



"The genocide in Gaza must end; civilians are being indiscriminately killed, including at food points, hospitals, and refugee shelters. This humanitarian situation needs urgent international attention"

Foreign Office spokesperson
Muntaz Zahra

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8 khwarij militants including ring leader killed in two IBOs in KPK



RAWALPINDI: The Security Forces on Thursday killed eight Khwarij militants including a ring leader Khan Muhammad @Khorayay with fixed head money of Rs1 million in two separate intelligence based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Sararogha, South Waziristan District on reported presence of Khwarij. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location as a result of which two Khwarij, including Kharij ring leader Khan Muhammad @Khorayay, were killed, while two khwarij were apprehended," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The killed kharij Khan Muhammad @Khorayay was involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area including target killing & extortion. He was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies and Government had fixed head money of Rs 1 million on him, it further said.

Another intelligence based operation was conducted in Lakki Marwat District and after an intense fire exchange, six Khwarij were successfully neutralised by the security forces.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," the news release said. PR

Ambassador of Uzbekistan calls on Khawaja Asif



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Thursday.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan calls on Khawaja Muhammad Asif. Defence Minister highlighted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Uzbekistan which are based on historical, cultural and religious commonalities.

Pakistan intends to collaborate with Uzbekistan in the mutually beneficial fields including defence cooperation, said a press release.

The visiting Ambassador conveyed and reaffirmed the commitment of people and government of Uzbekistan to work closely with Pakistan to further strengthen the bilateral relations.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding transformation/digitisation of FBR.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's support for just struggle of Palestinian people

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamadallah Zaid Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House and discussed matters relating to mutual interests.

While welcoming the ambassador, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination, freedom and justice.

He reiterated Pakistan's strongest condemnation of Israel's genocidal actions against innocent Palestinians, particularly the worsening situation since October 7, 2023 that has resulted in the loss of over 43,000 lives and injured more than 105,000 others.

The prime minister expressed his deep disappointment at the absence of global accountability of Israel and reiterated the call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance to the suffering Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The prime minister assured Ambassador Zaid that the entire Pakistani nation stood united in its solidarity with the brave Palestinian people and would continue to support them in every possible way.

The prime minister also stressed upon the need for a just and lasting resolution of the



Palestine issue, based on the two-state solution, with the creation of an independent state of Palestine with pre-1967 borders and Al Quds as its capital, in accordance with the UN's relevant resolutions.

Ambassador Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamadallah Zaid deeply appreciated Pakistan's steadfast support to the Palestinian people during their present ordeal, as well as Pakistan's principled position on the Pales-

tinian Question. He thanked the prime minister for his leadership and support for Palestine, as well as for providing much-needed humanitarian assistance and offering scholarships to Palestinian medical students to complete their studies in Pakistan. The prime minister wished the ambassador a productive tenure in Pakistan and assured him of his full support at all times.

Finance minister emphasizes policy continuity, learning from KSA's transformation model



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday highlighted the importance of consistency in policies to achieve sustainable progress and learn from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)'s Vision 2030 model for robust implementation strategies.

He expressed these views in a virtual address to the participants of 1st Workshop on "Implementation Management," organized by KSA and facilitated by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Pakistan-Saudi economic collaboration, a news release said.

The workshop titled "Saudi-Pak Economic Collaboration Taskforce - Pakistan Transformation" was the first in a series of three, with subsequent sessions focusing on Digital Transformation and Social Transformation respectively. It was attended among others by senior government officials, including Rana Ehsan, Prime Minister's Coordinator; Salman Ahmed, Ambassador at Large; Khurram Shehzad, Advisor to the Finance Minister; all Federal Secretaries; senior government officers from the federal government; and representatives from provincial governments. Addressing the participants, the finance minister highlighted the importance of learning from KSA's Vision 2030 model what he called 'exemplary model' of robust implementation strategies.

Highlighting the focus on "People, Process, and Technology", he emphasized the need to adopt practices that ensure successful transformation outcomes while considering Pakistan's unique socio-economic context. The minister underscored the necessity of policy continuity as a cornerstone for sustainable progress, drawing attention to the concept of "irreversibility" in reforms—a key element in Saudi Arabia's success story. "Pakistan has often faltered in ensuring policy continuity. The lesson we must take from Saudi Arabia is the importance of irreversibility in transformation initiatives," he remarked. Aurangzeb also acknowledged the potential for challenges, noting that not every aspect of Saudi Arabia's transformation model could be replicated in Pakistan. However, he affirmed that setbacks were inevitable in the pursuit of meaningful progress, emphasizing that learning through failures was an integral part of success. "To ensure success, reforms must not only be implemented but also institutionalized, making them difficult to reverse," he added.

The workshop featured a comprehensive presentation by Yahya Bin Laden, who elaborated on Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030's approach to developing strategic objectives and converting them into measurable outcomes through meticulous implementation processes. Key principles of their approach include translating strategic objectives into measurable outcomes; establishing clear accountability mechanisms; and focusing on sustainability and irreversibility to ensure lasting impact.

PTV celebrates World Turkish Coffee Day in collaboration with Turkish Embassy



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) in collaboration with the Turkish Embassy in Islamabad celebrated "World Turkish Coffee Day", showcasing the rich heritage of Turkish culture and its famous coffee tradition. The event served as a platform to highlight the strong bonds between Pakistan and Turkey, further cementing their historical, cultural, and economic ties, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The celebration was attended by distinguished guests, including Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar, Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu, Federal Secretary

Information and MD PTV Ambreen Jan, Executive Director Special Initiatives, Danyal Saleem Gilani, Director News, Haroon Elahi and In-charge PTV World, and Namood Muslim and Director Current Affairs Chaudhry Muhammad Saleem and several employees of the News Centre.

Welcoming the guests, Attaullah Tarar highlighted the deep-rooted and close friendship between Pakistan and Turkey. "Pakistan and Turkey share bond of brotherhood that has grown stronger over the years. Turkish coffee is a true reflection of Turkish hospitality, embodying warmth and tradition. I believe that collaborations in culture and the arts will deepen the people-to-people ties between our two great nations," he said.

The Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu shared insights into the historical significance of Turkish coffee which dates back to the 16th century. "Turkish coffee is not just a beverage, it's a cherished tradition passed down for centuries.

