



Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the areas of economy, trade, defence, culture, education and people-to-people contacts

President of Pakistan
Asif Ali Zardari

Pakistan currently can get more foreign exchange by focusing on value addition: Jam Kamal

UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian extends full support for increasing the trade volume between the two nations

ISLAMABAD: Oliver Christian, the UK Trade Commissioner, met with Pakistan's Federal Minister of Commerce, Mir Jam Kamal Khan, to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral trade. The meeting highlighted the need for sectoral collaboration and a business-to-business matchmaking approach to target growth areas in both countries. Mir Jam Kamal Khan emphasized Pakistan's immense potential in the food sector, particularly through value addition. "Pakistan currently can get more foreign exchange by focusing on value addition," he noted. The Minister underscored the government's commitment to expanding trade, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He praised Prime Minister's dedication to achieving an ambitious export growth plan, aiming to increase exports from US\$30 billion to US\$60 billion.

The minister also highlighted Pakistan's success in organizing the FoodAg Expo in Karachi, where more than 800 foreign delegates participated. "This was the first event of its kind, with such a large international presence, and it opened doors to significant business opportunities," he added. Mir Jam Kamal Khan cited Pakistan's growing exports in other sectors, such as IT, mining, horticulture, and dairy, and discussed the potential for future exports, including olive products. "Pakistan is on its way to becoming a significant olive exporter, with vast cultivation underway," he informed.

The UK Trade Commissioner acknowledged Pakistan's vast potential and extended full support for increasing the trade volume between the two nations. Both sides emphasized the importance of the UK-Pakistan Trade Dialogue, a platform to be established soon to promote trade and investment. As the UK diversifies its import sources post-Brexit, the Minister highlighted Pakistan's potential to become a key supplier of food products to the UK, given its compliance with international standards. This discussion marked a significant step in strengthening trade ties, with both parties expressing optimism for the future of UK-Pakistan trade relations. SABAH

Tarar grieved over demise of Hussain Riaz's mother

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar expressed grief over the death of the mother of senior journalist Chaudhry Hussain Riaz. The minister, in a message, expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family. "The mother is a blessing of the Almighty which has no substitute," the minister said while praying to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace, and grant courage and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity. APP

Musadik calls for boosting Pak-China cooperation in mining sector



Underscoring the significance of geological surveys in discovering new mineral deposits, he said that we will work on improving the Geological Survey of Pakistan in collaboration with the company. In his remarks, Chairman of

XiAn: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik visited the Shaanxi Non-Ferrous Metals Holding Group Company in China, which manufactures non-ferrous metals. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said Pakistan is rich in mineral resources, and partnership with Shaanxi Non-Ferrous Metals Holding Group Company will usher in a new era of innovation in the mining industry. APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal and UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Exploring New Avenues for Partnership.

PM extends greetings on 94th Saudi National Day

PM to land in New York tonight to address 79th UNGA session



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended greetings to the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the country celebrated its 94th National Day on Monday. The prime minister, in his message, said that under the leadership of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom had emerged as a great country of the 21st century, according to a PM Office press release.

Calling Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 a role model for the world, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the Kingdom was playing a leading role in the developing world in business, technol-

ogy, economy and other fields. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed historic relations based on religious and cultural values and both countries supported each other through tough times.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the entire Pakistani nation was grateful for Saudi Arabia's support in the recent stabilization of Pakistan's economy and expressed the hope that both countries would continue to enjoy cordial ties in the future as well.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to arrive in New York tonight on a five-day visit mainly to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Federal Education and Professional Training Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are accompanying the prime minister, according to a PM Office press release. Prime Minister Shehbaz will address several high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA session including the "High-Level Meeting on Existential Threat posed by Sea-level Rise," "SDG Moment 2024", and the UN Security Council's Open Debate on "Leadership for Peace".

He will interact with the members of the US-Pakistan Business Council and Pakistani bankers to apprise them of his government's pro-business and investment policies.

The meetings with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN General Assembly President Philemon Yang, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Founder Bill Gates, World Bank President Ajay Banga, and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva are also on his agenda. In a scheduled meeting with Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas, the prime minister will hold consultation on the ways to persuade the international community to accelerate its efforts to end Israel's oppression in Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz will also attend a luncheon reception by Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Hassanal Bolkiah on the completion of 40 years of his country's UN membership, and also a dinner reception by Chief Advisor of Bangladesh Dr Muhammad Yunus to mark 50 years of his country's UN membership. During his US visit, the prime minister will highlight before the world leaders the impacts of climate change on the countries, Pakistan's sacrifices in its fight against terrorism, challenges faced by the debt-burdened countries, Indian illegal occupation of Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and ongoing genocide of innocent Palestinian people by Israeli occupation forces.

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). He will take charge on the 30th of this month.



Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik is currently serving as an Adjutant General at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has previously commanded the Infantry Division in Balochistan and the Infantry Brigade in Waziristan. He has also received a Sword of Honor in his course and served as the chief instructor at National Defense University (NDU), as well as an instructor at Command and Staff College Quetta.

Lieutenant General Asim Malik is a graduate of Fort Leavenworth and Royal College of Defence Studies.

S Arabia has consistently supported Pakistan through thick & thin: Naqvi

Says every Muslim holds Saudi Arabia in special esteem



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi visited the Saudi Embassy in the Diplomatic Enclave on Monday. He was received by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on his arrival.

Interior Minister met with the Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Maliki. The Interior Minister congratulated Ambassador Al-Maliki on Saudi Arabia's National Day and expressed good wishes for the Saudi Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia. He thanked the Saudi Government and ambassador for their cooperation during difficult times, saying, "Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan, whether during floods, earthquakes, economic or other challenges. Their support has been unparalleled."

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that Every Muslim holds Saudi Arabia in special esteem. He said that Saudi Arabia has consistently supported Pakistan through thick and thin, and every Pakistani takes pride in our historic friendship.

Saudi Ambassador said that Saudi Arabia highly values its relations with Pakistan as Pakistan is our brotherly country. SABAH

Lot of questions still unanswerable in SC reserved seats judgement: Azam

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that a lot of questions were still answerable in the detailed judgement announced by the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said, had not been a party in the reserved seats case at any forum, including the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Peshawar High Court (PHC) or the SC.

He said courts were used to give decisions on principles that who had filed the case and what relief was prayed by the petitioner.

Such questions were not answered in the reserved seats case as the apex court seemed to have not examined those aspects, the law minister said while addressing a press conference.

Azam Tarar said that independent candidates had joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) willingly and that their move was irreversible as per the law.

He said that the ECP was an independent institution working under constitutional oath and it had to render its responsibility under the law.

Similarly, he said, that the legislation was the

sole prerogative of the Parliament. The judgement had not commented on the amendments in the election law, he added.

The minister said that the review petition had not become ineffective after the announcement of detailed judgment in the reserved seats case.

The question that the instant decision had not been taken as per the petitioner's prayer, was required to be addressed, he added.

The minister said that the Peshawar High Court had given judgment as per the law.

He said that strict words had been used against two judges who had given dissenting notes, but it would not dilute their opinion. The difference of opinion was grace of any verdict, he adding citing that a number of dissenting notes had been written in various cases in the past.

Azam Tarar said that the question that how the relevant sections of the law would be overruled to allocate the reserved seats to the PTI, was also not answered.

The independent candidates, he said, had themselves closed their case after joining the SIC. There had never been a debate on the allocation of reserved seats to the PTI during the whole proceedings of the case, he added.

President COPAIR appreciated the social initiative of empowering youth in IT

Empowering Digital Pakistan is the only solution, President FPCCI

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Center of Pakistan and International Relations, headed by President COPAIR Ms. Anna Munawwar Awan called on Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI. Ms. Amina Munawwar Awan highlighted the importance of Digital Transformation. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh appreciated team of Anna Munawwar Awan President COPAIR for this social initiative for empowering youth in Information technology.

Ms. Anna Munawwar Awan, President, Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) present crest to Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI. Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCCI, Ms. Sameena Fazil, Ms. Naima Ansari & President Islamabad Women Chamber Rizwana Asif, Anza Akhund from Digital Certificate, Minhal Sulaiman from Matrix Global, Saad Malik from GCC, Muhammad Hasam from NicheTech, Kashif Khan from Global Entrepreneurial Network are also present on this occasion.



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

Humanity's stark choice: Coexistence or carnage

BARIA ALAMUDDIN

My friend is an impeccably educated, beautiful woman from one of the wealthiest families in Lebanon. Now retired in her 60s, she lost her wealth in the banking and currency collapse and each day queues alongside fellow Lebanese at the bank for a meager sum that hardly buys food, let alone necessary medicines. Poverty and starvation have become unifying forces in today's Lebanon.

Following Israel's detonation of pagers and walkie-talkies last week and the latest escalations, my friend related to me how terrified of each other Lebanese have become. One man in the bank queue caused panic for carrying a first-generation Nokia phone. People urged him to throw it away, but he repeatedly refused, resulting in chaos as those present began screaming at him and beating him, before he was unceremoniously thrown out onto the street along with his phone. Later that day, Israeli planes strafed Beirut and my friend was reduced to cowering under her bed, fearing that long-anticipated war was commencing. Daily survival in Lebanon is an ordeal of trauma, poverty, humiliation and fear. As pagers exploded, people did not know what could be next; they began throwing away mobile phones, removing babies from incubators, fearing to use computers and avoiding public places, with obvious concerns about what devices were safe to carry on aircraft and public transport. Although a high proportion of victims were Hezbollah members, many who lost hands and eyes were innocent bystanders or family members. The attack's indiscriminate nature added new levels of horror to this unpredictable, grinding conflict. Hassan Nasrallah was correct in asserting that the war has turned northern Israel into a no-go zone, but likewise for southern Lebanon. Even if Israel were to follow up on threats to reoccupy Lebanon up to the Litani river, such a cordon would hardly be an obstacle for medium-range Hezbollah munitions and such an occupation would be championed as a cause célèbre for Hezbollah's "resistance" pretensions. With the latest escalations and assassination of prominent commanders, Israel seeks to goad Hezbollah into a war, which the former would inevitably win through unlimited Western support. But along with the utter destruction of Lebanon, there would be immense costs for Israel.

