



The importance of collective efforts to end all forms of violence against women

Chairman of PPP
Bilawal
Bhutto Zardari

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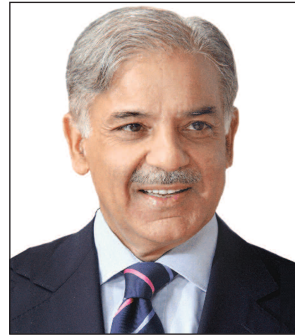
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PM Shehbaz holds consultation meeting on PTI's protest



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a consultative meeting held in Model Town Lahore on Sunday and discussed the current political situation.

According to media reports, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan also participated in the meeting.

The situation after the final call of protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was also discussed in the meeting. During the meeting, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif directed to remove the reservations of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has also formed a committee to settle matters with the PPP.

PTI calls for strikes well-thought-out conspiracy against country's prestige: Dar



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday questioned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) repeated calls for strikes, terming them as well-thought-out conspiracy against country's prestige.

In a press statement, the DPM/FM expressed his regret over PTI's protest announced for November 24 in Islamabad. He said that the party announced its protests at a time when important global personalities were on visit to Pakistan, adding wether it was 14th October on the occasion of Chinese premier's visit or on 15-16 October when the heads of government of SCO arrived to participate in high-level event hosted by Pakistan.

DPM/FM Dar said, similarly, the Belarusian President was due on Monday on his official visit to Pakistan and prior to it, Belarusian ministers and business delegation were also arriving Sunday.

He called upon the PTI's leadership to give priority to the national interests and the country on their petty political interests.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting the security personnel to boost their morale in D Chowk.

PTI leaders courting arrests to avoid participation in so-called final call: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar on Sunday said most of the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are courting their arrests to avoid their participation in an "illegal and unnecessary" protest.

"One thing is pretty clear that the PTI's leadership does not want a release of their leader from the jail as we have received information from Punjab and Islamabad that most of their top and low tiers' leaders are voluntarily surrendering to the police for their arrest," said the minister while talking to the media during his visit to different areas in Islamabad.

"This shows their so-called level of commitment with their party and the leader," he said while pointing out the inside rift among the party leadership especially between the wife of the PTI founder Bushra Bibi and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur earlier in the day.

He said the PTI had only one demand which was to get an NRO-like concession for the release of their leader from the jail, but the government cannot do anything in this regard. This is the domain of the courts where the PTI is supposed to argue and fight for the release of their leader who has been facing different charges, he added.

Tarar said the PTI had a track record of creating chaos and anarchy, and vandalizing public properties, citing the sit-in of 2014 when their workers torched the Parliament and injured many policemen including SSP Asmat ullah Junejo.

He categorically said that nobody would be allowed to disrupt the economic progress achieved in the last eight months which witnessed a substantial increase in remittances that jumped to \$8.8 billion in the first quarter. The interest rate has been reduced to 15 per cent and KIBOR stood at 13 per cent and inflation is down to 6.9 per cent from 32 per cent, he said while warning the PTI of strict action if it tried to derail the economy.

The minister said a high-level official and business delegation is arriving in Islamabad from Belarus to invest in the national economy, while its President will also be in Islamabad the day after tomorrow. A warm welcome would be accorded to the Belarus Delegation on their arrival in Islamabad, he remarked.

Nobody will be allowed to challenge the writ

"Our responsibility is to ensure security in Islamabad," he said, adding the miscreants would be dealt with iron hands.

of the state, he said, adding there is a full deployment of police in Islamabad that is ready to arrest if anybody dares to enter Islamabad for disturbing the law and order.

"Life in Islamabad is normal as people are taking strolls in parks and children are playing various sports at different places, but some major highways have been closed to maintain law and order in the city," he noted.

He held the PTI responsible for the roads' closure and inflicting financial damage to traders and businessmen. The PTI did not only want to derail the economy, but also hell-bent on damaging the foreign relations of Pakistan with the friendly countries.

He said the PTI had orchestrated the May 9 arson and vandalized the sensitive installations and memorials of martyrs, just to create chaos and anarchy. This party has again resorted to similar tactics just to achieve their ulterior motives. "Our responsibility is to ensure security in Islamabad," he said, adding the miscreants would be dealt with iron hands.

Mohsin Naqvi Visits D-Chowk to boost morale of police, FC, Rangers

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited D-Chowk to boost the morale of police, FC, and Rangers. He met with the personnel on duty and appreciated their high morale.

Interior Minister commended the personnel on duty for their dedication. He paid tribute to them for their hard work and dedication to maintaining law and order.

The minister praised the personnel on duty for protecting the lives and property of citizens day and night. He directed that all possible facilities be provided to the personnel performing their duties, saying that it is our responsibility to take care of you.

Mohsin Naqvi said that the morale of the Islamabad police, FC, and Rangers personnel is very high. He added that the Islamabad police, FC, and Rangers personnel are always alert.

