



All the politicians should unite for the security and development of the country and all of us should put aside all our objections and bring political and economic stability in the country so that the country can develop

Pakistan People's Party Chairman  
**Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan agreed for promoting joint ventures and trade Partnerships



### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan and Pakistan on Saturday agreed to promote joint projects and trade partnership for which practical work will be started in the coming days.

The consensus to this effect was evolved in a meeting between the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov and Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, said a press release.

The bilateral diplomatic activities between the two countries for the past several months, exchanges of high-level delegations and Pakistan's active participation in the COP 29 conference in Baku have started to surface positive results.

Aleem Khan warmly welcomed the Ambassador and said that including tourism Pakistan can further increase bilateral cooperation with its friendly countries in various sectors. "We need to convert our mutual relations into business and bilateral trade for which positive progress is being made from both sides", he added.

While offering companies from Azerbaijan to invest and launch business in Pakistan, he said that in the current circumstances, foreign investment can be made based on G2G and B2B.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan also discussed with the Ambassador for investment in the M6 and M9 Motorways from Karachi to Sukkhar and Sukkhar to Hyderabad. He further said that there are huge opportunities in various sectors for foreign investors in Pakistan which should be fully utilized.

Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Azerbaijan to Pakistan assured his full cooperation and said that his country would work with Pakistan on investment and joint projects.

The meeting also considered the joint efforts of the three countries of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye, while on the instructions of Federal Minister for Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, it was also decided to nominate a Focal Person from the Board of Investment to maintain close liaison with the Government of Azerbaijan.



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is addressing the Foundation laying ceremony of Information Technology University's (ITU) new Block at Barki Road. (Story on page 4)

## PM offers sympathies to Malaysian Prime Minister over loss of lives in recent floods

### VOM Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed deepest sympathies on behalf of the Pakistani people for the brotherly people of Malaysia over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods due to torrential rains in several states of the country.

The prime minister in his telephonic conversation with his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, assured that the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with their Malaysian brothers and sisters during this challenging time. He also appreciated the swift and effective measures taken by the Malaysian government to address this natural calamity.

The prime minister offered all possible assistance to Malaysia and announced the immediate dispatch of humanitarian aid as a gesture of Pakistan's support for its Malaysian brothers and sisters.

Referring to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's recent visit to Pakistan in October this year, PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction with the positive momentum in bilateral relations and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

He noted with satisfaction that most of the trade issues highlighted during the Malaysian



Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan had been successfully resolved.

The Malaysian prime minister thanked Shehbaz Sharif for Pakistan's support and agreed that both nations needed to work together to enhance relations in all key sectors. The two leaders also agreed to con-

tinue high-level visits.

The prime minister, as well as the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, are expected to visit Kuala Lumpur early next year, a press release issued by the PM Office said.

In his post on X, the prime minister said during his conversation with the Malaysian PM he also expressed deep admiration for the swift response of the Malaysian government to this natural calamity.

In response, the Malaysian prime minister in his post on X, extended gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his generosity. Anwar Ibrahim said "PM Shehbaz offered prayers for the well being of the more than 140,000 Malaysians affected and conveyed his intention to send aid as a gesture of support and friendship between our nations".

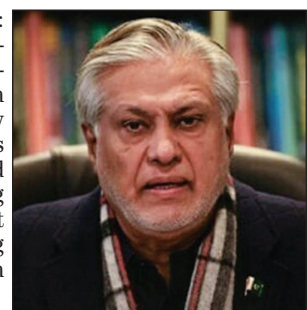
He invited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to visit Malaysia early next year. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also expressed heartfelt grief over the loss of lives and destruction resulting from floods in Malaysia.

"The people of Pakistan are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and destruction resulting from the devastating floods in Malaysia. Our heartfelt sincerest sympathies and prayers for the victims and their families. Pakistan is ready to extend all possible support to the recovery effort," Ishaq Dar wrote on X.

## Ishaq Dar dismisses claims of state brutality, calls reports of gunshot wounds "Malicious"

### ISLAMABAD:

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday strongly refuted allegations of state brutality and indiscriminate firing by law enforcement authorities during recent clashes with protestors.



In a statement issued by the Deputy Prime Minister Office, Ishaq Dar labeled the claims of gunshot wounds and unwarranted violence as "malicious" and "absolutely false," urging to provide evidence such as "graves and dead bodies" to substantiate the accusations. He said the so-called protestors came armed with heavy ammunition and tear gas canisters.

"The mob was determined to create chaos and ready to kill. Our security and law enforcement agencies exercised maximum restraint with patience despite deaths within their ranks," he said adding that the PTI leaders abandoned their workers and were now developing a ridiculous and lies-based narrative of state brutality.

## Bilawal for formulating new national action plan to combat terrorism

HYDERABAD: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the country was currently passing through a critical period, everyone have to make a new national action plan together and take a joint decision to fight the terrorists.

He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting on the occasion of the 57th founding day of the People's Party through video link.

Bilawal Bhutto said that all the politicians should unite for the security and development of the country and all of us should put aside all our objections and bring political and economic stability in the country so that the country can develop.

If terrorism is to be countered, it is the responsibility of all politicians to establish political stability, as in the past, all of us who have countered terrorism together can now come together to counter it.

He said that there is a threat to the nation due to terrorism however it was the responsibility of all of us to fight against them, bring peace and develop the country, just as we all fought against terrorism in the past, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that this matter is also being politicized, we are engaged in a political fight and the benefits that the extremists are getting, blood is flowing in Parachinar and KP, the whole world is watching them. He said that the economy was the most important issue in this country and the PPP has always given people-friendly plans and economic policies to reduce inflation and poverty.

## CM Punjab visits CMH Rawalpindi to boost morale of injured security personnel



RAWALPINDI: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi to inquire health of injured security personnel during violence of political party.

During her visit, Maryam Nawaz Sharif said "Rangers and police personnels are sons of the nation. We are proud of them, and will not spare the protestors who have mercilessly tortured them." She added, "The personnels of Pakistan Army and security agencies are restoring peace in the country by sacrificing their lives.

