



"By promoting a positive narrative and highlighting the country's achievements, Pakistan can move forward towards a more prosperous future"

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
Ahsan Iqbal

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Justice Yahya Afridi sworn in as CJP



VOM Report

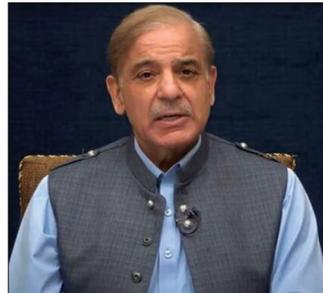
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday administered the oath to Justice Yahya Afridi as the Chief Justice of Pakistan in an oath-taking ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Services Chiefs, Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers, judges of the Supreme Court, high courts, former chief justices, law officers, office bearers of the lawyers' bodies, lawyers, and media persons. Justice Yahya Afridi was nominated by a special parliamentary committee as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) among the three senior most judges of the Supreme Court under the newly adopted 26th Amendment of the Constitution, and a summary in this regard was afterwards forwarded by the prime minister to the president, who accorded approval to the appointment of Justice Afridi as the 30th Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). Born in Dera Ismail Khan on January 23, 1965, Justice Yahya was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court in 1990 and as an advocate of the Supreme Court in 2004. He also served as an Assistant Advocate General for the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and as a Federal Counsel for the Government of Pakistan while in practice. Justice Yahya Afridi was elevated to the Bench of the Peshawar High Court as Additional Judge in 2010 and later confirmed as a Judge of the Peshawar High Court on March 15, 2012. Justice Afridi became the first judge from the Federally Administered Tribal Area to assume the office of the Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court when he took oath on December 30, 2016 and served in that office until his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on June 28, 2018.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain addressed the Pakistan Auto Parts Show (PAPS) 2024, organised by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) at Expo Centre.

PM reiterates Pakistan's strong support for IIOJK

PM Shehbaz condemns Israeli attack on Iran, warns strikes threaten regional peace



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan had always expressed its unwavering solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters and it will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to them until the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In his message on the occasion of 'Kashmir Black Day' - 27 October 2024, the prime minister said on this day 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their own destiny.

It has failed to fulfill its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He said the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had suffered countless hardships during the last seventy-seven years. However, their resolve to realize their inalienable right to self-determination remains as firm as it was in 1947. "This day, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their continued struggle for the right to self-determination. Undoubtedly, their sacrifices will not go in vain," he said. The prime minister said India had been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IIOJK since 5 August 2019. India's nefarious designs are aimed at undermining the disputed status of IIOJK and denying the Kashmiri people their democratic right to decide their own future.

Today, he said the Kashmiri people were enduring the most egregious and painful curbs on their daily lives and livelihoods. He said the number of political prisoners remains in the thousands and the Indian occupation forces act with impunity under draconian counterterrorism laws. However, he said these oppressive measures cannot dampen the Kashmiri people's yearning for self-determination. "As I recently reaffirmed in my address to the United Nations General Assembly, Pakistan has consistently maintained that peace and stability in South Asia remain contingent

upon peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris. India must realize that it cannot suppress the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people by its coercive tactics," he added. Meanwhile, Pakistan condemned Israel's strikes on Iran, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Foreign Office (FO) warning that such actions jeopardise regional peace and international law.

The strikes follow escalating tensions, with Israel targeting military sites in Iran early Saturday in response to Tehran's alleged recent attacks, including a large-scale ballistic missile assault on Israel on October 1. Approximately 200 ballistic missiles were reportedly launched, marking Iran's second direct strike on Israel within six months. PM Shehbaz expressed Pakistan's disapproval of Israel's actions on social media, saying, "Pakistan stands with Tehran and its other neighbours in pursuit of peace." He noted that Israeli aggression threatens stability in an already volatile region and violates international norms of sovereignty. The FO's official statement echoed these concerns, condemning the strikes as a "dangerous escalation" and a "grave violation" of the United Nations Charter. "Israeli military strikes against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity undermine the path to regional peace," the statement read.

Four cops among six martyred in North Waziristan 'suicide blast'

Waziristan: Security forces cordon off area of incident; injured shifted to hospital as police launch rescue operation. At least six people including four cops were martyred and several others were injured in a "suicide bombing" in North Waziristan, police said on Saturday. The law enforcers said that the attack targeted a police post in Eidak area of Mir Ali. Four of the slain individuals were police personnel, they added. The injured were shifted to hospital after a rescue operation was launched. Meanwhile, the area was cordoned off by the security forces. Pakistan has experienced a spike in terrorism since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Most terror incidents are reported in provinces bordering the neighbouring country - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Around a dozen militants were eliminated during anti-terrorism operations by the security forces in KP's District North Waziristan this month, as the military strives to deal with the menace of terrorism in the country. A report published by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) earlier this month stated that the third quarter of 2024 saw a sharp increase in fatalities of terrorist violence and counter-terrorism campaigns with a 90% surge in violence in the country.

