, Raja Pervez Ashraf and Kamran Murtaza, was constituted to convince the SIC lawmakers to attend the meeting, "but to no avail." During their meeting with SIC members, the statement noted, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that they would not attend the parliamentary committee's session in line with the PTI's political committee decision. Meanwhile, Ahsan Iqbal — while talking to journalists — regretted the SIC's decision and said that they left no stone unturned in convincing the PTI-backed lawmakers to attend the meeting. Agencies

Info Minister brushes aside Opposition Leader's allegations, exhorts PTI to wash dirty linen within party

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday brushed aside the Opposition Leader's allegations of forced polling during the 26th Constitutional Amendment and exhorted him to manage Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s internal conflict within his party. He was addressing the sixth meeting of the 10th National Assembly session that commenced with the recitation of Holy Quran. Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chaired the proceedings. Tarar while responding to Opposition Omar Ayub Khan said the 26th Constitutional Amendment was not done in haste but rather it took two and a half months. "The Constitutional Amendment Bill was delayed on the request of Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman who demanded to hold it after the SCO summit. It was a consensus-based document with the input of all political parties," he said. The minister while deriding the Opposition Leader's accusations underlined the fact the two clauses of the Amendment Draft were removed on the objections of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members and agreement was met on the Constitutional Amendment. APP



ISLAMABAD: PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on relief activities for Gaza and Lebanon.

26th constitutional amendment a milestone for country's stability, public welfare: PM

PM for immediate relief aid to Palestine, Lebanon through land, aerial routes

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the parliament with a two-thirds majority would prove to be a milestone for the country's political and economic stability and public welfare. The prime minister, addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet he chaired, said the new legislation would surely bring ease for the common man who had to suffer owing to inordinate delays in seeking justice. Besides, he said the 26th constitutional amendment, passed following an in-depth consultation among the ruling coalition and opposition parties, was also an accomplishment of the vision of the Charter of Democracy signed by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif in 2006. He said the tireless efforts led to the successful legislation which also manifested a true spirit of consultation. Prime Minister Shehbaz thanked the leadership of the supportive political parties including President Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of PPP, JUI-F's Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Muttahida Qaumi Movement, National Party, Awami National Party, Balochistan Awami Party and, also the independent candidates for their vote. The prime minister also congratulated on the successful holding of the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in Islamabad, which he said had uplifted Pak-

istan's image. Holding the summit despite challenges with terrorism and security on top, was a great success for the country, he said and appreciated the efforts by the ministries of foreign affairs, information and broadcasting, and interior, law enforcement agencies, police, Pakistan Rangers, Pakistan Army and intelligence agencies. Also appreciating the Capital Development Authority for beautifully adorning the federal capital on the occasion, he said the prime ministers of China and Russia had specifically lauded the beauty of Islamabad. He also mentioned the "successful" bilateral visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang - after a hiatus of 11 years - which led to the further strengthening of the bilateral relationship. The prime minister highlighted the improving national economy with inflation down to 6.9% and the declining policy rate. Coming to the unabated Israel's barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon, he said the resolution of the UN Security Council and the rulings by the International Court of Justice had been thrown into the 'dustbin of history.' Reiterating his appeal for donations to the PM Relief Fund on Gaza and Lebanon, he said the government was working on a comprehensive plan to send relief supplies to Gaza and Lebanon as a committee was working under Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to immediately dispatch two plane-loads of relief goods to Gaza and Lebanon and called for using both land and aerial routes for the aid

supply. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief activities for Palestine and Lebanon, asked for improving coordination with Pakistan's ambassadors in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt to ensure a better supply of relief goods. Stressing for an accelerated pace of relief aid, he called for ensuring that the relief goods reached the deserving people. Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his appeal to the countrymen and the expatriates to donate generously to the PM Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon with Account No. IBAN:PK11SBPD0000001111114292. He also instructed the relevant authorities to run an awareness drive to acquaint the people with the Relief Fund established by the government. In the briefing on the relief activities, the prime minister was told that relief goods including winter tents, clothes, blankets, medicines and eatables were being dispatched for the people suffering the Israeli barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon. It was told that the Israeli attacks and siege were impeding the supply of relief goods to the affected areas. The meeting was told that the government would also facilitate the NGOs desiring to send relief aid to Gaza and Lebanon. Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahmad Khan Cheema, and Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State Shiza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi, chairmen of the Higher Education Commission, and National Disaster Management Authority and senior officers attended the meeting.

Pakistan strengthens regional connectivity, trade ties with SCO states



ISLAMABAD: The 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting, held in Islamabad, provided Pakistan with a unique opportunity to enhance regional connectivity, expand trade and economic ties, strengthen security and strategic cooperation among member countries. These insights were shared by speakers at a roundtable discussion titled "Post-SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting 2024: Unpacking the Results and Opportunities," organized by the Centre for SCO Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum, and Riphah Institute of Public Policy at Riphah International University. The event focused on the outcomes of the meeting, which took place on October 15-16, 2024.