Qaiser repeats govt's commitment to foster dialogue, political stability & economic growth

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has reiterated the government's commitment to foster dialogue, political stability, and economic growth.

Talking to a private TV channel, he called on all political stakeholders to prioritize the national interest and work together for the country's prosperity.

The Minister stressed the need for constructive dialogue and cooperation among political parties to address the nation's pressing concerns.

On the economic front, Qaiser Sheikh recognized the negative impact of political instability, protests, and frequent strikes on the country's economic growth.

Any violent protests will be met with firm response: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned the PTI on Sunday that any violent protests would be met with a firm response. He emphasised that the state will not permit any illegal mob to attack Islamabad, noting the party's history of organizing demonstrations that have often escalated into violence.

"The government will take a tough stance on individuals who disrupt law and order in Islamabad," the minister warned in a recent private news channel interview. Islamabad has been placed on high alert, with the government warning of zero tolerance for violent mobs, he added.

Khawaja Asif has emphasised that peace will be ensured in the capital city at all costs. He accused the PTI of habitually using innocent people to attack state institutions, adding that the state will not be blackmailed by the PTI's protests, which have a history of turning violent.

He said that the government will take firm action against any illegal activities and will not

"The government will take a tough stance on individuals who disrupt law and order in Islamabad"

allow the party to use innocent people to attack state institutions. The Defence Minister expressed disappointment that the PTI tends to protest whenever a country announces to visit Pakistan, adding that Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, should focus on improving the law and order situation in the province. Pakistan's cuisine "Both government and military leadership are jointly move the country forward. We will not permit any violent mob to attack Islamabad under any circumstances," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif stated.

He emphasised the government's firm stance on maintaining law and order. INP

President of Belarus to visit Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko will undertake three-day official visit to Pakistan today.

In a statement, Foreign Office said the President Lukashenko will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discuss areas of bilateral cooperation and engagement.

Several agreements and Memorandum of Understandings will also be signed during the visit.

The visit of the President of Belarus reflects the strong and growing partnership between Pakistan and Belarus.

PTI leaders do not want release of Imran Khan: Musaddiq Malik

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musaddiq Malik criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) leaders, claiming they do not want the release of their founder, Imran Khan.

Speaking at a news conference here on Sunday, Musaddiq Malik emphasised that solving public issues is the government's priority, highlighting that government measures have led to a reduction in inflation, and the stock market is at its highest level in history.

He added that the nation must unite against extremism, mentioning that people from Parachinar are sitting on the roads with the bodies of their loved ones, yet there has been no sign of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to help them.

Musaddiq Malik also criticised Ali Amin Gandapur for trying to attack Punjab and Islamabad, adding, "What happened to his Do or Die rally today? There are voices everywhere saying 'Arrest me, take me in.' Where are all the senior PTI leaders? No rallies are visible in Punjab, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Gujranwala."

Solving public issues is the government's priority, highlighting that government measures have led to a reduction in inflation, and the stock market is at its highest level in history

Musaddiq Malik stated that elements opposed to the country's progress could not digest Pakistan's growth, questioning the whereabouts of the millions of people PTI claimed would attend its call.

PTI wants to sabotage national development again: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday that the PTI wanted to sabotage the journey of national development once again.



Addressing a press conference here at Model Town, he said that only courts were empowered to release the PTI founder, and "we will never let Pakistan to be damaged for the ego of a single person". He said the PTI founder could not be released through an executive order, and he should prove his innocence in the court. He said the PTI founder was in jail not to fulfill legal requirements but on the charges of theft, fraud and sedition.

During the PTI regime, he said, the PML-N leaders got justice from the courts and did not appeal to the government for their release from jails. Ahsan Iqbal said that there was irrefutable evidence against the PTI

court process, he added. The federal minister said that Pakistan was moving on the way to development, and the stock market was showing bullish trends. He said maintaining

law and order was a responsibility of the government. Necessary measures were inevitable to thwart ambitions of the "anarchist" group, he said and offered apology for the inconvenience caused to citizens due to road closures. The PTI acted like a terrorist organisation on May 9, and no good could be expected from it now, the minister said adding that those who invited external

powers to intervene in Pakistan could not be well-wishers of the country. Ahsan said those calling for protests and sit-ins again and again had been rejected by people, as their real faces had been exposed now. He said the PTI wanted to spread chaos in the country through sit-ins, and people would not fall for their deception anymore, and thwart its designs.

Ahsan Iqbal said KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was fully focused on the federation and Punjab, and he was not worried at all about the law and order situation in Kurram and Parachinar.

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Ahsan Iqbal said KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was fully focused on the federation and Punjab, and he was not worried at all about the law and order situation in Kurram and Parachinar.

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Blue carbon, green gains

MURTAZA TALPUR

Globaly, the protection and restoration of mangroves are gaining substantial consideration because of their high potential in climate change mitigation through 'blue carbon'. This refers to the carbon captured and stored by ocean and coastal environments, mainly mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes. It is termed 'blue' carbon due to its closeness to the ocean: it is stored mostly in the soil and silt up to six metres under the seabed.

