



"Various skills and basic education can be imparted through TikTok, and the Ministry of IT will fully support TikTok in achieving this objective"

Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications
Shaza Fatima

COAS General Syed Asim Munir visits the Int'l Defence Exhibition & Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre: ISPR

Commends the active participation of defense manufacturers from friendly nations



KARACHI/RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre.

According to the statement issued by the ISPR, during the visit, the COAS commended the active participation of defense manufacturers from friendly nations and observed an impressive display of arms and equipment by both domestic and international exhibitors. A total of 557 exhibitors are participating in the exhibition of which 333 are international exhibitors while 224 are domestic exhibitors. 36 countries established exhibitors' stalls of which 17 countries are participating for the first time. Over 300 foreign delegates from 53 countries attended the event and showed full confidence in the exhibition and the defence industry of Pakistan. During the exhibition, COAS also engaged in meaningful interactions with foreign military officials and defence delegates present at the event.

A significant highlight of the occasion was the inauguration of the Shahpar-III, a state-of-the-art combat Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) developed by Global Industrial Defence Solutions (GIDS) Pakistan. The Shahpar-III boasts advanced capabilities, including an operational ceiling of 35,000 feet and an endurance of over 24 hours. It is equipped to carry a wide range of munitions, including bombs, missiles, and torpedoes.

12th Edition of IDEAS 2024 commenced on 19th November and will culminate on 22nd November 2024.

Earlier, upon his arrival at Karachi, COAS was warmly received by Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar, Corps Commander Karachi. PR



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Polio Oversight Board calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz reaffirms govt's resolve to eradicate polio

Senator Irfan Siddiqui briefs PM on performance of PML-N party in Senate

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated the resolve of the government to make Pakistan a polio-free country and said that the federation along with all the provinces were taking steps at polio eradication. He said all the provinces had been taken into confidence over the polio eradication measure and together they would efface the disease.

A delegation of Polio Oversight Board comprising Christopher Elias, Representative of Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Dr Hanan Balkhy, Regional Director World Health Organization, UNICEF Regional Director Sanjay Wijesekera, Deputy Director Center for Disease Control and Prevention Andrea Frisstedt, Rotary Foundation Trustee and National Chair Dr Aziz Memon, Dr. Ziyad bin Ahmed Meemish of King Salman Humanitarian and Relief Center and Health and Environmental Advisor KShrelief Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh called on the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing in a press release said.

The prime minister thanked the delegation for their visit and support to government's efforts to end polio.

He also expressed his gratitude to King Salman Foundation, Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Rotary Foundation, UNICEF and

CDC that are partners to government in its anti-polio measures.

The prime minister observed that the part played by these organizations showed global efforts in the polio eradication drive and expressed the confidence that they would overcome the challenge of polio and would not rest till it was banished forever.

The meeting was attended by PM Coordinator on National Health Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, PM's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq and other senior officials.

The delegation praised the prime minister and the polio eradication team for their efforts.

The representative of Bill and Gates said that the current strategy of the country against polio disease had effectively been implemented and its effects were being witnessed at the macro-level which hopefully would end the polio cases. Dr Hanan Balkhy said that for the public health, the regional countries were required to strengthen their contacts and initiate dialogue. During the meeting, a briefing over the government's steps was given. Under the prime minister's directive, the team on polio eradication had visited the polio affected far flung areas.

Under the prime minister's directive, a third party audit of the anti-polio drive was carried out. The children diagnosed with polio were being looked after. The spread of polio was minimized in those areas where the vaccination ratio was better, it was added.

Meanwhile, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, leader of the parliamentary party of Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the Senate and Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs on, Wednesday briefed Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif about the performance of the parliamentary party in the Senate. During a call on, he also briefed the prime minister regarding the performance of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Irfan Siddiqui congratulated the prime minister for his excellent work in achieving the economic goals and bringing the economy of Pakistan on track, PM Office Media said in a press release.

The prime minister said that senators of Pakistan Muslim League (N) under the leadership of Senator Irfan Siddiqui were playing a commendable role, adding being a symbol of the federation, the upper house should play a dynamic role in national unity and provincial harmony. He said the Pakistan Muslim League (N) parliamentary group should maintain strong ties with all other parties in the House for this purpose. The prime minister further opined that in today's era, the importance of a strong foreign policy had increased manifold. He hoped the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs under the chairmanship of Senator Irfan Siddiqui would guide the government by playing the role of a think tank.

Mohsin Naqvi discusses bilateral ties, security cooperation with Saudi minister



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Interior Minister Dr. Nasser bin Abdulaziz Al-Daoud on Wednesday and discussed enhancing bilateral ties, mutual interests and security cooperation. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki was also in attendance.

The Saudi Deputy Minister emphasized their close ties with Pakistan and expressed eagerness to enhance collaboration in various domains. The ministers deliberated on measures to dismantle networks involved in sending beggars from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. Naqvi revealed that 4,300 individuals have been placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) as part of a zero-tolerance policy.

Both sides agreed to expedite the repatriation of 419 Pakistani prisoners currently held in Saudi Arabia, with legal procedures expected to conclude soon. Discussions included strengthening ties through joint training programs and exchanges between paramilitary forces and police forces of both nations.

Naqvi commended Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030, expressing confidence that Saudi Arabia will emerge as a global leader in economic and social sectors under the current leadership. "Saudi Arabia is a brotherly Islamic country. Pakistan will extend every possible cooperation to deepen our ties," said Mohsin Naqvi. Senior Pakistani officials, including the Additional Secretary of Interior, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and IG Islamabad Police, were present during the meeting. DNA



BAKU: A MoU being signed by Bilal Anwar of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund and Anma Munawwar Awan of the Center for Climate Diplomacy of Pakistan to enhance climate resilience through research in Baku at Pak Pavilion COP29 Summit. PMS Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid witnessing the signing ceremony.

