



The national resolve to continue operations till complete elimination of Fitna-tul-Khawarij

Acting President
Yousuf Raza Gillani

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Mohsin Naqvi meets newly appointed Frontier Constabulary Officers, emphasizes role in security, public service

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday met with the 49th Common Police Officers appointed to the Frontier Constabulary, extending his best wishes as they embarked on their new assignments within the force.

Minister Naqvi highlighted the essential role that the Frontier Constabulary played in maintaining peace and security across Pakistan, especially in the ongoing battle against terrorism.

In his address, Naqvi praised the dedication of the Frontier Constabulary, stating, "The role of the Frontier Constabulary in ensuring peace and security is of utmost importance." He commended the force for its collaboration with other law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism, noting, "In the fight against terrorism, the Frontier Constabulary is battling alongside other law enforcement agencies." Referring to the recent sacrifice of ten FC soldiers in DI Khan, Naqvi honored their courage and commitment to the nation, saying, "Ten brave FC soldiers sacrificed their lives for the nation, setting a high standard of dedication." He expressed that such sacrifices further strengthen Pakistan's resolve in the fight against terrorism. "The martyrs of FC are our valuable asset, and the nation holds their unparalleled sacrifices in high esteem," Naqvi stated.

Naqvi also highlighted advancements in the Frontier Constabulary, sharing that the force was being equipped with modern technology and tools to enhance its capabilities. Addressing the young officers, he emphasized the significance of integrity and ethical standards in law enforcement, urging them to fulfill their duties with the highest standards of discipline. "Young officers bring fresh energy to any institution," he remarked, adding, "Good behavior is the hallmark of a good officer."

He encouraged the officers to build meaningful relationships with the public and to prioritize service. "Go out of your way to help and serve the public," he advised. "Officers who serve with dedication earn the respect and trust of the people," he stated.

Tarar condoles over demise of mother of APP Urdu Director Abdul Jabbar Zakria

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the mother of Director Urdu News Service of Associated Press of Abdul Jabbar Zakria. In his condolence message, the minister expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family.

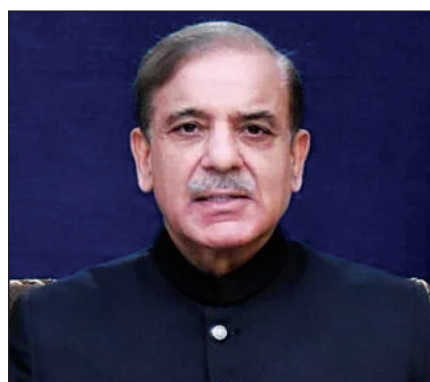
He said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of Abdul Jabbar Zakria's mother's death. The death of the deceased was a great tragedy for the family of Zakria, he added.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude. APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with police officers from 49th common who have been recently posted in frontier Constabulary. APP

PM Shehbaz for bringing Israel to justice for killing journalists in Gaza



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday called upon the international community and various organizations to bring Israel to justice for the massacre of journalists in Gaza. Despite international conventions, dozens of journalists in Gaza were deliberately killed to

"Unfortunately, journalists have to endure various dangers, hardships, and difficulties in pursuit of truth"

obstruct the truth, the prime minister said in his message on the occasion of International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.

He emphasized that journalists from across the world including Pakistan work day and night to keep the world informed. "Unfortunately, journalists have to endure various dangers, hardships, and difficulties in pursuit of truth," he regretted.

Besides working in peace, he said the journalists also risked their lives reporting even in conflict zones and during wars. These advocates of truth face restrictions, violence, threats, kidnappings, and even murder, he said adding "Without the protection of journalists, freedom of the press cannot be achieved."

"Our government has taken priority measures to ensure the protection and rights of journal-

ists," he stated. The prime minister said Pakistani journalists had made immense sacrifices for democracy, adherence to the Constitution, and the rule of law.

"The Journalist and Media Workers Protection Act 2021 was passed to protect journalists and media workers."

PM Shehbaz said health insurance for journalists was also an important initiative of the federal government for their protection.

"We are committed to preventing crimes against journalists, ensuring punishment for perpetrators, and safeguarding journalists in Pakistan," the prime minister assured.

He emphasized that the Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and access to information, and the government of Pakistan was dedicated to ensuring these rights.

Commerce Minister arrives in Tashkent for crucial bilateral engagements



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, landed in Tashkent on Saturday evening, marking the start of his official three-day visit to Uzbekistan.

He was welcomed at Tashkent International Airport by Mr. Gulamov Shohrux Xasanovich, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade, along with Pakistan's Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Mr. Ahmad Farooq, said a press release issued here.

The visit, which underscores the strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, will feature the 9th Session of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, and the 4th Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Forum, said a release issued here. The session, co-chaired by Mr. Jam Kamal Khan and Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade, Mr. Laziz Kudratov, will convene on November 4, 2024.

Key agenda items include strategic meetings with top Uzbek officials such as Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamsheed Khujayev and Transport Minister Mr. Ilkhom Makhkamov to discuss pivotal projects in trade, investment, and logistics. The Business Forum will host 33 Pakistani business delegates across various sectors for B2B meetings aimed at fostering new partnerships and enhancing trade. The minister's visit reflects both nations' dedication to deepening economic and technical collaborations and supporting mutual goals, including Uzbekistan's ongoing WTO accession.

Acting President, PM laud security forces for operation against Khawarij in S. Waziristan

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful operation against Khawarij in South Waziristan. The acting president lauded the bravery of the security forces for sending four Khawarij terrorists to hell during the operation, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The security forces targeted terrorist hideouts with utmost bravery and professionalism, he said; and expressed the national resolve to continue operations till complete elimination of Fitna-tul-Khawarij. The prime minister also praised the officers and personnel of the security forces for their successful operation against Khawarij in Sarwakai, South Waziristan by killing four Khawarij. "We will continue the fight against terrorism till it is completely eradicated from the country," PM Office Media Wing, quoted the prime minister, in a press release. He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with their security forces in the fight against terrorism. APP

Planning minister highlights importance of prioritizing development



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, while addressing the 36th Senior

Management Course officers here Saturday, highlighted the importance of prioritizing country's development and modernizing civil service. He said the lack of export-based economy has hindered the country's progress over the past 77 years, resulting in an imbalance in exports and imports. He noted that the government was working to promote exports under the "5Es Framework."

