

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXVI No. 56, Rabi-us-Sani 13, 1446 AH Thursday October 17, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Pushes for regional security, stability: PM urges SCO member states to work together for well connected, prosperous region

Shehbaz Sharif raises Israel's genocide against Palestinians; calls for ceasefire at SCO CHG; Taliban rulers must ensure Afghan soil isn't misused for terrorism; Hopeful of "wonderful outcomes" of the meeting



ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday calling a stronger SCO essential to achieve sustainable development, emphasised advancing the shared vision of an economically integrated region and invest-

ment in the connectivity projects without looking at them through political prism.

"Pakistan firmly believes, that a stronger, more effective SCO is essential, to achieving sustainable development in our region..."

Let us not look at such projects, through the narrow, political prism and invest in our collective connectivity capacities, which are crucial to advancing the shared vision of an economically integrated region. Let us work together for a well-integrated and prosperous region that benefits all Member states," the prime minister said in his National Statement at the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) here.

Continued on page 2



PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attend a meeting in Lahore.

Breakthrough claimed in constitutional amendment talks between PML-N, PPP, JUI-F

Monitoring Desk
LAHORE: A significant breakthrough has reportedly been achieved in discussions over Pakistan's 26th constitutional amendment, with claims that the required number of votes for its approval have been secured.

The announcement follows high-level political meetings hosted by PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif at his Jati Umra residence in Lahore on Wednesday.

According to sources, a crucial meeting took place between key political leaders, including Nawaz Sharif, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, accompanied by

the PPP leadership—Zardari and Bilawal—arrived at Jati Umra, where they were greeted by Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif.

Discussions began with Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif holding talks with senior PML-N leaders, followed by a more than hour-long consultation between the PML-N and Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The talks then extended to a joint meeting between the senior leadership of PML-N and JUI-F. Sources indicate that a complete consensus was reached on the proposed 26th constitutional amendment.

"Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed his reservations and displeasure to Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif, who assured him that his concerns would be addressed," one insider revealed.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan and IG Police Balochistan Mozaam Jah Ansari meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Governor Balochistan chairs review meeting on law & order: We can't concentrate on dev. projects, trade, health & educational activities sans ending lawlessness, extremism

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has categorically stated that we can't concentrate on our development projects, trade, health and educational activities without ending lawlessness and elimination of extremism from the province.

However, the Governor reiterated his resolve to combat every kind of terrorism, protect our people and make our national highways safer through joint efforts.

He exhorted the law enforcement agencies to increase coordination among them because the recent increase in the incidents of terrorism require immediate and decisive action.

The Governor was chairing high level review meeting on the law and order situation in Zhob Division, here on Wednesday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, Inspector General of Police, Mozaam Jah Ansari, DIG CTD, Aitezaz Goraya, Commissioner Zhob, Zeeshan Lashari, Member National Highway Authority, Basharat Hussain, Deputy Commissioner Zhob, Mehboob Achakzai, Deputy Commissioner Shirani, Sana Mah Jabeen Umrani, Deputy Commissioner Killa Saifullah, Saeed Ahmed Dummar,

besides other concerned. Describing lawlessness and subversive acts as a curse, the Governor said that we would take concrete measures for making the Zhob division hub of peace. In addition to this, safety of the national highways and effectiveness of the economic activities would also be ensured in the province, adding Governor said.

He said that we are united for bringing sustainable peace and prosperity in the whole province. Surely, we would overcome the challenge of law and order with support of the masses, he said.

Meanwhile, certain decisions were made for improving law and order situation following recommendations of the participants.

President summons NA, Senate sessions today

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the sessions of the National Assembly and Senate to be held separately on October 17.

The president has summoned the session of National Assembly on October 17 (Thursday) at 4:00 pm, while that of Senate on October 17 (Thursday) at 3:00 pm, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Wednesday.

President Zardari has summoned the sessions of both Houses of Parliament under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Gharshen apprises CM about tree plantation project in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The social personality and Chief of a non-governmental organization, Syed Qurban Shah Gharshen called on the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti here on Wednesday.