According to a World Bank report, oceans act as the planet's largest heat sink, absorbing 90 per cent of the excess heat generated by climate change and 23 per cent of human-caused CO2 emissions. Blue carbon covers merely 2.0 per cent of the ocean surface but absorbs 50 per cent of carbon dioxide.

For example, mangroves can store five times more carbon per hectare than forests. Seagrasses, another vital blue carbon ecosystem, could stop the release of up to 650 million tons of CO2 per annum, similar to the global shipping industry's emissions. Besides, it is estimated that mangroves protect over six million people from flooding each year and prevent \$24 billion in asset losses. Healthy blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes produce carbon credits and provide additional revenue to local communities. Sindh's Indus Delta region holds immense potential in this sector. The Delta Blue Carbon (DBC) project is a major example of how Pakistan can blow into blue carbon credits and contribute to the global carbon market, possibly unlocking considerable economic gains. The Delta Blue Carbon project is one of the largest blue carbon initiatives globally. It was launched in 2015 as a collaboration between Indus Delta Capital Private Limited and the Sindh Forest Department, the purpose of this project is to rehabilitate and restore vast areas of mangrove forests in the Indus Delta. With a lifetime of 60 years, the DBC project is focused on securing 102,000 hectares of existing mangroves while restoring another 226,000 hectares of degraded mangrove land.

The blue carbon resources of Pakistan possess huge market potential. As countries and corporations worldwide endeavour to meet their climate pledges, the demand for carbon credits is rising abruptly. The successful implementation of the DBC project proves the ability to generate high-quality blue carbon credits that can be traded on international carbon markets. With the global uproar and attention on the reduction of carbon, Pakistan could see a substantial influx of income through the sale of these credits. Consider: only the DBC-1 phase has generated millions of certified emission reductions (CERs), which are tradeable carbon credits.

There is no doubt that the global market for carbon credits has seen exponential growth in the recent past. As it is driven by international commitments to the Paris Agreement and net-zero targets. Countries in Europe, the US, and the Middle East are major consumers of carbon credits. Besides, the companies such as airlines, oil and gas producers, and other heavy industries are also key players in this market, as they seek to balance their greenhouse emissions.

Pakistan's blue carbon credits, derived from its mangrove ecosystems, could attract interest from such buyers, given the scale and credibility of the DBC project. According to global carbon market estimates, carbon credits can fetch between \$10 and \$40 per tonne, depending on the quality of the credits and the verification process. Given the scale of Pakistan's mangrove restoration efforts, the country could possibly earn hundreds of millions of dollars from carbon credit sales over the coming decades.

However, to unlock the full economic potential of blue carbon, Pakistan needs to address certain challenges. First, there should be more standardized and transparent verification systems to ensure the credibility of carbon credits. At present, Delta Blue Carbon follows international standards for carbon offset projects, which adds value to the credits produced. Extending these standards across other blue carbon projects in Pakistan would strengthen the country's position in the global market.

Second, improved infrastructure is needed to protect and monitor coastal ecosystems effectively. The DBC project's ongoing monitoring campaigns play a critical role in ensuring that mangrove restoration continues to confiscate carbon as planned. Expanding these efforts to other coastal areas in Pakistan would increase the volume of credits generated and sold. Last of all, the government and private sector ought to build partnerships to expand blue carbon enterprises. In addition, international organisations, development agencies, and private investors should provide financial and technical support to broaden the DBC model across other coastal areas in Pakistan. With proper governance and investment, blue carbon projects could contribute not merely to climate mitigation but also local job creation and community development.

Pakistan's blue carbon potential, demonstrated by the Delta Blue Carbon project, offers a unique opportunity for the country to engage in the global carbon credit market. As international demand for carbon credits grows, Pakistan's vast coastal mangrove ecosystems could become a critical part of the solution to global climate change.

By investing in infrastructure, establishing transparent verification processes, and developing international partnerships, Pakistan could generate significant economic returns from the sale of blue carbon credits while also addressing climate and environmental challenges at home.

The writer is an assistant director, Climate Change Adaptation at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Islamabad.



Khalid Bhatti

Trump's economic nationalism

Right-wing populist Donald Trump's decisive victory in the 2024 US presidential election is expected to fuel a resurgence of economic nationalism in the US. The 21st century has witnessed a revival of economic nationalism due to shifting global dynamics and domestic concerns. Trump's rhetoric resonated with many Americans who felt left behind by globalisation. Economic nationalism remains a potent political narrative, influencing both Republican and Democratic platforms.

The American ruling class perceives a rising China as a strategic threat. The decline of neo-imperialist powers, including the United States, and the rise of emerging economies like China pose serious economic challenges to the world's most powerful country. Economic nationalism is both a policy and a strategy in response to these challenges. At its core, economic nationalism is a reassurance from the American ruling class to ordinary citizens, promising to restore jobs and prosperity once encapsulated in the 'American Dream'. A significant majority of the US population is dissatisfied with their economic situation. Surveys indicate that 74 per cent of Americans are unhappy with the country's direction. Many working people are forced to hold multiple jobs to meet their basic needs, underscoring the struggles of an economy that is not delivering for all its citizens.