He stressed the need to modernize the system, highlighting that every government official was working hard in their place, however there was

need to modernize the system. He said the motorways and metro buses were also essential components of any country's basic infrastructure, adding that developed countries do not compromise on connectivity.

The minister said that the development budget has decreased from 12-14 percent to 4 percent. He said the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway is a government priority while Public-private partnerships are also being encouraged in development projects. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of political stability for economic growth, stating that economic development and political stability were deeply connected.

Political stability boosts investors' and businessmen's confidence, essential for a strong economy. Without stability, government policies and development projects often face delays or discontinuity, impacting the country's economic growth. A stable political environment promotes domestic and international investment, creating job opportunities and strengthens economy, he added.

Four Khawarij terrorists killed in South Waziristan IBO



RAWALPINDI: Four Khawarij terrorists were killed in wee hours of Saturday in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the Security Forces in general area Sarwakai, South Waziristan District on reported presence of khawarij.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the khawarij's location was effectively engaged by the Army troops during the operation, as a result of which, four khawarij were killed. "Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other Khawarij found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," it further said. PR

Ayaz nominates five members for Judicial Commission

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz on Saturday nominated five members for the formation of a Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges in the Higher Judiciary Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has written a letter to the Supreme

Judicial Commission regarding forming a judicial commission to appoint judges in the higher judiciary. The Speaker nominated the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan and Sheikh Aftab Ahmed of PML (N). Senator Farooq Naek and Senator Shibli Faraz have also been nominated from the Senate while Roshan Khurshheed Bharucha has been nominated as a woman member of the Judicial Commission by the Speaker NA.

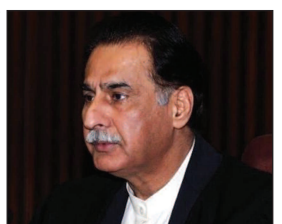
All nominations have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Judicial Commission. According to the 26th Amendment, five members of Parliament are to be included in the Judicial Commission.

The nomination of names from the Parliament

is on the basis of equal representation from both the government and the opposition. The Supreme Court has received all nominations.

Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq forwarded these names after consulting Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and all the parliamentary parties.

The female member of the Judicial Commission, Roshan Khurshheed Bharucha, hails from Balochistan and is a former Senator. These nominations were made by the Speaker of the National Assembly as per sub-paragraph (viii) of clause (2) of Article 175A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which permits the Speaker NA to nominate a woman or a non-Muslim to the Judicial Commission.



CJP launches initiative for comprehensive jail reforms

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi on Saturday launched initiatives for comprehensive jail reforms for effective prison system to ensure a fair legal framework.

A pivotal consultative meeting was held at the Lahore, presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, with participation from the Honorable Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Ms. Aalia Neelum, Administrative Judge of the Lahore High Court, Mr. Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza, Secretaries of the Home and Prosecution Departments, Inspectors General of Police and Prisons departments, the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), the Superintendent of Central Prison, Lahore, Ms. Saima Amin Khawaja, human rights activist attended the meeting, said a press release. The discussion was also attended by members from both treasury and oppo-

sition political parties Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema, Senator and Ms. Khadijah Shah who have experienced imprisonment in jail. This session marked the inaugural discussion for developing National Jail Reform Policy, focusing on prison reforms and the welfare of inmates as part of a broader criminal justice reform strategy for Pakistan.

Chief Justice Afridi shared his vision for modernizing Pakistan's criminal justice system, stressing that a humane and effective prison system is essential to ensure a fair legal framework. He noted that data collected by the LJCP reveals a deeply concerning situation nationwide, with 108,643 inmates housed in facilities with an authorized capacity of only 66,625. Punjab faces particularly severe challenges, with 67,837 prisoners confined in prisons built to accommodate just 36,365. Further analysis shows that 36,123 of these are under-trial prisoners, many of whom are awaiting trial



for over a year, highlighting a critical issue for the justice system. Chief Justice Afridi emphasized the importance of addressing these urgent issues in Punjab, beginning a phased approach that will ultimately extend to the entire country. This strategic focus on Punjab underscores his commitment to impactful, sustainable reforms where it is most needed. This series of consultative meetings starts in Lahore—the capital of Pun-

jab and the province with the most overcrowded prisons—and will continue across other cities in Pakistan to gather insights and build consensus on reform initiatives.

The agenda centered on the LJCP's proposal, a National Jail Reform Policy in alignment with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, and Beijing Rules, to ensure humane and rehabilitative man-

agement across Pakistan's correctional facilities. This proposal received strong support from attendees, who considered a phased plan to promote alternative sentencing options and rehabilitation initiatives for under-trial prisoners. The participants also discussed the possibility of establishing a Jail Reforms Committee, aimed at developing strategies to reduce overcrowding, enhance inmate welfare, and improve case processing efficiency.

Additionally, the Terms of Reference (ToRs) proposed for the National Committee will guide structured efforts to reduce under-trial detention, introduce case management improvements, and implement comprehensive rehabilitation programs. The Chief Justice of Pakistan constituted a sub-committee comprising Mr. Justice (R) Shabbir Raza Rizvi, Ms. Saima Amin Khawaja (Advocate), Senator Ahad Khan Cheema and Ms. Khadijah Shah to inspect the jails across the

province and to give recommendations to streamline processes to address the high numbers of under-trial prisoners and promote alternative sentencing options, including community service and probation. Further commitments include expanding rehabilitative initiatives within jails, such as vocational training, mental health support, and educational programs to aid inmates in successful reintegration upon release. Under the guidance of Chief Justice Afridi, and with the dedicated data collection and analytical support provided by LJCP, these initiatives are intended to bring about transformative, systemic improvements within Pakistan's prison system. By prioritizing humane treatment, rehabilitation, and efficient case management, this collaborative framework will set the stage for a sustainable and just prison system that upholds human dignity and fosters rehabilitation across the nation. 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



Dr Khalid Waleed

Why power-sector reforms fail

These interventions focus on capacity building, technical fixes, and introducing new management frameworks in the hope that knowledge will improve outcomes. However, despite this influx of expertise, the sector remains in crisis. Technical solutions – such as improving transmission efficiency, adding generation capacity, or addressing fuel mix issues – are well understood.