Continued on Page 4

Online safety big challenge: Shaza



ISLAMABAD: Global Human Rights Policy Lead for Meta Miranda Sissions called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication

Shaza Fatima Khawaja in her office on Thursday. Matters of mutual interest and related to digital safety were discussed in the meeting said a news release.

Meta Public Policy Head in Pakistan Dania Mukhtar was also present in the meeting. Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said in today's digital world, online threats are rapidly increasing, putting Internet users especially children and young people at greater risk. Children are particularly vulnerable to online dangers, she added. Shaza Fatima said online safety is a big challenge, adding "joint efforts are needed to cope with online threats." We must unite our efforts to combat online threats" she said. Minister of State for IT said the present government is committed to enhancing the cybersecurity and improving the overall digital ecosystem across the country.

Pakistan, Czech discuss key strategies to boost economic Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema on Thursday discussed key strategies to boost economic Cooperation between Pakistan and Czech Republic. The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema has expressed enthusiasm for the forthcoming inaugural session of the Pak-Czech Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) during meeting with Ladislav Steinhubel, Ambassador of Czech Republic to Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

Both sides agreed to form sector-wise Joint Working Groups (JWGs) before JMC in order to make it more productive. Ahad Cheema emphasized the importance of the JMC (scheduled to be held on 28-29 April, 2025 in Islamabad) in fostering deeper trade and the investment ties, particularly in sectors with untapped potential, and underscored Pakistan's commitment to ensuring that the session results in actionable, impactful outcomes.

The Minister noted that the trade volume between both countries in the current fiscal year was USD 84 Million, and emphasized the



need to enhance it through closer economic cooperation. He added that renewable energy, information technology, healthcare, nanotechnology, agrotechnology, mining, and green technologies are the key areas of cooperation which can be helpful in boosting trade.

The Minister also highlighted the potential for both nations to explore Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing in Pakistan. He hoped that the EV industry of Czech Republic will cooperate with Pakistan in order to establish EV manufacturing plants in Pakistan. INP

Those spreading fake news for vested political/financial interests need to be identified & brought to justice: Formation Commanders Conference

FCC chaired by COAS General Syed Asim Munir reaffirms Pak's unwavering political, diplomatic & moral support for Kashmiri people

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over two days 84th Formation Commanders Conference at General Headquarters (GHQ), attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers, and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army.

According to the statement issued by ISPR, the forum began by offering Fateha and paying solemn tribute to the martyrs of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens of Pakistan who sacrificed their lives for the nation's security and sovereignty, including those Law Enforcement Agencies personnel who embraced martyrdom during recent violent protests in Islamabad.

The forum condemned ongoing human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occu-

ped Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiri people. It also expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, strongly condemning the atrocities in Gaza and supporting international legal measures to end military aggression.

Participants were briefed on the prevailing security environment, both external and internal, and reviewed the Army's operational readiness to address evolving traditional and non-traditional threats.

The forum conducted a comprehensive analysis of ongoing counterterrorism operations and resolved to continue neutralizing terrorists, their facilitators, and abettors working at the behest of hostile forces to destabilize Pakistan, with heightened focus on operations against terrorists oper-



ating inside Balochistan including BLA Majeed Brigade.

Forum noted with concern the malicious propaganda done in the aftermath of the lawful deployment of the Army in the capital to secure key government buildings and provide safe and secure environment for the valued visiting delegations. This pre-planned coordinated and premeditated propaganda reflects continuity of a sinister design by certain political elements as an attempt to drive a wedge between the public and Armed Forces and institutions of Pakistan. This futile attempt, fueled and abetted by external players, will never be successful, InshAllah. Forum emphasized that it is imperative that Government should promulgate and implement stringent laws and regulations to check unfettered and unethical use of freedom of expression to spew venom, lies and sow the seeds of polarization. Those

spreading fake news for vested political/financial interests need to be identified and brought to justice. Forum resolved that Army remains committed to serving the nation and public and guard against all external and internal threats without any bias and political affiliation, and any attempt to pitch innocent people against each other and use of violence as an instrument for vested gains can never be tolerated.

Unabated use of Afghan soil against Pakistan by terrorists especially belonging to Fitna Al Khwarij was also noted with concern. Forum urged that it is in the interest of both neighboring Islamic countries to rather focus on mutually beneficial engagements and IAG needs to take visible measures to prevent use of its soil by the terrorists.

Forum reiterated resolve to continue supporting all socioeconomic and development efforts being undertaken in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan by Federal and Provincial Governments for well-being of the resilient people of these Provinces who continue to stand tall against scourge of terrorism.

Highlighting Army's commitment to socioeconomic progress, the forum resolved to continue to support government efforts in fostering economic growth, cracking down on illegal spectrum and eradicating terror-crime nexus.

Concluding the conference, the COAS emphasized the importance of professionalism, operational readiness, and the Army's unwavering dedication to ensuring Pakistan's security and stability, notwithstanding any odds and challenges. PR

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What are the prospects for peace in Ukraine in 2025?

DR. DIANA GALEEVA

This year has seen the continuation of the Ukraine war. Russia now holds a confirmed battlefield advantage near Velyka Novosilka and Vuhledar. The front line in Donetsk Oblast is becoming more fluid, as advances have been made that were larger and quicker in comparison to 2023. Another distinctive aspect of 2024 was the August Kursk offensive, in which the armed forces of Ukraine launched an incursion onto Russian soil. By October, Russian forces had retaken almost half of the territory occupied by Ukraine. This piece offers a reflection on 2024's key events, new diplomatic trends and dynamics and what to expect in the coming year. Most importantly, is peace plausible in 2025?