Syed Qurban Gharshen apprised the Chief Minister about the tree plantation project in Quetta. The Chief Minister issued directives to the concerned high ups to take review of the project in detail.



ISLAMABAD: A group photograph of Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Heads of delegations of the 23rd SCO Heads of Government Meeting.

SCO member states pledge to strengthen cooperation for peaceful, prosperous world

Leaders emphasise exploiting region's trade, connectivity potential; Meeting adopts decisions to guide future of organization with enhanced role in regional connectivity, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to peacefully resolving disputes through dialogue and consultations besides emphasizing the importance of strengthening cooperation across various sectors, including politics, security, trade, finance, and cultural ties, to build a prosperous, peaceful, safe, and ecologically sustainable planet.

In a joint declaration issued at the conclusion of the two-day SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting held here,

the heads of delegations called for sustainable and inclusive economic growth of member states by optimizing the region's potential in areas such as green development, digital economy, trade, e-commerce, finance and banking, investment, high technology, start-ups and innovation, poverty alleviation, health care, including traditional and folk medicine, agriculture, industry, transport, logistics connectivity, energy, including renewable energy, communications, science and technology, environment and climate change.

The heads of delegations, reaffirming their desire to ensure stable economic and social development in the SCO region, noted the importance of implementing the SCO Economic Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 and the Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO member states.

They stressed the need for coordinated efforts through the mechanisms of relevant cooperation in order to implement the respective action plans.

The event was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and was attended by

the leaders from the SCO member states including China's Premier of the State Council Li Qiang, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akybek, Trade Minister of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Atabek, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Besides, Mongolia is

participating in the summit as an Observer State being represented by Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai and Turkmenistan as a Special Guest represented by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Rashid Meredov.

Among other dignitaries attending the moot include SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, Director of Executive Committee SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Ruslan Mirzayev, Chairman of the Board of SCO Business Council Atif

Continued on page 2

India acknowledges Pakistan for successfully hosting SCO summit

Indian External Affairs Minister thanks PM, DPM, GoP for hospitality

ISLAMABAD (INP): India has recognised Pakistan for successfully hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar congratulated Pakistan during his address at the SCO meeting. He stated that India provided its full support to make the presidency a success.

He noted that the summit comes at a time when global conditions are complex, with ongoing major wars impacting the world significantly.



Jaishankar emphasised that the COVID-19 pandemic devastated developing countries, while climate change has adversely affected economies.

He pointed out that the burden of debt posed a serious challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, Jaishankar referred to the SCO Charter's Article 1 that stressed on strengthening mutual trust, promoting friendship, and acting as good neighbors.

Continued on page 2

CM greets President, PM on successful SCO summit

Independent Report
QUETTA: Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan, has expressed delight over the successful hosting of the SCO conference in Pakistan, congratulating President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on this achievement.

Bugti stated that this significant conference will promote regional cooperation, strengthen bilateral relations among participating countries, and facilitate the achievement of collective objectives.

He emphasized that Pakistan's hosting of the SCO conference is an honor and a matter of pride.

The conference's joint declaration holds immense importance, and Bugti noted that Pakistan is gradually recovering from challenging circumstances, with evident improvements in the national economy.

He expressed optimism that Pakistan will soon overcome its crises and embark on a path of sustainable development through national consensus.

The Chief Minister acknowledged the nation's resilience in the face of adversity, including inflation and terrorism, and praised the country's progress toward stability and growth.

Two killed during clashes between groups

QUETTA (APP): Two persons were killed in a firing incident that took place near Saryab phattak of Quetta, tv channels quoting police reported on Wednesday.

According to details, two tribal groups opened fire on each other to settle



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding financial and administrative affairs of Public Sector Universities of the province.

Chairs high level meeting on financial & administrative affairs of universities:

CM orders immediate payment of salaries and pensions to teachers & staff of public sector universities

Mir Sarfraz Bugti concerned about unnecessary recruitments and exceptional raise in non-development expenditures in public sector universities, asserts can't give salary to anyone sitting at home; meeting decides to ban new recruitments and construction of unnecessary development projects in universities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has issued orders for payment of the salaries and pensions to the teachers and other employees of all public sector universities immediately. He

said that salaries are right of the serving teachers and employees and as such the timely payment of the same should be ensured.