Speaker of Russian Federation Council to arrive in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Valentina Matvienko, the Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, is set to arrive in Pakistan on Sunday for an official visit. According to a news release, the visit, scheduled from October 27 to 29, was extended by Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. This visit is expected to mark a pivotal moment in the growing diplomatic and parliamentary ties between the two nations. Ms Matvienko's presence is anticipated to further strengthen Pakistan-Russia relations, with engagements planned at the highest levels of leadership. During her stay, Ms Matvienko is scheduled to meet with Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, the President, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and the Speaker of the National Assembly. Additionally, she will address a special session of the Senate on Monday, October 28. The high-profile meetings are expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in parliamentary diplomacy, cultural exchange, and other key areas of bilateral interest. This visit, featuring significant discussions and strategic engagements, underscores the commitment of both nations to fostering stronger relations. The importance of Ms Matvienko's visit represents a key step forward in strengthening diplomatic channels between the Russian Federation and Pakistan. Agencies



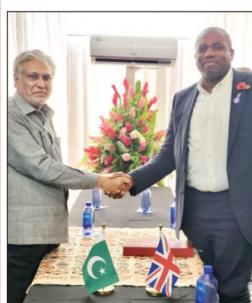
Ahsan Iqbal calls for 'Unity' to achieve economic goals

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday underscored the imperative need for stability, peace and continuity of policies in Pakistan, emphasizing that collective efforts from all political parties were crucial for the nation's progress. In an interview with a Private news channel, he criticized PTI leadership for creating instability in the country and warned against politicizing national institutions. He emphasized, "Political stability and policy continuity are crucial for Pakistan's development." "By promoting a positive narrative and highlighting the country's achievements, Pakistan can move forward towards a more prosperous future," he added. He believed, "Pakistan requires a political consensus where all parties fulfill their roles, with the foundation of this consensus deeply rooted in the principles of law and the constitution." Ahsan Iqbal responding a query stressed, "The 26th Constitutional Amendment is crucial for strengthening Pakistan's democracy, highlighting the need for broad consensus among all

"By promoting a positive narrative and highlighting the country's achievements, Pakistan can move forward towards a more prosperous future"

political parties to drive the country's development through vital judiciary reforms." "This collective effort aims to introduce significant changes to the judicial system, ensuring a more representative and inclusive appointment process," he added. He emphasized that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has consistently played a positive role in stabilizing the country.

DPM Dar, UK Foreign Secretary agree to work for deepening bilateral partnership



APIA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar had a productive meeting with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on the sidelines of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM2024) in Apia, Samoa, where they agreed to work together for deepening Pakistan-UK partnership and taking it to next higher level. During the meeting, they discussed wide range of topics including strengthening Pakistan-UK relations across multiple areas of mutual interest. Deputy Prime Minister Dar extended a warm invitation to UK Foreign Secretary to visit Pakistan.

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Funeral prayer of Shaheed SI Haider Ali offered at Police Lines HQ

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayer of the valiant martyr, Sub Inspector Haider Ali Shah of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, was held on Saturday at Police Lines Headquarters, with the utmost respect and honor. A public relations officer told APP that the ceremony was attended by Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, senior officers from the Islamabad and Punjab police, the Frontier Constabulary, and a multitude of police officers and officials from other law enforcement agencies. He said the sacrifice of Haider Ali Shah, who lost his life, was commemorated with somber reverence. A vast gathering of police officers and law enforcement officials, along with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, offered their final respects during a touching funeral prayer, he said. The attendees expressed their deep condolences and offered Fatiha for the elevation of the martyr's rank. Yesterday, Haider Ali Shah was seriously injured by unidentified assailants who opened fire on him, and he succumbed to his injuries, meeting his Creator. The martyred Sub Inspector served in various divisions and units of the Islamabad Police and fought against criminal



elements. Haider Ali had recently been posted to the investigation department and was performing his official duties. He joined the Islamabad Police in 1990 as a constable. IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, while paying tribute, reaffirmed the indomitable spirit of the police force to defend and protect citizens. He emphasized that every member of the force is committed to upholding the values of martyrdom and stands united against any threat to the community. The funeral procession concluded with a heartfelt salute from the squad, while IGP and senior police officers laid floral wreaths on the martyr's body. The body of the martyred personnel was then transported to his hometown with full official honors, symbolizing the nation's gratitude for his sacrifice.

