



All minorities in Pakistan enjoyed full freedom to perform their religious obligations

Federal Minister for Defence  
**Khawaja Asif**

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## PM Shehbaz felicitates newly elected President of BHCBA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has congratulated Mir Attaullah Langove on his election as the President of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

In a felicitation statement on Sunday, he also congratulated the other newly elected office bearers of the Bar.

Shehbaz Sharif expressed the hope that their victory in the Balochistan High Court Bar Association elections will contribute to the welfare of the legal fraternity. He appreciated the Bar Association's resolve to upholding the constitution, promoting the rule of law, and serving the interests of Balochistan's lawyers.

The Prime Minister expressed hope that the newly elected body of the Bar will work tirelessly to strengthen the legal profession and play a significant role in promoting justice and democracy in the country.

Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights, Azam Nazeer Tarar has also congratulated Mir Attaullah Langove, on his success as President of Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

The Minister said this achievement represents a significant step forward for the welfare of the legal fraternity and underscores collective trust of Balochistan's legal community.

The Minister expressed confidence that the newly elected body will work diligently to strengthen the legal profession and contribute to justice and democracy in the country.

## Promotion of education is vital for development of country: Minister



KARACHI: Minister for Federal Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that the promotion of education is vital for development of the country. He expressed these views while addressing the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University in Karachi on Sunday.

The Minister emphasized that education is not only a necessity but also the first commandment of our religion. He remarked that the fast-changing world has transformed everything, and those who fail to adapt are left behind. He urged the students to adapt to contemporary changes to contribute effectively to the country's progress. The Minister also distributed degrees among passed out students and the students with outstanding performance were awarded medals. SABAH



DOHA: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing virtually a Conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics'.

## Economy showing signs of improvement due to govt's sincere efforts: Aurangzeb



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the economy has been showing signs of

improvement lately due to the sincere efforts of the incumbent government.

Addressing a press conference in the capital on Sunday, the finance minister said inflation had come at the single digit - seven percent - from 38 percent as the PM

himself had been spearheading the efforts in this regard.

The finance minister said the international financial institutions had shown trust in the country's ability to handle the economic crisis.

He mentioned that the IMF staff was also astonished at the success of the Pakistan's economy - which became stable in just 14 months adding the board was well aware of the government's ability to steer the country out of crisis.

The minister highlighted the cooperation by the chief ministers of four provinces adding that the government could achieve the best possible outcome by working as a whole.

As for the private sector, he said all the segments of society have to come at the forefront to create the best possible opportunities.

Lastly, he also mentioned the climate change phenomenon which has been taking a heavy toll on the country.

"It is not only the charter of economy but also the charter of environment," he said.

## Govt committed for ending digital gender divide: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Sunday said that the government was committed for ending digital gender divide. "Women's access to technology and Internet is utmost necessary, as they can be empowered through the provision of digital devices and Internet", she expressed while addressing virtually a conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics' in Doha, Qatar. She said the government was taking steps to remove hurdles in using mobile phone and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) by women. Socio-economic hurdles impede women entry in politics, she said, adding that women could be empowered and brought into mainstream politics through digitalization.

Shaza Fatima said work is going on Gender Digital Divide Policy to facilitate women in their access to digital economy. She said the Prime Minister's Free Laptop Scheme was playing important role in enhancing access to digital tools. She said work is underway on the Smartphones for All Policy. INP

## Comprehensive policy being implemented for the return of Afghan refugees living illegally in Pakistan: Mohsin Naqvi

Assures full support for the promotion of cricket in the Netherlands



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi held a meeting with Ambassador of Netherlands Henny De Vries.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations and increasing cooperation in various fields were discussed. Discussions were also held on the promotion of cricket between the two countries. Both sides agreed to hold a cricket series between Pakistan and the Netherlands next year. Netherlands also agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding with PCB for the promotion of cricket.

"The ambassador of Netherlands said that the cricket team of Netherlands will visit Pakistan next year and play a match with the A team. Interior Minister said that there is a need to take steps on a sustainable basis to promote bilateral relations. He also assured full support for the promotion of cricket in the Netherlands. Interior Minister clarified that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades, and a comprehensive policy is being implemented for the return of Afghan refugees living illegally in Pakistan. SABAH

## NDMA dispatches its 19th shipment of aid to Lebanon, Syria

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched its 19th shipment of aid on Sunday to Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, carrying 17 tons of essential supplies such as tents, food, milk, clothing, and hygiene kits in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation. The aid supplies, including rice buckets, powdered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags, and medical support kits, were dispatched on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif via a chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi to Damascus, Syria.

The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by MPA, Ali Khurshedi, Senator Amir Waluddin Chishti, senior officials from NDMA, and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Ali Khurshedi emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected population, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration between welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.