The real problem is not a lack of knowledge but entrenched interests and a lack of integrated, forward-looking planning that stymies meaningful change. Pakistan needs a homegrown power-sector agenda that integrates electricity with a productive economy. The core issue in the power sector lies in its extractive institutions, which Acemoglu and Robinson define as systems that concentrate power and wealth in the hands of a few to the detriment of broader society. In Pakistan's power sector, these extractive institutions take several forms. The country's energy market is dominated by independent power producers (IPPs) that operate under long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs), indexed to the dollar, guaranteeing them high returns regardless of economic circumstances.

These contracts, signed during previous administrations, have become a financial burden for the government, leading to exorbitant capacity payments even when plants sit idle. Efforts to renegotiate these contracts or introduce competitive pricing models face stiff resistance from energy governance agents, backed by powerful political and business elites. While recent renegotiations have proven somewhat effective, the institutional framework remains deficient. This creates a scenario where the government is locked into unsustainable energy costs while consumers face higher tariffs and the power sector remains linked to an unproductive economy.

The energy bureaucracy itself is often termed as a source of institutional dysfunction. The governance structure is complex, with overlapping bodies such as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA), and various distribution companies (DISCOs) operating with limited coordination.

The recent establishment of the Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) is a step in the right direction. However, the degree of 'independ-

ence' in ISMO will be crucial for power market reforms, given that political interference in these institutions is rampant, with key positions often filled through patronage rather than merit. This mismanagement and inefficiency, especially within public sector entities, exacerbate the sector's financial troubles as the state continues to bail out these companies with taxpayer money.

Adding to these problems is the rent-seeking behaviour permeating every level of the energy sector. Rent extraction – whether through inflated contracts, kickbacks on infrastructure projects, or overcharging consumers – enriches a small elite, leaving the population to shoulder the costs. Electricity theft is widespread, particularly in PESCO, TESCO, HESCO, and QESCO, often facilitated internally within distribution companies. While poor consumers suffer under high tariffs, elites either avoid payment or steal electricity without consequence. This rent-seeking behaviour distorts incentives, making reforms aimed at improving transparency or accountability difficult to implement.

Financially, the power-sector crisis is compounded by circular debt, a recurring feature of Pakistan's energy landscape. Circular debt refers to the chain of unpaid obligations between government entities, power producers, and distributors, arising from inefficiencies, theft, and under-collection of bills. Each time debt reaches unsustainable levels, the government steps in with financial injections, temporarily clearing the backlog without addressing underlying causes. This cycle has repeated for years, with successive governments borrowing from banks or issuing bonds to pay off circular debt, only for it to re-emerge, often worse than before. Without tackling the inefficiencies in billing, theft, and structural deficits of distribution companies, circular debt will continue to cripple the power sector.

Pakistan's efforts to introduce renewable energy into its grid offer another example of how institutional failure derails reform. While the country has significant potential for wind and solar energy, implementing renewable projects has been hampered by poor governance, project approval delays, and lack of transparency in bidding processes. Corruption in contract awarding and political interference in regulatory decisions have led to suboptimal outcomes, while entrenched interests in

the fossil fuel industry lobby against the transition to renewables. Consequently, the potential for clean energy development remains largely untapped, even as Pakistan struggles with pollution and dependence on imported fuels.

The failure of reforms in Pakistan's power sector highlights a critical lesson from 'Why Nations Fail': meaningful progress requires institutional change, not just technical fixes. Acemoglu and Robinson argue that extractive institutions, where power is broadly distributed and political accountability is strong, are key to sustained development. In Pakistan, this would mean reducing the influence of vested interests, introducing transparency in energy contracts, and strengthening regulatory bodies to function independently of political interference. Without such changes, even the best-laid reform plans will continue to be undermined by the forces that have plagued the sector for decades.

Accountability is crucial to any reform effort. Transparency initiatives, such as public disclosure of IPP contracts and audits of public sector energy projects, would help curb rent-seeking behaviour. Additionally, restructuring state-owned enterprises, particularly DISCOs, to operate under professional management rather than political appointees would improve efficiency and reduce the financial burden on the state. Until these institutional barriers are addressed, Pakistan's energy sector will remain trapped in a cycle of crisis and reform failure, with the population paying the price.

The failure of power reforms in Pakistan is not due to a lack of knowledge or technical expertise – the solutions are well known and many have been tried. Rather, the problem lies in institutional structures prioritising the interests of a few at the expense of many. As Acemoglu and Robinson suggest, reforms that fail to address these extractive institutions will inevitably fall short. Pakistan's power sector will continue to be a costly drain on its economy unless the underlying institutional dysfunction is tackled directly.

The writer has a doctorate in energy economics and serves as a research fellow in the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Twitter: @Khalidwaleed. Email: khalidwaleed@sdpi.org

How does the 26th Amendment help?

ANEES JILLANI

There is one easy way to check the level of democracy in a country. The more a state suppresses dissent, the more insecure it is. There is another one: the closer the collapse of an empire, the crazier its laws. Some of us may have experienced General Zia's martial law in the 80s; it was a dark period in our history. Processions and meetings were banned and punishable with lashes. However, nobody disappeared the way it is happening these days. People were arrested but their families could trace them in a few hours, unlike nowadays where the arrestees vanish for weeks, months, years, and sometimes decades.

