



Investment and Privatization engaged here over 30 top Chinese entrepreneurs in various sectors to invest in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN)

Federal Minister
Abdul Aleem Khan

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Mohsin Naqvi extends greetings to Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren on China's national day

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren to extend congratulations on China's National Day. During the meeting, Naqvi praised China's progress under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, stating that China has achieved new milestones in development. He further emphasized the enduring relationship between the two nations, calling China Pakistan's "most trusted and sincere friend." Naqvi highlighted China's rapid development as a model for the world, stressing that China has played a historic role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy. Naqvi added, "Pakistan is proud of its everlasting friendship with China, which has reached new heights through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)." He affirmed that the Pak-China friendship will remain strong forever. During the meeting, Consul General Zhao Shiren thanked Minister Naqvi for certain amendments made by the Ministry of Interior, based on requests from Chinese businessmen in Pakistan. He expressed his gratitude by calling "Pakistan China's best friend" and reaffirmed that cooperation between the two countries would continue. Senior officials from the Chinese consulate were also present at the meeting, where both sides discussed mutual interests and the further enhancement of bilateral relations.

'Strongly condemns gruesome murder of labourers in Panjgur'



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday strongly condemned the brutal killing of labourers in Panjgur, Balochistan. The president expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the tragic incident, President Secretariat Press

Wing said in a press release. The president called for effective action against terrorist elements targeting labourers and said that innocent targeting of labourers and civilians was a brutal and condemnable act. He also expressed condolences to the families of those killed in the incident and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with fortitude. President Zardari prayed for the quick recovery of those injured in the incident.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren.

Govt is committed to implement structural reforms in all sectors: Muhammad Aurangzeb

Says fundamental changes in country's economy will increase exports & foster sustainable growth

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has reaffirmed government's resolve to implementing homegrown structural reforms in all sectors. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday, he said fundamental changes in country's economy will increase exports and foster sustainable growth. Muhammad Aurangzeb said bringing structural reforms is not only a requirement by the International Monetary Fund but Pakistan needs it. The Finance Minister said macroeconomic stability, creates a foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth in the country. He said the macroeconomic stability continued during the first quarter of the current fiscal year; however it needs permanence to lead to sustainable growth. The Finance Minister said for homegrown economic reform agenda, we will always consult our think tanks and take foreign advice into consideration. He said the measures taken by the government are showing positive results as indicated



by economic indicators adding the results coming out could be witnessed practically by seeing results. The Minister said, there has been 29 percent increase in exports on year on year basis whereas inflation has decelerated from 38 percent to single digit and going down further. On external front, he said, credit ratings have also gone forward and we will continue this journey till we get into investment grade at least into B or B- ratings as we go forward".

He said PSX is also setting new records and moving in right direction. The Minister reiterated government's commitment to reduce size of federal government, adding decision regarding abolition or merger of six ministries has already been made and it is at implementation stage. On tax side, the Minister said, the return filing has increased double from last year's 1.6 million to 3.2 million till date whereas there were 300,000 new filers last year, however the number has risen to 723,000 till now.

PM Shehbaz lauds Maulana Fazlur Rehman's services for democracy

Says Maulana' election will help promote democratic values within country



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has extended congratulations to Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his unopposed election as the Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F). In his congratulatory message, the Prime Minister said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's election will help promote democratic values within the country. He acknowledged Maulana Fazlur Rehman's significant contributions to the supremacy of Parliament, and expressed confidence that his leadership will elevate Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) to new heights. The Prime Minister further said that the party, under Maulana Fazlur Rehman's guidance, has consistently advocated for the interests of the people. Shehbaz Sharif said Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been playing a pivotal role in promoting parliamentary democracy and upholding the supremacy of Parliament. SABAH

Crisis Management Unit established to help Pakistanis in Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has activated its Crisis Management Unit (CMU) to assist Pakistani nationals and their families affected by the crisis in Lebanon. The foreign office spokesperson in a statement stated that the ministry in Islamabad and the Pakistani embassy in Beirut are continuing their efforts to assist Pakistani nationals impacted by the situation in Lebanon. She urged Pakistani nationals affected by the situation to contact the CMU at its Islamabad's landline number 051-9207887 or via email at cmu1@mofa.gov.pk. Meanwhile, the Embassy of Pakistan in Beirut is available 24/7 at the following contact details: Cell/WhatsApp numbers: 00961-81669488 and 00961-81815104, and email: papbeirut@mofa.gov.pk. APP

Scientific evidence probe demanded for ascertaining GMOs' role in agriculture resilience

ISLAMABAD: The Speakers at a roundtable dialogue have demanded of a high-level study to probe the science behind genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to debunk the myths around the scientifically altered seed species. The US Soybean Export Council (USSEC) jointly held a roundtable dialogue on GMOs Soybean import constraints and resistance to scientifically altered seeds. Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain participated roundtable as chief guest, a news release on Sunday said. The Minister on the occasion announced that he would make efforts to convene a cabinet committee meeting to bring all relevant ministries on one page to take a unanimous decision on the matter. Rana Tanveer Hussain supported the idea to allow GMOs Soybean import but deferred the decision to the Ministry of Climate Change

experts to establish an expert stance on it. In his opening remarks, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI said there should be a well-informed dialogue backed by scientific evidence in order to take decision on import of GMOs. Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad in his technical presentation apprised the Minister and the participants that the GMOs have been in cultivation since 1990s, whereas the Soybean is a Kharif crop and our scientific community neglected it for years to consider it for research. He underlined that there is a need to accept the science behind the GMO-based soybean. In terms of opportunity, Dr Iqar underlined that it is revealed through scientific studies that GMO-based crops are climate-adaptive, resistant to harsh weather, and bear better crop productivity.