The corrupt political party should have been ashamed of attacking them." She highlighted, "The Federal and Punjab governments are indebted to the injured security personnels, and we stand by them and their families."

Chief Minister personally visited each injured Rangers and police personnel undergoing treatment, and inquired about their well-being. She appreciated their high morale and sense of duty. The injured personnels told Chief Minister about the merciless violence of the protestors against them. They briefed, "Firing was carried out at close range, and violence was carried out with nailed sticks. The skull of one official and the bones of most of them were broken, while some others had their eyes affected." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif consoled the injured officials and encouraged them. She said, "Attacks on state institutions, property and security personnels are highly condemnable." She added, "The miscreants and PTI members who injured the security personnels will be brought to justice, and severe exemplary punishment will be given to them.

## PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to strengthen national HIV response

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan stood united with the global community in reaffirming its firm commitment to strengthening the national HIV response and ensuring that no one was left behind. The theme, "Take the Rights Path: My health, My right," reminds us that the journey to eliminate AIDS as a public health threat begins with a firm commitment to human rights, the prime minister said in a message in connection with World AIDS Day 2024. He said upholding the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and promoting the inclusion of all communities were essential for eradicating AIDS as a public health threat. "Healthcare is a fundamental right. Through our collective efforts, we will ensure that all our citizens enjoy this fundamental right in an equitable manner. By working together, we will continue to strengthen our health systems and expand access to essential services for our citizens," the prime minister added. He highlighted that HIV/AIDS remained a health challenge and a significant socio-economic issue that threatened livelihoods, disrupts families, and deepens inequalities.

## Musadik showcases Pakistan's energy, mining investment potential at global forum

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik, on Friday, underscored the government of Pakistan's policy initiatives to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in the energy, renewables, and mining sectors.

Speaking at the 28th World Investment Conference 2024 in Riyadh, Dr. Malik participated in productive discussions with global energy leaders.

During a panel session titled "Diversifying Energy Sources: Accelerating FDI in Energy and Minerals Projects," he highlighted the government's achievements and reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating investors.

Other prominent panellists included Daler Juma, Minister of Energy and Water Resources



of Tajikistan; Sujatha, Vice President for Global Partnerships and Net Zero at Invest India; and Omar Aldawesh, CEO of EDF Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

## PTI's false narrative of dead bodies, an effort to cover up embarrassment of fleeing: Tarar

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday regretted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was now resorting to a "false narrative of dead bodies" to cover up the embarrassment of fleeing from the protest site in the Blue Area.

In a media talk regarding fake photos and posts uploaded by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on social media, he said the party had failed to produce even a single video of the firing. He pointed out that the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and Polyclinic Hospital had clearly stated that they did not receive any dead bodies.

At first, the PTI claimed that sniper shots were fired, then it was claimed that there was direct firing on the violent protestors, he said. The minister remarked that three days had passed, but the PTI could not even produce even a single video of direct firing. Instead, they were sharing old photos and artificial intelligence-generated images on social media including those of

Gaza victims of Israeli atrocities. Even one footage of an incident in 2019 was shared when ironically PTI itself was in power. The Information Minister said that on the contrary, the violent PTI protestors used different weapons against the security personnel and also inflicted damage on public property.

He questioned why the PTI did not post the pictures of martyred rangers, and police personnel who lost their lives in line of duty. He recalled that once during a public meeting of the founding chairman of PTI in Multan a few years ago, 12 people died in the stampede but that callous person did not stop his speech.

He said that the PTI even posted a fake image showing the entire road in the Blue Area covered in blood. Tarar said he walked from D Chowk to 7th Avenue but did not see any blood on the road. "When these people ran away leaving shoes, clothes and vehicles, media channels had shown every corner of this road with no blood anywhere".



The minister said that a power struggle was going on in the PTI and the absence of top leadership of the party during the protest was its manifestation. He also condemned the harsh words used by Bushra Bibi against senior lawyer Salman Akram Raja and Sahibzada Hamid Raza. He said due to the so-called PTI sit-in traders and entrepreneurs had suffered Rs 190 billion in losses per day and the

PTI should be asked to pay compensation to them. The minister said that fake posts were being stamped as fake as a cell has been set up to check fake posts.

He said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were patriotic and they rejected the PTI call for creating chaos and anarchy and only a handful of elements accompanied Gandapur and Bushra Bibi. Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI could not derail the economy through a false narrative of dead bodies. He said those who had shared wrong data about dead bodies on social media accounts would have to give evidence or face music. Castigating KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Tarar said had run away twice and that such people should be ashamed before instigating the people.

They have been exposed, their anti-national agenda has come to the fore, Information Minister. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had presided over a high-level meeting yesterday regarding the law

and order situation which was attended among others by heads of security agencies, chief secretaries of Punjab and Sindh governments and Inspector Generals of police. It was decided in the meeting that no one would be allowed to create chaos and indulge in violence. he said an anti-riot force was being raised to counter such rioters. He mentioned that there would be a speedy trial of the arrested violent protestors, and they would be brought to justice through effective prosecution. The minister said the country was on the path of development and economic indicators were becoming positive. He informed that the stock exchange had crossed the 100,000 mark, foreign exchange reserves were increasing and inflation has come down from 32 per cent last year to 6.9 per cent now.

He said that Pakistan's isolation on the foreign front has ended and delegations of many countries visited Pakistan during seven months. High-level delegations of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emi-

rates visited Pakistan. Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of Belarus was Pakistan and many agreements were signed between the two countries.

Moreover, Pakistan had the honour of hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Islamabad.

He said that the resumption of PIA flights to Europe was good news for Pakistan that it would increase the revenue of PIA and it would regain its lost position.

He said that Pakistan's economy was on the path of improvement thanks to day and night efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"When we came to power, Pakistan was on the verge of default, we did not accuse anyone and worked day and night for the betterment of the country," he added. Shehbaz Sharif's mission was to restore the country's economy, he said, adding that these words of the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund were that if Shehbaz Sharif had not been there, Pakistan would have defaulted.

