



Appreciating the professionalism of security forces, he reiterated the national resolve to complete elimination of terrorism

President of Pakistan  
Asif Ali Zardari

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## Entire nation stands united in the war against terrorism: Mohsin Naqvi

### Says we will extend full cooperation to Provincial Govt for ensuring peace in Balochistan

QUETTA: Interior Minister Senator Mohsin Naqvi and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Khan Bugti at a meeting in Quetta on Sunday reviewed overall situation after suicide blast at city's railway station.

They exchanged views about measures to protect lives and properties of people in the province.

Mohsin Naqvi said the entire nation stands united in the war against terrorism. Mohsin Naqvi said we will extend full cooperation to Provincial Government for ensuring peace in Balochistan.

Meanwhile Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti visited Civil Hospital Quetta to inquire about the health of those injured in the railway station blast.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti individually met with each of the injured person, inquired about their well-being, and prayed for their swift recovery. Mohsin Naqvi also received updates from doctors. The Federal Interior Minister and Balochistan Chief Minister appreciated the high morale of the injured.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti directed the immediate transfer of a critically injured person to Karachi and instructed doctors to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured. While speaking with the injured, Mohsin Naqvi reassured them, "The nation stands with you, and we pray for your speedy recovery. No expense will be spared for your treatment." SABAH

## Saudi Arabia condemns Quetta terrorist attack

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Sunday condemned the terrorist attack on a railway station in Quetta, Balochistan, which resulted in the death and injury of several people.

Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement, said the Kingdom has reiterated its rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism, and extended its deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to the families of the victims, and to the government and people of Pakistan, wishing the injured speedy recovery.

## Govt took measures to stabilize prices of fertilizers: Tanveer

MURIDKE: Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer Hussain says prices of fertilizers and other commodities have stabilized due to effective measures taken by the government.

Talking to newsmen in Muridke today [Sunday], he said decline in the prices of commodities and electricity will yield positive results not only for industry but also for the common men.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said the country is now progressing towards development with cooperation of international partners and brotherly countries. APP



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being received by Deputy Governor of Riyadh Region HRH Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz at the Royal terminal of Riyadh International Airport.

## President, PM congratulate Pak cricket team on ODI series win against Aussies

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Pakistan Cricket Team on winning the one-day international (ODI) series against Aussies eleven at their home ground in Australia.

The president lauded the national team for achieving the remarkable triumph in Australia after a gap of 22 years span, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He further observed that Pakistan team performed well for which the entire team deserved accolades.

The president expressed the optimism that the national cricket team would continue its winning streak in future.

The prime minister termed it as the happiest occasion for the nation because the national team achieved victory in ODI series in Australia after a gap of 22 years, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The bowlers and batters displayed an excellent performance against Australia, he said, adding the members of the team and management worked hard for which they deserved such victory.

Separately, on X account, the prime minister



ter posted, "Big Day for Pakistani Cricket! Congratulations to the Pakistan cricket team on their historic ODI series victory against Australia. After 22 years, Pakistan as defeated Australia on their home ground, and that too, in a convincing manner." He further posted that this victory was the result of unity and teamwork of their brilliant players; as well as efforts of coaching staff and the PCB under the able leadership

of Chairman Mohsin Naqvi. "May this be the start of a great and glorious period for Pakistani Cricket Team", he added.

The national team overwhelmed the last two games with ball and bat, completely outclassing the strong Aussies team. Pakistan cricket team defeated Australian team by 2-1 in ODI series and registered a historic and rare win since 2002.

## Security forces kill 6 terrorists in general area Spinwam, N Waziristan District, says ISPR



RAWALPINDI: On 09 November 2024, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District on reported presence of terrorists.

According to the statement issued by ISPR, during conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged terrorists location, as a result of which, six terrorists were killed, while six others got injured.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area,

### Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians

as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country. PR

## Tarar grieved over death of Shahab mother

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar on Sunday expressed deep grief over the death of the mother of Aaj TV Group Chief Executive Officer Shahab Zuberi.

In his condolence message, the information minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to Shahab Zuberi and other family members. Attaulah Tarar said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of Shahab Zuberi's mother's death.

Terming the death of Zuberi's mother a great tragedy for the bereaved family, he shared his grief. 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.



## Pakistan HC in New Delhi issues over 3000 visas to India Sikh pilgrims

NEW DELHI: The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued over 3000 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the birthday celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji to be held in Pakistan from 14th to 23rd of this month.

In a post on the High Commission's social media platform X, Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmad Warrach also extended his heartfelt felicitations and wished the pilgrims a fulfilling yatra.

The development came after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announced a significant relaxation of visa rules for Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan. Starting immediately, Sikh pilgrims will no longer have to pay visa fees and can obtain their visas within half an hour.

