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Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change
Romina Khurshid

Russian Deputy Defence Minister calls on Khawaja Asif, Secretary Defence Gen Ali



ISLAMABAD: Russian Deputy Defence Minister, Colonel General Aleksandr V.Fomin called Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Secretary Defence Lieutenant General (R) Muhammad Ali and Secretary, Defence Production, Lieutenant General (R) Chiragh Haider here in separate meetings on Monday. The Russian Deputy Defence Minister was leading a delegation whereas the dignitaries discussed bilateral defence production matters during the meeting.

Role of technology important in addressing urgent challenges: Shaza



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Monday said that the technology had important role in addressing urgent challenges like climate change.

"Innovative digital solutions are essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for improving overall economic resilience and driving growth across various sectors," she said while addressing the "First National Youth Climate Summit". Shaza Fatima said, "Climate change is a big challenge and every one will have to play role for environmental protection." "Climate action is most powerful when it includes everyone. We cannot tackle climate change effectively without the unique prospective and energies of young people", she said. He minister emphasized the need of launching proper campaign on social media regarding climate change. She said there was dire need of eliminating elements causing pollution. "A prime example of Pakistan commitment to supporting innovation is the recent call for startups from Ignite, an attached department under the Ministry of IT and Telecom, to present their innovative solutions in climate tech, green tech, and agri-tech at COP29," she said. Shaza Fatima said, "This initiative is a valuable opportunity for our startups to engage with world leaders, policymakers, and investors, and position Pakistan in global discussions on climate action." "Similarly, the National Incubation Centers (NICs), which are a flagship program of Ignite and the Ministry of IT and Telecom, play an important role in nurturing a range of startups across multiple verticals. These verticals extend beyond climate-related fields to encompass health tech, fintech, and sustainable practices amongst others. Ultimately, this contributes to the development of a climate-resilient digital economy that aligns with global standards, as highlighted at COP28," she said. DNA



ISLAMABAD: Russian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Valentina Matvienko called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.

PM vows to make Pakistan a polio-free country

PM Shehbaz to visit Saudi Arabia on Oct 29-30 to attend FII moot

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed government's resolve to make Pakistan a polio-free country, stressing the need for unified action in this regard. "We will not rest until we have permanently defeated polio", he said while chairing a meeting on polio eradication. Commending the efforts of the government's polio team in combating the disease, he directed Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and the Secretary of National Health to visit the most affected areas during the recent polio campaign. The prime minister also directed to conduct a third party audit of the anti-polio campaign. Additionally, he emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the immunity gap. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on recent polio cases and the eradication campaign. Currently, the number of active polio cases in the country stands at 41, out of which 25 such cases whom routine immunization coverage is not better. The briefing also highlighted that the spread of polio was lower in areas with better vac-



ination rates. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister's Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Prime Minister's Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior government officials. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to attend the 8th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), being held in Riyadh from October 29 to 30. The prime minister will be accompanied by key cabinet ministers, according to a curtail-raiser issued by the Foreign Office. The Future Investment Initiative (FII) serves as an important platform for countries to showcase their economic strength, draw foreign investments, and engage in dialogue to shape a sustainable future. This year's FII is themed "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow" and will focus on global investments aimed at addressing major issues such as artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, finance, healthcare, and sustainability. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to hold important bilateral talks with the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman and other senior Saudi officials. The two sides will discuss economic and strategic partnership between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and explore bilateral cooperation in the economic, energy, and defence domains. The prime minister is also expected to engage with participating leaders and entrepreneurs at the conference.

Pakistan, Russia reaffirm to further strengthen bilateral ties

President Zardari calls for Russian investment in Pakistan

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties in the areas of trade, commerce, investment, agriculture and energy for the mutual benefit of the two countries. This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Ms. Valentina Matvienko, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday. Welcoming the Russian delegation, President Asif Ali Zardari highlighted the historical relationship between Pakistan and Russia which were marked by mutual respect and a shared commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields. While talking to the delegation, the President underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages through people-to-people contacts and scholarship programs. He also pointed out that both countries had enormous potential for increasing economic cooperation and called for Russian investment in Pakistan. President Asif Ali Zardari fondly recalled his recent pleasant interaction with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Ashgabat. He also sought Russia's support for Pakistan's bid to become a member of BRICS that would greatly help Pakistan to enhance its role in regional and global cooperation through the alliance. Both sides underscored the importance of diversifying trade and economic cooperation, besides enhancing regional connectivity and commercial relations through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the North-South Transport Corridor. The Russian Speaker emphasized that her country accorded priority to its relationship with Pakistan and expressed confidence that her visit would further enhance bilateral cooperation. She hoped that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliaments of the two countries would further deepen bilateral relations. She expressed satisfaction over the growth in bilateral trade. She also conveyed the special greetings from President Putin. Additionally, she congratulated Pakistan on the successful hosting of the SCO Heads of Government as well as Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The President expressed gratitude to Russia for its support of Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The meeting was attended by the Chairman Senate, Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwala, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt and other senior officials.