Jam Kamal meets Turkish business leader to strengthen bilateral economic ties

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with the Turkish industry leader to strengthen bilateral economic trade relations and the future plan of action for increasing business to business ties. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan hosted Prof. Dr. Ismail Demir, Chairman of the Board of KARDEMIR (Karabuk Iron and Steel Works), Turkey, during a sideline meeting of IDEAS 2024, said a press release issued on Wednesday. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, focusing on enhancing trade, investment, and collaboration in the steel and manufacturing sectors.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the exemplary historical, political, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkey. He praised Turkey's significant advancements in defense, aerospace, and manufacturing, noting their contribution to Pakistan's industrial and

defense sectors. "Our partnership with Turkey has fostered self-reliance in key industries, and there is vast potential to expand trade and investment", he said.

The discussion also emphasized sustainable practices in steel production and fostering innovation to meet global environmental standards. Prof. Dr. Ismail Demir expressed Turkey's commitment to strengthening economic ties and thanked the Minister for the warm hospitality. He presented a souvenir to the Minister as a token of goodwill.

The meeting underscored the need for deeper collaboration in technology and infrastructure, with a shared vision to enhance trade opportunities and establish sustainable linkages between the steel industries of both nations.

The leaders agreed on pursuing initiatives to further expand economic cooperation, benefiting both countries. DNA

Ishaq Dar chairs the 44th Meeting of the Steering Committee on SDGs Achievement Programme

Meeting discusses initiatives & govt programmes for achieving the SDGs

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the 44th Meeting of the Steering Committee on SDGs Achievement Programme (SAP).

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry; Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaulah Khan; Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari. Members of National Assembly and Federal Secretaries also attended. The meeting discussed initiatives and government programmes for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special focus on basic infrastructure and needs of the underprivileged communities in Pakistan. SABAH

Imran Khan unlikely to walk free despite securing bail in the new Toshakhana case: Attaullah Tarar

Says PTI founder had not received bail in eight FIRs related to the May 9 mayhem

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar Advocate has said that PTI founder Imran Khan is unlikely to walk free despite securing bail in the new Toshakhana case. "There is no chance of the PTI founder's release," Attaullah Tarar said while speaking to a private TV channel on Wednesday.

Attaullah Tarar said that the case regarding the selling of state gifts was being heard in a trial court and that sufficient evidence was available against the PTI founder. "The trial is yet to be concluded," he added.

He further noted that the "bail can be cancelled" in case of non-cooperation of Imran Khan's part, particularly if he emulates his wife, Bushra Bibi, who has a history of such conduct.

The information minister reiterated that case would continue for a long time.

Addressing the possibilities of Imran Khan's release, Attaullah Tarar said the PTI founder had not received bail in eight FIRs related to the May 9 mayhem when the party and its members targeted defence structures, including monuments for the martyrs. "Release for him is not possible; there are many other cases he needs to secure bail in," he said.

When asked about negotiations between the federal government and PTI leadership, Attaullah Tarar questioned, "Even if there were negotiations, who would guarantee that PTI will remain peaceful?" citing the party's history of violating peaceful protest norms. SABAH

Six Khwarij terrorists killed, 12 soldiers embrace martyrdom at MaliKhel'



RAWALPINDI: Security Forces killed six Khwarij terrorists on Wednesday by effectively thwarting Khwarij attempt to enter the Joint Check Post in general area MaliKhel in Bannu District. "In ensuing fire exchange, six khwarij were sent to hell.

The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by own troops, which forced the khwarij to ram an explosive laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the post. The suicide blast led to collapse of portion of perimeter wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, resulting in Shahadat of 12 brave sons of soil that include 10 soldiers of the security forces and two soldiers of Frontier Constabulary," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"Sanitization operation is being conducted in the area and the perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice. Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve," it further said. PR

Pak becomes first country in Asia to initiate access to support from the Global Shield to close financial protection gap through enhanced pre-arranged finance

Romina Khurshid Alam reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to mitigating the financial impacts of climate change

BAKU: Pakistan, ranked as the fifth most vulnerable country to climate-induced disasters, reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing financial protection against climate-induced risks as a Global Shield beneficiary country at COP29. Following a comprehensive in-country process, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), with support from UNDP Pakistan, has finalized the priority areas for its request for support to scale up pre-arranged finance through the Global Shield. While officially handing over Pakistan's 'Request for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance Support' to the Global Shield, Coordinator to the Prime Minister, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to mitigating the financial impacts of climate change. She stated: 'Pakistan's strategy under the Global



Shield exemplifies our commitment to harnessing innovative financial instruments and global partnerships. I urge the international community to step forward and support Pakistan's journey to build financial resilience against climate risks.'

The Global Shield against Climate Risks, a joint initiative of the G7 and the V20 Finance Ministers, is driving a systematic, coherent, and sustained approach to financial protection to ensure that when disasters strike, funds are swiftly channelled to those most in

need. In a video message, Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan, commended Pakistan as 'the first country in Asia to conclude an intensive country-wide consultative in-country process, led by MoCC&EC and supported by UNDP, with diverse stakeholders across national and provincial governments and the private sector.'

Speaking at the session, Global Shield Co-Director, Nilesh Prakash noted: 'Today's handover event highlighted Pakistan's comprehensive and bottom-up approach to climate resilience. This country-led initiative has been instrumental in mapping out the financial protection gaps and prioritizing key areas within Pakistan's request for support to the Global Shield, and by extension serves as a useful model for informing the development of loss and damage funds.' SABAH

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Battling hunger?

FARHAN BOKHARI

As Pakistan's rulers celebrate a successful IMF rescue to avert a sovereign default on debt repayments, Pakistan's internal economy faces monumental challenges. An equally stark contrast between the 'sub acha' (all is well) mantra versus the harsh realities of Pakistan remains without precedent in the nation's history. In these trying times, Pakistan's wheat farmers face unusually large pitfalls highlighting a root cause of the downward slide in the agricultural sector. And fundamentally, the sector needs urgent attention to stabilise the economy.