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

## MAGA diplomacy: Pakistan and Trump

JAVID HUSAIN

Donald Trump's electoral victory as the 47th US president has triggered debates worldwide on its likely repercussions for the US, its allies and the rest of the world. Pakistan which remained a close ally of the US during the cold war, must closely analyse the implications of Trump's electoral victory and his administration's likely policies for its security and economic well-being. While so doing, Pakistan's policymakers need to keep in mind both the expected strategic continuities and changes in the US external policies under the new Trump administration. The over-arching US strategic goal since the end of the cold war has been to ensure its continued global hegemony. An important Pentagon planning document leaked to the press in 1992 stressed, "Our first objective is to prevent the reemergence of a new rival... that poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union... Our strategy must now refocus on precluding the emergence of any potential future global competitor." Since then, this over-arching strategic goal has continued to inform the US foreign and security policies under successive US administrations, both Democratic and Republican. It will also remain the salient feature of the US's external policies under the new Trump administration. Therefore, American efforts to contain the expansion of the strategic and economic influence of China, whom it views as its main emerging rival because of its dramatic rise, will continue globally and especially in the Asia-Pacific region. There is virtual bipartisan consensus on this issue in Washington. As part of its policy of containment of China, America will continue to strengthen its alliances with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia. It will also persist in its policy of building up its strategic partnership with India to contain China as it has been doing during the past three decades. It is worth recalling that as far back as March 2005, Washington announced its intention "to help India become a major world power in the 21st century". Needless to say, the growing Indo-US strategic cooperation will have far-reaching implications for Pakistan's security and economic well-being. Trump's past record, his MAGA pronouncements during the election campaign, and his nominations of hawks such as Marco Rubio as secretary of state, Pete Hegseth as defence secretary, and Mike Waltz as national security adviser show that in the conduct of America's external and security policies, the Trump administration will be guided by narrow-minded national interest more than any other consideration. Thus, as far as the US is concerned, Trump's electoral victory represents the triumph of nationalism over multilateralism, power politics over international law and morality, transactionalism over ideology, and restrictive international trade policies over a liberal international trade regime. Under the new Trump administration, therefore, American external policies will witness significant changes while it pursues its over-arching strategic goal of maintaining its global hegemony. For example: Nato member-states will come under growing US pressure to increase their defence budgets to shoulder increased financial burden for European security. China will be subjected to high tariffs by Washington to restrict its exports to the US. American trade and economic policies in general will be guided by mercantilist approaches rather than the logic of a liberal international trade regime. US pressure on Iran because of its nuclear programme and its resistance policies in the Middle East will increase. America's support to one side in the Middle East will be enhanced at the cost of the other's case. As for Ukraine, American support to Ukraine may decline which may open the door to a settlement which is favourable to Russia. American support for international environmental policies will witness a sharp decline. The strategic continuities and changes in American policies under the new Trump administration will deeply affect Pakistan's security and economic well-being. The growing Indo-US strategic partnership will have the effect of disturbing the strategic balance between Pakistan and India forcing the former to seek closer cooperation with China in security and economic fields. In this context, CPEC, which promised Chinese investment amounting to \$62 billion in Pakistan between 2015 and 2030, assumes far-reaching importance for Pakistan both from strategic and economic points of view. It is also predictable that India will use all the means at its disposal, both overt and covert, to undermine this project which is vitally important for Pakistan. In fact, India for this purpose is already engaged in sponsoring terrorist activities in Pakistan, especially in Baluchistan. Under the new Trump administration, Pakistan and the US would be confronted with several strategic contradictions relating to China, India, Iran, Islamophobia, and the Middle East issue which would preclude the deepening of strategic cooperation between the two countries in the foreseeable future. This, however, is not to dismiss the importance of mutual friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and the US. The US is militarily and economically the most powerful country in the world with the global reach of its power and influence. It is also an important destination for our exports besides hosting a large Pakistani diaspora. It has been the source of economic and military assistance to Pakistan since the 1950s. It wields powerful influence at regional and global levels because of its enormous economic and military strength, its predominant soft power, its system of worldwide alliances, and its key positions in international organisations like the UN Security Council. Pakistan, a declared nuclear power, is located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, and has been a voice of moderation in the Muslim world, with the potential to emerge as an important economic and military power over the next few decades. The country has its own importance for the US which needs friends in our region. The maintenance of friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between them is, therefore, in their mutual interest.

The writer is a retired ambassador and author of 'Pakistan and a World in Disorder - A Grand Strategy for the Twenty-First Century'. He can be reached at: javid.husain@gmail.com



Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri

## COP29: storms, pledges, politics

As the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP29) wrapped up in Baku, the world faced yet another dire warning: 2024 is likely to be the hottest year on record. Rising air and ocean temperatures have amplified extreme weather events, transforming minor tropical storms into devastating hurricanes like Milton, Helene, and Beryl. Heatwaves scorched East Africa and South Asia, while flash floods in Spain took over 220 lives and caused damages surpassing \$10.5 billion. Earlier this week, Storm Bert claimed five lives in the UK. Despite these urgent warnings from nature, global carbon emissions soared to a record 41.6 gigatons this year, leaving only six years to avert irreversible warming beyond the critical 1.5°C threshold. This sobering reality set the stage for COP29 discussions, focused on tackling unmet commitments from the Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21 in 2015. Key priorities included finalising UN rules under Article 6 to regulate carbon credit trading and advancing financial support from developed to developing nations as mandated by Article 9. Negotiations also aimed to conclude the 'New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)' on climate finance, as agreed at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021. The discussion on the climate finance needs of developing countries took a new trajectory after the UN's Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance released its report on the third day of COP29. The report estimated that developing countries (excluding China) will require approximately \$1 trillion per year by 2030 and \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 to deliver the Paris Agreement. This report confirmed that, without sufficient finance, the consequences of climate change would be catastrophic - supporting the idea that climate finance is not charity but an investment in global