Rana Mashhood urges youth to play role in building prosperous Pakistan

LAHORE: Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Sunday urged the talented youth of the country to persist in their efforts to build a prosperous and stable Pakistan. Talking to the media here, he emphasised the importance of hard work and dedication, encouraging young people to actively contribute to society and create opportunities for themselves and others. He added that by focusing their skills and pursuing their goals, the youth can significantly contribute to creating a better future for Pakistan. Rana Mashhood while delivering encouraging news for the youth, announced that a successful deal has been reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has led various countries to express their readiness to invest in Pakistan. Rana Mashhood elaborated that had this deal not materialized, Pakistan could have faced a dire situation similar to that of Syria, Libya, or Iraq. He praised the Prime Minister for his relentless efforts to promote a positive image of Pakistan on the global stage, viewing this as a crucial step toward the country's development. INP

Pakistan, Oman agree on MoU to facilitate enhancement of workforce



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman on Sunday agreed on early finalization of memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor and manpower exchange which would facilitate the enhancement of Pakistan workforce and its smooth movement from Pakistan to Oman. This was decided in a meeting held in Muscat between Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Minister of Labour of the Sultanate of Oman Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, said a press release issued here. Chaudhry Salik Hussain is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat. During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain apprised the Omani side of the major reforms the government was undertaking to improve the emigration process of Pakistani workers, their professional capacity enhancement and the marketing of Pakistani workforce abroad. He said that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was upgrading the technical training centers in Pakistan on modern lines which would train the workforce according to the certification requirement of each individual country or

region. Chaudhry Salik Hussain informed that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was going to start a compulsory pre-departure orientation program for all the workers going abroad which would educate them about the labor laws of the host country, workers' rights and duties, cultural sensitivities of the host country and relieve mechanism in case of any eventuality during ones stay abroad. Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain said that Pakistan and Oman were enjoying very cordial relations and Pakistanis are contributing to the development of Oman. He said Pakistanis were very skilled workers and works in vast variety of fields. He expressed the commitment of the Government of Oman to streamline the process of migration of workers to Oman and remove any irritants thereof. Chaudhry Salik Hussain invited his counterpart to Pakistan to see the technical training facilities and a possible joint collaboration in training in the future. He also proposed the possibility of Oman investing in skill development centers in Pakistan, focusing on training workers according to the demands of the Omani market. The two sides agreed to enhance official engagements between the two countries.

KPK CM's march on Islamabad, Punjab aims to repeat May 9 mayhem: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had made his intention clear to create another May 9 like chaos in the country by announcing his plans to march on Islamabad and Punjab by force. The minister, in a news statement, condemned the alleged remarks made by the KPK CM about use of force in the protests, calling it an admission of his own failure to govern the province effectively. "The Chief Minister's threat of firing bullets for a bloodshed is a clear manifestation that he is incapable of running the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. His threats to march on Islamabad and Punjab with force are



nothing but an attempt to repeat the May 9." He further criticized the KPK Chief Minister's transition from verbal abuse to hurling threats of violence, warning that this approach would only harm him, not anyone else. "There is nothing democratic, political, or parliamentary about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial government's statements, actions, or conduct," the minister added. Tarar lamented that Islamabad and Punjab with force are

never focused on competing with the center and Punjab in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, or economic improvement. He urged that if PTI wanted to bring about a revolution, it should focus on transforming these sectors for the betterment of the people. "Corruption and incompetence have reached their peak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The real competition should have been in providing relief to electricity consumers, as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led governments has done in Islamabad and Punjab," he said, adding it should have been about building hospitals and educational institutions to serve the people. Tarar accused the PTI of trying to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organi-

zation (SCO) summit in a similar fashion it had attempted to sabotage President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan with its previous sit-ins in Islamabad in 2014. He said the economic stabilization had perturbed the PTI, which had brought Pakistan to the brink of default. The substantive drop in the inflation from 32 per cent to 9.6 per cent had literally irked them, he added. "Violence, threats, and guns will not reduce inflation or unemployment," he said, while regretting the sheer corruption in KPK during the last 11 years of the PTI tenure. Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's firm stance in support of Palestinians and against Israel at the United Nations General Assembly had caused a real inconvenience to the "Israeli agents" in Pakistan. APP

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

Culture in times of trouble

GHAZI SALAHUDDIN

In an environment ridden with conflict and uncertainty, the Arts Council of Pakistan (in Karachi) is celebrating culture with an unprecedented show of artistic exuberance and creative excellence. What does this mean? Well, there are many ways in which I could underline the significance of the World Culture Festival that was launched in Karachi on Thursday. It will continue for more than a month, presenting an entire range of performances by groups invited from 40 countries. But, essentially, the point to be made is that culture can heal a wounded society. It can be argued that lack of artistic, cultural and literary activities is one important reason why Pakistan is infested with religious extremism and intolerance. It is so difficult to be rational in our social and political behaviour.

Based on my encounter with the inaugural session and the main presentation on Friday, I would say that Karachi has never had this kind of commemoration of art and culture. There is a particular focus on visual arts, dance and theatre. We have an opportunity, here, to understand how art forms and cultural expressions can strengthen a society's response to its social problems, such as conflict and violence and injustice.

