



The Whole-of-Government approach to export enhancement, which promotes a unified policy framework to improve competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business for exporters

Federal Minister for Commerce  
**Jam Kamal Khan**

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## Ishaq Dar meets with the Administrator of UN Development Programme on the side-lines of COP29

BAKU: The Administrator of UN Development Programme (UNDP), Achim Steiner, called on the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister and Steiner discussed collaboration between Pakistan and UNDP on climate change adaptation; support for the flood-affected communities; and realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

They also discussed the access of developing countries to concessional finance and implementation of the commitments made during the Summit of the Future held on 22-23 September 2024 in New York. The Deputy Prime Minister called for enhanced representation of developing countries in international financial institutions. SABAH

## 4 terrorists including ring leader Sana alias Baru killed in IBO in Kech District



RAWALPINDI: Security Force killed four terrorists including a high value target, terrorist ring leader Sana alias Baru in intelligence based operation (IBO) on Tuesday night in general area Balgatar of Kech District on reported presence of terrorists.

"During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange between own troops and the terrorists, four terrorists including a High Value Target, Terrorist ring leader Sana @ Baru were killed," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

"He was a focal recruitment agent, especially suicide bombers, for so called Majeed Brigade in District Kech and was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies," it further said.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," it added. PR



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Azerbaijan H.E Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of COP29 Climate Action Summit.

## At COP29, Pakistan calls for grant-based climate finance; fulfillment of earlier pledges

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday sensitizing the global community on the risks posed by climate change and the vulnerabilities of developing countries, called for grant-based climate finance that should not add to the debt burden of the developing nations.

The prime minister, addressing the High-Level Segment of the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) here, called for fulfilling the pledges of COP27 and COP28 as well as those made in Paris 10 years ago.

"I strongly feel, that climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of vulnerable developing countries. Here is the opportunity that the COP29 should make an understanding loud and clear that we will have to fulfill those financial pledges of COP27 and COP28... Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions and catastrophic global warming. The Paris pledges made 10 years ago have yet to see the light of the day," the prime minister said.

He viewed that the COP29 would help understand the calamities already faced by some of the countries and others might face if counter-measures were not taken to create a conducive environment to avert calamities like the one faced by Pakistan in the form of 2022 floods which left millions of the people homeless, millions of house

and acre of land submerged, standing crops destroyed, and almost 1700 people dead. Besides, the country also faced an economic loss worth around \$30 billion, he added. Highlighting the devastation faced by the people of Pakistan caused by the climate change-induced floods in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled his interaction with a boy Ikramullah in the flood-hit Balochistan who had lost everything to the calamity including his home, school, and entire village.

"My memories are still fresh. I was meeting with people in Balochistan who were affected by the flood. I met a boy by the name of Ikramullah whose entire village was razed on the face of the earth, his home completely demolished and his school submerged," the prime minister said. He said as the government had arranged the said boy's education in another part of the country, he was now becoming a very productive hand of Pakistan. However, even all-out efforts could not subdue the sufferings of all flood-hit children in Pakistan or any other part of the world, he added.

To meet the needs of the populations hit by the impacts of climate change and avert such devastations in the future, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his call for the fulfillment of the pledges made in previous COP summits.

He told the gathering of heads of state and government that Pakistan was one of those countries that hardly contributed half a percent of global emissions but was among the

most vulnerable countries at risk of similar devastations.

"Without climate justice, there can be no real resilience and I don't want other countries to face what Pakistan faced in 2022. Pakistan is a resilient, hardworking and responsible nation. We are fully committed to becoming part of the global climate solutions," he assured.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the summit that his government had taken concrete actions to deliver on its commitment to producing 60% of all energy from clean sources and shifting 30% of vehicles to Electric Vehicles (EVs) by the end of this decade. At the same time, Pakistan is going through a renewable energy revolution, he said and also mentioned the presentation of a comprehensive National Adaptation Plan last year and the National Carbon Market Framework this year.

"But we cannot do it alone. Pakistan needs international support to deliver on its climate ambition. The developing countries will need an estimated \$6.8 trillion by 2030 to meet at least half their NDCs... We believe that COP29 can transform into Finance COP by restoring confidence in scaling up climate finance," he remarked.

"Two years ago, I warned that the future would never forgive inaction. Today, I echo that warning with greater urgency and the fullest energy. We know the causes. We know the solutions. Now, we must find the courage to act and act swiftly," he urged.

## Interior minister addresses 7th ministerial conference of Budapest process



DAPEST PROCESS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

ISLAMABAD: Minister for interior Mohsin Naqvi attended the 7th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference in Hungary on Wednesday and said that since the last Ministerial Conference held in 2019, several important developments have taken place.

He highlighted that today, we are confronted with a range of pressing issues such as prolonged conflicts, economic instability and climate change, that have reshaped migratory flows worldwide. He stated that these dynamics create complex challenges that no single country can address alone.

He emphasized that it is essential to recognize that these challenges require comprehensive strategies that address not just the symptoms but also the root causes of irregular migration. Interior Minister highlighted that Pakistan has taken a number of legislative and administrative measures to curb irregular migration.