As November's sowing time for the country's main staple crop arrived, many growers faced an unprecedented crunch. Following the worst crash in wheat prices after harvest last spring, many low-income farmers chose to cut down on inputs to save costs. Some simply used stock of seeds from previous harvests rather than new seeds while others cut down on the use of chemical fertilizers. With expenditure on wheat inputs heading downwards, Pak-

Pakistan's wheat farmers face unusually large pitfalls highlighting root cause of downward slide in agriculture

istan faces an inevitable downturn in the output next spring. The crisis triggered by crashing wheat prices was caused after the provincial government of the Punjab abruptly stepped back from purchasing stocks from the new crop at its own announced rate. The failure to pay the official 'support price' forced returns to farmers to drop by 30 to 38 per cent, causing an unprecedented dent in farm incomes. Pakistan's wheat fiasco of last year, though a matter of a broken promise, was nevertheless justified by a number of officials as yet another measure to comply with IMF conditions. Exactly why the world's most visible lender of last resort forced a de facto break in a sovereign promise, remains baffling.

But taking Pakistan's mainstream population for a ride on the grounds of an IMF diktat, also raises compelling questions over domestic policy gaps.

For years, Pakistan's power corridors have echoed with demands from foreign lenders seeking tough adjustments in the agricultural sector. That large and politically powerful landowners remain immune from paying an income tax is a widely known reality that must change. But policy blunders that are rapidly drawing down the outlook for the agricultural mainstream, are impossible to ignore. Unless reversed through a broad mix of reforms to lift Pakistan's agricultural output, the future is set to look increasingly bleak by comparison to the present or the past. A recovery operation for Pakistan's agriculture to lift food security must be led by a triangular set of initiatives. First, a removal of subsidies must come in tandem with opening up the agricultural sector to a free market mechanism. For the moment, policies on this front remain a mixed bag. For instance, while ending subsidies for agriculture, the government uses a variety of mechanisms to control the price paid for outputs, causing a major contradiction. This must discontinue unless Pakistan's ruling structure is determined to drive the agricultural sector deeper further into the ground. On a related matter, successive governments have faced periodic demands from foreign donors to force farmers to pay the actual cost of canal irrigation water provided for their crops. Again, it is an unsustainable argument unless the government allows free market mechanisms to lead this sector. In an ideal state, if farmers are forced to sow their crops without the government's financial support, they must also be allowed to reap full returns in the open market.

Second, Pakistan's ability to oversee world class research for agriculture has simply crashed from its high days. This failure has notably come at an especially inopportune time as Pakistan battles the increasing fallout from climate change. At the same time, the country's once efficient agricultural extension services have effectively crashed too. Those services were central to the transfer of knowledge and technology to farmers across Pakistan. A revival of research will remain just half baked unless the principal mechanism - extension services - are revamped to carry research findings forward to the door steps of farmers.

Finally, Pakistan urgently needs to go through a rethink of its economic direction. For years, successive governments have repeatedly cited ambitious goals in areas like industries or information technology to lift Pakistan's prospects. Yet, these lofty goals over time have made little more than modest progress. Instead, increasingly tight affordability of food items for Pakistan's mainstream population has highlighted the centrality of raising agricultural output. For now, members of the ruling class must recognise this central theme in Pakistan's future journey. Since the parliamentary elections in February, Pakistan's new ruling class has repeatedly focused on plans for new infrastructure projects such as building expressways or fast train lines. It is a direction that needs to be suspended immediately in favour of a fresh push towards reviving Pakistan's food security. The consequential benefits of such a change will include improved supplies of commodities to local consumers while also substituting some of Pakistan's imported commodities that can be produced at home. For now, battling domestic hunger is the most pressing way to stabilise Pakistan's beleaguered economy.

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Atta-ur-Rahman

According to a recent analysis of Scimago, the world's leading database of scholarly literature and analytics, Pakistan has witnessed remarkable advancements in the last twenty years in international research rankings across multiple disciplines, despite severe financial constraints experienced by the universities.

For instance, in the field of agriculture, Pakistan has moved up from a global ranking of 48th in the year 2000 to an impressive world ranking of 15th by the year 2023. Similar strides were made in economics, where the country leapt from the 96th to the 17th position, and in physics, advancing from the 59th to the 23rd place. Likewise, Pakistan's ranking in biochemistry and microbiology improved from 62nd to the 21st world position, and in chemical engineering, from 63rd to the 20th ranking. These achievements underscore the transformative impact of reforms initiated by me in the early 2000s first as federal minister of science and technology and later as chairman of the Higher Education Commission.

The reforms centred on building a highly qualified faculty and fostering a research-driven academic culture in universities, focusing on quality rather than numbers. Thousands of students were sent to prestigious universities in the US and Europe for PhD and post-doctoral training, facilitated by programmes like the world's largest Fulbright initiative.

To ensure these scholars contributed effectively upon their return, job placements were arranged, and substantial research grants - up to \$100,000 - were made available a year prior to their return. Additionally, scholars gained free access to international literature through a comprehensive digital library and could utilise advanced research equipment across the country without incurring costs.

Move towards better policymaking

Innovative quality assurance measures were also implemented, including split PhD programmes with international collaboration, rigorous thesis evaluations by foreign experts, and the establishment of Quality Assurance Cells in universities nationwide. The resulting unparalleled improvement in international rankings serves as a testament to how targeted investment in higher education and research infrastructure can propel a developing nation onto the global stage.

One of the key problems in the higher education system of Pakistan has been the mushrooming of sub-standard universities, without adequately qualified faculty or infrastructure for financial or political benefits. This resulted in many universities in Pakistan issuing degrees to students that are not even worth the paper that they are written on.

To stop this menace, a policy was formulated and approved by the cabinet in 2001 regarding the minimum requirements that must be met before an aspiring institution could apply for a charter to become a degree-awarding institute or a university. These requirements included land, buildings, faculty, infrastructure, library and other facilities. The then-existing institutions were given about two years and warnings were issued to all sub-standard institutions to either come up to these minimum benchmarks or be ready to have their charters withdrawn.