Economic nationalism also serves as a framework to counter the perceived decline of American global influence and maintain its hegemony. In recent years, this ideology has gained renewed traction, particularly as globalisation faces increasing criticism and resistance. Trump's victory represents not just a triumph for extreme right-wing populist forces globally but also a significant boost for economic nationalists and protectionists. His win is likely to embolden the far-right in Europe and is a setback for advocates of deeper global economic integration and multilateralism. The Republican Party's simultaneous majority wins in both the House of Representatives and the Senate mean Trump is in a strong position to pass legislation with little resistance. This control enhances his ability to implement a right-wing neoliberal agenda. In his first term, Trump embraced protectionist policies, and he is likely to increase tariffs on imports to protect and revive American industries. He aims to reverse decades-old policies of deindustrialization, outsourcing, and globalisation. Economic nationalism forms the backbone of his signature slogan: 'Make America Great Again'. A key goal of this policy is to bring manufacturing back to American soil and restore the country's competitiveness in this sector.

Once the world's manufacturing powerhouse, the US began losing its edge in the 1980s. A significant portion of American manufacturing was relocated to countries like China. As a result, many American workers lost their jobs, and once-thriving industrial and mining towns turned into ghost towns. This deindustrialisation fueled frustration and discontent among segments of the working class, particularly against policies promoting outsourcing and globalisation. The Democrats largely ignored or abandoned the concerns of these working-class communities. Trump capitalised on these grievances during his 2016 campaign, winning key swing states in the Rust Belt. While his performance as president disappointed some of his supporters, leading to his loss to Joe Biden in the

2020 election, Trump staged a remarkable comeback in 2024, winning all seven key battleground states: Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. He reassured his working-class supporters of his commitment to bringing back jobs, mining, and industries. Trump appears determined to pick up where he left off four years ago. Trump's presidency from 2017 to 2021 left a lasting impact on economic nationalism in the US, reshaping trade policies, manufacturing priorities, and national economic strategy. While his approach was polarising, it undeniably thrust economic nationalism into the spotlight. The US, once a champion of globalisation, free trade, and the free flow of capital, has now shifted toward protectionism. Since the 1980s, the US had pushed other countries to open their markets for global capital to exploit natural resources and cheap labour. American multinationals and investors profited immensely from globalisation, earning trillions of dollars. Now, however, the US is prioritising the protection of its own markets, economy, and industries, often at the expense of others. Under Trump's administration, tariffs were imposed on goods from countries like China to reduce trade deficits and protect domestic industries, initiating a trade war with Beijing. He also introduced incentives for American companies to relocate their industries back to the US, aiming to encourage businesses to source materials and goods domestically. Economic nationalism often targets sectors considered critical for national security, such as defence, technology, and energy. Interestingly, President Joe Biden also introduced policies rooted in economic nationalism during his term. For instance, the CHIPS and

Science Act of 2022 allocated \$52 billion to boost domestic semiconductor production, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers. Federal initiatives like requiring infrastructure projects to use US-made materials emphasize domestic sourcing. Similarly, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 supported green energy initiatives while promoting the use of American-made components. These measures aimed to create jobs and strengthen critical supply chains. Modern economic nationalism, however, does not exist in a vacuum – it has significant implications for global trade and geopolitics. Countries targeted by US tariffs, such as China, India, and members of the European Union, often retaliate with tariffs of their own, escalating trade tensions. Economic nationalism can lead to a decline in multilateral trade agreements, with nations opting for bilateral deals to secure favourable terms.

In response to US policies, other countries may form alliances or trading blocs to counterbalance America's economic strategies. While these policies promote domestic innovation, they also create fierce international competition, particularly in industries like semiconductors, green technology, and artificial intelligence. Such competition could severely disrupt global supply chains. At its core, economic nationalism prioritises the interests of a country's domestic economy over global trade and integration. In doing so, it seeks to address economic grievances at home while reshaping the nation's role in the global economic order. With Trump's return to power, economic nationalism is set to dominate US policy once again, with far-reaching consequences for the American economy and the world at large.

The writer is a freelance journalist.