At the international level, there is understanding of the importance of establishing peace as soon as possible. For example, in November, the G20 leaders, in their final declaration at their Rio de Janeiro summit, sought to explore "all relevant and constructive initiatives that support a comprehensive, just and durable peace," while condemning the "threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition." Despite this, 2024 has been strongly marked by the continuation of military, financial and political support to both parties by their respective allies and partners. Ukraine has been financially and militarily supported by Europe and the US. According to the Germany-based Kiel Institute, Europe spent \$125 billion and the US \$90 billion on supporting Ukraine between the start of the war in 2022 and the beginning of November 2024. The UK has emerged as one of the leading aid donors over the past two years and has said it will provide \$3 billion (\$3.8 billion) of military support every year for "as long as it takes." Meanwhile, Russia has been supported politically and militarily by its own allies. But one of the distinctive features of the year has been the role of new players, especially North Korea. During a meeting of 67 foreign ministers last week, the group denounced Russia's "irresponsible and threatening nuclear rhetoric" and considered North Korea's support of Moscow to be a dangerous development. Earlier, North Korea and Russia had ratified their Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. South Korea has also accused the North of providing air defense missiles, in addition to sending 10,000 troops to the Kursk region. Other countries, such as the UAE, have maintained their neutral political stance and have mediated deals, such as the September exchange of 103 prisoners of war from each side. Another development has been the clear visibility of a weapons race between the two sides, culminating in Russia's deployment of the Oreshnik hypersonic intermediate-range missile in an assault on Dnipro. Moscow explained that it was in response to Kyiv's usage of US and UK-made or supplied missiles to target Russian territory. Moscow has not resorted to its nuclear capabilities, but it has developed "frightening" weapons. As both sides seek advantages in terms of speed, distance and impact, the escalation of heavy and advanced weaponry is likely to continue.

Given all of these factors, is there any hope for the future and a peace deal in 2025? Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has attempted to offer a "peace formula" — a marketable brand name for a list of demands that involve Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine's entire territory. It was outlined during the Switzerland summit in June. However, these efforts have not been successful, as most of the major Global South countries did not sign the communiqué, citing the absence of Russia or Israel's presence in the discussions as problematic. Earlier suggestions also failed to gain traction, such as the one made by Türkiye in May, when President Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered to host peace talks, or when Chinese Premier Wang Yi wished to be a "force for peace" to end the two-year-old Ukraine war. Following this failure, Zelensky in October again presented his "victory plan" to end the war. It includes requests for specific weapons and an "unconditional" invitation to join NATO immediately. He kicked off a tour to Europe to strengthen armed and financial support for his country by meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and new NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte. At a G7 meeting in November, leaders restated their support for Ukraine "for as long as it takes," as Zelensky hoped to end the Ukraine war in 2025 through "diplomatic means." The Kremlin responded that Zelensky's plan might lead to direct conflict between NATO and Russia. Many observers are anxiously waiting on Donald Trump's official return to the Oval Office in January, as he has promised to end the war "within 24 hours." So far, though, no details or clear plan have been offered. It was reported last month that Russian President Vladimir Putin was open to discussing a ceasefire deal with Trump, but he ruled out making any key territorial concessions and insisted that Ukraine abandon its ambitions to join NATO. All these seemingly irreconcilable demands and concerns have ensured there has been no resolution to the conflict in 2024; and it has even escalated in terms of weaponry and the involvement of new players. The rhetoric on both sides remains inflammatory, with "victory" appearing to be the key term, rather than "peace." Even if Trump significantly weakens US support for Ukraine, European leaders are highly likely to maintain their strong stance. Meanwhile, Russia is likely to continue developing strategic relationships with its current allies (and potentially even more players), especially as far as maintaining a military deterrence goes. It is hard to see a swift or simple conclusion, at least until a change of leadership among any of the main participants provokes a change of vision. Next year may be a year of peace-building — and there will be much effort and hope expended in achieving this — but it seems likely that the crisis will at first continue to tighten until some kind of breaking point is reached.

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Syed Asad Ali Shah

How the ADR tax distorts the financial sector

The tax on Advance-to-Deposit Ratio (ADR) was introduced through the Finance Acts of 2021 and 2022 approved by Pakistan's National Assembly and these provisions are being enforced by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for the tax year 2025, ostensibly aimed at increasing bank's lending to the private sector.

By imposing an additional tax of up to 16 per cent on income from government securities for banks with ADR below 50 per cent, the policy effectively penalises banks for failing to meet this threshold. In essence, it is not a tax on income but a penalty on the balance sheet structure of banks as of December 31, 2024. Unsurprisingly, banks are taking short-term measures to modify their balance sheets to avoid this hugely punitive tax.

While banks have made large profits during the last two years, they are also the largest tax-paying sector in the country. Therefore, this tax is being imposed on an industry already paying the highest tax in the country, with an aggregate tax rate on banks, including the super tax, around 50 per cent. The ADR tax pushes this rate to an exorbitant 66 per cent. Such excessive taxation does not merely affect the profitability of banks; it distorts the broader financial system.

At the root of the problem lies the government's unsustainable fiscal policies and management which result in enormous amount of bank borrowing. Fiscal deficits in Pakistan have consistently exceeded 6.0 per cent of GDP, and in recent years, surged beyond 8.0 per cent. With limited access to external financing due to the country's high-risk profile, approximately 85 per cent of the federal government's borrowing needs

are now financed by the banking sector, facilitated by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This over-reliance on bank financing has crowded out private sector credit — the very lending the ADR tax purports to promote.

In response, banks are engaging in short-term strategies to meet the ADR threshold by year-end. These include issuing large loans at below-market rates to both public and private entities, with the borrowed funds often reinvested into government securities. This cycle generates a risk-free spread for borrowers while helping the banks improve their ADRs. October 2024 witnessed an unprecedented Rs1.1 trillion surge in bank lending, a figure driven not by genuine economic activity or private sector expansion, but by efforts to sidestep punitive taxation. Compounding the strain is the requirement for banks to provide minimum deposit rates at 1.5 per cent below the policy rate savings deposits. At the current policy rate of 15 per cent, the minimum return that banks are required to pay to the deposit holders is 13.5 per cent — almost the same as the KIBOR rate around which banks do the lending, effectively matching the deposit rate. In this situation, banks are not recovering their operational costs and clearly incurring losses in their conventional banking deposits other than current accounts. To mitigate losses and manage ADRs, banks have resorted to discouraging large deposits through penalties and imposing limits on daily balances. Between September 30 and October 25, 2024, total deposits fell sharply from Rs31.14 trillion to Rs30.4 trillion. This trend, which is likely to escalate in a declining interest rates environment for depositors, jeopardises a country already struggling with one of the world's lowest savings rates, further curtailing funds available for investment and economic growth.

