



"We want to forge a long-term, multidimensional partnership with Russia, particularly in the fields of energy, defense, food, and people-to-people contacts"

Chairman Senate
Yousaf Raza Gilani

Dar reviews progress on transfer of OGDCL shares to sovereign wealth fund

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Transfer of OGDCL Shares with the Privatization Commission.

The Committee discussed the transfer of Oil & Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) shares to the Sovereign Wealth Fund and measures for early operationalization of the Fund.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar emphasized that the Advisory Committee envisaged under the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Act 2023, shall consist of leading experts in finance, economics or other relevant fields to achieve the objectives under the Act.

Minister for Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), and senior government officials attended the meeting.

Atta Tarar meets President Erdogan

NEW YORK: Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New York on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

His interaction with the Turkish President took place during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the occasion, said a news release. The minister and the President shook hands and extended best wishes to each other.

Travel advisory issued for Pakistani nationals in Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Wednesday advised the Pakistani nationals to exercise extreme caution and avoid traveling to Lebanon in the wake of Israeli attacks.

Similarly, the Pakistanis "presently residing in Lebanon are advised to travel out through commercial flights which are still available," the FO Spokesperson said in a statement.

Those Pakistanis, who could not leave Lebanon owing to some specific reasons, should exercise extreme caution and relocate to safe areas, he added.

"They are also requested to remain in contact with the Embassy of Pakistan, Beirut. Contact the Embassy at +961-81669488 or +961-81815104 (Cell/WhatsApp) or via email at parepbeirut@mofa.gov.pk," the spokesperson added. APP



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session. INP

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to strengthen economic, security cooperation

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wherein two sides agreed to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and security domains.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters, regional and global developments, according to a PM Office press release.

They assessed preparations for the upcoming 7th session of Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad in the near future.

The two leaders also discussed regional and global developments, especially the ongoing genocide and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. They called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and end of hostilities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated Turkiye's firm and consistent support for the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). President Erdogan expressed his admiration for Prime Minister Shehbaz's economic policies, which had played a crucial role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy and commended his leadership and commitment to economic reforms. Furthermore, he also extended his heartfelt birthday wishes to the prime minister who celebrated his 73rd Birthday this week.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated President Erdogan on his passionate address to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that centred on the Palestinian crisis.

"The way the Turkish president highlighted the issue touched the hearts of all those lis-

PM urges UN Chief for implementation of UNSC Kashmir resolutions



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called on the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to use his good offices for the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring the right of self-determination of Kashmiris. He was talking to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly Session in New York today. Briefing the Secretary General on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Shehbaz Sharif underscored Pakistan's serious concerns over India's egregious actions in the occu-

piated Valley and stressed upon the need to resolve the dispute to ensure lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

The Prime Minister also condemned Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians, and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. He urged the international community to hold Israel accountable. He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the establishment of a viable and sovereign State of Palestine. Shehbaz Sharif also underscored the need for stemming the rising tide of Islamophobia, and discrimination against Muslims worldwide. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to actively contribute towards international peace and security as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the year 2025-26.

Besides, the Prime Minister welcomed the initiative by the UN Secretary General to organize the "Summit of the Future", and expressed his hope that its outcome would help the developing countries in bridging the financial gap for implementation of SDGs and climate goals.

Israel over its military campaign in the Gaza Strip and on the Western countries for their support to Israel. "Along with children in Gaza, the United Nations system is also dying, the truth is dying, the values that the West claims to defend are dying, the hopes of humanity to live in a fairer world are dying one by one," Erdogan added. APP

Gilani meets Russian envoy discuss regional, international issues



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that Pakistan highly values its bilateral relations with Russia and is keen to further deepen the mutual collaboration in diverse sectors.

The Chairman Senate made these remarks in a meeting with Albert Khorev, Ambassador of Russia at the Parliament House on Wednesday.

The Chairman Senate expressed his satisfaction at the positive trajectory of bilateral relations between Islamabad and Moscow, however, he observed that there is huge potential for enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, economy, and other areas.

"We want to forge a long-term, multidimensional partnership with Russia, particularly in the fields of energy, defense, food, and people-to-people contacts" Gilani observed. He said that parliamentary diplomacy carries huge importance and is instrumental in bringing the people together.

Chairman said that Pakistan is rich in agricultural land and we are keen to benefit from the Russian expertise in the field of agriculture.

The Ambassador agreed with the views of the Chairman Senate and said that Russia has huge experience and can assist Pakistan with advanced technology to boost the sector. The chairman also invited the Russian Ambassador to visit Multan at a convenient time to witness the rich cultural history of Multan and see the potential of agriculture. The Chairman Senate underscored the need for enhanced parliamentary linkages and said that positive inter-parliamentary cooperation has been established between the two sides which needs to be further consolidated through frequent exchanges.

Parliamentarians, he said, are the representatives of the people and they can efficiently bring people closer to work together for socio-economic development. He emphasized that trade relations between the two countries need to be further enhanced and we are ready to work with Russia to further promote bilateral trade as there exists enormous potential for expansion and growth of bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade energy and connectivity.