Actually, I am happy to have this peg of the World Culture Festival because there is another issue that I want to write about this week. In my view, the two are interlinked in some ways. And what is that other issue? Last week, my column was a rather grim and mournful account of the extrajudicial murder of Dr Shah Nawaz Kunbhar of Umerkot after he was alleged to have committed blasphemy. The real horror of it was how the police officers were garlanded for their act and how even the body of the person who was certified as mentally sick was snatched by the zealots and burnt.

Against this backdrop, the holding of a grand cultural festival of global reach can rightly be applauded as a necessary venture. It was so relevant that Ahmed Shah, the moving force behind the Art Council's high initiatives, emphasized the power of art, music and culture in his remarks at the inauguration. Cultural activism is the name of the game.

However, there is a very important follow-up to the murder of a man suspected of committing blasphemy that I had written about last week. The details of the horrible tragedy evoked such outrage in the civil society of this region in Sindh that some kind of a campaign is taking shape to counter religious fanaticism and the tendency of the rulers to tolerate such violence and militancy. To begin with, it was a little surprising that a repetition of what allegations of blasphemy had prompted in other parts of the country was enacted in a place that is known for its social harmony and Sufi traditions, particularly with the presence of a large Hindu population. Anyhow, it is now encouraging that Sindh's intelligentsia is making its presence felt. Large and enthusiastic protests have been held in many places. The largest of them have taken place in Umerkot. It is a reaction that has not been seen in the case of so many murders and lynchings of suspected blasphemers by angry mobs, mainly in Punjab. It is a passion that is evidently beyond the control of the authorities.

I think that the social activism in Sindh that we are seeing now deserves to be carefully studied by a social scientist. Where has it come from? Does it have any potential for growth? Can leaders of society invest this protest in building a movement for progressive and liberal causes? In this respect, cultural and social activism go together. A protest by human rights defenders that is held on a thoroughfare should have the same purpose as a play on a pertinent issue that is staged in a secure auditorium. So, it may seem really odd but there may be some unseen connection between the very large crowd that was gathered in Umerkot and, say, the emotionally uplifting presentation of South Africa's Jazzart Dance Theatre at the Arts Council on Thursday. One encouraging development in the case of the Umerkot-based doctor's murder was reported also on Thursday. Initially, the administration had suspended the police officers who had rejoiced in the killing by accepting the garlands from the clerics and had ordered an inquiry. The findings of this inquiry report were presented by Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar in a press conference. The report confirmed that Dr Shah Nawaz was arrested by the Karachi police and was handed over to Mirpurkhas police who "killed him in a managed encounter and tried to give it a legal cover but failed". It added: "Serious violations of procedures and rules were undertaken by the command of Mirpurkhas range/division, Mirpurkhas police and Umerkot police, including celebrations and jubiliations and the way the encounter was portrayed on various platforms".

Naturally, strict departmental action is proposed against all the police officials who were involved. But the story that is related in the report demands a lot more, including an investigation of the mindset that exists in the police force. There appears to be something fundamentally wrong in how law-enforcement agencies deal with sensitive issues. In a different context, it is not easy to assess the impact and the reach of various social and cultural groups that are engaged in the struggle for progressive social change. But there are certainly a large number of people and organizations that are there in the field, though the onslaught of the fanatics and the bigots remains formidable. In this tussle, the rulers do not seem to have chosen their sides. In fact, the way social activists and human rights defenders are hounded and persecuted would show that the authorities, now confronting terrorism and extremist violence, have yet to learn their lessons. Obviously, they are not very interested in arts and culture and human values.

The writer is a senior journalist. He can be reached at: ghazi_salahuddin@hotmail.com



Ammar Habib Khan

Let technology save the tax system

An anaemic tax-to-GDP ratio is a reality that is reiterated time and again. Similarly, a distorted taxation structure that is regressive, and heavily penalizes the most vulnerable segments of society is also a reality. However, practical solutions that address this within the contours of political economy and retool the taxation structure are rare.

In a recent publication, the country's tax authority acknowledged that real growth in tax collection over the last eight years has even lagged behind real GDP growth. Any growth in tax collection has largely been driven by inflation, and any new collection records set are illusory given the expansion of the monetary base. After adjusting for GDP growth, real tax collection since 2018 has actually been negative, signifying that as the size of the economy grew, the tax net actually contracted, despite record collection in nominal terms. Such acknowledgment of this lays the foundation for structural changes that are required to expand the tax net, rather than mimic expansion of the monetary base to pat oneself on the back.

A review of the same publication also demonstrates that those within the top one percentile of income have the biggest gap in terms of tax collected. Due to underreporting of income, most that ought to fall within the top one percentile can avoid being in the tax bracket and hence can continue evasion of taxes. Currency in circulation relative to money supply continues to hover in the range of 25 per cent, much higher than the region – largely signifying a fairly large cash-based economy, which exists to under-report incomes and minimize tax incidence. Due to such a lopsided structure, certain individuals (salaried), and industries operating in the formal space have to bear the brunt of all

taxes, while a large chunk of high-income individuals and households can avoid taxes while operating within an informal cash-based economy. Cash is a drag on an economy, and that effectively also restricts the accumulation of formal capital that can result in growth in industrial, or export-oriented output. Constraining oneself to a cash-based economy has long-term negative implications for the economy at large – which have been at play over the last six years, given flat, to negative per capita income levels.

Over the last five years, there has been significant improvement in technology that can be leveraged to estimate with a fairly high degree of confidence the income and wealth of an individual, family, or even a household. It is possible to estimate the income of a business by assessing its value chain and identifying areas where leakages may occur. Disaggregating the value chain, it can be seen that 86 per cent of manufacturers are unregistered in terms of sales tax, while 75 per cent of wholesalers and 92 per cent of retailers are unregistered.