Govt launching Panda Bond in Chinese market to diversify financing base: Aurangzeb



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Saturday that government was aiming to launch an inaugural Panda bond in the Chinese market to diversify its financing base. He was talking to China's Vice Minister of Finance, Liao Min during a meeting on the sidelines of World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings in Washington, according to press release issued by finance ministry here Saturday. He requested the Chinese side to raise the limits under the Currency Swap Agreement to CNY 40 billion. Both sides emphasized the need for online payment settlements and integration of the two countries' payment systems. The finance minister said majority of Chinese companies was interested in expand-

ing investments and increasing employment opportunities in Pakistan and assured that the government was committed to providing foolproof security to Chinese workers. He thanked Chinese government for its unwavering support to Pakistan's socio-economic development and assistance in securing the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF). He said, Pakistan was eager to learn from China's experience with economic reforms. Aurangzeb reaffirmed the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. He also welcomed BYD's decision to introduce electric vehicles in Pakistan, the statement added. Meanwhile, the minister during a meeting with Andrew Torre, Regional President for VISA, appreciated VISA's commitment to

modernizing Pakistan's payments ecosystem, including support for domestic payment players like ILink. He commended VISA's efforts in promoting financial inclusion and supporting entrepreneurs in Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over VISA's launch of the Financial Inclusion Card in partnership with Meezan Bank. Both parties agreed on the importance of offering more routing choices for clients and ensuring a level playing field for domestic transaction processing. In addition, Mohammad Kallala, Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking Business of Natixis called on the minister and briefed him on Natixis' operations and strong presence in infrastructure, renewables, transportation/aviation, and telecom/tech sectors. They discussed opportunities for partner-

ship with Gulf investors, particularly from Saudi Arabia, to provide financing and advisory support for investments into Pakistan. He shared that the Bank aims to collaborate with a select group of leading Pakistani companies to facilitate these investments. Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining continued engagement in the future. Meanwhile, Karan Bhatia, Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Google, called on the minister and provided an overview of Google's recent activities and engagements in Pakistan, along with their plans to deepen investments and make tangible economic contributions in the country. He raised regulatory, legislative, connectivity, and financial concerns. The Finance Minister assured full support in this regard, the statement added. APP

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Asghar Soomro

Education at the crossroads

Hardly any conference or event discussing socio-economic and political challenges of Pakistan goes without acknowledging its vast, untapped asset – the youth. While it is encouraging to see government officials recognising this valuable resource, one must question whether both federal and provincial governments are genuinely serious about harnessing this potential.

One of the main indicators of our rulers' commitment to this issue is education, which lies at the core of human capital development. Recently, at an international conference on education system strengthening, I heard the chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan remark that there is pervasive negativity surrounding the country. For this reason, he said he chose to emphasise positive developments in Pakistan's universities over the past two decades.

Among these, the structural transformation of the Universities Grants Commission into the fully independent HEC marked a pivotal change. Since then, the number of universities have grown from 51 to 244, and research publication has surged from 850 to around 40,000 – a remarkable increase, though the quality of these publications remains a top for a debate. In terms of gender equity, the enrollment gap has also narrowed, with 48 per cent female and 52 per cent male students.

However, despite these achievements, budget constraints overshadow much this progress. Only 0.24 per cent of GDP is allocated to higher education, and less than 2.0 per cent to education overall – a meager allocation that reflects the low priority given to education in the national agenda.

Another question arises: Are our universities equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills to participate effectively in the modern economy and contribute to societal transformation? For now, we will try to analyse higher education in Pakistan on the basis of the available data across two broad indicators of access and quality.

Although the number of universities has significantly increased over the past two decades, overall access to higher education remains low and fragmented, with visible regional disparities. Despite various efforts and good intentions, total enrollment across all universities and degree colleges in Pakistan stands at approximately 2.4 million. Given that current enrollment across all educational levels is roughly 53 million, higher education enrollment works out to only 4.5 per cent. In other words, if 100 students enter primary education, only five continue to university.

The overall participation rate in higher education hovers between 4.5 and 5.0 per cent and has seen minimal improvement. As a result, despite increased enrollment, participation rates remain unsatisfactory.

In comparison to India, despite vast demographic differences, Pakistan significantly lags behind in education, though we remain comparable in defence capabilities, possessing nearly the same number of nuclear arsenals. According to the latest All-India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) report, it has the world's second largest higher education system with over 58,000 higher education institutions. Nearly 2,400 higher education institutions were added during 2021-22.

In India, there are now 43.3 million students enrolled for higher education, up by nearly two million students in just one year. Nearly 79 per cent of students are enrolled on

undergraduate courses with 12 per cent at the postgraduate (master's degree) level. Only 0.5 per cent were studying for a PhD, with most of the rest studying for sub-degree diploma programmes. Compared to five years ago, an additional 6.7 million students have enrolled which amounts to an 18 per cent increase. The student participation rate or the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education has increased to 28.4 per cent. This is a 1.1 per cent point increase from 2020-21. The states/union territories with highest GER are Chandigarh, Puducherry, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala and Telangana.

While India's higher education races ahead, Pakistan's progress trudges along at a snail's pace. This stark contrast often makes me wonder: why do we compete with India in nuclear arsenal, but not in education or economic development?

When it comes to quality education, we seem far off the mark. We have neither made strides in innovation and creativity in science and technology, nor produced social scientists capable of guiding the country out of its many crises. Social issues as poverty, extremism, and frustration have reached critical levels, with incidents of lynching now frequent.

Anger and frustration over real and perceived injustice, unfairness and discrimination continue to grow, fueled by rampant corruption, nepotism, and a system that favours the powerful. This erosion of the social fabric is worsened by universities operating in isolation, without meaningful connections to society. Ideally, such serious social issues should be rigorously studied and discussed on university campuses with a scientific approach, but instead, universities have become mere 'degree mills'.