He said that we have empowered our Law Enforcement Agencies to effectively prosecute criminals involved in human smuggling. He added that we are also focusing on raising public awareness regarding the dangers associated with migrant smuggling, strengthening our border controls and enhancing regional and international cooperation to address smuggling of migrants. He stated that we are actively working on enhancing bilateral agreements and talent partnerships with EU countries and beyond to promote and diversify legal migration pathways. Mohsin Naqvi highlighted that there has been a troubling rise in anti-immigrant sentiments across the globe, often fueled by populist rhetoric. He added that this trend poses significant challenges. Interior Minister hoped that the adoption of the Budapest Declaration will generate fresh political momentum for a balanced approach, ensuring that no aspect of migration is prioritized over another in our future work. He said that Pakistan looks forward to a constructive and mutually beneficial engagement with the Process. Interior Minister stated that it is an honor to address this gathering at the 7th Ministerial Conference of the Budapest Process. He congratulated Co-Chairs Turkey and Hungary and extended a special thanks to the Government and people of Hungary for a very warm welcome in the beautiful and historic city of Budapest. He also commended the International Centre for Migration Policy Development for their dedicated efforts towards arranging this meeting. DNA

## Commerce Minister, World Bank advance agenda for export competitiveness



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and World Bank team on Wednesday met to discuss Pakistan's export reform agenda, focusing on strategies to enhance export competitiveness and streamline enabling policies.

The discussion also addressed how the World Bank can support these initiatives under the broader country program, said a press release issued here.

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Whole-of-Government approach to export enhancement, which promotes a unified policy framework to

improve competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business for exporters.

This strategy emphasizes export-led growth by providing crucial enabling factors such as financing, liquidity support, reduced input costs, and regulatory facilitation to empower Pakistan's export sector.

The World Bank reiterated its support for Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) stationed in Missions abroad and its commitment to collaborating on knowledge-sharing initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's global trade connections. Minister Jam also noted the recent establishment of 17 Sectoral Councils by the Ministry of Commerce, aimed at bolstering private sector involvement in policy development—a move warmly appreciated by the World Bank team for its potential to enrich the policymaking process.

Both sides agreed to form a joint working group on trade, set to meet periodically, to advance the goal of realizing Pakistan's export potential of \$60 billion.

## Increasing cases of diabetes are primarily linked to sedentary living, poor dietary habits & a lack of education about the disease: Zardari

ISLAMABAD: World Diabetes Day is observed annually on 14th November to make people aware about risks of the disease. This year's theme, "Diabetes and Well-being," underscores the importance of addressing the growing global diabetes crisis and its profound impact on health and well-being. Increasing cases of diabetes are primarily linked to sedentary living, poor dietary habits, and a lack of education about the disease. The disease can be controlled—and even prevented—through proactive measures by adopting a healthier lifestyle, regular exercises, balanced nutrition and maintaining a healthy weight. We need to raise awareness about the risks of diabetes and the importance of prevention and early intervention. This can be achieved through collaboration with the media, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Furthermore, we must strengthen Pakistan's healthcare infrastructure to ensure that all individuals have access to affordable and effective diabetes care. By working together with both national and international partners, we can improve our healthcare systems, implement preventive measures and provide cost-effective treatment to those living with diabetes. SABAH

## Pakistan, Morocco deep desire to cement bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Morocco have expressed deep desire to consolidate the existing ties focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military exercises and industrial cooperation.

The desire was expressed in a meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force Major General Mohammed Gadih in Islamabad today. The Air Chief reiterated his resolve to strengthening military partnership through full collaboration in joint training initiatives in the entire spectrum of air power application, which will include basic and tactical level training for Moroccan Air Force personnel. In his remarks, Major General Mohammed Gadih lauded the technological advancement of Pakistan Air Force and expressed the desire of Moroccan Air Force to learn from aerospace industrial strides of Pakistan Air Force in order



to enhance its operational capabilities.

He conveyed his admiration for the state-of-the-art technological ecosystem witnessed during his visit to National Aerospace Science & Technology Park and shared his deep interest in exploring avenues of collaboration in the industrial domain. The meeting covered a wide array of matters related to military cooperation, joint training and collaboration in the industrial domain. PR

## Global Advocacy on Climate Diplomacy for effective Negotiations for Innovative Climate Solutions

Conference on Climate Diplomacy to build bridges for sustainable future was hosted by the ministry of climate change and Center of Climate Diplomacy

### VOM Report

BAKU: The focus of the event was creating global cooperation for disaster risk management and climate financing for Pakistan. The event participants were from different parts of the world representing government officials, experts and civil society. Chairman NDMA was the key note speaker and his topic of discussion was on "Strengthening Resilience through Climate Diplomacy in Disaster Management" at COP 29\*. Anna Munawwar Awan President Center for Climate Diplomacy suggested various ideas of collaboration in research and development, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and climate financing. The event highlighted the critical intersection of climate diplomacy and disaster resilience. Chairman NDMA underscored Pakistan's dedication to collaborative, climate-conscious approaches for effective disaster risk reduction and resilience building. Chairman NDMA emphasized the importance of climate diplomacy as a key



strategy in advancing global cooperation and securing resources to address climate-induced disasters. He outlined NDMA's commitment to fostering international partnerships and driving forward initiatives that support both national and global resilience frameworks. His remarks highlighted Pakistan's proactive engagement in climate diplomacy as a means to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Through this strategic side event, NDMA reiterated its commitment to driving a global agenda for resilience by leveraging climate diplomacy and supporting initiatives that place people at the center of climate adaptation and disaster management. The authority remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships and fostering a sustainable, resilient future for all.