Although all importers are registered, they largely sell to unregistered manufacturers and wholesalers, which results in leakages. It ought to be mandated that any sales done by either importer needs to be done to registered intermediaries only, whether they are manufacturers or wholesalers – against a registered bank account and through a bank transfer. Any violation can result in penalties. Similarly, any sales done by manufacturers also need to be done exclusively through registered bank accounts, such that the incidence of cash in the first two to three layers of the value chain can be completely eliminated.

The current practice is that the manufacturer takes the brunt of any potential taxes that need to be paid by intermediaries, and either eats in its margins or passes on a price increase to its consumers. Such a structure makes tax collection

regressive and can be deemed as inflationary. To avoid the same, it remains essential that sales are only done against transfers to actual buyers, against registered bank accounts. The technology to capture the same already exists. Any violation of such an activity needs to be made prohibitively expensive, whether through penalties or through lack of access to merchandise, such that intermediaries within a value chain are forced to work in a formal environment.

There exists a strong need to accelerate the transition towards digital invoices. In the first phase, through which transactions are tracked between the manufacturer (or importer), and the subsequent two layers of intermediaries, all transactions must be conducted with digital invoices. Through a digital invoice, the transaction amount and relevant tax can directly be linked with a centralized database, and enable assessment of transactions and potential income through available data.

The technology and the necessary framework for this already exists – and it can be accelerated by enabling market participants, that can be licensed by the tax authorities, to develop the technology infrastructure further and embed financial products on top of the same. Considering the sheer volume of intermediaries and transactions, space must be opened up for other market participants through a distributed model, rather than constraining its growth through a centralized tax-authority-driven model for growth. An instrument like a digital invoice not only reduces the friction of cash, but also makes intermediaries bankable since such an invoice can potentially be used for invoice factoring, and accelerate access to finance.

The tax authority identified in a recent publication that there is a significant gap between the taxes that are collected and that which ought to be collected, particularly in the cement and textile sectors. Such dis-

crepancies exist in many other sectors, often those that are plagued with smuggled goods. Closing such a gap requires a mix of physical enforcement measures, as well as analytics, that can enable assessment of how much economic activity has been generated through an input-output framework.

As an illustrative example, we can consider an example of a mid-sized manufacturer of confectionery goods. Such a manufacturer would buy wheat, sugar, and cooking oil, among other raw materials as major inputs. The same manufacturer will also be utilizing energy, whether that is electricity (through the grid, or off-grid), or gas to process the raw material, and process that into confectionery goods.

If the procurement of raw materials is exclusively done through bank accounts and digital invoices, it will be possible to precisely estimate input costs. Similarly, energy consumption data can also provide a fair estimate with a certain degree of confidence for output generated for different industries.

Through such a structure, it can be possible to estimate the real economic activity a business is generating and tax that accordingly. This would require significant analytical work to be done for various industries, and sub-industries, which would need to be updated regularly. The development of its capacity, concurrent with technology for tracking payments and invoices, would remain critical in documenting the economy across the value chain.

There exists a silver lining here, and the same can be materialized through a mix of technology, analytical, and enforcement measures. Enforcement without technology or analytics would be misdirected while technology and analytics without enforcement would be a waste of resources.

The writer is an assistant professor of practice at the School of Business Studies, IBA, Karachi.

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

History of Pakistan

Today in History

Furthermore, in 1993, the United States (at New Delhi's urging) had placed Pakistan on a "watch list" as a state sponsor of terrorism. India cited Islamabad's support of jihadi movements operating in Kashmir, but the Pakistani public, as well as Pakistan's military establishment, had long encouraged and supported the development of a variety of resistance groups in what they had always termed "occupied Kashmir." The U.S. pressure therefore was

judged offensive and denounced by the Pakistanis. Political crises both major and minor abounded, and Bhutto faced the added indignity of having a major family squabble spill over into the media when the prime minister's brother Murtaza Bhutto accused her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of corruption. The incident soon spun out of control, with Bhutto's mother taking Murtaza's side. The prime minister was able to do little to push her leg-

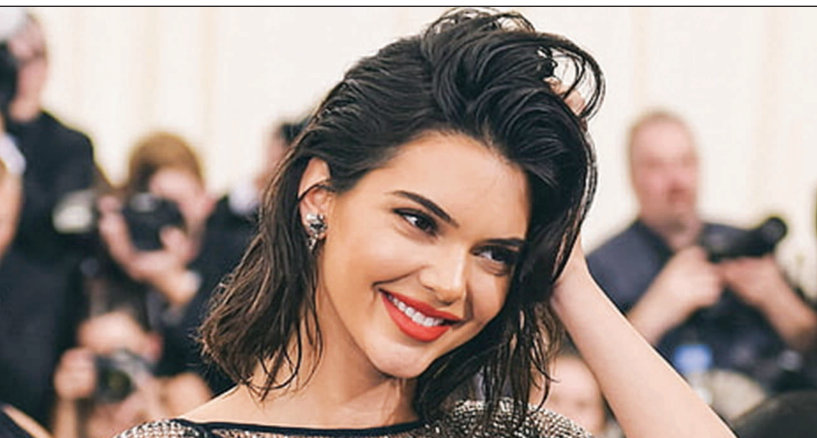
islative agenda, and Nawaz Sharif released documents that cited Bhutto's personal excesses; when the prime minister herself became embroiled in a banking scandal, it was almost impossible for her to mount a credible defense. President Leghari himself could not escape criticism, and it was alleged that he profited from a land deal that was linked to his PPP associations. Bhutto, like Sharif earlier, had become bogged down responding to

accusations of corruption and extortion, while the government floundered. Nationwide, chaos reigned. In Sind, another round of sectarian fighting erupted, and strife between Sunni and Shi'i Muslims contributed to the mayhem. In the North-West Frontier Province tribal leaders had become the target of assassins, while others were implicated in trafficking weapons and drugs.

