



Pakistan and the UK already share a strong and fruitful trade partnership, and there is significant potential to build upon this foundation

Federal Minister for Commerce
Jam Kamal Khan

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Ishaq Dar stresses upon political forces to abstain from compromising Pakistan's foreign policy

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has urged all political forces to desist from compromising Pakistan's foreign policy in pursuance of their political objectives.

Responding to media queries regarding the comments made by the spouse of PTI founder, he said implicating Saudi Arabia for petty political point scoring is regrettable and indicative of a desperate mindset.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are close friends and brothers. This relationship is based on mutual respect. He said we have great admiration for Saudi Arabia's journey of development and prosperity.

He said the Pakistani nation is proud of its close relationship with Saudi Arabia which has always stood by Pakistan through thick and thin. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Alexandra Berg von Linde Friday called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed matters of mutual interests.

Pakistan, UK explore enhanced trade relations through B2B engagements

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan-Britain Business Council (PBBC) led by John Tucknott on Friday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to enhance trade relations and foster business-to-business (B2B) collaborations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK).

During the meeting, Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the importance of strengthening B2B engagements to unlock new opportunities in trade and investment between the two nations, said a news release. He highlighted that Pakistan and the UK already share a strong and fruitful trade partnership, and there is significant potential to build upon this foundation. The minister also appreciated the active role played by the Pakistani diaspora in the UK in promoting trade and economic ties. "Our diaspora is a bridge between the two countries and has been instrumental in fostering a deeper economic relationship," he added.

John Tucknott, representing PBBC, echoed the minister's sentiments, expressing optimism about future collaborations aimed at mutual growth.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding reforms in Information Technology sector.

Venom against Saudi Arabia unforgivable crime; nation to break such hand: PM

Shehbaz Sharif said that Saudi Arabia attached no strings or preconditions to its support to Pakistan and the current leadership had also asked its administration to invest in Pakistan as MoUs worth billions of dollars had already been signed

VOM Report

TAUNSA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, recounting Saudi Arabia's unconditional financial and diplomatic support to Pakistan, warned that any venom-spitting against such a brotherly country was an unforgivable crime and called for the national unity to counter such anti-state elements.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration of the Restoration of Kachhi Canal damaged by 2022 floods, said whether it was the Kashmir issue, the United Nations or the UN Security Council, Saudi Arabia always acted as Pakistan's advocate and benefactor, as the Kingdom also bailed out Pakistan recently to seek IMF program.

"Despite this, such venom-spitting is an unforgivable crime. I as the prime minister of Pakistan want to announce that the nation will break any hand trying to undermine the Pakistan-Saudi friendship. This is not a joke. The allegation is beyond understanding. The largest national interest is being 'slaughtered' to serve the short-term political interest," he

remarked after inaugurating the project that will irrigate over 715,000 acres of land in Balochistan and revive life in the area turned barren after the floods.

The prime minister told the ceremony also attended by federal ministers Attaullah Tarar, Ahsan Iqbal, Awaiz Leghari and Dr Musaddik Malik, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, that during the last 77 years, Saudi Arabia attached no strings or preconditions to its support to Pakistan and the current leadership had also asked its administration to invest in Pakistan as MoUs worth billions of dollars had already been signed.

Commenting on a statement by the spouse of PTI founder regarding Saudi Arabia, he said: "There can be no animosity to Pakistan bigger than this" and explained that such people were naive to the magnitude of the damage through their "venomous" words. Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled the Kingdom's support to Pakistan after it carried out the nuclear tests in 1998 in the form of a free-of-charge oil facility as well as financial support. He told the gathering that the feasibility study

of the Kachhi Canal Project was started in 1998 during Nawaz Sharif's tenure and was completed in his second tenure after suffering a lot during Pervez Musharraf time.

He appreciated the WAPDA and Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and their respective team for accomplishing the repair project and assured the federal government's all-out support for the second phase.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also appreciated the Balochistan chief minister for reviving the merit-based order and launching the solarisation of tube-wells. Similarly, he also spoke highly for the Punjab Chief Minister for launching the project of a cancer hospital, free tractor scheme for farmers to bring about the agricultural revolution and other initiatives in the education and health sectors. Earlier, in her address, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the canal project would bring about prosperity in Balochistan besides enhancing closeness among the provinces. She said the credit for all mega public welfare projects like motorways, scholarships to youth, modern transport facilities including Orange Line, Metro or Speedo buses and student bikes went to the PML-N governments.

Army Chief General Asim Munir vows to dismantle hostile terrorist networks

Says unparalleled sacrifices being rendered for the defense of the motherland



RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reiterated the Army's firm resolve to dismantle hostile terrorist networks and eradicate the illegal spectrum undermining national security.

He expressed this resolve during his visit to Peshawar on Friday, as a follow up of the National Apex Committee meeting held on Tuesday last and prelude to Provincial Apex Committee Meeting to be held soon.

Highlighting the collective determination of the nation and its security forces to combat terrorism, the Army Chief stressed thwarting the nefarious designs of inimical elements remains a top priority. He assured that through synchronized and robust operations, Pakistan Army in collaboration with Law Enforcement Agencies will relentlessly hunt down the enemies of peace to ensure lasting stability and security.

