



Underlined the need of Artificial Intelligence, stating that it is going to make a big difference in the next 35 years

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training  
**Dr Khalid Maqbool**

## President condemns Karachi blast, killing Chinese nationals

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday condemned the blast that took place near Karachi airport on Sunday night in which two Chinese nationals were killed. He expressed his deep grief over the killing of Chinese nationals and conveyed condolence to the bereaved families. He said that the anti-state elements were poised to damage Pakistan's progress and prosperity. Sympathising with the victim families, President Zardari emphasised the effective action against the perpetrators of the attack. DNA

## Tarar inspects under-construction road in Township

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ataulah Tarar inspected the work of under-construction Jama Masjid Milli Noorani Road in Township area, here on Sunday. During the inspection, the federal minister issued directives to Director General (DG) Lahore Development Authority (LDA) for maintaining quality of work and ensuring timely completion of the road. On this occasion, Ajmal Hashmi, former chairman, Moin Butt, Rehan Baig, Aslam Lodhi and a large number of people of the area were present.

## Soldiers martyred in North Waziristan laid to rest with full military honour



RAWALPINDI: A large number of retired and on-duty officers of Pakistan Army, relatives and locals attended the funeral prayers of Pakistan Army personnel who were martyred in North Waziristan clash on Monday. According to ISPR, the martyred soldiers included Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali Shaikat 43 who was laid to rest in Faisalabad, Lance-Naik Mohammad Ullah aged 31 buried in Khyber, Lance-Naik Akhtar Zaman 30, in Faisalabad, Lance-Naik Shahid Ullah 29 in Tank, Lance-Naik Yousaf Ali 31 in Orakzai and Sepoy Shaheed Jamil Ahmad aged 26 in Swat. It is necessary to mention here that these Pakistan Army personnel embraced martyrdom while fighting bravely with Fitna al-Khawarij in North Waziristan. On this occasion participants vowed that sacrifices rendered by these Shaheed jawans for their nation will be remembered forever. PR

## Russian envoy calls on Minister, discuss bilateral defence, economic matters



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Albert P. Khorev called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday. During the meeting matters pertaining to bilateral

defence and economic cooperation came under discussion, a news release said. The Defence Minister reiterated that Pakistan is committed to regional peace and security and intends to forge a long-term multidimensional partnership with Russia, especially in the fields of defence, trade, energy and people-to-people contact. Visiting dignitary assured his government's commitment to collaborate with Pakistan in various areas of mutual interest.

## Jam calls for boosting rice exports, meeting EU food safety standards

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday emphasized the need to increase Pakistan's rice exports and ensure compliance with European food safety standards, citing the country's 25% share of the European rice export market. He said during a meeting with the representative of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), a news release issued here. Pakistan holds 25% of the European rice export market compared to India's 16%. To maintain this competitive edge, Jam Kamal highlighted the necessity of collaboration between the government and exporters. Rice exports play a vital role in Pakistan's economy, ranking second in export value after cotton. Rice exporters are a primary source of revenue and employment, with the government aiming to increase exports from \$4 billion to \$6.7 billion in the near future.

by Jam Kamal, will visit Malaysia in November to explore new opportunities. Malik Faisal Jahangir, Chairman of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), said that Pakistan's rice exports face fewer regulatory challenges, with only 74 Rapid Alerts for pesticides were issued last year, compared to 264 for India. Pakistan remains one of the lowest-risk countries concerning food safety standards. However, Jahangir expressed concern over potential harm to Pakistan's export reputation from negative campaigns. Jam Kamal stressed educating farmers to improve rice production quality and reduce alerts. Balochistan, despite producing a small quantity of rice, cultivates some of Pakistan's best organic rice. He called for a joint effort by stakeholders to develop a five-year strategy enhancing Pakistan's rice export capacity and compliance with international standards. Jam Kamal urged REAP to propose actionable suggestions for achieving the government's export targets within the next year, emphasizing the importance of addressing food safety concerns, especially in the European Union, where standards are becoming increasingly stringent.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif records his remarks at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

## APC strongly condemns Israeli actions in Gaza, demands immediate ceasefire to end brutalities

ISLAMABAD: Political parties from across Pakistan came together on Monday at the All Parties Conference (APC) at the President House, and passed a forceful declaration condemning Israel's ongoing aggression in Gaza and expressing unwavering support for the Palestinian people. Representatives from all major political parties, reflecting a wide cross-section of Pakistani society, raised their voices in solidarity with Palestine, calling for an immediate ceasefire and urgent international action. The APC was also attended by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The declaration issued at the end of the Conference said "We, the representatives of the political parties of Pakistan, representing a cross-section of Pakistani society, met today to express the following with one voice". The parties stated their deep concern at the continuing brutal aggression and genocide being committed by Israel against the Palestinians, despite repeated calls for ceasefire from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the international community. Furthermore, the parties also expressed their profound alarm at the impunity with which Israel is expanding the war theatre and threatening regional peace and security, and its continued violations of international law and the UN Charter, including its recent aggression against Lebanon, attacks in the West Bank, the assassinations of leader of Hamas in Tehran and the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon, which constitutes a threat to regional peace and security. "We express our unwavering support for the inalienable right of the people of Palestine and Kashmir to self-determination; and for the relevant OIC and UN resolutions on Palestine



that call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territories, and for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict," the declaration added. Recalling the resolution titled "Condemnation of Israeli oppression and Brutality against people of Palestine" adopted by the National Assembly of Pakistan in its session held on 2nd August 2024, as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the Parliament of Pakistan, the All Parties Conference expressed its unequivocal condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Israel's genocidal campaign that has resulted in the loss of over 42,000 lives, mostly women and children, as well as grievous injury to over 96,000 Palestinians, in addition to the widespread destruction and displacement of nearly the entire population of Gaza; The APC also condemned Israeli attacks against schools, hospitals, places of worship, shelters and refugee camps and its killing of aid workers and journalists in unprecedented numbers and in complete violation of international humanitarian law; It also demanded an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and end to brutalities against the Palestinian people; lifting of the siege of Gaza; provision of unimpeded humanitarian, and medical aid; and to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law, war crimes and acts of genocide; The APC urged the international community

to take urgent measures to prevent Israel from further undermining regional peace and stability, including the prevention of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and other regional countries.