To be continued....

Kendall Jenner leaves fans disappointed with unexpected move

Kendall Jenner's jaw-dropping appearances in Paris Fashion Week raises cosmetic procedures rumours



Kendall Jenner's recent appearance at Paris Fashion Week sparked intense speculations on social media, with many fans accusing her of undergoing cosmetic surgery.

According to the Daily Mail, recent photos of the supermodel showed her facial fillers, making her look noticeably older than her age. Several fans of Kendall took to their social media and began criticising her for messing up her 'perfect' looks.

One fan took to his TikTok handle and commented, "I just think it's better to veer on the side of being conservative with the filler. It ages you quite a bit." "This does not look like a 28-year-old woman to me anymore and she didn't need any of this. The problem is that we know the filler is migrating," another fan wrote. However, the model has not commented on the growing speculations about her beauty procedures yet. For the unversed, the backlash came just a week after Kendall's appearance at the 2024 Paris Fashion Week. It is important to mention that the globally acclaimed star has previously shared her hair transformation with fans on social media, leaving her fans divided over her blonde look.

Showbiz

SpaceX to launch mission to return stranded astronauts



WASHINGTON: A SpaceX mission is set for launch Saturday with two passengers on board, leaving two seats empty to return the American astronauts who have been stranded for months on the International

Space Station (ISS), Nasa said. The launch of the Falcon 9 rocket is scheduled for 1:17pm (17:17GMT) from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

It will use a new launch pad, the pad's first use for a crewed mission.

On board will be Nasa astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov.

When they return from the space station in February, they will bring back the two space veterans — Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams — whose stay on the ISS was prolonged for months by problems with their Boeing-designed Starliner spacecraft.

The newly developed Starliner was making its first crewed flight when it delivered Wilmore and Williams to the ISS in June.

They were supposed to be there for only an eight-day stay, but after problems with the Starliner's propulsion system emerged during the flight there, Nasa was forced to weigh a radical change in plans.

Health

Over seventy new dengue cases reported in KP

PESHAWAR: The health department has intensified efforts to control dengue outbreak as secretary health Adil Shah has directed to enlist public support to safeguard the people from the vector-borne ailment.

The secretary health has taken notice of the rise in cases and vowed that the department would take all necessary measures to control the spread of dengue fever in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"We urge the public to support us in combating this disease, especially during the peak dengue

season," he said.

"We have distributed 80,000 diagnostic kits to hospitals and 300,000 mosquito nets to control dengue and malaria. We have also provided 640 litres of insecticide for spraying, 1,200 litres of chemical for fumigation, and 11 kilograms of temephos chemical to eliminate dengue larvae," secretary health Adil Shah said.

According to the latest statistics, 372 active dengue cases have been reported in the province, with only 21 patients hospitalised. A total of 760 dengue cases have so far been

reported, with 388 patients recovering from the disease.

During the last 24 hours, 72 new cases were reported, with four patients hospitalised and the rest undergoing treatment at homes. Unfortunately, two deaths have been attributed to dengue.

Peshawar and Abbottabad are the most affected areas, with 218 and 106 reported cases, respectively. The secretary health appealed to the people to take precautionary measures to keep dengue at bay.



پاکستان کی شہادتیں گراف

30 ستمبر 2024ء

آئی ایس آئی کے نئے سربراہ آج اپنی ذمہ داریاں سنبھالیں گے

اسلام آباد (خلاف رپورٹ) قومی سلامتی کے ادارے آئی ایس آئی کے نئے سربراہ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل عامر ملک آج بروز جمعرات اپنی ذمہ داریاں سنبھالیں گے۔ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل عامر ملک اس سے پہلے لیفٹیننٹ جنرل کے طور پر فرائض انجام دے رہے تھے وہ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل نسیم احمد کو جگہ لیں گے جو اپنے عہدے سے سبکدوش ہو گئے ہیں۔ اس حوالے سے تہ تیہ کی گئی آئی ایس آئی ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں وہ جہاں جنرل عامر ملک باضابطہ طور پر اپنی ذمہ داریاں سنبھالیں گے تعینات کیا تھا۔



اسلام آباد، وفاقی وزیر خزانہ شیخ رشید احمد اور نئے سربراہ آئی ایس آئی آئی ایف بی آئی کے سربراہ ریزی ریڈیو ٹی وی میں موجود ہیں

پاکستان کی سفارتی فتح، چین، روس، ایران کی افغانستان سے دستگیری کی تصدیق

طالبان حکومت اپنی سر زمین کسی دوسرے ملک میں دہشت گردی کے لیے استعمال نہ ہونے دینے کے اپنے بین الاقوامی وعدوں کی پاسداری کرے، افغان مہاجرین کی میزبانی پر علاقائی ممالک بالخصوص پاکستان اور ایران کی تعریف

نیویارک (ماٹریک ڈیسک) چین، روس اور ایران کے وزراء خارجہ چار فریقی اجلاس ہوا۔ اجلاس کے بعد جاری ہونے والے مشترکہ بیان کے مطابق چاروں ممالک نے افغانستان کے طالبان کے ساتھ ساتھ کئی دہشت گردوں کو روک کر پاکستان، چین، روس اور ایران کے لیے خطرے کا باعث بنیں۔ آئی ایف بی آئی کے سربراہ آئی ایس آئی ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں وہ جہاں جنرل عامر ملک باضابطہ طور پر اپنی ذمہ داریاں سنبھالیں گے تعینات کیا تھا۔