The Army Chief was provided a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation and the progress of ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the region.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and field commanders were also present on the occasion.

Paying profound tribute to the Shuhada and Ghazis, General Syed Asim Munir emphasized the unparalleled sacrifices being rendered for the defense of the motherland. He remarked that these sacrifices serve as a cornerstone of national resilience, inspiring and unwavering dedication of the Armed Forces and of Law Enforcement Agencies.

The Army Chief commended the high morale, operational readiness, and unyielding commitment of the troops in effectively countering all forms of threats.

Upon his arrival, the Army Chief was received by the Corps Commander Peshawar.

Mohsin Naqvi declares Rs 500m for National Police Academy

Also congratulates the officers for passing out from the academy



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday announced Rs500 million for National Police Academy. He was addressing the passing-out parade at the National Police Academy in Islamabad on Friday.

Mohsin Naqvi said that it is the responsibility of the police to serve the people and treat them with dignity.

The interior minister emphasised the importance of police in addressing the problems of the public.

He vowed to transform the National Police Academy into a world-class institution, equipped with the latest facilities.

He mentioned that a task force has also been established for this purpose. "I want the National Police Academy to work just like the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul," said Naqvi.

He said that qualified and professional officers would be deputed in this academy with special allowances.

The interior minister also congratulated the officers for passing out from the academy. SABAH

PBBC chairman, Tanveer discuss ways to increase cooperation in industrial, agriculture sectors

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan-Britain Business Council (PBBC) John Tucknott CMG MBE on Friday met with Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and discussed ways and means to increase cooperation in diverse fields including industry and agriculture. During the meeting, the two sides also agreed to work together to further enhance the trade relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK), said a news release.

The PBBC delegation includes the Council's CEO Rashid Iqbal, Head of Trade and Investment UK Adeel Khan, Senior Advisor for Trade and Government Relations Saima Anjad, Director of Trade and Investment Waqar Ullah and Chief Coordinator for UK and Pakistan Umamiah Riaz.

Rana Tanveer emphasized that both countries should increase trade volume and highlighted the potential for British companies to invest in the electric vehicle manufacturing sector.

John Tucknott agreed to enhance bilateral relations in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Planning minister vows to increase ports' efficiency, boost trade



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to strengthening seaports' efficiency, boosting trade and ensuring sustainable economic development in the country.

He expressed this resolve while chairing a consultative meeting on enhancing the efficiency of Karachi ports by improving hinterland connectivity.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, Member Infrastructure Waqas Anwar, CEO of the Public Private Partnership Authority, besides senior representatives from the Ministries of Maritime Affairs, Communications, Railways, Aviation Division and Commerce Division, a news release said.

During the meeting, Member Infrastructure Waqas Anwar presented a detailed briefing on improving port efficiency, providing a progress update from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding a committee constituted by the Prime Minister's Office to address cross-cutting issues at Karachi Port.

He highlighted that Pakistan's merchandise trade as a percentage of GDP stood at 26 percent, significantly lower than the global average of 44 percent. "From 2015 to 2020, Pakistan's ports handled over 3 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of container traffic annually, with approximately two-thirds managed at Karachi's three terminals and the remainder at Port Qasim."

He pointed out that rail access to Karachi Port was underutilized, with nearly all cargo transported via road, leading to congestion and environmental challenges. "Existing rail facil-

ities are insufficient for efficient goods transfer due to their limited capacity for loading and unloading operations."

Karachi Port faces significant road congestion due to ban on trucks movement from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., affecting traffic flow into and out of port areas. Port Qasim, on the other hand, benefits from better road connectivity (N-5 and M-9 via Eastern Bypass) but may face road access congestion by 2030 if rail connectivity is not improved.

To address these challenges, the Member Infrastructure proposed short and long-term measures.

The short-term measures include implementing 24/7 port operations while scheduling freight truck movements to reduce congestion. Freight trucks would use port gates only during pre-arranged schedules.

For long-term solutions, it was recommended to develop an elevated expressway as a priority project to ease road congestion.

Simultaneous investments in rail infrastructure were also proposed to enhance up-country freight transport efficiency and reduce overall transportation costs. Both projects should progress concurrently to maximize long-term benefits.

After detailed discussions, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of resolving these challenges for national economic growth, directing the formation of a committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Planning, Port Qasim Authority, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, National Highway Authority (NHA) and Ministry of Railways. The committee has been tasked with reviewing the issues comprehensively and presenting a consensus-based solution within two weeks.

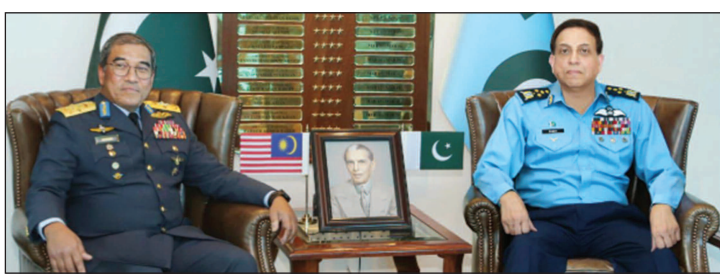
Malaysian Air Force Chief calls on Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu

ISLAMABAD: During his first-ever visit to Pakistan, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Friday at Air Headquarters.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, military cooperation, joint training and collaboration in the industrial domain, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan.