These restrictions made many politicians and investors who were using sub-standard higher education institutions as money-making machines without consideration of quality aspects very unhappy. However, most institutions improved themselves, while a handful of others failed to do so with the result that for the first time in the history of higher education charters were withdrawn and campuses closed. Those that refused to do so, and had the support of corrupt politicians were also exposed by their lists being published in national newspapers as full-page Parents Alert advertisements and their

names also placed on the HEC website.

The transformative reforms in Pakistan's higher education landscape initiated in 2002 have garnered widespread international recognition. The impact of these reforms extended beyond borders. A study by 'Nature' reported Pakistan achieving the highest annual increase in research articles globally in 2018.

The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) described the progress as "breathhtaking", recognising Pakistan's advancements in scientific infrastructure and innovation. Initiatives like providing free access to scientific literature, upgrading research equipment, and establishing new science and technology universities, including science parks, attracted foreign investment and bolstered the country's academic ecosystem.

German academic Wolfgang Voelter, from Tubingen University, who won many awards for his services to Pakistan lauded the reforms as "a miracle". Similarly, the chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Education referred to the initial six years (2002-2008) of the HEC as "Pakistan's golden period in higher education". American academic Fred M Hayward noted "extraordinary changes" since 2002, including the unprecedented participation of nearly 4,000 scholars in PhD programmes, at home and abroad.

By increasing the higher education budget from Rs500 million in 2002 to Rs28 billion by 2008 - a 5600 per cent increase - we laid the foundation for sustained growth in human capital. The emphasis on research and innovation during this period was transformative. Before 2002, Pakistan's universities contributed little to global research, with only 815 publications indexed annually.

By 2008, this figure exceeded 4,300 and has now reached about 30,000 marking one of the fastest growth rates in research output globally. A groundbreaking initiative was the establishment of Pakistan's first National Digital Library, providing

free access to 65,000 international journals and 25,000 textbooks. International organizations such as Unesco praised the HEC's efforts, describing Pakistan's higher education reforms as a "model for developing countries." Partnerships with global institutions such as Unesco, the World Bank, and leading universities facilitated knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and capacity building. These collaborations attracted over \$300 million in international funding, reinforcing Pakistan's ability to implement its ambitious development agenda.

In the realm of IT and telecom, our policies transformed Pakistan into a digital society, with the IT sector emerging as a major contributor to economic growth. Broadband penetration rose from virtually zero to over 2.5 million connections by 2008, supported by the expansion of a 6,000-kilometer fibre optic network. This infrastructure connected urban and rural areas, reducing the digital divide and creating opportunities for inclusive development. Recognising the potential of the IT industry, we established IT parks and incubation centres to support startups and foster entrepreneurship.

Having established a solid research environment, we now need to link our research efforts to the process of socio-economic development by establishing university-industry linkages. The government needs to facilitate such linkages by creating major national funds to promote startups and offer venture capital.

Technology parks need to be set up in all universities to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Pakistan must transition to a technology-driven knowledge economy, and we must shed the present archaic development policies that are natural resource-driven rather than knowledge-driven.

The writer is a former federal minister, Unesco science laureate and founding chairperson of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). He can be reached at: ibne_sina@hotmail.com

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 exodus of large numbers of Pakistanis to live and work abroad, and the influx of large numbers of Afghan refugees into the country beginning in the early 1980s.

The movement of people to urban areas and abroad can be tied to an overall increase in population - which has strained resources, particularly in rural areas - largely due to improved health care and dietary intake. The economies of most parts

of the countryside have been unable to absorb the increased population, and many Pakistanis have turned to the cities in search of jobs. Though Karachi and Lahore are the only two cities that can properly be called megalopolises, all of the cities of Pakistan have grown rapidly in size and population since independence. Even in the cities, however, resources have been strained. Beginning in the oil boom of the 1970s, large numbers of Pakistanis traveled to the Persian

Gulf states seeking work. Most found employment as unskilled labourers, traveling without their families and returning home at the end of their contracted time. Also, a great many Pakistanis - mostly among the educated professional classes - emigrated to the West, either to the United States or to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries, but with advances in modern communications they often have kept in close contact with other family

members still in Pakistan. During the 1980s millions of Afghans fled to Pakistan during the Afghan War. Most of them settled along the two countries' shared border, although a significant number migrated to larger cities. It was only with the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in the late 1980s and, more importantly, the end of Taliban rule there in 2001 that significant numbers of Afghans were repatriated.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Tech

Angelina Jolie sets to play role of 'aspiring filmmaker' in upcoming film

Angelina Jolie sets to appear in new fashion film after remarkable performance in 'Maria'

Angelina Jolie appears to be preparing for a new movie role following her remarkable performance in the film, Maria. According to Variety magazine, the Oscar-winning actress will star in a unique fashion film titled Stitches [Coutures].

The movie's synopsis shared that it revolves around the struggles of three women whose lives collide during fashion week in Paris.

In this upcoming fashion-based movie, Jolie will play the role of an aspiring filmmaker among those three women. As per the media reports, the new film will be directed by renowned French filmmaker, Alice Winocour. Reportedly, the Stitches will be shot in



both languages French and English, similar to Winocour's previous feature film, Proxima.

Deadline magazine reported that the 48-year-old screenwriter is collaborating again with Pathe Films Productions for her next English movie after her previous drama film, Paris Memories. The filming of the forthcoming motion picture is expected to begin in early 2025. Moreover, the name of Jolie's character has not been revealed yet. Stitches will be produced in partnership with Zhang Xin and William Horberg of Closer Media. It is pertinent to mention that Jolie has been currently busy promoting her new biopic titled Maria.

Donald Trump joins Elon Musk to watch SpaceX Starship's liftoff

Elon Musk's SpaceX launched its giant Starship rocket to space from Texas on Tuesday, advancing the ship's spaceflight abilities but botching an attempt to bring its booster back to land as US President-elect Donald Trump watched from the company's rocket facilities. The roughly 400-foot-tall (122-meter-tall) rocket system, designed to land astronauts on the moon and ferry crews to Mars, lifted off at 4pm CT from SpaceX's sprawling rocket development site in Boca Chica, Texas. The rocket's 233-foot-tall (71-meter-tall) first-stage booster, called Super Heavy, detached from its second stage, Starship, at roughly 62 kilometres in altitude, sending the craft into space.