This 19th consignment was dispatched for the people of Syria and refugees from Lebanon, before this, the Government of Pakistan sent 12 aid consignments to Palestine and 6 shipments to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1722 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine. INP

## Attempts to create unrest will never succeed: Tanveer

MURIDKE: Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain says attempts are being made to derail country from achieving economic stability through protest and long march.

Talking to media in Muridke on Sunday, he said attempt to create unrest and anarchy on November 24 will never succeed like previous attempts.

The Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pakistan is a sovereign state and foreign interference in our internal affairs cannot be accepted.

Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif in 2017 was the first conspiracy, followed by the alleged manipulations during 2018 elections.

Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain categorically stated that all conspiracies to destabilize democratic system and economic reforms will be thwarted and Pakistan will continue to move forward on development path. SABAH

## Khawaja Asif visits gurdwara, greets Sikh yatrees

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif visited Gurdwara Babe Di Ber Sahib on Sunday and greeted the Sikh yatrees on the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.

A large number of Sikh pilgrims are coming from inside the country and abroad to participate in the 555th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak.

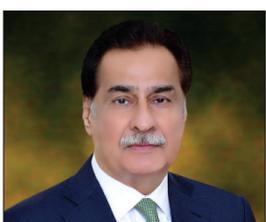
The minister said Sikh pilgrims had been provided a peaceful environment to perform their rituals across the country. He said all minorities in Pakistan enjoyed full freedom to perform their religious obligations.



Sardar Jasbir Singh Boparai said arrangements by the government of Pakistan and Punjab were excellent. The defence minister was presented a souvenir by Sardar Jasbir Boparai and caretaker Sardar Jaskaran Singh Sidhu on his visit to Gurdwara Babe Di Ber Sahib. INP

## Ayaz Sadiq reaffirms Pak's strong stance on Kashmir

Also expresses deep concern over the ongoing violence in Palestine



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, held a meeting with a Parliamentary delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of Spain in

the Kingdom of Spain. Matters of mutual interest, including counter-terrorism, human rights, global peace, climate change, and other bilateral concerns were discussed during the meeting.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the significant potential for cooperation between Pakistan and Spain across sectors such as agriculture, technology, trade, and tourism, emphasizing the vital role of Parliamentary exchanges in strengthening bilateral relations. He also acknowledged the contributory delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of Spain in promoting cooperation

between Pakistan and Spain. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also emphasized joint action in addressing global human rights issues, particularly in Kashmir and Palestine. He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong stance on Kashmir, calling for the resolution of the issue in accordance with UN resolutions and condemning the ongoing genocide of innocent Kashmiris. He also expressed deep concern over the ongoing violence in Palestine, condemning the mistreatment of Palestinians and urging an immediate halt to the conflict.

The Spanish delegation expressed their appreciation for Pakistan and

praised the warmth and hospitality of the Pakistani people. They also noted the vast opportunities for trade in Pakistan and expressed optimism that this visit would further enhance bilateral relations.

The meeting concluded with Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presenting shields to the members of the Spanish delegation as a gesture of goodwill.

Zahoor Ahmed, Ambassador of Pakistan to Spain, Syed Ali Musa Gillani, MNA/Convener Pakistan - Spain Parliamentary Friendship Group (PPG), and Senior Officers of the National Assembly were also present in the meeting. SABAH

## CM urges road users to follow traffic rules to prevent accidents

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has stressed the need for collective responsibility in ensuring road safety, urging all road users to follow traffic laws. In her message on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, she emphasized the importance of safety for both individuals and the community.

She stated, "Make it a habit to follow traffic rules for your own safety and the safety of others," highlighting the need for everyone to actively contribute to reducing road traffic incidents. The CM expressed her heartfelt condolences for those who have lost their lives in road accidents. She prayed for the forgiveness of all those who have tragically lost their lives in road traffic accidents.

She extended her sympathy to the families of the victims, stating, "I share grief of the families who have lost their loved ones in these heart-breaking incidents." The chief minister reaf-

firmed the government's commitment to improving road safety in the province. "We are working diligently to enhance road safety in Punjab to ensure that no family has to suffer the loss of a loved one in a tragic accident," she said.

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted ongoing efforts to prevent accidents, noting, "Over 600 roads are being constructed, repaired, and rehabilitated across the province at an accelerated pace to improve safety and reduce road-related tragedies." She announced a significant initiative to improve emergency response, saying "For the first time in Pakistan, we are launching an ambulance service on the motorways to provide swift rescue assistance."

The CM emphasized the importance of driver education, saying that specialized training programs for drivers are being conducted at designated service centers under the supervision of traffic police experts. DNA

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## One earth, one breath

SOHA NISAR

When smog rolls across the Subcontinent, it makes no distinction between Lahore and Delhi, friend or foe. This toxic haze defies borders and geopolitical tensions, drifting freely from one city to another, creating an unspoken crisis that endangers millions. As a policy analyst in Islamabad, I can't help but ponder the possibility of cross-border cooperation between Pakistan and India to tackle this shared emergency. The air that hangs thick with pollutants over Delhi one day drifts across to Lahore and vice versa, with both cities often alternating as the world's most polluted on any given day. This relentless cycle begs the question: could the pressing issue of air pollution finally bring our countries together in meaningful dialogue?