غذائی وسائل ضائع ہونے سے بچانے کیلئے پلاننگ کی ضرورت مریم نواز خوراک کا ضیاع عالمی مسئلہ بن چکا ہے، جو معیشت کو بھی نقصان پہنچاتا ہے اور ماحول کو بھی، دنیا بھر میں خوراک لوگ بھوک کا شکار ہیں



لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز خوراک کے ضیاع کو کھانے سے متاثر لوگوں کی مدد کر سکیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز خوراک کے ضیاع کو کھانے سے متاثر لوگوں کی مدد کر سکیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز خوراک کے ضیاع کو کھانے سے متاثر لوگوں کی مدد کر سکیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز خوراک کے ضیاع کو کھانے سے متاثر لوگوں کی مدد کر سکیں۔

پنی آئی اور جماعت کے درمیان ملاقات طے

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حسن نصر اللہ کی شہادت سے خطے میں عدم استحکام مزید بڑھے گا، پاکستان

پاکستان کے وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ حسن نصر اللہ کی شہادت سے خطے میں عدم استحکام مزید بڑھے گا۔ ان کے بقول، لبنان کی خودمختاری کا ناقص قبول ایک خطرناک پیغام ہے۔

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ماحولیاتی مسائل سے نمٹنے کیلئے گرین انرجی کو فروغ دینا ہوگا، احسن اقبال

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر برائے ماحولیات احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ ماحولیاتی مسائل سے نمٹنے کیلئے گرین انرجی کو فروغ دینا ہوگا۔ ان کے بقول، ماحولیاتی مسائل سے نمٹنے کیلئے گرین انرجی کو فروغ دینا ہوگا۔

پاکستان کولہا نیوشا مرکز میں تبدیل کیا جا سکتا، عبدالحمید خان

پاکستان کولہا نیوشا مرکز میں تبدیل کیا جا سکتا، عبدالحمید خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کولہا نیوشا مرکز میں تبدیل کیا جا سکتا۔ ان کے بقول، پاکستان کولہا نیوشا مرکز میں تبدیل کیا جا سکتا۔

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Reducing food waste religious, moral duty: Maryam

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that reducing food waste was a religious and moral duty of all Pakistanis. In a message on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, she said: "Food wastage is a global problem, which damages the economy and environment alike." She added, "It is depressing to note that millions of people around the world are suffering from hunger, while millions of tonnes of food is wasted globally." The chief minister said, "Pakistan is also suffering from food wastage and shortage to some extent. Planning is needed to save resources from being wasted." Maryam Nawaz said, "Help the hungry people by reducing food wastage" adding that "An effective awareness campaign is necessary to prevent food wastage." She noted, "School nutrition programme in Punjab is a historic initiative to address malnutrition in children." The CM said, "Proportionate consumption of food is inevitable, highlight the value of food in your community." She hoped, "Together we can save the natural resources of Pakistan."

Bilawal felicitates newly elected body of LCCI

KARACHI: The Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has congratulated the newly elected body of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). He felicitated Abuzar Shad on being elected as President of LCCI, Engineer Khalid Usman as Senior Vice President and Shahid Nazir as Vice President. Bilawal said that the business community had an important role in the economy of the country. He said that the joint cooperation between PPP and business community could pave the way for development. He asked the new leadership of LCCI to give their recommendations for economic reforms.

AIOU to host 37th Asian Association of Open Universities Conference

ISLAMABAD: Preparations are underway for the 37th annual international conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Besides Asian Open Universities, Associate Members of Asian Association of Open Universities from Europe, USA, Australia, Africa will also participate in the conference. The three-day conference, scheduled from October 15 to 17, aims to highlight the importance and objectives of distance education and align it with contemporary requirements. According to Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIOU, the conference will provide a platform for regional and international universities to share experiences and collaborate in education and research. Renowned education experts will present over 250 papers, with 300 abstracts already received. A pre-conference webinar is also scheduled for October 14. Dr. Zahid Majeed, Conference Coordinator, expressed optimism about the event's success, citing significant interest from national and international participants. APP

Siddiqui calls for collective action to streamline 'Judicial Processes'

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Sunday urged all political parties to join forces to create meaningful change and emphasized that collective action was crucial to tackle the deep-seated issues plaguing the judicial system. "By working together, Pakistan can create a more robust and effective judicial framework that promotes justice, equality, and prosperity for all," he said while talking to a Private news channel. "Around 85 countries have adopted constitutional reforms, offering valuable lessons for nations looking to strengthen their governance," he further mentioned. "These reforms focus on enhancing accountability, transparency, participation, and predictability essential elements of good governance," he said. "By learning from others' experiences, countries can create more effective and just systems," he added. Responding to a query, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has

called out Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), urging them to pursue legal channels if they had any grievances, rather than pressuring institutions and exploiting citizens for political gain. He emphasized the importance of respecting democratic institutions and the rule of law. PTI should knock on the doors of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and courts for promoting a peaceful and constitutional approach to resolving disputes, he stressed. Senator Irfan Siddiqui also praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's powerful speech at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where he addressed pressing global issues. PM Sharif's speech was notable for its emphasis on key issues such as Israel's military actions in Gaza, the unresolved Kashmir dispute, the global climate crisis and the international community's failure to uphold justice and human rights. APP