On Oct 21, the two houses of parliament passed the 26th Constitutional Amendment which was not possible without some of the PTI MNAs voting for it; these people were presumably missing prior to doing so. The government was in a hurry to get the bill passed; it is believed that it was unwilling to appoint Justice Mansoor Ali Shah as the next chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Under Article 175-A of the constitution, the judges of the superior courts were appointed by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan. The 26th Amendment replaced this article with a new one which constitutes a 13-member commission consisting of five Supreme Court judges, the law minister, the attorney general, an advocate, two members of the Senate and two from the National Assembly, and a woman or a non-Muslim.

However, the chief justice is not to be appointed by the above commission but by a 12-member Special Committee consisting of eight MNAs and four senators. This provision implies that judges, whether members of any commission or committee or otherwise, will have no say in appointing the chief justice of the Supreme Court; 12 members of parliament will have this prerogative. The membership of this committee will be based on proportional representation based on their parties' strength in parliament.

In other words, the ruling party will have a chief justice of its choice, from the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court. This may not have anything to do with merit and may be exclusively based on the political inclinations of the appointee. The amendment has also fixed a term of three years for the chief justice.

The Judicial Commission shall also undertake an annual performance evaluation of high court judges. If the evaluation is found to be unsatisfactory, it can send its report to the Supreme Judicial Council. This means that high court judges will constantly be on tenterhooks as their survival will depend on their annual appraisal.

Separately, suo-motu power under the constitution's Article 184(3) has been slightly limited by linking it to the filing of an application.

The 26th Amendment has also given the Supreme Court the power to transfer any proceeding pending in a high court to itself or any other high court if it considers it in the interest of justice.

A lot is being said about the formation of constitutional benches in the Supreme Court which has been made possible through the insertion of Article 191-A. This probably was originally envisaged with the idea in mind that the outgoing chief justice can be moved to head this constitutional court which now is being called a bench. However, due to the opposition, the idea has been diluted. The number of judges in this bench and the judges themselves shall be determined by the Judicial Commission; the bench will comprise an equal number of judges from each province.

Many major powers of the Supreme Court have been transferred to these constitutional benches, such as the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 184; and the appellate jurisdiction of the court under Article 185(3) where the constitutionality of any law or a substantial question of law as to constitutional interpretation or advisory jurisdiction of the court under Article 186. Such benches have also been formed at the high court level.

The age for becoming a judge of the high court has been lowered from 45 years to 40 years.

During the debate in the National Assembly, which was undertaken in undue haste, it was repeatedly mentioned that the performance of our judiciary leaves a lot to be desired. Its international low ranking was mocked. Nobody bothered to point out that the ranking of the legislature or the executive may not be any better. And what makes the rulers think that adding dozens of new judges, drawing millions of rupees of salaries and benefits, will help add to an improvement? Some of the finest courts in the world are based in England and the United States: The former's Supreme Court has 12 while the latter has nine judges. The number is not going to make any difference; integrity, honesty, uprightness, and intellectual capacity will make a difference. A British chief justice once said that a judge is not supposed to know anything about the facts of life until they have been presented in evidence and explained to him at least three times. Most of our superior judiciary is as plucked into politics as the legislators since our independence.

The writer is an advocate of the Supreme Court. He can be reached at: aj@jillani.org

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

Today in History

Pakistan

But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial

elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-

elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative

assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal,

To be continued....

Showbiz

Sabrina Carpenter recreates Iconic Hilary Duff dress from 'Lizzie McGuire' film

Sabrina Carpenter pays tribute to Hilary Duff's iconic character Lizzie McGuire on Halloween

Sabrina Carpenter has recently received a special nod from actress Hilary Duff for channelling her iconic look from the movie Lizzie McGuire. On October 31, the Taste hitmaker took to her Instagram account and posted a carousel of photos featuring her popular igloo dress which she chose to recreate on Halloween. In a viral video, which was initially posted by Carpenter on TikTok, the singer showcased her acting skills in which she was reenacting an iconic scene from the family-comedy film. To grab the attention of her fans and admirers, the Please Please Please singer has played the same song that was played in the movie titled Super-

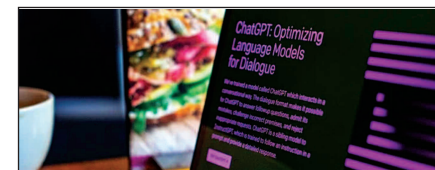


model in the background of the clip. Carpenter wrote a fun-filled caption over her post which reads, "Me November 1st." Reacting to the Bed Chem singer's spooky look, Duff commented, "That's that me espressssso!!!!!!!" The 37-year-old musician has also shared Carpenter's Halloween costume on her Instagram stories and wrote over the image, "Isn't that sweet. I guess soooo." As the globally known singer's post went viral, several of her fans and admirers immediately overflowed the comments section with praise. One fan penned, "Best movie ever... my childhood. your costumes are THE best. also this literally has to be the same exact outfit ... so cool."

Tech

OpenAI challenges Google's dominance with new ChatGPT search engine

OpenAI, the tech firm behind the generative artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT, has significantly enhanced its chatbot, integrating search engine capabilities to challenge tech giant Google's long-standing dominance in web search. The company said that the latest upgrade allows users to receive "fast, timely answers" with direct links to relevant web sources, where they may access information that previously required traditional search engine. The revamped ChatGPT can now deliver real-time information on various topics, including weather forecasts, stock prices, sports scores and breaking news, the company said. These include direct access to sourced material from partners that have signed content deals with OpenAI, including France's Le Monde, Germany's Axel Springer and the United Kingdom's Financial Times. Examples of the new interface shown on the OpenAI website closely resembled search results on Google and Google Maps, though without the clutter of advertising. Rather than launching a separate product,



OpenAI has integrated search directly into ChatGPT for paying subscribers, though this will be expanded to users that use the free version of the chatbot. Users can enable the search feature by default or activate it manually via a web search icon.