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



The commercialization of agriculture has also resulted in fairly large-scale transfers of land, concentrating its ownership among middle-class farmers. The attention given to the agricultural sector in development plans has brought about some radical changes in centuries-old farming techniques. The construction of tube wells for irrigation and salinity control, the use of chemical fertilizers and scientifically selected seeds, and the gradual introduction of farm machinery have all contributed to the notable increase in productivity. As a consequence, Pakistan experienced what became known as the Green Revolution during the late 1960s, leaving a surplus that was partly shipped to East Pakistan (Bangladesh) and partly exported; self-sufficiency in wheat—the national staple—was achieved by about 1970. Cotton production also rose, which added to the domestic production of textiles and edible cottonseed oils. Rice is the second major food staple and one of the country's important export crops. Large domestic sugar subsidies have been primarily responsible for an increase in sugarcane production. Other crops include chickpeas, pearl millet (bajra), corn (maize), rapeseed, and mustard, as well as a variety of garden crops, including onions, pep-

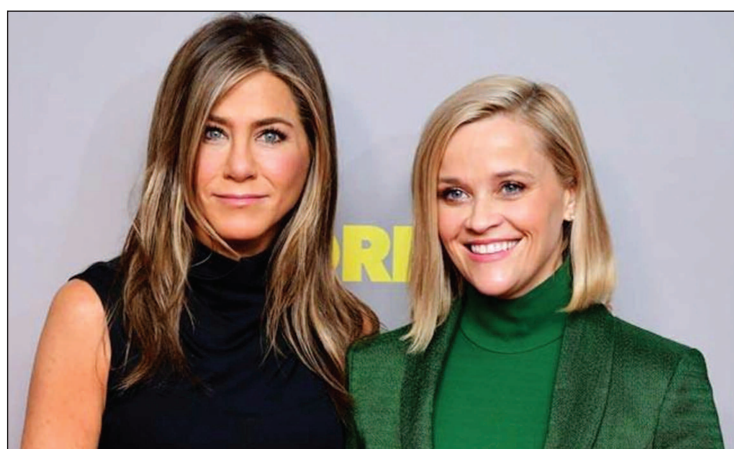
pers, and potatoes. Pakistan benefits greatly from having two growing seasons, rabi (spring harvest) and kharif (fall harvest). The cultivation and transportation of illicit narcotics remains a large sector of the informal economy. Pakistan is one of the world's leading producers of opium poppy (for the production of heroin) and also produces or transports cannabis (as hashish) from Afghanistan for local markets and for reexport abroad. Animal husbandry provides important domestic and export products. Livestock includes cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry. These animals provide meat and dairy products for local consumption, as well as wool for the carpet industry and for export and hides and skins for the leather industry. The contribution of forestry to national income remains negligible, but that of fisheries has risen. Fishing activity is centred in Karachi, and part of the catch of lobster and other shellfish is exported. River water is used in large parts of the country to irrigate agricultural areas. The Balochistan plateau has a remarkable indigenous method of irrigation called the qan t (or k r z) system.

To be continued....

Reese Witherspoon reveals hidden bond with Jennifer Aniston

Reese Witherspoon opens up about her relationship with 'Friends' co-star Jennifer Aniston

Reese Witherspoon is lifting the lid on her exclusive friends' list, labelling Jennifer Aniston as her ultimate BFF. The Legally Blonde star, who co-starred with the Murder Mystery actress on 90s' iconic show Friends, took to her Instagram on Saturday, November 23, to share an inside look of their sisterly bond. In the video, the duo could be seen striking a similar pose as they candidly grinned with their hands on their chins. In addition, the two were also spotted bantering behind the scenes, waiting for the cameras to start rolling again for The Morning Show's fourth season. Meanwhile, she wrote in the caption,



"Work just hits different with your bff. The 48-year-old detailed on her friendship with the actress as she further went on to add, "There's no greater gift in the world than having a coworker [who] you work with regularly [who] you can truly call one of your best friends [who] you just love. Because it makes your day so much better. You're like, 'I can't wait to see that person. I cannot wait.' Reese and Jennifer were also filmed speeding through the show set in golf-carts in the heart of Los Angeles. After she shared the post with her 30.3 million followers, fans thronged to the comments section to add heartfelt messages.

Showbiz

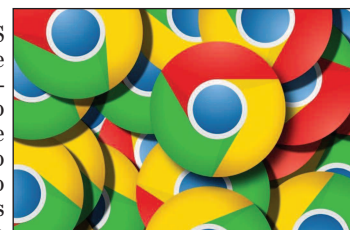
Tech

Breaking up Google? What a Chrome sell-off could mean for the digital world

US antitrust lawyers are calling on a judge to force the sale of Google's Chrome browser to limit the company's market clout in a move that would shake up the internet giant.

On Wednesday, the US Department of Justice submitted its recommendation for the breakup to US District Court Judge Amit Mehta, who is set to impose steps next year to address Google's monopoly power in online search. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. "This would be a huge gut punch to Google," said Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives. Google provides free search, making money off targeting ads and features that promote online commerce. "It would greatly alter (Google's) business model," said Syracuse University professor of advertising Beth Egan.

Selling Chrome would also deprive Google of a rich source of information used to train its algorithms and promote its other services like Maps. Launched in 2008, Chrome dominates the browser market, dwarfing rivals Edge and Safari, developed by Microsoft and Apple, respectively.



Egan believed Google would find a way to recover if forced to sell Chrome. "I don't think divesting the browser is going to kill Google as a company," Egan said. She noted that it could be its users who wind up suffering, given the case Google is making in blog posts on the matter. A Bloomberg analyst estimates that Chrome, which is used by more than three billion people around the world, would sell for at least \$15 billion. But given the lack of precedent, predicting how much Chrome would fetch on the market is tricky.