Welcoming a group of 44 American Sikhs, Naqvi highlighted the ease of travel for US citizens, who can get visas on arrival and make multiple visits to Pakistan without any hassle. He also



mentioned that citizens of the UK and Canada can easily obtain visas through a simplified online process.

Naqvi expressed his desire to welcome a million Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan, encouraging them to explore beyond the traditional sites like Nankana Sahib, Kartarpur, and Hassan Abdal. He also invited Sikh community members, including Indian nationals, to attend the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan, with special arrangements being made for their participation. INP



RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan, on the sidelines of the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting.

## S Arabia hosts Arab-Islamic Summit to halt Israeli aggression on Palestinian, Lebanese territories

RIYADH: The escalating violence in the Palestinian and Lebanese territories, including the brutal Israeli aggression, has compelled Arab and Islamic leaders to take urgent action. Key priorities include halting the aggression, protecting civilians, providing support to the Palestinian and Lebanese people, unifying positions, and exerting pressure on the international community to take decisive steps to end the ongoing attacks and establish lasting peace and stability in the region, SPA reported on Sunday.

Given Saudi Arabia's historic role in serving Islam and Muslims, and its commitment to defending Arab and Islamic causes, particularly the Palestinian cause, the Kingdom, under the leadership of Custodian of

the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has called for an Arab-Islamic summit to be held in Saudi Arabia on November 11, 2024. This urgent meeting is convened in response to the ongoing Israeli aggression on Palestinian and Lebanese territories. The summit builds on the Arab-Islamic summit held in Riyadh on November 11, 2023, as Arab and Islamic leaders recognize the urgent need for unified efforts and a collective stance to address the dangerous and unprecedented developments in Gaza and the rest of the Palestinian territories. This requires solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations to

confront these challenges and mitigate their consequences. The summit tasked the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, Indonesia, Nigeria, Palestine, and any other interested countries, along with the secretaries-general of the Arab League and OIC, to initiate immediate international action that seeks to halt the war on Gaza and pressure for a serious political process to achieve lasting, comprehensive peace based on internationally recognized principles. In response to the ongoing crisis in Gaza Strip, the Ministerial Committee formed during the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit has embarked on a series of diplomatic engagements with world leaders and officials, aimed to garner interna-

tional support for an immediate ceasefire, the protection of civilians, and the restoration of essential services to the besieged Gaza Strip. During their meetings, committee members emphasized the urgent need to halt the Israeli military aggression, which has led to the displacement of countless Palestinians and the destruction of critical infrastructure, and called for the establishment of safe corridors to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and medical supplies. The committee members strongly condemned Israel's continued violation of international law and humanitarian norms, including the denial of basic rights like access to water, electricity, and freedom of movement. APP

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## The price of America First

DR IMRAN KHALID

As expected, Donald Trump's return to the US presidency has injected a fresh wave of economic anxiety worldwide, reviving debates over trade, tariffs, and America's role in the global order. The arrival of Trump 2.0 marks a seismic moment, potentially unravelling the post-cold war era's open-market model as Trump is expected to implement a fiercely protectionist agenda – a sure recipe of global uncertainty and a heightened Sino-US trade war. Trump's economic strategy leans heavily on tariffs, proposing duties of up to 60 per cent on Chinese imports and 10-20 per cent on other foreign goods – levels reminiscent of the Great Depression. In his previous term, tariffs affected \$380 billion in US imports from China. This time, his proposals could impact tenfold that amount. Trump seriously believes that such an approach is essential to revitalise American manufacturing and curb inflation, particularly as household costs continue to strain many Americans.

Trump's sweeping protectionist trade agenda signals a radical departure from decades of American economic policy, reflecting his commitment to reshaping US global economic relations. Trump claims that these tariffs will safeguard American jobs, spur domestic manufacturing, and reduce the nation's reliance on foreign imports. But his agenda may have unintended consequences. The steep tariffs could exacerbate inflationary pressures, pushing up costs for consumers and sparking retaliatory trade measures. Similarly, he is a big proponent of eliminating levies on tips and social security benefits, along with cutting corporate taxes substantially – an attempt, he insists, to stimulate domestic growth and alleviate inflation. Trump's first term saw similar measures, with 25 per cent tariffs on steel and 10 per cent on aluminium, framed as national security necessities. However, these moves triggered an immediate backlash. Key allies, including Canada and the European Union, responded with retaliatory tariffs targeting American agricultural products – a counterpunch that dealt a sharp blow to American farmers. Should Trump proceed with a universal tariff, economists warn it would almost certainly invite a new wave of retaliation, potentially leading to an intense trade standoff with longstanding allies and partners. Trump's proposal also raises questions about US commitments to the World Trade Organization, where members committed to abide by tariff limits. By exceeding these, the US risks violating international rules, a move certain to heighten global tensions. History suggests that countries respond aggressively when they feel Washington bypasses established protocols, setting the stage for what could be a punishing trade conflict with consequences that resonate across both American and global economies. Donald Trump insists that his tariff-heavy trade agenda and emphasis on revitalising US manufacturing will be a cure-all for inflation, ultimately easing the cost of living for American families. Trump argues that foreign producers would absorb the tariffs, shielding American consumers from higher prices. But economists and trade experts see a different picture: Tariffs, though intended to protect American industries, often end up costing consumers as importers pass along the added expenses.