In addition it also expressed full support for the ongoing political and diplomatic efforts by the OIC, the League of Arab States, the United Nations, and other brotherly countries in addressing the prevailing situation in Occupied Palestine, as well as for the peace and stability of the broader region.

It called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene an Emergency Summit to discuss the situation in Palestine, Israel's brutal aggression in the region and its implications for regional peace and security and underscores the need for unity of the Islamic Ummah.

The APC called for full implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024, which, inter alia, demands an end to Israeli occupation; the provisional measures by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that call for preventing Israel from committing further acts of genocide against the Palestinian people; as well as ICJ's Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 that reaffirms the illegality of the Israeli occupation; It also recalled the Joint Communiqué of the Arab-Islamic summit of 11th of November 2023 that called for all countries to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to the Israeli occupation authorities;

Expressing its support to the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees (UNRWA) in providing relief to the Palestinian people, the APC affirmed Pakistan's determination to redouble its efforts for all possible political, diplomatic, moral and humanitarian support for the brotherly people of Palestine. VOM Report

## Pakistan asks Afghan govt not to lecture but fix own domestic issues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday rejected a statement by the Afghan foreign ministry regarding the political situation in the country, asking the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) to focus on fixing its own domestic problems instead of lecturing a democratic country.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement, rejected the "frivolous" statement made by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on Sunday calling it an "unacceptable" and "deplorable" interference in the domestic affairs of Pakistan.

"Instead of lecturing a democratic country, the AIG should focus on fixing its own domestic problems; prioritize inclusivity; and be responsive to needs and aspirations of its own people including the right to education for women and girls rather than curtailing their rights through misguided interpretation of religion," the spokesperson said.

She said the AIG should also deliver on the commitments given to the international community by denying space to terror groups which were seriously threatening peace and security in the neighbouring countries; and by preventing Afghanistan from becoming once again the centre of global terrorism. The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to peace, dialogue, and cooperation in the region and expected all states, including Afghanistan, to adhere to the basic norms of responsible international conduct and interstate relations. DNA

## Aleem Khan urges PM to activate diplomatic channels to highlight Israeli atrocities in Palestine

ISLAMABAD: President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Abdul Aleem Khan, on Monday, called upon Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to activate diplomatic channels to highlight the atrocities being committed by Israel in Palestine.

Addressing all Parties Conference, convened by the government to mark a year of Israel's barbarism in Palestine he said, "I urge the prime minister to activate diplomatic efforts, reach out to the heads of Islamic countries, and work towards uniting the Muslim world on the issue of Palestine."

The moot was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman of Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, federal cabinet members, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Jamat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman and leaders of other mainstream political parties. He said that over the past year, Israel has committed severe human rights violations in Palestine, killing thousands of innocent children and women. He further expressed disappointment that the Western world remains silent on the matter. "The international community had failed to stop Israel from committing genocide against the Palestinian population, specifically in Gaza," he added. He said, "Even during the ongoing UN meeting, the killing of innocent people by Israeli forces continues."

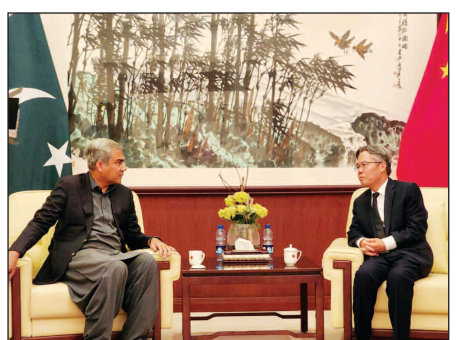
## Judicial references require if ambiguity in law: CJP

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday remarked that the judicial references are required in matters only where there is ambiguity in the constitution and law, he said. The chief justice gave these remarks during hearing of a review petition of an employee of Department of Population Welfare Punjab. The CJP questioned that after becoming a judge, if the requirements of the constitution and law end. It seems the time has come to conduct classes for judges as well, he said. He further remarked that the lawyers became allergic to the book of the Constitution and no longer bring the constitution book with them to the court. The CJP remarked that this is what has happened in Pakistan, martial law comes one after the other. Where the authority to approve an unconstitutional measure comes to the judges, he asked. The court subsequently dismissed the review petition. APP

## Interior Minister expresses solidarity with China following Karachi blast

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese Embassy on Monday to meet with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to express deep sorrow over the tragic death of two Chinese nationals in the Karachi explosion. During the meeting, Minister Naqvi conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and assured the Chinese ambassador of Pakistan's solidarity with the government and people of China. He briefed Ambassador Jiang on the details of the incident and the progress in the ongoing investigation.

"We stand united with the Chinese government and the bereaved families in this difficult time," said Naqvi, emphasizing that the entire Pakistani nation shares in the grief of their Chinese brothers. He vowed that comprehensive investigations would be conducted that those responsible for the heinous attack are brought to justice. Naqvi termed the incident an intolerable attempt to damage the longstanding Pakistan-China



friendship, calling it a cowardly conspiracy. He reiterated that such acts would not succeed and that Pakistan's top priority is the safety of Chinese citizens working for the country's development. "This was not just an attack on Chinese nationals but an attack on Pakistan itself," Naqvi declared, promising a strong response to the perpetrators. DNA

## Ahsan Iqbal for empowering youth with science, technology

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the importance of professional education, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan said here on Monday that the government's focus was on promoting science and technology in the country.