Why is it so difficult to make a new antibiotic?

The discovery of antibiotics is one of the greatest medical breakthroughs of the 20th century. Before antibiotics, childbirth, a urinary tract infection, or a simple cut could lead to death from infection. Antibiotics, a type of antimicrobial, have made many modern medical procedures possible, and now the global healthcare system relies on them. Due to increasing antimicrobial use, microbes – such as bacteria, fungi and parasites – have developed the ability to resist the action of these medicines. The result is that common infections that were once easily treatable are becoming more difficult to cure and in some cases can be fatal. Following the development of penicillin in the mid 1940s, many new classes of antibiotics were developed. However, since the 1980s there has been little investment into the development

of new ones and very few have been approved. There's an urgent need for new antibiotics that work against drug-resistant bacteria. Drug-resistant infections are expected to claim more than 39 million lives between now and 2050 without further action. So why are so few new antibiotics being successfully developed for medical use? Many pharmaceutical companies have left this area of research. On top of this, finding new and different types of antibiotics that will not be quickly rendered ineffective by existing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a formidable challenge. Developing a new medicine is a complex, extremely expensive and time-consuming endeavour. It can take 10 to 15 years from initial discovery all the way to approval, and costs more than US\$1 billion.

Most existing antibiotics are cheap and readily available. Any new antibiotics are generally considered "last resort" drugs, used only when all other treatment options have been exhausted. This is to prevent the development of resistance against them. This means that the return on investment is much lower for antibiotics compared to medicines for many other illnesses. Pharmaceutical companies are therefore unlikely to recover the costs associated with developing a new antibiotic at the end of a lengthy research process. Testing what works safely. When searching for new potential antibiotics, researchers screen extracts and compound libraries and also use Artificial Intelligence (AI) approaches to look for those that show promising antimicrobial activity.



Health

Interior Minister receives high-level Belarusian delegation



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi warmly welcomed a 68-member high-level delegation from Belarus upon their arrival in Islamabad on Sunday. The delegation included Belarus' Foreign Minister, Minister for Energy Minister, Minister for Justice, Minister for Transport, Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Emergency Situations, and Chairman of the Military Industry Committee. Moreover, 43 prominent business personalities from Belarus are also part of the delegation.

The Interior Minister also met with Foreign Minister of Belarus, Maxim Ryshchenkov, and Energy Minister. He welcomed the delegation to Islamabad and expressed that the government and people of Pakistan are eagerly awaiting the visit of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that the president's visit is crucial in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. Interior Minister stated that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Belarus and aims to enhance cooperation in various sectors. He highlighted that the said visit will further promote cooperation between the two countries in industry, trade, and other sectors.

Residents of twin cities facing problems due to PTI protests: Dr Tariq

ISLAMABAD: Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the residents of twin cities facing hardships and problems due to the protests call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Addressing at a press conference here on Sunday, he said that due to the misleading role of PTI country's politics facing problems and earning bad name at the international level. He underlined that PTI workers had mistreated with bureaucrats and major political figures in abroad which was a condemnable act.

Fazal blasted PTI's political decline, saying Bushra Bibi's statement laid bare the party's internal chaos, where members are battling for control in a fractured leadership. He emphasized that Pakistan's strong relations with Saudi Arabia remain unaffected, with recent agreements serving as proof that such statements won't alter these vital ties. He condemned PTI for accusing the same countries from which they've accepted gifts, calling it a glaring example of their political bankruptcy. Reconciliation, he said, is Pakistan's strength—not a weakness—and protests must operate within the bounds of the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024.



ISLAMABAD: Police bike squad stand alert at D Chowk to tackle any unexpected situation by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers. INP

Warring tribes agree on 7-day ceasefire in Kurram as dozens killed in clashes

"Two parties agreed to return each other's hostages and bodies," says Barrister Saif after meeting tribal leaders

KURRAM DISTRICT: The warring tribal groups in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district have finally agreed to a seven-day ceasefire after days of clashes that left at least 30 dead and injured dozens, a KP government spokesperson said on Sunday.

"The two parties have agreed to return each other's hostages and bodies," Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said in a statement after the delegation, under his chairmanship, met the tribal leaders in a bid to stop the clashes. He noted that the government delegation flew to Parachinar — Kurram's main city — on Saturday to meet leaders of both sides.

The delegation met both warring parties today to try to broker a ceasefire deal and then move to resolve the matter.

Armed groups have attacked settlements that are populated by members of rival groups.

"Approximately 300 families have relocated to Hangu and Peshawar since this morning in search of safety," a senior official told AFP, adding that more families were preparing to leave the violence-hit district.

The clashes started after gunmen attacked convoys of civilian vehicles on Thursday, killing at least 44. That sparked retaliatory attacks and there have been pitched battles



between armed groups from both sides.