The Chairman Senate also expressed his views about the regional situation and said that Russia is a key player in the region and we would like to work together to bring peace and stability in the region, particularly in Afghanistan. He also thanked Russian leadership, the government, and the Parliament for their support of the Palestinian cause and Kashmir issue. During the meeting, the Russian Ambassador thanked the Chairman Senate for the warm remarks and said that Russia also places relations with Pakistan in high esteem and both countries have a shared objective of regional development through enhanced trade, linkages, and multidimensional cooperation for the benefit of the people of the two sides. — VOM Report

Pakistan, Italy commit to forge closer ties through Parliamentary Friendship Groups



ISLAMABAD: Convener Pakistan-Italy Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) Shazia Marri Wednesday emphasized strengthening bilateral relations, fostering a stronger connection between Pakistan and Italy. Chairing the maiden meeting of the Group Marri noted that through cultural exchanges and youth development programs and necessary people-to-people linkages could also be enhanced. The agenda was to discuss the prospects of enhancing bilateral and trade ties between the two countries. The Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Marilina Armellini reaffirmed her country's unwavering commitment to supporting Pakistan in mutually agreed priority sectors such as economic growth projects for rural development.

She highlighted the long visa processing times particularly for the student visas and underscored the need to prioritize student visas to minimize the

visa processing times for the Pakistani students. Shazia Marri also thanked the Italian Ambassador for their generous support to the flood victims in 2022. The Italian Ambassador responded that they were also airing a radio program on Climate related issues in order to raise awareness among the masses.

The Italian Ambassador reaffirmed the commitment of her government towards enhancing economic cooperation with Pakistan through various projects. She also referred to Italy's flagship initiative that aims to build a multi-professional olive and olive oil in Pakistan to enhance production and improve food security through technical assistance and training of relevant stakeholders.

Talking about the development of Baluchistan, the Italian Ambassador informed that they were working on delivering olive oil based cosmetic products for the development of rural women of Baluchistan. The Italian government was ready to supply necessary equipment/ machinery for the olive oil extraction and dairy sector. Marri outlined the need to expedite the process of finalizing the pending MoUs/Agreements between the two countries particularly the visa abolition agreement on diplomatic passports so that the officials of the two countries could frequently interact with each other without barriers of visas. APP

IMF approves \$7bn bailout package for Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved the much-awaited \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan.

The decision was made during an Executive Board meeting chaired by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Washington, with Pakistan's agenda at the forefront. Pakistan is expected to receive the first tranche of \$1.1 billion by Sept 30. Following the approval of the loan programme, the second tranche is also anticipated within the same fiscal year, with the IMF loan being provided at an interest rate of less than 5%.

It is noteworthy that an Extended Fund Facility loan programme was agreed upon between Pakistan and the IMF on July 12. With the approval of the loan, Pakistan's economic and foreign exchange reserves are expected to improve, and the pressure of payments on Pakistan will decrease. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told media after a meeting with Turk President Tayyip Erdogan that Islamabad had met strict conditions of the IMF and hoped that it would get fiscal assistance to stabilise the country's economy. SABAH

Pakistan committed to promoting sustainable transportation system

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting the development of a safe, sustainable, efficient and environment-friendly transportation system in the country.

The president, addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, being held in Beijing from September 25-26, 2024, said that Pakistan would work closely with China to achieve the goals of sustainable development to usher in an era of peace and prosperity.

He emphasized that the world needed resilient infrastructure for efficient, environment-friendly and low-carbon transport solutions to fulfill the needs of the people. He appreciated China's lead role in promoting and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly recognizing the critical importance of the transport sector.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by the government, President Zardari apprised the Forum that Pakistan had introduced pink buses specifically for women to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible mode of public transportation. He underlined that rural accessibility to all-weather roads in Pakistan

witnessed significant improvement, reaching 92%.

Improved rural accessibility could potentially contribute to promoting sustainable development as well as providing essential services to the rural population, he added. The president apprised the participants that Pakistan was facing the challenges of sustainable maintenance of its infrastructure and the effects of climate change.

He highlighted that over the last five years, devastating floods, heavy rainfall and extreme weather conditions had severely damaged Pakistan's transport infrastructure including roads, rails, bridges and other critical transport networks that isolated millions of people, particularly in rural areas.

President Zardari stated that Pakistan deeply valued China's role in promoting sustainable development and its contribution to regional and global economic prosperity. He said that Pakistan extended its support for the development of sustainable transport cooperation among the transport authorities of the member states and appreciated the initiatives taken by China under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. DNA

Ahsan Iqbal chairs maiden meeting of Education Task Force

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday chaired the inaugural meeting of the Education Task Force and expressed serious concerns over the current state of education in the country.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chief Secretaries from all provinces, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, UNDP, FCDO, UNESCO, the World Bank, ADB, Malala Fund, ITA and Ghulam Khan Institute, a news release said.

Citing alarming data from the Education Index, the minister stressed the need for urgent and immediate actions in the education sector.

He highlighted that approximately 25 million children in Pakistan were currently out of school, and the literacy rate stood at a mere 60%, which is a matter of grave concern.

The minister emphasized that the government's aim was not just to enroll children in schools but to provide them with quality education. "We must equip every child with basic computer skills and modern technical education, along with establishing state-of-the-art laboratories," he stated.