Malaysian Air Force Chief calls on Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the robust bilateral defence ties that exist between Pakistan and Malaysia.



He conveyed his warm wishes to Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force on his maiden visit to Pakistan and highlighted the importance of collaboration in training, joint exercises and technology sharing. The Air Chief also reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing military partnership between the two Air Forces through joint training initiatives, particularly within the realm of air power. These initiatives will encompass provisioning of both basic and tactical level training for

personnel of the Malaysian Air Force. The Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force lauded Pakistan Air Force's achievements through indigenization and technological advancements. The visiting dignitary expressed his keen desire to further consolidate the existing bilateral ties through enhanced collaboration in training, maintenance and operational excellence. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan expressed his deep admiration for

the state of the art technological ecosystem witnessed by him during his visit to National Aerospace Science & Technology Park Silicon.

He also appreciated the innovative projects, cutting-edge technologies and indigenously developed systems displayed at PAF NASTP pavilion during the ongoing International Defence Exhibition IDEAS-2024.

Later, the dignitary visited various installations and technological infrastructure established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad including National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF Cyber Command, where he was briefed about the operational capabilities of Pakistan Air Force.

The meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force and Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force signifies a resolute commitment to reinforce military partnership, fostering collaboration and promoting robust relations between the two countries. PR

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Tantamount to travesty

A DANISH KHAN

Knowledge can perhaps be broken down, at its core, into two fundamental elements: (i) the conceptual aspect which is the foundation upon which it is built; and (ii) the medium through which it is relayed. While it may suffice, for the sake of personal consumption, that one focus solely on the internalisation of knowledge through appreciation of the conceptual aspect, the propagators of knowledge must be adept masters of the medium, save which an injustice is bound to be committed to their consumers.

The medium of which I speak, in case it was so far unclear, is language. The nature of the concept depends on the discipline. Opinions sway politics and philosophy, while in the world of hard sciences, facts reign supreme. But the commonality for every discipline, in fact each atomic denomination of knowledge, is that its proliferation is contingent on its ability to be effectively communicated. Hence, the indispensability of the medium.

My grievances towards the pillage of linguistics in Pakistan in the bureaucracy, politics, academia and unfortunately innumerable other disciplines and spheres are innumerable. But this article shall focus on a single error committed by our most respected

This article focuses on single error committed by our respected judiciary which haunts me more than I would care to admit

judiciary which haunts me more than I would care to admit. Judgments of the honourable courts are penned down and exist to deliver justice and develop the law. Both are daunting tasks that require not only that said judgments be accurate and precise for the clarification of sometimes complex legal issues, but also that they retain a form that permits their consumption by the masses. This may arguably place the judiciary as the most significant arbiter of linguistic clarity owing to its role as the interpreter of words that determine the rights and responsibilities of all. In this context, errors can be ill-afforded on occasion, never in perpetuity.

Owing to a lack of space, I will further confine my focus to the (mis)usage of a single word: 'tantamount'. And to the atrocious form, it should never be permitted to take 'tantamounts'. For reference, dear reader, even as I type this piece out on Microsoft Word, the latter form invites the unprejudiced wrath of the red underline.

I have attempted, first, to trace the origins of this error – though I must seek your forgiveness in case I am found guilty of attributing the original sin to the wrong author. The earliest occasion of such usage in legal parlance appears to be traceable to the Subcontinent. However, to a petty and inexplicable degree of relief, the introduction of the error appears attributable to a Justice Edward Hamilton Wallace who presided as a judge of the Madras High Court during colonial times. Only much later did our esteemed judges, in a fashion that is typical of faith-based precedential reliance, find themselves following suit. This was in 1968. Unfortunately, however, the error has been repeated persistently since then and as recently as the year we currently find ourselves in.

To definitively make my point and to not bore the reader more than is necessary, I would like to now very briefly discuss the etymology of the word 'tantamount'. The origins are rooted either in the Anglo-French phrase tant amunter or the Italian phrase tanto montare. While the majority of sources lean towards the former, we need not decode this aspect of the dispute since both phrases translate to mean 'to amount to as much'.

This humble word is categorised, across the board, as an adjective and not, I repeat, not a verb. For this reason, there appears to be no grammatical or linguistic justification to state that one 'tantamounts to' another; as far too often our learned judges tend to. Rather, one thing 'is tantamount to' the other. Perhaps the confusion first arose from a misguided belief of its interchangeable use with the word 'amount', which can in fact be employed as a verb to say that something 'amounts to' something else. Needless to say, the confusion remains inexcusable because in law far too much often turns on the interpretation of even smaller words than this.

Apart from fundamentally flawed usage, further disservice has been done in the process. There is a negative connotation to the word 'tantamount' which has been lost in the erroneous treatment to which it has been subjected.