The ADR tax also raises serious constitutional and legal questions. Banks argue that regulating ADRs falls exclusively under the purview of the SBP, as mandated by the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962, and the SBP Act. Parliament's legislation imposing penalties based on the banks' balance sheet structures, enforced through the FBR, effectively usurps the SBP's regulatory authority. This overreach violates Article 142 of the constitution and the fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 18 and 25. Courts have already granted injunctions to a few banks against this tax, and it is highly likely that these provisions will ultimately be deemed unconstitutional, rendering the entire exercise futile — rather counterproductive for both the banking industry and the economy.

The policy also undermines its stated objectives. By taxing balance sheet ratios instead of income, the ADR tax penalises banks' investment and lending strategies irrespective of their profitability. Even banks incurring net losses will be subjected to this tax on income from government securities. The resulting financial strain exacerbates challenges for an already heavily taxed sector, discouraging deposit mobilization and distorting credit markets. Systemic issues further complicate private-sector lending in Pakistan. Over half of the economy remains undocumented, depriving banks of reliable data to assess creditworthiness. Additionally, the government's excessive borrowing from the banking sector leaves limited resources for private enterprises. This contradiction between fiscal strategies and policy goals negates the rationale behind the ADR tax. The very policies that necessitate heavy government borrowing are the ones crowding out private-sector credit. The ADR tax epitomises the misalignment in Pakistan's economic policies. While ostensibly aimed at

boosting private sector credit, it discourages deposit mobilisation, promotes unsustainable lending practices, and destabilises the financial sector — all without achieving meaningful tax revenue gains. With courts likely to nullify its provisions, the tax is poised to fail in delivering any significant fiscal or economic impact. The most effective way to channel credit to the private sector is through systemic reforms entailing a reduction in the size of governments and their unusually large expenditure, not arbitrary taxation. Addressing fiscal mismanagement is paramount, including reducing the fiscal deficit and curbing government reliance on banking sector borrowing. In fact, for promoting demand for private sector growth and documentation of the economy, it is imperative that tax rates, which are currently one of the highest in the world, are reduced substantially. Also, the policy of increasing loans to the private sector should be monitored through the banking regulator rather than through the tax authorities. The ADR tax, though well-intentioned, has proven counterproductive. Its unintended consequences threaten the stability of Pakistan's banking sector and undermine broader economic objectives like savings and investment growth. This tax should be withdrawn immediately to avert a brewing crisis in the financial system. The government must prioritise fiscal discipline and create a balanced financial ecosystem that fosters private sector growth. Only then can Pakistan achieve sustainable economic progress without resorting to counterproductive measures like the ADR tax.

The writer is a former managing partner of a leading professional services firm and has done extensive work on governance in the public and private sectors. He tweets/posts @Asad_Ashah

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



Although a federal form of government was retained, the assemblies had little power, which was, in effect, centralized through the authority of governors acting under the president. In April 1973 Pakistan's third constitution (since the 1935 act) was adopted by the National Assembly; it was suspended in 1977. In March 1981 a Provisional Constitutional Order was promulgated, providing a framework for government under martial law. Four years later a process was initiated for reinstating the constitution of 1973. By October 1985 a newly elected National Assembly

had amended the constitution, giving extraordinary powers to the president, including the authority to appoint any member of the National Assembly as prime minister. With the end of military rule in 1988 and following elections to the National Assembly held in November of that year, the new president used those powers to appoint a prime minister to form a civilian government under the amended 1973 constitution. In 1997 the prime minister pushed through two significant changes to the constitution. The first revoked the president's power to remove a sitting government, and the second gave the

premier authority to dismiss from parliament any member not voting along party lines—effectively eliminating the National Assembly's power to make a vote of no confidence. In 1999 a military government again came to power, and the constitution was suspended. The chief executive of that government initially ruled by decree and was made president in 2001. In 2002 the constitution was reinstated following a national referendum, though it included provisions (under the name Legal Framework Order (LFO)) that restored presidential powers removed in 1997; most provisions of the LFO were formally

To be continued.....

Showbiz

Charli XCX suffers with painful injury after Brat tour

Charli XCX reveals the non-stop tour took a toll on her body in a candid interview

Charli XCX has recently opened up about suffering from nerve damage after finishing her Brat tour. In a new interview with Variety, Charli, whose real name is Charlotte Emma Aitchison, revealed that the non-stop tour had taken a toll on her body, which finally ended on December 2. "I find the stage these days to be a very angry place for me," said the Apple singer.

Charli told the outlet, "I've done a lot of physical damage to my body from performing on stage." The musician shared she rocked so hard that she had injured herself. "Genuinely, physically I have nerve damage in my neck from things that I've done on the stage," remarked the 32-year-old.

Reflecting on her performance, the Boys crooner pointed out, "For me to give a performance that I feel is good



enough, I have to physically throw myself around and that makes me very upset when I do it." However, Charli shared she had an amazing time performing with long-time friend and collaborator Troye Sivan.

"Being with Troye just softens that quite a lot and a lot of other people on the tour just made me feel a lot lighter," remarked the songstress. Elsewhere in the interview, Charli mentioned that she found touring "really hard emotionally," noting being with Troye "just made that a lot easier and less of an emotional battle for me".

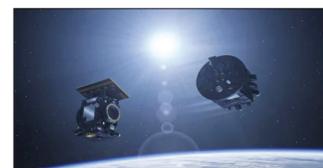
"I think our cute off days were probably my most fun memory," she continued.

The singer added, "We became, actually, quite a nice little family on that tour."