Super Heavy unexpectedly splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico instead of returning to land, where it was expected to fall into large mechanical arms attached to the tower it launched from. The last-minute diversion to water indicated something went wrong.

A live stream separate from SpaceX's and hosted by space blogger Everyday Astronaut showed the Super Heavy booster exploding into a massive fireball on the Gulf horizon after spilling down.

Starship last month demonstrated the novel catch-landing method for the first time, achieving a key milestone in its reusable design. Tuesday's catch-landing was supposed to be "faster/harder," Musk had written on social media before the launch.

After the October 14 Starship test, Trump was intrigued, fixating on the booster's novel catch-landing technique. "Did you see the way that sucker landed today?" he said at a rally that day. The rest of the mission appeared successful. In space, the Starship travelled around Earth for a daytime splashdown in the Indian Ocean roughly an hour later. It re-ignited one of its onboard engines in space for the first time, an early test of its manoeuvrability in space that SpaceX had tried but failed to do in past flights.

Eating less sugar would be great for the planet as well as our health

Sugar addiction is on the rise. Globally, sugar intake has quadrupled over the last 60 years, and it now makes up around 8% of all our calories. This sounds like sugar's keeping us fed, but added sugars are actually empty calories - they are bereft of any nutrients like vitamins or fibres. The result is massive health costs, with sugars linked to obesity around the world. Some estimates suggest that half the global population could be obese by 2035. A limited 20% reduction in sugar is estimated to save US\$10.3 billion (\$8.1 billion) of health costs in the US alone. Yet, sugar's impacts go far beyond just health and money.

There are also many environmental problems from growing the sugar, like habitat and biodiversity loss and water pollution from fertilisers and mills. But overall, sugar hasn't received a lot of attention from the scientific community despite being the largest cultivated crop by mass on the planet. In a recent article, we evaluated sugar's environmental impacts and explored avenues for reducing sugar in the diet to recommended levels either through reducing production or using the saved sugar in environmentally beneficial ways. By phasing out sugar, we could spare land that could be rewilded and stock up on carbon. This is especially important in biodiverse tropical regions where sugar production is concentrated such as Brazil and India. But a different, more politically palatable option might be redirecting sugar away from diets to other environmentally beneficial uses such as bioplastics or biofuels. Our study shows that the biggest opportunity is using sugar to feed microbes that make protein. Using saved sugar for this microbial protein could

produce enough plant-based, protein-rich food products to regularly feed 521 million people. And if this replaced animal protein it could also have huge emission and water benefits. We estimate that if this protein replaced chicken, it could reduce emissions by almost 250 million tonnes, and we'd see even bigger savings for replacing beef (for reference, the UK's national fossil fuel emissions are around 300 million tonnes). Given sugar has a far lower climate impact than meat, this makes a lot of sense. Another alternative is to use the redirected sugar to produce bioplastics, which would replace around 20% of the total market for polyethylene, one of the most common forms of plastic and used to produce anything from packaging to pipes. Or to produce biofuels, producing around 198 million barrels of ethanol for transportation.



Health

روزنامہ اسلام آباد

دی اسٹینڈنگ سٹیٹسٹیکس گراف

توشہ خانہ ٹو کیس، عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور، رھائی کا حکم

ایمان آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) اسلام آباد پبلشرز کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر، جیمز کوری، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ یہ فیصلہ ایک اہم قدم ہے اور عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

اسلام آباد پبلشرز کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر، جیمز کوری، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ یہ فیصلہ ایک اہم قدم ہے اور عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

پہلی آئی کے احتجاج کی کان کا وقت مناسب نہیں: فضل الرحمان

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، فضل الرحمان، نے کہا ہے کہ پہلی آئی کے احتجاج کی کان کا وقت مناسب نہیں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، فضل الرحمان، نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

میری ٹائم سائنسز، ٹیکنالوجی، کاروبار اور صنعت کے شعبے میں ترقی کی راہ ہموار کرے گا

کراچی (بیورو رپورٹ) پاکستان کے پہلے میری ٹائم سائنسز اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی پارک (پک پی ٹی) کے سربراہ نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔



پک پی ٹی کے سربراہ نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

وزیر داخلہ کی اسلام آباد اور ریاض کو جڑواں شہر قرار دینے کی تجویز، سعودی وزیر کا اتفاق

سعودی عرب ہمارا برادر اسلامی ملک، دو طرفہ تعاون کے فروغ کیلئے تعاون کرے گا۔

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر داخلہ نے کہا ہے کہ سعودی عرب کے وزیر داخلہ کی اسلام آباد اور ریاض کو جڑواں شہر قرار دینے کی تجویز پر وہ بے حد متوجہ ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دو ممالک کے مابین دو طرفہ تعلقات کو فروغ دینا اور اقتصادی تعلق کو مضبوط بنانا ہمارے لیے ایک اہم نصاب ہے۔

ہتلوں، ہسپتالوں، چیک پوسٹ پر حملہ، فائرنگ کا تباہی، 6 خوارج ہلاک، مقتولہ میں 12 جوان شہید

شہداء میں سیکورٹی فورسز کے 10 اہلکار اور دو فریئر کا شہید، فائرنگ کے دوران 6 خوارج ہلاک ہوئے۔

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) سندھ پولیس کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر، ایف ایچ ایچ، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

اسلام آباد، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، فضل الرحمان، نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، فضل الرحمان، نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

پلی ٹی آئی احتجاج، وفاقی پولیس اہلکاروں کی چھٹیاں منسوخ

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی پولیس کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر، ایف ایچ ایچ، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

