



Afghan nationals would not be allowed to stay in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) without having proper permission from authorities after Dec 31

Interior Minister
Mohsin Naqvi

High level Chinese delegation visits GHQ, meets COAS Asif Munir



RAWALPINDI: General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China, along with a high-level delegation, visited General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi Wednesday.

The distinguished guest held a one-on-one meeting with General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), followed by delegation-level discussions, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation.

General Asim Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation.

He affirmed that this historic partnership has withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment.

Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership.

He commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship. PR

Ishaq Dar's appointment as DPM challenged in LHC

LAHORE: A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) challenging the appointment of Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister.

The petition, filed by citizen Tanveer Sarwar, argued that there is no provision for the office of Deputy Prime Minister in the Constitution.

According to the petition, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister in violation of the Constitution. The petition also argued that Ishaq Dar, being a senator, is not eligible to hold the office of Deputy Prime Minister.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare Ishaq Dar's appointment as Deputy Prime Minister null and void.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat challenged the appointment of Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). INP



ISLAMABAD: PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

PM for firm decisions to end future mayhems, sit-ins

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his zero tolerance for any future violent onslaught and sit-ins by a group of miscreants in Islamabad and resolved to take stern decisions to put an end to repeated string of violent chaos and damages to the country's economy. Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister without mentioning the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led recent onslaught on the federal capital, said that repeated attacks by a clique of miscreants had forced them to rethink.

With the collective deliberations, they had to take strict measures, to quell such scenes in future as they could no longer put all their resources and energies into it, leading to economic destruction, he observed.

"They should have only one option before them; that is progress and prosperity of Pakistan. As a Prime Minister, chief executive, as members of the cabinet and parliamentarians, they will not let that coterie of anarchy to inflict further harm on country's economy," he maintained.

The prime minister said that once again an assault was mounted on Islamabad, but on previous night, all the law enforcement agencies had collectively and with good strategy dispersed the protest and provided relief to the public.

As a result of such riot, Islamabad in particular and the country in generally, witnessed huge economic losses as businesses were

closed, traders were raising hue and cry, owners of the factories were in distress; daily wagers found it hard to get one time meal while the patients were stranded, he added.

In twin cities, the prime minister said the life was paralyzed. In the larger context, the economic losses were manifold, the country's stock exchange market which had crossed the historic mark of 99,000 points few days back, lost 4,000 points in one day due to chaos. These miscreants had become the permanent enemies of Pakistan's progress. But after restoration of peace, the PSE rallied and restored the earlier figure, he said, adding the trend in business was like a flight of a soaring bird and investments poured in where the peace and opportunities existed.

The prime minister regretted that such like dangerous trend of upheaval and attacks was set by a party of troublemakers as it was not visible prior to the year 2014, because none of the political parties had ever thought of mounting attacks on the federal capital.

During 2014, Chinese President Xi's visit to Pakistan was postponed due to 126 days sit-in by the same figures and their leadership created mess and used foul language, which was still haunting their minds, he added.

The prime minister also referred to the launching of protest on the eve of SCO heads of government summit in Islamabad, which had prompted concerns among a number of heads of close friendly countries about their visit to host Pakistan.

He also criticized staging of protest by the same party during a visit by the delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister said the mischief makers had also injured and killed security personnel during the recent attack. No patriotic or even a resident of the country could imagine to harm the country for personal interests and could go to such extreme of damaging the country.

He opined that the law and constitution ensured right for a peaceful protest.

Asked the recent visit of President of Belarus, the prime minister said that they were taking decisions to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation between the two countries and on the other hand, there were scenes of battles.

A number of Rangers and police personnel were martyred whereas dozens others were injured, he added.

The prime minister said that they could no longer waste their energies to tackle these spectacles on daily basis and stressed to ponder as to why the country was still mired in foreign debts even after passage of 77 years. He also viewed that if the culprits of 9th May riots were given exemplary punishment by the courts, such like spectacles would not have happened.

The prime minister also appreciated the Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh police force and other law enforcement agencies for quelling the fresh wave of attack and particularly thanked the chief of army staff for his cooperation with regard to law and order situation.

Masses have rejected PTI's 'politics of fraud, hypocrisy and violence': Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that the people of Pakistan had rejected the 'Politics of lies, hypocrisy & violence' pursued by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Talking to media here, he said the narrative of the PTI had failed miserably and its leaders had to run to avoid arrest. He strongly rejected the PTI's claims of killing of their activists in cross firing from the law enforcement agencies, terming it 'Totally baseless propaganda'.

He said the PTI concocted fake story of workers' death after its workers had martyred personnel of the Rangers in a hit and run incident and also martyred the police personnel. He said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur was accompanied by the provincial police personnel in plain clothes who were armed with modern weapons including guns and teargas shells.