stability and a liveable future. Against this backdrop, the outcomes of COP29 are a mix of hope and frustration. The approval of rules for trading carbon credits under the Paris Agreement, including Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes, on the opening day signalled progress towards operationalising long-awaited mechanisms. However, this optimism is tempered by significant shortcomings. The approved rules lack clear timelines, robust transparency frameworks, and enforceable compliance mechanisms, leaving critical gaps in their implementation. Omitting provisions from the draft text that ensure carbon captured from the atmosphere is securely stored for centuries also undermines the potential of these mechanisms to create lasting climate solutions, raising doubts about their long-term effectiveness. Baku marked a pivotal moment in climate finance discussions. For the first time in COP history, the focus shifted from emission levels to the funding needed to reduce or contain those emissions. After nine years of negotiations, an amount for climate finance requirements for developing nations was agreed upon, as mandated by Article 9 of the Paris Agreement. Developed countries committed to providing \$300 billion annually by 2035 under the NCQG. The agreement also highlights that achieving the total funding goal of \$1.3 trillion will require contributions from both public and private sources, not solely from developed nations. The frustrating reality, however, is that the pledged amount falls far short of what is actually needed and comes with significant limitations. The funding sources are vaguely defined, encompassing a broad range of options such as private investments and multilateral lenders. The agreement also lacks robust mechanisms for transparency and accountability, leaving it vulnerable to political backtracking. Even if the commitment were adequate, its value is steadily diminishing. The \$300 billion pledge is already outdated; adjusted for inflation, its purchasing power will shrink significantly over the next decade. If the average US inflation rate of 2.38 per cent over the past 15 years persists, the pledge will lose 20 per cent of its value by 2035. This

reflects a troubling pattern: the \$100 billion target set in 2009 for 2020 was not achieved until 2022, and inflation rendered it grossly insufficient by the time it was met. Such financial erosion undermines the trust and urgency essential for effective climate action. For me, it's not just about the quantity; the quality of climate finance pledges is equally critical. Developing nations urgently need grants and low-interest loans, not convoluted financial instruments designed to favour private investors. Yet in Baku, this issue was largely sidestepped, with a heavy reliance on 'mobilised' multilateral loans and private sector funds. This approach risks deepening inequalities - countries unable to attract private capital or offer high returns may be left behind, perpetuating global disparities. It also burdens some nations with additional debt while sidelining others that lack 'market-friendly' environments. Equally troubling is the absence of clarity around key definitions. Negotiators jokingly remarked that reaching an agreement on what qualifies as 'appropriate' climate finance could take until 2100, underscoring the lack of consensus. Without clear guidelines, there is a real danger of misallocating funds, favouring projects that serve donor interests - whether geopolitical or commercial - rather than addressing the urgent needs of vulnerable communities. Despite its flaws, COP remains a vital platform for climate diplomacy. Over its 30-year history, the conference has fostered global recognition of critical issues like the 1.5°C threshold and loss-and-damage financing. It provides a forum for developing nations to voice their concerns and hold wealthy countries accountable. However, the outcomes of COP29 also highlight the urgent need for bolder and more effective strategies to address the climate crisis. Looking ahead to COP30 in Belem, Brazil, in 2025, negotiators must prioritise bridging the gaps exposed in Baku. First, the scale and structure of climate finance must be reimagined to address both current and future needs. Annual funding targets should account for inflation and the escalating costs of climate adaptation and mitigation. Without such

adjustments, pledges like the \$300 billion commitment risk being rendered inadequate before they are even fulfilled. Second, the quality of finance must improve significantly. COP29's reliance on complex financial instruments and private-sector mobilisation failed to provide equitable solutions. Developing nations need accessible funding mechanisms, with grants and low-interest loans forming most commitments. Public finance must play a central role, ensuring that resources reach the most vulnerable nations rather than favouring those deemed 'market-friendly'. Third, transparency and accountability mechanisms must be strengthened. The absence of robust tracking systems at COP29 leaves commitments vulnerable to misallocation and political backtracking. Funds must deliver measurable outcomes, and developing countries should have a decisive role in shaping how resources are allocated. This would align with the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' enshrined in the Paris Agreement. Finally, COP30 must address the root causes of the climate crisis, an area where COP29 faltered. The failure to secure a commitment to phase out fossil fuels was a glaring omission. Without a decisive shift away from fossil fuel dependence, no amount of climate financing will suffice to avert catastrophe. Belem offers an opportunity to correct this oversight by championing actionable strategies to transition toward renewable energy on a global scale. By building on the momentum of COP29 while rectifying its shortcomings, COP30 and the following COPs can catalyse transformative change. The stakes are too high to settle for incremental progress. The world must move decisively toward a future that prioritises sustainability, equity, and accountability in the fight against climate change. Anything less would betray the urgency of the moment and the needs of the planet's most vulnerable inhabitants.

The writer heads the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and is a member of the COP29 International Advisory Committee. He tweets/posts @abidsuleri

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## Today in History

### Pakistan

The 1930s witnessed awareness among the Muslims of their separate identity and their anxiety to preserve it within separate territorial boundaries. An important element that brought this simmering Muslim nationalism in the open was the character of the Congress rule in the Muslim minority provinces during 1937-39. The Congress policies in these provinces hurt Muslim susceptibilities. There

were calculated aims to obliterate the Muslims as a separate cultural unit. The Muslims now stopped thinking in terms of seeking safeguards and began to consider seriously the demand for a separate Muslim state. During 1937-39, several Muslim leaders and thinkers, inspired by Allama Iqbal's ideas, presented elaborate schemes for partitioning the subcontinent according to two-nation theory. The All-India Muslim League soon

took these schemes into consideration and finally, on March 23, 1940, the All-India Muslim League, in a resolution, at its historic Lahore Session, demanded a separate homeland for the Muslims in the Muslim majority regions of the subcontinent. The resolution was commonly referred to as the Pakistan Resolution. The Pakistan demand had a great appeal for the Muslims of every persuasion. It revived memories of their past great-

ness and promised future glory. They, therefore, responded to this demand immediately. The British Government recognized the genuineness of the Pakistan demand indirectly in the proposals for the transfer of power after the Second World War which Sir Stafford Cripps brought to India in 1942.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

# Vin Diesel ready to end longtime feud with Dwayne Johnson?

Dwayne Johnson to mark his comeback in 'Fast X: Part 2'

