



Directed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) to ensure appointment of son of a deceased employee in accordance with the law within a month

President of Pakistan  
Asif Ali Zardari

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## DPM/FM Dar, Malaysian counterpart discuss bilateral cooperation between two countries



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday welcomed Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hasan on his arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "They discussed areas of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia and preparations for the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister to Pakistan," a post on X said.

## Govt committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy: Shaza



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Wednesday that the present government was committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy. During a meeting with Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula, she said steps were being taken to promote digital payments in the country as it had an important role in driving economic growth and efficiency. Matters of mutual interest, digitalization and e-governance were also discussed in the meeting, said a news release. Shaza Fatima said that boost in relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia in IT and telecom sector was vital. She said the IT and telecommunication sector of Pakistan was rapidly progressing. Shaza Fatima said under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, steps were underway for digital transformation in the country. The society, economy and governance were being digitalised, she added. The minister said that Ethiopia could benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). She also assured Pakistan Government's full support to Ethiopia regarding digitalization. The Ethiopian ambassador said that the IT sector of Pakistan had great potential. He said Ethiopia wanted to increase ties with Pakistan in the field of IT and telecommunication. "We aspire to get benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the ICT infrastructure development." APP



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic Scholar Dr. Zakir Naik calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## PM Shehbaz lauds Dr Zakir for global Islamic outreach efforts

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauded eminent scholar Dr Zakir Naik's exceptional efforts in spreading the true essence of Holy Quran and Hadith, besides promoting Islamic values worldwide. The prime minister warmly welcomed Dr Zakir, expressing his admiration for his scholarly work. He said the entire Ummah was proud of him for projecting the real image of Islam across the world. It was heartening to note that a vast majority of youth listened to his lectures. PM Shehbaz said that he had personally benefited from Dr Zakir's lectures, enriching himself from the valuable teachings of Islam. He said that the people of Pakistan fully admired the great personality of Dr Naik and were happy over his presence in the country. The PM noted that Dr Zakir was in good health. He was happy to know that his (Dr Zakir's) son was also following his footsteps and serving Islam. He also recalled his year meeting with Dr Zakir Naik in 2006. Dr Zakir Naik, in his remarks, said that Pakistan was the only country in the world which was founded on Islamic principles. He said that Islam was the religion which offered comprehensive guidance to the entire humanity encompassing every aspect of their lives. He reiterated his commitment for continuing efforts to spread the message of Islam globally, saying "the success lies in following the Islamic teachings". Recalling that he had last visited Pakistan in

## Malaysian PM arrives to a red carpet welcome

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday warmly received Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is undertaking a three-day official visit to Pakistan. Upon his arrival at the airport, children clad in traditional attire presented bouquets to the Malaysian Premier. He was also given a static guard of honour while 21-guns boomed in the background as gesture of warm welcome. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and members of the federal cabinet were also present to welcome the visiting dignitary. The Malaysian prime minister is accompanied by a high level delegation. During his stay, he will hold meetings with the leadership of Pakistan. Premier Anwar Ibrahim is undertaking the official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Sharif. The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts. They will also discuss regional and global developments. "Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture and faith. This visit provides an important opportunity to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia relations," Foreign Office said in an earlier press release.



Dr Naik said that he would also visit Karachi and Lahore.

## Govt committed to privatize PIA, 3 Discos by end of 2024: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the government is committed to privatize Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and three power distribution companies (Discos) before the end of 2024. During a recent interview with a private channel, the minister said that the incumbent government will ensure the privatization of the national carrier along with three power distribution companies (Discos) before 2024 culminates. It should be mentioned here that privatization of PIA initially set to conclude by October 1, has been postponed to October 31 due to low bidder interest, ongoing court cases, aging fleet issues, and civil aviation concerns. Muhammad Aurangzeb further said that government was working on privatization of sick units, and power sector reforms and for this, all necessary steps have been taken to achieve the objectives. The outsourcing of Islamabad and Karachi airport would be made in phases, he added. Right sizing and restructuring of some ministries and departments would also be made before the next fiscal year, he stated. In reply to a question about issues of Independent Power Producers, he said discussion was being made with Chinese authorities regarding re-profiling of debt besides China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects. All out measures are being taken to strengthen the economic sector of Pakistan, he added.