However, he ordered to take action against the absentee and negligent employees.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting on the financial and administrative affairs of the public sector universities of the province, here on Wednesday.

Continued on page 2

Pakistan, Russia agree to boost cooperation in different sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin on Wednesday agreed to pursue robust dialogue and cooperation in the areas of trade, industry, energy, connectivity, science, technology and education.

During a cordial and substantive meeting at the Prime Minister's House on the margins of the 23rd SCO-CHG meeting, both

prime ministers discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation and noted the positive momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations over the last two decades, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif fondly recalled his first foreign visit to Moscow, expressing a desire to transform these warm memories into a lasting friendship with Russia. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to

strengthening political, economic, and defense ties with the Russian Federation.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation at multilateral forums, including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

He also thanked Russia for supporting Pakistan's BRICS membership bid, marking a step toward deeper collaboration on the global stage.



Russian Prime Minister H.E. Mikhail Mishustin along with a delegation meets Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.



QUETTA: Box Muhammad Waseem meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti. MNA Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani and Advisor Sports Meena Majeed Baloch are also present.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang departs after attending 23rd SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang left Pakistan on Wednesday after attending the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit held on October 15-16 in Islamabad.

Premier Li Qiang was bid farewell at the Nur Khan Airbase by Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, according to press release issued by Planning Ministry.

While seeing off the Chinese Premier, Ahsan Iqbal expressed his appreciation for the visit, saying, "We look forward to welcoming you back to Pakistan soon." He further highlighted the importance of China-Pakistan relations, stating that "CPEC is a milestone in Pak-China friendship, just like the Great Wall of China."

Premier Li Qiang expressed his gratitude towards Ahsan Iqbal for his contributions to the success of CPEC, acknowledging the minister's services in advancing the project. "I will return to Pakistan," Premier Li affirmed, emphasizing the deep bond between the two nations. "Pakistan is China's iron brother," he stated.

The Chinese Premier also conveyed his appreciation for the hospitality extended by the people of Pakistan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit. "I thank the people of Pakistan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the remarkable hospitality," Premier Li Qiang remarked before his departure.

This visit and participation in the SCO Summit further reinforced the strong strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, and both sides expressed their commitment to deepening cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), especially in the context of Phase-II of the project.

26th constitutional amendment: PM invites coalition parties' lawmakers for lunch today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif invited lawmakers of all coalition parties for a lunch on Thursday ahead of the National Assembly in which the 26th constitutional amendment is likely to be presented. According to sources, the meeting will take place at Parliament House at 2 pm. All lawmakers of coalition parties in the centre have been issued invitations.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Hamoodur Rehman presiding over a meeting of District Education Group Committee.

SCO member states pledge to strengthen cooperation for peaceful, prosperous world....

Continued from page 1

economic development, emphasizing that the principles of mutual respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of states, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of use of force are the basis for the sustainable development of international relations.

They reaffirm the commitment to the peaceful settlement of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultations.

They emphasized the importance of leveraging regional potential and international cooperation to foster broad, equitable interactions in the SCO region based on international law and mutual respect.

They highlighted the need to enhance trade and economic ties through the "New Economic Dialogue" concept among SCO member states.

They also stressed the importance of leveraging the digital economy and technological innovations to boost regional competitiveness and ensure that technology benefits all.

The Heads of delegations stressed the importance of deepening cooperation in the field of information security, the relevance of the "digital divide" issue and advocated for exploring the creation of a mechanism for cross-border data exchange.

They noted the role of standardization tools in trade facilitation and called for the promotion of mutually beneficial and equal interaction between the SCO member states, as well as the exchange of experience in these areas.

They acknowledged the significance of the SCO Industry Ministers' Meeting and proposed its next session in 2025, emphasizing that support for creative

industries will enhance competitiveness, reduce unemployment, and foster sustainable growth in the region.

They supported establishing an exchange of experiences on national industrial policies and IT standardization. They emphasized the importance of developing micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to drive economic growth and job creation, advocating continued cooperation under the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding.