Nazeer Tarar calls for global cooperation to uphold rule of law

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Monday emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the rule of law, protect human rights, and prevent crimes against humanity. Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan, the minister reiterated the country's commitment to working with the international community to achieve global peace and justice. During the session titled "The Regional Perspective on the Enforcement of Rome Law and Reforms in Local Legislation," the Senator highlighted Pakistan's dedication to promoting peace, stability, and respect for human rights. He said that parliamentarians played a key role in safeguarding human rights and advancing democracy. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's active participation in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He stressed that challenges like climate change

and environmental sustainability required a unified global approach. The minister called for aligning local laws with international legal standards and values, urging cooperation in reshaping political practices, economic priorities, and legal traditions. Azam Nazeer Tarar acknowledged that while some countries had made significant reforms related to the Rome Statute, others were still lagging. He reaffirmed Pakistan's role in peace-keeping missions and its efforts to promote human rights and freedoms globally. The minister highlighted Pakistan's proactive measures in addressing human rights issues and enhancing climate resilience, particularly through laws designed to protect vulnerable segments of society. Azam Nazeer Tarar, also highlighted the ongoing crimes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine. He condemned the grave human rights violations occurring in both regions and called for international action to address these injustices. DNA

Balochistan's first phase survey for solarizing 50 tubewells completed

ISLAMABAD: The detailed surveys for solarizing 50 agricultural feeders, out of a total of 581 tubewells, have been successfully completed in the first phase, as informed during the question hour in the National Assembly on Monday. In a written response, Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that the completion of the survey was a vital step toward implementing solar solutions that would benefit the farmers and enhance agricultural productivity. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Energy Department of Balochistan, QESCO teams, and representatives from the Zamindar Action Committee, with support from Law Enforcement Agencies. The project aims to solarize 27,437 registered tubewell connections at an estimated cost of around Rs 55 billion, with funding divided as 70 percent from the federal government and 30 percent from the provincial government. An MoU was signed on July 8, 2024, to formalize this initiative. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on July 8, 2024, for the solarization of agricultural tubewells.

Jam Kamal for unified effort to boost country's export sector

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday emphasized the need for unified effort across federal and provincial levels to boost Pakistan's export sector. He's emphasizing the need for swift solutions to the challenges exporters face. He said this while chairing the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Export Development Board (NEDB). The meeting was attended by representatives from the Finance Division, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Board of Investment (BoI), Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP), and representatives of all the provinces to discuss and resolve pressing challenges faced by exporters as discussed in the last meeting of NEDB, said a news release. The recommendations of the meeting will be presented to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in an upcoming NEDB meeting, where strategic decisions are expected to remove barriers impeding Pakistan's export growth. During the meeting, the minister expressed his concerns over the slow progress by some departments outside of the Ministry of Commerce in

tackling export challenges and resolving the major issues being faced by exporters. Jam Kamal underscored the urgency of concrete action, noting, "Except for the Ministry of Commerce, tangible steps have been scarce, though some departments have submitted their initial proposals." He emphasized the importance of unified support across federal and provincial levels to help Pakistan's export sector flourish. A focal point of discussion was the infrastructure cess imposed on exports by the provinces, which increases the cost of goods sold internationally, affecting Pakistan's global competitiveness. In a recent letter to the chief ministers of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Jam Kamal urged provincial authorities to reconsider the cess, highlighting its adverse effects on the country's trade potential.



Sehgal's WEF initiative has spotlighted Pakistan globally, Kakar

Promoting Pakistan "IMAGE AND INVESTMENT" at the Pakistan Pavilion during the WEF Annual Meeting Davos 2025

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar ul Haq Kakar the Chief Guest at the ceremony commended Iqram Sehgal, Chairman of Pathfinder Group, for his enduring commitment to Pakistan's global narrative. "Mr. Sehgal's initiative to represent Pakistan at WEF has positioned Pakistan prominently on a global stage, creating new opportunities for dialogue, investment, and partnership," stated Mr. Kakar. Dr. Humayun, Senior Vice Chairperson of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR), moderated the event, underscoring the importance of the Pakistan Pavilion initiative, a platform launched by the Pathfinder Group to represent Pakistan's achievements and

potential to international investors and policymakers. She said, the Pakistan Pavilion at Davos showcases the country's vibrant economic landscape and challenges negative stereotypes. She acknowledged the Pathfinder Group's ongoing support at the World Economic Forum and encouraged both government and private entities to contribute. Mr. Farhat Ali, Former President of the Swiss Business Council, shared his experiences in Davos, emphasizing the potential of the WEF for Pakistan's business sector. "The Pathfinder Group's signature Pakistan breakfast has been a hallmark of Pakistan's identity at Davos, serving as an invaluable opportunity for branding, visibility, and fostering investment relationships," said Mr. Ali. He urged the private sector to seize this platform for enhanced global outreach.



Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Chairman and CEO of Roots Millennium Education Group, emphasized the need to focus on education and human development as pivotal areas for Pakistan's sustainable progress. With WEF's 2025 theme centred on edu-

cation, Dr. Mushtaq highlighted the transformative power of education in fostering a resilient and competitive Pakistani workforce. Closing the event, Mr. Iqram Sehgal, Co-Chairman of Pathfinder Group and Patron in Chief of the KCFR spoke on the strategic importance of Pakistan as the gateway to South and Central Asia, emphasizing Pakistan's natural resources and burgeoning sectors. He asserted that Pakistan sits at the epicentre of global economic activity, surrounded by nearly five billion people. We have every resource and potential to be a pivotal player on the world stage. In anticipation of Pakistan's significant presence at the upcoming World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, a discussion dedicated to promoting Pakistan's economic and social

potential convened at Islamabad. The event was organized by the Pathfinder Group, the Sindh Investment Department, and the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR). The event was held under the theme "Promoting Pakistan: IMAGE AND INVESTMENT" at the Pakistan Pavilion during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 in Davos. The event highlighted Pakistan's role in the global economy and discussed strategies for advancing Pakistan's image and investment prospects at the WEF annual meeting. The forum in Islamabad provided a glimpse into Pakistan's vision for Davos 2025, where the Pakistan Pavilion will continue to reflect the nation's aspirations and progress, drawing global attention to its potential as a key investment destination in the region.

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Syed Mohibullah Shah

Struggle between state and society

State and society are two distinct institutions. Eroding this distinction opens the doors to state intervention in personal, family and social relations and to loss of individual rights and protection against abuse of power by the state. The state is a creation of the will of the people and accountable to society which is the mother association; but the relationship between the state and society has not been an easy one. The imbalance between a powerful, unaccountable state and a weak society has caused neglect of human and economic development of the people.

This article tries to capture the essence of the main theme of a book by the same title by this writer to understand the fundamental fault-line: why has Pakistan not realised its potential and why has it been falling behind in almost every indicator of empowerment of its citizens? Historically, society has determined the shape and form as well as the powers and functions of the state and the rights and protection for its members from the abuse of powers given to the state. This was true when ancient Mesopotamians were creating the rudiments of the earliest state 7000 years ago, as also when the leaders of the 13 colonies gathered at the Continental Congress in 1776 to decide the shape and form of the United States of America and the division of powers between the state and society. The relationship between state and society was also rewritten in the old European and Asian empires where it had deteriorated during centuries of wars, conquests and colonisation, imposing their will upon the conquered societies. But, as society asserted its rights to make the state accountable under a new social contract, the relationship changed in the 18th and 19th centuries through a

series of peaceful reforms in England and Japan; while in France, Russia and China it took revolutions to make the state accountable to society.

An unaccountable state sees no reason to allocate resources to anyone it is not dependent upon for acquisition or retention of power. The Mughal emperors of India also knew this. They built large forts, royal gardens and Taj Mahals for themselves or their families; but never a school, a hospital or a library for people's wellbeing during their reign of over 400 years. Simple. They did not depend on the people to rule over India.

The idea of the 'development' of people gained ground only after the idea of a social contract asserted the rights of society and obligation of the state to work for the wellbeing of the people. The result was that, while it took one thousand years for the world GDP to double before, it now doubled within one century (19th) and has continued to make rapid strides ever since. During the last 40 years, the world GDP increased fourfold since the 1980s. But before the social contract between the state and the people would trigger similar change here, India was colonised and regained independence from British colonialism in 1947, when it was partitioned into two states of India and Pakistan. The British colonial state had wrested all power to itself and was unaccountable to Indian society – not unlike Mughal India. As Independence came, efforts were made to shift from a colonial to a democratic relationship between the state and society. In India, a committee under Dr Ambedkar was formed on August 29, 1947 to frame a democratic constitution. Similarly, on August 11, 1947, Quaid-e-Azam announced in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan that the first duty was to frame a democratic constitution to define the new relationship between a

democratic state and society, now that the country had become independent.

Unfortunately, no follow-up action was taken. And the independent state of Pakistan continued to be ruled under the same colonial Act of 1935 against which the struggle for independence was supposed to have been launched. Finally, in 1953, when the Constituent Assembly did act upon Quaid-e-Azam's announcement of August 11, 1947 to frame the constitution of a democratic state which is accountable to society, it was summarily 'dismissed' by the then governor general Ghulam Muhammad under the same colonial Act of 1935 and in the same colonial style of pre-1947 days. He refused to be accountable.

When the Sindh High Court declared this act null and void, the federal court under Justice Munir upheld the imperial act of the governor general 'dismissing' the constituent assembly representing the will of the people – even after the country gained independence from colonialism.