The pattern is clear and straightforward: prices on imported goods would climb, with domestic products – frequently substitutes for imports – likely following. Trump's stance on tariffs may also reverberate far beyond US borders, bringing unintended consequences to global markets. His proposed policies risk sparking a chain reaction of economic responses from trading partners, potentially escalating into a broader trade conflict.

In an interconnected world, such moves are rarely contained; a protectionist wave in Washington could disrupt supply chains, heighten tensions with allies, and impact economies that rely on stable trade with the US, leaving a lasting mark on global economic stability.

A study from the London School of Economics and Political Science projects that his policies could shrink China's GDP by 0.68 per cent, with smaller yet notable contractions for the European Union (0.11 per cent) and economies like India, Indonesia, and Brazil. These anticipated shifts reflect broader anxieties about the global ramifications of such a US-centric trade policy. Another troubling point is Trump's chronic intent to control the US Fed. The Federal Reserve, with its mandate to control inflation and maintain stable labour markets, has long operated as an independent steward of American monetary policy. Although presidents indirectly influence the Fed mainly through appointments to its board, Trump has repeatedly expressed a desire for deeper control over its decisions. Throughout his previous tenure, he criticised the Fed's interest rate hikes, arguing that a more accommodating policy would have supported his economic agenda and helped curb inflation. Trump's push to influence the Fed's direction raises fundamental concerns about central bank independence. The Fed's decisions directly impact the global economy, affecting everything from bond yields to currency values. If financial markets sense that the Fed's autonomy is at risk, the consequences could be dire. A politicised Federal Reserve would likely undermine investor confidence in US bonds and the dollar – assets traditionally seen as bedrocks of global stability. Economists warn that even the perception of weakened Fed independence could have far-reaching implications. The credibility of US monetary policy hinges on the Fed's ability to act without political interference. Should Trump's approach lead to greater political influence over monetary decisions, the ripple effects would extend far beyond America's borders, potentially shaking global markets and diminishing trust in the dollar as the world's reserve currency. As Trump seeks to reclaim the White House, the world watches with apprehension, pondering the impact of his vision for the Fed. But with Trump's well-known penchant for unpredictability, the real impact of his trade strategies is difficult to forecast. Many wonder whether he will stick to his proposed tariffs once in office, or if his impulses might steer the policy in unexpected directions. For now, the world is watching closely, weighing both the promises and potential pitfalls of Trump's uncompromising trade agenda.

The writer is a freelance contributor.



Ammar Habib Khan

## Incentivising consumption

The recently announced package by the government that incentivises electricity consumption is largely modeled on similar economic principles. During the first and last quarters of a calendar year, demand for electricity hovers in the range of 35-55 per cent of peak demand – effectively suggesting that there is 45-65 per cent of capacity (slightly lower after adjusting for hydel) that remains unutilised. Since capacity cost is already being covered, a strong case exists for incentivising consumption of more electricity at the variable cost, or effectively the marginal price.

Marginal price can be used as a policy intervention tool by policymakers

the day can actually reduce, providing an incentive to businesses to consume more electricity through the grid. The government can model out marginal cost curves on a twelve month basis, utilising historic data, expected energy mix during the next twelve months, and available surplus capacity. The same marginal cost curves can even be estimated on a weekly basis to provide more granularity. A policy intervention such that any incremental consumption is priced at marginal cost can then be rolled out throughout a calendar year. In such an intervention, the marginal cost may be higher during peak summer months, while

pricing of electricity in a fair and competitive manner, while also removing unintended consequences of pricing distortion in the process. Industrial users in the southern part of the country can ramp up production on the basis of expected marginal cost and be more competitive for the export market. An electricity policy is a key tenet of an industrial policy. The country lacks any clear industrial policy, because industries have largely cross-subsidised households, becoming uncompetitive in the process. The deindustrialisation of the country is largely a consequence of an electricity policy that is anti-industry, and grounded in arbitrary prices, rather than a competitive market.

Surplus power generation capacity, particularly in the southern part of the country, provides an opportunity to price electrons in a manner that is grounded in economic principles. A policy intervention that provides a clear direction of marginal costs, and a benchmark against which incremental consumption will be measured provides the necessary framework for incentivising consumption and better planning for businesses. Having more granularity in terms of marginal costs in terms of weeks or even hours of the day can allow businesses to manage their resources, and planning in an effective manner. The infrastructure to stimulate growth already exists. The policy to bring everything together to capture growth does not exist. An electricity policy that incentivises higher consumption remains a critical tenet for any industrial policy. If the country needs to grow, and unlock the prosperity of almost quarter billion people, it needs affordable energy, and that can be achieved through better planning, improving efficiency, and clear pricing signals.