The company added that any website or publisher can opt-in to appear in ChatGPT's search results, with OpenAI actively seeking feedback from content creators to refine the system further.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman wrote Thursday on X that search is his "favorite feature we have launched" on ChatGPT since the bot's debut in 2022. "I find it to be a way faster/easier way to get the information I'm looking for," Altman added on Reddit.

Health

Vegetarian diets can protect against diabetes, cardiovascular diseases

Eating more fruits, vegetables, and plant-based foods is a long-standing nutritional recommendation for better health. In fact, current guidelines, like the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Trusted Source, support vegetarian diets as a dietary option to promote health and prevent disease.

However, some nutrition and health professionals hesitate to advocate for vegetarian or vegan diets. This may be due to outdated resources or misconceptions.

Researchers recently reviewed the literature on these diets and their effects on cardiometabolic health. They aimed to inform practitioners about the effectiveness of vegetarian and vegan diets in clinical care and bridge the gap between research and practice. Two review studies published in October 2024

highlight that vegetarian and vegan diets can be beneficial for individuals with type 2 diabetes and may lower heart disease risk across the general adult population.

The study on type 2 diabetes appears in *Advances in Nutrition*, while the heart disease findings are published in the *American Journal of Preventive Cardiology*. This research contributes to an initiative to update the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Evidence Analysis Library, supporting evidence-based nutrition practice. Both studies were funded by the AND, the AND Foundation, and the AND Vegetarian Nutrition Dietetics Practice Group.

"We now have such an abundance of studies that have examined vegetarian dietary patterns that we're doing reviews of reviews to systematically examine the research and contribute to evidence-

based clinical practice," Matthew Landry, PhD, RDN, an author on both studies, said in a press release. Landry is an assistant professor of population health and disease prevention at UC Irvine Joe C. Wen School of Population and Public Health. His previous research was part of a prominent twin diet study.

In a systematic review and meta-analysis, researchers examined seven randomized controlled trials on vegetarian and vegan diets for treating adults with type 2 diabetes. These studies, which lasted an average of 26 weeks, involved 770 predominantly middle-aged participants aged 44 to 61.

Vegetarian diets generally exclude meat, poultry, and seafood, while vegan diets further eliminate other animal products like eggs and dairy. In this review, "vegetarian" encompassed all types.



دی اینڈین اسٹار کی گراف

اسلام آباد

اتوار 03 نومبر 2024ء

پاکستان قطر کیساتھ دوئی کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے قطری قیادت کی غیر معمولی گرمجوش اور اعلیٰ مہمان نوازی پر اظہارِ تحسین کیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ایکس پر اپنے پیغام میں لکھا، قطری قیادت کی غیر معمولی گرمجوش اور اعلیٰ مہمان نوازی پر ہے مددگروں کو، پاکستان قطر کے ساتھ ساتھ خصوصی دوستی کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ قطری ہم سب کو مل کر ایک بہتر پاکستان بنانے میں مددگار ہے۔



لاہور، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز سے اٹلی کی سفیر باربارینا ملقات کر رہی ہیں

علی امین گنڈاپور نے 9 نومبر کو صوبائی میں احتجاج کی کال دے دی

اب ہمیں موجودہ حکومت سے جان چھڑانی ہوگی، ملک میں آئین توڑا گیا، ملک میں قانون کی بالادستی نہیں، گھنگٹو لوہور کو صوبائی اتحاد چھوڑنے پر توجہ دے رہے ہیں۔ لیکن اب واپس آنا بات چیت نہیں ہوتے رہے، اگر کسی اور کے مذاکرے ہوتے ہیں تو وہی مذاکرے ہونے چاہئے۔ لیکن اب ہمیں موجودہ حکومت سے جان چھڑانی ہوگی، ملک میں آئین توڑا گیا، ملک میں قانون کی بالادستی نہیں، گھنگٹو لوہور کو صوبائی اتحاد چھوڑنے پر توجہ دے رہے ہیں۔ لیکن اب واپس آنا بات چیت نہیں ہوتے رہے، اگر کسی اور کے مذاکرے ہوتے ہیں تو وہی مذاکرے ہونے چاہئے۔



لاہور صوبائی وزیر اطلاعات عظمیٰ بخاری پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہی ہیں

پی ٹی آئی کیسا تجھ کوئی نرمی برتی جائیگی نہ ڈیل ہوگی، عرفان صدیقی

عرفان صدیقی نے واضح کیا کہ پی ٹی آئی کے ساتھ گھنگٹو کوئی نرمی برتی جائے گی اور وہ کسی ڈیل کی صورت میں نہ ہونے دیتا۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی کے ساتھ گھنگٹو کوئی نرمی برتی جائے گی اور وہ کسی ڈیل کی صورت میں نہ ہونے دیتا۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی کے ساتھ گھنگٹو کوئی نرمی برتی جائے گی اور وہ کسی ڈیل کی صورت میں نہ ہونے دیتا۔

پنجاب تعلیمی بورڈ میں جدید تعلیمی اصلاحات لارہے ہیں، منزل محمود

منزل محمود نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں تعلیمی اصلاحات لارہے ہیں اور نئے نئے سیکولر اسکول کھلائے جارہے ہیں۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ تعلیمی بورڈ میں جدید تعلیمی اصلاحات لارہے ہیں اور نئے نئے سیکولر اسکول کھلائے جارہے ہیں۔



لاہور، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز سے اٹلی کی سفیر باربارینا ملقات کر رہی ہیں

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لاہور صوبائی وزیر اطلاعات عظمیٰ بخاری پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہی ہیں

پنجاب میں فضائی آلودگی کے ڈیرے پر منظر دھند لا، لاہور آلودہ ترین شہر

لاہور کے شہریوں کو اسٹاک بھرن گھروں سے باہر نکلنے کی ہدایت، ایس او پی کے خلاف ورزی پر 1035 افراد کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔ شہر میں فضائی آلودگی کے ڈیرے پر منظر دھند لایا اور لاہور آلودہ ترین شہر قرار دیا گیا۔