The chairman of the HEC himself

cited political interference as a major barrier, with every ruling party seeking to install its own 'person' at the top. Consequently, university leaders often serve the interest of political powers rather than focusing on students, faculty, or institutional advancement.

Recently, 70 universities have been without vice-chancellors, which only adds to the struggles of Pakistan's universities in achieving global recognition – they are unsurprisingly absent from the top 500 world rankings.

To transform universities into genuine knowledge hubs, we need institutions that inspire not only individual success but also a commitment to the social progress. I remember a conversation with then vice-chancellor of University of Sindh Jamshoro, who shared that there are 250 foreign-qualified faculty members in the university. Despite their qualifications, however, their presence had not visibly impacted Jamshoro, the education city, nor significantly transformed the university itself. Knowledge alone is not enough; faculty and students need to embody a new mindset and commitment to the society as well.

At the same event, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal reminisced about a time when Pakistan was a destination for foreign students seeking higher education. Students from countries like Malaysia, who couldn't study in the US or Europe, often chose Pakistan as their next option. However, we cannot go back to an 'old Pakistan' nor can we pursue the notion of a 'new Pakistan'; this debate must end. What we need is a sincere effort to develop a prosperous and intellectually vibrant nation.

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Pakistan as a global hub

DR SAHIBZADA ALI MAHMUD

In today's hyper-connected world, the concept of airport cities, or aerotropolises, offers Pakistan a transformative opportunity to position itself as a global hub for innovation, economic activity, and cultural exchange. By creating visa-free entry zones regulated through technology, these airport-centred cities could become thriving ecosystems that encourage collaboration, investment, and creativity, while also showcasing Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. An aerotropolis is a modern city built around an airport, designed to serve as a hub for business, commerce, and tourism. These cities offer a concentrated environment where industries, startups, and digital enterprises can thrive, leveraging proximity to international transport links to accelerate growth. For Pakistan, the establishment of aerotropolises would be a groundbreaking step toward integrating its economy with the global market while fostering local innovation and development. One of the most exciting features of these aerotropolises would be the implementation of visa-free entry within its boundaries. This policy would eliminate the traditional barriers associated with international travel, such as lengthy visa processes, allowing global visitors, investors, and entrepreneurs to easily enter Pakistan's aerotropolis zones. Access would be efficiently managed through advanced technology like RFID-based systems and biometric controls, ensuring security while facilitating a smooth entry process. By simplifying access, Pakistan can position itself as a welcoming, business-friendly destination, which would significantly boost tourism, business, and foreign investment. This open-door policy would not only enhance Pakistan's global reputation but also offer local businesses and innovators greater exposure to international markets and partners.

At the heart of these aerotropolises would be vibrant ecosystems designed to nurture creativity and entrepreneurship. Purpose-built co-working spaces would allow professionals, both local and international, to collaborate and innovate. These zones would be equipped with cutting-edge infrastructure, enabling the rapid development of tech startups, digital enterprises, and other knowledge-based businesses. By bringing together talent from diverse fields, these hubs would drive forward-thinking solutions across a range of industries. Pakistan's aerotropolises could become central nodes in the global digital economy, housing both established digital enterprises and emerging startups. These zones could serve as breeding grounds for tech innovation, enabling Pakistani entrepreneurs to work side by side with international experts. From fintech to AI, blockchain to e-commerce, the aerotropolis would create a fertile environment for digital transformation and technological advancement. The inclusion of incubation centres would also provide young startups with the mentorship, funding, and networks needed to succeed. By nurturing these businesses, Pakistan would not only foster home-grown talent but also attract foreign entrepreneurs looking for a base in a fast-growing economy. Beyond traditional business sectors, these airport cities can also tap into the rapidly growing e-sports and digital entertainment industries. The construction of state-of-the-art e-gaming arenas would allow Pakistan to host international gaming tournaments, drawing participants and audiences from around the globe. The inclusion of immersive digital experiences, such as virtual reality gaming and augmented reality displays, could provide a cutting-edge entertainment offering that sets the aerotropolis apart from traditional urban developments.