Recently, Pakistan's leadership floated the concept of 'climate diplomacy' with India, emphasising that our intertwined environmental fates call for solutions that transcend the typical political discourse. This approach underlines the immediate need to set rivalries aside and find common ground in mitigating the impacts of climate change, which endangers millions on both sides of the border. The scale of pollution in Lahore is shocking. According to IQAir, Lahore recently recorded the worst air quality globally, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) so high it shattered previous records, posing severe health risks. Data from the World Bank indicates that air pollution decreases the average life expectancy of Pakistanis by 4.3 years and results in economic losses exceeding 6.5 per cent of the GDP. Such figures aren't mere statistics; they are an urgent reminder of the harm inflicted on the most vulnerable who suffer through this haze that has become a disturbing part of daily life.

The smog crisis is now making inroads into Islamabad. The government has issued health advisories urging children, the elderly, and individuals with asthma to wear masks when outdoors. Although the air quality in Islamabad isn't as dire as Lahore's, the concentration of PM 2.5 ug/m3 has surged to 186 ug/m3, far above the safe limit of 35 ug/m3 set by the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS). Several sources contribute to this decline in air quality: ongoing construction projects at the Serena and PTCL chowk interchanges, vehicular emissions, and waste burning in public bins by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) which often includes toxic materials like plastics, exacerbating pollution. Emissions from barbecue points, outdated brick kilns that lack environmentally friendly zigzag technology, and pollution drifting in from neighboring Rawalpindi are also adding to Islamabad's smog levels. While Pakistan and India face unique challenges, both share a significant source of smog: crop residue burning. Despite efforts to discourage this practice, financial constraints compel farmers to choose burning leftover crop residue over more sustainable but costlier alternatives. Unfortunately, this sole act releases tons of pollutants, harming health and the economy, raising healthcare costs, and diminishing productivity. However, policy challenges run deeper than just addressing crop burning. Despite possessing extensive data on pollution sources and their impacts, the Punjab government faces challenges in implementing effective policies due to bureaucratic and institutional barriers. Economic dependencies on high-polluting sectors such as industry and agriculture create political resistance to strict environmental regulation, resulting in ineffective, short-term actions like industrial shutdowns or limited enforcement. These fragmented, temporary measures do little to address the root causes and result in annual cycles of hazardous smog.

In response to Islamabad's deteriorating air quality, the Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has initiated several preventive measures. The agency has requested the CDA to cease garbage incineration in public bins, highlighted the detrimental impacts of plastic combustion, and has levied fines on heavy diesel vehicles that fail to comply with environmental standards. In a recent meeting of PAK-EPA with public-private organisations that operate such vehicles, warnings of Environmental Protection Orders (EPOs) were issued for further violation of regulations. Additionally, the Ministry of Climate Change noted that construction projects at Serena and PTCL chowk interchanges have failed to submit Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports, a mandatory requirement intended to mitigate the environmental consequences of construction. This lack of compliance raises serious concerns about pollution management in ongoing developments across the capital. Additionally, misplaced priorities in urban planning exacerbate the issue. Islamabad's infrastructure favors private vehicle use over public transport, a factor that increases road traffic, dust, and emissions. This development approach not only worsens air quality but also encourages citizens to rely on private vehicles, further aggravating pollution levels. With the recent passage of the 26th Amendment, the constitution of Pakistan now enshrines the 'Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment'. This amendment mandates that the government actively protects citizens from environmental harm, making it a constitutional and public health imperative for the state to address the worsening air quality crisis. The urgency of government action on this matter cannot be overstated, as hazardous air quality jeopardizes the well-being of millions. To counteract this crisis effectively, ICT and Punjab must adopt a comprehensive approach that prioritises public health over short-term, symbolic solutions. Punjab's approach must transition from temporary measures, like mist machines, to sustainable, enforceable standards that tackle the underlying sources of pollution. Stricter emissions standards, phased-out older vehicles, and improved vehicle-testing regimes can significantly reduce vehicular pollution.

The writer is a policy analyst and researcher with a Master's degree in public policy from King's College, London.