At least 75 people have been killed over the past three days in the ongoing gun battles between different tribes, according to police. It is pertinent to mention here that tribal and family feuds are common in the area.

Last month, at least 16 people, including three women and two children, were killed in a clash in Kurram.

Previous clashes in July and September killed dozens of people and ended only after a jirga, or tribal council, called a ceasefire. HRCP said 79 people died between July and October in clashes.

Several hundred people demonstrated against the violence on Friday in Lahore and Karachi. In Parachinar, the main town of Kurram district, thousands participated in a sit-in, while hundreds attended the funerals of the victims of Thursday's attack.

The latest violence drew condemnation from officials and human rights groups. The independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) urged authorities this month to pay "urgent attention" to the "alarming frequency of clashes" in the region, warning that the situation has escalated to "the proportions of a humanitarian crisis."

Nov 24 protest call 'end of PTI's political saga': Muqam



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Ameer Muqam, referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) November 24 'final protest call' at D-Chowk Islamabad, predicted that it would mark the 'end of PTI's political saga,' describing the agitation as purposeless and damaging. Muqam speaking at a press conference, strongly criticised PTI on Sunday, accusing the party of engaging in politics of chaos to destabilise the country's economy and disrupt public life.

He claimed that PTI's protests have led to significant economic losses, shutting down businesses and leaving millions struggling. "They [PTI leadership] aim to paralyse the entire country, causing billions in losses to the national exchequer," he remarked, questioning PTI's commitment to patriotism.

He dismissed claims of mass mobilisation, challenging PTI's assertion of leading nine lakh people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Islamabad.

"KP is grappling with worsening law and order, yet the provincial chief minister is busy fuelling protests instead of addressing the province's crises," he said. Muqam criticised KP's leadership, particularly Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for allegedly misusing provincial resources and involving government employees in political demonstrations.

Highlighting recent violence in Kurram, where dozens have lost their lives, Muqam condemned the provincial government for neglecting the affected communities.

He accused PTI of being divided internally, stating, "This disorganised group thrives on spreading chaos because they can not accept Pakistan's progress." The PML-N leader also rebuked PTI's protest timing, coinciding with key national and international events, including the recent SCO summit and the upcoming visit of Belarus' president.

Muqam alleged that such actions reflect PTI's unwillingness to see the country succeed on the global stage.

In a pointed remark, he dismissed the notion that PTI's protests would lead to the release of their detained leader. "Court cases must be faced, not evaded by inciting unrest or storming the federal capital," he asserted.

Commenting on the recent remarks of Inuran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi against friendly countries, Muqam said this disgraceful statement from an uneducated and uninformed individual shows she was working on the agenda of enemies. APP

Imran Khan is only making missed calls, says Kamran Tessori

LONDON: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has stated that former prime minister Imran Khan was making "missed calls" and would not be able to reach anyone for the next five years. In a conversation with a private TV channel in London, Tessori said that PTI members would eventually "go in circles and return to where they started," describing the current political situation as a "game of emotions and the last over."

He added that the situation will soon come to an end, and that frustration was evident in their statements.

Tessori also commented on the controversial statement by Bushra Bibi, noting that even her

own party did not endorse it. He said if Imran Khan made such a statement to Bushra Bibi, he would have violated his oath. He further explained that if any such matters did occur, Imran Khan had taken an oath as prime minister not to disclose state secrets.

Tessori emphasized that any attempts to link these issues would go against the country's sovereignty and integrity. Regarding Pakistan's economic stability, the Governor stated that the country was making efforts towards recovery, with support from friendly nations. He warned that whatever actions PTI took, would not be welcomed by either the friendly countries or the Pakistani public. INP

Sri Lanka High Commissioner donates eye corneas to AFIO



Admiral Ravindra C Wijegunaratne (Retd), Brigadier Kaminda Silva, and representatives from the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society presented the corneas to Lieutenant General Arshad Nasim HI(M), Surgeon General of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and Brigadier (Dr.) Waqar Muzaffer, Commandant of

AFIO. This initiative continues a legacy of cooperation, with over 26,000 corneas donated to Pakistan to date. Admiral Wijegunaratne lauded the historical efforts of Dr Hudson Silva, founder of the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society, and reaffirmed the enduring friendship between the two nations.

Lieutenant General Arshad Nasim expressed gratitude for the gesture, recognising its life-changing impact on military personnel and civilians in need. Sri Lanka, with a rich tradition of eye donation and over 93,000 corneas gifted globally, has resumed this life-saving initiative post-COVID-19.