## Pakistan calls for de-escalation of hostilities, conflict resolution in ME

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the escalating hostilities in the Middle East, urging all parties to prioritize peace. "In recent months, Israel has increasingly acted in violation of international law and the UN Charter resulting in grave humanitarian crisis. Israel has endangered regional peace and security with the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The recent invasion of Lebanon has further intensified these tensions, affecting the lives of innocent civilians," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement. The people of Palestine, Lebanon, and the wider region deserved to live free from fear and violence. It was crucial for all sides to step back from the brink and for the international community to take swift action to de-escalate the situation. The prevailing culture of impunity and disregard for international law must be addressed urgently, it was stressed. The spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's call for the UN Security Council to uphold peace and security in the region, safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty, and put an end to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. "Pakistan has consistently advocated for a two state solution as the key to enduring peace in the Middle East with a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant UN and OIC resolutions," it was further added. APP

## Pakistan, Denmark sign MOU for restructuring in Pakistan's Maritime sector



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the behalf of Pakistani government and Denmark's Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov from the Danish government. Denmark's Ambassador to Pakistan Jacob Linulf presented the signed document of Danish Minister in this ceremony, said a press release. After this MOU, Maersk (Danish Shipping Company) was ready to invest almost two billion dollars in Pakistan's maritime sector. Minister for Finance Mohammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer, Additional Secretary Maritime Affairs Umar Zafar Sheikh and Secretary SIFC Jameel Qureshi were also present in this MOU signing ceremony. On this occasion, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that we are extremely thankful to the Government of Denmark on this remarkable breakthrough in maritime sector. He further added that as results of this memorandum ministry

could integrated logistics hubs in all ports, establish deep water container terminal in Karachi, create International Maritime Organization (IMO) and European Union (EU)-compliant ship recycling facilities in Gadhani, assist Pakistan Marine Academy to upgrade curriculum and equipment, and provide continuous technical and training assistance to Pakistani ports. The minister said that Maersk has the highest market share of 20 percent for containerized imports and exports in Pakistan. Apart from that, the global market capital of this company is around 175 billion Danish Krone. He further said that Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Denmark's Government was continuously working from last six months to reach at fruitful conclusion. The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Jakob Linulf also thanked the Government of Pakistan and Minister for Maritime Affairs on this progress. Both sides were willing to strengthen ties for the growth of maritime sector.

## Security forces kill six separatist militants in southwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces have killed six militants from the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in an operation in the country's southwestern Balochistan province, state-run media reported on Wednesday, as the country steps up efforts to combat militancy in the restive region. Balochistan, which shares its border with Iran and Afghanistan, has been the scene of a low-level insurgency by separatist militants for the last two decades. In August, ethnic nationalist militants hit several civil and military targets in a string of coordinated attacks in the province, killing more than 50 people on Aug. 25-26. A majority of the assaults were claimed by the BLA, the most prominent among a number of separatist groups operating in the province that is home to key China-led infrastructure projects, including a port and a gold-copper mine. The government and military say they have stepped up intelligence-based operations to quell the rising tide of the insurgency since the August attacks. "Six terrorists of BLA were killed in an operation by security forces in the Harmal area of Balochistan," Radio Pakistan said on Wednesday.

## Pakistan can achieve immense growth in business by adopting new technology: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Says socio-economic stability is closely linked with investment & trade opportunities

RAWALPINDI: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stated that Pakistan can achieve immense growth in business by adopting new technology and upgrading the existing equipment. He emphasized that embracing innovative technologies would create opportunities for growth in trade and business. He added, "Socio-economic stability is closely linked with investment and trade opportunities." Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed these views while inaugurating a new Grain Storage Silo in Rawalpindi on Wednesday. MNA Ispahnyar M. Bhandara was also present on the occasion. The Speaker also commended the Pakistani business community for adopting modern tech-



nology for promotion of industries and businesses within the country. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also stated that the National Assembly has been working to create a conducive environment for businesses through positive legislation, fostering further opportunities for growth. SABAH

## Mohsin Naqvi chairs high-level meeting regarding preparations of SCO Summit

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Interior regarding the preparations of upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit. The meeting was attended by top officials, including the Federal Secretary Interior, Additional Secretaries, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, IG Police Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Deputy Commandant FC, Sector Commander Pakistan Rangers, and representatives from security agencies. During the meeting, security arrangements for the SCO Summit were reviewed in detail.



The Interior Minister approved a comprehensive plan to ensure foolproof security during the summit. He

emphasized the significance of hosting the SCO Summit in Pakistan, stating that several heads of

state will attend. He called it an honor for the entire nation. He stated that special arrangements for beautification and cleanliness of Islamabad will be made on the occasion of the SCO Conference. The Interior Minister stated that in order to ensure foolproof security, additional personnel from Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC, and Punjab Police will be deployed. He underscored that all relevant departments should play their assigned role with mutual cooperation. He added that we all have to ensure the peaceful and successful conduct of this summit through mutual cooperation.