Usman A Sahi

# Smog and the city

The constitution of Pakistan is an emotionally stirring and beautiful read. Subservient to Allah's sovereignty, it is a manifestation of the will of the people of Pakistan to establish an order that, among many other promises, guarantees the people of Pakistan certain fundamental rights that must always be accessible to them. An order that preaches equality. An order that promises social justice. The people explained why this order was being established too. It was 'so that the people of Pakistan may prosper and attain their rightful and honoured place amongst the nations of the world and make their full contribution towards international peace and progress and happiness of humanity'. For this, the people of Pakistan 'adopt, enact and give to ourselves, the constitution'. The constitution is an emotional document because if one truly reads and understands it, and takes its word and promises at face value, only the ill-fated or misguided would hesitate in laying their lives for it. Everything else aside, the constitution extends to the people a fundamental right to life and additionally to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. And so we turn to Lahore. Lahore, the city that is supposedly the crown jewel of Pakistan, and certainly the Punjab at a minimum. The city that

is to testify to the progression and transformation achieved by each successive government. The city of underpasses, signal-free roads, the ring road, the metro bus, the orange line train and amenities galore. The historically cultural hub of Punjab. The majesty of Lahore would, on paper, exude the right of life. It would be the physical manifestation of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. What would the people of Pakistan not give to live in Lahore and dine on its buffet of fundamental rights? Right? And yet here we are. In Lahore – the city that shrouds itself every autumn in thick, polluted, dangerous air. The city that dances to the songs of smoke and fog. Where children ask whether there is a tasteless barbecue happening nearby that has been kept a secret from them. Where old people pass away from natural causes, and nobody considers the possibility that perhaps they lost a decade to the air they breathed. All the people can do is alarmingly shop for overpriced air purifiers, just to try and avail themselves of that fundamental right to life. Over the past six years, when the smog phenomenon has progressively gotten worse, it does not appear that any concrete steps have been taken by the government to defend this right to life. This is tied to the unfortunate reality that any steps that are to be taken are not physically tangible. There is no opening ceremony to be attended. There is no fanfare to be had. Therefore, rather than spend time and resources on finding permanent solutions, it is easier and more convenient to set up 'free masks' kiosks.

It is more efficient to declare 'hot spots' and issue notifications. It is politically more expedient to suggest a dialogue with the neighbouring country. It is easier, unfortunately, than to deliver on the guarantee of the right to life. It is bewildering that there also does not seem to be a consensus on the principal cause of smog in Lahore. Winds from Indian Punjab are a convenient answer – as is the burning of crops, industrial and vehicular pollutants, and low-grade fuel usage. Yet, nothing has been done on any of these fronts, except that the level of alarm expressed on each occasion also increases. There would surely be many scientific reasons for the increased smog in Lahore, which would invite scientific answers and solutions. Sadly, it is also clear that the primary reason the government is inert is on account of their failure to also meet the promises of equality and social justice. In the worst of times, the head of the province is not in the country, much less in Lahore. This is not a slight on any medical issues that she may be facing – but the social injustice and inequality is evident that she has the resources to avail herself of 'better' medical care outside of Pakistan, which would further her right to life. Pictures doing the rounds on social media also show her fancily dressed in Geneva, worrying about the worsening condition of smog in Lahore; indubitably her sunglasses hiding away her tears of pain and pity for the people of Punjab. This is what lies at the heart of the government's inaction. As long as

resources, personal or official, are available that keep you safe, there is no urgency to act. It would be a safe bet to say that the offices of all senior bureaucrats and government officials have air purifiers, and so do their residences. It would also be safe to bet that these would have been purchased, in large part, for official purposes. The servants of the people thus live shielded from the actual effects of the issue, and it has accordingly failed to register with them. This inequality and social injustice have prevented all recent governments from taking any positive action to combat smog. If the ruler and the ruled cannot look at each other's shoes, walking the other's walk is incomprehensible. The people of Lahore, and Pakistan in general, instead of enjoying their guaranteed right to life, fight to survive every day. They fight to believe that the state will not give up on them. They fight back their tears every time their child coughs while trying to fall asleep. But it gets harder with every passing minute, being reminded that the worried rulers are consuming everyone's share of the right to life. In 'Animal Farm', George Orwell wrote, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others". As our beloved Lahore crumbles and our search for our 'rightful and honoured place' in the world falters, this is all the more evident 79 years after this book was written.

The writer is a lawyer and an avid golfer – but his right to golf is also curtailed.

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



Geographically, the population of Pakistan is distributed rather unevenly. More than half of the population is in Punjab; on the other hand, Balochistan, the largest province in terms of area, has significant areas with virtually no settled population. Likewise, within each province, the population further pools in various areas. Much of the population of Balochistan, for instance, is concentrated in the area of Quetta. The region around Karachi and the inhabited strip along the Indus River are the most densely settled areas in Sindh province. Within Punjab the population density generally decreases from northeast to southwest. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the plain around Peshawar and Mardan is a high-density area. Broadly speaking, population density is greatest in fertile agricultural areas. Nomadism and transhumance, once common lifestyles in Pakistan, are practiced by relatively few people in the 21st century. The traditional regions of Pakistan,