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Pakistan has surplus power capacity, capacity costs of which are paid by all electricity consumers. Such capacity may be deemed as surplus due to successive years of low-growth, but it may not be considered surplus if the country starts growing at a rate which is a few percentage points higher than the population growth rate. Soon enough, any such surplus may turn into a deficit if planning remains reactive.

Surplus capacity is not a bad problem – it is a good problem. Electricity consumption has a strong direct correlation with overall industrial, and economic growth but it needs to be affordable, such that industries remain competitive, while its share of household budgets remains low. Despite surplus capacity, consumption remains low, mainly due to high prices, which are largely a function of debt repayments associated with long-tailed power projects and other inefficiencies, including commercial and line losses. There is surplus generation capacity, but it remains unutilised. However, there will always be a price at which utilisation of such capacity can be increased. Such a price is one where the cost of producing one additional kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity matches with the price that the buyer is willing to pay for electricity. Important to note here that all fixed costs, which are referred to as capacity costs, are already being paid – thereby generating an additional kWh of electricity would only incur additional variable (mostly energy) cost.

## Soon enough, any such surplus may turn into a deficit if planning remains reactive

ers to generate additional consumption (and thereby economic growth) through mid-to-long term price signaling regime. Since we have surplus capacity, there is no reason why such a tool can only be utilised in the first, and last quarters, of a calendar year. The marginal price for each month, and even for each hour is different – modeling out the same can provide necessary pricing signals that policymakers can send to the market, while enabling businesses and households alike to plan for more consumption in a more calculated manner.

A review of marginal cost data available through the CPPA suggests that the average marginal cost on a monthly basis over the last twelve months is Rs19.92 per kWh, reaching a high of Rs20.93 in June, considering its the hottest month. The sheer flux of distributed solar capacity in the system is a boon that can be fully leveraged, as marginal cost during

decreasing as the heat settles. The marginal cost can be used to charge for electricity on a monthly, weekly or even daily basis. Availability of such a long-term and granular pricing signal can provide necessary policy continuity, and guidance to businesses to plan their production activities accordingly. For example, a manufacturer can plan its production such that the same aligns with the period when marginal cost reduces. It can adjust the price it offers to its buyers accordingly, and be more competitive in the global marketplace.

Pricing an electron on the basis of economic merit remains crucial here. Given the availability of surplus capacity in the southern part of the country, the marginal cost is much lower than what it is on a national level. The arbitrage available can be leveraged, such that granularity in marginal costs can be location or region specific. This would enable

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## Today in History

### History of Pakistan



They include both shifting sandy soils and clayey floodplain soils. These include moderately calcareous and eolian (wind-borne) soils. Aridity is the most pervasive aspect of Pakistan's climate, and its continental nature can be seen in the extremes of temperature. Pakistan is situated on the edge of a monsoonal (i.e., wet-dry) system. Precipitation throughout the country generally is erratic, and its volume is highly variable. The rainy monsoon winds, the exact margins of which vary from year to year, blow in intermittent bursts, and most moisture comes in the summer. Tropical storms from the Arabian Sea provide precipitation to the coastal areas but are also variable in character.

The efficiency of the monsoonal precipitation is poor, because of its concentration from early July to mid-September, when high temperatures maximize loss through evaporation. In the north the mean annual precipitation at Peshawar is 13 inches (330 mm), and at Rawalpindi it reaches 37 inches (950 mm). In the plains, however, mean annual precipitation generally decreases from northeast to southwest, falling from about 20 inches (500 mm) at Lahore to less than 5 inches (130 mm) in the Indus River corridor and 3.5 inches (90 mm) at Sukkur. Under maritime influence, precipitation increases slightly to about 6 inches (155 mm) at Hyderabad and 8 inches (200 mm) at Karachi. The 20-inch (500-mm) precipitation line, which runs northwest from

near Lahore, marks off the Potwar Plateau and a part of the Indus plain in the northeast; these areas receive enough rainfall for dry farming (farming without irrigation). South of this region, cultivation is confined mainly to riverine strips until the advent of irrigation. Most of the Balochistan plateau, especially in the west and south, is exceptionally dry. Pakistan's continental type of climate is characterized by extreme variations of temperature, both seasonally and daily. High elevations modify the climate in the cold, snow-covered northern mountains; temperatures on the Balochistan plateau are somewhat higher. Along the coastal strip, the climate is modified by sea breezes. In the rest of the country, temperatures reach

great extremes in the summer; the mean temperature during June is 100 °F (38 °C) in the plains, where the highest temperatures can exceed 117 °F (47 °C). Jacobabad, in Sindh, has recorded the highest temperature in Pakistan, 127 °F (53 °C). In the summer, hot winds called loos blow across the plains during the day. Trees shed their leaves to avoid excessive moisture loss. The dry, hot weather is broken occasionally by dust storms and thunderstorms that temporarily lower the temperature. Evenings are cool; the diurnal variation in temperature may be as much as 20 to 30 °F (11 to 17 °C). Winters are cold, with minimum mean temperatures of about 40 °F (4 °C) in January.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