Terming the initiative as a significant challenge, he underscored that no educational reforms would succeed



without improving teacher training in the country. Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that every indi-

vidual could not reach higher education or a PhD level, so it was crucial to impart vocational and technical skills

alongside formal education. "This will help ensure students in becoming useful productive members of society."

He also referred to the Federal Public Service Commission's report, which highlighted several gaps in the existing curriculum, calling for its alignment with international standards.

The federal minister also commented on the impact of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, which devolved education to the provinces in 2010. Since then, he noted, the literacy rate has declined.

He stressed the importance of focusing on both education and health, as Pakistan was among the top countries in the world for cases of hepatitis, tuberculosis, diabetes, and polio.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal

acknowledged the contributions of all stakeholders and international partners, emphasizing the need for a public-private partnership in both the education and health sectors.

He assured that the federal government would not leave the provinces to tackle these fundamental issues alone but would collaborate with them to implement practical measures in both sectors.

In his concluding remarks, Ahsan Iqbal said that the development of nations depended on reforms, stability, and policy continuity.

"No society can progress without adhering to the principles of stability. We must avoid short-term changes and instead focus on adopting long-term policies," he stressed.

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Atta-ur-Rahman

Humanity's next revolution

In a previous article, I presented the exciting advances taking place in the field of artificial intelligence and how they will change the world we live in.

Artificial intelligence relates to software developments. Another fantastic advance that is occurring simultaneously in the field of computer hardware is that of quantum computing. When these two frontiers merge, humanity will experience a fourth revolution. The steam engine revolutionized transportation and manufacturing, laying the groundwork for the industrial age.

The Second Industrial Revolution was defined by remarkable innovations like electricity and the internal combustion engine, reshaping the industrial and urban landscape. The expansion of rail and telegraph networks connected vast distances, revolutionizing communication and bringing about a new era of global connectivity.

The Third Industrial Revolution brought in the digital age, triggered by the development of semiconductors. It led to the development of personal computers and mobile phones, transforming communication, entertainment, and work. We are now experiencing the Fourth Industrial Revolution through the advent of artificial intelligence that is enhancing human capabilities and transforming industries, healthcare, and various other aspects of daily life. This will merge with quantum computers to create a brave new world that will be stranger than our wildest imaginations.

Quantum computing is one of the most exciting and revolutionary developments in science and technology today. It promises to solve certain problems billions of times faster than classical computers can. To understand quantum computing, let's first look at classical computers – the computers we use every day. Classical computers process information in binary, using bits that represent either a 0 or a 1. These bits are the basic units of information, and everything your computer does boils down to manipulating these bits through logic.

Quantum computing is different. It's based on the principles of quantum mechanics, which is a branch of physics that studies the smallest particles in the universe, like atoms and electrons. Quantum computers use qubits (quantum bits) instead of classical bits. The key difference is that qubits can exist in multiple states at once, thanks to some unique quantum properties. These qubits can be both 0 and 1 at the same time due to a property called superposition. Imagine spinning a coin. This property allows quantum computers to process a vast amount of information simultaneously.

Therefore, the beauty of superposition is that a quantum computer can explore many solutions to a problem at once, whereas a classical computer would have to try each solution one after the other. Since qubits can exist in a superposition of multiple states, they are, in a sense, exploring many possible outcomes at once. This has led some scientists and theorists to suggest that quantum computers may be taking advantage of parallel universes ('multiverse') to perform calculations.

Now let us compare classical and quantum computing with a simple analogy. Imagine you're trying to solve a maze. A classical computer would try every possible path through the maze one at a time. If it hits a dead end, it turns around and tries a different route. Eventually, it will find the right path, but it might take a long time. Now, imagine a quantum computer. Thanks to superposition, it can try multiple paths simultaneously. Instead of going down one path at a time, the quantum computer explores many different paths at once. It can also amplify the correct paths and ignore the dead ends. In this way, a quantum computer could find the correct path through the maze billions of times faster than a classical computer.

The field has many potential applications. Today's online security systems, such as those that protect your credit card information, rely on complex math problems that are very difficult for classical computers to solve. These systems are based on the difficulty of factoring large numbers. However, quantum computers could solve these problems extremely quickly, making today's encryption methods obsolete. In the field of drug development too, quantum computing combined with artificial intelligence can bring in revolutionary changes. Molecules and chemical reactions are governed by quantum mechanics. Classical computers struggle to simulate complex molecules because the number of variables involved grows exponentially as the molecules get bigger. Quantum computers, on the other hand, are naturally suited to simulating molecular interactions. This could revolutionize drug discovery by allowing scientists to model new drugs much more accurately, potentially leading to cures for diseases like cancer or Alzheimer's.

Quantum computers could also improve machine learning algorithms, making AI more powerful and efficient in fields like speech recognition, medical diagnosis, and autonomous vehicles. Many industries, from logistics to finance, deal with optimization problems – figuring out the best way to do something when there are a huge number of variables involved. For example, finding the most efficient route for delivery trucks, optimizing supply chains, or managing financial portfolios all involve optimization.