The foundation was thus laid of a powerful state unaccountable to society, a Leviathan, which refused to submit to the will of the people. It is important to recognise the root cause and how it started to gain momentum. The world knows about our problem even at the level of the heads of governments, although we have not seriously addressed the issue.

"Why has Pakistan not realised its potential despite so many resources"? I asked this to prime minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, when as head of the Board of Investment, I had presented a series of projects for Singapore and Pakistan to work together for their mutual benefit. He said: "Look at Singapore. We had no resources of any kind; we don't even have our own water to drink. But we created assets where none existed".

So, why has Pakistan – despite several resources – not realised its potential as the fifth largest country and why does it cut a sorry figure in world rankings? It stands at 164 out of 193 in human development, 161/213 in GDP per capita, 152/180 in literacy, among the highest out-of-school children in the world, and the highest infant mortality of 56/1000, twice the global average of 26/1000 and 130/143 in dispensation of justice!

The writings in the book are divided into seven chapters: governance, economy, energy, democracy, culture, Muslim world and Asian century to show how this imbalance between a powerful state and a weak society has adversely affected the social, economic and political empowerment of the people. Some of the conclusions in the book are briefly summarised in the available space here.

In democratic governance, the rights of the ruler and the ruled are the same, but the responsibilities of the ruler are higher. In unaccountable governance, this relationship is reversed. Our economy works like a game of snakes and ladders; where the ladders are provided for the privileged few while the snakes are let loose for the rest of society.

Our energy policies are a case study for business schools on how not to make a policy that leads to people suffering the shocks of the most expensive electricity in the world. And our democracy has never taken root because a sword of Damocles is always hanging over its head. The struggle to make the state accountable to society is most fundamental and its success will help Pakistan realise its potential.

The writer designed the Board of Investment and the First Women Bank. He is the author of 'Struggle between State & Society', and can be reached at: smshah@alum.mit.edu

Kashmir: The way forward

AYESHA ARIF KHAN

October 27, a day of solemn remembrance-looms large, primarily owing to the 1947 breach by Indian soldiers violating the territorial bounds of Kashmir, landing in Srinagar to illegally occupy the territory and subjugate the people of Kashmir in clear violation of international law and humanitarian norms – signalling the beginning of decades of unrest. For those in Occupied Kashmir and throughout Pakistan this day is truly a 'Black Day'. Every year, the valley comes alive with stories of optimism, calls for freedom, and aspirations of a future unfettered from the shackles of occupation as the day comes near.

On August 5, 2019, things took a turn for the worse. A brooding storm wreaked havoc when the Indian government abrogated Articles 370 and 35A, repealing Occupied Kashmir of its special status and incorporation into the larger framework of the Indian constitution, which simply put meant the beginning of a metaphorical end – a meagre hope for a stable future and a present with dignified liberty was thus stripped away.

For those in Occupied Kashmir and throughout Pakistan this day is truly a 'Black Day'

An avalanche of subjugation accompanied the news that shook Kashmir to its core. The very essence of human rights – those sacred threads weaving the fabric of humanity – began to fray. The air grew thick with fear as dissenting voices encountered stifling glares. The echoes of silence served as a chilling reminder that the struggle for freedom is not only a legal battle but an internal one, where the ember of hope must be protected against the unyielding winds of oppression.

As a juggernaut gripped the valley and all of Pakistan, the families in the valley gathered to explore the ramifications of a new era in which previously protected rights appeared to disappear like mist in the early sun. Pakistan, deeply rooted to the Kashmir cause, is insistent on finding a way through this glaring infringement of fundamental rights.

In the shadow of historical tensions and unresolved conflicts, the path forward for neighbouring rival nations lies in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding. Pakistan could enhance its diplomatic efforts to garner international support for the Kashmiri cause, emphasising human rights violations and the need for a peaceful resolution and a right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir. Engaging with global powers and organisations may help raise awareness and pressure for dialogue. This can be undertaken as a pivotal task by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as by parliamentary committees.

An additional effort must be made to amplify the voices of Kashmiris in any discussions about their future. Both Pakistan and international organisations should prioritise monitoring and reporting on human rights conditions in Occupied Kashmir. Advocacy for humanitarian assistance and the protection of civil liberties can help alleviate the suffering of the Kashmiri people.

Initiating backchannel dialogues with India could open avenues for discussions on Occupied Kashmir. Establishing a framework for negotiations that includes all stakeholders, particularly Kashmiris, may foster a more constructive environment. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting can step in to project the Kashmir cause through a multitude of mediums.

Fostering cultural exchanges connects diverse communities through shared experiences and mutual understanding – a means by which Kashmiris can be humanised and made relatable to the demography of India.