Tech

Man-made solar eclipses possible with latest satellite technology

The European Space Agency (ESA) is preparing for a groundbreaking space mission, Proba-3, which aims to create artificial solar eclipses using two satellites flying in precise formation. This mission marks ESA's first attempt at formation flying, where the satellites will orbit the Earth in a configuration that stays within one millimeter of separation—the width of a human fingernail. Scheduled for launch on Wednesday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India, the Proba-3 mission will involve the satellites traveling a four-month journey before reaching an elliptical orbit. The spacecraft will pass as close as 370 miles to Earth and then swing out more than 59,546 kilometres. The Proba-3 mission aims to demonstrate new space technology by aligning the two satellites with the sun, allowing the first satellite to cast a controlled shadow on the second. This shadow will enable instruments on the second satellite to study the sun's corona, the outermost part of its atmosphere, in unprece-



cedented detail. Scientists typically observe the corona during solar eclipses when the moon blocks part of the sun's light, but these events offer limited viewing time and are subject to weather disruptions. Proba-3 promises to provide continuous access to the corona by creating 50 artificial solar eclipses annually, each lasting six hours. The lead satellite will carry a 1.4-metre-wide disc to block the sun, turning the two satellites into a 150-metre-long coronagraph, allowing for a detailed study of the sun's mysterious and extremely hot corona, which can reach temperatures over a million degrees Celsius.

Using this banana peel ingredient in foods adds cancer-fighting nutrients

Have you ever wondered where your banana peel goes after you casually toss it in the trash? Turns out, it might be missing out on an exciting second life as banana peel flour, which can be transformed into a scrumptious, nutritious snack. In a recent study, scientists discovered an intriguing possibility. They showed that by blanching, drying, and grinding banana peels into a flour, the unused part of your banana could be reborn as a delicious addition to baked goods. And it tastes just as good, if not better than wheat-based products. The results of the simple experiment were compelling. Sugar cookies made using the peel flour were taste-tested by consumers who reported that they enjoyed the products as much as they enjoyed peel-free sugar cookies. The individual were also getting a package deal of flavors packed with a generous helping of miner-

als and cancer-fighting nutrients. When enriched with banana peels, the sugar cookies baked in the study showed higher levels of fiber, magnesium, potassium, and antioxidant compounds. On the flip side, too much banana peel flour did result in somewhat brown and hard cookies, probably due to the extra fiber present in the banana peels. However, a balance was found when flour containing 7.5 percent banana peel was used: this combination produced an appealing texture. Plus, there's another benefit. The goods made with banana peel flour showed no signs of spoilage, even after being kept on the shelf at room temperature for three months. Banana peel flour beyond cookies While this particular study focused on sugar cookies, the findings hint at a broader potential.

Using banana peel flour in breads, cakes, and even pasta, could be the next step. In fact, a study from last year revealed that banana peels can provide a natural food color to cakes while boosting their nutritional value. Food writers have been using banana peels in curry dishes, while vegan bloggers have gotten creative with ideas like banana peel bacon and pulled peel "pork." Banana peel flour has more surprises in store. A 2016 study found that substituting up to 10 percent of wheat flour with banana peel flour enriched baked bread with greater protein, carbohydrate, and fat content. Furthermore, it may be important to note that 40 percent of a banana's weight is in its peel. Unfortunately, we discard most of this nutritional treasure.



Health

دی اسٹیشن سٹی گراف

اسلام آباد

جمعہ المبارک 06 دسمبر 2024ء

علی امین گنڈاپور کا عاطف خان سے رابطہ، سی ایم ہاؤس آنے کی دعوت

پشاور (بیورو رپورٹ) پی ٹی آئی رہنماؤں کے اختلافات دور میں اہم چیئرمن سائمن آئی ہے، وزیر تعلیم جی پختونخوا علی امین گنڈاپور نے عاطف خان کو ذرا علی ملان کے ساتھ مل کر ملاقات کے لیے دعوت دی ہے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف وزارت تجارت کے تحت مختلف منصوبوں پر پیش رفت کے حوالے سے اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہے ہیں۔

12 سے زیادہ کنفرمنٹس، کیسے کہہ دوں سیٹلوں جاں بحق ہونے، بیرسٹر گوہر اور علیہ خان میں ٹکرار

ہمارے پاس جو تصدیقات ہیں اس میں بغیر تصدیق کیے اضافہ کرنے ہوتے ہیں، بیرسٹر گوہر نے کہا کہ پانچ افراد کی تعداد کے حوالے سے درجہ اولیٰ کی تصدیقات ہیں، اس میں بغیر تصدیق کیے اضافہ کرنے ہوتے ہیں۔



قومی اسمبلی اور پارلیمنٹ کا مشترکہ اجلاس آئندہ ہفتے بلائے جانے کا امکان

جی ایچ کیو حملہ کیس، عمران خان پر فرد جرم عائد، عمر ایوب زیر حراست، راجہ بشارت جیل سے نکلنے ہی گرفتار

عمر ایوب، راجہ بشارت جیل، راشد شقیق، صدیق عباسی، واٹن قیوم عباسی، جاوید کوشہر، ساجد قریشی، مسرت جہشیدہ، محمد احمد چھٹہ، عثمان ڈار اور ڈی جیل سپنچر عدالت نے شاہ محمود قریشی کو بھی لاہور جیل سے طلب کیا۔

پاکستان دہشت گردی کیخلاف ہر صورت اپنی لڑائی جاری رکھے گا، ترجمان دفتر خارجہ

دفتر خارجہ نے غیر ملکی سفارتوں کو پاکستان کی پالیسی کے بارے میں بتایا ہے، پاکستان کو شام کی صورتحال پر تشویش ہے، ملاحقہ کے خلاف ہر صورت اپنی لڑائی جاری رکھے گا، وزیر خارجہ آصف ظفر نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو جہاد کی دعوت دینا نہیں چاہیے۔

علیہ خان کی باتیں اہم، پارٹی میں کردار نہیں، علی محمد خان

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) پی ٹی آئی رہنما علی محمد خان نے کہا کہ علیہ خان کی باتیں اہم ہیں، پارٹی میں ان کا کردار نہیں ہے، ان کی باتیں اہم ہیں، پارٹی میں ان کا کردار نہیں ہے۔

پاکستان روس تعلقات پر مغرب کو ناراض نہیں ہونا چاہیے، اویس لغاری

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر توانائی سردار اویس لغاری نے کہا کہ پاکستان روس تعلقات پر مغرب کو ناراض نہیں ہونا چاہیے، سردار اویس لغاری نے کہا کہ پاکستان روس تعلقات پر مغرب کو ناراض نہیں ہونا چاہیے۔