### Angelina Jolie all set for 'next chapter' after ongoing legal battles

Angelina Jolie wants to put divorce and French winery against Brad Pitt behind her, claims source

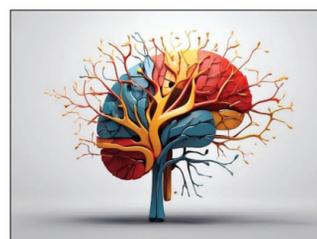


Angelina Jolie is all set for embracing new chapter in her life after going through legal battles against Brad Pitt over the years. A source spilled to Life & Style magazine, "Angelina is really trying to let go of the dark times that she and her family have been through and live burden-free." "It's as if Angelina has had an awakening: This is her next chapter!" remarked an insider. The source told the outlet, "Angie realised she let her anger and resentment get the better of her for a long time." "She attributes a lot of her recent happiness to relinquishing her inner torment over Brad," said an insider as Angelina decided to put the divorce case and French winery lawsuit

behind her for her mental sanity. The source added, "And then there's the fact that their kids are healthy and thriving." In 2021, a judge gave Brad 50/50 custody of their minor children, but Angelina fought against the ruling. Six years later, the Maleficent actress filed a lawsuit against the FBI and the Department of Justice, claiming "information withheld by DOJ and the FBI contains evidence of the harm" her and the children allegedly experienced in 2016. In legal suit, Angelina also mentioned that their "refusal to produce that information continues to hamper, her efforts to obtain for her children necessary ongoing care and medical attention, and has further harmed the children in the family law system"

## Tech

### Scientists discover memory functions in body cells beyond the brain



Scientists have discovered that cells beyond the brain may also play a role in memory formation, a breakthrough that could transform our understanding of memory and lead to new treatments. Researchers from New York University, led by Professor Nikolay V. Kukushkin, revealed that even kidney cells could "turn on" a memory-related gene—typically activated in the brain—when exposed to certain chemical

signals. "Learning and memory are generally associated with brains and brain cells alone," explained Kukushkin, "but our study shows other cells can learn and form memories, too." Published in Nature Communications, the study replicated the "massed-spaced effect"—where information retention improves when learned in spaced intervals—by using engineered cells that emit a glow when memory genes activate. When chemical pulses mimicked the brain's neurotransmitter bursts, these non-brain cells exhibited memory responses similar to neurons, underscoring that memory mechanisms might be common across cell types. These findings not only deepen memory research but hint at possible future health interventions. Kukushkin suggests this discovery could lead to therapies that treat various cells as "mini-brains," potentially enhancing treatments for conditions such as diabetes and even cancer, by considering cells' memory-like functions.

## Canada reports first human case of bird flu in teenager

A teenager in British Columbia, Canada has become the first person in the country to test positive for bird flu, authorities said Saturday. This person is receiving treatment in a children's hospital for H5 avian flu, the provincial health department said. The source of contagion and any possible contacts are being investigated. Officials said the infection probably came from a bird or animal. "This is a rare event," British Columbia Health Officer Bonnie Henry said. "We are conducting a thorough investigation to fully understand the

source of exposure here in BC." Bird flu is most commonly found in wild birds and poultry, but has more recently been detected in mammals, with an outbreak in cattle seen across the United States this year. It can occasionally infect humans through close contact or contaminated environments. Scientists have voiced concern about the growing number of mammals becoming infected by bird flu, even if cases in humans remain rare. They fear a high rate of transmission could facilitate a mutation of the virus, which could enable it to be passed from one human to another.

In September officials said a person in Missouri became the first in the United States to test positive for bird flu without a known exposure to infected animals. All previous bird flu cases in the United States have been among farmworkers, including the very first, in 2022. In the decades since H5 has been found in humans, there have been rare cases where an animal source cannot be identified. But there has so far not been evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission, which would significantly increase the threat level.

## Health





## PTI wants to push the country towards default, but using a 'trump card' will not grant PTI or its founder any NRO: Amir Muqam

Ex-ANP Information Secretary  
Zahid Khan joins PML-N

LOWER DIR: President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, addressed huge public gathering at the joining ceremony of former Awami National Party Central Secretary of Information, senior politician Senator Zahid Khan, along with his family and thousands of associates, into the PML-N after resigning from the Awami National Party.