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Maheen Shafeeq

# India's facade of neutrality

Suspensions are mounting among India's close friends, since it seems it has been smartly manipulating both the US and Russia. India maintains a 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' with Russia, which provides 60 per cent of India's defence equipment and spare parts. The US has recently courted India to counter the growing Chinese influence. Under the framework of 'US-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership' and 'US-India Major Defense Partnership', the US has provided India with advanced strategic technology including AI, space, maritime and quantum computing, among others. Russia and the US have sought to influence India to pick a camp, while India has continued to resist and presented a posture of neutrality. Nevertheless, the so-called neutrality is the strategic zone where India does not resist bagging the benefits. This backfired, resulting in increased scepticism over India's foreign policy approaches. Narendra Modi visited the US between September 21 and 23, 2024, to attend the rescheduled Quad Leaders' Summit. As acknowledged by the press release of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, the summit was originally set to be hosted by India. It was scheduled for earlier this year in New Delhi alongside India's Republic Day Parade of Jan-

uary 2024, for which President Joe Biden was invited as the chief guest. However, despite the US's commitment to the Quad and its mission, President Biden postponed the Quad Summit and declined India's invitation. While India remains a privileged partner in Washington, the postponement also comes against the backdrop of frustration on India over a thwarted assassination plot against a Sikh activist on US soil. Prior to this incident, India had already experienced tensions with Canada, a strong American ally. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had also alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Sikh activists in Canada. A similar pattern of killing was also disclosed by Pakistan. Although the Quad is more strategically aligned than ever before, India's fraudulent acts of violating the sovereignty of its close partner, especially when the US laid the red carpet in honour of PM Modi during his state visit to the US last year in June, discloses India's priorities in the relationship. These strategies raise concerns regarding its reliability as a partner and also make it a weak link in the Quad. Ahead of the Biden-Modi meeting, US officials also met with Sikh activists, who are on India's kill list, to discuss the matters further. Additionally, American courts have not