آزاد کشمیر کے عوام نے پھیر جام شٹر ڈاؤن بڑھتال کی کال مسترد کردی

آزاد کشمیر کے عوام نے پھیر جام شٹر ڈاؤن بڑھتال کی کال مسترد کر دی، عوام نے کہا کہ شٹر ڈاؤن بڑھتال کی کال مسترد کر دی۔

ساجد کراٹم ترمیمی بل کا مسودہ متعلقہ وزارتوں کو لکھنچوایا گیا

اسلام آباد (این آئی ٹی) ایک ترمیمی بل کے متعلقہ وزارتوں سے مشاورت کے بعد ساجد کراٹم ترمیمی بل کا مسودہ متعلقہ وزارتوں کو لکھنچوایا گیا۔

جو گل داؤدی کی سالانہ نمائش، پنجاب کو تجارتی ہب بنانا مشن، کاروباری برادری کو ساتھ لیکر چلیں گے، مریم نواز

مریم نواز نے کہا کہ ان کی سالانہ نمائش، پنجاب کو تجارتی ہب بنانا مشن ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ انہوں نے ان کے ساتھ لیکر چلیں گے۔

جوڈیشل کمیشن کا 6 دسمبر کا اجلاس موخر کیا جائے، جسٹس منصور

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) سپریم جوڈیشل کمیشن کے چیف جسٹس جسٹس منصور نے کہا کہ 6 دسمبر کا اجلاس موخر کیا جائے گا۔

جوڈیشل کمیشن کا 6 دسمبر کا اجلاس موخر کیا جائے، جسٹس منصور

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) سپریم جوڈیشل کمیشن کے چیف جسٹس جسٹس منصور نے کہا کہ 6 دسمبر کا اجلاس موخر کیا جائے گا۔

غزہ، اسرائیل کی ٹینکوں سے بمباری، بچوں سمیت 20 فلسطینی شہید

غزہ، اسرائیل کی ٹینکوں سے بمباری، بچوں سمیت 20 فلسطینی شہید ہوئے، اسرائیلی فوج نے غزہ میں بمباری کی۔

افراط زر نیچے آنے سے معیشت بہتر ہوتی ہے، مریم اورنگزیب

مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ افراط زر نیچے آنے سے معیشت بہتر ہوتی ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ انہوں نے ان کے ساتھ لیکر چلیں گے۔

چوہدری محمد ایوب کی یادیں ہمارے دل و دماغ میں آج بھی زندہ ہیں، بیرسٹر سلطان

بیرسٹر سلطان نے کہا کہ چوہدری محمد ایوب کی یادیں ہمارے دل و دماغ میں آج بھی زندہ ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ انہوں نے ان کے ساتھ لیکر چلیں گے۔

اسے ڈی بی کا پاکستان کو 8 کروڑ 62 لاکھ ڈالر دینے کا اعلان

اسلام آباد (بیورو رپورٹ) ڈی بی کے مطابق پاکستان کو 8 کروڑ 62 لاکھ ڈالر فراہم کرنے کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔

بی آئی اے کی پڑھائی سے پابندی ہٹانے کیلئے برطانوی پارلیمنٹ میں جی گونج

لندن (بیورو رپورٹ) بی آئی اے کی پڑھائی سے پابندی ہٹانے کیلئے برطانوی پارلیمنٹ میں جی گونج ہوئی ہے۔

جوڈیشل کمیشن کا 6 دسمبر کا اجلاس موخر کیا جائے، جسٹس منصور

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) سپریم جوڈیشل کمیشن کے چیف جسٹس جسٹس منصور نے کہا کہ 6 دسمبر کا اجلاس موخر کیا جائے گا۔

غزہ، اسرائیل کی ٹینکوں سے بمباری، بچوں سمیت 20 فلسطینی شہید

غزہ، اسرائیل کی ٹینکوں سے بمباری، بچوں سمیت 20 فلسطینی شہید ہوئے، اسرائیلی فوج نے غزہ میں بمباری کی۔

افراط زر نیچے آنے سے معیشت بہتر ہوتی ہے، مریم اورنگزیب

مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ افراط زر نیچے آنے سے معیشت بہتر ہوتی ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ انہوں نے ان کے ساتھ لیکر چلیں گے۔

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بیرسٹر سلطان نے کہا کہ چوہدری محمد ایوب کی یادیں ہمارے دل و دماغ میں آج بھی زندہ ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ انہوں نے ان کے ساتھ لیکر چلیں گے۔

Ethiopian embassy honors 'Champions of Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity' for strengthening bilateral ties



ISLAMABAD: The Ethiopian embassy on Thursday hosted a grand event to honor the individuals who have been on forefront to foster the friendship and brotherhood between the two nations by highlighting true image of Ethiopia in Pakistan especially its economic potential, rich heritage, diverse culture and multi-faceted tourism.

Addressing the 'Champions of Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity' ceremony, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Dr Jemal Beker expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to the distinguished guests, recognizing their critical contributions to strengthening bilateral relations.

He said, "Today is one of the happiest days of my life in Pakistan. This gathering celebrates the champions of the Ethio-Pakistan fraternity and highlights the lasting connection between our great nations."

Ambassador Dr Jemal emphasized the significant role media plays in shaping public perceptions and advancing public diplomacy. He said, "In this modern era, the power of media cannot be underestimated.

It is a vital instrument for disseminating accurate information and fostering understanding between nations. Through proper engagement and the seamless provision of authentic narratives, we can highlight the rich histories, cultures, and values of Ethiopia and Pakistan." Highlighting the potential of Pakistan, the ambassador praised the country's breathtaking landscapes, diverse heritage, and economic promise. He also addressed the challenges of misinformation faced by both nations, citing the impact of global narratives that often misrepresent Ethiopia.

"Ethiopia is a land of immense progress, hosting international leaders annually and championing green transformation and economic growth under the leadership of Dr Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia," he remarked. The ambassador drew attention to the centuries-old ties between the two nations, anchored in shared history, culture, and traditions. He referenced Ethiopia's connection to Hazrat Bilal Habeshi (RA), a revered figure in Islamic history, to underline the deep cultural and spiritual bond shared by the people of Ethiopia and Pakistan. Ambassador Dr Jemal commended Pakistan's media for its efforts in combating misinformation and promoting truth in the digital age. "Together, we can shape a positive global perception of our countries by sharing authentic stories and showcasing our traditions," he said.