In her opening remarks, President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Dr. Farhat Asif emphasized the importance of assessing the strategic and economic impacts of the summit. She highlighted that the event had reinforced the need for multilateral cooperation in sectors such as security, trade, and sustainable development. Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch delivered the keynote address, detailing key outcomes of the meeting. She announced that Pakistan would chair the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structures (RATS) body within the SCO in 2025 and host the SCO Council of Heads of State in 2026. She noted that the successful hosting of the summit had significantly bolstered Pakistan's global image. Director of the China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Dr. Talat Shabbir stressed the economic and strategic benefits Pakistan stands to gain from its active participation in the SCO. He noted that enhanced security cooperation and economic collaboration within the organization would contribute to Pakistan's stability and growth. Addressing regional trade, Head of the Department of International Relations at the National University of Modern Languages, Dr. Sarwat Rauf underscored Pakistan's critical role in facilitating greater connectivity between Central and South Asia. She pointed to the country's efforts to address regional security challenges, including terrorism and extremism. Dean of Social Sciences at MY University, Dr. Muhammad Munir provided a detailed analysis of the summit's key takeaways, highlighting Pakistan's diplomatic leadership in fostering regional cooperation. He also discussed ongoing regional projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which are pivotal in advancing regional peace and development. DNA

Technical training vital for telecom operators' capacity building: Shaza



was also present at the meeting. CEO Asia Pacific Network Information Center briefed the Minister of State for IT about the working of APNIC. He said that APNIC wanted to start a training program for telecom operators regarding networking. The meeting agreed to forge a comprehensive plan for the training of telecom operators. Member IT, MoITT Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim also attended the meeting. Meanwhile, Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Saqlain Syedah called on Shaza Fatima Khawaja and during the meeting matters regarding relations between Pakistan and Germany in the field of IT and Telecommunication, and facilitation of Pakistani IT companies in Germany were discussed. Member International Coordination (IC) Imad Memon and DG IC Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi were also present at the meeting. DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Tuesday that technical training is vital for the capacity building of telecom operators. During a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Center), Singapore Jia Rong, the minister also discussed matters of mutual interest and relating to capacity building of telecom operators. Secretary IT Zarrar Hasham Khan

Muhammad Aurangzeb urges all development partners to work closely together to resolve pressing issues of climate change

WASHINGTON: Addressing the G-24 Ministers and Governors Meeting, Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, 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 Second Vice Chair of the G-24 Bureau during the fiscal year 2024-25, the Finance Minister emphasized the need to address key issues such as the high debt burdens on developing countries, the need for climate action, and greater representation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions. SABAH

International Expo-2024 will foster increased cooperation among friendly nations: Naqvi

Participates in the SAHA Expo in Istanbul

ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi participated in the SAHA Expo in Istanbul on Tuesday. Interior Minister along with representatives from other countries, inaugurated SAHA Expo-2024. Upon arrival at the expo, Turkish officials warmly welcomed Mohsin Naqvi. Interior Minister met with Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Metin Gurak and congratulated him on the successful organization of the expo and extended his good wishes. General Metin Gurak thanked Mohsin Naqvi for Pakistan's participation in the International Expo. Interior Minister along with representatives from other countries visited the expo. He also reviewed the Pakistani stalls and praised the equipment displayed over there. The Interior Minister expressed deep interest in the modern machinery and equipment showcased at the expo, saying, "I am delighted to see the innovative technology displayed at the International Expo." He added that International Expo-2024 will foster increased



cooperation among friendly nations. Earlier, upon arrival in Turkey, Mohsin Naqvi was warmly received by Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey Dr. Yusuf Junaid, Turkey's Ministry of Interior Director General Mehmet Ildiz, and high-ranking officials. During his visit, Interior Minister will meet with Turkish cabinet ministers and central leadership. He stated that the trip aims to strengthen Pakistan-Turkey relations and the discussions will revolve around enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly border management, security, and combating human trafficking. SABAH

Rural women playing vital role in agriculture, economic growth: Romina

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam has said that in any society where sustainable development is paramount, the pivotal role of rural women in agriculture and community development cannot be overlooked. Rural women are not only the backbone of agricultural production but also vital contributors to economic growth, food security, and social cohesion. Addressing as chief guest at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference on Tuesday at the Lok Virsa open-air auditorium organized by civil society organisations in Islamabad Accounting for a significant portion of the agricultural workforce in the country, rural women provide a major labour force for key agricultural activities including planting, harvesting and managing live-

stock, ensuring that families and communities have access to adequate food and health. "Their traditional knowledge and innovative practices enhance productivity and contribute to sustainable farming methods. By empowering women with resources, training, and access to markets, we can increase agricultural output and improve food security for millions", the PM's coordinator remarked. She said further that beyond farming, rural women are crucial for economic diversification. Many engage in small-scale enterprises, from food processing to handicrafts, creating jobs and boosting local economies. Their entrepreneurial spirit can drive innovation and resilience in rural areas, laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth. Rural women are now seen more at the forefront of community development activities. Because, they take on leadership roles in local organizations, advocate for their rights, and mobi-



lize resources for various initiatives. Their involvement fosters social cohesion and empowers communities to address challenges collaboratively, the PM's coordinator highlighted. Highlighting women's immense role in climate resilience building and environmental sustainability in the country, Romina Khurshid Alam said as stewards of the

land, rural women are crucial for promoting environmental sustainability and boosting as well as sustaining climate resilience activities in different socio-economic areas, particularly agriculture, water management and low-carbon energy development. The PM's climate aide also highlighted that various study findings on women's role in sustainable