While an aerotropolis would be a hub of innovation and business, it would also serve as a cultural showcase for Pakistan's rich heritage. Visitors would have access to immersive virtual experiences that bring the country's most famous tourist attractions to life. Through advanced virtual reality setups, travelers could take interactive tours of Pakistan's ancient historical sites, such as Mohenjo-Daro, Badshahi Masjid, or the breathtaking Hunza Valley, without leaving the aerotropolis. This would not only promote tourism across the country but also offer visitors a unique cultural experience unlike any other. Furthermore, specialized immersive virtual tours can be provided for purposes of religious tourism e.g. Buddhist sites in Pakistan. In addition to digital tourism, cultural centres within the aerotropolises would offer real-world experiences with traditional Pakistani cuisine, handicrafts, and cultural performances. These centres would highlight the diversity and richness of Pakistan's regions. Such experiences would provide a holistic view of the country's heritage, encouraging tourists to explore beyond the aerotropolis and into Pakistan's vibrant landscapes and communities. Foreign direct investment would be a key driver of growth in these aerotropolises. By offering streamlined, one-window facilitation services for setting up businesses, these cities would remove the bureaucratic hurdles that often slow down investment. International companies and digital enterprises could easily establish operations within the aerotropolis, benefiting from visa-free access, modern infrastructure, and a highly skilled talent pool. Whether they are looking to set up a regional office, manufacturing facility, or digital platform, an aerotropolis would provide an attractive, low-risk environment for foreign investors. As part of Pakistan's vision for a secure and efficient aerotropolis, technology would play a crucial role in regulating access and maintaining security. RFID-based access control, biometric verification, IoT networks, and AI-powered surveillance systems would ensure that only authorized personnel and visitors can enter restricted zones. These smart security measures would be complemented by energy-efficient infrastructure, integrating renewable energy sources and sustainable practices to create eco-friendly, smart cities. The use of smart city technologies would also enable these airport cities to optimize resource usage, improve traffic management, and offer high-quality public services in a seamless, tech-enabled environment. This integration of technology would not only ensure operational efficiency but also set a new benchmark for sustainable urban development in Pakistan.

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

Today in History

Pakistan

Meanwhile, three Round Table Conferences were convened in London during 1930-32, to resolve the Indian constitutional problem. The Hindu and Muslim leaders, who were invited to these conferences, could not draw up an agreed formula and the British Government had to announce a 'Communal Award' which was incorporated in the Government of India Act of 1935. Before the elections under this Act, the All-India Muslim League, which had remained dormant for some time, was reorganized by Quaid-i-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had returned to India in 1934, after an absence of nearly five years in England. The Muslim League could not win a majority of Muslim seats since it had not yet been effectively reorganized. However, it had the satisfaction that the performance of the Indian National Congress in the Muslim constituencies was bad. After the elections, the attitude of the Congress leadership was arrogant and domineering. The classic example was its refusal to form a coalition government with the Muslim League in the United Provinces. Instead, it asked

the League leaders to dissolve their parliamentary party in the Provincial Assembly and join the Congress. Another important Congress move after the 1937 elections was its Muslim mass contact movement to persuade the Muslims to join the Congress and not the Muslim League. One of its leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, even declared that there were only two forces in India, the British and the Congress. All this did not go unchallenged. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah countered that there was a third force in South-Asia constituting the Mus-

lims. The All-India Muslim League, under his gifted leadership, gradually and skillfully started organising the Muslims on one platform. The 1930s witnessed awareness among the Muslims of their separate identity and their anxiety to preserve it within separate territorial boundaries. An important element that brought this simmering Muslim nationalism in the open was the character of the Congress rule in the Muslim minority provinces during 1937-39.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Lucy Hale's night takes unexpected turn at recent event

Lucy Hale beams with happiness after a big surprise at a star-studded event



Lucy Hale was over the moon after the pleasant surprise she received at 2024 WIF Max Mara Face of the Future event on Wednesday, October 23.

The Puppy Love actress bumped in with her hit TV show *Pretty Little Liars* co-stars, Sasha Pieterse and Ashley Benson. "I was so happy to see them. I mean, you never know who you're going to run into at these things, but you always assume it's gonna be your friends," she told *People Magazine*.

The 32-year-old could not stop revealing her feelings after the reunion with the former co-stars, saying: "I saw Sasha first and then I saw Ashley, and it's great. I love those girls, and it's always amazing when we can gather to be in the same place."

Hale went on explaining her bond with them, adding, "We're always like, 'We have to do a proper reunion!' It was quick short and sweet but it made my night." The actress revealed that the trio talked about Pieterse and Benson's children. The post received numerous comments alongside Hales beau, Ian Harding, "So beautiful wait how do you all know each other again?" Earlier in September, Hale and Pieterse met at Annual Friendly House Awards Luncheon in California.

Tech

WhatsApp working on channel QR code feature



Meta-owned platform WhatsApp has disclosed that it is working on a feature which will enable users to view and follow channels using QR codes as part of its future update. The messaging platform is developing a new section that allows channel owners to share the QR code for their channels. Notably, a more efficient alternative to sharing tradi-

tional links has been presented by the use of QR codes, reported WABetaInfo. A QR code can be displayed directly on the screen for anyone nearby to scan instead of needing to send a link that users must open. As a result, this new feature removes the need to copy and send the channel invite link in case users are engaged in face-to-face interactions. With the help of this feature, channel owners will simply be able to show the QR code on their device to friends or audiences. This will make the sharing process more spontaneous and engaging. Users will be instantly redirected to the channel after scanning the QR code. This will permit them to view its content and follow it with just a tap in the future. According to WABetaInfo, the new feature will be specifically beneficial in social settings where users want to share their favourite channels without relying on digital communication.