Addressing the 'World Space Week' function at Islamabad Model College, the minister asserted that the future of the Muslim Ummah lies in the revival of science and technology. It is pertinent to mention here that International Space Week is being celebrated globally from October 4 to 10. The planning minister said that when Muslims abandoned knowledge and research, they became victims of



decline, citing the example of Israel, a population of 10 million dominating two Arab countries. He was of the view that Muslims' honor has been affected due to their distance from knowledge and research adding Muslims today were plagued by intellectual decline and polluted thinking.

Ahsan Iqbal quoted the Quran's encouragement to unravel the mysteries of the universe and reminded that Allah has commanded humans to conquer the moon and stars, but Muslim countries have failed to do so. Ahsan Iqbal urged returning to science and research in accordance with Quranic teachings.

He regretted Muslims' weak role in unraveling the universe's mysteries. He said, Allama Iqbal called youth 'Shaheen' and encouraged them to move forward.

The minister said the current era is driven by technology and artificial intelligence adding the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Big Data were changing human leadership and predicted that future progress belongs to

nations that excel in science and technology.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the Ministries of Planning and Education plan to utilize Space Week as a platform for youth and stressed the importance of increasing young people's interest in science and research. He also directed the organization to organize events during Space Week.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need to escape economic slavery and achieve self-sufficiency. He also highlighted how scientific advancements could better combat natural disasters. He praised the government's significant improvement in educational standards within six months and also congratulated students on their successful space project exhibitions.

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

## China at 75 – and beyond

HUSSAIN H ZAIDI

On October 1, the People's Republic of China completed 75 years of its establishment. These 75 years have seen China shake off rampant poverty and backwardness to become a major mover and shaker of the globe under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). I spent a few years in Shanghai, China's largest and most open and advanced city, and had an opportunity to look at the Chinese all-round development at close quarters. In my view, more than anything else, China's rise is rooted in the Yin-Yang philosophy. Originating in the ancient Chinese school of Taoism, the Yin-Yang is represented by a circle consisting of two parts: a black portion encapsulating a white dot – called Yin – and a white portion containing a black dot, which is known as Yang. The Yin-Yang dialectically describes how in both natural and social orders opposite forces – life and death, day and night, strength and weakness, the negative and the positive – need and balance each other. Two classic validations of the Yin-Yang philosophy are the ascendancy of capitalism in the 20th century and the resounding success of the Chinese development model. When faced with the communist threat, which in the post-World War-II international order seemed capable of taking the entire European continent, capitalism, which is inherently an anti-worker system, responded by incorporating some elements of its adversary. The capitalist response to the changing circumstances started with pro-worker legislation in Western countries and culminated in the rise of the welfare state. Beginning with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, in the end, it was communism that was wiped out from Europe. On the other hand, China overcame the state-market contradiction by adopting the philosophy of 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics,' under which a closed and socialist economy was gradually and carefully opened to both the market forces and foreign competition without giving away overall state control. The experiment has had spectacular success and converted an agrarian economy into an industrial powerhouse, where the CPC continues to call the shots. This makes Socialism with Chinese Characteristics one of the most powerful political philosophies of all times and easily the most potent of the current era.

The birth of the People's Republic of China was the result of a more than two-decade long civil war between the Nationalists headed by Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists led by the incomparable Mao Zedong. Having forced the Nationalists, who were, and continue to be, backed by Washington to flee to the small southern island of Taiwan, the CPC was faced with the formidable challenge of shaping up a war-torn economy according to socialist ideals. The party set three initial goals: putting in place a socialist economy; introducing sweeping land reforms; and making China an industrial power on the fashion of the USSR, another and a highly successful socialist country at that time. Under the leadership of Mao and his comrades and with popular support and revolutionary zeal, the party and the state embarked on pursuing those goals. China unveiled its first five-year plan in 1952 and the second in 1958 – the five-year plans continue to be the Chinese government's main blueprint for economic development to date. Under those two plans, communal ownership of land in rural areas and state ownership in cities were put in place. To give momentum to industrialization, a policy named 'The Great Leap Forward' was announced. Although this policy has generated a lot of adverse criticism for being 'too ambitious' and pursued in a 'haphazard' way, it can't be denied that it laid the foundations of the subsequent industrial development in China. The technical and economic assistance from the USSR in initial years of the PRC was also of valuable help. Until the demise of Mao Zedong in 1976, China remained a socialist, and a largely closed, economy, trading only with the USSR and a few other socialist states. Starting in 1949, the United States and its European allies had put China under an economic embargo. So, there was no way China could trade with the West. The embargo was lifted in 1972 after US President Nixon's historic visit to China, which was facilitated by Islamabad. It took Washington another seven years to establish full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic. Deng Xiaoping, who succeeded Mao as the nation's paramount leader, sensed that if China were to register sustained and fast growth, its socialist economy must open up to both the country's private sector and foreign businesses, without relaxing in any manner the stringent political controls, and allowing economic egalitarianism to take a backseat if necessary. In Deng's own words, "Development is the absolute principle". Thus was born Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, or simply 'market socialism, and with that started China's unmatched development saga. Here are some of the numbers: In 1960, the size of the Chinese economy was only \$60 billion, which increased to nearly \$18 trillion in 2003. China's share in global economic output raked up from 4.4 per cent in 1960 to 17 per cent in 2023. Per capita income rose from a paltry \$90 to over \$12,000, while exports scaled up from \$21 billion to \$3.2 trillion during this period, making China 'the factory of the world' and the globe's largest exporter. While Chinese economic achievements have been marvelous, they have begotten several imbalances as well. The development has largely been confined to the coastal regions or East China, while western regions remained far behind. Income inequalities also widened, domestic consumption was stifled and environmental considerations were largely swept aside. When the current Chinese leader Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012, he decided to address those imbalances. Hence, a new development paradigm was introduced called 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.' Quality of development assumed more importance than mere quantity of development; shoring up domestic demand and the citizens' standard of living took priority over increasing exports and corporate profits, and the neglected regions began to get the government's attention. As a signal to China's commitment to maintaining ecological equilibrium, the authorities announced to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and make the country carbon free before 2060.