## Age is not just a number

HUSSAIN H ZAIDI

China has decided to raise the retirement age to 63 years for men and 58 for women. Currently, Chinese men and women retire at 60 and 55 respectively. The new superannuation age will be implemented over 15 years. The decision rests on two variables: the increasing life expectancy and the growing share of old people in total population. The current retirement age in China was fixed way back in 1950. At that time, average life expectancy (ALE) in the country was mere 44 years. Today, it's more than 78. Likewise, at the moment, the old (aged 65 and above) constitute 14 per cent of the Chinese population. The share is projected to reach 25 per cent by 2050. Thus China's decision to increase the superannuation age rests on demographic factors – and rightly so. In several other emerging and advanced economies as well, the retirement age has been raised in recent years on the basis of demographic criteria. In the US, where ALE is 77.5, the retirement age is 67. The average retirement age in EU countries is 65, with ALE of 81. The Scandinavian nations have a range for superannuation. In Norway, ALE is 82.3, while the retiring age is 62-75 years. Japan has ALE of 85 years and retiring age of 65. In South Asia, Sri Lanka has the highest ALE of 77.2 years but male and female employees have to call it a day at 63 and 58 respectively. India has ALE of 68 years but has the same retirement age as in Pakistan: 60. The ALE in Pakistan is 69, a year higher than India's. Bangladesh has a higher ALE – 74 years – than both Pakistan and India but the employees have to quit at 59. During the past two decades, governments in Pakistan have considered jacking up the superannuation age to 63 or 65 years. Committees were constituted and re-constituted and retired senior bureaucrats were hired. Strangely enough, on each occasion, the proposal was undergirded not by demographics, which is a universal practice, but by economic factors. In fact, an increase in superannuation age has formed an important part of the economic revival agenda. Logically and empirically, the link between ALE and superannuation age is strong. The case for retirement primarily rests on the fact that as people grow older, they tend to become weaker both physically and mentally. A high standard of living can, however, slow down aging. Several countries have seen an increase in the retirement age in response to an enhanced ALE. Developed countries and most emerging economies have a relatively high ALE and a correspondingly high retiring age. However, taking into account Pakistan's demographic factors, it can be said that an increase in superannuation age will not only be uncalled-for but counterproductive as well. Here are the reasons: Pakistan already has one of the lowest gaps between the ALE and the retiring age, which is nine years. Increasing the retirement age to 65 or 63 will further shrink the gap, which means the workforce will be too old relative to ALE when it retires. This will for sure put the skids under civil servants' ability to deliver. Besides, in Pakistan older people (60 and above) by and large are not inclined to regular exercise and are generally unfit. The majority of the advanced and emerging economies are undergoing a major demographic shift in the form of a shrinking young population, and an expanding old population. Therefore, older people are required to put in a few more years of service so as to curtail the population dependency ratio. By contrast, demographically, Pakistan is among the youngest countries in the world as more than 64 per cent of our population is under the age of 30. In fact, if at all, our demographic credentials warrant a downward revision of the superannuation age. An upward revision of the retiring age will most benefit the highest ranked civil servants – federal secretaries and those holding equivalent posts – who will get more years to enjoy their privileged positions. These top bureaucrats, who are primarily responsible for the decadence of the civil service institution, and thus governance, are the least deserving of getting an extension. In a world which puts a high premium on specialization, the majority of them being generalists have at best a skin-deep understanding of the intricate issues they are supposed to apply their minds on. What's worse, they have a creed like faith in the otherwise anachronistic principle of administrative efficiency that looks upon employees' reshuffle and penalization as the panacea to every problem. The sooner this breed goes home, the better it will be for the country. That said, in case the government believes that a senior bureaucrat is such a rare gem that without their services the economy or civil administration will fall apart, they can be given an extension as permissible under the Civil Servants Act. An increase in the retirement age will put the brakes on job creation. The recent contraction in economic growth has hobbled employment generation in the private sector. If for three years, no civil servant retires, job opportunities will arise in the public sector only in the event of the demise of an employee or his/her decision to call it quits. Few things make a government more unpopular than rising employment. The soft underbelly of the civil service is its incompetence, not the retirement age. The government's focus should be on taking up the slack of civil service reforms rather than mulling measures that would leave the institution even slacker. We may now turn to the 'economics' of raising the retirement age. The economic argument rests on the government's desire to widen a perennially narrow fiscal space available to it by delaying the disbursement of the monetary package – pension and gratuity – given to the retiring employees. This proposal may also have the blessings of the multilateral donors, which have the knack of coming up with short-term solutions to deep-rooted problems. The extension in superannuation age, say by three years, will help the government save billions, as neither will new pensioners be added to an already long list nor retirement allowances will have to be paid. The average pension period will also be cut by three years, as the employees will be hanging up their boots at 63 instead of 60.

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## Today in History

### History of Pakistan



However, Karamat's role in the political process angered Nawaz Sharif, and in October 1998 the prime minister pressured the army high command into forcing the general's early retirement. Karamat was quickly and quietly replaced by Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a muhajir (post-partition immigrant) whom Sharif believed would be more compliant as well as apolitical. Military leaders were now even more convinced that Sharif was attempting to politicize the army, but the army also had other concerns. In mid-1999 the conflict over the Kashmir region flared again, when fighting broke out with Indian forces in the high mountains of the Kargil region. The prime minister, sensing danger, made a hurried trip to Washington and appeared to yield to U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton's suggestion that Pakistani forces pull back from the contested area. However, Pakistan's generals opposed a retreat strategy, believing that the advantages favoured their forces.

Most important, General Musharraf vehemently defended and stood with his fellow officers, and the impression circulated that the generals were planning to challenge Sharif's powers. Sharif, only now realizing he had made the wrong choice to head the army, set in motion a plan to replace Musharraf with another general. Musharraf, however, had the support of his fellow officers and, unlike Karamat, had no intention of yielding his position. The resulting Kargil War (May–July 1999) left several hundred combatants dead from each country. On October 12, 1999, Sharif attempted to oust Musharraf while the general was out of the country, but other generals thwarted the plot and arrested Sharif. On his return to Pakistan that same day, Musharraf announced the dissolution of the Sharif government and the suspension of the constitution. Although the action was clearly a coup d'état, Musharraf did not declare martial law, and he stated that fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution were to be preserved and that all laws other than the constitution would continue in force unless altered by military authority. Musharraf nevertheless did declare a Proclamation of Emergency, and on October 14 he announced that Pres. Mohammad Rafique Tarar would remain in office, while the national and state legislatures would be suspended. The country's courts would continue operating with the limitation that the justices not interfere with any order coming from the chief executive—as Musharraf at first styled himself. Moreover, Provisional Constitution Order No. 1 of 1999 specified that the president could only act in accordance with and with the advice of the chief executive. Pervez Musharraf at a press conference at the United Nations (UN) headquarters, New York City, September 20, 2006. As chief executive, Musharraf arrogated virtual total power to himself. The general cited the substantial turmoil in the country and noted that institutions had been systematically destroyed, that the economy was in a state of near collapse, and that only the most drastic measures could even begin to improve the national condition. Musharraf said Pakistan was at a critical crossroads and that the Sharif government had even planned to split and weaken the armed forces. Noting that he could not save both the country and the constitution at the same time, Musharraf chose to sacrifice the latter for the former. Nonetheless, the constitution had not been abrogated—merely held in "abeyance" until better times again allowed for its reinstatement. Careful to point out that martial law had not been imposed, he nevertheless insisted the country could not afford to perpetuate the old politics. A Chief Executive Secretariat was hurriedly assembled in the waning days of 1999, and by mid-2000 that temporary edifice had undergone restructuring in order to give more administrative powers to the new regime.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