community and rural development and natural resource management in Asia-Pacific region have concluded that their practices often reflect a deep understanding of local ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. "Supporting their community and rural development and natural resource management efforts, however, can further lead to more sustainable agricultural practices, sustainable water management and rural poverty alleviation at all levels that benefit both people and the planet together," Romina Khurshid Alam suggested. Calling for action for women empowerment goals, she said, "As we strive for a more equitable and environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient future for us and our next generations, it is imperative to recognize and support the invaluable contributions of rural women. To achieve the women-empowerment goals, framing and implementing policies

and action plans that promote gender equality, enhance access to resources, and provide educational opportunities are inevitable for unlocking the potential of rural women," she remarked. Romina Khurshid Alam also urged stakeholders, policymakers and communities to recognize rural women as key socio-economic stakeholders and key catalysts for development and enhance investment in the empowerment of the rural women. She emphasised that empowering women is a critical strategy for enhancing climate resilience, particularly in vulnerable communities. Women often bear the brunt of climate impacts, yet they also possess valuable knowledge and skills that can contribute to effective climate action. By doing so, we can foster inclusive development that uplifts families, strengthens communities, and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come, the PM's climate aide stressed.

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Accounting for the unaccounted

FURQAN ALI

We recently observed the International Day of the Girl Child. The day signifies the aspiration to have a society bereft of the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. So here we are, endeavouring to engage in a meaningful conversation centred on the celebrated gender. Apart from a few extremely affluent families, we all have seen our mothers do home chores across our society, notwithstanding geographical-sociological differences. The responsibility of humdrum household tasks like cleaning, cooking, laundry, ironing, care responsibilities, etc, is abdicated by some supposed holy grail to a single gender, and what's more, it is considered 'non-economic' work. According to UN Women, globally, women – particularly those from low-income, migrant, and racialised groups – perform more than three-quarters of unpaid care and domestic work. In a world overshadowed by the spectre of economics (no intrinsic value except an economic one), this means that everyday tasks are deemed dispensable and pedestrian. This is despite the fact that these household activities hamper women from other pursuits of economic, social, and educational nature, thus putting the already disadvantaged 'gender' in a more worrying position. It is important at the outset to underscore that household chores, including caring for infants, are not the problem at all; it is the outright disproportionate distribution among genders that lies at the heart of the problem. There are two apparent factors causing this: the pathological structure of patriarchy – the conception of women being less-developed, less-deserved, and less-esteemed vis-à-vis men. And so, it is the men, being 'superior' and 'stronger', who should be the ones earning and thus, by hegemonising the other gender by making them financially depending, be the master of the house. From a young age, women are often socialised into accepting household chores as part of their role, while men are not always expected to do the same. There is a long-standing belief that women are the primary caregivers and homemakers, while men are the breadwinners. This results in women shouldering most domestic responsibilities, regardless of their participation in the workforce. Apart from the deep-rooted patriarchal archetypes, women in Pakistan face numerous barriers that prevent them from fully participating in the market, including financial losses, the lack of efficient markets between buyers and sellers, transportation challenges for women spearheading small-scale businesses, inaccessibility to financial institutions, digital divide, and lack of access to legal forums etc. These factors along with others contribute to societal pressure on women to limit their participation in economic activities and focus on domestic work within the home. This is further compounded by the low wages, making it financially more viable for families to keep women at home rather than letting them participate in paid labour outside. As a result, a significant number of Pakistani women (out of 4.4 million home-based workers, 3.6 million are women) become home-based workers. According to PIDE, on average, a woman spends around three hours daily on non-market work (non-remunerated work) that is economically unaccounted. Women allocate their longest time in the kitchen cooking food, followed by cleaning the home, washing, and child/elder care. But unfortunately, in the conventional economic realm, these non-market work hours spent on activities vital for societal well-being are not considered at all. Further, it is estimated that if both market and non-market time are taken into account, the lacuna between the genders is reduced significantly: for men, 4.7 hours, and for women, 3.5 hours. It is not limited to time only; in the holistic picture, the analysis reveals that women surpass men when quantifying both market and non-market work together. In a country like Pakistan, this strictly household work negatively affects women's participation in other dimensions as well, like education (53 per cent of the over 25 million out-of-school children), labour participation rate (24 per cent as compared to around 80 per cent of men), and repression of women's leadership, power, and voice (5.71 per cent of legislators, senior officials, and managers). The cardinal question then is: why should a girl be educated, groomed and thrived if the only role she has to do is to stick with the home chores? In other words, this disproportionate allocation and the lack of acknowledgement as valuable endeavours transcend from the household to the edifice of the whole society and create structural barriers that prevent women from fully utilizing their potential in the economy. The way forward includes a need to question the very existence of the skewed division of household work among genders. Who decides who will do what? Isn't it the perennial patriarchal bearings still lingering within society that drives these eccentricities among genders? Undoing it first would be the starting point. To fully realise the potential of the whole demographic bonanza, developing and implementing policies aimed at promoting shared responsibilities within households and nudging men to take a more active role in traditionally perceived 'female tasks' can alleviate the burden on women and contribute to a more equitable distribution of household responsibilities. However, household work is just one dimension of the problem. In Pakistan, women face significant challenges when entering the workforce. The lack of childcare services for working mothers, inflexible work arrangements, inadequate transportation, and an unsafe work environment are all barriers rooted in societal norms that restrict women's participation in the economy. Addressing these issues is critical, and the government must implement policies that create an environment conducive to women's active involvement in the workforce and ultimately leap towards the achievement of SDG5. This then can contribute in the sustainable long-term economic growth of the country. As research suggests, there is a positive correlation between gender equality and GDP per capita, driven by higher household incomes, better infrastructure, technological advancement, and a larger share of services in the economy.