Fast and Furious star Vin Diesel just posted a throwback picture of him with Dwayne Johnson from the sets of Fast Five seemingly leaving behind all the differences. Vin took it to his social media account and dropped a special Thanksgiving post which had a distinct mention to 'The Rock'. The caption he wrote showed that the XXX actor is ready leave behind all the past, putting an end to their long-time dispute and wanting to have a 'reunion with brother' in Fast X2. The 57-year-old wrote: "I got universal in one ear saying we need FastX2 by March 2026!" "I have Comcast in the other ear saying we need two movies



to be the Finale!" "Then the writer on Fast Five sent me this image and said we need to see DOM and HOBBS resolve their differences", continued Diesel. "I just want to get back to real street racing, practical stunts... and a reunion of that beautiful brotherhood", he concluded while wishing Thanksgiving to everyone. Both Vin and Dwayne's bond started to deteriorate in 2016 after The Fate and the Furious and since then there have been ups and downs in their friendship. The news of their reconciliation never came out directly until 2023, when Rock announced his comeback to the Fast franchise.

## Tech

# VPN registration deadline ends

ISLAMABAD: A crackdown is expected on Virtual Private Network (VPN) usage if the last date for its registration, which expires on Saturday (today), is not extended, media News quoted citing sources. At least 27,000 VPNs have been registered by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) so far. The sources said the telecommunication authority has stressed on importance of VPN registration for improving cybersecurity and ensuring national security as well as data protection. Stakeholders, including the IT industry and freelancers, have been pushing for an extension of the deadline for the registration. This decision, sources suggest, lies with the Ministry of Interior and is still under consideration. However, if the deadline is not extended, a crackdown on unregistered VPNs is set to commence immediately. The PTA had set November 30 as the final date for VPN registration and highlighted that registered VPNs can play a pivotal role in improving cybersecurity in the country. VPNs are commonly used worldwide to bypass restricted content. In Pakistan, the use of VPNs witnessed a spike after authori-

ties banned social media site X (formerly Twitter) earlier this year over "national security" concerns. **VPN registration:** In a statement earlier this month, the PTA had said that it has streamlined the VPN registration process for organisations and freelancers. The telecommunication regulator said entities such as software houses, call centres, banks, embassies, and freelancers can register their VPNs online through the PTA's official website. PTA said members of the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) can also avail this facility. It added that the registration involves completing an online form and providing basic details, including computerised national identity card (CNIC), company registration details and taxpayer status. Freelancers must submit documentation, such as a letter or email, verifying their project or company association, said the statement by the PTA. Additionally, applicants must provide the IP address for VPN connectivity. If a fixed IP address is required, it can be acquired from an Internet Service Provider, it added.

## Health

# UN urges action over alarming rate of HIV cases among girls in 2023

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) sounded the alarm on Friday as it released a report in which it discovered an alarming rate of new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections among young women and girls. The report, which was released ahead of the world acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) day on Saturday, revealed that in 2023, 96,000 girls and 41,000 boys aged 15-19 were newly infected with HIV, with girls accounting for 70% of these cases. The report warned that these new cases resulted from lack of access to prevention and treatment. In sub-Saharan Africa, this disparity is even starker, with nine out of 10 new HIV infections in this age group occurring in girls in the most recent period for which data is available. "Children and adolescents are not fully reaping

## UN report cites lack of access to prevention, treatment as major cause of rising HIV cases in young women, girls

the benefits of scaled up access to treatment and prevention services," said UNICEF associate director of HIV/AIDS Anurita Bains. "Yet children living with HIV must be prioritized when it comes to investing resources and efforts to scale up treatment for all, this includes the expansion of innovative testing technologies." As many as 77% of adults living with HIV have access to anti-retroviral therapy, but just 57% of

children 14 and younger, and 65% of teenagers aged 15-19, can obtain lifesaving medicine. Children 14 and younger account for only 3% of those living with HIV, but accounted for 12% — 76,000 — of AIDS-related deaths in 2023. Around 1.3 million people contracted the disease in 2023, according to a report from the UNAIDS agency. That is still more than three times higher than needed to reach the UN's goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Around 630,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses last year, the lowest level since a peak of 2.1 million in 2004, the report said ahead of World AIDS Day on Sunday. Much of the progress was attributed to antiretroviral treatments that can reduce the amount of the virus in the blood of patients.



اتوار 01 دسمبر 2024ء

پنجین کی وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز کو سرکاری دورے کی دعوت
اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) چین کی طرف سے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز کو سرکاری دورے کی دعوت دی گئی ہے۔



مریم نواز



مریم نواز اور دیگر اہلکار

سیلاب ہلاکتیں، وزیر اعظم کی ملائیشین ہم منصب کو امداد کی پیشکش

ملائیشین وزیر اعظم کے دورہ پاکستان کے دوران بین تجارتی مسائل کی نشاندہی ہوئی تھی، ان میں سے اکثر کو کامیابی سے حل کر لیا گیا ہے، مشکل کی اس گھڑی میں اپنے ملائیشین بھائیوں اور بہنوں کیساتھ کھڑے ہیں، شہباز شریف

شریف نے ملائیشین وزیر اعظم کو سوری انور ابراہیم سے ملنے کو فیک رابطہ کیا، جس میں ملائیشیا میں حالیہ سیلاب سے ہونے والے جانی و مالی نقصانات پر افسوس اور ہمدردی کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے مشکل کی اس گھڑی میں ملائیشین عوام کے ساتھ کھڑے ہونے کا عزم

اسلام آباد، چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری ایم پی اے تیس سے موخ پر کارکنوں سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

پاکستان کی سیاسی تاریخ تشکیل دینے میں پیپلز پارٹی کا اہم کردار ہے، بلاول بھٹو

پیپلز پارٹی خواتین اور اقلیتوں کو با اختیار اور مضبوط بنانے کی حامی رہی ہے، پارٹی کی طاقت اور کامیابی کی بنیاد جیالے ہیں
اسلام آباد (صاف رپورٹ) پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے قائد بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی سیاسی تاریخ تشکیل دینے میں پیپلز پارٹی کا اہم کردار ہے۔