ملک بھر کے بورڈز امتحان میں پاسنگ اور گریس مارکر بھونچا فیکلٹیاں

کراچی (بیورو رپورٹ) ملک بھر کے بورڈز امتحان میں پاسنگ اور گریس مارکر بھونچا فیکلٹیاں نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

آپ کتنی لڑنے آتے ہیں یا وکالت کرنے؟ اسحاق ڈار تقریر کیس میں عدالتی ریمارکس

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر خارجہ، اسحاق ڈار، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

پلی ٹی آئی والے 5 اکتوبر کو راجاستھان سے ڈی جاک پیچھے، رانا ٹھانڈا

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی پولیس کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر، ایف ایچ ایچ، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

آئینی بیج ہی اتحاد نوسل کو پارلیمانی جماعت قرار دینے کیخلاف درخواست خارج

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی عدالت نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

تحریک انصاف کا احتجاج روکنے کیلئے پنجاب پولیس تیار

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) پنجاب پولیس نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

آرمی چیف کا شہر قائد میں جاری دفاعی نمائش آئیڈیاز 2024 کا دورہ

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) دفاعی نمائش آئیڈیاز 2024 کے دورہ میں آرمی چیف نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

عمران خان کیخلاف درجن مقدمات میں استدعا خارج

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی عدالت نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

احتجاج، دھڑا دینا ہے تو اپنے صوبے میں ویس، صوبوں کی انتظامیہ کو لڑنا نہیں: مریم اورنگزیب

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، مریم اورنگزیب، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

سندھ حکومت کی ترکیب اور سویڈن کی کسٹومرز میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ، مریم نواز، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے صدر بننے پر کوئی خوش فہمی میں نہ رہے، شریجیل انعام مبین

اسلام آباد (پبلشنگ رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر خارجہ، اسحاق ڈار، نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے وفاقی قوتوں سے توشہ خانہ کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس سے عمران خان کی ضمانت منظور کرنے کے بعد وہ رھائی کا حکم حاصل کریں گے۔

پاکستان نے دہشتگردوں کے ہاتھوں بہت نقصان اٹھایا، امریکہ

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President, PM reiterate resolve to wipe out terrorism



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed grief over the martyrdom of 12 security forces personnel in a terrorist attack that took place in Bannu. In their separately issued statements, both the president and prime minister paid tributes to the armed forces personnel for sacrificing their lives and killing six terrorists while safeguarding the country.

"The whole nation salutes the soldiers for sacrificing their lives for the security of their motherland," the president said and reiterated the nation's resolve to wipe out terrorism from the country. He also prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

"The sacrifices of the nation's soldiers will never be squandered. The Fitna Al Khawarij (terrorist) posing threats to the lives and properties of the people will have to pay a heavy price for it," Prime Minister Shehbaz said and reiterated that the fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of this scourge.

Three weeks long Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII commences

RAWALPINDI: Three weeks long Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII between Pakistan Army and Peoples' Liberation Army of China commenced on Wednesday at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi.

The exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the Iron Clad Brothers, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz, HI (M), Commander Rawalpindi Corps was the chief guest at the opening ceremony.

Three weeks long exercise in counter terrorism domain is 8th in the series of bilateral exercise being conducted annually, it further said. PR

Shaza urges TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday urged TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes.

"Various skills and basic education can be imparted through TikTok, and the Ministry of IT will fully support TikTok in achieving this objective," she said during a meeting with a TikTok delegation led by its Director of Public Policy, Mr. Emir Gelen.

According to a news release, the meeting

focused on matters of mutual interest, including the availability of quality and productive content on social media platforms. Secretary IT, Zarrar Hasham Khan, was also present during the discussion. The TikTok delegation briefed the Minister on the platform's initiatives in Pakistan and outlined upcoming programs.

Shaza Fatima emphasized the importance of ensuring that quality content is accessible, noting that TikTok has a vast user base in Pakistan. The delegation assured the Minister that TikTok would prioritize meaningful and educational content. They also expressed the platform's willingness to collaborate with the Ministry of IT & Telecom and its associated departments to achieve these goals. DNA

Cambridge, Education ministry agree to offer Cambridge qualifications in 4 ICT public schools

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and International Education for Cambridge University Press and Assessment on Wednesday agreed to offer Cambridge qualifications in four selected federal government schools in Islamabad.

In that regard, a delegation led by Mr. Rod Smith, Group Managing Director, International Education for Cambridge University Press and Assessment visited the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and met with Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui to sign an MoU.

Talking to the delegates, Dr. Khalid said that Cambridge is playing a positive role in imparting quality education to the youth of Pakistan. He stressed that Cambridge needs to expand the horizon of their role in Pakistan. He especially emphasised its role in creating enhanced assessment capabilities of the local education boards. He said that transparency in assessment and enhanced engagement is the need of the hour.

Federal Minister was briefed by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani that the MOU sets forth the understanding and cooperative framework between Cambridge and The Ministry to offer Cambridge qualifications in four selected federal government schools in Islamabad. DNA