Heads of delegation emphasized the importance of a unified energy vision, calling for continued cooperation in energy infrastructures, security, and investment in renewable energy.

They reaffirmed the importance of implementing the road map for increasing the use of national currencies in mutual settlements and supported proposals for an independent settlement mechanism and converging payment systems.

They also recognized the SCO Business Council's role in fostering business cooperation and noted the Interbank Association's efforts in ESG financing and financial innovations, along with Iran's intention to join the IBA.

Heads of delegation emphasized enhancing railway transport cooperation and welcomed the upcoming meeting of Railway Administrations in Moscow. They advocated for innovative technologies in multi-modal transport and called for developing infrastructure, logistics, and safety measures, aligning with the SCO's Concept of Cooperation on ports and logistics centers.

They also advocated for enhanced cooperation in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation,

PM urges SCO member states...

Continued from page 1

izing the organization, enhancing the resources and capabilities, of the SCO Secretariat and, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.

"But let us not forget, the true essence of the SCO, extends, beyond political alliances and economic partnerships. It is the rich mosaic of our cultures, the diversity of our people, that forms, the heart of this organization," he remarked.

He said that Pakistan remained committed to fostering people-to-people ties and cultural exchanges that bridge divides, cultivate understanding, and deepen cooperation. In unity and with shared purpose, we can build, lasting legacies, and enrich, the future, of all our nations, he added.

He said when Pakistan assumed the SCO CHG chair last year, the country had reaffirmed its commitment to the regional peace, stability, enhanced connectivity, and sustainable socio-economic development as the fundamental, to the SCO's progress.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the joint communiqué of the meeting was a testament to shared commitment, to fostering sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, leveraging enhanced connectivity, and adopting forward-thinking mechanisms for green development.

Highlighting several forward-looking initiatives taken during Pakistan's Chairmanship, the prime minister mentioned SCO Economic Preference Base, enhanced cooperation between Trade Promotion Organizations, the Creative Economy framework, and the SCO New Economic Dialogue Program.

"These initiatives, chart a promising course, but now, it is imperative, that we shift to tangible actions—through coordinated implementation, — strengthening our cooperation, in the vital sectors of trade and economy. Coming to Afghanistan,

he said the country presented an invaluable opportunity for trade and transit, benefiting all SCO member states.

He said a stable Afghanistan was essential to fully realizing these opportunities and urged the international community to step forward, with urgent humanitarian support, while calling upon the Afghan interim government, to embrace political inclusivity and ensure Afghan soil was not misused for terrorism against its neighbours, by any entity.

He said the investment in regional infrastructure—particularly in the realms of transport and energy—was indispensable, for advancing economic integration.

While supporting all SCO connectivity initiatives, he said Pakistan underscored, the importance of establishing a robust SCO connectivity framework. This framework, should not merely boost regional trade but should also advance, the vision of a connected Eurasia.

"Flagship projects, like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the International, North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) should be expanded, focusing on developing road, rail, and digital infrastructure, that enhances integration and cooperation, across the region," he emphasized.

The prime minister called for SCO countries' efforts to address the issues of poverty, and assured Pakistan's support to provide, the required impetus, to collective efforts, to address the root causes of poverty, and uplift the quality of life for our people.

Highlighting the issue of climate change, he called it an "existential crisis" that transcended borders mentioned the 2022 floods which badly impacted the lives, properties causing economic loss of around \$30 billion.

SCO moot draws worldwide attention as a right step towards regional cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Islamabad attracted significant international media attention, emphasizing its importance for promoting regional cooperation.

Extensive coverage by various international news organizations underscored the significance of the SCO summit in Islamabad, highlighting the necessity for participation and mutual cooperation among the leaders of the member states.

Global media reported on the SCO meeting's discussions about trade, economic development, and security, emphasizing the need for member states to cooperate on shared challenges.

Global media houses described the discussions among participants as significant, noting that the SCO meeting offered a chance for progress toward global stability and development.

They stated that the SCO meeting not only enhanced relations among member states but also underscored the importance of global cooperation.

Michael Kugelmann, a South Asia expert at the Washington-based Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, said that the summit was "a really big deal" for the Pakistani government.