بھٹو خاندان کی میٹنگ

پاکستان نے چیپمنز ٹرافی کیلئے ہانڈرڈ ماڈل قبول کر لیا، بھارتی میڈیا کا دعویٰ

بھارتی میڈیا کے دعویٰ کے خلاف پاکستان نے ہانڈرڈ ماڈل قبول کر لیا، بھارتی میڈیا کا دعویٰ ہے کہ پاکستان نے ہانڈرڈ ماڈل قبول کر لیا، پاکستان نے اسے مسترد کر دیا۔

راولپنڈی میں ڈینگی کے 16 نئے مریض، تعداد 6533 ہو گئی

راولپنڈی (پور پورٹ) راولپنڈی میں ڈینگی کے 16 نئے مریض کی اطلاع دی گئی ہے، مجموعی تعداد 6533 ہو گئی ہے۔

کے پی حکومت نے سرکاری وسائل کے ساتھ وفاق پر لشکر کشی کی، عرفان صدیقی

پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر میں کسی ایسی جماعت کی مثال نہیں ملتی جس نے سیاسی جماعت ہوتے ہوئے ایسے کام کئے ہوں
عرفان صدیقی نے کہا ہے کہ کے پی کی آئی کوئی سیاسی جماعت نہیں بلکہ ایک لادہ اور سے ایک جماعت اور ہوتے ہوئے ایسے کام کئے ہوں، ایسے کام کئے ہوں جس سے حکومت کے خلاف ہتھیار اٹھانے کی راہ ہوتی ہے۔



عرفان صدیقی

عمران خان 9 مئی واقعات کے ذمہ دار قرار، 8 مقدمات میں ضمانتیں مسترد

عمران خان کی 9 مئی واقعات کے ذمہ دار قرار دیا گیا، 8 مقدمات میں ضمانتیں مسترد کر دی گئیں۔

پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے بڑے مواقع، عبدالعظیم خان

اسلام آباد (صاف رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر عبدالعظیم خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے بڑے مواقع موجود ہیں۔

اختلافات اپنی جگہ، وفاق صوبے میں اس کیلئے ایف سی پلانوں کو مزید فراہم کرے، وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا

خیبر پختونخوا میں وفاق اور صوبے کے درمیان اختلافات اپنی جگہ ہیں، وفاق کو ایف سی پلانوں کو مزید فراہم کرنے کی درخواست کی گئی ہے۔



وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا

پاکستان میں ووٹرز کی مجموعی تعداد 13 کروڑ 22 لاکھ

پاکستان میں ووٹرز کی مجموعی تعداد 13 کروڑ 22 لاکھ 54 ہزار 310 ہو گئی ہے۔

وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف پی ٹی آئی وکر کر کے تشدد سے زخمی ہلاکاروں کا حوصلہ بڑھانے سی ایم ایچ راولپنڈی بھیج گئیں

وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز نے زہر علاج رینجرز اور پولیس کے زخمی ہلاکاروں کی عیادت کی۔



مریم نواز شریف

پیپلز پارٹی توڑنے نہیں جوڑنے کی بات کرتی ہے، شرجیل میمن

پیپلز پارٹی کے لیڈر شرجیل میمن نے کہا کہ پیپلز پارٹی توڑنے نہیں جوڑنے کی بات کرتی ہے۔

لاہور، اہم سرکاری عمارت پر حملے کا منصوبہ بنا نام، 11 خطرناک دہشت گرد گرفتار

لاہور (پور پورٹ) سی ٹی ڈی نے پنجاب میں اہم سرکاری عمارت پر حملے کا منصوبہ بنا نام، 11 خطرناک دہشت گرد گرفتار کیے۔

پی ٹی آئی کا عمران خان کی رہائی کیلئے احتجاج جاری رکھنے کا اعلان

پی ٹی آئی کا عمران خان کی رہائی کیلئے احتجاج جاری رکھنے کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔

عوام نے مادھواڑ کی سیاست کو مسترد کر دیا، گورنر پنجاب

گورنر پنجاب نے مادھواڑ کی سیاست کو مسترد کر دیا ہے۔

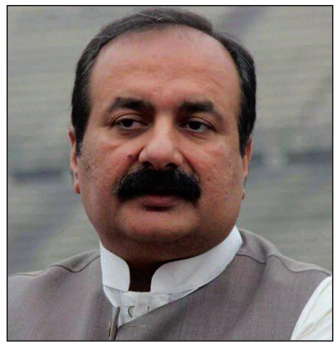
مارچ کے دوران انتشار پھیلانے والوں کو سخت سزائیں ملیں گی، عطاء تارڑ

عطاء تارڑ نے کہا کہ مارچ کے دوران انتشار پھیلانے والوں کو سخت سزائیں ملیں گی۔



عطاء تارڑ

## PPAF initiative equips Balochistan's youth with Skills to drive social, economic change: Rana Mashhood



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan stated that equipping young individuals with skills relevant to the job market will

create employment opportunities and promote a self-reliant and prosperous Pakistan. He made this statement during a certificate distribution and engagement session with Madrasah students from Balochistan on Saturday.

The session featured 100 students, including 80 males and 20 females, participating in a two-month TVET program under the PPAF-funded Bridging Educational Polarization for Social Harmony Project, implemented by BRSP.

Training includes Building Electrician, Solar Panel Repairing, E-commerce, Motorcycle and Mobile Repairing, Basic Computer Courses, and Tailoring. Additionally, 20 female students in Quetta are receiving specialized training in Beautician Skills, Tailoring, and Basic Computing.

Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan emphasized the government's dedication to empowering youth through education and vocational training. This project exemplifies the government's vision of creating a skilled, self-reliant generation that will significantly contribute to national development, he said and adding that the Prime Minister's Youth Program fully supports such initiatives and looks forward to the future.

CEO of PPAF, Nadir Gul Barech emphasized the transformative impact of the Bridging Educational Polarization for Social Harmony Project, which integrates formal education with vocational training to address unemployment and foster economic resilience in underserved areas of Balochistan.

"This initiative equips 1,168 students, including 271 girls, across 20 institutions with market-relevant skills such as Solar Panel Repairing, E-commerce, and Tailoring, ensuring they are prepared for sustainable economic opportunities," he said.