Pakistan Pavilion event was attended by Climate Diplomacy Ambassadors and various international organization and showed their interest for collective global action climate plan. The global climate Ambassadors and

speakers shared utilisation of regional alliance and experience sharing with different organizations for climate resilience implementation plan including renewable resources, green economy and application of emerging technologies in climate risk management. President Center for Climate Diplomacy shared concluding remarks highlighted the recommendations for effective climate diplomacy practices for Pakistan and further collaboration in climate investment management. Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar @ishaqdar.official met the Administrator of UN Development Programme (UNDP), Achim Steiner on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan today. They discussed collaboration between Pakistan and UNDP on climate change adaptation; support for the flood-affected communities; and realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). DPM/FM called for enhanced representation of developing countries in international financial institutions.

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## The three pillars of Trump's Middle East policy

NADIM KOTEICH

Three documents offer the only window that grants us a glimpse into what the Middle East policy of President-elect Donald Trump's second administration could look like: The Trump Peace Plan for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Abraham Accords that allowed for Arab-Israeli normalization and the nuclear deal with Iran that President Barack Obama's administration and the other members of the P5+1 concluded in the summer of 2015, which the first Trump administration withdrew from in the spring of 2018, claiming to have a vision for a stronger and better alternative agreement.

The peace plan proposed by Trump, which its architect and the president's son-in-law Jared Kushner named the "Deal of the Century," sought to leave the possibility of a two-state solution — the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel — open. The plan imposed significant restrictions on this Palestinian state, which the Palestinians saw as nothing more than a fragmented and demilitarized entity. Meanwhile, it granted Israel the right to annex large parts of the West Bank and maintain full security control over the Palestinian state, including its borders. Although the plan was preceded by unilateral American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the proposal seemed to disregard — despite including a \$50 billion economic incentive package — every other historical peace plan, as well as the requisites for Palestinian sovereignty and the fulfillment of Palestinians' aspirations for national independence. Indeed, the emphasis of Trump's plan on economic incentives and security guarantees, instead of traditional paths toward peace, made drawing Arab and international support for the deal impossible.

In the first post-election call between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and President-elect Trump, the latter said he was committed to ending the war and achieving peace. This means that the priority of the US, the goal that the president wants to invest his effort and time into achieving, will be ending the war.

On several occasions during the campaign, Trump spoke of his deep skepticism about the feasibility of the two-state solution, indicating that he was more inclined to support alternative frameworks to contain the conflict by focusing on stability and development. Due to the catastrophic results of the war, there seems to be fertile ground for a solution founded on "peace to prosperity." This prospect seems more plausible than many might expect in light of the setbacks suffered by the Palestinian national project and the catastrophic costs of pursuing the resistance project.

The second pillar, the Abraham Accords, also encompasses nontraditional frameworks for resolving the Palestinian question. To the president-elect, broadening the scope of peace is crucial for creating a new strategic framework in the Middle East that reshapes the region's economic and political landscapes.

At the core of this vision is Trump's push for a comprehensive peace effort led by Saudi Arabia. The way Trump sees it, this development, if it occurs, would help create a climate that allows for major economic shifts crucial to shaping the future of the Middle East and the world. Trump is betting that the peace to prosperity framework will allow him to hit two birds with one stone: first, enhancing the economic situation in the Palestinian territories through massive investments in infrastructure, employment, healthcare and education; and second, creating frameworks that ensure interest-based cooperation and Israel's integration into the political, economic and social fabric of the region.

Finally, Trump's Iran policy is not expected to be radically different from the one he adopted in his first term, which balanced severe economic sanctions with direct surgical military pressure, such as the assassination of Qassem Soleimani, and avoiding direct and open warfare. Nonetheless, Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions on Iran through the "maximum pressure" campaign should not blind us to the fact that the president-elect is open to negotiating a new agreement with Tehran — a stronger and more comprehensive agreement with his name on it.

If Trump remains determined to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear capabilities — and since Iran has not publicly said it seeks to produce a bomb — there is ample room for compromise between the two sides, especially given the decline in Iran's regional influence following the severe blows suffered by its proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah.

These three agreements outline the broad framework of Trump's Middle East policy and he will not deviate from it significantly. At its core are: first, growing skepticism that the two-state solution is the sole framework for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; second, achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East through the prioritization of mutual economic gain; and third, a strong stance on Iran's behavior that also keeps the door open to a political understanding with Tehran that serves regional security and US interests.