### Riley Keough pays tribute to Elvis Presley at Paris Fashion Week

Riley Keough keeps family legacy alive with stunning performance

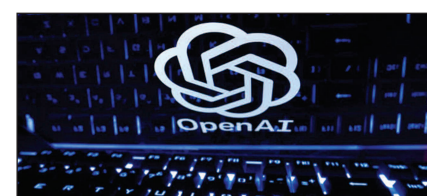


Riley Keough, granddaughter of the legendary Elvis Presley, showcased her vocal talents at the Chanel Paris Fashion Week show. The 35-year-old actress and singer, known for her roles in *Daisy Jones & The Six*, captivated the audience with her performance while seated on a swing above the crowd. Keough's outfit stunned, featuring a black jumpsuit with a dramatic sheer mesh cape, paired with silver metallic heels and chunky silver necklaces. Her glamorous makeup and styled brunette locks added to her captivating stage presence. Notable attendees, including Naomi Campbell and Margaret Qualley, enjoyed her performance from the front row. This appearance follows Keough's recent revelation about completing her late mother Lisa

Marie's memoir. In an interview with *People* magazine, Riley shared her motivation for finishing the memoir after Lisa Marie's passing on January 12, 2023. "Because my mother was Elvis Presley's daughter, she was constantly talked about, argued over and dissected. What she wanted to do in her memoir, and what I hope I've done in finishing it for, is to go beneath the magazine headline idea of her and reveal the core of who she was," Riley explained. "To turn her into a three-dimensional human being: the best mother, a wild child, a fierce friend, an underrated artist, frank, funny, traumatised, joyous, grieving — everything that she was throughout her remarkable life. I want to give voice to my mother in a way that eluded her while she was alive," Riley Keough added.

## Tech

### Is OpenAI's new tool a 'miracle' for developers?



OpenAI is planning to roll out a set of 'miracle' tools which are likely to make working with artificial intelligence voice assistants easier in an effort to stay ahead in the AI game. In its latest update, the ChatGPT maker is introducing a range of new tools — rolling out immediately for testing — that speed up the process of developing applications based on the tech firm's AI technology. The latest tool by Sam Altman's AI firm will enable developers to create AI voice applications using a single set of instructions, Reuters reported. Previously, developers were required to transcribe audio, run a generated-text model to come up with an answer to the

query and then use a separate text-to-speech model while developing an AI voice assistant. However, the new tool speeds up the process by eliminating all these steps. The new tool comes when competition in the AI race is heating up as technology giants, including Google-parent Alphabet, have also integrated AI models capable of crunching different forms of information such as video, audio and text across their businesses. Meanwhile, the Microsoft-backed AI startup also introduced a fine-tuning tool for models after training that would allow developers to improve the responses generated by models using images and text. This fine-tuning process can include feedback from humans who feed the model examples of good and bad answers based on its responses. Using images to fine-tune models would give them stronger image understanding capabilities, enabling applications such as enhanced visual search and improved object detection for autonomous vehicles, OpenAI said.