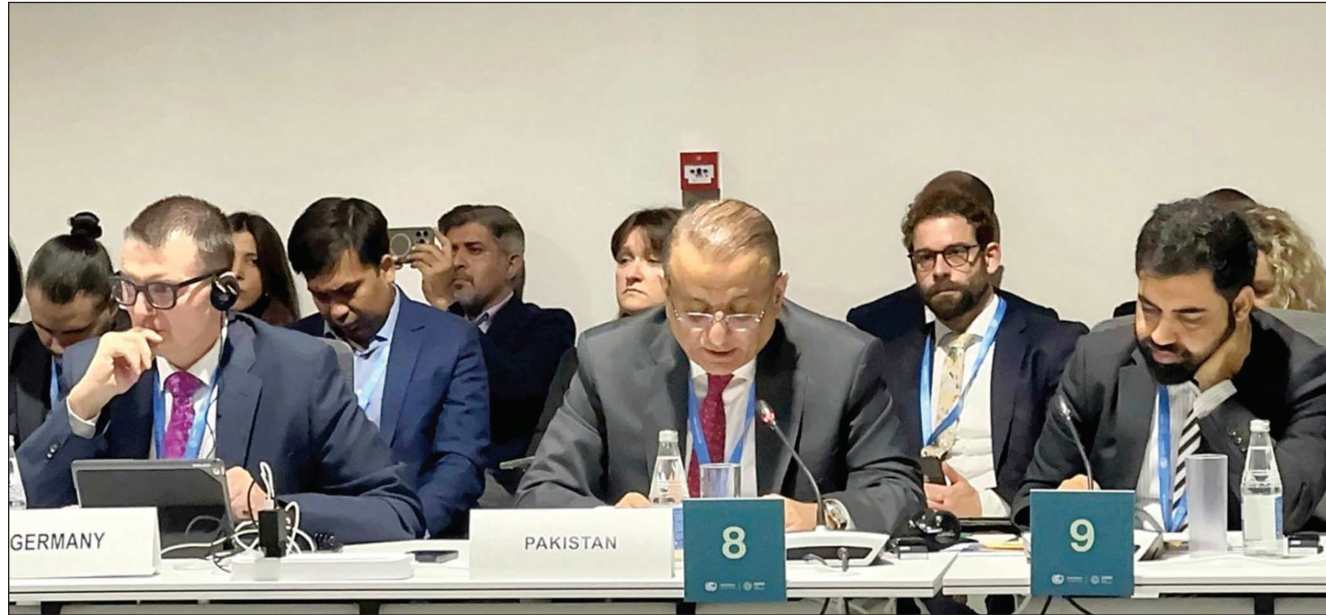
Pak seeks to enhance its standards & address technical issues to capitalize on Japan's abundant job opportunities: Salik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain convened a strategic meeting with a high-level Japanese delegation from the Japan-Pakistan Innovation Institute (JPII). The delegation comprised notable members, including Chairman JPII Mitsuru Kiuchi, President JPII M. Bilal Bhinder, JPII President Pakistan Tariq H. Cheema, Katsumata Tomomi JPII Vice Chairman, Sawaki Yotaro JPII Director, Kisaragi Nel President ALPHA STYLE Co. Ltd, Takida Munetaka Personnel Department Manager of MIRAPRO Co. Ltd, Miyamoto Hidenori Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly Member and Takano Hideki Director, SINTECH. Chaudhry Salik Hussain emphasized the necessity of technical assistance over financial aid, focusing on skill development and certification for Pakistani workers seeking employment in Japan. He urged registered Japanese



institutions in Pakistan to prioritize skill development, facilitating direct links between Japanese companies and Pakistani workers. Pakistan seeks to enhance its standards and address technical issues to capitalize on Japan's abundant job opportunities. Inspired by specialized courses in Tokyo, Chaudhry Salik Hussain proposed replicating this model in Pakistan. The meeting culminated in Japan's request for a business model for 2025 collaboration and

Minister Hussain's announced that we are working to establish an excellence center, further solidifying Pakistan-Japan relations. This significant development marks a pivotal step towards fostering a robust partnership between Pakistan and Japan. The collaboration is expected to unlock new avenues for economic growth, knowledge sharing, and people-to-people exchanges, ultimately strengthening the bilateral relationship between the two nations. SABAH



BAKU, AZERBAIJAN: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan in COP 29.

Pakistan to convert 30% vehicles to electric by 2030, Aleem Khan tells COP29

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization, and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday announced that Pakistan aims to convert 30% of its vehicles to electric by 2030, under the government's approved Electric Vehicle (EV) policy.

This ambitious target reflects Pakistan's commitment to combating climate change and promoting sustainable transportation.

The Minister emphasized that significant steps are already underway to support the widespread adoption of electric vehicles in Pakistan. Aleem Khan assured that the government is actively working on infrastructure development for EVs, including the installation of charging stations, and enhancing public awareness about the benefits of electric mobility.

Leading the Pakistani delegation at the two-day session on "Transport and Digital Middle Corridor and Beyond" at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Khan highlighted the participation

of ministers and delegates from various countries including Türkiye, Georgia, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Italy, and Azerbaijan, as well as international organizations such as the UN, European Commission, UIC, IRU, and ITF.

Speaking at the Ministerial Roundtable, Aleem Khan underscored the urgent need for green urban transport solutions, renewable energy projects, and the adoption of electric vehicles to address the mounting challenges of population pressure and deteriorating air quality in major cities.

Aleem pointed out that Pakistan is already taking steps to implement essential infrastructure, such as EV charging stations, to ensure a smooth transition to electric mobility. Aleem Khan also shared exciting developments, including the introduction of Karachi's first fleet of biomethane hybrid buses, which are set to save 100% on fuel costs. Furthermore, Aleem noted that the National Green Transport Project may explore Public-Private

Partnership (PPP) models to ensure long-term sustainability and success.

During the forum, the minister stressed the pressing need for developing countries to confront the dual challenges of climate change and smog, which severely impact human health and quality of life. Minister called for targeted, micro-level interventions in the transport sector to bring about tangible and lasting change.

In addition, Aleem Khan participated in the session on "Digital Middle Corridor and Beyond," which focused on green technology, smog reduction, and the digitalization of the transport sector. He noted that the forum provided valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and the formulation of actionable, long-term policies.

Aleem Khan extended special thanks to Azerbaijan's Minister of Transport Rashid Nabiev and Minister of Economy Mikael Jabarov, noting fruitful discussions with ministers and delegates from other participating countries.

More non-permanent members-not new permanent seats-will make UNSC effective: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan, member of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group which opposes new permanent members in the U.N. Security Council, has reaffirmed its demand for adding more non-permanent seats to the 15-member body so as to make it more effective, representative and accountable.