While critics have called him temperamental and unpredictable, Trump's Middle East policy has been consistent and coherent. It is rooted in explicit pragmatism and practical American national interests rather than ideological or ethical commitments. This could present the Middle East with an unprecedented opportunity.

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Zaid M. BELBAGI

As the war in Gaza continues with no end in sight, the Israeli parliament's decision last month to sever ties with UNRWA risks adding further volatility to the conflict. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs subsequently canceled the 1967 cooperation agreement that formed the legal basis of Israel's relations with the UN agency. This agreement provided UNRWA with protection and diplomatic immunity. Foreign Minister Israel Katz said this decision was motivated by Israel's assessment that UNRWA's alleged ties to Hamas make it complicit in the ongoing conflict.

Since its establishment in 1949, UNRWA has been a lifeline for Palestinian refugees, delivering vital services such as education, healthcare, food assistance and emergency relief. Its prominence has particularly grown in the last two decades, as the number of refugees dependent on it for food assistance has grown from 80,000 people in 2000 to more than 2 million today. As of 2023, the poverty rate in Gaza stood at 64 percent and in the West Bank it was 12 percent. This Israeli move will disrupt Gaza's fragile aid distribution system at a time when the humanitarian crisis has been greatly exacerbated and Israel is facing growing pressures to allow aid into the Strip. The Pales-

## The spillover effect of Israel's banning of UNRWA

tinian Authority is already facing a severe financial crisis amid the war and economic collapse and is struggling to pay public servants. This may increase dependence on Hamas for social services and support, given its role in the governance structure in Gaza. However, this will further delay the resolution of the conflict between Israel and

countries are also among the top 20 UNRWA donors. The US has traditionally been the largest international donor, although in January it temporarily paused all funding to the organization as a result of Israel's accusation that 12 Hamas-linked UNRWA staff were involved in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack. Nonetheless, the US will

cent Society, Doctors Without Borders, the UN Population Fund and UNICEF also present. However, UNRWA, known as the "backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza," has served as a consolidated anchor agency for Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. It will therefore be a major challenge for a single organization to replace it.

Israel's decision comes at a critical juncture in the conflict in the Middle East, which, though far from being over, will be followed by a mammoth reconstruction effort in Gaza that could cost nearly \$80 billion. Postconflict rebuilding will require not only financial support but also on-the-ground experience of working with Palestinian refugees and authorities, which is UNRWA's expertise. Due to the lack of a stable political system in Gaza and the West Bank, the removal of UNRWA translates into the removal of the most advanced available administrative structure in the Occupied Territories.

While the Israeli decision is unlikely to be reversed, the international community is likely to encourage Israel to expand the avenues of humanitarian aid into Gaza and to increase cooperation with the other humanitarian agencies present in the region.

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### This move will disrupt Gaza's fragile aid distribution system at a time when the humanitarian crisis has been greatly exacerbated

Hamas. The gap in humanitarian aid caused by UNRWA's withdrawal from Gaza will inevitably require the support of regional and international actors. Until a formal replacement for UNRWA is established, Egypt and the Gulf states will be faced with the primary responsibility for aid and reconstruction in Gaza, as their geographical location makes them particularly vulnerable to outward migration from the Strip. Since October 2023, the Gulf states have already increased their aid outflow to Gaza and this momentum will continue. In the past year, the UAE has sent more than 50,000 tonnes of urgent supplies to Gaza, while Saudi Arabia, in addition to supplies, has announced a monthly financial grant for Palestinians. The two

play a key role in filling the aid vacuum in Gaza, as it has expressed deep concern over Israel's latest move. Moreover, incoming President Donald Trump is keenly focused on regional stability to expedite US military withdrawal from the Middle East. The next US administration may increase the flow of aid to Gaza while encouraging Israel to replace UNRWA.

In response to Israel's letter to the UN on severing ties with UNRWA, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted that it is Tel Aviv's responsibility to establish or appoint a replacement for the aid agency. UNRWA is not the sole aid agency operating in Gaza and the West Bank, with several leading international humanitarian organizations like the Palestine Red Cres-

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

## Today in History

### History of Pakistan



In addition to Urdu and Punjabi, other languages claimed as mother tongues include Sindhi, Pashto, Siraiki, Balochi, and Brahui. Having originated during the Mughal period (early 16th to mid-18th century), Urdu is the youngest of the country's languages and is not indigenous to Pakistan. It is similar to Hindi, the most widely spoken language of India. Although the two languages have a common base, in its literary form Urdu emphasizes words of Persian and Arabic origin, whereas Hindi emphasizes words of Sanskrit origin. Urdu is written in a modified version of the Persian script, whereas Hindi is written in Devanagari script. Because it is predominantly the language of the educated Muslims of northern India, including the Punjab, Urdu has strong associations with Muslim nationalism—hence the ideological significance of Urdu in Pakistani politics. Urdu is the mother tongue of only a small proportion of the population of Pakistan, but it is the country's only official language; it is taught in the schools along with the

regional languages. The 1956 constitution prescribed the use of English (the administrative language during the colonial period) for official purposes for 20 years, and the 1962 constitution made that use indefinite. The 1973 constitution, however, designated a 15-year transition period to Urdu, after which English would no longer be used for official purposes. That provision of the constitution has not been fully implemented. English is still taught and used in schools at all levels, and it remains the lingua franca of the government, intelligentsia, and military. With the exception of this educated elite, English is spoken fluently by only a small percentage of the population. Many English words and phrases, however, have worked their way into local parlance, and most Pakistanis with even a modest education have some grasp of the language.