Quantum computers could solve these problems much faster than classical computers, which would save time and resources across various industries. From understanding the origin of the universe to predicting the behaviour of the stock exchange or finding cures for various diseases, quantum computing combined with artificial intelligence

is poised to change the very fabric of human civilization.

Although quantum computing holds immense promise, building a practical quantum computer is extremely challenging. One of the biggest challenges is maintaining the stability of qubits. Qubits are extremely sensitive to their environment, and small disturbances, like a change in temperature or electromagnetic noise, can cause them to lose their quantum state – a phenomenon called decoherence.

Another challenge is that quantum computers are prone to errors because qubits are so delicate. These errors can accumulate and affect the final result of a calculation. Developing ways to correct these errors without disrupting the quantum computation is a major area of research. Scaling up the number of qubits while keeping them stable is another major challenge. Quantum computers need to operate at extremely low temperatures, near absolute zero (-273 C), to prevent decoherence. Maintaining such cold environments is technologically complex and expensive, making quantum computers difficult to build and maintain.

While there are still many technical challenges to overcome, the field is advancing rapidly, and companies, universities, and governments around the world are investing in quantum research. In the coming decades, we will see quantum computers solving real-world problems that classical computers can't handle, leading to breakthroughs in fields ranging from medicine to finance to artificial intelligence. Pakistan must prepare itself for this Fourth Industrial Revolution where artificial intelligence combined with quantum computing is on the verge of changing life on this planet forever.

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

After the bailout

FARHAN BOKHARI

As Pakistan battles multiple pitfalls, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government hopes to oversee a period of stability following today's approval of a new IMF loan worth \$7 billion. It is a new lifeline that for now promises to avert a default on Pakistan's foreign debt repayments, in contrast to early last year when the country was in danger of becoming the next to default after Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, the path leading to today's landmark event has witnessed a widening gap between the multiple ordeals surrounding Pakistan's mainstream households versus the ruling structure.

In the buildup to the news from the IMF, the government has gone out of its way to put a positive spin on the economy, predicting a fall in inflation, continued stability of the rupee and evident signs of an economic recovery just around the corner. Tragically, such expectations are no more than proclaiming the proverbial 'glass half full' when in reality it remains 'half empty' with few signs of heading to the top in the foreseeable future.

As Pakistan embraces the 24th IMF loan in its history coming in tandem with some of the

Going forward, government must launch an emergency campaign to support the plantation of new crops

toughest conditions, the writing on the wall is abundantly clear. Prospects for economic growth will remain practically flat while a conclusive end to the impoverishment of Pakistan's mainstream is nowhere in sight.

Theoretically, Pakistan can adopt a new IMF-led plan driven by elements such as a robust privatization drive, cutting losses in government expenses, and lifting official revenue. Yet, that would not be the first time that Pakistan's rulers have promised a brand new beginning, though without eventual success. As repeatedly witnessed before, the key to solving Pakistan's economic riddle lies in tackling a host of difficult challenges, notably political ones, with assurances of success in the near future.

But this month's failed attempt by the PML-N-led ruling coalition to amend Pakistan's constitution badly exposed the diverse political interests embedded within the ruling structure. Once again, the two-day events in parliament beginning on September 15 sparked a powerful reminder of the difficult matter of ruling Pakistan.

This latest complex affair has further complicated the controversy triggered by the outcome of elections in February this year. With questions hovering over the mandate of Pakistan's ruling structure, it was indeed imperative for the prime minister and his team to work towards building a consensus on the constitutional amendment ahead of preparing to legislate in parliament. That oversight eventually became a fatal political blunder.

Coming out of what can best be characterized as a deeply embarrassing outcome, it would be a terrible mistake for the PML-N-led coalition to push again for a constitutional amendment. Whichever way a new legislative initiative heads, considerable reputational damage to the ruling structure has already been done.

Meanwhile, on the economic front, this year's controversial budget has already cost the government dearly. With a push to tax the already taxed, Pakistan has seen a further drift away from decisive action against the country's untaxed or under-taxed communities. It is difficult to predict exactly how popular confidence can be inspired to back the government in a long overdue journey to reform the economy.

The biggest obstacle to the revival of confidence remains a failure to trigger growth in a practically stalled economy. For a long-awaited recovery to finally begin, Pakistan needs a robust change of direction in the management of its economy. In addition to widening the tax net to include Pakistan's untaxed and undertaxed communities, a fresh focus on the sectors to lead a new growth cycle is essential. In recent years, Pakistan's mainstream population has suffered under the weight of rapidly rising prices of food commodities while the agricultural sector was widely neglected. In the first few months of the new government's tenure, much has been said about rebooting investments in infrastructure – notably, fancy new roads. For an economy practically at a standstill, this order of priorities must immediately change. Across Pakistan's rural heartland, farmers are now preparing to begin planting their winter crops. The plantation season, notably for the wheat crop, follows one of the worst disasters surrounding a crop considered central to Pakistan's daily food consumption. The communities of farmers in spring this year were practically left busted when the provincial governments led by Punjab refused to purchase stocks of the new wheat harvest at a price promised earlier. Many farmers were eventually forced to sell their yields at rates of 30 per cent or more below the officially promised price. Going forward, the government must immediately launch an emergency campaign to support the plantation of new crops, with the twin objective of producing yields to support Pakistan's national needs while also stepping up to begin addressing the biggest crises that surround the country's agricultural sector. Coming out of another IMF bailout with today's news from Washington is not enough on its own to begin stabilizing Pakistan's beleaguered economy.