The writer is a Peshawar-based researcher who works in the financial sector.



Masood Lohar

Lethal weather

The past month alone has seen a very steep increase in extreme weather phenomena, urban floods, and fierce winds that have destroyed many things. These events serve to underline the increasing uncertainty of our climate and also assert that the world urgently works on more resilient infrastructures and disaster preparedness. Ranging from the hurricanes that lash the US, to rainfall of a kind never experienced in Europe, natural disasters are really becoming weightier in their frequency and force. In one of the most memorable events, France saw rainfall reach 700 millimeters in 48 hours. Just to compare that with something else, Paris would normally have 641 millimeters throughout the whole year. The two regions that had the worst of it were Ardeche and Lozere, where whole villages were carried away and the infrastructures seriously destroyed. The official number speaks of the worst flood disaster in 40 years as French emergency services went through more than 2300 operations, many of which saved lives. With roads submerged, railway services between Lyon and Saint-Etienne cut, at least 1,000 people have been rescued. French authorities brushed off the handling of the situation, with much

of it a first test of a system that sent text messages urging residents to stay safe and put off travel. The red alerts in place have been lifted as rainfall eases, with firefighters reporting that more people were injured in storm-related accidents Wednesday, bringing the total number of confirmed deaths to at least 41. The rain has eased, but authorities warned the country remains on edge, with further rain and potential flooding forecast for the southwest. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, the US is working to pick itself up from what has been one of the most disastrous hurricane seasons in memory. Milton came as a Category 4 monster storm bellowing into the Gulf Coast with sustained winds over 140 mph and gusts to 165 mph. The storm's fury was reflected in widespread flooding, homes destroyed, and millions of people left without power. Milton's intensity and the damage it did place it among the worst hurricanes of the last 10 years. Estimates place the economic toll of Milton in the tens of billions of dollars, with agricultural lands ruined and communities in Florida and Louisiana left to pick up the pieces during long months of recovery. Although the US can handle resources aimed at responding to such disasters, the strain on emergency services and the scale of damage point to directions revealing vulnerability: even for developed nations, extreme weather events prove that they are stressed. This background information makes it clear for the reader to understand the vulnerability indicated in the last sentence. That raises a sobering question.

What happens when such catastrophes strike poorer developing countries? In countries like Pakistan, where infrastructure is inadequate, cities are heavily populated, and governments are already grappling with multiple crises (say economic instability, political unrest, public health challenges) – the potential for devastation is enormous. Floods struck Pakistan in 2022, displaced millions, and left vast swaths of land submerged, have laid open how ill-prepared the country was to such disasters. Paradoxically, poor nations often lack the capacity of the resources for and technology to mount an effective response to such extreme events. Emergency services are underfunded, infrastructure is mostly not so strong and densely populated urban centres of these countries make a very difficult evacuation and relief work. It is in these same areas that the effects of climate change are most acutely felt. Yet they have the least ability to adapt and protect their populations from the fallout. Rebuilding after such disasters can take years, a process during which millions are left in a cycle of poverty and displacement. Globally the picture is equally grim. In Libya, catastrophic floods, following the collapse of two dams earlier this year, claimed thousands of lives – and entire cities were wiped out. In South Asia, monsoon seasons have displaced people on an increasing scale across Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India as well as destroying vital food security crops. These hostile weather events all across different continents are a stark reminder that climate change is

no distant menace long into the future: it is already here. With extreme weather patterns in the rise, urban areas located in low-lying regions are at risk of heavy flooding and other related calamities. Essentially in underdeveloped nations, already having all resources at the verge of completion, are devastating that can cause tremendous human loss, economic fall down and spoil or damage to environment for longer period. Even with high-tech and warning systems to help reduce some damage in richer nations, the world also has to realise that more support must be provided to poorer countries. Ensuring preparedness capacities, enhanced water management systems, and viable infrastructure are the most vital investments for the protection of such regions that will very deeply be stricken by future disasters. The floods in France, the ruins left by Hurricane Milton in the US, and the catastrophes in developing countries sound forthright reminders that must urge governments, international agencies, and individual persons to face up to this new reality of the global environment. In the world, natural disasters are becoming more and more frequent and far more severe as a result of climate change. No country can afford to just sit back. The time? Now. Really?

The writer is an expert on climate change and sustainable development and the founder of the Clifton Urban Forest. He tweets/posts @masoodlohar and can be reached at: mlohar@gmail.com