Students from different backgrounds coming together to explore each other's histories, arts, and traditions enriches everyone involved. These interactions dispel barriers and misconceptions. As relations thaw and knowledge deepens, a foundation of trust is established, paving the way for collaboration and peaceful coexistence.

Pakistan laments the plight of Kashmir but it also recognises the need for regional stability and collective cooperation. By pursuing the avenues discussed, there is potential for a more constructive resolution to the Kashmir issue.

Ultimately, a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue, where Kashmiris are granted the right of self-determination would not only benefit the two nations but also contribute to broader regional security and prosperity.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

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 Shyok River near Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. Several important rivers flow from, or through, the mountains of Kashmir into Pakistan. From the Pir Panjal Range flows the Jhelum River (which bisects the famous Vale of Kashmir); the Indus River descends between the Zaskar and Ladakh ranges; and the Shyok River rises in the Karakoram Range. South of the Pir Panjal is the northwestern extension of the Shivalik Range (there rising to about 600 to 900 feet [200 to 300 metres]), which extend

over the southern part of the Hazara and Murree hills and include the hills surrounding Rawalpindi and neighbouring Islamabad. Beyond the Karakoram Range in the extreme north lies the Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, China; to the northwest, beyond the Hindu Kush, are the Pamirs, where only the Vkh n (Wakhan Corridor), a narrow strip of Afghan territory, separates Pakistan from Tajikistan. The Himalayan massif was pierced in 1970 when Chinese and Pakistani engineers completed the Karakoram Highway across the

Karakoram Range, linking the town of Gilgit in Gilgit-Baltistan with Kashi (Kashi) in Xinjiang. The highway, a marvel of modern technology, carries considerable commerce between the two countries but has promoted little cultural exchange.

The northern mountain barrier influences the precipitation pattern in Pakistan by intercepting monsoon (rain-bearing) winds from the south. Melting snow and glacial meltwater from the mountains also feed the rivers, including the Indus, which emerge from the east-west-aligned

ranges to flow southward. Siachen Glacier, one of the world's longest mountain glaciers, feeds the Nubra River, a tributary of the Shyok. The many glaciers in this region, particularly those of the Karakoram Range, are among the few in the world to have grown in size since the late 20th century. The northern and western regions of the country are subject to frequent seismic activity—the natural consequence of a geologically young mountain system.

To be continued....

Zoe Saldana gushes over her 'genuine' pal Nicole Kidman in Lioness Season 2

Zoe Saldana opens up about working with friend Nicole Kidman in Lioness Season 2

Zoe Saldana has recently reflected on her friendship with Nicole Kidman while filming Lioness Season 2. Speaking to PEOPLE, the Guardians of the Galaxy actress revealed that her "beautiful friendship" with Nicole was important in revisiting season two, which premiered on October 27. Zoe, who is an executive producer alongside Nicole, said, "I feel like it gets easier to collaborate with people that you're familiar with, and we do have a beautiful friendship — it's genuine."

Addressing the common factor between her and Nicole, the Avatar actress shared they "have a lot of things in common... We're both Gem-



inis!" "The one thing that I admire so much about Nicole is that she's very passionate about what she does. She loves what she does," stated Zoe. The Emilia Perez actress mentioned, "So there's a level of preparation that she brings to the table, that repurposes you if you're working alongside Nicole." "And I get to work with someone that I've truly respected and admired for such a long time. And now, I get to tell my friends like, 'I'm friends with Nicole!'" she remarked. Zoe told the outlet the cast developed a sense of fellowship while the show is on its second season. "If we were doing those heavy scenes with the rest of the cast, they would

Atlantic ocean currents 'at risk of collapse', scientists warn Nordic leaders

A group of scientists warned Monday of the greatly underestimated risk of a collapse of ocean currents in the Atlantic which could have catastrophic consequences for the Nordic countries as the region's leaders gathered in Iceland. In an open letter addressed to the Nordic Council, which is meeting this week in Iceland's capital Reykjavik, the scientists said they wanted to bring attention "to the serious risk of a major ocean circulation change in the Atlantic." The "Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation" (AMOC) is a complex system of ocean currents, including the Gulf Stream, which carries heat from warmer regions to the north and is therefore crucial to living conditions in the Arctic. The collapse of the system – which according to a recent study has already weakened – is one of the tipping points that concern scientists because of cascading effects they could trigger. But there is no consensus on when this is likely to happen. The sixth assessment report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

expressed "medium confidence that the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation will not collapse abruptly before 2100." However, the signatories of the open letter, argued that new research indicated that the risk had so far been "greatly underestimated," and the "passing of this tipping point is a serious possibility already in the next few decades." They warned the impact on Nordic countries "would likely be catastrophic, including major cooling in the region while surrounding regions warm." That in turn would "likely lead to unprecedented extreme weather" and "potentially threaten the viability of agriculture in northwestern Europe," they added. But the impact would likely be felt globally, they said, with possible shifts in tropical rainfall belts and major additional rises in sea levels. The Nordic Council gathers Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and their leaders are meeting in Reykjavik on Monday and Tuesday for a summit to which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has also been invited.