اسلام آباد، وفاقی دارالحکومت میں ٹی سی بی لائن بچھانی جاری ہے

اطالوی سرمایہ کار پنجاب آئیں، ہر ممکن سہولت دینگے، مریم نواز

پنجاب حکومت اٹلی کے ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں مزید اشتراک بڑھانا چاہتی ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ اطالوی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولت دینے کے لیے حکومت آمادہ عمل ہے۔



گورنر پنجاب مریم نواز نے اٹلی کے سفیر کو پیغام بھجوایا ہے

پی ٹی آئی متحدہ 8 نومبر کو احتجاجی تحریک فائل ہے، رؤف حسن

رؤف حسن نے کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی نے ایک متحدہ تحریک فائل کی ہے اور انھوں نے حکومت سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ وہ اس تحریک کو تسلیم کرے۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی کے ساتھ گھنگٹو کوئی نرمی برتی جائے گی اور وہ کسی ڈیل کی صورت میں نہ ہونے دیتا۔

12 ویں دفاعی نمائش آئیڈیاز 2024 روڈ مارہ مارچ میں ہوگی

دفاعی نمائش آئیڈیاز 2024 روڈ مارہ مارچ میں ہوگی۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ اس موقع پر مختلف دفاعی آلات کی نمائش کی جائے گی۔

126 ویں ترمیم بھی کرنی پڑی تو کریں گے، طلال چودھری

طلال چودھری نے کہا کہ اگر حکومت کو 126 ویں ترمیم کرنی پڑی تو وہ اسے تسلیم کرے گی۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی کے ساتھ گھنگٹو کوئی نرمی برتی جائے گی اور وہ کسی ڈیل کی صورت میں نہ ہونے دیتا۔

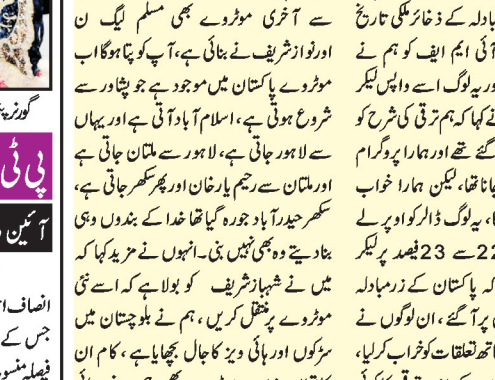
پنجاب میں فضائی آلودگی کے ڈیرے پر منظر دھند لا، لاہور آلودہ ترین شہر

لاہور کے شہریوں کو اسٹاک بھرن گھروں سے باہر نکلنے کی ہدایت، ایس او پی کے خلاف ورزی پر 1035 افراد کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔ شہر میں فضائی آلودگی کے ڈیرے پر منظر دھند لایا اور لاہور آلودہ ترین شہر قرار دیا گیا۔

اسلام آباد، وفاقی دارالحکومت میں ٹی سی بی لائن بچھانی جاری ہے

اطالوی سرمایہ کار پنجاب آئیں، ہر ممکن سہولت دینگے، مریم نواز

پنجاب حکومت اٹلی کے ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں مزید اشتراک بڑھانا چاہتی ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ اطالوی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولت دینے کے لیے حکومت آمادہ عمل ہے۔



گورنر پنجاب مریم نواز نے اٹلی کے سفیر کو پیغام بھجوایا ہے

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12 ویں دفاعی نمائش آئیڈیاز 2024 روڈ مارہ مارچ میں ہوگی

دفاعی نمائش آئیڈیاز 2024 روڈ مارہ مارچ میں ہوگی۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ اس موقع پر مختلف دفاعی آلات کی نمائش کی جائے گی۔

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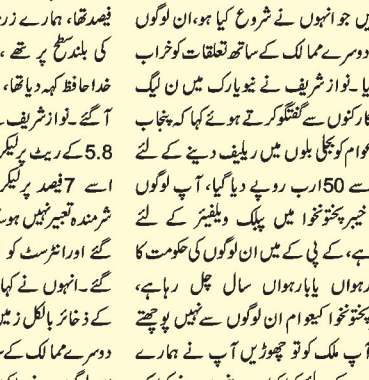
پنجاب میں فضائی آلودگی کے ڈیرے پر منظر دھند لا، لاہور آلودہ ترین شہر

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اسلام آباد، وفاقی دارالحکومت میں ٹی سی بی لائن بچھانی جاری ہے

اطالوی سرمایہ کار پنجاب آئیں، ہر ممکن سہولت دینگے، مریم نواز

پنجاب حکومت اٹلی کے ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں مزید اشتراک بڑھانا چاہتی ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ اطالوی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولت دینے کے لیے حکومت آمادہ عمل ہے۔



گورنر پنجاب مریم نواز نے اٹلی کے سفیر کو پیغام بھجوایا ہے

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Govt to create meaningful opportunities for youths: Mashhood

LAHORE: Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Saturday highlighted the government's commitment to create meaningful opportunities for young Pakistanis, strengthening the country's economic foundations and preparing youth to excel in an increasingly digital and globalized world.

He said this while addressing a visionary dialogue on "Youth Empowerment and Economic Growth" at an International Conference on Management & Research at a local hotel.

He also outlined essential initiatives under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme designed to catalyze entrepreneurship, improve digital literacy and foster economic independence for Pakistan's youth.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan unveiled a comprehensive vision for youth-driven socio-economic development in Pakistan. With this year's theme, "Globalization and Digitalization," the conference served as a strategic platform for students, academicians, educators, researchers, and industry professionals committed to fostering sustainable development and navigating digital transformation challenges.

The address received an enthusiastic response, with attendees recognizing the importance of aligning national youth initiatives with the demands of a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The PM's Youth Programme chairman emphasized the government's goal to establish a \$25 billion industry, aiming to empower Pakistan's emerging sectors such as technology, manufacturing, and services. He said, "This vision targets creating business opportunities, jobs and a resilient economic infrastructure to support the aspirations of future generations, particularly young Pakistanis."