Perhaps we would never have encountered this error if more legal professionals were attuned to reading beyond their mandatory hardcovers. But as things stand, this appears to be an extraordinary expectation. But I would, therefore, pray most respectfully that if this author's feeble attempt at righting a wrong can be appreciated, that (sans the ascription of any credit) any reader in a position to do so cease to misuse a defenceless word and accept this humbly suggested remedial measure from this day forth.

The writer is an advocate of the high courts.



Dr Imran Khalid

Global AI governance

On November 8, in a groundbreaking move, a United Nations committee took its first definitive step toward regulating artificial intelligence (AI) in military applications.

Spearheaded by South Korea and the Netherlands, the resolution – adopted by an overwhelming majority of 165 countries, including the US, Japan, and China – signals a growing global consensus over the potential impact of AI on military and security dynamics. Set to be presented for a vote at the full General Assembly next month, the resolution underscores the need to apply international law to military AI, aiming to balance innovation with the risks it entails.

The resolution outlines measures to bridge the AI gap between developing and advanced nations, emphasising capacity-building efforts and urging the responsible use of AI in military contexts. Notably, it also requests a U. report compiling perspectives from member states, international organisations, and academic experts on the role of AI in military scenarios.

This development marks the third major step by the UN towards the global governance of AI. Earlier this year, on July 3, the United Nations General Assembly adopted another resolution advocating for a "free, open, inclusive, and non-discriminatory" environment for AI development. Crucially, this resolution called on wealthier nations to address the widening AI gap with developing countries, promoting a more equitable landscape for emerging technologies. This followed an earlier milestone in March when the UN adopted its first-ever AI-focused initiative. Co-sponsored by 123 nations, this resolution emphasised making AI "safe, secure, and trustworthy" while ensuring its benefits

are accessible to all.

The adoption of these two non-binding resolutions represents a turning point in global collaboration on AI governance. Meanwhile, in parallel with these efforts, the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) officially came into effect on August 1, 2024. This landmark legislation, proposed by the European Commission in April 2021, underscores the EU's commitment to steering AI development responsibly. Following months of negotiations, the Act received the backing of the European Parliament and Council in December 2023, marking a pivotal moment in AI regulation.

At its core, the AI Act aims to mitigate the risks AI poses to citizens' health, safety, and fundamental rights. It sets out specific guidelines for developers and users, with obligations tailored to the AI system's intended application. While promoting stringent safety and ethical standards, the Act also seeks to minimise unnecessary financial and administrative burdens for businesses working in AI. The ultimate goal is to foster innovation and growth in the field while ensuring these advancements align with broader societal values and safeguards.

The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act is a bold declaration in a world increasingly shaped by AI, marking a critical step toward rigorous monitoring of a technology transitioning from novelty to necessity. The legislation not only addresses current AI advancements but also anticipates future challenges posed by general-purpose AI and other systems requiring robust ethical and safety frameworks. By managing this complex duality – fostering innovation while addressing potential risks – the Act sends a clear message: AI development must align with public safety and ethical standards.

The stakes are undeniably high. The AI Act is more than just a regional European initiative; it is a call to action for global accountability. By prioritising transparency and integrity, the legislation challenges major players in the AI space to adhere to stringent standards, which,

in turn, can yield something even more valuable than market access: public trust. As AI becomes increasingly embedded in everyday life, the demand for clear, ethical, and safe practices is escalating.

This concern is not limited to Europe. From the US to Asia, there is a growing consensus that robust regulatory oversight is essential, positioning the EU as a potential blueprint for other nations grappling with AI's rapid integration. For policymakers worldwide, the EU's approach offers valuable lessons. Those who act swiftly to establish clear, responsible boundaries for AI will shape the technology's future – not as an unchecked force but as a tool aligned with societal needs.

The AI Act highlights a timeless truth: with great technological power comes even greater responsibility. In blending caution with ambition, the EU's regulatory framework serves as a model for balancing innovation with a commitment to public safety and ethics. It reinforces a powerful message: innovation need not come at the expense of trust.

The governance of AI, however, extends beyond technical considerations – it is deeply entwined with geopolitical strategy. In the global race led by the US, China, and the EU, Western powers are not just drafting regulations; they are building alliances that form the foundation of a new digital order. This is a world where competition and cooperation coexist, and trust becomes both a bridge and a battleground.

In an era where AI holds staggering potential, national trust can be dissected into pragmatic dimensions: rational trust, value-based trust, and the elusive environmental trust. Building a global AI security framework requires a multilayered approach to trust, rooted not in idealism but in calculated national interests.

While nations prioritise their strategic goals, they must foster an atmosphere of collaboration to create a sustainable and robust approach to AI. This emerging model does not promise harmony but aims for mutual respect that transcends borders. By managing this delicate bal-

ancing act of cooperation and competition, global AI governance can evolve into an inclusive and effective framework.

Such an approach provides a pathway to shared security and benefit, weaving AI's immense power into the fabric of international engagement. The hope is that its advantages will be widely and responsibly distributed. However, as competition among major nations intensifies, trust becomes pivotal in managing AI's disruptive effects. Although international relations are often marked by mutual suspicion, trust can serve as a counterweight, transforming competition into a cooperative force.