## Health

### Pakistan's polio tally soars to 26 as two more children infected

ISLAMABAD: Two new cases of polio virus have been reported in Pakistan, taking the country's yearly tally to 26 amid a sharp rise in the spread of the crippling disease despite rigorous efforts by the authorities for polio eradication. Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by virus mainly affecting children under the age of five years, who are malnourished or have weak immunity because of being under-vaccinated or not vaccinated for polio and other childhood diseases. The illness invades the nervous system and causes paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. The resurgence of polio in the country presents a significant setback for the country's efforts to eradicate the disease, as officials work to bolster vaccination campaigns and raise public

awareness about the importance of immunisation. Pakistan is one of the two remaining polio-endemic countries in the world, along with Afghanistan, and the number of cases on a yearly basis has significantly dropped in the country. The latest cases, reported from Karachi's East and Sujawal, were confirmed by the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health, media reported. These mark the first cases of the year for both districts. As per the report, a seven-year-old girl was paralysed by the poliovirus in district East and a 12-month-old boy in Tehsil Jati of Sujawal district. "It is heartbreaking that Pakistani children are still being threatened by a disease that can be easily prevented with the help of an easily available polio vaccine," said Ayesha Raza Farooq, Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication.

She stressed that once a child is paralysed by polio, the damage is irreversible, but repeated vaccinations can prevent it. Farooq emphasised the urgency of the situation, calling on parents, community leaders and teachers to act swiftly. The Pakistan Polio Programme has laid out a strategic plan to curb virus transmission, with the goal of halting its spread by mid-2025. The plan, developed in consultation with provincial authorities, focuses on reaching every child in high-risk areas, improving vaccination campaign quality and strengthening community engagement. A recent mass vaccination campaign in September targeted 33 million children under five across 115 districts. Another round is scheduled to begin on October 28, with officials emphasising the need to reach mobile and migrant populations as well.





## SC permits lawyer to consult PTI founder on Article 63A review petition

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned hearing of the review petition pertaining to the interpretation of Article 63A till Thursday. The court granted time to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) counsel to have consultation with the PTI founder in jail and also instructed the Attorney General for Pakistan to make arrangements in that regard.

A five-member larger bench presided by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhal and Justice Naeem Akhtar Aghan heard the review petition. At the outset, the Registrar Office presented its report regarding the issuance of the detailed judgment in the case.

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Shehzad Shaukat said that the detailed judgment was issued on October 14, 2022, and the review petition was filed with delay due to waiting of the order. The delay could be ignored in a review petition pertaining to the matter of public interest, he added.

PTI's Barrister Ali Zafar said that the PTI founder was the petitioner and he wanted to meet him in jail for consultation before giving arguments.

The chief justice observed that the lawyer should have told the court in that regard during yesterday's hearing so that it could have issued an order the same day.

The CJP, addressing Barrister Ali Zafar, observed that how he could say that his (CJP's) act was for certain reason. "How can you talk about my mind? I will not allow any judge or you to talk about my mind."

He further remarked that the lawyer talked about assumptions, while his acts were very transparent. "If a law comes in the full court meeting and everyone says it is a bad law. Will the law be abolished?" he questioned.

Chief Justice Isa rejected Ali Zafar's objection on the formation of the bench, saying that he (the lawyer) had stated that the decision should be pronounced, "so we pronounced it. We all have a unanimous decision to reject the objection."

Justice Mandokhail asked the lawyer to read the minutes of Judges Committee to view how many members were there.

The CJP said that there were simple constitutional questions. Whether any constitutional clauses including no-confidence move had become inactive because of the decision regarding the Article 63A, he asked. Lawyer Ali Zafar said that the current bench could not hear the case without the judge who had written the decision. The said judge was not there to defend the decision.

He said that after rejection of the objections, he wanted to take instructions from his client whether to give further arguments or not.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawyer Farooq H Naek said that it was not a decision on Article 63A, rather it was an opinion on the presidential reference. It was not mandatory to implement that opinion like a decision, he added.

The court accepted the request of Barrister Ali Zafar regarding his meeting with the PTI founder and instructed the AGP to make arrangements on the same day. APP



MOSCOW: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Russian Federation Mr. Alexy Overchuk.

## CPEC projects' review meeting held ahead of SCO Summit



ISLAMABAD: Ahead of the mid-October Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, a high-level review meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects was convened under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal here Wednesday.