Engineer Amir Muqam was given a warm welcome at Chakdara by a large number of party workers. Accompanied by a convoy of hundreds of vehicles, Amir Muqam proceeded from Chakdara to the public gathering in Odigram, Lower Dir. While addressing the large public gathering, Engineer Amir Muqam said that PTI wants to push the country towards default, but using a 'trump card' will not grant PTI or its founder any NRO. He emphasized that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership and the efforts of his team, the country is moving towards economic stability, and they will thwart all conspiracies against Pakistan. Provincial President PML-N highlighted that the interest rate has dropped from 23% to 15%, and the stock exchange is reaching historic heights. Federal Minister also stated that due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, inflation has decreased from 38% to 7%. He further criticized the provincial government of PTI inability to pay salaries to its teachers and government employees while claiming about acquiring PIA, adding that it is unacceptable to have compromised national dignity, such as raising the American flag at the Swabi gathering.

Engineer Amir Muqam noted that Malakand Division, a region affected by floods and militancy, granted additional tax exemptions from the federal government. He said that despite 12 years of governance, the roads in Malakand Division remain in disrepair, with no significant projects initiated. He also remarked that narrative by prisoner number 804 is creating instability. He assured that once restrictions are lifted, the supply of natural gas across the division will be rapidly expedited. Expressing his gratitude, Amir Muqam welcomed Senator Zahid Khan, his family, and thousands of his associates to PML-N on behalf of himself and the party leadership, including Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He thanked Zahid Khan and said that his joining would strengthen the party both provincially and nationally, due to his extensive experience. In his address, Zahid Khan said that he had withdrawn from politics but was inspired by the dedication and hard work of Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, and particularly Engineer Amir Muqam's performance in the province. SABAH



QUETTA: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi along with Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti chairing an emergency meeting on law and order situation in the province. (Story on Page 1)

## President Zardari, PM Shehbaz, Mohsin Naqvi laud security forces for successful operation in North Waziristan

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have lauded the security forces for conducting intelligence-based operation against terrorists in North Waziristan.

In a statement, President Asif Ali Zardari commended the bravery of the security forces for killing six terrorists in the successful operation.

While appreciating the professionalism of security forces, he reiterated the national

resolve to complete elimination of terrorism. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, also praised the officers and personnel of security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in Spinwam, North Waziristan.

He also appreciated the professionalism of the security forces by killing six terrorists in the operation. The Prime Minister said we will continue to fight against the specter of terrorism till its complete eradication from the country.

He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its security forces for the com-

plete elimination of terrorism. Meanwhile Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in Spinwam, North Waziristan. Interior Minister commended the forces for eliminating six terrorists, saying, "Security forces foiled the nefarious plans of terrorist elements through timely action. The nation takes pride in our brave security forces."

Mohsin Naqvi reassured that terrorists will not be allowed to hide anywhere in Pakistan and vowed to eliminate them with public support.

## Lahore, Multan, Peshawar most polluted cities in country

LAHORE: Polluted winds from India have engulfed most parts of Punjab and other areas as Lahore remained the most polluted city of the country. Multan remained second and Peshawar third most polluted cities of the country with highest level of pollutants in the air. The Air Quality Index reading of Lahore measured 753, Multan's 587 and Peshawar's 463. The AQI reading of Islamabad and Haripur has also been recorded above 200.

Motorway M-2, M-4 and M-5 have been closed owing to poor visibility, caused by foggy weather conditions.

Bad air continuing to haunt Lahore and several other cities despite authorities' desperate efforts to curb smog.

Punjab's senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that smog has not been a city or

province's problem, "it has become the problem of Pakistan and the region," minister claimed. She advised citizens to observe caution and residents of the most polluted cities avoid unnecessarily getting out of their homes. Punjab government recently announced closure of schools upto higher secondary level in smog hit districts of the province till 17 November. The decision made as the province grappling with severe air pollution, which have soared to alarming levels, affecting the public health, especially of children.

Lahore has been consistently ranked top among the most polluted cities globally, prompting urgent action from authorities.

Senior provincial minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the air direction from India, has been towards Lahore resulting in

increasing smog. "This issue could not be resolved without talking to India."

"Polluted eastern winds, blowing from India, have direction towards Lahore," secretary environment protection agency, Jahangir Anwar said. "This polluted air has added to smog in Lahore and given extraordinary boost to the AQI reading," Anwar said.

Talking to earlier, senior environmental protection official said, "We have never reached a level of 1,000." For days, Lahore has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooling. Air pollution level in Lahore once soared to more than 80 times over the level deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO), AFP said in a report.

## Youth entrepreneurship to get Rs300 bln boost under PM's business loan scheme: Chairman

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan Sunday announced that Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme has achieved remarkable success, disbursing approximately Rs186 billion to young entrepreneurs across Pakistan and now sets its sights on an ambitious target of Rs300 billion.