shaped by ecological factors and historical evolution, are reflected in the administrative division of the country into the four provinces of Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, each of which is ethnically and linguistically distinct. In the Punjab, until the advent of irrigation, most of the population was restricted to those areas receiving more than 20 inches (500 mm) of precipitation annually—namely, the Potwar Plateau and the upper Indus plain. Such areas where dry farming is practiced are referred to as barani. Later, large areas of uncultivated land in the Indus River plain of the southern Punjab were irrigated by canals and populated by colonists drawn from other parts of the province. Referred to as the Canal Colony, that area now forms the richest agricultural region of the country. Agricultural wealth is concentrated in those barani areas around Lahore that have benefited from irrigation, together with the Canal Colony areas and Sindh province. Those regions

contain most of the rural population of Pakistan and produce more than half of the country's wheat and virtually all of its cotton and rice. Landholdings are larger in the Canal Colony areas of the Punjab and in Sindh. Elsewhere, in the overpopulated and poor districts of the barani region that do not benefit from irrigation, holdings are exceedingly small and fragmented. In those districts, there is great pressure to migrate from the villages in order to find employment in towns, to enlist in the armed forces, or to seek work abroad, particularly in the Persian Gulf states of the Middle East. About two-thirds of the rural population of Pakistan lives in nucleated villages or hamlets (i.e., in compact groups of dwellings). Sometimes, as is generally the case in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the houses are placed in a ring with windowless outer walls, so that each complex resembles a protected fortress with a few guarded entrances. Dispersed habitation patterns in the form of isolated single homesteads are rare, occurring only in a few mountainous areas. But it is not uncommon to find numerous satellite hamlets of varying sizes near larger villages; such hamlets are occupied either by a landlord (along with his family, servants, and sharecroppers) or else by members of an extended family group living together in adjoining houses. The spread of tube wells (driven wells) in the Punjab has increased the tendency for such dispersal, for people often prefer to live near their tube wells in order to guard the valuable machinery. The concept of village, therefore, often tends to be equivalent to that of the mawza (an area of land that, together with a village and its satellite hamlets, forms a unit in land-revenue records). It is difficult to speak of an average size of village, for patterns of habitation are complex. Most groups of dwellings have a minimum of a dozen or a score of houses, and there are usually a few hundred dwellings in each "village." Large villages rarely have populations exceeding 2,500 persons.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Katy Perry's lawyer reacts to lawsuit filed by aspiring singer

Katy Perry lands in trouble after aspiring singer files lawsuit



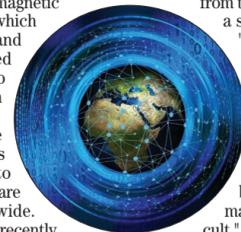
Katy Perry's lawyers have recently reacted to the allegations made by an aspiring singer, Michele Ronk. As reported by In Touch Weekly, the renowned singer's legal representative responded to the lawsuit filed by the young singer and said the songwriter did not submit her complaint properly. Katy's lawyer stated, "Michele is an aspiring singer/songwriter who, like many artists, writes music inspired by her own experiences." He added that although Michele has shared lyrics on her private Facebook page, she has not yet shared her music with the world. The attorney pointed out that Michele did not professionally register her

copyright claim in federal court. For the unversed, Michele filed a federal lawsuit against the Dark Horse hitmaker on October 26, 2020. Initially, she represented herself in the case without any legal assistance. In her lawsuit, Michele claims that she wrote a song titled Upgraded 2.0 in 2014, which is strikingly similar to Katy's song Smile. Notably, the globally known singer released Smile in July 2020. Michele alleges that neither Katy nor her team sought permission to use her work. Moreover, she accused the 40-year-old singer of ripping off 12 similar story elements or lyrical phrases from her song.

# North Pole shift towards Russia alarms scientists, potentially disrupting smartphone accuracy

Scientists are grappling with the magnetic North Pole's continued drift towards Russia, a phenomenon that could impact smartphone navigation accuracy. Unlike the geographical North Pole, the magnetic North Pole is the point to which a compass needle aligns and doesn't remain in a fixed position, shifting due to magnetic activity beneath the Earth's crust. Since the early 1800s, the magnetic North Pole has gradually shifted closer to Russia, yet recent changes are puzzling scientists worldwide. The World Magnetic Model recently revealed that the pole's movement, driven by churning molten iron beneath the Earth, has slowed to approximately 15 miles per year—down by around 10 miles compared to

its speed in 2020. "The magnetic pole has been moving very slowly around Canada for many centuries since the 1500s," said Dr. Ciarán Beggan from the British Geological Survey in a statement to the \*Daily Mail\*. "In the past 20 years, it accelerated north towards Siberia, increasing speed every year until about five years ago, when it suddenly decelerated from 50 to 40km per year." "This is behaviour we've not observed ever before. It makes forecasting magnetic field change more difficult," Dr. Beggan added, noting that this unpredictable movement contrasts with the south pole's comparatively slow drift. "We don't know really why there's such differences between the hemispheres."