Reflecting on the growing bilateral engagement, the ambassador highlighted the strategic initiatives taken by both nations, including Pakistan's Look Africa policy and Ethiopia's Enter and Operate in Africa through Ethiopia policy. These initiatives aim to enhance trade, cultural exchange, and collaboration, making Ethiopia a gateway for Pakistan's engagement with Africa – a continent brimming with opportunities.

Notable achievements under this partnership include the successful launch of Ethiopian Airlines flights from Karachi, which have received overwhelming support from Pakistani travelers, and the exchange of delegations in key sectors such as business, trade, health, education, and technology. — VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chaired a meeting to review the ICT Governance Reforms Committee, established by the Prime Minister.

Jam Kamal for strengthening Pak-Kazakh trade ties

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday met with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin to discuss enhancing trade, regional connectivity, and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The meeting laid the groundwork for several collaborative initiatives, said a press release issued here.

The minister welcomed the announcement of the next IGC session, scheduled for Islamabad on January 28, 2025. He pledged full support from the Commerce Ministry to ensure its success.

The minister announced that a Business Forum and B2B meetings will precede the IGC, taking place in Karachi on January 27, 2025. The delegates will visit key trade infrastructure, including seaports, customs houses and special economic zones to explore business opportunities.

Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the importance of establishing a joint logistics company to facilitate seamless goods transportation between the two countries. He also proposed diversifying trade routes beyond the existing Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) to include pathways through Uzbekistan-Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

The minister reiterated the significance of the Trans-Afghan railway for strengthening connectivity with Central Asia.



He committed to reaching out to Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Abu Dhabi authorities to expedite the project's completion.

Jam Kamal Khan welcomed the Kazakh announcement of resuming direct flights to Pakistan in 2025 and called for the establishment of air cargo links with Karachi.

He also highlighted Pakistan's export potential, particularly in mangoes, sports goods, textiles and surgical instruments, urging stronger connections between exporters and Kazakh importers.

The minister underscored the need to enhance banking correspondent relationships to simplify trade transactions and build a stronger foundation for bilateral trade.

Ambassador Kistafin expressed optimism about the growing partnership. He praised the upcoming IGC and Business Forum as key opportunities to strengthen economic ties and explore joint ventures.

"Kazakhstan values Pakistan's competitive exports and logistical expertise. We are eager to deepen our collaboration, and initiatives like direct flights and air cargo links will significantly boost our trade potential," the Ambassador said.

Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening trade with Central Asia. "Kazakhstan is a vital partner in the region, and we aim to leverage mutual strengths to unlock new opportunities. From expanding trade routes to supporting exporters, our focus remains on fostering sustainable growth," he stated.

The meeting concluded with both sides emphasizing the need for open communication and prompt follow-up on the decisions made.

The federal minister's proactive leadership and the Ambassador's collaborative approach reflected the growing momentum in Pakistan-Kazakhstan trade relations.

President Zardari, PM Shehbaz pay tribute to Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider on his 53rd martyrdom anniversary

CJCS, Services Chiefs & Armed Forces of Pak also pay heartfelt tribute to Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed on his Shahadat anniversary

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have paid tribute to Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider on his 53rd martyrdom anniversary.

In his statement, President Asif Ali Zardari said Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed made a great sacrifice for the homeland. Asif Ali Zardari said the entire nation will remain grateful to its martyrs and their families.

In his statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed set an eternal example of courage and bravery while fighting in East Pakistan. He said that Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed confronted the enemy valiantly without fear of its numerical superiority, emphasizing that he set an example of duty and loyalty to the nation that is inspiring for the younger generation. PM Shehbaz Sharif said the entire nation takes pride in the martyrs of Pakistan Army and their families. He said the nation holds profound respect and admiration for the brave sons of the homeland who sacrificed their lives for the nation, and their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Meanwhile the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, and Armed Forces of Pakistan pay heartfelt tribute to Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider on his 53rd Shahadat anniversary.

Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed was commanding a company of 4 Frontier Force Regiment at Hilli (East Pakistan) on 19 May 1971, where he defended the area of responsibility daringly and did not allow enemy to make an advance. Later on, 03 December 1971, he was ordered to attack the enemy positions and where he destroyed enemy's three tanks while making an advance. During fight with enemy, Major Muhammad Akram Shaheed got seriously injured and embraced Shahadat on 05 December 1971.

Major Muhammad Akram's martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan to defend the motherland.

Let us remember these heroes who have laid down their lives in defence of our motherland. The nation is proud of its gallant sons. SABAH

Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN visits Kenya and establishes free medical camp



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN visited Mombasa, Kenya, where it established a free medical camp. Earlier, upon arrival at the port of Mombasa, PNS MOAWIN was warmly welcomed by local authorities.

At medical camp, Pakistan Navy surgeons and medical specialists provided free medical consultations, treatments and medicines to

patients. The medical camp was widely appreciated by local populace, who benefited from the high-quality medical care provided.

During the port visit, the Commanding Officer of PNS MOAWIN met Commander Kenya Navy, Major General Paul Oluwo Otiemo, and other local government officials to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation. The Commanding Officer conveyed good wishes of Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed

Ashraf, to the people of Kenya and expressed gratitude for the support extended by host Navy and local Pakistani community.

The visit of PNS MOAWIN to Kenya and establishment of medical camp serves as a testament to Pakistan Navy's commitment to fostering goodwill and providing essential medical services to communities in need. PR

Pakistan welcomes UNGA resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from Palestine, says FO spox

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday welcomed the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday calling on Israeli occupation authorities to withdraw from Palestinian territories and for the creation of a Palestinian state. "The genocide in Gaza must end; civilians are being indiscriminately killed, including at food points, hospitals, and refugee shelters. This humanitarian situation needs urgent international attention," Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing here. Expressing deep concerns about the latest developments in Syria, she said that the ongoing situation would further destabilize the region and embolden terrorist organizations. She emphasized the promotion of peace and security in Syria and called for international efforts to de-escalate the situation and uphold the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Syria. The spokesperson highlighted the continuing seizure of properties of Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including the recent seizure of properties of 13 individuals in Kishtwar District. "Indian actions are part of an ongoing drive to confiscate Kashmir lands and properties to harass and intimidate the Kashmiri people and punish them for their dissenting political views. We urge the Indian authorities to end the ongoing campaign of seizing the properties of Kashmiri people and abide by its international obligations as an occupying power," she remarked. APP

Minister inaugurates residential complex for Hindu pilgrims at Katas Raj temple

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Saik Hussain inaugurated a residential complex for Hindu pilgrims at the Katas Raj temple, under the management of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), here on Thursday.