The meeting brought together Secretaries and Additional Secretaries from all relevant ministries, reflecting a unified and collaborative approach towards enhancing the bilateral relationship with China, according to press release issued by planning ministry. During the session, an extensive briefing

was given on the progress of ongoing CPEC projects. In anticipation of the forthcoming visit of the Chinese Premier, the discussions centered on amplifying cross-sectoral cooperation and preparing a comprehensive action plan aimed at advancing bilateral economic and developmental goals.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the essential role of all ministries in the successful implementation of CPEC, emphasizing that collaboration across government sectors is crucial to unlock the full potential of this flagship initiative. He stressed the importance of leveraging the upcoming high-level engagement with China to advance busi-

ness-to-business (B2B) investments, secure concrete deliverables, and showcase Pakistan as an investment destination. In this context, all ministries were urged to finalize their preparations and proposals to ensure impactful outcomes from the visit. Minister Iqbal further underscored the urgency of achieving substantive advancements in priority sectors such as infrastructure development, road connectivity, information technology, agriculture, industrial cooperation, education, healthcare, water resources, energy, and artificial intelligence.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening collaboration in these strategic areas, signaling a shared vision for growth and modernization between the two countries. Reflecting on the historical context, Ahsan Iqbal reiterated that since 2013, Chinese investment and financial assistance have played an instrumental role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy during challenging times.

He highlighted that the government's recent diplomatic engagements underscore its proactive efforts to attract foreign investment and integrate the national economy into global value chains—efforts that will contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth and development. PR

## President directs PCCA to appoint son of deceased employee's son

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has directed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCCA) to ensure appointment of son of a deceased employee in accordance with the law within a month. Complainant Faheem Ahmed had lodged a complaint against the PCCA for his non-appointment against the "deceased employees" quota, said a President House press release.

The complainant stated that his father was an employee of PCCA, who had died in the year 1999 during service due to cancer.

As he was a minor at the time, he could not apply for appointment against the "deceased employees" quota. He said that when he applied for a job, his request was turned down without any justification. He approached PCCA for the redressal of his grievance but to no avail. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib for the resolution of his complaint.

The Mohtasib decided that the complainant had failed to make out any case of maladministration against PCCA as the Family Assistance Package was not applicable at the time of his application.

The complainant then filed a representation with the president against the orders of the Mohtasib.

President Asif Zardari in his decision observed that the complainant's father expired in 1999 during service and at that time the petitioner was only six years of age.

He noted that the petitioner applied for appointment, after coming of age, under the policy of 2005, according to which the son of a deceased employee was to be considered for appointment in the same department without undergoing the formality of advertisement.

He rejected the claim of PCCA that it adopted the Family Assistance Package Policy in 2005 and that the provisions of the said package did not merit consideration due to the factual and legal position in the instant case.

The president pointed out that the contention of the Civil Aviation Authority was not legally correct in the circumstances of the present case as the petitioner attained the age of maturity after the introduction of the policy as he was not eligible to be appointed prior to the introduction of the policy.

He held that this was the case of prospective application of the policy and not retrospective application of the policy.

The president also placed reliance on the judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Civil Appeal number 410/2020 dated 02-06-2021.

Therefore, President Zardari accepted the representation of the complainant and asked the Civil Aviation Authority to process his application for appointment in accordance with the law within one month.

## Ethiopian Ambassador, Chairman PMYP agree to empower future generations



ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Bakr Abdullah on Wednesday visited the office of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) and discussed matters of mutual interest for empowering youth in both countries with Chairman PMYP Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan.

During the engaging dialogue, Ambassador Abdullah highlighted the significant youth populations in both Ethiopia and Pakistan, emphasizing the potential for collaboration.

"Ethiopian youth are playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change," he stated, underscoring the importance of harnessing their energy and innovation.

Rana Mashood praised Ethiopia's impressive development under its current government, saying, "We can collaborate to empower our youth." He noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has implemented several initiatives

to uplift young people, which will benefit both nations. Additionally, the Ambassador announced that Pakistani traders were invited to participate in a single-country exhibition in Ethiopia scheduled for January 2025, presenting a unique opportunity to strengthen trade relations. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to take further steps for the future of youth in Pakistan and Ethiopia, reinforcing the idea that empowered young people can drive positive change.

## Sana for stern action against PTI's tactics

ISLAMABAD: Rana Sanaullah, a key Advisor to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and prominent PML-N leader Wednesday condemning PTI's undemocratic tactics said action would be taken against those seeking to unleash chaos, intolerance and violence to disrupt the nation's peace.

Talking to a Private news channel, he warned that the government is committed to maintaining law and order and will not hesitate to take strict action against PTI's attempts to create chaos and anarchy. He emphasized that PTI's undemocratic tactics will not be tolerated and that the government will ensure the nation's peace and stability are upheld. Rana Sanaullah has strongly criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for its undemocratic attitude, stating that they are unwilling to engage with the government and are not serious about addressing public issues. He emphasized that Pakistan's constitution and laws must be utilized to hold accountable those threatening the nation's progress under PML-N leadership. Pakistan's economy is showing signs of recovery, but PTI's uncivilized and undemocratic actions are hindering progress, he added. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with H.E. Ms Marilina Armellini Ambassador of Italy at Naval Headquarters.