The writer is an Islamabad-based columnist. He tweets/posts @hussainhzaidi and can be reached at: hussainhzaidi@gmail.com



Humayun Akhtar Khan

## Building prosperity

Contested the last general elections from what many refer to as a rural community. It is a place where government services, such that exist in the country, are hard to come by. The people are on their own, using their genius and imagination to survive.

While decision-makers make vacuous claims and city folks spread despondency, my constituents quietly struggle to make ends meet. Each day they toil to increase produce of the land or track the market or connect to urban centres. When the government's message is about sacrifice and 'doom and gloom', they are filled with purpose and hope. I could not have imagined so much potential among people living with such privation. They are not alone. Such stories abound throughout the country.

It is possible to revive the economy with the 'can do' spirit and enterprise of tens of millions of such Pakistanis. After many years of listless economic performance, it is time for a change of mood in the country. We must now actively rebuild the economy while staying within the limits of fiscal prudence. Despite their marginal standing in our public policy space, SMEs and village enterprises can play a key role in boosting economic activity.

Given our present dearth of resources, a major boost to capital-intensive growth would have to wait. SMEs fit well with present circumstances, as they do not need high amounts of capital, energy or technology. Yet, they afford a simple path to empower millions to better their lives. With shrinking basic services, citizens have suffered years of neglect, and their capacity to contribute to the country's economic life reduced.

Buoyant SMEs are a tried and tested route to prosperity. They create new entrepreneurs and workers in the economy. As these small firms prosper, they will accumulate capital and know-how.

Worldwide, small firms have laid the base for the economy's industrialization. In China, Vietnam and South Korea, small enterprises helped large swaths of people exit poverty. Also, they increase domestic demand for goods produced by other firms in the country. The most important benefit is that they create jobs.

Though business activity is innate to humans, experts trace the role of SMEs in industrialisation to the village enterprises of Europe. England and Scotland made wool fabric, leather goods, shoes, ceramics, furniture and iron products. France made silk. Germany and Switzerland made colour dyes, tools and clocks. Later, the US, Japan and the rest of Asia followed. Japan produced silk, dyes and ceramics. Their iron foundries built tools. These were small firms whose know-how and experience accumulated to later make them dominant names in the world.

Scientific discoveries had a big role in Europe's industrialization. But their application in industry would not have been possible without a large number of SMEs ready to acquire new technology. It is the principle of 'evolving' comparative advantage at work. As small firms earn profit, they add technology in bits and pieces. These entrepreneurs and specialized workers laid the foundation for mass production and later high-tech firms in Europe.

SMEs are quick to acquire new technologies. With the introduction of power looms, hand weavers of fabric in the UK became mass producers of textiles, boosted also by cotton and silk from colonies. Colour and dye makers in Germany and Japan laid the foundation for their chemical industry. With new furnaces and machines, ceramic producers moved to mass production of crockery and tableware. Soon they built a global network of markets for their goods. According to the World Economic Forum, SMEs create nearly 70 per cent of jobs and contribute 70 per cent to world GDP. They have the potential to foster extensive growth and innovation.

Many excellent companies started as low-tech manufacturers of simple products. Matsushita began by making lamp sockets in 1918, while Sam-

sung began life as a grocery store in 1938. Huawei started off in Shenzhen as the sales agent for Hong Kong made goods. There are many more examples of firms whose present dominance is a far cry from their modest beginnings.

These firms built on their then-low knowledge to diversify and steadily move up. Their countries suffered wars and colonization, but the firms had access to capital and ideas. With the spirit to improve quality, they became global powerhouses.

China and South Korea are the best-known recent examples of leveraging growth via small enterprises. SMEs was the first stage in Mr Deng Xiaoping's economic development programme. Beginning in 1978, it transformed the Chinese industry. In China, SME industrial output grew 28 per cent per year for 22 years between 1978 and 2000. Exports from these units earned foreign exchange with which China imported industrial equipment for the next stage of mass production of goods. In 10 years, the number of small firms grew from 1.5 million to 19 million.

The wealth generated by these enterprises created a huge demand for domestically produced goods. It trained entrepreneurs and workers for the next stage of industrialization.

In South Korea, then-president Park announced a sweeping rural community development programme, the Saemaul Undong. South Korea rapidly raised its agricultural yields and increased low-tech industrial production. The programme connected the whole country with a transport network. South Korea spent about 2.5 per cent of GDP annually on the programme. "Ultimately, this was the key programme in the country's long-term economic development," ADB.

Pakistan must move from empty and shallow promises of help to SMEs to a national programme of support. The government may set up a dedicated team to study and prepare a plan. They must draw on the experience of China and South Korea. A new law should recognize SMEs as legal entities. It should define SMEs and register them; if possible, with tax comfort. This would enable them

to apply for municipal services and avail credit from the formal sector. It would also allow them to resist extortion by state functionaries. Unwittingly, the government has forced SMEs to stay in the informal sector.

The government of Pakistan's frequent efforts to increase SME credit do not bear results, as small firms cannot meet banks' paper and collateral requirements. The government should also strengthen the national market. Contract enforcement would be a big help. Small firms must have the certainty that they will receive payments for services and goods delivered to distant customers. A national market needs a logistics network for quick input supply and delivery.