He remarked that the rioters were using slingshot and sharp stones to harm the police and law enforcement agencies. He said since morning the PTI had started propaganda about killing of party workers. The management of Polyclinic Hospital had issued a statement denying claims of dead bodies shifted there. He said that PTI was the only political party which always made bogus claims of killing of its workers. He said last night he personally visited the area from D-Chowk to 7th Avenue but saw nothing which could prove PTI claims of firing on its workers. He remarked that the PTI leadership had run away from the scene to escape arrest and now they were creating narrative of killings of protestors. He said if the PTI had proofs of killing of their workers, then they should present post mortem reports and other evidences.

He said 37 Afghan nationals and dozens of criminals involved in terrorism, theft and robberies were arrested from the PTI protest scene. He said contrary to its claims of playing victim card, the violent PTI workers killed four Rangers and two police personnel and 150 cops were injured. He questioned as to what justification the PTI give for use of weapons would, firing of tear gas shells and slingshots by unruly mob. He said that 45 guns and grenades were recovered from the miscreants belonging to the PTI. He contended that it was preplanned conspiracy to cancel the visit of Belarus President and sabotage the peace of the capital and damage national economy.

Tarar said that the PTI leadership was so inefficient and weak that they could not arrange a sit in without backing of the establishment. He remarked that 126 days' sit in of 2014 was also staged with the backing of certain elements in the establishment. Castigating Bushra Bibi, he said she wanted dead bodies to get political advantage while Ali Amin Gandapur escaped to avoid the arrest. He was of the opinion that political movements could not be run like this and PTI's political ideology had flopped now. He said the PTI had the habit of concocting stories and it claimed that Rangers were killed by law enforcement agencies, but CCTV footage proved them wrong and now the culprits had been arrested from Abbottabad. DNA

MoHR Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar calls on Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohammadi



motion of the rule of law. Both Ministers emphasized the importance of further strengthening collaboration to exchange best practices in law enforcement, and share knowledge and expertise in legal domains. The discussions were marked by a shared commitment to advancing regional and global efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency.

They acknowledged the growing importance of multilateral cooperation within the OIC and pledged to continue working together toward mutual goals. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar is leading Pakistan's delegation at Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), being held in Doha.

They discussed various avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the areas of legal and judicial reform, combating corruption and pro-

ISLAMABAD: Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights held a bilateral meeting with Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohammadi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Qatar on the sidelines of the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), being held in Doha. They discussed various avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the areas of legal and judicial reform, combating corruption and pro-

Mohsin Naqvi, DG Rangers visit PIMS Hospital

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and DG Rangers Punjab Major General Muhammad Aatif visited PIMS Hospital to inquire about Rangers, FC and police personnel injured during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protest.

They praised their high morale.

Mohsin Naqvi said, "You are the heroes of the nation; you foiled the terrorists' plans. We are proud of your bravery, adding despite the chaos, they showed tolerance and patience."

Minister Naqvi directed the doctors to provide the best medical treatment to the injured personnel.



Finance Minister Chairs a special meeting of ECC

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik (virtual), federal secretaries,

and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of various earlier policy decisions of the ECC concerning matters related to finance, interior, industries and production, inter-provincial coordination, hous-

ing and works, food security and research, power, national health services regulation and coordination.

The ECC was briefed on the overall implementation status of its past decisions followed by separate presentations by the relevant ministries on the current status of the issues, pending with them and the steps taken and required to get a closure on them.

The ECC noted with concern the delays in the implementation of its decisions and directed the concerned ministries to improve their coordination and work with stakeholder ministries and divisions proactively through a proper escalation mechanism to ensure a timely compliance and completion of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to them for implementation of the ECC's decisions.

National Curriculum Summit 2024 concludes with key recommendations on Pak's education future

ISLAMABAD: National Curriculum Summit 2024 concluded on Wednesday with key discussions, deliberations and recommendations on Pakistan's education future. The summit brought together policymakers, educators and curriculum experts to explore reforms aimed at improving the country's education system.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad in his speech emphasized the need for an adaptable and inclusive education system.

He stressed the importance of STEM education which encourages problem solving, critical thinking and creativity to be in consolidated form from each discipline to address real world challenges. Dr. Shafiq Ali Janjua, Joint Educational Advisor at the National Curriculum Council, updated participants on the progress of curriculum reforms, highlighting advancements in skills development, IT integration and financial literacy, with a focus on cybersecurity. He also thanked all the guests, participants and panelists for their participation insightful sug-



gestions. On behalf of Federal Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, he reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to the reforms suggested at the summit, as well as the introduction of new scheme of studies, new subjects, academic streams and the integration of technology into education. The summit also addressed challenges in teaching methodologies and the integration of new skills for the 21st century.