In an exclusive interview with National TV news channel, he explained that the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme has made significant strides in empowering young entrepreneurs, with approximately 186 billion rupees distributed among 790,000 young entrepreneurs to boost economic development.

Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme has made significant strides in empowering female entrepreneurs, with 13% of female beneficiaries in previous years, adding, this year, the target has been set at 33% female participation, aiming to provide more loan opportunities to young women. Responding to a query, he said many students lack knowledge on how to apply for loans, to address this issue, facilitation centers are being established where financial experts will guide students through the loan application process.

These centers will also utilize web portals to streamline the process, making it easier for students to apply, he mentioned.

Chairman further unveiled a comprehensive vision for youth-driven socio-economic development in Pakistan, as outlined by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This vision empowers young girls and boys equally through various initiatives, including Youth Loan Schemes to provide financial support to young entrepreneurs, Laptop distributions to enhance digital access and education, Skill Programs to equip youth with marketable skills, facilitation centers to offer resources and guidance for youth development, and Scholarship Programs to support education and personal growth, he added.

By investing in Pakistan's youth, who make up about 70% of the country's population, Khan aims to harness their potential for a brighter future and sustainable development.

"The PML-N has taken groundbreaking initiatives for youth empowerment, he said, adding, these initiatives aim to equip young Pakistanis with essential skills, education and economic opportunities to thrive in the modern world.

"The Prime Minister's Youth Program is taking a huge step forward in empowering young Pakistanis with in-demand skills, he said. Through collaborations with NEFCDC and TEVTAS, we are introducing 'Demand-Based Skilled' programs that cater to the needs of countries around the world. This means our youth will be trained in skills that are actually needed, both internationally and locally, he mentioned. PM Shehbaz Sharif also instructed to facilitate students through the Laptop Scheme to talented students on merit through an online transparent system, adding, this scheme is envisioned to promote outreach of youth to information and communication technologies, bridging the digital divide within the higher education sector and beyond, he highlighted. Last year, one million laptops were distributed in Punjab, and 600,000 in the Federal capital, he said, adding, this year, the distribution numbers are expected to increase with an additional 1 million smartphones being distributed interest-free. APP

## All-out efforts to be made to save children's lives: CM Maryam



LAHORE: Chief Minister Children's Heart Surgery Program continues successfully as marked reduction in pediatric heart surgery waiting list, pending for years, has been witnessed. Surgery and interventional cardiology procedure under the Program has been successfully completed, patients on track to recovery. The Programme is being monitored through a dedicated dashboard. The authorities concerned briefed, 7530 patients are being treated in 06 government and 08 private hospitals on the panel." They added, "Registration and entry of details in central database is ensured for timely surgery of patients coming for treatment. About 4500 sick

children have been referred for treatment in Punjab."

Children's cardiac surgery is being done in Children's Hospital and Cardiology Institutes of Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Rawalpind, besides 04 private hospitals in Lahore, 03 in Multan and 01 in Islamabad.

Madam Chief Minister said, "The health of every child is important, we will try hard to save their lives." She added, "In the Children's Heart Surgery Program, not only Punjab, but also children from other provinces including KP will be treated." She highlighted, "It was extremely painful for young children suffering from heart diseases to go through the agony of waiting for a year for surgery."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "The lack of special heart surgeons and trained allied staff will be fixed to increase capacity of children's hospitals." She added, "We are trying to ensure treatment of every child suffering from cardiovascular diseases."

## Qatar, KSA announce substantial investments in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Qatar and Saudi Arabia have announced substantial investments across various sectors in Pakistan. With the support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, a stable and attractive environment for investment has been established in the country. The agreements and memoranda of understanding signed with Saudi Arabia and Qatar clearly demonstrate the confidence that foreign investors have in Pakistan. Following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful visit to Qatar, the two nations have agreed on mutual investments totaling three billion dollars, aimed at fostering collaboration in trade, culture, and other sectors.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have signed thirty-four MoUs focused on cooperation in vital areas such as food security, health, education, and minerals. The SIFC is encouraging investors to take advantage of Pakistan's improved business environment, bolstered by recent reforms.

Overall, the economic situation in the country is improving due to increased foreign investment and the effective utilization of natural resources. INP

## AJK president seeks Austria's influence in EU for resolving Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, (AJK) on Sunday called upon Austria to utilize its influence within the European Union and international community to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute.

Talking to ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Andrea Wicke, Chaudhry appealed Austria to help resolve the Kashmir conflict and end the human rights abuses in the occupied Kashmir region.

The president AJK briefed Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke on the current situation in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the ongoing Kashmir dispute.

During the meeting, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke discussed various issues of mutual interest.