Earlier, while welcoming the chief guest and the audience, CEO IRM Dr. Roomy Hayat shared that the organization has been working for the uplift of marginalized youth from rural areas for the past 30 years while offering more than 100 technical and vocational skills trades, and so far.

Root Hayat said that IRM has been able to impart employable skills to more than 1.5 million youth across the country and the region.



ISTANBUL: Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar participated in a panel discussion titled 'War and Order: Navigating Geopolitical Shifts in a Changing World' at TRT World Forum held in Istanbul. INP

## PTI is creating false propaganda on bodies: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is spreading false propaganda about the bodies, saying that the PTI has always practiced the politics of chaos. He expressed these views at a press conference at his residence at the cantonment here today. "We have to destroy the evil intentions of our enemies. The important and concrete steps taken by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the current and previous government have started producing positive results. The PIA is moving towards improvement. Permission to fly in the European Union and the United States will take it to new heights. We found the country's economy in ruins, which is improving day by day and the country has embarked on the path to development and prosperity, while we are continuing our journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the complete restoration of the economy," he added. He said, "In the improvement that has taken place during the last seven or eight months, the former Federal Minister for Aviation, my brother Saad Rafique, has also played a very important role. He took important and concrete steps during his tenure as the Minister of Aviation, the results of which we have started seeing today. It is a very good thing that our national airline will now be able to travel to Europe and America again, which will make it better."



He paid tribute to all the people including PM Shehbaz Sharif and Saad Rafique who made efforts for the noble cause. "Everyone knows what the PTI did on November 24. It is spread-

ing false propaganda on dead bodies. It martyred police and Rangers personnel whose funerals were also held. The PTI should not spread false propaganda on the bodies of its workers. We pay tribute to all the martyrs, including police and Rangers, who did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for our beloved homeland. I should make it clear that no attacker will come from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now. Those who made big claims left the field and ran away at the first obstacle. PTI's protest was part 2 of the May 9 tragedy," he maintained. He said that the way Ali Amin Gandapur and Bushra Bibi left their workers and fled had no example in the past. "We offered them to sit and hold a rally at other places but this lady (Bushra Bibi) did not accept. Latif Khosa and other PTI leaders are giving different numbers of their martyrs; first thousands, then hundreds and now these people have come to the figure of 10 but still no testimony has been received from the funeral of a single person or their families in this regard," he added. He said that Omar Ayub says he was shot in the chest but how could he hold a press conference if he was really shot. He said that PTI has always done politics of chaos. "It held its first sit-in in 2014, then they forced the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to be cancelled and then they announced a sit-in to sabotage the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting, but by the grace of Allah, the meeting took place and now, during the visit of the President of Belarus, the PTI tried to hold a sit-in again, which shows their anti-nationalism. These people used all the machinery of the KP government and weapons, but Allah made us victorious. Gandapur ran away from Islamabad and now he is shouting and saying that the sit-in is still going on. It is beyond understanding what kind of sit-in this is?" he added. The minister said that attackers from Afghanistan were crossing the border and coming to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Taliban are crossing the border. All this is part of a conspiracy that Pakistan's enemies have dreamed of to separate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Pakistan and the political facilitator of this conspiracy is the PTI. This situation is unacceptable and intolerable," he said. He said that the stock market has crossed one lakh points which is very welcome and is a clear proof of the country's development, progress and prosperity. "The PTI has been writing letters to the IMF since day one but no one can be allowed to defame Pakistan. Our police, Rangers, FC and soldiers are our pride who are ready to protect and defend us in every situation. Good and bad people are everywhere but not all are the same. November 24 was actually May 9, which was thwarted by our defense agencies," he added. In response to another question, he said that all political parties should sit together for the country. APP

## 200,000 youths to be equipped with IT skills annually, says Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Information Technology is bringing revolutionary changes in almost every sector of life.

He said this while addressing foundation stone laying ceremony of a multipurpose building at Information Technology University (ITU) on Saturday. "ITU is among best IT universities of the country and credit goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had laid the foundation of the university knowing the importance of IT, being the then Punjab Chief Minister. Progress of every sector that is linked with the economy is connected with IT," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that new technologies and emerging applications were replacing all traditional production models. He said that one 'Uber' application completely reorganized the public transport system and similarly online e-commerce actually shut down big retailer stores in America. "Extraordinary IT skills are vital for a strong future of any nation and now success is linked with hard work and innovation. Nokia and Blackberry became history because they did not move with market innovation preferences," he added.

The minister said that research, innovation and entrepreneurship were important to be followed, adding that the vision 2025 was made keeping in view the combination. "Unfortunately in 2018 a change was brought about as a result of a conspiracy. Change does not mean disrupting the country's development process. The change in 2018 sabotaged the China Pakistan Economic Corridor," he claimed.

Ahsan Iqbal said that false allegations related to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor resulted in lost investment opportunities worth 30 to 40 billion dollars. He said that if that investment had come to the country then the economy could have become export-oriented. "The PML-N believes in empowering youngsters so that they can play a positive role in the country's development and prosperity. Global competitiveness is a must to excel and it is essential for Pakistan to become an export-led economy. It is the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to equip youngsters with latest IT skills," he maintained.

He said that a programme had been initiated to impart IT skills among 200,000 youngsters annually with the support of China and Huawei company. He said that efforts were being made to take IT departments of the country's universities to the next level. "A programme worth Rs 6 billion has been approved under which five UETs would be provided world class laboratories. The things are improving and the stock market has crossed 100,000 points and investors are coming to Pakistan." He said that when the PTI march had reached Islamabad it resulted in dropping the stock market by 4,000 points and the day when they left the federal capital the stock market witnessed a surge of 4,500 points. "Political stability and continuity of policies are highly important for ensuring smooth progress in the country. We have 23 years to give our best so that Pakistan's 100 years can be celebrated in a befitting manner."

He said, "It is our collective responsibility not to allow anybody to disrupt the continuity of policies and reform process in the country. It is high time that people said no to politics of chaos and the country only needed an economic long march," he added.