The successful conclusion of the summit marks a key step in Pakistan's educational reform journey, with a continued commitment to creating a more inclusive and innovative education system. APP

PNS Zulfiqar conducts exercise with Korean Navy ship in Arabian Sea

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship PNS Zulfiqar conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Republic of Korea Navy Ship WANG GEON in the North Arabian Sea.

Both ships operated under the task forces of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), CTF-150 and CTF-151, respectively, said a press release issued on Wednesday by Directorate General Public Relations (Navy).

The exercise included tactical maneuvers and communication drills, aimed at enhancing operational interoperability and fostering professional ties between the two navies. CTF-150 and CTF-151 focus on deterring illicit maritime activities such as drug trafficking and piracy, which threaten security in international waters. The successful conduct of this joint exercise underscores the commitment of both navies and their respective Task Forces to upholding maritime security, supporting lawful activities



at sea, and promoting stability and cooperation in this strategically vital region.

Pakistan and the Republic of Korea consistently contribute ships and aircraft to maritime security efforts under the CMF banner. This collaboration is particularly valuable for building mutual understanding and operational synergy. PR



Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Catalysing climate action

HINA AYRA

The 29th annual Conference of the Parties (COP29) concluded with a renewed sense of urgency and a litany of commitments aimed at accelerating global climate efforts. Held in the vibrant city of Baku, this year's summit underscored Azerbaijan's rising profile as a key player in the global climate dialogue and spotlighted the pressing need for collaborative and innovative solutions to combat climate change. At COP29, key outcomes included strengthened carbon reduction goals, with representatives from major economies pledging to achieve more ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions. This reflects a heightened commitment to meeting the 1.5 C objective outlined in the Paris Agreement, something direly needed to deliver on the commitment. A significant development pertained to the establishment of additional funding mechanisms aimed at aiding climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in less developed countries, especially the ones prone to climate change events. These initiatives intended to tackle existing financial shortfalls and enhance resilience in regions that are most affected by climate change. COP29 also sparked the creation of new partnerships focused on innovative renewable energy initiatives, including efforts directed at cross-border solar and wind projects, as well as investments in green hydrogen technologies. It has also highlighted the necessity of global collaboration, advocating for technology transfer agreements designed to equip developing nations with crucial resources for sustainable growth. These agreements encompassed the exchange of best practices related to energy storage solutions and efficient grid management systems. The inclusion of vulnerable nations was prioritised through a deliberate effort to elevate the voices of indigenous communities and representatives from the nations most affected by relevant issues. Their contributions were fundamental to the development of policies that are both equitable and sustainable. This approach ensured that the perspectives of those who are most impacted are reflected in the decision-making process, leading to outcomes that are more inclusive and just. The recent COP29 summit underscored several emerging opportunities in global climate action. The reaffirmed commitments under the Paris Agreement serve as a testament to the summit's achievements, with participant nations agreeing on frameworks to expedite the transition to renewable energy and contribute to an ambitious global strategy for carbon neutrality. The summit resulted in a significant increase in funding for green technologies, including pledges to enhance infrastructure for cleaner energy sources, thereby emphasising the importance of collaborative knowledge-sharing to advance technological progress. Economically, a salient message was the potential for growth through green initiatives, as COP29 facilitated investment opportunities in sustainable industries, thereby promising the creation of green jobs along with incentives for advancements in carbon capture technologies, renewable energy production, and energy efficiency. At COP29, several critical challenges were addressed that underscore the ongoing complexities of climate action. The financing gap emerged as a matter of prominent concern, with discussions revealing persistent difficulties in meeting financial commitments to developing countries. Delegates underscored the necessity for clarity in the operationalisation of the newly proposed Loss and Damage Fund, which aims to provide essential support to these nations. The alignment of national policies with international climate pledges was identified as a significant challenge, particularly for nations that remain reliant on fossil fuels. The summit highlighted the resistance encountered from certain governments and industries, emphasising the importance of accountability in these endeavors. While there was considerable enthusiasm for advanced climate technologies, less-developed regions faced considerable obstacles to their deployment, largely due to inadequate infrastructure and economic constraints. Geopolitical tensions were a notable concern, with potential disputes over natural resources and divergent priorities between developed and developing nations. Negotiators called for a stronger consensus to ensure that geopolitical issues do not hinder progress toward effective climate solutions. Experts at COP29 stressed the critical importance of strengthening global partnerships to facilitate equitable climate action. They advocated for the adoption of innovative financing strategies to bridge the existing investment gap and proposed enhanced capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering developing nations. Furthermore, they recommended the establishment of monitoring mechanisms to ensure adherence to the commitments made during the summit. Although developed nations have made a commitment to increase their financing for developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts, the success of COP29 will be determined by the promptness by which these countries deliver on their commitments. Adaptation and mitigation efforts are dependent on the availability of concessional finance, as the vulnerable nations are in no position to free up resources needed to deal with the entirety of climate spectrum. The Baku climate summit also marked a step forward in garnering support for a fair shift to renewable energy and reform of the fossil fuel subsidies. It asked countries to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025 by integrating actionable plans for emission reduction and net zero pathways. The Baku summit also emphasised the need for strengthening corporate accountability through mandatory reporting on climate risks. Despite increased commitment, the real challenge that can still upset the climate agenda pertains to inadequate availability of resources. According to an estimate, funding gap to the tune of \$2.4 trillion per year can hinder the efforts to achieve global climate targets. As proceedings at the Baku summit showed, the countries dependent on fossil fuel did not share clear timelines to complete the transition to renewable energy. This reluctance of these nations remains a major potential danger in the efforts to attain climate targets.