Urdu, rather than Punjabi, is the first language taught in virtually all schools in Punjab province, so every educated Punjabi reads and writes Urdu. In Pakistan, Punjabi is mainly spoken rather than written, and it is a predominantly

rural rather than urban language. A movement to promote the Punjabi language began in the 1980s, and some Punjabi literature has been published using the Urdu script; among the works published are Punjabi classics that have hitherto been available in Gurmukhi script (in which Punjabi is written in India) or preserved in oral tradition.

Sindhi is derived from the Virachada dialect of the Prakrit languages. It has fewer dialects than Punjabi and is written in a special variant of the Arabic script. Prior to the partition of India in 1947, most of the educated middle class in Sindh were Hindu, and their departure to India at that time had a traumatic effect on Sindh culture. Vigorous efforts were therefore directed toward recovering and preserving the rich Sindh literary and cultural heritage. Large numbers of Urdu-speaking refugees settled in Sindh and came to constitute the majority of the population of its larger towns. As a consequence, the movement for the promotion of Sindhi language and culture was sometimes expressed as opposition toward Urdu. The Sindhi popula-

tion feared that their language and culture would be overrun by the language and culture of the predominantly Urdu-speaking muhajir community, and that fear led to what became known as the language riots of 1972 and to the national government's decision to grant special status to the Sindhi language. (The rise of militant ethnic politics in Sindh that began in the 1980s—notably the clashes between native Sindhis and organized members of the muhajir community—likely can be traced to that decision.)

Pashto, the language of the Pashtuns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has a scant literary tradition, although it has a rich oral tradition. There are three major dialect patterns within which the various individual dialects may be classified: Northern Pashto (Pakhto), which is the variety spoken along the Afghanistan border and in and around Peshawar; Central Pashto, also called Waziri and Bannochi, spoken in Waziristan, Bannu, and Karak; and Southern Pashto, spoken in Balochistan and Quetta.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

### Rihanna enjoys solo outing in Los Angeles amid retirement controversy

Rihanna steps out to grab dinner in her latest outing in Los Angeles

Rihanna was recently spotted enjoying a solo outing in Los Angeles following her recent comments about her musical career.

On November 11, the Daily Mail reported that the Diamonds hitmaker was photographed arriving at her favourite restaurant, Giorgio Baldi, in Santa Monica.

For the night out, Rihanna wore a silk, nude-brown top, which she paired with blue jeans. She completed her look with a fur coat and a striking cross necklace.

This sighting came shortly after her remarks about possibly stepping back from the music industry.

During the opening of the Fenty



Beauty X Puma event, the globally recognized singer said, "Music was the thing that got the attention, but God had other plans for me."

After these comments, her fans began to worry that she might never finish her highly anticipated ninth studio album or release new music again. Several of the fans and admirers took to their social media accounts to express their disappointments.

Previously, while discussing her new ventures as a businesswoman, Rihanna shared with W magazine her inspiration for colourful clothing. However, the 36-year-old singer has remained silent on the recent fears of her fans.

## Tech

### Pakistan collaborates with China to launch 'moon mission-II'



Six months after Pakistan's first satellite mission to the moon, iCube Qamar, was launched on board China's Chang'E6 from Hainan, the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) on Wednesday announced its collaboration on a groundbreaking lunar exploration mission with China's Chang'E 8 mission, set to launch in 2028. This collaboration marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's space program, as Suparco's indigenous rover will be part of the mission to explore the lunar surface. Suparco's rover, with an approximate weight

of 35 kilograms, will join China's Chang'E 8 mission, which is part of the larger International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) project. The rover is set to land on the lunar south pole, a region known for its challenging terrain and potential scientific discoveries.

This mission aims to explore the Moon's surface, conduct scientific research, and test innovative technologies for future lunar and planetary exploration.

The mission will involve a series of scientific experiments, including the study of lunar soil, mapping of the lunar surface, and the testing of new technologies for sustainable human presence on the Moon.

Suparco's rover, equipped with state-of-the-art scientific instruments, will play a crucial role in collecting data that could pave the way for future lunar missions.

This collaboration with China highlights the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and their shared vision for space exploration.

## Health

### Pilates exercises can help get rid of knee pain — but how?

While resting on the sofa works while experiencing sore knees, engaging in some Pilates exercises can be a more effective approach to get rid of the pain, depending on the cause of the pain.