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Today in History

History of Pakistan



The Kabul River valley is a natural route for travel between Afghanistan and Pakistan; the Macedonian Alexander the Great used it to invade India in the 4th century BCE. Since 1945 the Peshawar-Jalalabad-Kabul Highway has occupied parts of the valley. The river is navigable by flat-bottomed vessels below Kabul city. Bhutto was the daughter of the politician Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was the leader of Pakistan from 1971 until 1977. She was educated at Harvard University (B.A., 1973) and subsequently studied philosophy, political science, and economics at the University of Oxford (B.A., 1976) before completing a postgraduate degree in international law there (M.A., 1977). Shortly after Bhutto completed her studies in 1977 and returned to Pakistan, her father was deposed by Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, who then made himself the chief martial-law administrator. After her father's execution in 1979, Bhutto became the titular head of her father's party, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and

endured frequent house arrest from 1979 to 1984. In exile from 1984 to 1986, she returned to Pakistan after the lifting of martial law and soon became the foremost figure in the political opposition to Zia. President Zia died in August 1988 in a mysterious plane crash, leaving a power vacuum at the centre of Pakistani politics. In the ensuing elections, Bhutto's PPP won the single largest bloc of seats in the National Assembly. On December 1, 1988, Bhutto became the country's first female prime minister and the head of its first civilian government since the dissolution of her father's government in 1977. She formed a fragile coalition with independent parliamentarians from her home province of Sindh, but they left the coalition the following year as ethnic tensions in that province escalated. Without their support Bhutto was unable to pass legislation to address Pakistan's critical issues, including widespread poverty, governmental corruption, and increasing crime. Meanwhile, she bore the brunt of a discordant relationship with the

military leadership. In August 1990 the president of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, dismissed her government on charges of corruption and other malfeasance and called for new elections. Bhutto's PPP suffered a defeat in the national elections of October 1990, and thereafter she led the parliamentary opposition against her successor, Nawaz Sharif. Benazir Bhutto and Hillary Clinton Pakistan Benazir Bhutto (right) meeting with U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton (left) with their children Bilawal Zardari (second from right) and Chelsea Clinton, Islamabad, Pakistan, March 26, 1995. In elections held in October 1993 the PPP won a plurality of votes, and it succeeded in beating out Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) party in every province—including Sharif's home province of Punjab—except Balochistan. In her second term, Bhutto made headway in Pakistan's relations abroad, attracted foreign investment in the country, and implemented social programs. Moreover, she had an important ally in the president, Farooq Leghari, who was a member of the PPP. But Pakistan continued to experience an unstable economy and a decline in law and order. Meanwhile, a dynastic spat embroiled her in scandal as her brother, Murtaza, accused her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of corruption. With Bhutto losing public confidence amid her mounting troubles, Leghari dismissed her government in November 1996. Voter turnout was low in the 1997 elections, in which Bhutto's PPP suffered a decisive loss to Sharif's PML-N. With British and Swiss cooperation, Sharif's administration continued to pursue the corruption charges against Bhutto. In 1999 Bhutto and her husband—a controversial businessman and senator jailed since 1996 on a variety of charges—were both convicted of corruption by a Lahore court, a decision overturned by the Supreme Court in 2001 because of evidence of governmental interference.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Taylor Swift drops clear hint of 'Reputation (Taylor's Version)'

Taylor Swift's 'Reputation (TV)' speculation reaches fever pitch



Taylor Swift has been dropping hints about the upcoming release of Reputation (Taylor's Version) since 2023, leaving fans eagerly anticipating an announcement. The singer's clever clues began during her Eras Tour, where she performed surprise songs from different albums, leading fans to theorise about a Reputation (TV) announcement. At her November 25 show, Swift played songs from Red (TV) and Fearless (TV), sparking speculation that she was counting down to the announcement. However, the anticipated reveal didn't come during her final 2023 concert in Brazil. Instead, the singer continued to tease fans with subtle hints, including a stage malfunction in Milan that some believed was intentional. In August 2024, the Lover crooner finally performed I Did Something

Bad at her Wembley Stadium show, but it didn't coincide with a Reputation announcement. However, she made a snake-like motion while leaving the stage, reviving Reputation speculation. The snake imagery, a symbol associated with Reputation since 2017, resurfaced when Swift debuted a new Reputation-inspired costume during her Miami concert on October 18, 2024. The black Roberto Cavalli bodysuit featured gold snakes, sending fans into a frenzy. In May 2023, Swift's Karma music video included Easter eggs hinting at Reputation (TV). One scene featured Swift holding a coffee cup with two fingers, one nail painted blue for 1989 and the other black for Reputation. The coffee cup's clock design sparked theories about a February 2024 release, which didn't materialize.

Tech

Facebook restarts testing facial recognition after 3-year gap

Meta is reviving facial recognition technology on Facebook, three years after the feature was discontinued due to privacy concerns and regulatory pressure. The social media giant announced on Tuesday that it is starting to test the software again, this time as part of efforts to combat "celebrity bait" scams. Meta said it will enroll about 50,000 public figures in a trial which involves automatically comparing their Facebook profile photos with images used in suspected scam advertisements. If the images match and Meta believes the ads are scams, it will block them. The celebrities will be notified of their enrollment and can opt out if they do not want to participate, the company said. The company plans to roll out the trial globally from December, excluding some large jurisdictions where it does not have regulatory clearance such as Britain, the European Union, South Korea and the US states of Texas and Illinois, it added. Monika Bickert, Meta's vice president of con-



tent policy, said in a briefing with journalists that the company was targeting public figures whose likenesses it had identified as having been used in scam ads. "The idea here is: roll out as much protection as we can for them. They can opt out of it if they want to, but we want to be able to make this protection available to them and easy for them," Bickert said. The test shows a company trying to thread the needle of using potentially invasive technology to address regulator concerns about rising numbers of scams while minimising complaints about its handling of user data, which have followed social media companies for years.