## Health

# Over 400 die in Bangladesh as dengue crisis deepens

More than 400 people have died in Bangladesh's biggest dengue outbreak in years, which is being caused by an increase in infections brought on by warmer temperatures and a longer monsoon season. Hospitals are finding it difficult to handle the outbreak, especially in metropolitan areas. According to the most recent official statistics, 78,595 individuals were admitted to hospitals across the country in 2024, and at least 407 people died as a result of the related complications this year. By mid-November, 4,173 patients were being treated, with 1,835 of them in Dhaka, the capital, and 2,338 elsewhere. "We're witnessing monsoon-like rainfall even in October, which is unusual," said Kabirul Bashar, a zoology professor at Jahangirnagar University. Shifting weather patterns caused by climate change provided optimal conditions for the Aedes

aegypti mosquito, the primary carrier of the disease, he added. "These changes in the season are fostering ideal conditions for the mosquitoes to breed." Dense populations in cities exacerbate the spread of the disease, usually more common in the monsoon season from June to September though it has spilled beyond that window this year. A rise in temperatures and longer monsoons, both linked to climate change, have caused a spike in mosquito breeding, driving the rapid spread of the virus. Bashar called for year-round vector surveillance in Bangladesh to monitor and rein in the disease. A city corporation worker sprays fumigant to control mosquitoes in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on October 14, 2024. — Reuters

If detected early and treated properly, deaths from dengue can be reduced to less than 1%, said a renowned physician, Dr ABM Abdullah, adding, "Early diagnosis and prevention are key to controlling dengue." Last year was the deadliest on record in the current crisis, with 1,705 deaths and more than 321,000 infections reported. The growing frequency and severity of outbreaks strain Bangladesh's already overwhelmed healthcare system, as hospitals battle to treat thousands of patients. Health officials have urged precautions against mosquito bites, such as mosquito repellents and bed nets, while experts want tougher measures to eliminate the stagnant waters where mosquitoes breed. Delays in seeking treatment, particularly among rural populations who must travel long distances to specialised facilities in Dhaka, are swelling the toll, doctors said.





## Powerful blast at mosque gate in South Waziristan leaves one dead, five injured

Local authorities cordoned off area

WANA: A devastating explosion rocked the main gate of Jamia Mosque in Azam Warsak, South Waziristan, during Asr prayers on Friday, leaving one dead and five injured.

The blast caused by an explosive device planted at the mosque's entrance claimed the life of Mufti Ijaz, while the mosque's khateeb and leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Shehzada, was critically injured. Among the injured were Shah Hussain, Noor Hassan, Maulana Saddam, Maulana Shehzada, and Zainullah. According to media reports, two of the injured are stable, while others remain in critical condition. Eyewitnesses reported that Maulana Shehzada and his companions were exiting the mosque after prayers when the explosion occurred. The injured were immediately rushed to Wana Headquarters Hospital for medical treatment.

Local authorities cordoned off the area and initiated a search operation following the incident. However, no arrests have been made, and no group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

This tragic incident has raised concerns over security in the region, particularly during religious gatherings. Further investigations are underway. SABAH

## Air quality index in Lahore & surrounding areas improved after successful experiment of artificial rain, says Marriyum Aurangzeb

Says detox Punjab campaign would reduce the hazardous level of smog in Rawalpindi

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday the air quality index in Lahore and surrounding areas has improved after the successful experiment of artificial rain.

Earlier, the Punjab government successfully tested its local technology of artificial rain. The 'cloud seeding' technique was tested in Jehlum, Chakwal, Tala-gang, and Gojar Khan, due to which rainfall was experienced in Jehlum and Gojar Khan, as confirmed by the Met Department.

The minister said the detox Punjab campaign would reduce the hazardous level of smog in Rawalpindi. While in the case of provincial capital, a grand operation is at play which included, among other steps, the ban on the entry of smoke-emitting vehicles in the city. She urged the masses to play their role in curbing smog mentioning the cooperation of citizens would be helpful. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has highlighted the immense opportunities for enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Spain in various sectors, including agriculture, technology, trade, and tourism. (Story on page 1)

## Ambassador Hashmi attends World Maritime Equipment Conference in Fuzhou, China

BELJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi paid his first official visit to Fuzhou, capital of Fujian in Southern China to attend the World Maritime Equipment Conference and to speak at one of the side events of the conference.

"Speaking at the Seminar titled 'High-Quality Development of Offshore Wind Power Supply Chain', Ambassador Hashmi who visited Fujian at invitation of provincial authorities highlighted Pakistan's natural advantages as a country with a long coastline of over 1,000 kilometers, and emphasized the country's strong focus on transitioning to renewable sources of energy.

Appreciating China's rapid advancements in offshore wind industry sector, Ambassador Hashmi underlined the need for enhancing bilateral cooperation by strengthening technology exchanges, infrastructure development and regulatory support. He invited Chinese investors to explore the opportunities available in Pakistani offshore wind industry. "Ambassador Hashmi also interacted with a number of senior officials from Fuzhou, including its senior-most political leader, Ms. Guo Ningning. The two sides reiterated the commitment of Pakistan and China to build on the momentum of the over-arching rubric of Pakistan-China relations, and strengthen the cooperation between Pakistan and



Fuzhou under the overall bilateral framework.