The SME programme must have a suitable institutional setup, from the federal to local governments. Their officials should be trained to support entrepreneurship. They must share ideas and information about new products and link small firms with financial institutions and export markets. They should also link SMEs with national and international technical support and help with skills development.

Quality must be an integral part of this plan so that at least some small firms become exporters. The government may set up local offices of the Pakistan Standards and Quality Authority to enforce minimum standards. Local government leaders must receive orientation so that they inspire in SMEs a quest for excellence by setting high standards for entrepreneurs' performance and innovation.

Years of economic policy whose only goal is to avoid default have exhausted the country. During these years, the government's main message has been to increase taxes and prices. This extractive public policy has left the people despondent and exasperated. There is a dire need to improve the self-belief of our people and include them in the economic mainstream. Otherwise, there is a risk of the country descending into social instability.

The writer is chair and CEO, Institute for Policy Reforms. He has a long record of public service.

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

## Today in History

### History of Pakistan



In March the PPP and PML-N formed a coalition government. Yousaf Raza Gilani, a prominent member of the PPP and a former National Assembly speaker, was elected prime minister. Disagreements emerged within the governing coalition in the months following its formation, particularly regarding the reinstatement of the Supreme Court judges Musharraf had dismissed late the previous year, and

these disputes threatened to destabilize the alliance. Nevertheless, in August 2008 the coalition moved to begin impeachment charges against Musharraf, citing grave constitutional violations; on August 18, faced with the impending proceedings, Musharraf resigned. Conflict within the coalition continued to escalate following Musharraf's departure. In light of ongoing differences, including disputes over

Musharraf's successor, Sharif subsequently withdrew the PML-N from the governing coalition and indicated that his party would put forth its own candidate in the presidential elections announced for early September; however, neither the PML-N nor the PML-Q candidate won enough support to pose a challenge to Zardari, the PPP's candidate, and on September 6, 2008, he was elected president. Friction between Zardari and Sharif

intensified in early 2009 when the Supreme Court voted to disqualify Sharif's brother from his position as chief minister of the Punjab and to uphold a ban prohibiting Sharif himself from holding political office (the ban stemmed from his 2000 conviction for high crimes). Sharif alleged that the court's rulings were politically motivated and backed by Zardari.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Keanu Reeves loses control in 'horrifying' turn of events

Inside Keanu Reeves 'terrifying' racing experience

Keanu Reeves just stepped up the game with his professional auto racing debut at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The Matrix actor, who took part in the Toyota GR Cup and finished in the 25th place on Saturday, October 5, drove the No. 92 BRZRKR car in reference to his graphic novel The Book of Elsewhere. The 60-year-old, who has received various accolades in a career spanning four decades, was accompanied by his teammate Cody Jones. During the race, the actor's car spun into the grass on the exit of Turn 9, narrowly avoiding a crash.



However, he re-entered the race and continued driving on the same track, emerging unscathed from the spin. For the unversed, Reeves previously participated in the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach in the celebrity race as he was crowned the undefeated champion back in 2009. The actor and his co-star Sandra Bullock are now looking forward to attending the 30th-anniversary screening of iconic action film Speed on Tuesday, October 8, in Los Angeles. In addition, he is also preparing for the highly anticipated John Wick spinoff, Ballerina, which is slated to release in 2025.

## Tech

# Will humans end up living in mushroom houses on lunar surface?



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (Nasa) has long been exploring ways to make space habitable for humans and, with the consistent advancement of space technology, the ideas keep getting more creative and innovative. In its latest idea, Nasa is considering using mushrooms to grow future habitable structures for space colonies on the moon and Mars, Al Jazeera reported. Recently, the space agency awarded a \$2 million contract to a research group at Nasa's Ames Research Center for the further study and development of "mycoecture." Nasa is exploring the use of fungi for space

construction due to the exorbitant cost of transporting traditional building materials. Combining fungal spores with lunar resources, such as water and regolith to make bricks, could significantly reduce expenses, Chris Maurer, an architect from Cleveland, Ohio, told Al Jazeera. These mushroom-based bricks have demonstrated the ability to repel space radiation, offer insulation against extreme temperatures, and can be rapidly cultivated within one to two months. This innovative approach presents a futuristic and cost-effective alternative to conventional construction materials, Futurism reported, citing a 'promising Nasa research'. While this futuristic concept may sound promising, how will it be executed? According to Al Jazeera, to grow a mushroom house on the moon, a special package containing a sink and household essentials would be delivered to the lunar surface in the first step.