CDA's garbage trucks turn Expressway commute into a nightmare

ISLAMABAD: Every day, Islamabad Expressway, the city's major artery, becomes a landfill as overloaded and improperly covered waste management trucks from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) spill litter onto it. This transforms daily commutes into a nightmare, particularly for bikers. With approximately 1,200 tonnes of garbage generated daily by the capital, this careless and unhygienic disposal highlights the CDA's negligence in waste management. The situation has prompted urgent pleas for action from frustrated travelers, forced to navigate an unsanitary and stinky environment that threatens both their comfort and health. The annoyed commuters have expressed their outrage on this situation when talking to media. Ahmed Khan, a bank official who travels from Model Town Hunmak to Melody Islamabad, shared, "I can't believe this is what our city has come to. Every day, it's like driving through a pungent trash dump." Another commuter, Bilal Ahmed, a government employee who rides his bike from Jinnah Garden to the Secretariat, recounted a particularly terrible experience. "On a rainy day, I got splattered with garbage on my way home. And it was a nightmare. I had to take a bath and change clothes as soon as I got home, and I lost my appetite for days because of it." "Despite numerous complaints, there seems to be little response from the civic body. Their failure to enforce proper waste management protocols raises questions about their commitment to public health and safety. Commuters continue to experience unpleasant odors and hazardous

conditions. "It's unacceptable," said Zahid Shah, who commutes daily from Sihala to F-7 and vice versa. The CDA currently collects garbage from the city and temporarily dumps it at I-11 before transporting it to Losar. They are also working on establishing a proper transfer station at I-9, expected to be completed in six months. The CDA has frequently proposed setting up a "scientific landfill" site, only to change plans later. They are now looking to acquire land in Losar after negotiations with the Rawalpindi administration. However, they have relied on temporary arrangements due to the unavailability of a landfill site in Islamabad. This lack of a proper landfill has even been brought before the Islamabad High Court, which directed the CDA to resolve the issue, underscoring the urgent need for a sustainable solution. An official of Sanitation Department in a recent statement to media had informed that they were in talks to procure land in Losar for a proper landfill site, noting that the board had approved a six-month extension with Rawalpindi Waste Management Company for this purpose. Last year, the CDA proposed sites at Kuri and Dhoke Jando near Nicholson's Monument, but previous proposals have faced rejection. The lack of a landfill site has even been brought before the Islamabad High Court, which directed the CDA to resolve the issue. "It is unfortunate that a city of around three million people has no proper landfill," said a lawyer involved in the case, emphasizing the environmental and health risks. DNA

61 new dengue cases reported in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: The dengue crisis continues to escalate in Rawalpindi, with 61 new cases confirmed in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of patients in the district to 1172 this season. Allied hospitals are currently treating 138 dengue patients. According to health officials, 32 cases emerged from Potohar Town, while 7 were reported from within the Municipal Corporation's jurisdiction. The Rawalpindi Cantonment area saw 11 new cases, Potohar rural region had 15, Chaklala Cantonment and Kahuta each recorded 3 cases, and one case was confirmed from Gujjar Khan. Authorities have stepped up enforcement against dengue spread violations, registering 3462 FRs for non-compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Additionally, 1401 premises have been sealed, and 2502 challans issued. Despite prior warnings, Rs. 16.8 million in fines have been imposed on violators where dengue larvae were repeatedly found. Health officials urge residents to take necessary precautions to curb the dengue outbreak. INP

Seven labourers killed in Panjgur attack

QUETTA: Terrorists armed with automatic weapons stormed an under-construction house in the Khuda-i-Abadan area of Panjgur town late and killed seven labourers, all hailing from Multan. According to media reports, the PM sought a report from Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, reiterating the government's resolve to take all possible measures to root out terrorism from the motherland. At the time of the attack, the construction workers were sleeping in the same room of the house that they were building in Mohalla Abdul Rehman, police said, adding that the armed men opened indiscriminate fire with automatic weapons. "Seven labourers were killed on the spot and another was injured in the firing," reports said and added they worked and lived at the under-construction house of Abu Bakr. Soon after receiving information about the

shooting, police and personnel of other law enforcement agencies rushed to the site. The victims were shifted to the district hospital. All the labourers who lost their lives in the firing belong to the Shujabad area of Multan district and Abu Bakr brought them to Panjgur for the construction of his house. Hospital officials said, "We have received seven bodies and an injured person in the hospital." The victims were identified as Sajid, Shafiq, Fayyaz, Iftikhar, Salman, Khalid and Allah Wasia. The bodies were kept in the district hospital Panjgur. All the victims sustained multiple gunshot wounds that resulted in their death and one who also sustained bullet wounds, was hospitalised. There were nine labourers and one of them who was not at the house at the time of gruesome attack remained safe. SABAH

PTI Govt fails to address problems despite 3rd term: Muqam

SWAT: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaf Government has failed to address masses problems despite third consecutive government of the party that deceived masses on the name of so called change. Addressing party workers at Sangota here, the Minister said that unnecessary exercises and experiments have ruined health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Instead to focus on resolution of people problems, governance and improvement in health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that tax payers money was being used on the uncalled for agitation and irrational politics by the PTI leadership, increasing problems of common man. He advised CM KP to hold public meetings at southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where law and order situation was deteriorat-



ing and that people can not go out of homes after evening. Instead to focus on improving law and order situation in southern districts, he said that maladministration and poor governance besides corruption cases have started surfacing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that recent corruption allegations by the Provincial Ministers and advisers against each others has exposed the anti corruption claims of the rulers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Engr Amir Muqam who is also the