Health

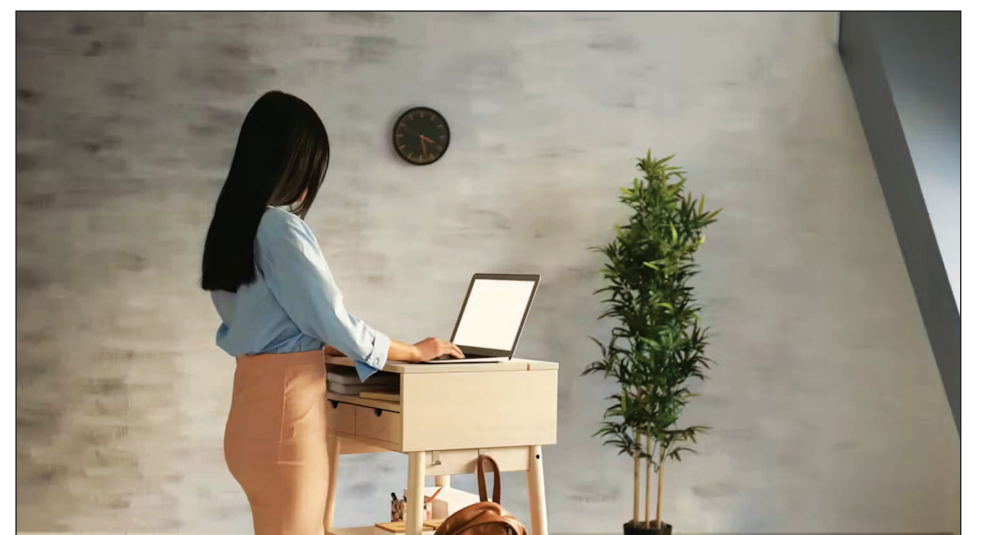
Standing for long periods may not provide cardiovascular benefits, research shows

Research finds standing to likely increase individual's risk for circulatory issues

Standing for long periods does not significantly improve heart health compared with sitting, according to a new study from researchers at the University of Sydney. It was found by the research that prolonged standing may increase an individual's risk for circulatory issues, including deep vein thrombosis and varicose veins, as reported by Medical News Today. Moreover, researchers also said that sitting for more than 10 hours a day possibly raises an individual's risk for both cardiovascular disease and orthostatic circulatory disease.

Researchers analysed data from an accelerometer, which is a wearable device used to track movement from about 83,000 adults from the UK Biobank for this study. Data from accelerometer assessed how much time people spent sitting and standing daily. Additionally, scientists looked for major cardiovascular diseases occurrences within the study population. These were defined as cases of coronary heart disease, heart failure, and stroke, as well as incidences of orthostatic circulatory diseases such as orthostatic hypotension, varicose

vein, chronic venous insufficiency, and venous ulcers. They found after analysis that the time participants spent standing was not associated with cardiovascular disease risk. However, they also discovered that it also did not improve cardiovascular health over the long term when compared with sitting. Parallel to this, when it came to sitting, they reported that orthostatic circulatory disease risk increased an average of 26% with every hour after sitting for 10 hours a day.



FBR makes major announcement for late filers

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has announced that it will add the names of late income tax return filers to the Active Taxpayer's List (ATL) upon payment of a specified surcharge.

This change comes following the issuance of S.R.O.1635(I)/2024, which amends the Income Tax Rules. According to the new notification, individuals who file their income tax returns for the most recent tax year by the original or extended due date set by the Commissioner or the Board will be included in the ATL. The "latest tax year" is defined as the most recently completed tax year prior to the filing date, and may also include the previous year if the deadline for that year has not yet passed.

For those who submit their returns after the designated due date, inclusion in the ATL is contingent on the payment of a specified surcharge as outlined in section 182A of the Income Tax Ordinance.

Additionally, companies or associations formed after June 30 of the relevant tax year will also be eligible for inclusion in the ATL, provided their returns are not yet due. The FBR further stated that individuals who file their returns with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Central Board of Revenue or the Gilgit Baltistan Council Board of Revenue will also be recognized in the ATL.

ECP directs other petitioners to share intra-party election copies with PTI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday instructed other petitioners to share copies of their applications concerning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections with PTI and adjourned the hearing of the case until November 14.

A four-member bench headed by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani conducted the hearing of PTI intra-party. Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Akbar S Babar and Naveed Anjum appeared before the commission.

Commission's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa member asked Akbar S. Babar whether he had conducted intra-party elections. Babar responded, "We did not hold any intra-party elections."

Barrister Gohar stated that the High Court had restrained the Election Commission from issuing a final order in intra-party election case.

A member from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa indicated that they do not have the authority to order PTI to hold intra-party elections again. The commission subsequently directed the other petitioners to share copies of their applications with PTI.

Barrister Gohar stated that five petitions have been filed against PTI's intra-party elections. Akbar S. Babar argued that the Election Commission cannot direct PTI to hold intra-party elections again for five years.

The Election Commission's bench directed PTI to submit its response to the petitions filed against intra-party elections.