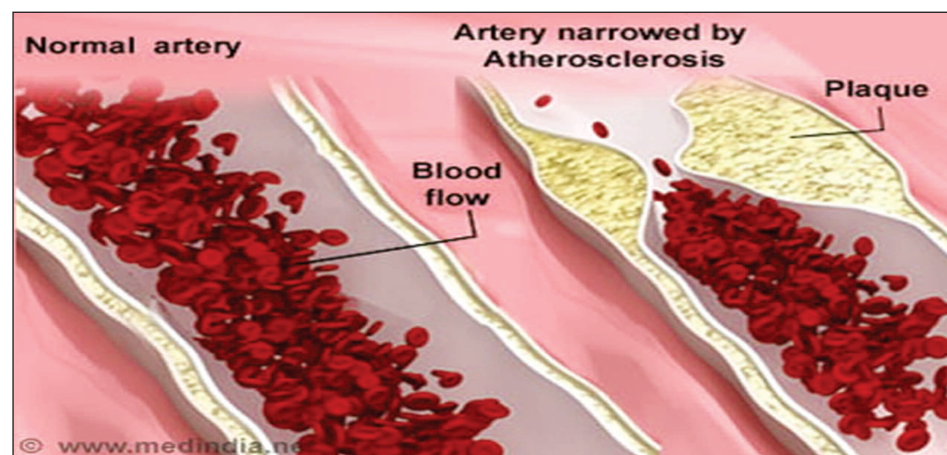
## Health

# Researchers identify key mechanism behind atherosclerosis in Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome

A team of researchers from the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares Carlos III (CNIC), the Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas Margarita Salas (CIB-CSIC), and the Instituto de Ciencias de Materiales de Madrid (ICMM-CSIC) has made a significant breakthrough in understanding the underlying causes of cardiovascular disease in patients with Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome (HGPS), an ultra-rare genetic disorder that accelerates the aging process. The most serious consequence of HGPS is the early onset of cardiovascular disease, leading to premature death at an average age of 14.5 years. The study was led by Dr. Vicente Andrés, leader of the Molecular and Genetic Cardiovascular Pathophysiology group at the CNIC and principal investigator in the Spanish cardiovascular research network (CIBERCV), and Dr. Ignacio

Benedicto, leader of the Vascular Aging group at CIB-CSIC and a visiting scientist at the CNIC. In the study, the researchers identify the activation of the YAP/TAZ pathway in endothelial cells as a major contributor to the development of atherosclerosis in HGPS. The discovery, published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation, sheds light on the vascular problems faced by HGPS patients and opens up potential new avenues for treatment. HGPS is caused by a mutation in the LMNA gene that leads to the synthesis of a toxic protein called progerin. This mutant protein disrupts normal cell function and accelerates cell aging. Children with HGPS typically show signs of rapid aging in the first two years of life, and by the time they reach their early teens most patients develop severe atherosclerosis; a condition in which the

arteries stiffen and narrow-leading to heart attack, stroke, or heart failure, the main causes of premature death in HGPS patients. Despite the severity of this disease, the precise mechanisms underlying the cardiovascular problems in HGPS patients have remained poorly understood. The authors explored how endothelial cells; the cells that line blood vessels; are affected in HGPS. Using advanced single-cell RNA-sequencing technology, they analyzed gene expression in the multiple cell types present in the arterial wall in a mouse model of HGPS and in healthy control mice. This approach allowed the researchers to examine the behavior of individual endothelial cells in unprecedented detail. The results show that endothelial cells in HGPS undergo significant changes in gene expression related to inflammation, immune-cell recruitment.





## President urges int'l community's role to stop Israeli adventurism, restore peace



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressing deep concerns over the growing Israeli adventurism in the region and escalation of tension, called for the international community's role to take swift action to restore peace and prevent conflict from spilling over.

The president, in his opening remarks at the All Parties Conference, convened by the government to mark a year of Israel's barbarism in Palestine, said that during the last year, the Israeli occupation forces had killed over 41,800 Palestinians besides destroying the infrastructure.

The moot was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman of Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, federal cabinet members, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Jamat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naemur Rehman and leaders of other mainstream political parties.

The president said that Israel had even expanded its relentless attacks to target Lebanon, Syria and Yemen and endangered regional and global peace and security.

He said that regrettably, the international community had failed to stop Israel from committing genocide against the Palestinian population, specifically in Gaza and also questioned the prevailing situation of impunity.

President Zardari said that it was crucial for the international community to take swift action to de-escalate the tension and prevent further loss of lives and conflict from spilling over to other parts of the region.

He also emphasised the UN Security Council to fulfill its responsibility of establishing peace and security in Palestine and Lebanon and reiterated Pakistan's decades-old stance for a two-state solution by establishing an independent Palestine state on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds as its capital. President Zardari stressed that peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without resolving the Palestine issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Calling for a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestine, he also asked the UNSC to restrain Israel from violation of international laws to restore peace in the Middle East. The president reiterated Pakistan's position of total withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and restoring the inalienable right of Palestinian people to self-determination. APP



DUBAI: H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE visited Synergy University.

## Over 814 mosques destroyed during Israeli war on Gaza, as UN chief appeals for peace

NEW YORK: The Israeli military has destroyed hundreds of mosques during its year-long genocidal war against the besieged Gaza, according to the enclave's Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The ministry announced in a statement on Saturday that the deadly Israeli airstrikes have destroyed 814 mosques, while another 148 have been severely damaged.

It came on the eve of the one-year mark of the Israeli war in Gaza, with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterating his passionate appeal for peace across the occupied Palestinian territories.

"The 7th of October is naturally a day to focus on the events of that awful day. I express my solidarity with all the victims and their loved ones," Guterres said in a video message.

The UN chief also voiced concern over the conflict spreading to Lebanon, where Israel in recent days has pounded the Hezbollah group,

killing over a thousand people and forcing more than a million to flee their homes.

"The war that has followed the terrible attacks of one year ago continues to shatter lives and inflict profound human suffering for Palestinians in Gaza, and now the people of Lebanon," Guterres said. In its statement, the Gaza ministry went on to say that the Israeli military has also destroyed three churches as well as 19 cemeteries in addition to mosques, adding that the estimated financial cost of the damage to the ministry's properties is \$350 million.

The ministry further said Israeli troops have desecrated graves, adding that they have exhumed bodies, and committed brutal acts of violence against those who died, such as stealing their remains and mutilating them.

A total of 610 mosques have been completely destroyed in the Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip in the past 320 days and the attacks continue unabated.

It also noted that 11 administrative and educational facilities under the ministry's authority were destroyed, accounting for 79% of such structures in Gaza.

The ministry added that Israeli forces killed 238 of its employees and detained 19 others during the ground invasion of Gaza, calling on the international community to intervene immediately to halt the "ongoing war of extermination."

Israel launched its brutal war against the Gaza Strip after the Palestinian fighters launched a surprise attack, dubbed Operation al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupation regime on October 7 last year.