The writer is a trade facilitation expert, working with the federal government of Pakistan.



Enem Ali Abbas

The art of downplaying a dilemma or a disaster has been mastered by Pakistani politicians. They have done so in the past – and continue this trend with the ongoing smog disaster. The public, unfortunately, mirrors this insensitivity. During Covid-19 lockdowns, people turned the streets into sightseeing tours with their families. Now, when Punjab's government closed schools to safeguard children and reduce emissions, parents were seen taking their children to parks. This mutual insensitivity is exacerbating an already dire crisis. For a crisis like this, we need to have clarity and a united front. For far too long, developed nations have denied billions across the globe, in South Asian countries like Pakistan in particular, the right to a future safeguarded by climate-conscious actions. We are pretty much aware of a dark reality: our world has known weather warfare before. In the past, it was deliberate – an act

Environmental diplomacy

of war. But if, today, developed nations refuse to extend a hand to regions like ours, then – while unintended – the outcome will be no less destructive. Make no mistake: this is not just an environmental crisis; this is climate warfare. And it is more dangerous than Fifth Generation Warfare and more unpredictable than any nuclear conflict.

time is of the essence. Fortunately, after a decade's struggle with smog, Pakistani Punjab has understood the urgency of climate action through Chaudhry Rehmat Ali's Now or Never, and we expect our neighbour to do the same as Nehru's Now or Never. This climate diplomacy is far greater than opening onion trade between the two countries – because climate

funding from the Government of Punjab. Key components of this framework are set in motion, and every target is backed by the resources to make it real.

Punjab is investing in climate fin. This policy plan was developed in close coordination with international bodies, organisations, donor agencies, stakeholders, and civil society, and now the most populous province is in a condition to collaborate, to create and adopt joint strategic actions that go beyond borders.

We have already suffered for environmental crimes we didn't commit. Pakistan doesn't contribute even one per cent to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, yet, due to the actions of others, we are among the five most vulnerable nations to climate change.

We, the citizens, call upon all our neighbours to come forward and work with us. You have a tremendous stake in this. I fully support exploring the universe and finding new planets to live on. But let's not forget to fix the planet we already call home.

The writer is a freelance journalist. He has also served as media adviser to the World Bank and Unicef-funded healthcare and tourism related projects in Punjab. He tweets/posts @EAAgop

Fortunately, after a decade's struggle with smog, Pakistani Punjab has understood the urgency of climate action

This requires stronger collaborations in the shape of regional climate diplomacy, partnerships that cross borders, and a commitment that transcends politics. South Asian countries like India and Pakistan have strived on every possible stage: economic front, sports arenas, and technological innovations. Competition is essential; it is survival. But there is one stage where competition must cease and cooperation must prevail: climate action. In this fight for our shared future, we cannot afford divisions, pride, or reluctance. The partnership between India and Pakistan would be of key importance, if it happens. Similarly,

is the new peace dialogue of the millennium. Climate is no longer just a part of any economy – it is our economy. Climate is no longer just another branch of governance – it is a mode of governance now. Climate should be our unbreakable stance on sustainability.