A 2018 study discovered that knee pain proved to be a widespread issue, affecting 25% of adults with a 65% surge in its prevalence over the last two decades. According to CNN, common contributors to knee discomfort include osteoarthritis, — which predominantly affects women and older adults — as well as injuries, muscle weakness or tightness, obesity, overuse, and muscle imbalances. Here are five easy Pilates exercises that Shari Berkowitz, a biomechanist and educator to Pilates instructors, recommends for protection against knee pain.

Lie on your back with your knees bent and your feet on the floor while keeping your feet parallel

and a fist apart. Breathe from your diaphragm and engage your core, then lift your pelvis and spine off the floor. Hold for five breaths and then lower back down. Stand up straight with your knees one or two inches apart. Holding onto a stable chair or countertop, slowly bend one knee to a 90-degree angle. Hold several seconds, then slowly lower your foot to the floor. Repeat with the other leg. Begin by sitting upright on a mat with your knees bent at a 90-degree angle and your feet flat on the floor. Place your hands under your knees with your elbows out to the side then lightly round your spine. Inhale and roll your pelvis and spine away from the legs until your arms are straight, then exhale and roll your pelvis and spine back up. Lie on your back with your right knee bent. Engage your abdominal muscles and, keeping your chest open, squeeze the muscles in

your left thigh and lift your left leg up to the same height as your bent right knee. Hold, then slowly lower. Repeat on the opposite leg. Stand with your feet and legs parallel to one another and shoulder width apart. Lower yourself down, as if sitting in a chair, making sure to press your heels into the floor.

It's also important to keep the middle of your knees in line with the middle of your feet, which is the space between your second and third toe joints. Hold, then rise.

One may work their way up to three sets of 10 to 15 repetitions for these exercises, although Berkowitz said you generally do three sets of three to five repetitions of an exercise in Pilates. While experts agree that these five exercises should help alleviate knee pain, they are not cure-alls.





## President, PM appreciate security forces for operation in Kech



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to security forces for a successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in District Kech, Balochistan. The president and prime minister lauded the bravery and professionalism of the security forces for killing four terrorists including a high value target in the operation. The president said that they would never allow terrorists to disrupt progress, prosperity and law and order of Balochistan province. The entire nation lauded the contributions of security forces for peace and stability in the province, he added. President Zardari reiterated the commitment to continue operations till eradication of menace of terrorism, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that those disrupting law and order would have to pay a very heavy price. He said that they would continue to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists as the entire nation was standing shoulder to shoulder with their security forces. The fight against terrorists would continue till terrorism was completely rooted out from the country, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. PR

## Pakistan remains committed to peace in region: Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gillani has said Pakistan remains committed to peace and stability in the region. Addressing a seminar organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute, he emphasized addressing core conflicts such as Palestine and Kashmir with fairness and without bias. He said Pakistan believes in the principles of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. INP

## Rana Tanveer for exploiting olive potential to cut edible oil imports

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food and Security Rana Tanveer here on Wednesday stressed the need for exploit the potential of olive oil production and reduce dependence on edible oil imports. Speaking at Olive Summit 2024, the minister emphasized the country's vast potential for olive sector, urging the need of processing, packaging, and marketing to attract customers. The minister said that research was crucial to the growth of any sector, so for developing the agricultural sector, there is a need to undertake research to enhance its development. DNA

## Jam bids farewell to Japanese Ambassador, discusses trade, industry collaboration



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, as he prepares to conclude his tenure in Pakistan. During the meeting, Minister Jam extended his best wishes for the Ambassador's upcoming assignment and recognized his contributions toward strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing trade ties between Japan and Pakistan, said a press release issued here. Ambassador WADA expressed gratitude for the warmth and hospitality he experienced throughout his time in Pakistan, describing his stay as an enriching and memorable period. He praised Pakistan's vibrant culture and highlighted the country's potential for continued

economic growth, noting the productive collaboration between the two nations across diverse sectors, from technology to trade. The Osaka Expo 2025, set to take place in Japan, was a key topic of discussion. Jam Kamal Khan proposed organizing Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings during the event in April 2025, creating opportunities for trade collaboration between Pakistani and Japanese businesses. Discussing the automotive industry, Minister Jam emphasized Pakistan's commitment to supporting local manufacturing over imports to boost industrial growth. Jam highlighted Japan's pivotal role in Pakistan's automotive sector, particularly in promoting electric vehicle (EV) technology. Acknowledging Japan as a pioneer in this field, he noted the promising future of EVs in Pakistan. Minister Khan also appreciated the longstanding relationship between Japan and Pakistan, particularly in the exchange of technology and industrial knowledge, which has consistently benefited both nations. Ambassador WADA echoed these sentiments, noting that he leaves Pakistan with a deep respect for the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of its people, and he looks forward to continued cooperation between the two countries.