He further said that to empower youth entrepreneurship, an additional Rs 300 billion would be invested in the Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme. Rana said that this significant financial commitment aimed to provide aspiring young entrepreneurs with the capital to innovate, establish startups and expand their ventures. He further said that the government envisioned an entrepreneurial ecosystem that lowers youth unemployment, enhances productivity and drives economic diversification.

Rana Mashhood said, "To meet the demands of a globalized job market, the government plans to increase the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme training capacity from 400,000 to 1 million annually."

Through this programme, young Pakistanis would gain practical skills in high-demand fields like IT, engineering, healthcare, and vocational trades, equipping them for competitive careers and productive contributions to the national economy, he said.

Acknowledging the role of technology in shaping future opportunities, Rana Mashhood highlighted the Prime Minister's IT initiatives, particularly the laptop scheme. He said that the initiative aimed to provide young people with access to essential digital tools, helping them to enter the freelance sector and thrive in e-commerce. Chairman said that the government anticipated that this digital enablement would strengthen Pakistan's freelance industry, contributing to a self-sustaining digital economy and positioning the country as a global competitor in online commerce and services. APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Privatization & communication Abdul Aleem Khan presided over the meeting of Focal Group on Special Economic Zones.

Pak-Germany to start 2nd phase of 'Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project'

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Republic of Germany will provide *Euro 20 Million* for the second phase of Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project (BTASP) to Pakistan.

In this regard, an agreement was signed after the approval of Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema. Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz, and Ms. Esther Gravenkotter, Director of the German Development Bank KfW signed this agreement on the behalf of respective governments, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The project is an important part of the German-Pakistan Climate and Energy Initiative launched at COP26.

The German Government through the Pak-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP) is actively supporting Pakistan's climate risk mitigation efforts. With the signing of this agreement, German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funding through KfW for this program has reached *Euro 33.5 million*. The first phase of BTASP *(EUR 13.5 million)* is already under implementation in partnership with the KP Climate Change, Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department (CCFEWD). BTASP will support the protection and sus-



tainable management of forests in KP. The project will focus on new plantation of *10,000 hectares*, provide capacity building of Forest Departments including developing a Management Information System. BTASP will also engage and mobilise communities as key stakeholders in the preservation of forests. The project will support nature-based livelihoods generation geared to alleviate poverty.

Moreover, it will promote women's economic empowerment and participation in decision making processes. KfW has an active portfolio supporting the Government of Pakistan with a focus on renewable energy. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Niaz said that the project is expected to contribute significantly to Pakistan's climate change mitigation efforts, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development goals.

Climate financing for developing countries should be priority at COP 29: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Senate Committee on Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman underpinned the critical role of development organizations in fostering climate resilience through providing adequate funding. She was speaking at a pre-COP29 panel discussion titled 'Bridging the Gap: Humanitarian/Development Agencies and Climate Adaptation in Pakistan' held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), said a press release issued here Saturday. Sherry Rehman also underscored the need for local climate action backed by robust international financing. Advocating proactive measures in flood-prone areas to prevent escalating climate impacts, she urged major emitters to honour their Internationally Determined Contributions (IDCs) and called for a Global Goal on Adaptation that prioritises funding for on-ground initiatives.

Calling upon major emitters to commit to their Internationally Determined Contributions (IDCs), Senator Rehman emphasized that climate financing for the Global South should be directed towards on-ground adaptation initiatives, not just reporting.

In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) highlighted the potential role of COP29 in advancing climate adaptation efforts and ensuring essential funding. He also stressed upon the importance of decentralised approaches to climate adaptation, while ensuring that strategies are tailored to local contexts to address diverse climate challenges effectively and shared that IRS was conducting a number of pre-COP discussions to generate concrete recommendations for COP29.

Dr Altaf Abro, Head of Mission for Secours Islamique France (SIF) Pakistan, emphasized the importance of linking development funds with humanitarian resources to enhance adaptation efforts and enable more effective resilience strategies.

Dr Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of UNDP Pakistan, stressed the need for coordinated government action in addressing climate change. He also invited attention to rapid population growth and worsening climate impacts as significant challenges for Pakistan, which were deepening vulnerabilities for marginalised communities.

Bilal Anwar, CEO of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), accentuated the need for transformative adaptation initiatives to meet the mounting challenges of climate change. He also called for mobilization of resources, enhancement of expertise, and inclusion of indigenous practices to build resilience and drive sustainable climate action.

Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Senior Research Fellow at IRS, underscored the importance of aligning humanitarian responses with development strategies to create a more integrated approach.

Muhammad Arif Goheer, Executive Director of the Global Climate Change Impact Study Centre (GCISC), brought out the urgency for effective adaptation strategies in Pakistan's agricultural sector and called for climate-smart farming practices and improved water management to safeguard this vital sector.

CM Bugti stresses teachers to create awareness in society to counter enemy's propaganda

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Saturday stressed the teachers to play their vital role to spread awareness in the society to counter enemy's propaganda.

"Propaganda by enemies of Pakistan to mislead the youth towards violence and criminal activities should be countered," he said.

Sarfraz Bugti while expressing his views in the "Safar Mualim" organized by Voice of Balochistan, said that various qualified educationists and intellectuals, called from other provinces to train the training of local teacher were sent back in the past, resulted that the province is still suffering. Through an organized conspiracy launched on social media, the youth is being misled against the state, he said and pointing that it is the responsibility of the local teachers to root out this false narrative from the society. Teachers from across the province were invited in the program organized under the title "Safar

Mualim'.

Sarfraz Bugti said that the teachers of Balochistan have a heavy responsibility to educate the students about the difference between perception and reality by imparting modern skills and the current day requirements.

The government is opening new avenues for the youth of the province to play their positive role in the development of the country. Sarfraz Bugti said that the provincial government has been initiated Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program for the first time in the history. Under the program 10 toppers, boys and girls each from every district, including minorities, will be provided scholarship. He urged the teachers to teach patriotism to the youth to love with country and social ethics which has been the distinction of our forefathers. He also asked the teachers to guide the youth positively by acquainting them with the reality. INP

Maritime Minister reviews performance, holds open court

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, chaired a performance review meeting on Saturday to evaluate the progress and achievements of major maritime organizations, including the Port Qasim Authority (PQA), Karachi Port Trust (KPT), and Pakistan Marine Academy (PMA).