To realise this vision, Punjab has crafted an all-encompassing climate policy: the Climate Resilient Punjab Vision and Action Plan 2024. This powerful declaration is a blueprint for action, grounded in the urgency of the moment and infused with the spirit of resilience. Time-sensitive initiatives of supreme significance have already been taken up with full

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



Noteworthy has been the spread of banks that operate within the principles of Islamic law. A number of such institutions were established beginning in the 1980s, and, more recently, several established Western-style banks have opened up divisions offering Islamic banking services. Pakistan has a fairly well-developed system of financial services. The State Bank of Pakistan (1948) has overall control of the banking sector, acts as banker to the central and provincial governments, and administers official monetary and credit policies, including exchange controls. It has the sole right to issue currency (the Pakistani rupee) and has custody of the country's gold and foreign-exchange reserves. Pakistan has a number of commercial banks, called scheduled banks, which are subject to strict State Bank requirements as to paid-up capital and reserves. They account for the bulk of total deposits, collected through a network of branch offices. A few specialist financial institutions provide medium- and long-term credit for industrial, agricultural, and housing purposes and include the Pakistan Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation (1957; since 2001, PICIC Commercial Bank, Ltd.), the Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan (1961), the Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan (1961), and

the House Building Finance Corporation (1952). There are a number of private banks, many of which operate from Karachi. Habib Bank, Ltd., is one of the oldest. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was founded in Pakistan in 1972; BCCI's collapse in 1991 precipitated a major international banking scandal. The Karachi Stock Exchange (Guarantee) Limited (1947), Lahore Stock Exchange (Guarantee) Limited (1970), and Islamabad Stock Exchange (Guarantee) Limited (1989) are the largest such institutions in the country; each deals in stocks and shares of registered companies. The Investment Corporation of Pakistan (1966) and the National Investment Trust (1962) were founded by the state to help channel domestic savings into the capital market; both have since been partly privatized. As part of the development of the "Islamic" economy, interest-free banking and financing practices have been instituted in many specialized banks. Trade has grown into one of the major sectors of the Pakistani economy and employs a significant proportion of the workforce. Although there has been a trend toward increasing exports, the country has had a chronic annual trade deficit, with imports often outstripping exports. Over the years, important changes have taken place in the composition of foreign

trade. In particular, while the proportion of total exports from primary commodities, including raw cotton, has fallen, the share of manufactures has greatly increased. But the bulk of the manufactured products coming into the export trade consists of cotton goods, so that Pakistan remains as dependent as ever on its leading cash crop. The other manufactures exported come mostly from industries based on agriculture, such as leather and leather goods and carpets; exports of rice and petroleum products are also important. The shift toward manufactured agricultural exports, which have a higher added-value content than primary commodities, has been encouraged by the government. The trade deficits and shortages of foreign exchange have made it necessary for the government to restrict imports and to provide financial incentives to promote export trade. Major imports consist of machinery, chemicals and chemical products, crude oil, refined petroleum, food and edible oils, and motor vehicles. Pakistan's most important trading partners are the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and China. The government has traditionally been a major employer, and, just as in other former colonial countries with a well-developed civil service, government positions are coveted for the financial security that they offer.

Combined with public administration, defense, construction, and public utilities, services account for roughly one-fourth of GDP and employ about one-fifth of the workforce. Tourism traditionally has contributed little to the economy, but the country has consistently attracted a number of tourists who engage in "adventure" tours, particularly in the high mountains of the north, where the Karakoram Highway provides access to some of the loftier peaks for hikers and climbers. Likewise, the ruins at Mohenjo-daro and Taxila—designated UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1980—attract a number of interested outsiders each year. Remittances from workers abroad constitute a large (though extremely difficult to measure) source of revenue. At any given time there are several million Pakistanis working abroad, throughout the world; officially, the income that they send home (as well as money remitted by Pakistani immigrants abroad) amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Much income is likely transferred through unofficial channels—either by hand or through the services of the traditional system of money exchanges known as hawala—and the total amount of money remitted from abroad is likely much higher than official statements.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Scarlett Johansson talks about liberty after hitting big milestone

Scarlett Johansson also shared about the surprise by her husband



Scarlett Johansson beams with joy as she turns 40! The Avengers star, during her recent appearance on Live with Kelly and Mark talked about how it feels like to hit 40. "Well, it's only been three days, but so far, it's great," she said. "You also don't care what anybody thinks, which is so liberating," she told Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos. "It's so liberating!" Johansson also teased about the lovely surprise birthday party thrown by her husband of four years, Colin Jost. "He threw me a humungous bash this year," revealed the Oscar nominee. "It was a surprise. And I had all the martinis for everyone and I can't

wait to see the photos so I can remember the night." Many of Johansson's "friends and colleagues came from all over the place," she said. "And it was just, it was magical. And he put it all together!" Jost, 42, is "very good at gift-giving," she added. "He always buys beautiful jewelry." The mother of two, who shares 3-year-old son Cosmo with the Saturday Night Live star and 10-year-old daughter Rose Dorothy with ex-husband Romain Dauriac, called Jost "a great dad." She added, "I'm extremely lucky. He's a kind person and he's hilarious and thoughtful and loving... But he's also got his naughty side. He keeps it interesting."

Tech

How were Mars's moons formed?