A trust-based framework for global AI governance requires a delicate blend of cooperation, ethics, and strategic foresight. For this framework to succeed, nations must agree on unified technical standards and ethical guidelines while prioritising data security and privacy protections. Public participation and social oversight are also critical to establishing the transparency needed for trust to flourish.

The real challenge lies in maintaining a balance between innovation and responsibility. Effective AI governance must not only encourage technological progress but also implement rigorous risk assessments and response mechanisms to guard against potential harms. Strengthening mutual trust through value-based and environmental considerations can deepen international cooperation, creating a more resilient governance structure.

In an interconnected world increasingly shaped by AI, global collaboration is imperative. By building a framework rooted in trust and shared responsibility, nations can ensure that AI serves humanity's best interests. This approach promises not just technological advancement but also a more secure and equitable world. Ultimately, fostering trust among nations will safeguard against risks while maximising the benefits of AI for all.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

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



Though portions of the Islamic economy have remained in place, the state began in the 1990s to privatise—in whole or in part—large sectors of the nationalized economy. The economy, which was primarily agricultural at the time of independence, has become considerably diversified. Agriculture, now no longer the largest sector, contributes roughly one-fifth of GDP, while manufacturing provides about one-sixth. Trade and services, which combined constitute the largest component of the economy, have grown considerably. In

terms of the structure of its economy, Pakistan resembles the middle-income countries of East and Southeast Asia more than the poorer countries of the Indian subcontinent. Economic performance compares favourably with that of many other developing countries; Pakistan has maintained a sustained and fairly steady annual growth rate since independence. At the same time, there has been a relentless increase in population, so, despite real growth in the economy, output per capita has risen only slowly. This slow growth in per capita income has not coincided with a high

incidence of absolute poverty, however, which has been considerably smaller in Pakistan than in other South Asian countries. Nonetheless, a significant proportion of the population lives below the poverty line, and the relative prosperity of the industrialized regions around Karachi and Lahore contrasts sharply with the poverty of the Punjab's barani areas, semiarid Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Overall, approximately one-fourth of Pakistan is arable land, although only small fractions of that are in permanent crops (about 1 percent) or per-

manent pastures (6 percent). Roughly 5 percent of the country is forested. Nonetheless, agriculture, forestry, and fishing still provide employment for the single largest proportion of the labour force and a livelihood for an even larger segment of the population. Land-reform programs implemented in 1959, 1972, and 1977 began to deal with the problems of large-scale, often absentee ownership of land and the excessive fragmentation of small holdings by introducing maximum and minimum area limits.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Amy Adams finds herself while filming 'Nightbitch'

'Nightbitch' is set to premier worldwide on December 6



Amy Adams shared her self-exploring experience while shooting for Nightbitch. The actress revealed her thoughts during the movie's Los Angeles premiere on Thursday night.

"I had just come off of a play, so I was already working on a deficit of sleep and being very tired. I had a lot of a sense memory of being a parent and sort of the exhaustion that comes with that," Adams told The Hollywood Reporter on the carpet of the filming experience.

"I think, with this, I just wanted to meet the character where I was, and so it was wonderful to not have to pretend to be different than I was on set," she said. "I feel like I really was able to channel my own experiences through this." The Justice League alum, who played in writer-director Marielle Heller's horror-comedy film, depicts the character known just as "Mother" as she deals with motherhood and realizes she might be turning into a dog.

The writer said she always wished to make a movie about motherhood for a while when she stumbled upon author Rachel Yoder's 2021 novel of the same name. "It was like she'd been staring and spying on my brain. I felt so seen by it," the filmmaker said. "I felt like she was saying the thoughts that I had kept secret in my head out loud." Adams, Heller, Anne Carey, Sue Nagle, Stacy O'Neil and Christina Oh served as producers. Nightbitch, the thriller, initially premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and is set to hit theaters on December 6.

Tech

Google must divest Chrome to restore competition in online search: DOJ

Alphabet's Google must sell its Chrome browser, share data and search results with rivals and take other measures — including possibly selling Android — to end its monopoly on online search, prosecutors argued to a judge on Wednesday.

The measures presented by the Department of Justice are part of a landmark case in Washington which has the potential to reshape how users find information.

They would be in place for up to a decade, enforced via a court-appointed committee to remedy what the judge overseeing the case deemed an illegal monopoly in search and related advertising in the US, where Google processes 90% of searches. "Google's unlawful behavior has deprived rivals not only of critical distribution channels but also distribution partners who could otherwise enable entry into these markets by competitors in new and innovative ways," the DOJ and state antitrust enforcers said in a court filing on Wednesday. Their proposals include ending

exclusive agreements in which Google pays billions of dollars annually to Apple and other device vendors to make its search engine the default on their tablets and smartphones. Google called the proposals staggering in a statement on Thursday.