Already, a year of war has had a hugely damaging impact for Israel. As well as almost the entire population of the north and south being evacuated, economic activity has been harmed by the widespread call-up of reservists and prices have soared. An estimated 60,000 Israeli businesses will shut in 2024, with large numbers of other small enterprises struggling. Spooked by the chronically uncertain security situation, thousands of families have simply emigrated — mimicking a similar brain drain witnessed in Lebanon in recent years due to economic collapse. The result in both states has been a deterioration in the numbers of skilled essential professionals — doctors, teachers, bureaucrats, entrepreneurs. Yet commanders on both sides hint that the real war has not yet begun. Every conflict in modern history — no matter how destructive or decisive — inevitably concludes with negotiations and peacemaking. Hence, the looming regional war would cost tens of thousands of lives and cause hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of destruction, only for all sides to ultimately be compelled to withdraw to their positions prior to the conflict, with nothing to show for the carnage other than grieving widows, maimed orphans and lost futures. The Ukraine conflict grinds away with comparable futility, with hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides squandered over a few kilometers of territory. Sudan is, meanwhile, being ripped apart by two power-hungry generals, both with scant prospect of winning outright, while unleashing ruinous mayhem and genocide. Through sub-Saharan Africa to Asia via the Middle East, the planet is wracked by conflict-ridden disintegrating states, causing the number of forcibly displaced people to unprecedentedly soar to 120 million. The vacuous platitudes of countless official statements emanating from global capitals are rendered farcical by the perfect storm of crises the world faces.

Our world lacks guardrails because conflict-resolution bodies like the UN Security Council have been paralyzed by superpower rivalries, while developed nations have retreated from historic peacekeeping roles. When there are no consequences for invading and annihilating a weaker neighbor, we should expect this to be favored as normalized diplomatic practice in a planet bristling with nuclear weapons, while artificial intelligence offers hitherto undreamed-of war-making methods. My friend in Beirut described a sense of numbness and loss of empathy as every day brought with it exhaustively horrendous news — locally and in the world at large: hastily arranged back-to-back funerals, an entire generation of Gaza orphans, new depths of inhuman cruelty. The land of Palestine is minuscule: Palestinian, Israeli and Lebanese populations live mere kilometers away from one another. Muslim, Christian and Jewish holy sites and residential areas in Jerusalem are practically built on top of each other. If they can peacefully pray that closely alongside each other, why can they not resolve to live together in peace? One side cannot annihilate the other without bringing unimaginable suffering and trauma upon its own citizens. With the world's two biggest superpowers, America and China, locked in an arms race, nations are sharply reducing living standards in order to spend greater proportions of their gross domestic product on innovative ways of killing one another. All wars are futile. The universal lesson from all this misery is simple: If we do not want our neighbors to harbor fantasies of destroying us, then we must find ways of peacefully coexisting with our neighbors. If we want states and leaders to act with morality and justice, there must be vigorously imposed international laws and norms, protecting human rights and outlawing aggression.

Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.



Humayun Akhtar Khan

The economy needs a reset

The government is all primed to sign a new IMF deal and celebrate more debt. Yet, it needs to reflect why we are in an endless loop of near default followed by lifelines from the IMF. Doing the same thing and expecting a different result is futile. Eventually, it deepens the crisis. Countries that survive bad times rely on their own solutions. What we are faced with is not just a major economic problem, but a national emergency. Tried and failed tactics will not do.

Between 2008 and 2023, Pakistan borrowed \$129 billion from foreign lenders. During this period, it paid back \$136 billion in principal and interest, a net outflow of \$7 billion. Each year, we paid \$8.5 billion to foreign creditors, including about \$2 billion in interest. This cycle of borrowing and repaying more than the original amount is loss for the economy. Despite this, Pakistan still owes over \$130 billion in debt. Those figures are about to get worse.

The IMF estimates that Pakistan needs \$124 billion in the next five years. Of this, \$87 billion would repay debt, and \$25 billion — \$30 billion would cover interest, over \$5 billion annually. The cause of the problem is now considered the cure. The current account would be in control and reserves would improve, but entirely based on new debt.

This focus on avoiding default at the expense of all else is misguided. The only way to permanently avoid default is for the economy and exports to grow, enabling debt repayment. In five years, our stock of debt would rise to \$150 billion. We will move backward while impoverishing the people and hollowing out industry.