New model proposes Phobos, Deimos resulted from wreckage of larger asteroid



Mars's moons Phobos and Deimos are likely to have been formed from the debris created at the time when a large asteroid wandered dangerously close to it, as per the suggestion by computer simulations. According to the proposal of this new model, Phobos and Deimos resulted from the wreckage of a larger asteroid that wandered too close to Mars and crossed its Roche limit, reported Space.com. It is also worth noting that the Roche limit was the distance at which gravitational tidal

forces emanating from the planet became too great and tore the asteroid apart.

"It's exciting to explore a new option for the making of Phobos and Deimos — the only moons in our solar system that orbit a rocky planet besides Earth's," said Nasa Ames Research Centre's Jacob Kegerreis.

The moons of Mars are not easy to explain. Both are small — Phobos is 16 miles (26km) across at its widest point, whereas, Deimos is just 10 miles (16km) — and lumpy. This makes them look like captured asteroids. However, around their new parent planet, objects captured in orbit tend to have elongated, inclined and sometimes retrograde trajectories. Neptune's moon Triton, or Saturn's moon Phoebe are good examples. Moreover, Phobos and Deimos have neatly circular orbits aligned with Mars' equatorial plane. This makes it seem more likely if they had formed in orbit around Mars.

Health

Bird flu builds up danger for breakfast in US

A serious danger related to breakfast may be faced by some Americans as grocery stores are reportedly experiencing a shortage of eggs across the country due to bird flu. Even though the egg supply seems to be stable in most areas of the country, some places are facing a dairy crisis. According to NBC news, the shortage took place as a result of increased egg prices, rationing and emptied shelves in parts of Denver, Miami and New York, reported Gizmodo. However, the single largest reason behind the scarcity is bird flu, as per the experts' statement.

"Bird flu is by far the biggest impactor affecting egg prices right now," agricultural economist Berni Nelson told NBC News. "In the last couple of months alone, we've seen about 10 million birds alone affected by the virus. And as we go on and the migration continues, we are always going to be watching to see what happens with avian influenza." Highly pathogenic avian influenza A strains of H5N1 have increasingly started to spread among wild birds and domestic poultry in the US since 2022. H5N1 outbreaks of bird flu in poultry have been seen across 48 states during this time period. Additionally,

more recently this year, H5N1 has begun to cause large outbreaks among dairy cattle. Though the virus is not spreading easily between people (for now, at least), there have also been human cases of H5N1 tied to these animal outbreaks. According to the American Egg Board, the country's overall egg stockpile is fine, however, these outbreaks have had a real impact. Moreover, it was found by a USDA report this July that the country's total egg production had fallen 2.6% compared to last year, which also cited bird flu as a major contributor.



President Aleksandr Lukashenko meets COAS, praises Pak Armed Forces



RAWALPINDI: President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko Wednesday met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), in Islamabad. The discussion encompassed matters of mutual interest, prospects for defense cooperation, and regional security dynamics, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs, expressing a desire to strengthen and expand bilateral ties. President Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the Pakistan Armed Forces for their significant role in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Israel, Hezbollah ceasefire deal has been agreed

It has been Lebanon's deadliest conflict in decades, martyring more than 3,823 people

BEIRUT: A ceasefire has been agreed to end 13 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, US President Joe Biden has announced. "Effective at 04:00 tomorrow local time (02:00 GMT on Wednesday), the fighting across the Lebanese-Israeli border will end," Biden said, adding that it aimed to be a "permanent cessation of hostilities". Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel will not hesitate to strike if Hezbollah breaks any part of the agreed deal. There has been no response from the Iran-backed armed group which had been trading fire with Israel since October 2023. Fighting escalated in late September when Israel intensified bombardments and launched a limited ground invasion. It has been Lebanon's deadliest conflict in decades, martyring more than 3,823 people say local officials. The ceasefire started overnight on Wednesday as planned. Attacks by both sides were recorded until shortly before the deal came into effect. Israel issued evacuation orders for parts of Beirut four hours before the ceasefire deadline, striking shortly before the deadline. Hezbollah also fired drones into Israel in the hours before fighting stopped. Under the deal announced on Tuesday and brokered by the US, there will be a 60-day period during which Israel will gradually withdraw its troops from Lebanon's south as Lebanese government forces regain control of an area currently held by Hezbollah. SABAH



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with Deputy Chairman of Muftis of Moscow Damir Mukhetdinov at Moscow Cathedral Mosque. INP

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko leaves for home after visiting Pakistan

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has left for home after completing his three-day visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar. During the visit, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed the full range of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to deepening friendly ties between the two countries across political, trade, economic, cultural, social and other areas. The two sides signed fifteen important agreements and MoUs, including the Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation for the period 2025-2027. The roadmap focuses on enhancing bilateral economic cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus. A delegation of key business figures and investors from Belarus also accompanied the President. They had successful and fruitful



meetings with Pakistani business leaders. The Prime Minister presented a photo album of the three-day visit to the President of Belarus. Earlier, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif hosted a luncheon in honour of Belarusian President in Murree.