Addressing the ceremony, he said that minorities had been living here since before the creation of Pakistan. "We will work for the beautification of the holy places of not only Hindus but also other religions. The minorities living in Pakistan are our own people. We will give a good message to the world regarding the minority community," he said adding that Katas Raj was a great cultural heritage consisting of different religions. He said that according to modern requirements, a 36-room building adjacent to the Katas Raj temples had been constructed at a cost of Rs 190 million. It would accommodate the Hindu pilgrims coming from inside the country as well as abroad.

ETPB Chairman Syed Atta-ur-Rehman thanked the federal minister and said "we have the full support of the Government of Pakistan and the district governments to serve the minorities in Pakistan and to provide hospitality to the pilgrims coming from abroad". He said that there was a significant change in the historic Katas Raj Temple by adding 36 residential rooms and sub-modern facilities.

In addition to improved facilities, 6,000 plants of different species have been planted for the health of the temple environment and conservation of the heritage has been ensured with modern infrastructure and environmental awareness. The ETPB has installed a 40-kW



solar system and spacious parking facilities at the Katas Raj Temple so that Hindu pilgrims and tourists from Pakistan and around the world could enjoy complete facilities.

President of the Pakistan Hindu Maimner Management Committee (PHMMC) Krishan Sharma specially thanked Federal Minister Chaudhry Saik Hussain and Chairman ETPB for the construction and renovation of the Katas Raj Complex and said that Hindu religious places of worship in Pakistan are safe. He said that Pakistan is a minority-friendly country and I want to send a message to the Hindu community around the world that they should come to Pakistan and visit their religious places of worship. The ceremony was attended by Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs Zulfiqar Haider, Secretary ETPB Farid Iqbal, Additional Secretary Shrinis Saifullah Khokhar, Additional Secretary Admin Sanaullah Khan, Chief Engineer Haq Nawaz, Shahid Bashir, Deputy Commissioner, DPO, Chakwal Ahmad Mohayudin and a large number of representatives of the Hindu and Sikh community.

PTV celebrates World Turkish Coffee Day in collaboration with Turkish Embassy

Continued from Page 1

The preparation involves an intricate process that reflects our rich cultural heritage. Turkish coffee has inspired songs and poetry, making it an iconic symbol of our history," he remarked.

Speaking at the occasion, Federal Information Secretary and Managing Director PTV, Ambreen Jan emphasized the shared cultural and historical ties between the two nations. "Pakistan and Türkiye enjoy close cultural, historical, and religious ties, which are now expanding into deepening economic relations. The shared love of coffee further brings us closer, reflecting our common cultural appreciation," she maintained.

Adding to the festivities, the attendees savoured the authentic taste of Turkish coffee and indulged in sweet delights, offering them a true experience of Turkish hospitality.

The PTV remains dedicated to promoting cultural diplomacy and strengthening international relations by celebrating shared traditions. Events like World Turkish Coffee Day reaffirm the state broadcaster's role in fostering meaningful connections between Pakistan and its allies.

Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights Meets Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality to Strengthen Gender

ISLAMABAD: Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, met with Ms. Stephanie Copus Campbell, Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality, to discuss advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan.

The discussion focused on legislative frameworks, increasing women's leadership in government and private sectors, and strategies to enhance gender inclusion. The Federal Minister highlighted the government's dedication to gender equality through policy reforms, capacity-building initiatives, and efforts to create a more inclusive socio-economic landscape for women.

He emphasized the Prime Minister's Women Empowerment Package-2024, which focuses on supporting working women through vocational training, leadership development pro-



grams, micro-finance schemes, and initiatives such as Women on Wheels, aimed at enhancing women's mobility and economic independence. The Minister also highlighted ongoing partnerships with international and local organizations to advance gender equality, including initiatives to engage men and boys as allies in addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and challenging harmful gender norms. He

stressed the importance of collaborative efforts to overcome cultural and structural barriers to women's empowerment, with a focus on creating sustainable impacts at all levels of society.

Ms Campbell recognized these efforts and underscored the importance of addressing societal barriers to ensure women's equal participation in leadership and economic development. She expressed Australia's willingness to continue supporting initiatives that enhance gender-sensitive policies and empower women in Pakistan.

Both parties emphasized the significance of sustained cooperation and international alliances to ensure meaningful progress toward an inclusive and equitable society. The meeting concluded with mutual expressions of gratitude and a shared commitment to future collaboration.

US launches historic Police-Community Partnership in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark event in Islamabad on Thursday, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker unveiled the Pasban Awam Saath Saath Program, a transformative initiative aimed at fostering citizen-focused policing and empowering women in law enforcement across Pakistan.

The program, a collaboration between Pakistan's civilian security agencies, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the U.S. Embassy, underscores the U.S. commitment to gender equality and justice.

"Together, we are making history," said Baker, commending efforts to increase representation and strengthen community ties. Among the achievements highlighted:

A 20% rise in women officers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and 25% in Balochistan. Training for over 1,600 women and 70 transgender officers in Punjab, leading to the resolution of 1,500 cases for the transgender community. The Public Complaint Redressal System in KPK

addresses over 50,000 citizen complaints.

As Pakistan observes the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Baker emphasized the broader impact of U.S.-funded initiatives, including anti-rap crisis cells and gender desks at police stations. These have led to a 60% increase in crimes reported by women and girls in KPK. Recognizing trailblazing women officers like Senior Superintendent Riffat Bokhari and Superintendent Beenish Fatima, Baker stated, "Your courage moves us, your commitment inspires us, and your sacrifices humble us."

The United States pledged continued support for a secure and equitable future for all Pakistanis, reaffirming its solidarity with women leaders in law enforcement. APP