Lawyer Naveed Anjum indicated that their case concerns the submission of nomination papers. The commission replied that they would consider Anjum's arguments in the next hearing. INP



Washington DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb spoke at the G-24 Ministers and Governors Meeting during annual meetings of IMF / WB. (Story on page 1)

NA speaker, British MP call for strengthening Pak-UK partnerships



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and British MP Mohammad

Yasin on Tuesday vowed for strengthening Pakistan-UK partnerships, especially parliamentary cooperation. During a courtesy visit at Parliament House, British Member of Parliament from the House

of Commons, Mohammad Yasin and Speaker emphasised the importance of furthering the strong partnership between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across multiple areas of mutual interest, including enhanced parliamentary cooperation.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the long-standing and exceptional bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UK, which are built on a foundation of mutual respect and cooperation. He expressed optimism that continued interaction between the legislatures of both nations would foster further growth in various sectors, driving momentum in bilateral relations.

Reflecting on the ongoing parliamentary cooperation, the Speaker emphasized the significance of the Pakistan-UK Parliamentary Friendship Group, describing it as an active and vibrant platform that plays a key role in strengthening ties between the two countries. He also stressed that high-level parliamentary exchanges would serve to further solidify these relations.

JUI-F chief visits Nasar House to offer condolences

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman on Tuesday paid a visit to Nasar House to offer condolences to Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) and senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

The JUI-F chief expressed his sympathies and offered Fateha for the late Sardar Sultan Mohammad Nasar, the elder brother of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar. Sardar Sultan Mohammad Nasar, a

respected figure and former additional chief secretary, passed away recently, leaving a deep void in his family and political circles.

JUI-F chief visits Nasar House to offer condolences. During his visit, Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman not only expressed his sorrow over the loss but also shared words of comfort and support with the grieving family, emphasizing the importance of patience and faith in times of trial.

He offered prayers for the departed soul and paid tribute to Sardar Sultan Mohammad

Nasar's invaluable service to the nation, observing that his absence would be deeply mourned by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The JUI-F chief's visit reflects the strong bonds of respect between key political and religious leaders as both are prominent figures in the national political landscape. Numerous political leaders and dignitaries are expected to continue visiting the Nasar family to offer condolences, underscoring the deceased's stature in public service and his lasting legacy. APP

Senator Rubina Khalid meets ADB Country Director Emma Fan



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan on Tuesday at the BISP Headquarters. The meeting focused on promoting a future partnership between BISP and ADB, identifying key sectors for skill training of deserving families, facilitating international certifications, providing overseas job opportunities, and strengthening coordination with provincial poverty graduation programs and awareness campaigns for deserving women

were also discussed.

On this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that BISP is currently providing financial support to 9.3 million deserving families, a number expected to rise to 10 million by the end of the year. To further economically empower these families, BISP is initiating a skill training program. She emphasized the importance of acquiring international certifications to help beneficiaries secure employment abroad. Senator Rubina Khalid also stressed the need to link existing provincial-level poverty graduation and skill development programs with BISP.

Country Director Emma Fan assured ADB's full support in enhancing BISP's efforts to uplift deserving families and strengthen the ongoing partnership. Both parties agreed to hold further consultations to identify suitable sectors for skill training and to develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing key initiatives, including raising awareness among deserving women. SABAH

NA refers Constitution Amendment Bill to committee



ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday referred a bill to further amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 [The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024] (Article 140A) to the relevant committee for further deliberation. The bill was moved by MQM leader Muhammad Javed Hanif Khan. Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, said that the government had no objections to the bill and agreed to its referral to the committee. The bill's mover, along with Syed Mustafa Kamal, highlighted its key features, and said that the devolution of powers would enable the people to address their issues more effectively at the local level.

Bilawal pays tributes to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her death anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tribute to Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto, acknowledging her exceptional contributions and unparalleled sacrifices in the struggle for democracy, justice and equality in the country. In a statement on the occasion of her 13th death anniversary, he expressed profound reverence for Begum Nusrat Bhutto's unwavering dedication to the democratic cause. "Begum Bhutto is a symbol of selfless sacrifice, having given everything in the pursuit of

democracy. Her courage and determination in the face of relentless challenges are a testament to her extraordinary legacy," he said. Bilawal Bhutto highlighted that Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto's influence goes beyond politics. She stood as a beacon of resistance against dictatorship and oppression, guiding Pakistan through some of its darkest days. "Begum Bhutto's leadership during times of intense personal and political adversity is a source of enduring inspiration. The history of Pakistan's political struggle is incomplete without her name," he added. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters. INP

Pakistan - Malaysia economic ties get boost

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (UBG) leaders President Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, Momin Ali Malik and Eng. Daroo Khan Achakzai have welcomed the signing of two landmark agreements between Pakistan and Malaysia, paving the way for enhanced economic cooperation. The agreements include a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Malaysia's External Trade Development Corporation, as well as a cooperation pact in halal trade between the two countries' business councils. These developments have bolstered confidence among business communities of both the countries, setting the stage for expanded bilateral trade and economic relations. The leaders also applauded the Malaysian announcement to establish a trade office in Karachi next month, which will foster tourism,

agriculture, education, and technology exchange. Malaysia's decision to increase meat and Basmati rice imports from Pakistan by 100,000 tons is a significant breakthrough. Furthermore, Malaysia's interest in enhancing flight connectivity with Pakistan and Pakistan's potential to meet Malaysia's demand for artificial intelligence professionals are promising developments. As Malaysia is a semiconductor industry hub, exploring collaborative opportunities in this sector is essential. The UBG leaders emphasized that the successful implementation of the Pakistan Malaysia Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) is crucial for fully realizing the potential of these agreements.