At least 41,825 Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children. More than 1.7 million people have been internally displaced during the war as well.

The Israeli regime has not even spared places of worship in the coastal territory, indiscriminately and aimlessly bombing them. APP

## KSRelief to ink MoUs for aid, humanitarian projects with various organizations on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) is set to sign several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with various organizations in the Federal Capital on Tuesday.

According to the Saudi Press Attaché, Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi, the event will be attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki along with government officials and representatives from international and local humanitarian organizations.

These agreements will encompass aid and construction projects in multiple underprivileged regions of Pakistan, in alignment with KSRelief's comprehensive aid plans, he added.

Briefing on the KSRelief, Dr. Naif said it was an international organization dedicated to relief and humanitarian work. It was launched in May 2015 under the direction and patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

This organization is based on high humanitarian goals in its operations, which aim to provide assistance to the needy and disaster victims anywhere in the world. These tasks are carried out under right monitoring procedures and modern methods of rapid transition, which are carried out by United Nations organizations and international and local non-profit organizations. The plans and programmes offered by the KSRelief vary according to the needs of the beneficiaries and their circumstances. These aid projects cover all areas of relief and humanitarian work, including food security, camp management, shelter, initial rehabilitation, conservation, education, water and environmental reform, nutrition, health, humanitarian aid support, includes logistics services and emergency communications, he said.

## AJK Govt launches 3Bln rupee of housing project for Kashmiri migrant families

MIRPUR-AJK: Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq announced a major housing initiative on Monday, distributing cheques of Rs5,00,000 to each family as the first installment for the construction of homes for post-90s Kashmiri migrant families from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK).

The cheque distribution took place at the Prime Minister's House in the state capital and is part of a larger project to build 750 houses for these refugees.

Under the rehabilitation scheme, the government will allocate Rs3.8 million per household, disbursed in six installments. The plan includes constructing 375 houses each year for two years with a total budget of Rs3,096.050 million for the project.

The ceremony was attended by several AJK cabinet ministers including Senior Minister Col Retd Waqar Ahmed Noor, Minister for Rehabilitation Javed Iqbal Badhanvi and others along with a large number of Kashmiri refugees.

In his address, Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq emphasized that the housing project aims to alleviate the sense of deprivation among migrant families who had to leave their homes. He encouraged the migrant community to view themselves as first-class citizens of the state, highlighting the warm welcome they have received from the people of Azad Kashmir.

The Prime Minister assured attendees that despite financial constraints, the development process would continue unabated. He underscored the importance of transparency, stating, "We are all accountable to Allah as well as the law."

He said that the project would revive several previously stalled initiatives and that the first phase of housing construction is expected to be completed within three months. APP

## PTI's absence from APC on Palestine exposes its real face: Senator Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui has said that PTI's refusal to participate in All Parties Conference on Palestine has exposed not only the true face but real soul of the party.

"PTI's refusal to attend the APC for expressing solidarity with the Palestinian brethren suffering under Israeli oppression has unveiled their true nature," Senator Irfan Siddiqui said in a statement on his social media account 'X'. Criticizing the PTI, Senator Irfan Siddiqui said that those who engage in false propaganda about their imaginary rights do not see the blood-soaked streets of Gaza and the innocent children dying from hunger. He said that PTI should clarify to the nation about the reasons behind their absence and tell whether they did not want to offend someone that they are reluctant to raise their voice for the rights of Palestinians. SABAH

## Pakistan strengthens global efforts to establish Snow Leopard as symbol of climate adaptation



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCCEC) has accelerated efforts, in collaboration with the 12 member countries of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) to propose that the snow leopard be designated as an international symbol of climate adaptation at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). During a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam outlined the steps of this initiative. The plan includes sending formal communications to the UNGA, the countries where snow leopards thrive, and key wildlife conservation organizations, said a press release on Monday.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also be

closely involved to ensure a unified national approach. Global diplomatic efforts will be launched in coordination with snow leopard range states and institutions, Pakistan intends to present a strong case at the upcoming COP 29 conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November.

Speaking at the meeting, Romina Khurshid emphasized Pakistan's longstanding commitment to wildlife conservation. She remarked, "The snow leopard is more than just a symbol of natural beauty, it is a critical indicator of climate change. Pakistan is among the nations most affected by climate change, and we stand ready to take every necessary action to raise awareness and support efforts to address its impacts." Ambassador for Wildlife, Sardar Jamal Ahmad Khan Leghari, praised Pakistan's leadership in this initiative, working closely with GSLEP member countries to position the snow leopard as a global symbol of climate resilience. "We are engaging with stakeholders both domestically and internationally, and I am optimistic that our collective efforts will lead to the adoption of this proposal by the United Nations," he stated. "Pakistan's voice on climate action will be stronger than ever on the global stage." APP

## Australian High Commissioner visits Jamia Naemia, discusses bilateral relations, interfaith harmony



LAHORE: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins on Monday paid a visit to Darul Uloom Jamia Naemia and met with the Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman, Dr Muhammad Raghif Hussain Naemi.

The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral relations between Australia and Pakistan, with discussions also covering matters of religious harmony and mutual interests.

During his visit, Hawkins paid homage at the shrines of the late Dr. Sarfraz Naemi Shaheed and Mufti Muhammad Hussain Naemi, two renowned scholars. He also toured various sec-

tions of the institution, including the Muhadis-e-Azam Kachhochhvi Library Hall, the Hizf-ul-Quran Department, the Computer Science Department, and several classrooms.

Hawkins was briefed on the educational and welfare initiatives being undertaken by Jamia Naemia. He commended the institution's moderate approach to education and its contributions to society, stating, "Jamia Naemia's commitment to moderation is a beacon for thriving communities. The path to peace is key to ensuring human development."