"DOJ's approach would result in unprecedented government overreach that would harm American consumers, developers, and small businesses - and jeopardise America's global economic and technological leadership at precisely the moment it's needed most," said Alphabet Chief Legal Officer Kent Walker. US District Judge Amit Mehta has scheduled a trial on the proposals for April, though President-elect Donald Trump and the DOJ's next antitrust head could step in and change course in the case.

The proposals are wide-ranging, including barring Google from re-entering the browser market for five years and insisting Google sell its Android mobile operating system if other remedies fail to restore competition.

Pakistan's polio tally hits 52

Latest cases reported from KP's Tehsil Darazinda in District Dera Ismail Khan

Two new cases of polio virus have emerged from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, raising the total number of affected children in Pakistan this year to 52 as the country continues to witness a rise in paralysing disease despite eradication efforts.

The health authorities confirmed the latest diagnoses, saying that the new cases were reported from KP's Tehsil Darazinda in District Dera Ismail Khan. The two children affected by the disease are an 18-month-old boy and a three-year-old girl.

As per the latest stats, KP has so far reported

13 polio cases, while Balochistan remains the most affected region, with 24 cases.

In Sindh, 13 cases have been documented, while Punjab and Islamabad have each reported one case of polio this year.

Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world where the wild poliovirus continues to spread. This persistence is largely attributed to obstacles such as insecurity, misinformation, and community reluctance, which hinder vaccination efforts.

Health authorities continue to stress the importance of vaccination campaigns to curb the

spread of this preventable disease, which remains a significant public health challenge in the country.

The highly contagious viral disease predominantly affects children under five, particularly those with weak immunity or inadequate vaccination coverage.

The virus attacks the nervous system, potentially leading to paralysis or even death.

While no cure exists for polio, vaccination remains the most reliable defence against this debilitating disease, according to health experts.

Health



SC rejects petition seeking direct vote for minorities in general elections

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has rejected a petition seeking direct vote for minorities in general elections saying that all citizens were equal according to the Constitution and there was no precedent in world democracies of separate voting on the basis of religion. Former Minister for Minorities and Convener of World Minorities Alliance J Salik, in his petition, had pleaded the apex Court that minorities in Pakistan should be given an opportunity to elect their representatives to the parliament through a direct vote in general elections. Pakistan's cuisine.

The counsel for the petitioner argued before the Court that there were 60 seats in the National Assembly for women while 10 for minorities but all the 70 seats are filled by the parliamentary parties through proportionate representation depriving minorities to elect their representatives through a direct vote. The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, however rejected the petition. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, during the proceedings, remarked that fundamental rights are for all the citizens equally and separate voting for minorities may pave way to discrimination. Only the parliament has the authority to legislate if any such change is required. Justice Jamal Mandokhail objected to the term 'minority' and said that it should be replaced with non-Muslim as none is minority and all citizens are equal before the law and under the Constitution.

CDA will send 60 lucky male, female employees to perform Hajj



ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) will send some 60 lucky male and female employees to perform the Hajj next year.

A ceremonial draw, conducted on Friday through a computerised system, ensured transparency in selecting non-gazetted employees from Grade 1 to Grade 16. Chairman of CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Islamabad's Inspector General of Police presided over the event. Attended by CDA Board Members, Labour Union General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen, and a large gathering of staff, the ceremony marked an increase in the Hajj quota from 50 to 60 employees this year. Addressing the audience, Chairman Randhawa extended heartfelt congratulations to the selected employees, calling them "the fortunate ones" chosen by Allah for this noble act of worship. He urged them to remember their families, the country's prosperity, and CDA's progress in their prayers during this spiritual journey.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan in the signing event of successful privatisation of Services International Hotel.

Yousaf Raza Gillani along with Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar visits NEOC at NDMA HQs

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani along with Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Senator from Baluchistan visited National Emergencies Operations Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters on Friday.

A comprehensive capability exposition was conducted for the Parliamentarian delegates showcasing Pakistan's indigenous state-of-art, hub of disaster's early warning and response spectrum. The session highlighted the critical necessity for utilization of tech-driven disaster projections and predictive analysis to transform Pakistan's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) cycle proactively in alignment with global standards and tech driven smart response framework.

Chairman Senate exclaimed his immense appreciation of the national miracle project-NEOC. He commended NEOC's potential to guide regional countries and all stakeholder partners to enable strategic climate diplomacy space globally. He lauded the integration of advanced technology in disaster management and stated that proactive interface of artificial intelligence, disaster's modelling platforms and synergy of national responders is crucial for timely and effective response. He was specifically impressed by the dedication and expertise of young NDMA domain experts and leading the example.



Chairman Senate expressed their satisfaction over the disaster response mechanism and were appreciative of its compatibility with the evolving challenges. — VOM Report

Azam Nazir Tarar calls on H.E. Hamish Falconer MP, the UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East

ISLAMABAD: Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Human Rights, held a meeting with H.E. Hamish Falconer MP, the UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, representing the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in human rights, justice reforms, and addressing climate change challenges. During the meeting, Senator Azam Nazeer

Tarar outlined Pakistan's progress in human rights, particularly emphasizing the National Action Plan on Human Rights, which provides a robust framework for policy reforms and the implementation of international conventions. He highlighted the critical role of independent commissions, such as the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), in safeguarding human rights and advancing gender equality across Pakistan.