## Ethiopian ambassador honored 'Global Ambassador Award' for outstanding performance



ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to Pakistan, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula on Wednesday received the Global Ambassador Award for his outstanding and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador with the award for his exemplary efforts and contributions to bringing the two big nations closer together at bilateral, regional and multilateral forums within a short period of time. The 6th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony 2024 took place here in the presence of ambassadors, diplomatic corps, parliamentarians, government officials, business community, academia, media and civil society. Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Ambassador Jemal is a seasoned diplomat. His

ground breaking efforts for the Ethiopian Missions in Australia, Bahrain and Pakistan are highly acknowledged at official level. Ambassador Jemal has already received the Best Ambassador Award from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Peace Award from the National Peace and Justice Council of Pakistan and COMSTECH Award for strengthening fraternity between the two nations. The launch of the Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi, mobilization of two 80-member trade delegations to Ethiopia and one 50-member to Pakistan, and signing of memoranda of understanding between the two countries in the areas of commerce, trade, health, science and technology are the major initiatives taken by the ambassador within the two years of the opening of the Ethiopian Mission in Pakistan. The launch of the Green Legacy Initiative, an afforestation campaign of Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, for food security, in Pakistan is another shining feather in his cap. Above all, Ambassador Jemal brought the two heirs of civilizations together and enhanced government to government, people to people, business to business relations as well as across the societal segments to advance mutual and collective interests and cooperation. Indeed, this award will add a new chapter and elevate the already flourishing Ethio-Pakistan relations. — VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan chairing 227th meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

## Harnessing youth power to push rich nations to finance global climate action must: Romina

BAKU: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam Wednesday said that empowering young leaders from around the world to push with strong call for global climate action and spearhead meaningful environmental change is paramount to cultivate a new generation of climate-conscious leaders with passionate for creating sustainable solutions for the future.

Addressing a high-level side 'Global Youth Leadership in Climate Action' held at the Pakistan Pavilion in Baku on the side-line of two-week's global climate summit (COP29), the PM's climate aide said, "While the adverse impacts of climate change become increasingly evident, young people themselves are at the forefront of the global demand for urgent climate action. However, connecting youth leaders with those demanding for climate justice and global climate action including environmental experts and policymakers is vital to efforts for tackling pressing common climate challenges."

The event was organized jointly by Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS). She said that engaging youth leadership is critically important for many reasons. Because, as young people are key to driving sustainable change and addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change. She said: "Climate change will disproportionately affect future generations, particularly youth, who will have to live with its long-term impacts. Issues like rising sea levels, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss will shape their future, making it essential for young people to be actively involved in



shaping climate policies and solutions today."

The PM's climate aide said that youth actually bring fresh perspectives, creativity, and innovative approaches to climate solutions. Their understanding of technology, social media, and modern communication tools allows them to mobilize communities, raise awareness, and drive grassroots movements effectively.

"Youth leadership's engagement in climate action actually embodies the principle of intergenerational justice—the idea that current generations should not deplete resources or degrade the planet at the expense of future generations. By empowering youth means the global community ensures that their voices are heard in discussions that will affect their future well-being," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked. For building future leaders, investing in youth climate leadership can significantly help build the environmental leaders of tomorrow. By providing education, mentorship and platforms for engagement, young

people can develop the skills and confidence needed to become future policymakers, scientists, and entrepreneurs who will lead sustainable practices across industries, she stressed.

Highlighting Pakistan's climate vulnerabilities and actions being taken for the country's resilience building, PM's climate aide said that as climate-induced vulnerabilities grow, especially in the developing countries, we urgently need more coordinated, less intensive cross-border initiatives to tackle these challenges head-on. Pakistan, like many developing countries, has been on the frontlines, facing both the harsh impacts of climate change and the difficulties of adapting with limited resources. Through collaboration and by pooling resources, we can collectively strengthen our resilience and secure a more sustainable future for all. Romina Khurshid Alam also said that developing countries, especially in the South Asian region, are home to a dynamic, diverse, and rapidly growing youth population, which includes a new generation of climate leaders, innovators, and advocates.

In Pakistan, young people are at the forefront of the climate movement, challenging us to act, inspiring us with fresh perspectives, and driving innovation across various fields. Their energy, creativity, and determination are crucial in accelerating climate action and promoting sustainable development.

"We must harness this momentum, empowering youth with the tools, resources, and platforms they need to champion climate resilience and sustainable progress," Romina Khurshid Alam underlined and added, "This is crucial as I believe one of the most promising forces in this journey of fighting for climate justice is our youth."

## UNFPA, Population Council report give direction for future challenges: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives on Wednesday stated that the report launched by UNFPA and Population Council gave future direction along with the tools needed to solve forthcoming challenges related to the growing population of Pakistan.

The minister said the report provides a detailed analysis of the recent census results and it gives future direction along with the tools needed to solve forthcoming challenges related to the growing population, said a press release issued.

"Pakistan 2025" study launched by UNFPA and Population Council presents challenges and suggestions related to overpopulation.

Federal Minister for Minister Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the launch of "Pakistan 2025" study by Population Council and UNFPA held.

Citing his Vision 2010 which he presented in 1997, he said that he had prepared the vision after getting inspired from the vision of Malaysia and China.

"Unfortunately, two years later martial law was imposed and Pakistan became dependent on foreign aid." The path to progress got broken due to many hurdles, the minister said. "However it is a proud achievement for the country that Pakistan became the first country in South Asia to conduct a digital census." He said that there is a major debate going on in India right now on conducting the digital census, a seemingly gigantic task.