At almost 6.0 per cent of GDP, the present foreign debt servicing is a huge outflow of dollars, and it is growing annually. Interest payments to Pakistani and foreign creditors exceed combined public spending on critical inputs such as education,

health, and infrastructure. In FY2023, interest payments were 22 per cent more than net federal receipts, with loans funding all other expenses.

Citizens and businesses are struggling from years of economic adversity. Millions of young people enter the labour force yearly. But stalled industrial growth means fewer jobs.

The government's main response is to pass the economic burden onto the common people of Pakistan.

Such reasoning has weakened the economy's growth potential. Our investment and productivity have fallen, while exports are at a standstill. Nor is there much value addition in exports. Between 2010 and 2019, Pakistan's rank in the Competitiveness and HDI indices fell. World Bank data shows that, in constant 2017 \$, our GDP has hardly risen since 1990.

The economy needs a reset. Pakistan must announce a long-term national development programme, with industrialization a key component.

This would supplement the IMF programme — though staying within the agreed macro framework.

Our exports are stagnant because of a small industrial base. Pakistan must refocus on manufacturing. Out of the total world trade of \$32 trillion, manufactured goods account for over \$16 trillion. In the context of our economy, industrial revival should be a key goal for Pakistan.

Industrialization is not a single dramatic event. It requires a long-term plan with top-level commitment from both the public and private sectors.

During this process, the economy will evolve through key stages: from low-tech goods to mass production of labor-intensive goods.

As Pakistan earns forex, it can import capital goods for the means of mass production for import substitution,

such as steel, chemicals and petrochemicals. Later it could move to high-tech products.

Although we have a few firms at each of these stages, their presence is small and only in a few sectors.

Many are not globally competitive. Reviving the economy requires thousands more firms in many diverse sectors.

To export, these firms must become efficient and competitive, and continuously improve their products.

To achieve this, the private sector needs better support in the

form of skills, R&D, logistics and financing.

Sustained growth comes from structural transformation, which involves creating new goods while steadily improving know-how to move up the value chain. Research shows a strong link between a country's export mix and its level of development.

Given our constraints, the government of Pakistan cannot upgrade all the public goods needed by industry.

Therefore, the government and the private sector must select a few cross-cutting activities for support — those with the greatest chance of success.

They should identify sector-specific constraints, which the government could lead this process.

Pakistan has experienced a reverse structural transformation. The share of primary goods in total exports

grew from 11 per cent in 2002 to 16 per cent in 2022. Revealing our anti-growth bias, even during periods of large foreign inflows, such as post-9/11 or CPEC, we did not diversify

industry. To achieve a 10 per cent growth in FY24 exports, exporters cut the unit value of several items.

Low-hanging fruits to increase exports are available: manufactured goods we already produce but do not

export as well as value-added agriculture.

The government must identify and address sector-specific barriers faced by producers to help them increase volume and compete globally.

The economy requires SMEs on a massive scale in both urban and rural areas. SMEs do not have significant needs for imports or capital.

They are a great resource for new ideas, entrepreneurship and jobs.

SMEs will increase domestic demand for other goods produced in the country.

A large part of Pakistan's growing population of young people is unskilled. They do not have regular jobs.

To ensure social stability, the country must provide them jobs.

There are many production activities where it is possible to create decent jobs for the unskilled. The government

may support such industries.

Pakistan has not effectively leveraged the demographic dividend.

Economic success will come from

improving the capabilities and

engagement of all its people. In urban areas, we should strengthen new-age industries, such as back-office processing, engineering services, freelancing, and fintech. With the right skills, financing and infrastructure support, these firms could quickly become competitive.

The government must understand the new dynamics of globalization.

The path of low labour cost and low-tech exports followed by the Asian Tigers is no longer enough. Emerging economies are moving to higher-skilled manufacturing. That should

also be our medium-term goal. Profits now come from talent and an economy's integration into the global value chain. R&D, product design, and branding are key inputs.

Traditional manufacturing increasingly combines digital services with production, disrupting the usual ways of doing business.

Invoking new ideas for aid use, the government must focus more on policy and governance issues while also supporting the balance of payments.

At present, aid is just used for the balance of payments. Foreign inflows should upgrade internet connectivity and human capital. It should prioritize training and R&D, especially in the IT sector.

Pakistan must also seek grants for vocational training on a mass scale and online training assistance for specialized industrial fields. Aid may support firms to access technical personnel. To move up to higher-skilled manufacturing, the government of Pakistan must have a well-thought-upskilling programme. Most of these schemes will not increase imports in a significant way.

In addition, the government must seriously improve governance and the business climate. Rather than help, governance is a hurdle. This too does not need capital. It needs leadership, training and reorienting the mindset of officials. Doing so

would unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of the people. The root cause of our weak economy is not a lack of capital, but a lack of organization, imagination and false policy choices in support of the political economy.

This approach must change.