The Minister discussed steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to prevent the misuse of laws, including the Blasphemy Law, and to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including minorities. He referenced the recently developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) aimed at ensuring justice and curbing exploitation. These SOPs emphasize forensic investigations, credible witness protection mechanisms, and ensuring impartiality in cases of alleged violations. APP

Three terrorists killed, two injured in Bannu security operation: ISPR

President Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz commend security forces for their successful operation



RAWALPINDI: Three terrorists were killed while two others were injured during intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu District, the military's media affairs wing said on Friday.

Facing a sharp uptick in the number of attacks targeting security forces and other law enforcement agencies, especially in KP and Balochistan, the state has intensified counterterrorism operations under Vision Azm-i-Istehkam.

According to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted an IBO in Bannu District in the early hours of November 22 on the "reported presence of khwarij".

"During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location, as a result of which, three khwarij were sent to hell while two khwarij got injured," the statement read.

In July, the government had designated the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as Fitna al Khawarij, while mandating all institutions to use the term khariji (outcast) when referring to perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Pakistan.

In its statement, the ISPR said weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who "remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians".

A sanitisation operation "was being carried out to eliminate any other khariji found in the area", the ISPR noted, reaffirming that the security forces of Pakistan were "determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country".

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended the security forces for their successful operation, said media reports.

In their separate statements, they reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the war against terrorism. PM Shehbaz asserted the government will continue to foil the evil designs of enemies of humanity.

The restive Bannu district has seen heightened militant violence of late. On Tuesday, 12 security personnel were martyred while six terrorists were killed after a checkpoint was targeted in the district's Mali Khel area.

Other recent incidents include the abduction of seven cops who were later recovered, an attack on a girls' school and a shootout that martyred three security men.

Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman promoted to rank of Rear Admiral



KARACHI: Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman Abid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect. Rear Admiral Ateeq ur Rehman Abid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995. The Flag Officer has completed various professional courses from national and international institutes. He has done International Security and Strategic Leadership Studies Course from UK, Naval Staff Course from USA, Pakistan Navy Staff Course from PN War College Lahore and National Security and War Course from National Defence University, Islamabad.

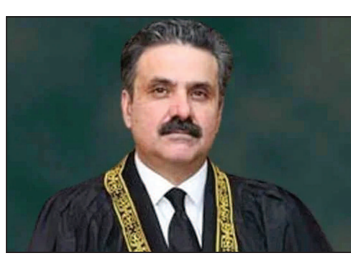
The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His major command appointments include Commanding Officer PNS MUJAHID, Commanding Officer PNS TARIQ, Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, Captain Training at Headquarters FOST, Director Operations at HQ PMSA, Chief Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Developmental Plans) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. In recognition of his meritorious service, the Admiral was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).

CJP extends Jail Reforms Initiative to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Yahya Afridi has underscored the need for a just and equitable criminal justice framework, emphasizing that a humane and efficient prison system forms its backbone.

The Chief Justice stated this while chairing a consultative meeting convened today at Peshawar. The CJP appreciated the prison management in KP, noting that 1,289 prisoners charged with minor offenses had been released through camp courts conducted by judicial officers over the past three months and urged other provinces to replicate these efforts to alleviate overcrowding. The meeting was in continuation to the series of nationwide discussions initiated earlier this month by the Chief Justice of Pakistan in Lahore and Islamabad, aimed at formulating a comprehensive National Jail Reform Policy. The agenda focused on prison reforms and inmate welfare as key components of a broader strategy to modernize Pakistan's criminal justice system.

The Chief Justice PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim highlighted the lack of rehabilitation facilities for the convicts in the province, stressing the need to develop a strong rehabilitation system for absorption of the convicts in the society. He proposed sentence remissions to inmates who achieve educational excellence during their confinement,



aligning with broader rehabilitation goals.

The meeting also focused on the LJCP's proposed National Jail Reform Policy, which aligns with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, and Beijing Rules. This policy aims to ensure the humane and rehabilitative management of correctional facilities across Pakistan. Participants expressed strong support for the proposal, emphasizing the importance of alternative sentencing options and rehabilitation programs for under-trial prisoners.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the recommendation to establish a Jail Reforms Committee to address pressing issues such as overcrowding, inmate welfare and case processing delays. The proposed Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a National Committee were also discussed, focusing on reducing under-trial detention, improving to inmates who achieve educational excellence during their confinement, comprehensive rehabilitation initia-

tives. To accelerate these efforts, the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Yahya Afridi announced the formation of a sub-committee for KP province, comprising Ms. Ayesha Bano (also to act as the coordinator), Mr Fazal Shakoor Khan, Mr Ahmad Karim Kundi, Mr Amjad Ali, and a representative of the Inspector General of Prisons.

This sub-committee shall compile a report on the situation prevailing in the jails of the province with respect to various categories of the inmates confined in the prisons of the province. The report prepared by this sub-committee shall be submitted to the Mr. Justice Qalandar Ali Khan (Retd.) for oversight and guidance. The findings of this report shall contribute in formulating a national prison reforms policy, which shall be based on the feedback received from all the provinces.