"It's sensitive about criticism that Pakistan isn't safe for foreigners, and feels it has something to prove with this SCO meet — and especially with such high-level attendance from key countries in the neighborhood, including close ally China," he told DW.



MULTAN: Pakistani bowler Sajid Khan celebrates after taking wicket of England batsman Ollie Pope during 2nd day of the Second Test Match between Pakistan and England at Multan Cricket Stadium.

India acknowledges...

Continued from page 1

He stressed the need for an honest dialogue by saying "If there is a lack of trust and cooperation, it is essential to address those issues."

APP adds: Indian Minister for External Affairs Subrahmanya Jaishankar on Wednesday expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and the Government of Pakistan for the hospitality extended to him during his participation in CHG-SCO meeting in Islamabad.

The Indian minister, on his X handle, prior to his departure posted "Departing from Islamabad. Thank

PM (@CMShehbaz), DPM & FM (@MishaqDar50) and the Government of Pakistan for the hospitality and courtesies." Jaishankar was among the dozen leaders of the member states of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (CHG-SCO) who had participated in the two-day, 23rd CHG-SCO summit, on October 15-16, in Islamabad.

CM orders immediate payment...

Continued from page 1

to this, he directed to the vice chancellors to do right sizing by reducing the unnecessary and additional staff there.

The Chief Minister asked the vice chancellors to improve financial management system of their respective universities.

He said that necessary legislation is being made for formulation of comprehensive contract policy in the province.

In this regard, Balochistan Contract Appointment Act is being promulgated for recruitments on the temporary basis.

He said that the development of education is our priority and aim. He said that we would provide resources to the universities after making deduction in the funds from the development funds and other accounts. But we would also want better results.

The Chief Minister also urged the vice chancellors to close the unpopular and unbeneficial faculties in the universities gradually. Similarly, the research process should be promoted in the universities and provide useful skills and education to the students for making them compatible with the modern day requirements, he maintained.

He issued directives to avoid new recruitments and development projects in the universities. In addition

Advertisement for the Government of Balochistan, featuring the logo and contact information for the Department of Public Relations. It includes details about the 23rd SCO Summit and the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The ad is repeated four times.



ISLAMABAD: Tajikistan's Prime Minister, Kokhir Rasulzoda, has wrapped up his visit to Pakistan after attending the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference, and is heading back home. Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, bid him farewell at Islamabad International Airport.

Bilal Kayani says: 'SCO provides unique opportunity for peaceful dialogue among nations'

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N leader & Convener of the National Parliamentary Task-force on Sustainable Development Goals Bilal Azhar Kayani Wednesday emphasized the vital role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in promoting inter-nation dialogue to shape regional policies.

Talking to a Private news channel, he said the SCO indeed provides a unique platform for countries to engage in dialogue and cooperation, shaping regional policies and addressing common challenges.

By engaging in dialogue and cooperation, the SCO aims to create a more stable and prosperous region, with its member states working together to address shared challenges and inter-

ests, he mentioned.

Kayani noted, the SCO provides a valuable opportunity for nations including India and Pakistan to come together and find peaceful solutions to regional issues.

He said regional countries, including China, Russia, and Iran are set to convene and explore ways to tackle challenges and bolster cooperation across various sectors including climate change and economy.

He said this collaborative effort aims to foster economic growth, security and cultural exchange among participating nations.

Pakistan's involvement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) presents a significant opportunity for the

country to strengthen its relationships with participating nations, he mentioned.

This includes fostering closer ties with Russia, China, and Iran, among others. By collaborating on regional security, economic development and cultural exchange initiatives, Pakistan can enhance its diplomatic and economic standing within the region, he further explained.

Responding to a query, he said Pakistan's friendly gesture towards India presents a prime opportunity for dialogue and cooperation on pressing issues such as climate change and the longstanding Kashmir conflict. By engaging in peaceful discussions, both nations can work towards mutually beneficial solutions, he stressed.

Constitutional amendment, judicial reforms need of hour: Barrister Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to Prime Minister on Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik on Wednesday said that constitutional amendment and judicial reforms are vital to provide speedy justice to people.