No Afghan national would be allowed to stay in federal capital without NOC after Dec 31: Mohsin Naqvi

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Wednesday Afghan nationals would not be allowed to stay in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) without having proper permission from authorities after Dec 31, 2024.

The minister made the announcement while speaking to media in the federal capital. He said any Afghan citizen, who intends to stay in ICT after December this year, would have to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Deputy Commissioner Office. Responding to a question, the minister said most roads had been opened and routine life in Islamabad restored.

Naqvi rejected the ongoing propaganda of killings during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad, saying no policeman was equipped with a pistol. "I have been asking to share the names of those killed in the protests but there is no response from the other side," he said.

They should share evidence, if any, of deaths during protest, he said. The minister said he would share the data of the tear gas shells fired by the protesters on law enforcers. "We are ready if they [PTI] want to come again," he dared PTI.

Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa has warned that no one will be allowed to challenge the writ of the state and law.

Addressing a joint news conference, Islamabad IGP Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Commissioner Randhawa announced that all routes of the federal capital Islamabad had been cleared. They disclosed that demonstrators including Afghan nationals staged a protest in the capital despite the fact that the Belarusian delegation was visiting Pakistan.

The chief commissioner revealed that Afghan nationals were apprehended and said the state writ must be maintained. He said data of Afghan nationals would be verified and only those possessing the NOCs would be allowed to live in the federal capital. They mentioned that they offered the PTI to stage a protest at Sangjani and a mechanism of filing an application to the district administration had to be considered for a peaceful protest.

They stated that the PTI insisted on protesting at D-Chowk where protesters were carrying weapons. The IGP and the chief commissioner stated that tear gas shells and bullets were fired on the police and Rangers personnel, green belts and trees burnt, CCTV cameras broken and metro bus stations vandalised. He said more than 200 vehicles were impounded and weapons of different sorts including pistols and Kalashnikovs were recovered from the protesters.

The IGP said search operation was still continuing and warned that terrorism would not be allowed under the guise of protest. "As many as 954 miscreants were arrested during last three days," said IGP Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi. There was a clear distinction between protest and terrorism but how could this be a peaceful protest where police and Rangers were attacked, he added. SABAH

Supreme Court turns down suo motu notice plea on fatalities amid PTI protest

ISLAMABAD: The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court has rejected the PTI plea seeking to take suo motu notice of the deaths that occurred during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s violent protest. A five-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, was hearing a case related to the Climate Change Authority. During the proceedings, Justice Khan observed that the court could only address issues that were formally brought before it. While the hearing was underway, the Additional Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, appearing via video link, raised concerns about the protests in Islamabad's Blue Area and the large-scale operation that followed. He referenced the fatalities on both sides during the events and requested the bench to take suo motu notice of the incidents. The head of the Constitutional Bench, Justice Aminuddin Khan, remarked that the issue is not before us, and therefore, we cannot address it. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel added that the matter is not before the court, and they did not wish to discuss it. Justice Musarrat Hilali

rebutted the K-P government's lawyer, advising, "Do not bring political matters into the Supreme Court." Meanwhile, the Supreme Court disposed of a petition related to the integration of FATA into K-P, a petition filed by the founder of PTI. Lawyer Babar Awan stated that the matter had already been finalized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly, and no further judicial action was necessary on the petition filed by the PTI founder. Yesterday, clashes between security forces and PTI protesters in Islamabad have resulted in 10 deaths and 71 injuries, according to reports from three major hospitals in the city. According to media reports, six civilians and four security personnel were among the dead, with the injured transported to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Poly Clinic, and CDA Hospital. PIMS reported receiving 27 injured police officers and 14 civilians, along with seven bodies—four of security personnel and three civilians. Poly Clinic confirmed three deaths and 28 civilian injuries, while CDA Hospital treated two injured civilians, one with a gunshot wound and another hurt by tear gas. SABAH

Constitution, law allow peaceful protests, not violence



ISLAMABAD: Mutahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) Chairman, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, stated that the constitution and law allow peaceful protests and not violence. In a statement he emphasised that the country could not function as it currently was being run. He said that the feudal democracy in Pakistan was not suitable for the country. He reaffirmed that the constitution and law permitted protests, but not violent actions. He further stated that those who have closed the doors for negotiations should understand that dialogue is the ultimate solution, and that opportunities for communication should not have been closed off. Siddiqui also stressed that decisions on issues like water should be made with the consent of all provinces.