The writer is chair and CEO, Institute for Policy Reforms. He has a long record of public service.

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan

The new prime minister was in one respect fortunate. Soon after she came to power, the Soviet Union withdrew the last of its forces from Afghanistan. On the other hand, an Afghan communist regime was still in power, and more than three million Afghan refugees remained in Pakistan. In an effort to sustain good relations with the army, which remained deeply committed to a presence in Afghanistan, Bhutto allowed the Pak-

istani military (now under the command of Gen. Mirza Aslam Baig) to sustain its proxy fight against the communist regime in Kabul. She also was compelled to use the military in a law-and-order campaign in Karachi, where ethnic unrest had continued unabated. Denied success in either operation, Bhutto began to challenge army strategy on the one side and simultaneously lost favour with the attentive Pakistani public on the

other. Moreover, with developments in Sind unresolved, Bhutto aggravated the base of her supporters there. Instead of acknowledging the need to form a coalition government with the IJI, Bhutto tried to force Nawaz Sharif to yield his position as chief minister of the Punjab. Sharif fought back, and Bhutto was confronted with more foes than she could manage. Unable to pass essential legislation, the Bhutto government faced charges of

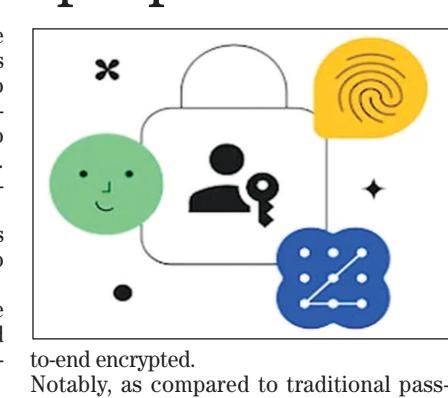
To be continued.....

Showbiz

Tech

Google enables passkeys for syncing on multiple platforms

American multinational corporation Google has enabled syncing of passkeys across devices on multiple platforms in order to expand the capabilities of its Password Manager. Previously, passkeys were only saved to the Password Manager on Android devices. This used to limit the cross-device functionality, reported Microsoft Start. However, users could still access passkeys on other devices but they were required to scan a QR code to do so. The new update now permits passkeys to be saved and synced through Google Password Manager on Windows, macOS and Linux platforms, which is in addition to Android. Moreover, support for ChromeOS is currently in beta testing, and iOS compatibility is anticipated to arrive soon. As soon as a passkey is saved, it automatically syncs using Google Password Manager across all devices. Providing robust protection against unauthorized access, Google assures users that their passkey data is end-to-end encrypted.



Notably, as compared to traditional passwords, passkeys differ as they are digital credentials designed to permit users to sign in to accounts without requiring a password. Additionally, since 2023, the company has been integrating passkeys into its software suite. A new security feature to Google Password Manager has also been introduced by the new update.

Johnny Depp set to mark major milestone following challenging phase of life

Johnny Depp receives good news after his messy divorce battle with Amber Heard



Johnny Depp is set to mark a major milestone after his challenging legal battle with ex-wife Amber Heard.

The Pirates of the Caribbean alum will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Honor at the Rome Film Festival. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the globally known artist is expected to celebrate a lifetime achievement award for his unconditional services in diverse artistic fields as an actor, musician and filmmaker.

Moreover, Depp will debut his last directorial movie Mod - Three Days on the Wing of Madness at the 2024 festival. Notably, the drama movie, which chronicles the life of artist Amedeo Modigliani in 1916 Paris, fea-

tures Riccardo Scamarcio, Al Pacino and Antonio Desplat. The film is to mark its world premiere at the forthcoming star-studded event.

Previously, The Curse of the Black Pearl actor opened the Cannes Film Festival for his French historical drama film Jeanne du Barry which smashed the box office records in 2023. For the unversed, the Rome Film Festival will be held from October 16 to 27 this year.

On the personal front, Depp was made to the negative headlines during a messy legal battle with his former wife and actress Amber Heard from which he successfully continued to achieve milestones in life.

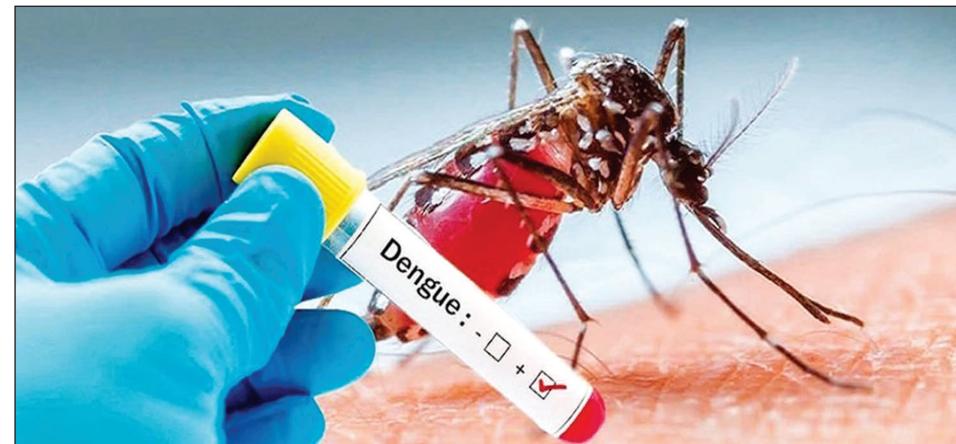
Health dept intensifies drive after surge in dengue cases