The meeting focused on key performance metrics, tackled ongoing challenges, and explored avenues for enhancing service delivery and productivity across the maritime sector. The meeting concluded with a commitment to implement strategic recommendations and action plans to drive growth and advancement within the industry. Following the performance review meeting, the minister chaired a "Khuli Kachehri" (Open court) to listen to the complaints and grievances of stakeholders from the maritime industry. The open forum provided an opportunity for stakeholders to directly interact with the minister and share their concerns, suggestions, and ideas for improving the sector. The minister assured the stakeholders that their voices would be heard and their issues would be addressed promptly.

Pakistan urges UNHRC to address problems facing people in 'UN-recognized disputed territories'

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has urged the United Nations Human Rights Council to set greater focus on human rights violations in 'UN-recognized disputed territories' — obviously meaning Kashmir and Palestine — and to address the multiple challenges facing the people there, especially those under foreign occupation. Pakistani delegate Saima Saleem speaking to UN General Assembly, while underscoring that the 47-member Council upholds its commitment to promote and protect human rights, said, "Such situations often lead to draconian legislation by occupying powers, who exploit their control to evade accountability, restrict freedoms, and suppress movements for self-determination." Speaking in a debate on the annual report of the President of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, Saima Saleem, a counselor in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said that the plight of populations living under foreign occupation needed greater attention as they face violations of fundamental rights, including the denial of self-determination, dignity, and fundamental freedoms. "The Human Rights Council (HRC) should enhance efforts to advocate for and support these populations through independent investigations and regular reporting," the Pakistani delegate said. She said, "Pakistan has an inclusive, balanced

approach that recognizes the diversity of human rights concerns across regions and upholds this principle by fostering constructive dialogue and avoiding politicization in the Council work."

She lamented the rise of racial hatred, religious extremism, and violent nationalism and called on the Special Procedures Branch to investigate and present actionable recommendations to counter this rising threat.

Elaborating, the Pakistani delegate said, "In many regions, Islamophobia has been normalized, manifesting through calls for expulsion, restrictions on religious expression, burning of Holy Quran, and the defamation of Islamic symbols and sacred spaces, noting that such actions were often conducted under the guise of free speech." "The HRC has a crucial role in addressing Islamophobia," she added.

"Today the global landscape faces a spectrum of crises—from climate change to the food and financial crises—amplifying inequalities, poverty, and social injustice," the Pakistani delegate said. "These challenges place a substantial burden on future generations," she informed.

"It is imperative that the Human Rights Council allocate its resources equitably across the spectrum of rights, balancing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development," she concluded. INP

Pakistan-Russia bilateral ties developing rapidly: Russian CG

KARACHI: The Consul General of Russian Federation in Karachi Andrey V. Fedorov has said the bilateral cooperation among Pakistan and Russia was rapidly developing and high level contacts between leadership of both the countries had further strengthened it.

He said this while talking to APP and later on, addressing the "People's Unity Day" ceremony held here late Friday night at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation.

People's Unity Day, is being celebrated by people of Russia on November 4 every year to commemorate an unprecedented resilience of our nation, Fedorov said in his speech. Relying a question regarding Russia-Pakistan ties and the SCO Summit, Andrey V. Fedorov said the relations between Russia and Pakistan were developing with passage of time and currently there was a trade volume of over \$ 2 billion between the two countries.

He said all members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are equal and working together to save future of our children.

He said SCO was providing stability of the region and it was working well. Later on, addressing the ceremony, Andrey said "People's Unity Day" is the day when our country rose from the ashes and liberated itself from the Polish occupiers during the so-called Time of Troubles.

He said at the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17 century, Russia struggled through political chaos, Western intervention, impostors, famines and many other horrible events. Our civilization, culture and people were literally on the brink of extinction. And in that very moment in the year of 1612, an ordinary shopkeeper Kuzma Minin and a rich Duke Dmitry Pozharsky formed the people's volunteer militia that helped Russia to regain its true independence.

At the end of the time of troubles our nation learned many valuable lessons that have continued to pass through generations. Firstly, instead of another civil war and internal strife of the elites Russians assembled a democratic Council from all regions and social classes to elect a new czar Mikhail Romanov, whose dynasty

ruled Russia for more than 300 years. Referring to Pakistan-Russia relations, Andrey V. Fedorov said in the recent years, bilateral cooperation of the two countries had rapidly developed.

The level and frequency of the high-level contacts between Russia and Pakistan have elevated dramatically since the last year, when we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Establishment of Russia-Pakistan diplomatic relations, the Russian CG said and added that it was especially reflected on July 3 at the SCO Head of States meeting in Astana, on the sidelines of which Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He also referred the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Aleksei Overchuk to Islamabad on September 18-19, Russia-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum in Moscow on October 1 that gave a powerful impetus to our economic cooperation, the SCO Heads of Governments Meeting on October 15-16 in Islamabad, on the sidelines of which Head of the Russian Government Mikhail Mishustin met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

and discussed all the critical issues on the bilateral agenda.

He said, just recently the Chairwoman of the Russian Senate Valentina Matvienko also paid a visit to Pakistan as well. He hoped that all these meetings will result in a further progress in our ties, the projects discussed during our interactions will take form and the true potential of our cooperation will soon be realized.

Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, senior members of provincial cabinet, former Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Durrani, MNA Dr Farooq Sattar, PPP Sindh president Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Diplomats of other countries, business community representatives and media persons were present on the occasion.

A cake cutting ceremony was also held on People's Unity Day while Russian artists performed and mesmerized the audience with their traditional Russian dance before being served with delicious dinner. On the occasion of the Unity Day ceremony, a photo exhibition was also arranged that attracted the participants.