Nationwide anti-polio drive to begin

The federal government is all set to launch a week-long nationwide polio vaccination campaign from tomorrow (Monday) to immunise over 45 million children. Reinforcing Pakistan's dedication to eradicating polio, the Pakistan Polio Programme is launching the vaccination campaign to address the resurgence of wild poliovirus and safeguard millions of children from the debilitating effects of polio. This campaign aims to reach more than 45 million children across the country from October 28 to November 3. With unwavering commitment to eradicating polio, the health officials called upon all parents and caregivers nationwide to play an active role in this campaign and ensure every child receives the polio vaccine. Additionally, Vitamin A supplements will be pro-

Week-long vaccination campaign to address resurgence of wild poliovirus in country

vided to enhance immunity. This is Pakistan's third nationwide campaign this year, launched in response to the alarming increase in polio cases, with 41 cases reported so far in 2024 and across 71 districts. Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq said in a statement: "Under the prime minister's guidance, we are re-energised in our efforts to combat polio."

"Starting October 28, our polio workers will reach every corner of Pakistan, delivering the vaccine and securing a healthier future for our children." "Encouraging parents to prioritise vaccinations, she said, "with the virus now present in 71 districts, the risk to every child is real." She further said, "Please welcome and support our dedicated health workers by ensuring your children are vaccinated." In a message, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, Muhammad Anwar-ul-Haq, urged parents to fully cooperate with polio workers. He stated: "Polio has no cure, but it can be prevented with this readily available vaccine." "With the threat at an all-time high, we must act as one nation to keep our children safe through vaccination," he concluded.

Health



Pakistan to push for more climate finance flows at COP29 in Baku: Romina



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said Pakistan along with other vulnerable countries would strongly push rich polluting countries to honour their climate finance to help developing nations cope with exacerbating climate impacts and transition to low-carbon future through adaptation and mitigation strategies. "We are hammering out strong country position to pursue during the upcoming two-week long UN-led global climate talks (COP29), which would focus on several key issues, reflecting our priorities and challenges related to climate change, namely climate finance, adaptation and resilience, loss and damage and mitigation efforts," She said while delivering a keynote address at the day-long event 'Pre-COP29 dialogue: Road from Dubai to Baku'.

During the two-week long global climate talks, beginning from November 11, Pakistan would also reiterate the critical need for substantial financial assistance flows from developed countries to support its climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. She said that Pakistan has been vocal about the need for mechanisms to address loss and damage caused by climate change, particularly for countries that are disproportionately affected despite contributing minimally to global emissions. Therefore, the country's delegation at the COP29, however, would also call for the fulfillment of prior commitments to ensure vulnerable nations can effectively address climate.

"I must highlight here that Pakistan always advocates for a clear and actionable framework from the rich countries, responsible for global warming, to address loss and damage resulting from unfolding climate crisis in the resource-poor countries like ours that have disproportionately borne the brunt of climate impacts despite minuscule share in overall global carbon emissions," Romina Khurshid Alam said. She also emphasized that being a responsible country, Pakistan also stands ready to collaborate with global partners to forge actionable solutions that address the climate crisis facing the global community, public infrastructure and economies.

"We must realize that 'only together' we can build a sustainable and resilient future for all through joint enhanced climate action," Alam stressed.

The PM's climate aide said that climate action at any level should align with sustainable development and low-carbon goals and achieving this role of the rich countries with finances, technology and technical know-how is of unprecedented importance.

Addressing the event, Secretary climate change & environmental coordination ministry Aisha Humera Moriani said the country, like several other vulnerable nations, is bearing the brunt of the unfolding catastrophe. — VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presides over Full Court meeting at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Full court meeting convened to reduce case backlog

ISLAMABAD: A full court meeting of the Supreme Court of Pakistan held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi. The meeting was attended by all the judges including Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah who joined through video link.

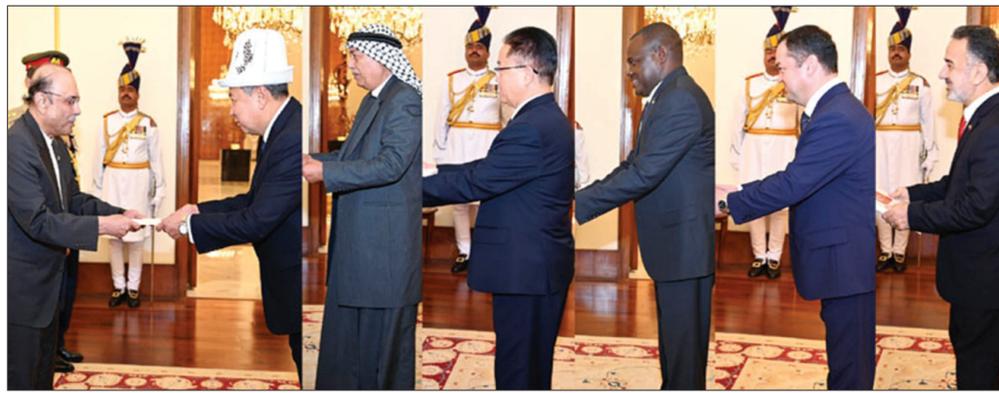
The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the Supreme Court in the institution and disposal of cases, focusing on measures to reduce case backlog and enhance judicial efficiency. The registrar provided an overview of the current caseload and outlined the steps towards timely decision of cases.