PESHAWAR: Health department has intensified campaign against Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever after upswing in cases in September due to widespread rains that have led to production of mosquitoes, the carrier and transmitter of the disease. According to officials, 147 of the total 290 dengue cases have been recorded in September. Since the start of the current month, there has been a steep rise in dengue patients mainly due to upsurge in population of mosquitoes. Director Public Health Dr Irshad Roghani attributed the upswing in number of dengue patients to sudden rise in mosquitoes. He said that they had escalated campaign against dengue throughout the province to prevent spread of the disease. "So far, the province has recorded 290 cases, which include 147 in September this year so far. We are focusing on the hotspots of the dis-

ease and surveillance has further been strengthened to detect all the positive patients and isolate and manage them medically," he told Dawn. According to him, health adviser Ihtesham Ali and director-general health services Dr Mohammad Saleem Khan have also been visiting the hard-hit localities to supervise the drive and prevail upon people to take steps for drainage of rain water from their homes and neighbourhoods. Dr Irshad said that Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, continued to register more cases than the rest of the districts as it had been endemic to dengue virus since 2015. Peshawar has reported 91, the highest number of cases, so far including 39 cases only in September. Abbottabad is placed second on the list of dengue patients with 48 confirmed cases includ-

ing 21 registered in the ongoing month of September, according to a report prepared by Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System (IDSRS) of health department. The report said that of the total diagnosed patients, 197 had recovered while 93 were still active and isolated because they could infect others. It said that in the year, 88 patients were admitted to hospitals due to dengue fever. It said that six of them were admitted to hospitals during the past 24 hours. No mortality due to dengue has been reported so far.

After Peshawar and Abbottabad, the worst affected districts are Nowshera, Hangu and Bannu with 27, 20 and 14 cases, respectively. The province has recorded dengue cases from 22 districts. Rain, a fortnight ago, has intensified the issue and production of mosquitoes has risen.



Poor governance, law & order in KP increase people's problems: Muqam



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Monday categorically stated that the deteriorating governance and law & order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have negatively impacted the lives of people besides marred development works.

He strongly indicated that if the situation does not improve in KP, the imposition of Governor Rule may be considered as a last resort for the sake of people. Addressing a press-conference here, Engr Amir Muqam, who is also the Provincial President of the Pakistan Muslim League-N, maintained that Governor Rule was a constitutional provision that would be considered as a last option if the ongoing grim situation in KP becomes uncontrollable.

Expressing his deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the southern districts and merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engr Amir Muqam referred to the recent IED blast in Malam Jabba Swat district that resulted in the death of one policeman and injuries to four others.

Muqam described the Malam Jabba blast was a deep-rooted conspiracy aimed at damaging the country's image. He accused the Chief Minister KP of focusing on agitation and leading public rallies rather than addressing governance and law and order issues in his province.

Muqam claimed that for the first time, policemen in KP had been incited to protest, making it unsafe for people to leave their homes after night, especially in southern districts and merged areas of the province. Strongly criticizing the KP government's poor performance especially in higher education sector in the province, where about 25 public sector universities are operating without Vice Chancellors, marring education standards and research works immensely.

Instead of appointing VCs, the Chief Minister KP had announced plans to sell university properties, which Muqam argued would lead to economic collapse for these cash-starved educational institutions in the province.

The Federal Minister noted recent accusations of malpractices, nepotism and corruption among provincial ministers and advisers, stating that the public now sees the Chief Minister's statements as empty slogans and is mocking it.

After PTI's failed Lahore show, he claimed that the Chief Minister KP has intentionally delayed the convoy to the event, predicting similar outcomes for the upcoming planned shows of PTI in Mianwali and Rawalpindi. Engr Amir Muqam praised the people of Lahore for distancing themselves from divisive, agitation and hollow slogans politics of PTI, indicating that the poor turnout at Lahore's gathering strongly reflected growing discontent of masses with PTI leadership due to their long stubbornness and rhetoric approach. DNA



KARACHI: Qatar Emiri Naval Forces delegation offering Fatiha at Mazar-e-Quaid. INP

Pakistan committed to further strengthening ties with KSA: President

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the areas of economy, trade, defence, culture, education and people-to-people contacts.

The president expressed these views while addressing the National Day Reception of KSA, hosted by Saudi Embassy to celebrate the 94th Anniversary of the National Day of the KSA here.