The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's renewed focus on B2B engagement with China, under the guidance of Pakistani leadership, and expressed his commitment to enhance interaction between the business enterprises of Pakistan and China. Besides, the Ambassador was given a tour of the World Maritime Equipment Conference, and

was separately briefed on urban planning, shipbuilding and cultural landscape of the province.

"Fujian province in Southern China is the hub of China's maritime industry advancements, poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts. Chinese President Xi Jinping has also served in the province for around 17 years, including in Fuzhou city. DNA

## People of KP are enduring severe hardships while provincial govt placed politics above public welfare: Fazl

Says 26th Constitutional Amendment introduces laws that make citizens feel like suspects in their own country

PESHAWAR: In a sharp critique of recent legislative changes, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said Pakistan's 26th Constitutional Amendment has introduced laws that make citizens feel like suspects in their own country. Fazlur Rehman's comments came in Peshawar, where he offered condolences on the death of prominent political figure Ilyas Bilour.

"The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are enduring severe hardships," he told reporters, alleging that the provincial government has placed politics above public welfare. "Their entire focus is on politics rather than on maintaining peace, which is wrong," he added. The JUI-F leader criticised the removal of Article 8 during the 26th Amendment, which he claims has opened the door for laws that infringe upon basic rights.

"Following this amendment, legislation has been rushed that violates human rights," he said. According to Rehman, these laws permit authorities to detain anyone for up to 90 days without due process. "Such measures have created a climate where people feel like suspects within their own borders," Fazlur Rehman remarked, voicing concerns over the impact on civil liberties.

## Mushahid welcomes Trump's resolve to contain 'Deep State'; defines Pakistani 'red lines' in Keynote speech

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has welcomed Donald Trump's election as US President, terming it as good for world peace and also welcomed his resolve to control the US 'Deep State'. In a Keynote address at the 'Margalla Dialogue', Mushahid Hussain Sayed also defined the 'red lines' in Pakistan's national security and foreign policy, listing these as the nuclear/missile programs, Occupied Kashmir & Palestine, China/CPEC, rejection of Indian hegemony and refusal to be party to any destabilisation of Iran. Referring to the conference them 'Emerging Global Realities', he cited new realities as retrenchment of Western and American power with diminished clout, the peaceful rise of China and resurgence of the Global South, with the likely emergence of Muslim Middle Powers like Pakistan, Türkiye, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia playing pivotal regional roles in the coming decade. APP

## Nations at Jeddah conference pledge to combat antimicrobial resistance



UNITED NATIONS: The 4th Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) wrapped up Saturday with the adoption of the Jeddah Commitments, which lay out practical, actionable and cross-sectoral steps stakeholders can take to address this complex health issue, according to the document released by the UN.

(Antimicrobial resistance, or AMR happens when germs develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. It can spread between people, animals, and the environment, and can cause deadly infections.)

Immediately following the adoption of the commitments in the Saudi coastal city, the host country's Minister of Health Fahad Al-Jalal said the conference outcome provides "critical building blocks" for member states and international bodies to significantly act against antimicrobial resistance, and that it builds on the Political Declaration on AMR adopted at a High-Level UN General Assembly meeting a few weeks ago in New York.

The commitments highlight the role of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, which is comprised of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). They also call for the creation of a new 'biotech bridge' aimed at boosting research, development and innovation to find solutions to the global threat.

Minister Al-Jalal announced the establishment of an AMR 'One Health' Learning Hub and a regional Antimicrobial Access and Logistics Hub in Saudi Arabia to foster global collaboration and improve access to essential antimicrobials and diagnostics.

Welcoming the adoption of the Jeddah Commitments, Jacqueline Alvarez, head of UNEP's Chemicals and Health Branch, said the outcome document is an example of successful multilateralism and "the benefits of working jointly among the different sectors". She added: "The Jeddah Commitments bring everybody that has a role to play together for action."

Ms. Alvarez said the document recognizes that countries have different capabilities to address antimicrobial resistance and specifically refers to developing countries and how they can

engage. "We cannot leave anyone behind — meaning that we must ensure that everybody can grow together and not widen the gap among countries," she explained to UN News, a media website.

The UNEP official stressed the need to scale up finance, "not only in the traditional way, but also by creating opportunities to develop further research, and create green and sustainable solutions, which would allow everyone to feel that they have opportunities while they are protecting themselves."

The Jeddah conference and the earlier High-Level General Assembly meeting both focused on the social and economic dimensions of the AMR problem, "which have not been thoroughly discussed yet," she said.