She presented updated statics, including that 59,191 cases are currently pending and introduced a newly devised one-month plan based on Case Management Plan 2023 prepared by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The plan includes setting clear standards, employing information technology to effectively manage all categories of cases. Reviewing the case Management Plan, the judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the plan's targets. Criminal and civil cases, as detailed in the monthly plan, were allocated to specialized two and three member benches to ensure swift and speedy case resolution.

The Judges contributed valuable insights and recommendations for further system improvement, underscoring their commitment to addressing case backlog. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, participating via video link, offered additional suggestions aimed at reducing the case backlog and improving procedural efficiency initially for one month and followed by three-month and six-month plans.

Chief Justice thanked all the judges for their resolve to implement the case management plan in full, with a commitment to achieve the outlined targets. Progress will be reviewed in the next session of the full court meeting scheduled for 2 December 2024.

Envoys of six countries present credentials to President



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Kenya and the Republic of Turkiye presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credential ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday. Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch was also present on the occasion. President Asif Ali Zardari received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyz Republic, Avazbek Atakhanov, the Ambassador-designate of State of Palestine, Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid,

The envoys of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Kenya and the Republic of Turkiye presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari

Ambassador-designate of the Democratic Republic of Korea, Choe Chang Man, the Ambassador-designate of Uzbekistan, Alisher Tukhtaey, the High Commissioner-designate of Kenya, Li Gen (Retd) Peter Mbogo Njiru and the Ambassador-designate of Turkiye, Irfan Neziroglu who also held separate meetings with the President. Welcoming the envoys, the President felicitated them on their appointment and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial bilateral relations with Pakistan, in the areas of trade, economy and culture. Earlier, the envoys were presented with a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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Pakistan Navy announces Recruitment of Sailors

SUKKUR: Pakistan Navy has announced recruitment for Sailor A-2025 with the registration deadline set as 3rd November. According to the announcement by Pakistan Navy Recruitment and Selection Center Sukkur on Monday, the male candidates with a matric pass can apply online for various positions, including Technical, Naval Police General Duty, Marine, Naib Khateeb, Steward, Musician, Driver, Sanitary Worker, and Direct Entry Sailors in PT Branch. Eligible candidates with Pakistani citizenship have been advised to apply online through Pakistan Navy's website www.joinpaknavy.gov.pk by November, 3, 2024. For further information, candidates can be contact Pakistan Navy Recruitment and Selection Center Sukkur at 071-5620042, announcement said. PR



Gilani calls for strengthening bilateral Ties with Russia

ISLAMABAD: In a significant diplomatic engagement, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan on Monday hosted Russian Delegation led by Valentina Matvienko here at the Parliament House. During this noteworthy event, Valentina Matvienko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Assembly of Russian Federation, called on the Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani. Gilani extended a warm welcome to Valentina, as they marked the 76th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia, a news release said. The meeting underscored the evolution of bilateral ties since 1948, with both leaders emphasizing the importance of ongoing cooperation in defense, economic infrastructure, and energy sectors. Gilani recalled his previous discussions with President Vladimir Putin, noting the constructive exchanges aimed at enhancing collaboration. Gilani lauded Russia's contributions to Pakistan's oil and gas industries and infrastructure development, including significant projects like the Pakistan Steel Mills and Guddu Thermal

Power Station. He acknowledged the recent momentum in bilateral relations, catalyzed by high-level meetings, particularly between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Putin at the SCO summit, which focused on energy cooperation and trade initiatives. The dialogue highlighted the achievement of surpassing \$1 billion in bilateral trade in 2023, with an emphasis on maintaining this positive trajectory. Key initiatives such as the North-South Transport Corridor were discussed, positioning Pakistan as a vital gateway to global markets. Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stressed the importance of direct business ties and the need for timely execution of projects under the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, and Scientific Cooperation. During the meeting, the Chairman Senate conveyed to Russian counterpart that Pakistan seeks Russian support to secure BRICS membership. Valentina Matvienko responded that they treat the interest of Pakistan to deepen its cooperation with BRICS with due attention and support this interest. DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, on Monday visited Pakistan Pavilion at the Beauty World Middle East 2024 and lauded the contribution of Pakistani exhibitors for introducing innovative and high-quality products to the region.