Dr. Raghif expressed his gratitude for the High Commissioner's visit, highlighting the significance of Pakistan-Australia diplomatic relations. He noted that Pakistan is eager to further strengthen its diplomatic ties and cooperation with Australia, emphasizing the Australian government's efforts to support the Muslim community in Australia, particularly through educational assistance.

Both leaders stressed the importance of learning from each other's experiences to maximize the benefits of mutual cooperation. APP

## PTI failed to unleash violence: Muqam

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for State and Frontier Region, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest had failed to unleash violence and bloodshed in the federal capital despite massive attempts. Addressing a press conference, the Minister appreciated the positive role of security forces and police in showing patience. Muqam said Ali Amin Gandapur's role has been that of a film actor from day one and that too of a villain.

"Thankfully, the 'Imrani agenda' has not been completed. However, despite Article 144 in Islamabad, the deployment of the Army, and many hurdles, PTI's purpose of bringing the innocent Pashtuns to create bloodshed could not be achieved. These anti-state elements were expecting severe reaction and bloodshed but their aim was not fulfilled," he said.

Engineer Amir Muqam while appreciating the role of the security and law enforcement agencies said that the security agencies worked in the best interest of the country and worked patiently. "However, the martyrdom of one constable and the injuries of many are deeply regretted," he added. DNA

## Ayaz Sadiq strongly Condemns ongoing Israeli fascism in Palestine

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday expressed solidarity with the oppressed and innocent Palestinians living in Palestine & Gaza, stating, "Zionist aggression in Palestine and the Middle East is intensifying with each passing day."

In statement the Speaker while strongly condemning the ongoing Israeli fascism in Palestine & Gaza stated that the UN must play an effective role to immediately stop the Palestinian Genocide & for a complete ceasefire in Palestine. Speaker Sadiq expressed these views on the 'Day of Solidarity with Palestine', which is being celebrated all across Pakistan on 7th October, 2024.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq termed the ongoing Israeli aggression in Palestine as a serious violation of the United Nations Charter & UN Resolutions. He expressed lamentation on Israeli atrocities being perpetrated against Palestinians "Oppressed & innocent Palestinians are forced to face all kinds of deprivation."

He further said that more than 42,000 Palestini-

ans, including innocent children, women and the elderly, have been martyred as a result of merciless bombardment of schools, hospitals and residential areas by Zionist forces.

While condemning the illegal & immoral blockades enforced by Israeli Forces on entry & exit points of Palestine & Gaza, along with other war crimes including bombardment of medical camps, Speaker NA stated that several injured Palestinians embraced martyrdom due to no access to medical aid or facilities.

The NA Speaker, extended complete solidarity with the brotherly people of Palestine and stated that the Parliament and people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters.

He reiterated Pakistan's principled stance on the Palestine issue and stated that Pakistan rightfully demands the establishment of an independent Palestinian state according to the pre-1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital as per the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. DNA

## Year on, Pakistan demands Gaza ceasefire, Israel's accountability as 42,000 lives lost

ISLAMABAD: As a year of Israel's barbarism in Palestine completes on Monday (October 7) marking the killing of around 42,000 Palestinians, overwhelmingly women and children, Pakistan urged the UN Security Council to act decisively to impose an immediate and permanent ceasefire and hold Israel accountable for its war crimes.

"The past year has seen Israel's indiscriminate and horrifying attacks on civilian targets, including hospitals, schools, and shelters... We call upon the UN Security Council to act decisively and impose an immediate and permanent ceasefire, protecting the people of Gaza," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing.

Referring to the recent Israeli airstrikes on Khalifa Bin Zayed School in Northern Gaza, a mosque in Central Gaza, and a refugee camp, killing innocent civilians, including children and women, she said such attacks represented war crimes being committed by Israeli occupation forces. She also reiterated the call for hold-

ing Israel accountable for its crimes and crimes against humanity.

About the upcoming 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states being hosted by Pakistan on October 15-16, 2024, she said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif would preside over the moot as the current Chair of the CHG. "We expect high-level participation from SCO members, the observer state of Mongolia, Turkmenistan as a special guest, and representatives of international organizations including Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures In Asia (CICA), Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Economic Community.

The CHG, the second highest decision-making body of SCO, will discuss cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, and sociocultural linkages as well as reviewing the performance of the organization.

"Since becoming a member in 2017, Pakistan has worked consistently and constructively to strengthen good neighbourly relations and

mutually beneficial cooperation among SCO member states. The hosting of CHG by Pakistan reflects the abiding commitment of Pakistan to the purposes and principles of the SCO Charter and the values of the Shanghai Spirit," the spokesperson remarked.

The spokesperson strongly condemned the terrorist attack near the Karachi airport on Sunday night killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another.

"This barbaric acts will not go unpunished. Pakistan security and law enforcement agencies will spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators. This act of terrorism is an attack not only on Pakistan but also on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. We will bring to justice those responsible for this cowardly attack, including the Majeed Brigade," she reiterated. She reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in Pakistan and continuously working hand in hand with China to defeat the forces of terror.

Coming to the situation in Kashmir, she expressed concerns as a tribunal handling under the Unlawful Activities Act, had upheld the Indian home ministry's decision to extend the ban on the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) as an unlawful association for an additional five years.

She urged the Indian authorities to immediately release the incarcerated JKLF leader Yasin Malik and lift the ban on him and JKLF and other political parties, besides reiterating Pakistan's continuous political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people.

Spokesperson Baloch told the media that a high-level Saudi delegation, comprising representatives from a wide spectrum of government agencies and private sector entities, and led by Minister for Investment Engineer Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih would visit Pakistan from October 9-11, 2024, and meet with the president and the prime minister of Pakistan. She said the visit aimed to lend positive impetus to enhance bilateral cooperation and mutually rewarding economic partnership. APP