The grand event was graced by numerous high-profile figures, including President Asif Ali Zardari, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, and Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan. The event saw a confluence of prominent political and religious leaders who lauded the strong and long-standing ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

While extending heartfelt felicitations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud and the people of Saudi Arabia on their National Day, the president highlighted that both brotherly countries enjoyed excellent relations in various fields and had always supported each other during challenging times.

The president expressed deep appreciation for the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the significant progress achieved by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He remarked that the bold initiatives taken by



the Crown Prince would propel the country towards greater progress and prosperity. The president wished Saudi Arabia continued success on this transformative journey.

President Zardari expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continued support to Pakistan and as well as hosting nearly 2.7 million Pakistanis, who are making contributions to the Kingdom's social and

economic development. He expressed confidence that the bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations would continue to further strengthen in the years to come. He emphasized that both countries would work together for the advancement of their nations, the unity of the Muslim Ummah, and the promotion of peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Qatar Emiri Naval Ship ALKHOR visits Karachi

KARACHI: Qatar Emiri Naval Ship (QENS) ALKHOR visited Karachi. Upon arrival, the Ship was warmly welcomed by Pakistan Navy officers and sailors. During the visit, Commanding Officer of the QEN Ship paid homage at Mazar-e-Quaid. He also called on Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi. During the meeting, he appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Navy in promoting peace and security in the region. Additionally matters of mutual interest and enhancing bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The Qatari Ship will participate in joint exercise Asad Al Bahr and bilateral training and discussions with PN counterparts during its stay at Karachi. The significant visit of Qatari Ship not only underscores the strong diplomatic ties between both countries but also present an opportunity to further augment defense and bilateral relations. PR

Tajikistan to sign agreement for importing 40,000 metric tons sugar from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Tajikistan has agreed to sign an agreement with Pakistan to import 40,000 metric tons of sugar. Trade Corporation of Pakistan will facilitate Pakistan Sugar Mills Association and Tajikistan's State Reserve Material Reserve for materializing the agreement.

During meeting of Director of State of Tajikistan Ahmadzoda Nurmuhamed Ato with Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Monday, a consensus to this effect was developed. Matters relating to mutual interest and promotion of bilateral trade and investment came under discussion during the meeting.

Head of Department of International Cooperation Tolibov Muhammadijan, Abdulatoevich and Agha Mullah Amounullah Representative General of Logistics Company ZFA General Trading were also presented in the meeting, said a press release issued here Monday.

Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production, Saif Anjum who also attended the meeting said that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had approved to export about 40,000 metric tons of sugar to Republic of Tajikistan.

Both the sides also agreed for establishing joint working group to promote bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan and agreed for initiating trade partnership in edibles goods, besides developing storage facilities along the boarder sides and taking measures for trade facilitation.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer said that Pakistan was ready to help the Tajikistan for fulfilling its requirements of edibles goods and promoting trade and investment relations between both the countries. INP

BRICS Moscow Seminar:

Mushahid welcomes 'winds of Change in South Asia'



MOSCOW: Senator Mushahid Hussain said 'Pakistan looks forward to joining BRICS' & welcomed 'winds of change blowing all across South Asia which reject hegemony, status quo and seek change', referring to recent radical changes in the Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He expressed these views during a keynote address at BRICS seminar.

As a consequence, he said the so-called 'Indo-Pacific Strategy is now drowning in the waters of the Indian Ocean', a news release said. BRICS (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising various nations including the BRICS and Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Senator Mushahid criticised the recent US sanctions against Pakistan and China, terming these 'immoral, unjust, unacceptable and illegal' as sanctions under International Law can only be imposed by the UN Security Council.

Pakistan urges developing countries to push for implementation of pledges in Pact for Future

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for the developing countries to seek implementation of the commitments made in Sunday's UN Pact for the Future, which is aimed at transforming the multilateral system, noting that it has balked at even some of the pledges made to them in other reform accords. "Undoubtedly, the pact we have adopted is not perfect," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a discussion on: Transforming global governance and turbo-charging the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "There are many provisions in which we have stepped back from the commitments which were made in the SDG political declaration and even in agenda 2030," the Pakistani envoy added. However, he added, the transformation, which the developing countries were seeking, will only be achieved through implementation. In this regard, Ambassador Akram underscored the need to implement the commitments undertaken on

the reform of the international financial architecture, the SDG Stimulus; to re-channel 50% of the 2021 SDR allocations to developing countries; increase the voice and representation of developing countries in international financial institutions, and improve developing countries access to concessional lending; review the sovereign debt architecture, and adopt an equitable UN Framework Convention on International Tax.

Ambassador Akram also called the Pact's provisions on trade "unsatisfactory". "Trade must become, once again, an engine of growth and development" he said, adding, "We must resist the new environmental protectionism, expand preferential treatment for developing countries, and pursue a robust revival of the WTO (World Trade Organization) dispute settlement system.