Stakeholders were eager to build on the global political momentum and rally behind the fight against AMR. Just as the conference ended, they met in parallel at the Ritz-Carlton in Jeddah for the second plenary assembly of the ARM Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform to chart a way forward and turn the fresh commitments into practical reality, UN News said. The platform is one of the three governance structures established by the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR and hosted by FAO. It brings together 250 members "from the very grassroots level to the global level."

Elaborating the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform Coordinator, Nelea Motriuc, explained that AMR was previously viewed as a technical issue to be discussed among doctors and veterinarians, but "everything changed" with the first General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the global threat in 2016.

"A high-level meeting at the General Assembly can really help build momentum and shine a spotlight on a development issue," she added. Ms. Motriuc said the Platform is a unique "multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary, multilevel and multidimensional" mechanism that is "not only talking [about], but doing" the work across the One Health spectrum, with an aim to "to break silos, build bridges, and create an ecosystem of all the actors, dimensions and processes working together."

This is done through 13, so-called action groups that focus on global, regional, sectoral, and even topic-specific actions and recommendations. APP

## President strongly condemns terrorist attack in Kalat

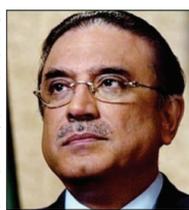
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned terrorist attack on checkpoint in Kalat.

The president expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of brave soldiers in the terrorist attack.

Terrorist elements are enemies of the nation, aiming to sabotage the journey of progress, he said adding that the people of Balochistan reject terrorist elements.

The president stressed that the terrorists will not be allowed to disrupt the peace of Balochistan. He also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured in the incident.

Offering his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, the president prayed for their patience and strength. APP



## ICT Police hold rank pinning ceremony to honor newly promoted officers

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory Police (ICT) hosted a distinguished rank pinning ceremony at the SP Swan Zone office on Sunday to honor the promotion of officers.

A public relation officer told APP that the event was organized under the supervision of Superintendent of Police (SP) Swan Zone, Pari Gul Tareen.

He said that the event was organized by Pari Gul Tareen to recognize the exemplary dedication and commitment of the officers to their duties.

The newly promoted officers were acknowledged and congratulated by SP Tareen for their hard work.

Addressing the officers during the ceremony, the SP Swan Zone emphasized the increased responsibilities that accompany their new ranks.

Pari Gul highlighted the clear directives issued by the IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi to ensure that promotions continue to be granted



for all vacant positions.

SP Pari Gul expressed that their well-deserved promotions are a testament to their hard work and unwavering efforts. With their elevation in rank, they have been entrusted with greater responsibilities than ever before.

Pari Gul encouraged the newly promoted officers to fulfill their duties with utmost dedication, upholding the reputation of their department and striving for the betterment of the police force.

## Pakistan sets unique precedent at COP29 by convening justice-led panels on Climate Finance

BAKU: Pakistan has become the only country to convene two separate panel discussions led by senior justices focused on the critical issue of climate finance at the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The COP29 is currently being held at the Baku Stadium in Azerbaijan, running from November 11 to 22, 2024, and is setting the stage for the next phase of global climate action.

Pakistan, which has consistently ranked among the top five countries most affected by climate change, took a bold step to highlight the role of the judiciary in shaping climate policy and finance. The panels were designed to address the urgent need for climate finance as a tool for achieving climate justice, especially for the Global South, which continues to bear the brunt of climate disasters despite contributing minimally to global emissions.

The first panel, titled "Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice – Judicial Approaches for Addressing Climate Change through Global Analysis," was moderated by Justice



Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan. The panel featured prominent global legal voices including Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, and senior judges from Nepal, Belgium, Brazil, and Pakistan. The panel emphasized the growing gap in climate finance, with developing countries needing \$4 trillion to tackle climate change impacts. Senator Rehman highlighted the critical need for scaling up climate finance, stressing that countries like Pakistan – with less than one percent

of global carbon emissions – are paying the heaviest price in terms of climate-related disasters. She underscored the urgency of fulfilling financial commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage funds. Other speakers, including Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Justice Sapana Malla of Nepal, discussed the intersection of human rights and climate rights, the failure of wealthy nations to meet financial obligations, and the need for judicial leadership in

holding governments accountable for climate action.

Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court reinforced the pioneering role of Pakistan's judiciary in advancing climate justice, particularly through landmark judgments and legal frameworks that have prioritized the right to a clean and healthy environment. He cited Pakistan's Constitutional framework and its proactive steps in addressing climate finance and adaptation.

Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin of Brazil also spoke on the evolving role of the judiciary in shaping legal regimes for climate change, advocating for stronger international collaboration among judges to enforce climate commitments.

The second panel, titled "Integrating Science into Judicial Decision Making" chaired by Justice Ayesha A. Malik of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, focused on the integration of climate science into judicial decision-making. Panelists included leading experts such as Dr. Adil Najam, Dr. Fahad Saeed, and Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, who stressed the need for judicial systems to adopt and understand climate science to make informed decisions. APP