## Japanese language enables Pakistani youth to brighten their futures

ISLAMABAD: The Kake Educational Institution Okayama Japan under its worldwide Japanese Language speech contest being held in more than 12 countries at 15 locations, organised its iteration in Pakistan under the auspicious of the Embassy of JAPAN here participated by 41 students from across the country. The Japanese Language Speech Contest was participated by Pakistani students, foreign diplomats, TITP and SSW interested candidates, a news release said. The winners of the first three positions were awarded cash prizes of 30,000, 20,000, and 10,000 Japanese yen, along with scholarships to study in any one of the Kake Universities in Japan. Director of the Kake International

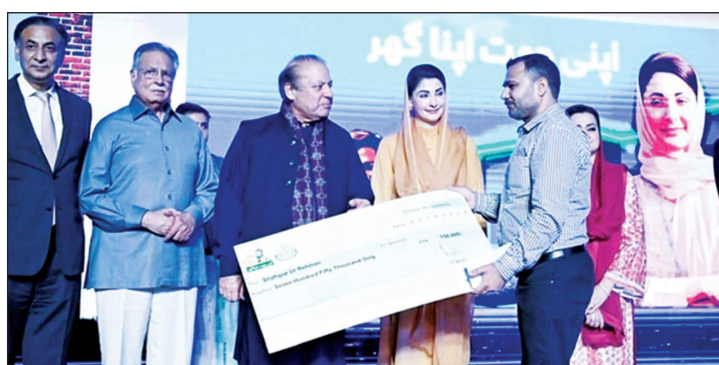
Exchange office in Pakistan, Ch Hamid Latif Advocate said the scholarships offered by Kake Group were the best option to study in Japan aimed at brightening the future of the youth.

"Every language has its background, Languages reflect the national character and the Japanese is the most polite and romantic language of the world, the Japanese words and phrases reflect the care for other people," he said.

He added that the trend of Pakistani students towards Japanese universities was increasing although the number of students applying to Japanese universities was few, but those who enrolled in these universities are getting best of the education in Japan. APP

## Punjab Govt launches 'Apni Chat Apna Ghar' scheme in Lahore

LAHORE: President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif attended the cheque distribution ceremony of "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program at the Expo Centre. Made the fortunate sit beside them who were declared eligible for getting a loan under "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program. President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif distributed cheques among the lucky ones who were declared eligible to obtain a loan under "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program. In the ceremony, a documentary about Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar program was presented. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif while addressing the ceremony said, "I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart to Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for coming on my request as without him this event would have remained incomplete. May it be the Punjab government or Government of Pakistan, Maryam Nawaz Sharif or Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, this vision is attributed to Nawaz Sharif only". The Chief Minister said, "The dream about the education of Pakistan



that started in 1980 belongs to Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program is the vision of Nawaz Sharif. when I go back home from office, he takes updates about the project from me. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif directs me that I should spend all my time in the service of the people. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif advises me to have the intention that whatever whatever I do will do for the betterment of the people and Allah Almighty will help in this regard. Whatever I learnt with the Chief Minister said, "The dream about the education of Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif". CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "It is a matter of great pleasure for me that the first installment of the loan to the public in a short period of one and a half months is being given. Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar program, is a mega project of Rs. 700 billion to be completed in 5 years. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif instructed me to build a house for the people and rest will be taken care of by them. I am very pleased that people have faith in the government of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and people are giving a very high response about the projects. Equal

loans are being given in all districts under "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program. "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program was launched a few days ago and Alhamdulillah, we are giving loans on it today. 5 lakh applications were submitted under the Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar program, and we decided to give loans to 5 lakh people. Five lakh houses will be built in the next five years."

She said, "the Punjab government will give loans to the land owners of one to five marlas in the city, one to ten marlas in the villages. We worked day and night to fulfill the dream "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program. The conditions for obtaining a loan were strict, after abolishing all such conditions, we asked the people to obtain a loan by showing the identity card and ownership papers. We would give a loan of one lakh in a year through transparent balloting. I strictly directed that loan installment of Apna Ghar program should not be more than Rs.14 thousand. There is zero interest on getting a loan under "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program and not single penny of interest will need to be paid.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam chairs a high-level meeting on the Country Programme Framework 2024-28 with the Global Green Growth Initiative in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination. INP