"The UfC continues to believe that its proposal for an expansion of Security Council membership to 26 or 27, with the addition of 11 or 12 new non-permanent members, offers the best basis for Security Council reform," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent repre-

sentative to the UN, told delegates when the deadlocked Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at restructuring the Council resumed on Tuesday. The UfC's proposal to add only non-permanent members, elected periodically by the General Assembly, is "democratic and consistent" with the Charter's prescription that the Council "acts on behalf" of the entire membership, he said, adding it will also ensure "equitable representation" - the key objective of the Council reform process. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the Gen-

eral Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas - the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly. Progress towards reforming the Security Council remains blocked as G-4 countries - India, Brazil, Germany and Japan - continue pushing for permanent seats in the Council, while the Italy/Pakistan-led UfC group opposes any additional permanent members. APP

Azam Nazeer reaffirms unwavering commitment to protect rights of children

ISLAMABAD: During his address at the World Children's Day event hosted by the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child at the Pakistan National Council of Arts,



Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children.

He highlighted the importance of listening to children's voices, reflecting this year's theme, "Listen to the Future." He emphasized that children are not only the future of the nation but also an integral part of shaping its present.

The Minister underscored Pakistan's progress in advancing child rights through initiatives like the National Commission on the Rights of the Child and the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA), which provides swift interventions for missing children. He also mentioned the Awaz App and the Take It Down Portal, which reflect the government's dedication to ensuring safer digital spaces for children and addressing online risks effectively.

Highlighting education as a top priority, he spoke about efforts to bridge gaps in access to education, particularly for girls, and reiterated the government's commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering environment for all children.

"The Minister concluded by calling for a unified approach involving families, communities, civil society, and private sector stakeholders to build a society where children's voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their dreams are nurtured. He expressed hope that through collective efforts, Pakistan can create a future where every child thrives without fear or discrimination.

"Children are the strength and hope of our nation," he remarked, "and investing in their well-being is an investment in the prosperity and progress of Pakistan."

In her address Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq highlighted that the Commission has been working tirelessly to safeguard the rights of children.

From combating child marriage and child labour to ensuring access to education and online safety, the Commission has undertaken various initiatives ranging from legal and policy reforms to research, advocacy and awareness raising.

She said "World Children's Day reminds us of our collective responsibility to ensure every child in Pakistan thrives in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment.

Let us commit to shaping a society where children are respected, protected, and empowered because they are not just the architects of tomorrow but active contributors to shaping the present." APP

1.5 mln employment opportunities to be provided to youth: Rana Mashhood

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Wednesday said that Youth is the future of Pakistan and as many as 1.5 million employment opportunities would be provided to them in Pakistan and abroad this year under PMYP.

Addressing a news conference here at Pakistan Sports Board Complex along with Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, he said that around 3,000 athletes were participating in the Prime Minister's University Sports (PMUS) Olympiad across the country starting on November 21.

Mashhood said that the young generation can play a major role in the prosperity and stability of the country and Pakistan has a talented youth and has a pivotal role in advancing the country towards fast-paced development. "We are dedicated to preparing our youth to excel in diverse fields, from sports to technical education, Information technology-driven industries to traditional crafts. This holistic approach will enable them to contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's socio-economic development," he added.

Ahsan directs sites' identification, concept paper preparation for M- SEZs

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the officials concerned to identify suitable sites for the establishment of Model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and prepare a comprehensive concept paper for the purpose.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting on Model-SEZs and the policy framework for the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan, following a detailed briefing by officials from the Board of Investment (BOI).

Stressing the need to enhance G2G (government-to-government) joint cooperation with China, he said Pakistan would provide land to Chinese industries, while they would manage the infrastructure and market these zones themselves. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the importance of industrial zones and said that a one-window



facility would be provided to these zones so that investors do not face any difficulties.

He also mentioned that no negligence would be tolerated in the construction of the zones or the provision of facilities there. The planning minister further said there would be regular meetings with Chinese companies every month to address their problems promptly, if any arose.

He termed the security of Chinese citizens as the 'top priority' of the government and vowed that the enemies of Pakistan and development would not be allowed to cause any dent to Pakistan-China relations.

PTI's "Final Call" for protest deemed failure: Minister Engr Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, Wednesday dismissed PTI's November 24 protest call as a 'flop show,' claiming it would yield no significant results.

Engr Amir Muqam, the PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President, has described Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) "Final Call" for protests at D-Chowk on November 24 as nothing more than a 'miscall.'

He accused the party of attempting to provoke unrest and violence.

Muqam stated that Pakistan remains committed to combating terrorism in politics, warning that those who bring terrorism into politics will face the same consequences as terrorists.

He emphasized this stance as a reflection of Pakistan's dedication to eradicating extremism and promoting peace.

Engr Amir Muqam claims PTI leaders are using the protest call as leverage for a deal, while simultaneously seeking behind-the-scenes apologies and concessions.

Muqam stated that the PTI founder's refusal to engage with other political parties raises concerns about his political judgment and commitment to democracy.

He added that by avoiding discussions, Khan appears to lack trust in the democratic process, sparking worries about his unwillingness to consider opposing viewpoints or find common ground.

Federal Minister stated that Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin, should not act as the PTI founder's suicide bomber. He warned that if the law is taken into one's hands, it will intervene.

Muqam also pointed out that Imran Khan has instigated a revolution by handing over the party to his wife and sister.

He urged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin to focus on addressing the rising terrorism in his province rather than expending energy on federal conflicts. Imran Khan's actions have drawn criticism, with many accusing him of hypocrisy.

His involvement in violent riots after his arrest on May 9, 2023, has raised doubts about his commitment to peaceful protest and democracy.

Muqam remarked that Ali Amin made bold statements before the Apex Committee but has remained silent since then.

He questioned whether Ali Amin is with the constitution or aligned with political terrorists.

Muqam also urged Imran Khan not to use innocent people as scapegoats, stating that it is not a leader's role to harm innocent workers and party leaders.

He further stated that PTI does not want the public to be relieved from inflation, noting that inflation has decreased and the economy has stabilized, which seems to cause discomfort for PTI.

"Those asking 'are we slaves' have proven to be actual slaves."