## UAE embassy observes minute of silence to honor martyrs on Commemoration Day



ISLAMABAD: Officials and members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy in Pakistan, along with representatives from its attached offices, stood in solemn silence on Saturday to honor the nation's fallen heroes. This observance marked the UAE's Martyr's Day, also known as Commemoration Day, observed annually on November 30. UAE embassy observes minute of silence to honor martyrs on Commemoration Day. The minute of silence served as a tribute to the courageous sons of the UAE who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for their homeland. The occasion underscores the nation's enduring commitment to remembering and venerating the sacrifices of its martyrs. Martyr's Day is a significant national event in the UAE, providing a moment for collective reflection on the sacrifices of soldiers, first responders, and other individuals who have served the nation. Events like the one held at the UAE Embassy in Islamabad are part of a broader initiative to foster a deep sense of respect and gratitude among Emirati nationals and communities abroad. The UAE Embassy reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the values of unity and sacrifice that define the nation's identity, ensuring that the memory of its martyrs continues to inspire future generations.

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## Petrol prices increased by Rs3.72, per liter, diesel Rs3.29

ISLAMABAD: The government on Saturday increased the price of Motor Spirit (MS) Petrol by Rs3.72 per liter and high speed diesel (HSD) by Rs3.29 per litre. The price of MS petrol was fixed at Rs252.10 per litre as against its existing price of Rs248.38 per litre, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance. Meanwhile, the price of High-Speed Diesel was increased by Rs3.29 per litre as HS-Diesel would be available at Rs258.43 per litre as compared to its previous price of Rs255.14 per litre during next fortnight starting from December 1, 2024.

However, the prices of Kerosene oil (SKO) reduced by 0.62 per litre as it was fixed at Rs164.98 as against Rs165.60 per litre, where as the price of the light diesel oil decreased by 0.48 per litre as it was reached at 151.73 per litre as compared to earlier prices of Rs152.21 per litre. "The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the consumer prices of petroleum products as per variation in the oil price in the international market. It has accordingly been decided that the prices of the petroleum products for the next fortnight starting from 01st December 2024, would be slightly revised" it added.

## CDA decides to install decorative lights permanently on major thoroughfares

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to install decorative lights permanently on major thoroughfares to enhance beauty of the Federal capital.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by the authority's chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Saturday to review the Islamabad beautification plan. The CDA Chairman stated that the lights should be energy-efficient and cost-effective. He emphasized that effective and permanent measures should be taken for protection of lights. He instructed to prepare PC-I of the project and to present it for approval at the earliest.

The Chairman CDA directed to carry out repair of all sign and direction boards installed in the city immediately under the Beautification. He instructed that a plan be presented to beautify the city's key buildings. He directed that a team consisting of architects be formed to assist with the beautification plan. The meeting decided that all avenues in the city would be beautified in phases.



During the briefing, it was informed that under the Beautification Plan, plants have been planted that will ensure the city remains adorned with beautiful flowers throughout the year.

The meeting was informed that the plan aims to balance the city's natural beauty with modernity. It was also mentioned that symmetry will be ensured among the elements contributing to the beautification of the city.

The CDA Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, also said that a plan to enhance the facilities at F-9 Park should be presented. He stated that Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park will be developed as a center for recreational activities. INP

## Pakistan Air Force remains committed to nurturing & promoting squash at all levels: Air Marshal Shakil Ghazanfar

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Air Staff - Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2024, organized by Pakistan Air Force in collaboration with Pakistan Squash Federation and Serena Hotels, has concluded at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. According to the statement issued by the ISPR, the prestigious tournament featured 24 top-tier players from eight countries, including Egypt, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Netherlands and Pakistan, who competed for the coveted title. Air Marshal Shakil Ghazanfar, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Personnel), attended the ceremony as Chief Guest, and distributed trophy and prizes to the winner and runner ups. In the final match Noor Zaman from Pakistan defeated Nasir Iqbal from Pakistan with a game score of 3-0 to claim the title. Both players displayed exceptional skills and sportsmanship, making the contest a memorable one for fans and participants alike. Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Chief Guest, extended heartfelt congratulations to both international and domestic players for their remarkable performances throughout the championship. He said, "This tournament has been a testament to the talent, dedication, and passion for squash, not only from our Pakistani players but also from our international participants. Pakistan Air Force remains committed to nurturing and promoting squash at all levels, ensuring that Pakistan reclaims its legacy in squash. I urge our youth to follow in the footsteps of these athletes and pursue excellence."



Pakistan Air Force, under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force has been instrumental in promoting squash, providing opportunities for young talent to thrive. Through consistent support and dedication, PAF is committed to reviving Pakistan's legacy in squash, encouraging youth to excel both nationally and internationally. The CAS Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2024 has been a resounding success, uniting players and fans in their passion for squash while showcasing Pakistan's capability to host world-class sporting events. PR

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## KP Governor highlights need to address deprivation of tribal population

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday said that he had urged Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to constitute an oversight committee to ensure utilization of development funds as allocated by the federal government for the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs). Speaking during a Jirga of Khar district Bajaur at Governor House, led by chairman Syed Ahmad Jan, the Governor Kundi highlighted the need to address the unrest and deprivation felt by the tribal population. The Jirga members voiced their concerns regarding the neglect of tribal areas, expressing dissatisfaction with the current allocation of resources. In response, Kundi assured them that he fully understands their plight and considers himself an advocate for the tribal people. He said that after the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, funds from the federal government were misallocated by the provincial administration to favored regions, leaving the deserving districts and tribes sidelined. To tackle these issues, the Governor said that an All Parties Conference (APC) would be convened at the Governor House on December 5. He also revealed plans to visit Kohat with political representatives to address the situation in Kurram District, emphasizing that the province's issues must be resolved by its people. The Jirga concluded with a traditional ceremony, where Governor Kundi was presented with a tribal turban, followed by prayers for peace, development, and prosperity in the province. On the occasion, Kundi said that the Governor House is always open to addressing tribal grievances. Later, the Governor addressed the inaugural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Future Youth Leaders Conference at the Governor House here and emphasized the critical role of youth in achieving peace and economic prosperity. INP