954 suspects arrested, over 200 vehicles seized; says IGP

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said on Wednesday that the law enforcement agencies have so far arrested 954 suspects with impounding over 200 vehicles during the grand operation launched last night to clear D-Chowk and adjoining areas from protesters in the Federal Capital. The IGP, in a joint press conference with Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, revealed that the authorities have also recovered around 39 weapons of different sorts, including Kalashnikovs from the protesters. IG Rizvi claimed that the protesters were armed, used tear gas shells, and employed large fans to blow tear gas fumes towards security forces. He said the law enforcement agencies responded with non-lethal measures, such as tear gas and batons, to regain control of D-Chowk and adjoining areas. The violence, Rizvi said, resulted in 71 security



personnel injured, 27 by gunfire, while three Rangers personnel tragically lost their lives. The protesters also damaged 167 Safe City cameras and caused significant disruption to public life. "Armed terrorists used the guise of protests to attack law enforcement personnel," said Rizvi, vowing that such acts of violence would not be tolerated. Search operations were underway to locate suspects and weapons linked to the unrest. Chief Commissioner Randhawa reaffirmed the state's commitment to law and order, emphasizing that no Afghan national without a valid no-objection certificate (NOC) will be allowed to reside in Islamabad. APP

NDMA dispatches 21st relief consignment to Gaza, Lebanon, Syria



ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Wednesday dispatched its 21st consignment of humanitarian aid, consisting of 17 tons of relief supplies, to support war-affected populations in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria. In collaboration with the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), NDMA sent an aid shipment consisting of around 17 tons of supplies, including blankets, food, and medicines. This humanitarian aid, dispatched under the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was flown via a chartered 777 aircraft from Chaklala, Rawalpindi to Damascus, Syria, for the war-affected people of Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. Under the instructions of the prime minister, a total of 1,756 tons of relief items have been dispatched to the affected people of Gaza (1,273 tons), Lebanon (372 tons) and Syria (111 tons). The send-off ceremony held at Chaklala was

attended by Ibrar Malik, MNA, senior officials from NDMA, MOFA and PAF. The chief guest emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected population, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine. On the instructions of the prime minister, a special account named "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," for collection of donations from the public to aid their brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.

Daniyal Ch refutes PTI's allegations, stresses no weapons used during D-Chowk operation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry on Wednesday refuted PTI's allegations for widespread killings at D-Chowk last night, stressing that the operation was unarmed and intended to prevent casualties. In a press conference, Daniyal accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of attempting to incite deaths to disrupt the visits of foreign dignitaries. "PTI is spreading misleading propaganda regarding the deaths of its workers," he claimed. He categorically said that no protesters were killed by gunfire. Instead of making them responsible for the deaths that occurred while fleeing in a hurry, PTI sought to politicize deaths but was peacefully managed by the interior minister. "The call for this violent protest has proven to be the final nail in the coffin of PTI's violent politics," the minister said. PTI spread fake news, accusing the



government of the killings, and shared it on social media to deceive the international community. A video was made after going to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital and it was said that there were bodies here. They had planned to come and find the bodies. Despite requests from their protesters not to leave, former First Lady Bushra Bibi and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Khan Gandapur were at

the forefront in fleeing from D-Chowk. He said the sit-in was poorly planned, with the intention of disrupting government operations. PTI workers continued firing under the instructions of Ali Amin Gandapur and Bushra Bibi. PTI protesters also attacked police personnel, resulting in the deaths of six security officers. "No political party has the right to harm people," he warned. The government showed restraint, while they brought people with them by inciting them, Daniyal Chaudhry said. He stated that a total of 900 hardened criminals were arrested, including proclaimed offenders, wanted criminals, and 37 Afghan nationals carrying weapons provided by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. Most of the protesters were brought to Islamabad with a payment of Rs 5,000 per day. They engaged in street firing with the weapons, destroyed nearly 100 (CCTV) cameras, and set fire to 12 or 13 police

vehicles, turning it into another May 9. He stated that the government was aware of the number of smugglers among the protesters and their activities. A strict policy was being devised by interior ministry to prevent such actions. "No one will be allowed to disturb peace or hinder economic progress," the minister said. "The country and nation will never forget the violence of November 26-27, particularly the families of the martyrs who were victims of PTI miscreants, as well as the destruction of government property and media houses," he added. He said the target of PTI miscreants was to attack the Parliament House. In response to a question, he stated that 52 personnel from law enforcement agencies were injured, with five to six in critical condition. Paying tribute to the people of the twin cities, he said the residents of Rawalpindi and Islamabad had rejected the call for violent protests. DNA