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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 PPP lost the contest, with Bhutto arguing that the elections had been rigged against her.

Bhutto was succeeded as prime minister by her Punjabi nemesis, Nawaz Sharif, but it was Ishaq Khan who had wielded extraordinary powers under the amended 1973 constitution (originally pressed by Zia ul-Haq to legitimize his authority). Thus, the viceregal tradition remained the dynamic force in Pakistani politics.

Moreover, Bhutto's earlier dismissal of Lieut. Gen. Hamid Gul—the powerful head of Inter-Service Intelligence and a close associate of President Ishaq Khan—suggested that there was much behind-the-scenes maneuvering that forced the president to act. Therefore, although the election had denied Bhutto's return to the prime minister's office, it was the prevailing view that the upper echelon of the Pakistani army had

had enough of Bhutto. Nawaz Sharif rode to power on a wave of anti-PPP sentiment that included that of many disenfranchised PPP members. The IJI, whose central core was the revived Punjab Muslim League, now reached out to the parties dominating the politics of the North-West Frontier Province and Balochistan. Moreover, Sharif adopted Zia ul-Haq's Islamization program as his own, bolstered

alliances with the religious parties, and succeeded in getting the National Assembly to approve the Shariat Bill, with its special references to the Qur'an and Sharia as the law of the land. Like Zia before him, Sharif was able to enlist the support of the Muslim orthodoxy and made its allegiance a central tenet of his rule.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Shailene Woodley gets candid about her mystery health battle while filming 'Divergent'

Shailene Woodley opens up about her health issue during She MD podcast

Shailene Woodley has recently reflected on her mystery health battle which she experiences on the set of Divergent. "I haven't spoken about what exactly it was because that just feels like a personal thing that I don't need to disclose," said the 32-year-old during an appearance on September 24 episode of the She MD podcast. Shailene stated, "But essentially, I was in a position in my early 20s. It got to the point where I was losing my hearing." "I couldn't walk for longer than five minutes at a time without having to lay down for hours and hours and hours and sleep. Everything I ate hurt my stomach," remarked the Ferrari actress. Shailene revealed she didn't receive any clear answers even after



working with doctors and independent healers to understand her health condition. "It was this conflation of issues and diagnoses and different doctors telling me different things," she mentioned. The Robots actress pointed out, "I come from a very holistic background and studied herbalism so I was really keen on, 'Alright I'm gonna work with real MDs and I'm gonna work with independent healers.'" "And I was just trying to search for some sense of comfort in my own skin. It was a long journey. And throughout that decade, a lot of other things came from feeling so much discomfort physically," she explained. Shailene opened up that she eventually became afraid of food.

Tech

Google Photos rolls out new AI video editing tools

Google has announced the rollout of new features for its video editor in the Google Photos app, aimed at simplifying video editing for users on Android and iOS.

The update introduces a variety of enhancements, including AI-powered tools and streamlined access to existing features.

One of the key changes is the improved user interface, where video editing tools are now more prominently displayed, allowing users to quickly find and apply edits.

Among the new tools introduced is an updated trim feature, which offers more precise controls for cutting video clips. The auto-enhance tool allows users to adjust colors and stabilize their footage with just one tap, while the

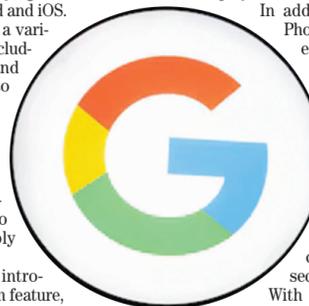
speed control feature lets users modify the pace of their videos, enabling faster or slower playback.

In addition to these, Google Photos is rolling out AI-powered video presets designed to make editing more intuitive.

These presets can automatically trim videos, adjust lighting, control speed, and apply effects like dynamic motion tracking, zooming in on the main subject, or creating slow-motion sequences.

With these tools, users can achieve professional-looking results with minimal effort.

The update is currently rolling out to Android devices, with iOS updates following shortly.



Honeybee venom in Breast Cancer treatment

Breakthrough research Honeybee Venom as a Potential Weapon against breast Cancer. Cancer is rapidly ensnaring people worldwide resulting in many individuals losing their lives. It can target any part of the body and various organs and in most cases cancer is not detected early often only becoming apparent in the second third or fourth stages. Scientists are conducting various studies to combat this deadly disease aiming to save as many lives as possible. Recently researchers from the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research at the University of

Western Australia conducted a study revealing that the venom of honeybees could be effective in killing cancer cells. This research, conducted in 2020 was published in the international journal NPJ Nature Precision Oncology. For the study researchers examined the venom of 312 honeybees and bumblebees in Perth Western Australia, Ireland and England. The findings indicated that honeybee venom can rapidly destroy triple negative breast cancer and HER2-enriched breast cancer cells. According to Dr. Ciara Duffy this is the first time anyone has compared the effects of honeybee

venom or Melittin on all subtypes of breast cancer and normal cells. What is Melittin the study found that melittin can destroy the membranes of cancer cells within 60 minutes. It also proved to be helpful in reducing the chemical movement of cancer cells in just 20 minutes which is considered essential for cancer cell growth and division. The research suggests that melittin could be used alongside small molecules or chemotherapy to fight breast cancer. It was noted that this experiment was conducted on a mouse where it helped reduce cancer.