The corneas will benefit Pakistan military personnel affected by terrorism and others in need, symbolising a deep humanitarian bond shared between the two countries. APP

PTI protest paralyzes Islamabad, Rawalpindi; roads blocked, internet suspended

RAWALPINDI: In response to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad, authorities have completely sealed the entry and exit points of the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. PTI is all set to hold a countrywide protest today on the call of PTI founder Imran Khan. Containers have been placed on major routes, including Faizabad Flyover, with heavy police deployment in the area. Key roads such as Murree Road, Motorway, Rawat, T-Chowk, Taxila, Margalla, and Mandraha have been blocked, along with major highways like Murree Expressway, Hazara Expressway, and connecting roads from Punjab. Over 6,000 police personnel have been deployed across Rawalpindi, with security arrangements tightened. Police conducted raids throughout the night to detain PTI workers, resulting in the arrest of over 170 activists from various areas. Prisoner transport buses have been brought into the city to manage detainees. Emergency measures have been implemented in hospitals, and rescue agencies have been put on high alert. Additionally, mobile internet services have been suspended in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Attock to prevent the spread of protest-related information. INP

Bilawal underscores collective efforts to end violence against women

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has underscored the importance of collective efforts to end all forms of violence against women.

In a message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, he emphasized the need to empower women and safeguard their safety, dignity, and rights.

Reaffirming the PPP's dedication to gender equality and women's empowerment, he called for a society free from fear, discrimination, and violence. He expressed grave concern over the widespread prevalence of gender-based violence, urging immediate action to address its causes through comprehensive legislative, social, and cultural reforms.

"Violence against women is a gross violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving a just and equitable society. We must commit ourselves to eliminating it from all aspects of life, be it at home, in the workplace, or public spaces," he said. Highlighting the PPP's pioneering role in

advancing women's rights in Pakistan, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, "The PPP has a proud history of empowering women by electing them as Prime Minister, Speaker, and Ministers, besides appointing judges and other key posts for the first time in the history of Pakistan."

He credited Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with laying the foundation for gender equality through the 1973 Constitution, which ensures protection against gender-based discrimination and promotes women's participation in all walks of life. "Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto opened new avenues for women by focusing on their education, empowerment, and protection," he added. He paid tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto as a global icon of women's empowerment. Bilawal Bhutto highlighted her transformative initiatives, including the establishment of women's police stations, the First Women Bank, and the Lady Health Workers Program, which created opportunities for women across Pakistan.

Developing nations call \$300 billion COP29 climate deal 'an insult'

UNITED NATIONS: Countries at the United Nations climate conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, adopted a \$300 billion a year global finance target on Sunday to help developing nations cope with impacts of climate change, a deal it's intended recipients denounced as "an insult," according to the U.N.

Developing countries, who had sought over \$1 trillion in assistance to truly address the complexities of the climate crisis, expressed their deep disappointment at the outcome of the talks which came to a contentious end.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also indicated in a social media post his disappointment, saying that he "had hoped for a more ambitious outcome, on both finance and mitigation, to meet the great challenge we face."

He said, "The agreement is a base on which to build. It must be honoured in full and on time. Commitments must quickly become cash." After adoption of the agreement, speakers from one developing country after another assailed the document in furious statements.

"Chaotic, poorly managed, and a complete failure in terms of delivering the ambition required." After two weeks of intense negotiations, delegates at COP29, formally the 29th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), agreed to provide this funding annually, with an overall climate financing target to reach at least \$1.3 trillion by 2035.

That is the amount they say must be invested in the energy transitions of lower-income countries, in addition to what those countries already spend, to keep the planet average temperature rise under 1.5 degrees Celsius. Beyond that threshold, scientists say, global warming will become more dangerous and harder to reverse. Countries also agreed on the rules for a UN-backed global carbon market, the UN said. This market will facilitate the trading of carbon credits, incentivizing countries to reduce emissions and invest in climate-friendly projects. These were among the big-ticket issues decided upon as the summit, which has been going on since November 12 at the enormous Baku Stadium in the Azerbaijan capital, went into double overtime. The target, or new collective quantified goal (NCQG), will replace the existing \$100 billion goal that is due to expire in 2025.

In the closing days at COP29, negotiating teams from the developed and developing worlds were deadlocked over a final deal, with reports that representatives for least developed countries and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOIS) had walked out of the talks.

For some vulnerable nations, it represents a glimmer of hope—but only if commitments translate

into swift action. Commitments must quickly become cash, the Secretary-General stressed, urging all countries to work together to meet the upper end of the new financial goal.

Beyond finance, COP29 built on previous gains in emissions reduction targets, the acceleration of the energy transition, and a long-sought agreement on carbon markets. These achievements come despite an uncertain and divided geopolitical landscape, which threatened to derail negotiations.

The UN chief commended negotiators for finding common ground, noting, "You have shown that multilateralism — centred on the Paris Agreement — can find a path through the most difficult issues."

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell described the new finance goal agreed at COP29 as an insurance policy for humanity. This deal will keep the clean energy boom growing and protect billions of lives. It will help all countries to share in the huge benefits of bold climate action: more jobs, stronger growth, cheaper and cleaner energy for all. But like any insurance policy — it only works — if the premiums are paid in full, and on time.

He acknowledged that no country got everything they wanted, and that the world leaves Baku with a mountain of work to do. So, this is no time for victory laps. We need to set our sights and redouble our efforts on the road to the eastern Amazonian region of Brazil, which is set to host COP30 next year. APP