There is also need to implement charter of democracy (CoD), in the country, he said while talking to a private television channel.

In reply to a question, he said legal reforms and constitutional amendment would be made with consensus of political parties

including JUI-F.

To a question about constitutional courts, he said Maulana Fazal ur Rehman has different views on this matter and added that JUI-F, leader is talking about constitutional benches.

He further said, we will have more discussion on this matter and hope to develop consensus in next few days.

He also stressed the need for removing backlog of thousands of cases pending in the lower and upper courts.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy children searching and collecting valuable stuff from the heap of garbage on the eve of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The purpose of celebrating this day is to eradicate poverty from developing countries and to raise the standard of living of the poor.

Khurram Dastgir says: SCO vital for Pakistan's regional peace efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz prominent leader Khurram Dastgir Khan Wednesday highlighted the vital role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in offering Pakistan a prominent stage to demonstrate its dedication to peaceful resolution and open communication.

"By leveraging the SCO platform, Pakistan can effectively showcase its commitment to regional stability and cooperation, bolstering its international reputation," he said while talking to a private news channel.

"Pakistan's involvement in the SCO enables the country to demonstrate its peaceful intentions and resolve challenges through

diplomatic means," he added. Dastgir Khan said, "SCO provides a vital platform for Pakistan to engage in peaceful dialogue and resolve conflicts through diplomatic means.

"The organization offers a unique opportunity for countries to come together and address their differences peacefully, fostering regional stability and cooperation," Khan underscored. "The SCO has emerged as a robust and influential platform, captivating the attention of Western nations," Khan noted.

"As a key player in regional politics, Pakistan's participation in the SCO reinforces its commitment to peaceful conflict resolution, economic cooperation and regional stability.



ISLAMABAD: Police warden open 7th Avenue as removing cement block with the help of car lifter, in the Federal Capital, Administration was closed roads due to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024.

Gilani calls for raising awareness for reducing food waste

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Wednesday, called for raising awareness about reducing food waste and advocated for policies that encourage innovation in food production and distribution.

In his message on World Food Day, Gilani highlighted the critical importance of food security and the need for sustainable practices to ensure every individual has access to sufficient and nutritious food.

He said that the day serves as a reminder of the shared responsibility to combat hunger and malnutrition within communities.

The Chairman also acknowledged Pakistan's rich agricultural heritage and stressed the need to support farmers while promoting sustainable agricultural methods that protect the environment.

AIOU extends admission deadline

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has extended the admission deadline for the second phase of the Autumn 2024 semester until November 5.

According to Director Admissions, Syed Zia-ul-Hasnain Naqvi, new students can apply for admission with late fee charges until November 5. The previous deadline was October 15.

Existing students can enroll until October 22. This phase includes Associate Degree programs, BS, BBA, B.Ed, and Post-Graduate Diploma programs. Prospectuses and admission forms are available on the university's website.

5 outlaws arrested; drugs, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended five criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

A public relation officer told APP under the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IG) police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens.

Former caretaker PM Kakar says: Pak making efforts for regional connectivity, security, economic cooperation among SCO members

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024 is a multilateral engagements platform and Pakistan is making efforts for regional connectivity, security, economic cooperation and trade between the member countries.

Talking to media persons during his visit to the Pak-China Friendship Centre on the eve of the SCO Conference 2024, he said that there was an opportunity for Pakistan to hold private discussions and

meetings with the heads of the participating SCO member countries. "There is also a great opportunity among all the heads of the participating countries to discuss several regional challenges," he added.

To a question, he said that no doubt India is a major player in the South Asia region but currently our focus is on the entire region".

"Pakistan is not just focusing on India as we have major engagements with the heads of all member countries especially the PM's of China and Russia," he added.

To another query,

Kakar also called the need for activating other regional forums such as SAARC in the interest of regional countries for the economic prosperity and connectivity between the South Asian countries.

"As we see the Western countries have a bond among themselves and they have established several platforms like the European Union for cooperation in economy, trade, mutual cultural activities, and therefore such kind of cooperation should also be established in this region and for which the platforms like SAARC are very important," he mentioned.