They urged trade bodies across Pakistan to capitalize these incentives, announced during the Malaysian Prime Minister's recent visit, and to work together to remove any barriers to trade, ensuring the PTAs provisions are utilized in letter and spirit. DNA

Rana Tanveer departs for Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Industries, Production, and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Husain departed for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to participate in the Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF) 2024.

According to the Industries Ministry spokesperson, the forum is organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and will take place in Riyadh from October 23-24, 2024. During the forum the discussions will focus on digitalization and automation in the manufacturing sector, he added. During the visit, the minister will also meet with Saudi authorities to discuss current economic and industrial cooperation. DNA

Chairman PMYP reiterates the importance of Youth in nation-building



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (importance of Youth), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday reiterated the importance of youth in nation-building and assured the National Press Club (NPC) representatives that the government, through the Youth Programme, remains committed to supporting the young people of Pakistan in every possible way.

In a meeting aimed at discussing the role of youth in national development, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan met with the esteemed representatives of the NPC here at the Prime Minister's office.

The meeting focused on the pivotal role that the youth plays in shaping the future of Pakistan.

During the meeting, the NPC representatives praised Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan for his tireless efforts in the realm of youth empowerment and development.

They commended his leadership and the positive changes he had brought to the Pakistani Youth, especially in the province of Punjab.

The representatives acknowledged that Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan was widely regarded as one of the best choices for championing youth causes, noting his deep commitment to providing opportunities for young Pakistanis and creating a pathway for their success. The NPC also highlighted his strategic initiatives aimed at fostering skill development, educational opportunities, and overall growth for the nation's youth.

The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing on the need for continued collaboration and dialogue to ensure that the voices and aspirations of youth are fully represented in national policies and development plans.

Secretary NPC Ms Nayyer Ali, Members Executive Council, NPC Ahmed Mansoor, Aamir Butt and others were present. APP

Uzbek language, historical source of bilateral cultural, trade connection with Pakistan: Ambassador Alisher

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev on Tuesday said that the national language of Uzbekistan is a historical source of bilateral cultural and trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which is still established in modern times. The Uzbek language continues to thrive, and even abroad, including here in Pakistan, favorable conditions are being created for learning it. There are more than 4,000 similar words in Uzbek and Urdu languages, which foster understanding between our brotherly peoples, the Ambassador said. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev said this while addressing the ceremony of the national language day of Uzbekistan in Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

Intellectuals, diplomats, poets, journalists and people from different walks of life participated in this prestigious event. The Dictionaries are being published and various modern IT programs are being developed.

Uzbek Ambassador said the 35 years ago on October 21, 1989, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the State Language was adopted, granting the Uzbek Language official status. This event holds great significance for

our culture and identity, as language is an inseparable part of our national spirit, traditions and self-awareness, he said. He said the Uzbek language has always been more than just a means of communication. The Ambassador said the Uzbek Language Learning Center was established in 2005 at the National University of Modern Languages. Today, Ms. Saniya Iskanova, a representative of this Center invited to us and we extend our special gratitude to her for teaching the Uzbek language to our Pakistani friends.

We are delighted to welcome all of you to our Embassy, Uzbek Ambassador said. "We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation in this event celebrating the 35th anniversary of Uzbek Language was granted the status of the State Language and the 630th anniversary of the birth of the Great Statesman and Scholar - Mirzo Ulughbek." Meanwhile addressing the gathering, he said that as a result of strengthening the bonds of friendship between our nations, with roots that go back thousands of years, our languages have also enriched each other.

He said that a testament to this is the Uzbek-Urdu Dictionary of Mushtarak the Words, compiled by the Uzbek scholar Ansoriddin Ibrohim and it is a living

heritage of our ancestors, reflecting deep wisdom, history as well as customs.

Through language, values are passed down that connect generations and strengthen our society, he said.

The Ambassador said that for centuries, the Uzbek language has served as a cultural bridge, uniting various ethnic groups and peoples who have lived on this land and it has fostered the development of literature, art and science, making our contributions to global culture invaluable.

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan places special emphasis on strengthening and promoting the Uzbek language, both domestically and internationally, he said. He said that numerous initiatives have been implemented to develop education in the Uzbek language, support young writers and create opportunities for preserving linguistic heritage.

The law adopted 35 years ago which laid the foundation for the status of the Uzbek language, and much has been done since then to popularize it. "I am confident that in the future, we will continue to work on ensuring that the Uzbek language continues to grow and flourish as a cornerstone of our culture and identity. For in this, we

find not only our past, but also the future of our people."

Meanwhile talking on the on the literary profound work of Uzbek Scholar and thinker Mirzo Ulughbek, he said that Mirzo was a great Uzbek scholar, thinker and statesman whose name is forever inscribed in the history of world civilization and science. Mirzo Ulughbek, scientific legacy and role in the history and spiritual life of the Uzbek People is significant. He was not only a great ruler of the Timurid Dynasty but also an outstanding scholar whose achievements had a profound impact on the development of astronomy, mathematics as well as education.

The Ambassador said that his greatest achievement was the establishment in the early 15th century of one of the most famous observatories in the world - the Samarkand Observatory, became a center of scientific research, where Mirzo Ulughbek and his research-students made groundbreaking discoveries.

Mirzo Ulughbek showed that science knows no boundaries, and his works inspired subsequent generations of astronomers, however, his contributions were not limited to science, he said. APP