Health

OIC commemorates 55th anniversary

ISLAMABAD: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Wednesday commemorated its 55th anniversary comprising over five decades of promoting unity and cooperation among Islamic nations. The Organization was founded in response to the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Al-Quds through a resolution of the historic summit held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 12 Rajab 1389, corresponding to 25 September 1969. Currently the OIC was headed by Hissein Brahim Taha, and operates from its General Secretariat based in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also has offices in New York, Geneva, Brussels, Kabul, Ramallah, Baghdad, Niamey, and Mogadishu. The service of the organization were being carried out by thousands of staff members in its subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions numbering 41 in 23 capitals and cities across the Muslim world. Also part of the OIC are the Al-Quds Committee, the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), and the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH). The OIC convenes periodic Islamic Summit Conference of leaders of member states. It holds the Council of Foreign Ministers annually in addition to the Islamic Summit on Science and Technology which is now part of the agenda and convened periodically. The OIC has notable activities on Muslim communities in non-OIC member states, addressing Islamophobia among other joint activities and projects with various international bodies, notably the United Nations.

These fields cover issues of peace and security, Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharief, poverty alleviation, combating terrorism, project financing, and food security. Others are science and technology, climate change, sustainable development, mediation, culture and harmonization of religions, women empowerment, joint Islamic action in the humanitarian field, human rights, good government, etc. INP

Parliament & Constitution to stay supreme; no space for politicking: Senator Irfan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Irfan Siddiqui on Wednesday said that the Parliament and Constitution would stay supreme and warned the PTI that there was no room for politicking on major national issues. Addressing a press conference, Senator Irfan Siddiqui said that the Parliament was a supreme forum to enact necessary legislation for streamlining the system and address the issues of common man. It was also the prerogative of the Parliament to make laws for the smooth functioning of state, he added. Senator Irfan Siddiqui recalled that it was the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which in the past had attacked and disrespected the institutions including the Parliament and Pakistan Television (PTV). It had even not spared the security institutions, he added. The party had indulged in such activities which ultimately damaged the country's solidarity and integrity, he said. Irfan Siddiqui said the PTI government had get registered fake cases against innocent people. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had faced bogus cases during the PTI tenure. APP

Remittance flow can be increased by sending well-trained youth abroad: Mashhood



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan's remittance flow can be increased to 62 billion dollars from 32 billion dollars by sending well-equipped trained youth abroad. Addressing the launching ceremony of the "Pakistan Tourism Profile 2024 and the Rasta Initiative" organized by the Riphah Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Arts (RIHCA) in collaboration with Tourism Insights, he said that Saudi Arabia needs around 200,000 drivers and 150,000 hospitality workers in the tourism sector in the coming years and Pakistan can avail the opportunity by sending a well equipped trained youth with high ethical standards.

He said that Pakistan can also take advantage of the multi-billion dollars religious tourism industry as the historical heritage of one of the oldest civilizations in the world and a rich collection of Sufi shrines, Hindu temples, Sikh gurudwaras, and Buddhist monasteries were

found here. The Chairman PMYP also lauded the Rasta Initiative for creating job opportunities and empowering young professionals, highlighting the importance of tourism in youth development and nation-building. The event was unveiled to support Pakistan's tourism industry, aligning with this year's global theme of Tourism and Peace while the Pakistan Tourism Profile 2024 comprehensive industry report offered up-to-date data, insights, and trends to guide decision-making and strategic development in Pakistan's tourism sector. The event also showcased the launch of the Rasta Initiative, a dedicated employment portal for Pakistan's hospitality and tourism sector. The portal aimed to facilitate career growth for young professionals while meeting the labor market needs of tourism-related businesses. Following the launch, panel discussions explored topics such as hospitality education, youth engagement in tourism, and the socio-economic benefits of promoting peace through tourism. Experts from various sectors participated in these discussions, sharing insights on how tourism can serve as a bridge between cultures and contribute to socio-economic growth. APP



BEIJING: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, held in Beijing China. INP (Story on Page 1)

Two cops, 10 others injured in Quetta explosion targeting police vehicle

Police claim that explosive material was planted in a motorcycle found at blast site



QUETTA: At least 12 people, including two cops, were injured after an explosion near a police mobile on the eastern bypass in Quetta, police told media on Wednesday. The rescue officials found a wrecked motorcycle near the site of the blast and the police claim that explosive material was planted in the motorcycle. According to the law enforcers, a bomb disposal squad was called at the spot, while the nature of the blast was being determined. The injured, meanwhile, were shifted to the Civil Sandeman Hospital, said the police.