Foreign media delegates laud arrangements at SCO Media Facilitation Center

ISLAMABAD (APP): The foreign media correspondents arrived here to cover 23rd meeting of the Council of the Head of Governments (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Wednesday lauded the arrangements made for international journalists at the SCO Media Facilitation Center.

The media correspondents while requesting anonymity said the thematic setting, digital library, high speed internet facility, computers and printing facilities with multiple TV screens providing live news coverage of different news channels from the member states of the SCO were all well planned to ensure all out coverage arrangements at Pak China Friendship Center.

The SMDs and digital media screens projecting banners of member states with their national monuments extended a warm gesture of solidarity by the host country, said a foreign media scribe.

She added that the clock wall with time zones of different member states was also another attraction to give on spot time zone information to foreign journalists.



ISLAMABAD: Belarus's Prime Minister Roman Alexandrovich Golovchenko departs after attending 23rd SCO summit. Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communication, Abdul Aleem Khan bid farewell to Belarus's Prime Minister at Islamabad International airport.

Kazakh envoy admires SCO Council meeting in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin on Wednesday called the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Pakistan significant for the economic and trade ties between the member countries in the near future.

Talking to APP, he said Kazakhstan and Pakistan are important members of the SCO forum, and both countries have a key role in SCO and in future the two nations will play their major role in the economic and political sphere of SCO forum.

The ambassador said the relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan will be further improved through

SCO.

He said that economic and trade activities between the two countries are at their peak recently and they will play their role for economic integration between SCO member states.

He said Prime Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov has participated in the SCO Council of Heads of the Government and a meeting was also held on the sideline of SCO between the Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

Ambassador Kistafin said that during the meeting both sides emphasized the need to enhance trade and investment, and also focused on regional connectivity and security.

Pak introduces new grading system for SSC, HSSC exams

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) has introduced a new grading system for Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examinations, aiming to promote fairness, transparency, and accuracy in student evaluation.

Sharing the details of the new grading system, IBCC said that it will be a 10-point grading system (A++, A+, A, B++, B+, B, C, D, E, U) replaces the 7-point system (A-1, A, B, C, D, E, F).

However, passing marks increased to 40% from 33%, while grades and grade points reported instead of absolute scores.

IBCC further said that grade points calculate Grade Point Average (GPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

As per objectives of the grading system it will control grading inflation, minimize competition for maximum marks, and ensure accurate reflection of student learning and achievement.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's army helicopter patrols around red zone area during Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024, in the Federal Capital.

HEC warns public against scam calls and fake social media pages

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has issued a public warning about increasing incidents of fraudulent activities involving scam calls and fake social media pages falsely claiming affiliation with the commission. In a public alert, the HEC stated that some imposters, claiming affiliation with the HEC, are defrauding the public by making scam calls to extract personal information for degree attestation or re-verification of already attested documents.

Some individuals, posing as HEC Attestation Agents, are offering services for degree attestation,

demanding excessive fees for services, far beyond the prescribed charges.

Fake social media pages are also being used to deceive the public by promoting unauthorized degree verification services.

The HEC has clarified that it does not employ any agents or representatives for attestation purposes and does not make unsolicited calls or contact individuals regarding these services.

The public is urged to use only the official HEC website (www.hec.gov.pk) or the HEC attestation portal (eservices.hec.gov.pk) for any degree-related verifications.

Combing operation conducted in Bhara Kahu

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand combing operation on Wednesday at the Bhara Kahu and Industrial Area police stations jurisdiction.

A public relation officer told APP under the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IG) police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens.

Following these orders, under the supervision of SPs of Rural and Industrial Area a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Bhara Kahu and Industrial Area police station jurisdiction by Islamabad Police teams.