True People, True Promises: CM Maryam launches Largest-Ever Kisan Card Program in Punjab

LAHORE: True people by fulfilling their true promises have started implementing project of the farmers of Punjab worth Rs. 400 billion. 10 projects of farmers have been made functional in a record period of only six months. For the first time in the history of Punjab, Chief Minister Kisan Card worth Rs 150 billion have been provided. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the Kisan Card in Punjab in a record period of only six months. The CM announced to increase the number of Kisan Cards from 5

lakhs to 7.5 lakhs. She also announced to give free laser leveler to farmers who cultivated wheat from twelve and a half acres to 25 acres. She also announced to give free tractors to farmers with more than 25 acres. She announced to provide agricultural machinery on rent without any profit to the farmers. She also announced to increase the number of Kisan Card dealers to 3000. Chief Minister Punjab personally gave Kisan cards to the farmers in a ceremony being held in Hafizabad.

Sustained participation of women in workforce need of an hour: Dr. Khalid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday highlighted the need for sustained participation of women in the workforce.

Addressing a convocation ceremony at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), the minister encouraged young women to be change agents in transforming the narrative around women in STEM fields. He extended heartfelt congratulations, emphasizing that the graduates' success was a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the nurturing environment at NUST. The federal minister encouraged the graduates to make wise choices. He shared his insights on resilience, the importance of action, and the need for lifelong learning in a rapidly evolving world. He urged the graduates to embrace continuous self-improvement, reminding them that their actions would shape not just their own futures but also the destiny of Pakistan. In closing remarks, the federal minister called on the graduates to restore belief in the nation and uphold the values that define Pakistan. The graduation ceremony ended with a resounding sense of hope and optimism for the future, as the Class of 2024 stepped forward to embrace their new roles as the nation's future leaders.

Ms. Valentina Matvienko reaffirms Russia's support for Pakistan's BRICS membership bid

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterates Pak's commitment to continued collaboration with Russia across areas of shared interest

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of Federation Council of Russian Federal Assembly Ms. Valentina Matvienko has said Russia values Pakistan as a significant player on the international stage. During a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad on Monday, she commended Pakistan's efforts towards global peace. Ms Valentina reaffirmed Russia's support for Pakistan's BRICS membership bid and emphasized the importance of collective efforts to foster peace and prosperity on both regional and global fronts. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continued collaboration with Russia across areas of shared interest. NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq noted that parliamentary diplomacy has his-



torically played a key role in reinforcing bilateral relations. He advocated for continuous engagement between the two parliaments, facilitated through parliamentary friendship groups and high-level exchanges, as a means of promoting mutual learning and shared experiences. SABAH

Aleem lauds NHA's 100pc revenue surge, M-Tag implementation, technical upgradation

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday visited the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters, inspected the National Traffic Operation Center and commended Pakistan's motorway and GT road notable revenue growth and technological upgrades. Aleem Khan expressed satisfaction over the transition of 99 percent of vehicles on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway to the M-Tag system, which has greatly reduced traffic congestion and streamlined toll operations. "The shift to M-Tag has improved traffic flow significantly and I am pleased with NHA's efforts to modernize the toll collection process," Aleem Khan stated. Aleem Khan further highlighted the record-breaking financial achievements of the NHA, reporting a 100 percent increase in revenue, with the

projected target rising to Rs 110 billion from last year's Rs 64 billion. Aleem Khan lauds NHA's 100pc revenue surge, M-Tag implementation, technical upgradation Aleem Khan lauds NHA's 100pc revenue surge, M-Tag implementation, technical upgra-

The federal minister directed the NHA to reduce cash lanes across all motorways and increase the number of M-Tag booths. He also instructed that all toll plazas be equipped with camera systems to monitor vehicles and capture license plate informa-

Khan added. For the next phase of the M-Tag initiative, he proposed implementing a double toll fee for vehicles without M-Tags, following a two-week public awareness campaign. Aleem Khan highlighted the importance of transitioning all motorways to M-Tag for improved safety and smoother traffic flow. Federal minister praised NHA officials for achieving a 99 percent M-Tag adoption rate on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and called for similar progress on other routes, with a focus on reducing cash lanes and alleviating traffic congestion. In recognition of NHA's efforts and revenue growth, the minister announced bonuses and incentives for employees who contributed to the institution's success. Senior officials, including the NHA Chairman, provided briefings on various operational matters and strategic initiatives aimed at further improving national infrastructure and service quality.



tion, "This is an unprecedented milestone, marking the first time a public institution will generate an additional Rs 50 billion in revenue," the minister said.

tion, emphasizing that these updates should be available to the Secretary of Communications and the NHA Chairman. "Daily revenue reports should be prepared to maintain accountability and progress," Aleem