CM Balochistan condemns blast
Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti has condemned the attack, directing concerned authorities to provide medical facilities to those injured in the explosion. "Terrorists will be brought to justice," he said, adding that action against them will continue. The blast comes just two days after a "remote-controlled bomb explosion" targeted a police van guarding a convoy of foreign envoys heading to Malam Jabba from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district on Sunday. According to the police, the attack targeted a group of 11 foreign diplomats, resulting in one officer losing his life and four others being injured. All the envoys were safe after the explosion and had been shifted to Islamabad, said the police. The nation has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan. The two most vulnerable provinces saw a

sharp rise in deadly attacks last month, according to data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS). The digital database of security incidents managed by the Islamabad-based think-tank suggested an alarming situation as the number of attacks jumped from 38 in July to 59 in August. These incidents included 29 attacks in KP, 28 in Balochistan, and two in Punjab. Meanwhile, KP witnessed 25 casualties in the 29 terrorist attacks during August. "The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group, Lashkar-e-Islam, Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) and few local Taliban groups were reportedly involved in these attacks," the report stated. Against this backdrop, the federal cabinet in June this year approved Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, a reinvigorated national counterterrorism campaign following the Central Apex Committee's recommendations under the National Action Plan to root out terrorism. Agencies

Pakistan, Bangladesh agree to collaborate for mutual progress, development

NEW YORK: Pakistan and Bangladesh on Wednesday agreed that there was need to work closely at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels for the progress and development of their peoples. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during a meeting with Chief Advisor of Interim Government of Bangladesh Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the 79th Session of UN General Assembly, highlighted Pakistan's

strong fraternal ties with Bangladesh, based on common faith, history and culture. He also emphasized that both sides needed to work together to further strengthen the bilateral relations. Capitalizing on the immense goodwill and warmth among the people of two countries, he encouraged fostering relations through parliamentary exchanges, people-to-people contacts, and interactions among sportsper-



sons, academics, artists, students, etc. The prime minister also extended an invitation to Professor Muhammad Yunus to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his convenience, reinforcing the importance of regional cooperation and dialogue.

Pakistan, China sign five agreements on disaster prevention

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have signed five agreements to strengthen cooperation in disaster prevention under the China-Pakistan Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures.

The agreements were signed between Southeast University of China and five Pakistani institutions including Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar, China Economic Net reported on Wednesday.

The cooperation would help advance research in areas including earthquake engineering, structural health monitoring, and disaster risk reduction technologies.

It would likely to help establish new research and development facilities in Pakistan, providing a framework for future projects.

Both sides called for policy support from their governments and disaster management authorities to ensure the success of the joint initiatives. The agreements also outline plans for talent exchange programmes and joint efforts to develop international standards in disaster prevention technologies.

Ayaz commends APNS role

ISLAMABAD: Speaker, National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday commended the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) for its pivotal role in promoting the growth and development of the print media industry in the country.

On the occasion of National Newspaper Readership Day, he extended his congratulations to the APNS, journalists, and media professionals for their contributions to the country's media landscape. Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the critical role that print media continues to play in the age of digital information. He emphasized that the newspapers are a vital source of reliable and trustworthy news, which not only informs the public but also fosters social stability, peace, and development. Ayaz Sadiq said that in an era where the misinformation can spread rapidly, the role of newspapers in providing fact-based news becomes all the more significant.

He reaffirmed the Parliament's commitment to encouraging free and responsible journalism through legislation, stating that accurate and factual news is essential for raising political awareness and ensuring citizens are well-informed about their rights. The Speaker called for all citizens to perform their responsibilities in line with the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, ensuring the nation's continued progress and development. DNA

Minister presides over consultative meeting on GB airport affectees



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Wednesday presided over the consultative meeting of high-level committee regarding affectees of the Gilgit-Baltistan Airport. Federal Secretary for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Khalid Ali Raza Gurdizi, Joint Secretary Muhammad Hamid Khan, Ministry of Defence, Civil Aviation and Law and Justice, Gilgit-Baltistan Government and officials of the Ministry of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan attended the meeting, said a press release. The officials briefed the federal minister about the agenda of the meeting. The minister said that this issue will be resolved amicably. In this regard, he said that all relevant departments and ministries should meet and find a solution to the problem in the next meeting.

Punjab CM, Chinese envoy discuss ways to enhance cooperation

Meeting focused on strengthening ties in technology, business & investment between China & Pakistan

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on Wednesday met with PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, extending an invitation for the latter to visit China.

The meeting focused on strengthening ties in technology, business, and investment between China and Pakistan.

During the meeting, Nawaz Sharif praised China as a "trusted friend" and expressed pride in Pakistan's relationship with the nation. "Maryam Nawaz is leading several welfare projects for the people of Punjab, and we welcome China's cooperation in infrastructure and technology," he stated.

Maryam Nawaz emphasised the potential for an "economic revolution" through collaboration with China. "We are always ready to welcome our Chinese friends to Punjab," she said, proposing the establishment of "Chinese Economic Zones" to offer incentives and facilities to Chinese investors.

"We see China's success as our own," Maryam added, noting that Pakistan could greatly benefit from China's model for poverty reduction. Ambassador Jiang lauded the progress made in

Pakistan-China relations under previous PML-N governments, highlighting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "We welcome Punjab's participation in the upgraded vision of CPEC, including the development of special economic zones," he said.