Health

What is Chikungunya virus and how is it rapidly spreading in Karachi?

As other Asian countries are suffering through the climate change crisis, Pakistan is on the same track where the summers are getting harsher and winters are becoming milder with the passing of every year. According to *The Lancet*, due to the rising temperatures, the region including Pakistan is observing and going through an outbreak of many arboviral diseases such as malaria, dengue and now the mosquito-borne Chikungunya viral. The city of Karachi has been facing the brunt of this disease with a surge in Chikungunya cases since at least May this year, with hospitals in the port city reporting countless suspected cases of the virus on the daily. What even is the disease and how rapidly is it spreading among the people of Pakistan's largest city? What is Chikungunya virus and how does it spread?

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease that spreads through the bite of infected "Aedes aegypti mosquitoes" and "Aedes albopictus mosquitoes", according to Cleveland Clinic. If a mosquito carrying the virus bites a person, the virus is transmitted to that person. But if a non-infected mosquito bites an infected person, it acts as a carrier of the virus by sucking it from that person's bloodstream and transmitting it to others through bites. Al Jazeera reports that according to health authorities, the risk of Chikungunya spreading through a carrier mosquito is the highest in the first week after infection. These mosquitoes also carry and spread the dengue and the Zika virus. How severe is outbreak in Karachi? A spokesperson of the Sindh Health Department stated that this year, from May to September, 172

positive cases of Chikungunya were reported in Karachi, whereas 956 suspected cases of the viral disease were reported. Of the 956 suspected, 713 were tested. A report from the Aga Khan University Hospital revealed that Chikungunya is being reported particularly among the elderly and diabetic patients. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, symptoms of the Chikungunya virus begin three to seven days after the virus is transmitted to the human body. The most common signs of the disease are fever and joint pain while other symptoms include headache, muscle pain, swelling of the joints and rash on the body. CDC adds that people with Chikungunya feel better within a week of infection however, the joint pain can be severe and might continue for months.



Pakistan strongly condemns Israel's strikes against Islamic Republic of Iran, says FO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday strongly condemned Israel's strikes against Islamic Republic of Iran and said that these military strikes against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran were a grave violation of the UN Charter and the international law.

"These strikes undermine path to regional peace and stability and also constitute a dangerous escalation in an already volatile region. Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation and expansion of the conflict," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

Pakistan called on the UN Security Council to play its role for the maintenance of international peace and security and to take immediate steps to bring an end to Israeli recklessness in the region and its criminal behaviour.

SC proceedings will be available for the public: CJP

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Yahya Afridi decided Supreme Court's (SC) proceedings will be available for the public through live streaming.

CJP Justice Yahya Afridi decided to provide live streaming services in all Supreme Court courtrooms, the sources said. The service will require the consent of parties involved, maintaining confidentiality for female litigants.

This move would also allow global access to court proceedings, enabling overseas Pakistanis to watch their cases live.

The sources CJP Justice Yahya Afridi tasked Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar to supervise the arrangement for live streaming of all courtrooms. Previously, only courtroom No. 1 had live streaming.

CM condemns suicide attack in North Waziristan

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has strongly condemned the suicide attack at a checkpoint in North Waziristan, which resulted in the martyrdom of four officers.

In her statement, the CM expressed profound grief and sorrow over this tragic incident, conveying heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

CM Maryam Nawaz honored the bravery and sacrifice of the martyred officers, recognizing their commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region. DNA

Sanallah says Justice Mansoor compromised stature with letter

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanallah has criticised Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's recent letter, asserting that the Supreme Court judge failed to uphold his stature by engaging in what he called "regrettable" language.

In a press conference at Model Town, Lahore, Sanallah expressed his disappointment, suggesting that Justice Mansoor's recent statements were unbecoming of his role. Sanallah commented that he wished the judge had refrained from penning the letter, stating, "Going for umrah would have sufficed instead." He further voiced concern over the rising use of divisive language among judges, citing recent exchanges as uncharacteristic and "disappointing" coming from individuals in respected positions. The minister also commented on the recent appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi, expressing confidence in the choice. He noted that Justice Afridi has maintained independence from the group dynamics within the judiciary, amidst growing friction among judges.

Sanallah condemned the ongoing use of language through judiciary members, stating that terms like "disgraceful" and "shameful" have been circulating in exchanges that resemble "street brawls."

Reflecting on past events, he stated that Pakistan's economic troubles began with a judicial conspiracy in 2017 involving former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, who, he alleged, acted unlawfully to remove an elected prime minister. He further asserted that Pakistan's economy had been stabilised due to the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, adding that recent constitutional amendments have brought hope for closing the "backdoor channels" that had previously harmed the country.

Yesterday, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah stated in a letter to Supreme Court Registrar that he will not attend the farewell reference for the outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Fazl Isa.

Justice Shah explains that it is universal custom to hold a farewell event to acknowledge the departing Chief Justice's contributions. APP

Senate delegation led by Irfan Siddiqui visits Uzbekistan Senate Secretariat



TASHKENT: The visiting delegation of Pakistani senators, led by Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with their Uzbek counterparts at the Senate Secretariat in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The three-member delegation is currently visiting Uzbekistan on the invitation of the Election Commission of Uzbekistan as International Elections Observers.