"We carried out the census with the consensus of all the provinces", Ahsan Iqbal said. He further said that debating on the problems of growing population is necessary. It is also important to note that after the Eighteenth Amendment, powers were transferred to the provinces and the provinces have not yet devolved powers to local governments.

The entire province of Sindh cannot be run from Karachi and Punjab cannot be run from Lahore. Service delivery and key outcomes cannot be achieved without devolving authority to local governments. The minister stressed that devolution of powers to lower levels is essential to improve the governance system. In the past, population growth was beneficial for developing countries, but now it has become a problem due to lack of resources.

Talking about the percentage of employed women, the minister stated that in Pakistan, only 23 percent of women are employed, compared to 50 percent in developed countries. Family planning education and awareness must reach the smallest regions in Pakistan, he stated. "Pakistan's problems are bigger than any one leader or party. Stability and policy continuity in the country can remove the impediments to growth," Ahsan Iqbal stated.

Pio Smith, Regional Director UNFPA, Muhammad Yahya, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan; Luay Shabaneh, Country Director UNFPA, and Zeba Sattar, Country Director Population Council were among the panelists and the event was further attended by academia, government officials, diplomats, development partners, deans of universities and fellow authors. Dr. Azra, Provincial Health Minister from Sindh attended it online.

The welcome remarks were given by Dr. Zeba Sattar who said that the aim of this study was to produce quality research on population and related issues. APP

## Pakistan is facing an education emergency, with 26.2 million children out of school: British HC

ISLAMABAD: Funded by the British High Commission, Pakistan, and delivered by the British Council, the service delivery component of Girls and Out of School Children's Action for Learning (GOAL) programme, Khilo aur Barho will see children receive support with their Urdu, Maths and English. This support will focus on their ability, rather than their age, helping them to catch-up on these subjects quicker. Children from all across Pakistan will be supported, but with a particular focus on South Punjab and merged districts in KPK. At least 10% of participants will be children with disabilities, and 20% will come from marginalised groups Ms Jane Marriott, the British High Commissioner said: "Pakistan is facing an education emergency, with 26.2 million children out of school. This targeted support will make sure some of the most vulnerable children in the country don't fall behind. The UK is already a significant supporter of education in Pakistan, supporting over 4.5 million children across Pakistan to access a decent education over the past 10 years."countries. SABAH

## Draft of Pakistan Shipping Policy 2024 reviewed at workshop



ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Maritime Affairs organized a workshop on Wednesday in order to refurbish the draft of 'Pakistan Shipping Policy 2024' as per the directions of Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh. The aim of this workshop was to refine the draft before being presented in the cabinet.

This policy will replace Pakistan Merchant Marine Policy 2001 and its amended version of 2019. Secretary Maritime Affairs Syed Zafar Ali Shah, chairperson of port authorities, senior officials of ministry of maritime affairs and stakeholders from private sector participated in this workshop.

The secretary of Maritime Affairs while giving

the opening remarks said that the Shipping Policy 2024 had been drafted in accordance with the standards and rules of the International Maritime Organization. Later, the Deputy Secretary presented the important points of draft before the participants. All the participants thoroughly reviewed the policy and expressed satisfaction with almost most of its proposals in the plenary session. The most important point of the policy would be to make it possible by legislation to furnish a bond of adequate amount to the owners of any registered ship if it is detained or seized for any reason within the territorial jurisdiction of Pakistan, and it should be within 24 hours after taking surety bond.

Moreover, the government should ensure that if the case was settled, the bail bonds were returned within one month. In this regard, a help desk should also be established within the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and special courts related to maritime affairs should also be established having powers equal to the High Court. DNA

## Climate diplomacy is essential for advancing global cooperation, Chairman NDMA

NDMA participates in Event on "Strengthening Resilience through Climate Diplomacy in Disaster Management" at COP 29

### VOM Report

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN: Pak NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik delivered a keynote address at Center for Climate Diplomacy event titled "Strengthening Resilience through Climate Diplomacy in Disaster Management" at Pakistan Pavilion, COP 29, Baku Azerbaijan. The event highlighted the critical intersection of climate diplomacy and disaster resilience. Chairman NDMA underscored Pakistan's dedication to collaborative, climate-conscious approaches for effective disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

Chairman NDMA emphasized the importance of climate diplomacy as a key strategy in advancing global cooperation and securing resources to address climate-induced disasters. He outlined NDMA's commitment to fostering international partnerships and driving forward



initiatives that support both national and global resilience frameworks. His remarks highlighted Pakistan's proactive engagement in climate diplomacy as a means to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Through this strategic side event, NDMA reiterated its commitment to



driving a global agenda for resilience by leveraging climate diplomacy and supporting initiatives that place people at the center of climate adaptation and disaster management. The authority remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships and fostering a sustainable, resilient future for all.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is attending the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. NDMA's participation at COP 29 underscores Pakistan's commitment to addressing climate change and enhancing resilience through international cooperation and support.