Jiang also expressed interest in investing in Punjab's agricultural sector. He commended the Chief Minister's initiatives like the Kisan Card and tractor scheme, noting that China is cultivating high-yield hybrid rapeseed on 500,000 acres in Punjab and aims to double this area. "China will train 1,000 Pakistani farmers in modern agricultural techniques," Jiang added.

Maryam Nawaz stressed the importance of efficient machinery and water use in agriculture, stating that Chinese expertise would be invaluable in these areas. Jiang concluded by officially inviting Maryam Nawaz to visit China, where she will be welcomed as Pakistan's first female chief minister.

He also highlighted the long-standing ties between China and Pakistan during Nawaz Sharif's tenure as prime minister, expressing hope to strengthen relations further under Maryam's leadership.

Australian High Commissioner highlights shared history, future collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, on Wednesday, in his address at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) delved into the theme 'Australia's Strategic Environment and Relations with Pakistan.' In his speech at IPRI's forum 'Diplomatic Reflections', he highlighted the deep historical ties and future collaborative efforts between the two nations, a news release said.

Hawkins began by drawing attention to the rich history that binds Australia and Pakistan. He noted that the links between the peoples of Australia and today's Pakistan date back more than a century. From 1860 to 1920, approximately 2,000 cameleers from Balochistan played a crucial role in exploring Australia's deserts, transporting essential supplies to remote towns, building railways, and supporting gold mining. These Baloch cameleers also introduced Islam to Australia, constructing the country's first mosque in Maree, South Australia, in 1884.

The High Commissioner also commemorated the Pakistani soldiers, then part of the British Indian Army, who served alongside Australian troops at Gallipoli during World War I. Formal diplomatic relations between the two

countries commenced with Pakistan's independence in 1948. Today, this partnership is underpinned by strong people-to-people links and a shared commitment to promoting gender equality and climate resilience.

Hawkins emphasized the importance of climate change and environmental hazards, noting that Australia, like Pakistan, views these issues as matters of national security. He highlighted the similarities between the two countries, both frequently affected by natural disasters such as forest fires and floods. The High Commissioner pointed out that Australia has been assisting Pakistan in addressing these challenges through knowledge-sharing and expertise in sustainable agriculture and water management.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of agricultural cooperation between Australia and Pakistan under the auspices of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). APP



World Maritime Day 2024: navigating the future

ISLAMABAD: World Maritime Day (WMD) is celebrated annually on the last Thursday of September. This year's theme, "Navigating the Future: Safety First," reflects the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) unwavering commitment to enhancing maritime safety and security while protecting the marine environment. As global shipping remains a cornerstone of international trade—transporting nearly 90% of goods worldwide—the emphasis on safety in maritime operations has never been more critical. Shipping drives the global economy, with over 10 billion tonnes of goods moved annually, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). However, this growth has had a detrimental impact on ocean health.

These practices not only threaten marine ecosystems but also pose serious health risks to coastal communities and contribute to the escalating climate crisis. Recognising these challenges, the IMO underscores the urgent need to address the environmental consequences of shipping.

This year's theme reinforces the importance of prioritizing safety as we navigate the future of maritime operations. By embracing innovative technologies and adopting sustainable practices, the maritime industry can significantly reduce its environmental footprint while ensuring safer and more efficient shipping routes.

The IMO's initiatives focus on building a regulatory framework that supports these goals, promoting a maritime environment where safety and sustainability are interlinked. World Maritime Day serves as a vital platform for raising awareness about maritime safety and environmental protection across diverse stakeholders. It underscores the need for collaboration among governments, industries, and local communities to tackle pressing maritime challenges. Pakistan Navy (PN) plays a pivotal role in advancing maritime safety and

aligning its efforts with the global objectives of the IMO. On this World Maritime Day, PN is organizing a series of events aimed at educating the public on maritime issues and encouraging sustainable practices within the maritime industry. These initiatives include seminars with experts from various sectors discussing the challenges of maritime safety and environmental conservation.

In addition, the Pakistan Navy engages with local communities through awareness campaigns on marine conservation. Activities such as harbor clean-ups and educational outreach programs are taking place at several naval units, promoting citizen participation in preserving coastal environments.

These grassroots initiatives not only foster community involvement but also highlight the deep connection between local populations and their maritime surroundings. As a member of the IMO, Pakistan enforces international maritime regulations designed to prevent pollution from ships.

The country has established domestic laws in alignment with conventions like MARPOL (International

Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships), which aims to reduce the environmental impact of shipping activities. In this regard, PN regularly inspects vessels operating in our waters to ensure compliance, demonstrating its dedication to safeguarding marine environments from pollution caused by shipping.

Furthermore, PN acknowledges the importance of incorporating modern trends, such as decarbonization and alternative fuels, into its operational framework. This forward-thinking approach aligns with global efforts to reduce carbon emissions in shipping and promote sustainability within the maritime industry.

As World Maritime Day 2024 approaches, it is essential to recognize the central role that safety plays in shaping the future of global shipping. The theme "Navigating the Future: Safety First" calls on all maritime stakeholders to prioritize safety and sustainability in their operations. Pakistan's active participation in this global initiative reaffirms its commitment to enhancing maritime safety and upholding international standards set by the IMO. PR