At the Senate Secretariat in Tashkent, the delegation comprising Senators Sarmad Ali, Amir Chishti, and Irfan Siddiqui held significant meetings with their Uzbek counterparts, including Senator Ravshanbek Alimov, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Anvar Tuychiyev, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Uzbek Senate and others.

The Uzbek Senate expressed admiration for Pakistan's democratic system and highlighted the robust strategic ties between Uzbekistan

and Pakistan.

Both sides showed a keen interest in further enhancing Pak-Uzbek relations, with discussions revolving around the potential for future cooperation, including parliamentary friendship group exchanges. The Uzbek Senate provided valuable insights into the election process and the functioning of the Uzbekistan parliament, fostering a better understanding between the two countries.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui reaffirmed Pakistan's high regard for Uzbekistan and pledged continued support for key infrastructure projects such as the trans-Afghan railway initiatives and Gwadar port programs. Additionally, an invitation was extended to the Uzbek counterparts to visit Pakistan, to foster stronger ties and promote cooperation. As part of their visit, the Pakistani Senators were given a comprehensive tour of the Uzbek Senate hall, where they were briefed on the intricate workings of the Senate. Khalid Taimur Akram, who is a renowned expert on the Eurasian Region, accompanied the Pakistani Senate Delegation.

During their visit, the delegation engaged in key diplomatic discussions and exchanges aimed at strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.



ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson of the Federal Government on Legal Affairs, Barrister Aqeel Malik in a group photo with the Deputy Head of Mission of the State of Palestine, Nader K. Alturk. On instructions of Prime Minister, Pak NDMA dispatches 13th Consignment of 100 tons for people of Gaza from Islamabad International Airport to Amman, Jordan.

Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers & sisters, says President Zardari

President strongly condemns suicide attack in North Waziristan

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Aisf Ali Zardari has said that Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination. He said that for decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured brutal repression by Indian forces. We strongly condemn India's ongoing atrocities and reaffirm our unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause, he said.

This was stated by President Asif Ali Zardari in his message on the occasion of the 'Kashmir Black Day' being observed today (Sunday).

President Asif Ali Zardari said that 27th October 1947, marks a dark chapter in South Asian history when India sent troops to occupy Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured brutal repression by Indian forces.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that over the years, India has transformed IIOJK into one of the most militarised regions in the world. Thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been killed, while their legitimate leaders remain imprisoned, and local media is heavily cen-



sored. He said that the United Nations Security Council has repeatedly affirmed the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination through a fair and impartial plebiscite. Yet, India continues to defy these resolutions and deny Kashmiris their fundamental rights. Since August 5, 2019, India has further escalated its occupation by stripping IIOJK of its special status and implementing measures to alter its demographic and political landscape. These actions are part of a broader strategy to consolidate control and suppress the Kashmiri Freedom Movement, he said.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that despite these oppressive tactics, the resilient people of Kashmir remain steadfast in their struggle for freedom. We strongly condemn India's ongoing atrocities and reaffirm our unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause, he said. President Asif Ali Zardari said that the recent developments in the Middle East are a stark

reminder that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester. Violating international law and pushing disputes under the rug does not guarantee lasting peace. Three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their right to self-determination, he said.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that the world can no longer ignore its responsibility. We urge the international community to pressure India to halt its human rights abuses in IIOJK, alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement UN Security Council resolutions, president Zardari said. Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives of innocent civilians and police personnel in a suicide attack in Mir Ali area of North Waziristan. Strongly condemning the suicide attack on a police check post, the president said the attack on the policemen was a cowardly act. "Terrorists will never succeed in their evil designs," the president said in a statement issued by the President House. He stressed the need for taking all possible measures to completely eradicate terrorism. Paying tribute to the martyred personnel, President Zardari prayed for patience for the bereaved families, and wished a swift recovery for the injured.

Rana Tanveer highlights auto industry importance in economic development

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Saturday emphasized the importance of the auto industry in country economic development.

While addressing the Pakistan Auto Parts Show 2024, the minister praised the local manufacturers' ability to produce high-quality parts and expressed optimism about the industry's future, said a news release. "Pakistan is one of the 40 automobile manufacturing countries in the world", he added. Tanveer urged all the stakeholders to worked hard to accelerate industrial and agricultural development. "Pakistani manufacturers are capable of producing highly complex parts to international standards", he remarked. The minister said that that the participation of local and international companies in the event will bring new innovation in the industry. He highlighted that the exhibition is important to promote industrial development and strengthen Pakistan's economy. During the event the minister also visited various manufacturing units. The event was organized by Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers at Expo Center Lahore. (Picture on page 1)

Pakistan opens pavilion at 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Expo