President of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lacked vision for people welfare and that agitation politics was his main focus. He said that PTI protest rallies and hooliganism was tantamount a treason against the state. He claimed that KP Government resources were used in PTI public gatherings at Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. He claimed the people of Pakistan knew about protestors who was working on a foreign agenda. He said that CM KP had no authority to hold talks with Afghan Government on any issue rather it was mandate of the Federal Government. Engr Amir Muqam said that Govt has adopted zero tolerance against terrorism and no one would be allowed to disrupt peace of Swat again. He said people of Swat had rendered great sacrifices in war against terrorism and their sacrifices as well of the security forces paved the way of returned of peace in Swat valley. He said that law and order was the

top priority of the Government and targeted action would be taken whenever terrorists were found in the country. Engr Amir Muqam said that he had also survived life attempts and continued raised voice for peace in the country including Swat. He asked CM KP to compete with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in terms of good governance and people service. Engr Amir Muqam said that PTI workers are being misled on hallo slogans again and advised them to take distance of CM agitation politics. He said that roads infrastructure in Swat were deteriorated due to poor policies of PTI Government, marring tourism, trade and development. Engr Amir Muqam congratulated Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his successful visit of the UNGA. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has won hearts and minds of Pakistanis, Kashmiris and Palestinians for successful highlighting Kashmir and Palestine issues at UNGA. APP



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen carrying placards and Palestinian national flags stand beside a portrait of slain Lebanese Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, during an anti-Israel protest in the Federal Capital. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah has been killed, the Lebanese movement said on September 28, dealing a seismic blow to the Iran-backed group that has been engaged in a year of cross-border hostilities with Israel. ONLINE

Asian countries' collective efforts must for regional development: Ahsan Iqbal



VOM Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Asian countries will have to work together to transform it into a strong region. Addressing as guest of honour here at Asia's Energy Transition Summit on Sunday, he was of the view that energy use would determine the climate change that is a very important global issue. "We have suffered a lot due to climate change," he said. Ahsan Iqbal said that Asia accounts for 50 per cent of the world's population and it will soon

account for more than half of the world's GDP, asserting that Asia is also a major center of energy consumption. Federal Minister said that environmentally-friendly energy projects are implemented in Pakistan and an environment-friendly policy was also adopted to generate electricity through coal. "We have to innovate in our projects. We also have to see how the investment for these projects will be received and we need to bring many changes in our policies for creating an environment that facilitates investment and further development in the energy sector." He said, Asian countries will have to work together, citing that

some countries are rich and some are poor, everyone must work together to improve Asia. Cooperation is essential for the betterment of the region: if all these things are implemented, Asia can become a stronger region.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said, "Our target is to achieve green energy. We want everyone to have access to affordable, environmentally friendly energy."

LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) in collaboration with Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC) has arranged the three-day summit to facilitate discussion on transition to renewable energy. Leading energy experts, researchers, civil society activists, policymakers and parliamentarians attended the event. The event was aimed at highlighting the need for coordinated efforts across Asia to mobilise finances for a transition towards renewable energy, a move away from fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency and conservation.

The key objectives of the summit were to review and analyse the progress made in Asia on energy transition and align Asia's energy transition initiatives with the key targets set at COP28, especially the tripling of renewable energy, doubling of energy efficiency and moving away from fossil fuels in a decisive and definitive manner.

Aleem Khan engages top Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Investment and Privatization engaged here over 30 top Chinese entrepreneurs in various sectors to invest in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. Addressing the "Business Roundtable" at Pakistan's Embassy, the Minister said that he was pleased to see that a big number of Chinese companies are eager to invest in important sectors such as construction, logistics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, technology, agriculture and automobile industry. He said, "CPEC has already delivered results in transport infrastructure, connectivity, and energy generation. As we advance the next phase of high-quality development of CPEC, our joint focus is on industrialization, especially through focuses B2B cooperation, the development of SEZs, Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and the Gwadar Free Zone." Pakistan's renewable energy sector also holds great promise, with an estimated potential of generating 3,300 GW of electricity. The energy consumption is expected to increase further by 1.5 times by 2030. "Pakistan also boasts a vast agricultural potential possessing 9.1 million hectares of arable land and 22.4 million hectares of rangeland for the livestock. By leveraging China's advanced agricultural technologies and food processing capabilities, Pakistan can be transformed into a regional hub for agriculture and livestock industry", the Minister added. He mentioned that Pakistani Government has already launched a solarization drive to promote environment-friendly energy solutions and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, with special incentives provided for solar panel manufacturing in the country. Sun Deshi, Deputy Mayor of Linyi Government, Shandong Province and Li Shuang, Mayor of Daming County, Hebei Province showed their willingness to invest in Pakistan, the report added. DNA

Fresh elections in country need of hour: Fazl

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday termed the fresh elections in the country as need of the hour.

While addressing a press conference in Peshawar, the JUI-F chief declaring the incumbent parliament as fake said that it shouldn't go for the constitutional amendment. Fazlur Rehman said that they were planning to impose martial law through the constitutional amendment but we didn't support it. Criticizing the sitting government for pursuing constitutional amendments for political gains, he claimed that the parliament lacks the authority for such significant changes to the constitution. He said that JUI-F supports the constitutional courts as it was agreed upon by the ruling parties in the charter of democracy.

Fazl warned that the conflict in Lebanon could engulf the entire world, alleging that Israel aims to expand the war into the Arab world and Gulf nations. Discussing the ongoing Israeli aggression in Islamic countries, he emphasised the need for unity among nations like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, and others. INP