The sub-committee's priorities will include making recommendations for reducing the number of under-trial prisoners and promoting alternative sentencing options such as community service and probation. In the meeting, the participants also stressed the importance of expanding prison-based rehabilitative programs, including vocational training, mental health support and educational initiatives, to facilitate inmates' reintegration into society upon release. Moreover, it was also urged

that the forensic science facilities in the province may be upgraded.

Under the leadership of the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Yahya Afridi and with analytical support from the LJCP, these initiatives aim to prioritize humane treatment, rehabilitation of the inmates, and their efficient case management.

Other participants of the meeting included Mr Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Mr Justice Ijaz Anwar Khan, Administrative/Monitoring Judge for Prisons - Peshawar High Court, Mr Justice Qalandar Ali Khan, Former Judge, Peshawar High Court, Mr Shah Faisal Umankehl, Advocate General of KP, Mr Muhammad Abid Majeed, Additional Chief Secretary of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department, KP, Mr Akhtar Hayat Khan, Inspector General of KP Police, Mr Muhammad Usman, Inspector General KP Prisons, Mr Muhammad Salim Khan, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mr Iftikhar Khan, Registrar, Peshawar High Court, and the Ms Rifat Inam Butt, Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP). The session also participated by Ms Ayesha Bano, Social worker and activist, as well as members of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Mr Amjad Ali, Provincial Minister for Housing, Mr Fazal Shakoor Khan (MPA) and Mr Ahmad Karim Kundi (MPA). APP

Khawaja Asif denounces Bushra Bibi, PTI founder for exploiting religious norms for 'personal and political gains'

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif Friday launched a scathing critique of Bushra Bibi and PTI founder Imran Khan, accusing them of exploiting religious and political norms for 'personal and political gains.'

"If Bushra Bibi considers herself synonymous with Sharia, then only God can protect us," Khawaja Asif said while addressing a press conference in the federal capital.

He termed the claims as an affront to religion, further alleging, "Such acts to save a sinking political ship reflect the lowest levels of desperation." The PML-N stalwart also addressed PTI's internal conflicts, calling the rivalry between family members over political inheritance "the ugliest face of dynastic politics."

Referring to the 'feud' to take over the party, he remarked, "Tug of war is on between a Bushra Bibi and Khan's sisters—a disgraceful chapter in Pakistan's political history." INP

People will no longer pay heed to Anti-State activities like Sit-ins & Rallies: CM Maryam

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "People will no longer pay heed to anti-state activities like sit-ins and long march. When Pakistan starts treading on the path of progress, why do these people interfere? One who loves his dear homeland cannot think of indulging into such nefarious practices. Their agenda is anti-state and totally incomprehensible. We need to think over as whether to defend ourselves from our enemies or these anti-state elements. The police officers and sepoy are not terrorists and unfortunately their uniforms are humiliated. The provinces should be connected as PML-N has always tried to closely link other provinces. Shadows of uncertainty loomed over Pakistan but now Pak-

istan is treading smoothly of the path of progress and prosperity. The KPK government attacks the federation and Punjab, now it is ready to launch another assault."

She while addressing inauguration ceremony of the Kachhi Canal Rehabilitation Project said, "The Kachhi Canal Rehabilitation project was completed in a record period of 45 days owing to 'Shahbaz Speed'. I congratulate all the stakeholders on this achievement. Kachhi Canal is not a mere canal going from Punjab to Balochistan but a path of development and prosperity. The land of Balochistan will be irrigated with the water of Kachhi Canal and people will become prosperous. The Kachhi Canal Project had been completed in 2017 during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif."



TAUNSA BARRAGE/KOT ADDU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of restoration of Kachhi Canal. (Story on page 1)

US condemns devastating attack in Kurram

ISLAMABAD: The United States has strongly condemned the devastating attack in Kurram, which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent Pakistanis and left many others critically injured. The tragic assault, has shaken the nation and prompted widespread condemnation from both domestic and international leaders. In a statement issued by the U.S. government on Friday, the officials extended their deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the attack. They also conveyed their hopes for a swift and full recovery for the victims who remain in critical condition following the violence. "We stand with the Government of Pakistan and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in this heartbreaking moment," the U.S. statement read. "The Pakistani people deserve to live free from harm, danger and threat, and to feel protected and secure in their daily lives. The United States will remain a steadfast partner as Pakistan works to ensure the safety and security of all its citizens."

The Kurram attack, which targeted civilians in the region, highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Pakistan in combating violence and extremism. Pakistan's leadership has also condemned the attack, pledging to bring the perpetrators to justice and enhance security measures across the country. The United States has long been a key ally to Pakistan, providing both military and economic assistance to help combat terrorism and bolster the nation's security infrastructure. This attack underscores the ongoing challenges in the fight against terrorism, with many questioning whether the region can achieve lasting peace and stability. In the aftermath of the attack, local authorities have vowed to take decisive action against the responsible groups, while international actors, including the United States, have reiterated their commitment to supporting Pakistan in its efforts to safeguard its citizens and prevent further violence. INP