BELJING: The 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Expo, themed New Quality Productive Forces, a New Future for Agriculture commenced in Yangling, Shaanxi, and will span five days. Pakistan, honoured as this year guest country, held its pavilion inauguration ceremony this morning. Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi, and Shaanxi Vice Governor Dou Jingli jointly presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Other distinguished attendees included Yao Hongjuan, Director-General of the Shaanxi Foreign Affairs Office; He Ling, Deputy Party Secretary and Executive Deputy Director of the Yangling Demonstration Zone; Ghulam Ali, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council; and Wu Congcong, Secretary-General of the provincial government, who officiated as the event host, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. During his address, Ambassador Hashmi remarked, In June, during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif delegation visit to Yangling, we engaged in substantial discussions on collaborative opportunities between Pakistan relevant



agencies and the sectors in Yangling and Shaanxi Province. Since then, all parties have worked diligently towards realizing these objectives.

Our return to Yangling for the 31st Agricultural High-Tech Expo further underscores the strengthening of our bilateral cooperation. Agriculture forms the cornerstone of Pakistan economy, accounting for over 20% of our GDP and supporting approximately 40% of our national employment. Through this Expo, we aspire to learn from the Yangling Demonstration Zone and Shaanxi Province in critical technological areas, including agricultural innovation, high-tech applications within the sector, high-yield seed cultivation, and more. APP

Amir urges people to participate in walks on Kashmir Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam on the observance of Kashmir Black Day saluted the courage and valour people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who had rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for realization of the basic rights.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the 77th anniversary of Kashmir Black Day-marked to protest India's illegal occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947 – the minister assured the Kashmiri people of complete Pakistani government support in their struggle for the right to self-determination and termed the Indian subjugation Kashmiris a gross human rights violation.

During the press conference, Engr Amir Muqam was accompanied by All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leaders including Muhammad Farooq Rehmani and Parliamentary Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan MNA Anwar ul Haq Chaudhry. The minister said that October 27 was the blackest day in world history when India on this day in 1947 landed its army in Kashmir and illegally occup-

ied the valley against the will of the people. He urged the international community to play an effective role in resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolution and the aspiration of the Kashmiri people.

He said that the incumbent govern-

were united on the Kashmir cause. He said the harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, cordon and search operations, and extra-judicial killings had become a matter of routine in IIOJK.

The minister urged the international community to pressure India to end gruesome and widespread human

rights violations in IIOJK, reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019, repeal draconian laws; release political prisoners and implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. Amir Muqam said Pakistan would continue to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. "Our strong moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people would continue till the realization of

their inalienable right to self-determination", he said.

The minister also briefed the media about the planned activities for Black Day to be observed on October 27, including walks, seminars and awareness drives, particularly the ceremonies scheduled to be held at Pakistan's diplomatic missions across the world.

He said that the government has chalked out a comprehensive programme to observe the day in an effective manner by highlighting brutalities and massive human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian troops to suppress the Indigenous freedom struggle of Kashmiris who want their legitimate right to self-determination in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Leader Muhammad Farooq Rehmani thanked the Pakistani government and Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan in observing the Kashmir Black Day on October 27 in an effective manner to give a strapping message to the world to play its role in impeding Kashmiris genocide and bloodshed.

NDMA dispatched 13th consignment for war affected people of Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, continued to provide humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon. The 13th consignment included 100 tons of winterized tents and blankets from Islamabad to Amman (Jordan) for people of Gaza, organized by Pak NDMA on the instruction of Prime Minister, a news release said.

In total 1,381 tons of relief items have been dispatched to affected people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The send-off ceremony was held at Islamabad International Airport on Saturday, which was attended by the Parliamentarian Barrister Aqeel Malik, H.E. Mr. Zuhair M. H. Darzaid, Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan, representatives from NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces. During the ceremony, the attendees emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. They reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting their brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

Palestinian Ambassador extended the deepest gratitude for unwavering support and generous humanitarian assistance to Gaza from people of Pakistan. He remarked that solidarity during these trying times is a beacon of hope and a testament to the enduring bond between our nations. He added that the humanitarian aid from Pakistan is not just a lifeline of essential supplies but a powerful message of compassion and unity. To date, Pakistan has dispatched a total of 12 consignments, comprised of 1281 tons of relief items to Gaza and Lebanon. Of these, 10 consignments (1,151 tons) were directed to Gaza, while two aid consignments (130 tons) were sent to Lebanon in addition to safe evacuation of 71 Pakistan's nationals from war zone region.

Government of Pakistan has also established a special account called the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon". This fund aims to collect public donations to support those in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.

Pak Army team secures first place in senior poomsae

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army emerged victorious in the senior poomsae category, taking first place at the National Taekwondo Championship at Liaquat Gymnasium on Saturday.

Competing fiercely, the team outperformed contenders from various sectors to claim the top spot. The WAPDA, known for its strong presence in national sporting events, secured second place, while the Higher Education Commission (HEC) team finished third, demonstrating significant skill and determination.

The championship witnessed a high level of competition among the teams, showcasing the athletes' commitment to taekwondo and the growing popularity of martial arts across Pakistan. APP