The president highlighted that Austria's balanced relations with both Pakistan and India,



along with its strong commitment to human rights, place it in an ideal position to help facilitate a peaceful resolution to the prolonged conflict.

He noted worsening human rights abuses in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and urged the international community to help resolve the Kashmir dispute and end these violations.

## Envoy urges expatriates to boost trade, investment b/w Pakistan, US

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh reiterates Pak's commitment to working closely with Google to unlock the full potential of its IT sector & foster innovation-driven growth

CALIFORNIA: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, visited Googleplex in Silicon Valley, where he held an informal exchange of views with Pakistani tech professionals working at Google. The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's rapidly growing IT market, its immense potential, and the country's strategic objectives in Silicon Valley and the broader U.S. tech ecosystem.

During the meeting, he emphasized Pakistan's rich pool of IT talent and discussed how they can be better equipped to thrive in an increasingly competitive international market.

Ambassador Sheikh underscored the importance of the Pakistani-American tech community as a vital partner in advancing Pakistan's presence in the global tech ecosystem.

The discussion also focused on strategies for enhancing Pakistan's participation in Silicon Valley's innovation ecosystem. Ambassador Sheikh elaborated on how the



Embassy and Consulates can serve as platforms and conduits to foster collaboration between Pakistani and U.S. tech companies.

The Ambassador also briefed the attendees about the upcoming Pak-U.S. Tech Investment Conference, jointly organized by the Embassy and the Convention ecosystem. Ambassador Sheikh elaborated on how the

Earlier, Ambassador Sheikh and the Consul General of Pakistan in Los Angeles held a virtual meeting with Google's Country Head for Pakistan.

During the session, the Ambassador shared insights on the positive momentum within Pakistan's IT industry, along with key government policies and initiatives aimed at integrating Pakistan into the global IT

ecosystem, creating employment, and boosting IT exports.

Ambassador Sheikh assured Google of the Government of Pakistan's full support, as well as the backing of its diplomatic missions in the U.S., to facilitate mutual collaboration. He also requested Google's assistance in enhancing Pakistan's branding in the U.S. tech market and emphasized the need to implement a roadmap for deepening bilateral cooperation.

Both sides reviewed Google's ongoing initiatives in Pakistan, including talent development, hardware and software training, coding programs for students, vocational training, and expanding digital skills. They also discussed boosting Pakistan's gaming and animation industries and supporting local AI product development.

Ambassador Sheikh reiterated Pakistan's commitment to working closely with Google to unlock the full potential of its IT sector and foster innovation-driven growth. SABAH

## Saudi Arabia's cultural riches shine at Lok Mela 2024

ISLAMABAD: The annual Lok Mela at Lok Virsa is underway, showcasing diverse cultural heritages from across Pakistan and beyond.

This year, the festival includes a vibrant stall from Saudi Arabia, offering visitors a rich experience of Saudi Arabian culture through traditional tastes, attire, and hospitality. Organized by the Saudi Embassy, the stall is attracting large crowds with its authentic representation of the Kingdom's traditions.

The Saudi stall, adorned with intricate decor and cultural elements, has become a major highlight of the ten-day festival. Visitors are relishing the taste of premium Saudi dates, known for their unique texture and natural sweetness, and savoring the aroma of Arabian 'gahwa' (coffee).

The traditional Saudi hospitality, warm and welcoming, is evident as the stall attendants serve these delicacies with care, drawing numerous guests intrigued by the offerings. In a conversation with APP, Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi shared his pride in representing Saudi culture at this international festival. "Saudi Arabia is rich in tradition, history, and culture. Lok Mela is an exceptional platform to share our heritage with the people of Pakistan, highlighting the close ties between our nations," he added.

Dr. Al-Otaibi emphasized the historical and cultural bonds between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which have strengthened over decades of diplomatic, economic, and social exchanges. Saudi Labour Attaché, Majed Baker also in attendance, highlighted the significance of such events in enhancing cross-cultural understand-



ing. "Our stall is not just a representation of our culture but an opportunity to deepen the cultural connection with our Pakistani brothers and sisters. The response we have received is overwhelming," he said, pointing to the constant flow of visitors eager to experience a taste of Saudi hospitality.

Secretary of National Heritage and Culture Division, Hassan Nisar Jami paid an official visit to the Saudi stall alongside members of the Saudi foreign mission to Pakistan. Impressed by the meticulous representation, Secretary Jami praised the Saudi team's dedication to showcasing their culture. "The Saudi stall adds a wonderful international flavor to the Lok Mela, reflecting the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," he noted, highlighting the importance of such international contributions to the cultural landscape of Pakistan. The Saudi stall has also incorporated traditional music and decor, attracting families, youth, and cultural enthusiasts. Many visitors were seen taking photographs with the intricate artifacts, and admiring the clothing and handicrafts representative of Saudi Arabian culture.