He said that bridging the digital divide was a key to future development, stressing the avoidance of the north-south fragmentation as well as an

East-West fragmentation of the digital space.

Mashhood for countrywide awareness drive to keep check on thalassemia spread

LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that to keep a check on spread of thalassemia and hemophilia diseases, an awareness campaign was being launched across the country. Speaking during his visit to Sundas Foundation on Monday, he highly appreciated the services of the foundation for humanity terming them example of selflessness and compassion. Rana Mashhood also commended the Sundas Foundation's dedication to provide free medical care and support to deserving patients. He met with children undergoing treatment for thalassemia and other blood disorders and distributed gifts among patients. He termed the foundation work as a "beacon of hope" for underprivileged individuals suffering from deadly diseases. The Sundas Foundation's mission was truly admirable, and their commitment to serving humanity was unparalleled, he added. The chairman PMYP appreciated the foundation's administration for bringing advance and latest medical equipments to fight with thalassemia and hemophilia, saying that government was committed to provide all possible facilities to such institutions. INP

Speaker NA declares KSA an emblem of strength, progress worldwide

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday declared the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia an emblem of strength and progress worldwide.

The Speaker NA in a statement on the 94th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia said that on this joyous occasion, he on behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Pakistan extends heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that not only Pakistan but all international countries recognize and appreciate the contributions of Saudi Arabia to global peace, economic development, and the preservation of Islamic heritage.

He expressed special greetings to King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Speaker of Shura Council Dr. Abdullah Al-Sheikh and the nation of Saudi Arabia commanding their exemplary leadership and vision.

The Speaker NA emphasized Saudi Arabia's

vit role as the custodian of the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, expressing profound gratitude for the Kingdom's hospitality towards millions of Muslim pilgrims each year. He acknowledged the importance of this sacred responsibility, highlighting the Kingdom's commitment to ensuring a safe and enriching pilgrimage experience for all.

Reflecting on Saudi Arabia's achievements over the past 94 years, he said the Kingdom contributions to socio-economic development within the region and the Muslim world are commendable.

Saudi Arabia has significantly fostered growth in the region and has played a key role in uniting the Muslim Ummah, through its monumental contributions as member of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), he added.

Ayaz Sadiq also highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, built on mutual respect, shared values, and Islamic brotherhood. APP

World-class Green-Tech Hub will transform Pakistan's energy into landscape: Romina



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has announced that the first Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) will be launched soon as an state-of-the-art facility to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reducing its carbon footprints by fostering green technologies, renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country.

Addressing a webinar on 'Creation of G-TH' as a chief guest, organised by the PakLaunch.com in collaboration with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry, the PM's coordinator further said that the G-TH, an initiative backed by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with private sector stakeholders, academic institutions, and international green technology leaders, aims to position the country as a regional leader in sustainable innovation, according to a press statement issued on Monday.

During her address, she also revealed that efforts are also being made by the climate change & environmental coordination ministry to showcase highly innovative and impactful projects at the Pakistan Pavilion during

the two-week UN-led global climate summit (COP29). The climate summit is scheduled to begin from Nov. 11 in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is expected to be attended by 40,000 to 50,000 delegations from over 192 countries.

"Showcasing the initiatives at the upcoming UN-led global climate conference aims to attract potential global and local investors to finance the projects to help Pakistan achieve its environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

The global leaders at this year's annual global climate conference,

which is the second largest gathering of head of states, international leaders and civil society members after UN General Assembly (UNGA), will strive to finalise the first enhanced transparency framework and establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, among other critical issues of adaptation, mitigation, transfer of technology and technical know-how.

"We hope GTH would act as a strategic connector, linking Pakistani innovators around the globe with global investors to leverage climate finance for these innovative projects showcased at the Pakistan Pavilion during the COP29 meeting and attract international, local investments for these climate resilience projects. Besides, MoCC&EC would facilitate alignment of these climate tech projects with Pakistan's both adaptation and mitigation priorities," Romina Khurshid Alam Remarked.

She emphasised that the future of technology is green, and the G-TH would represent the best of what Pakistan has to offer in terms of talent, ambition, and innovation.

"We are proud to be part of this journal and look forward to seeing the

breakthroughs that emerge from this center in future," The PM's coordinator remarked.

Ms Alam said, "The hub will serve as an incubator for green startups, a research center for advanced technologies, and a collaboration space for innovators and entrepreneurs focused on addressing environmental challenges."

"Pakistan is committed to combating climate change, and the G-TH is a significant step forward in that effort. This hub will not only drive technological advancement through innovation but also lead to green jobs creation and provide a platform for the country's brightest minds to contribute to a more sustainable future," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted.

Secretary Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry, Aisha Humera Ch. said that the country direly needs transfer of technology and technical know-how (part of CoP streams as well) to promote green energy use in the country to reduce the sector carbon footprints, so as to achieve environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals in the country. — VOM Report