PM Shahbaz receiving dignitaries upon arrival at venue of 23rd SCO Summit



Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Thursday October 17, 2024

Two steps back

Pakistan is making leaps. Just not of the desired kind. The country has mindbogglingly gone from eight polio cases at end of June to 33 by mid-October. Whereas much has been written on the subject this year, this sustained rise in cases points to a deeper issue: systemic healthcare failures. While it is true that the government is confronted with challenges such as disinformation, parental refusal, and attacks on polio workers, it is time we realise that our children are falling victim not only to the virus, but also to the lack of healthcare infrastructure and poor governance. In Balochistan, for instance, where immunisation coverage is as low as 37pc, children are vulnerable not just to polio but also a range of preventable diseases. Many RHCs remain non-functional or under-resourced, leaving large populations without basic healthcare. This makes vaccination campaigns, however well-intentioned, only acute fixes when the real issue is chronic neglect of public health services.

Compounding this are reports of number-fudging and fake vaccination data. While the government claims high coverage, environmental samples continue to test positive for the virus, especially in high-risk areas like Quetta. This disconnect between official figures and ground realities has eroded trust.

The polio crisis cannot be solved in isolation. Pakistan must rethink its approach to healthcare delivery. Instead of treating polio as a stand-alone emergency, it should be incorporated into a broader public health strategy. Polio workers, for example, could be trained to promote other health measures, such as sanitation, nutrition, and maternal health. This would not only help in the fight against polio but also strengthen the overall healthcare system.

The government's role cannot be understated. It must prioritise improving basic healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Functioning health centres, routine immunisation, and trained staff are essential to protect children from diseases like polio and restore the faith of the citizenry in immunisation efforts.

Transparency in reporting is equally vital. Local officials should be held accountable for alleged falsification of data, and regular audits must be conducted to ensure every child is vaccinated. The government must acknowledge that health workers need better protection from obscurantist forces that want to ensure anti-polio campaigns fail.

At the same time, communities must take responsibility. Public health is a shared duty, and without collective cooperation, no vaccination drive will succeed. Parents will have to realise that regular polio vaccines are the only way to save their children from a life-altering condition. Since it is such a prevailing issue, the government may consider incentivising parents for getting their children inoculated.

Pakistan's polio crisis is more than the failure to vaccinate. It is the failure to deliver on basic public health promises.

Zahid Hussain

The recent three-day Pashtun Quami Jirga in Jamrud was a reflection of the anguish of people who have suffered in a conflict that has ravaged KP for over two decades.

Thousands of people have been killed and, by some estimates, millions have been displaced. They have been the victims of violent militancy as well as military operations. A whole generation has grown up in the midst of destruction and displacement. The bitterness was palpable at the jirga.

The state initially tried to clamp down on it. Just days before the Jirga, the federal government proscribed the PTM, declaring the group and organiser anti-state. Although, the ban on the jirga was lifted on the intervention of the provincial government at the eleventh hour, the restrictions resulted in the event hardly being reported in the mainstream media.

What made the assembly significant was the wide-ranging participation — from rights groups to the leaders of almost all

major political parties. The gathering took place at a time when the province has been hit by another wave of terrorism. Administrative control appears to have completely failed in some of the districts with the return of armed militants. Attacks on the security forces have become routine, raising fears of yet another military operation taking its toll on the civilian population.

The scale of destruction, both in terms of human and financial losses in the province over two decades of violence, was highlighted in statistics provided at the assembly. According to the estimates, as many as 76,584 people, including 1,375 tribal elders and 3,000 clerics, died in bomb blasts and targeted killings, and at least 6,700 people went 'missing' over this period. It was claimed that 5.7m people had been displaced by the military operations, out of which 2.3m were still homeless.

Mounting public despair in KP is evident. The younger generation has borne the brunt of the devastation. Many young people, born during the conflict, do not see any fu-

ture for themselves without education. The cost of the violence is still being counted. The return of militancy has been extremely unsettling for people living in the violence-hit areas. They live in the constant dread of once again being caught in the midst of militant violence and action by the security forces.

Most worrisome is the public's growing distrust of the state and the security forces, which was manifested in the speeches and resolution passed at the conclusion of the jirga. The assembly resolved to fight against militancy, while PTM leaders also wanted the security forces to leave the former tribal districts that have been at the centre of the violence.

It's certainly a very extreme demand and a very dangerous one, too. However, one needs to look at the reasons behind the growing public distrust of the state. It's especially alarming as the security forces have been the main targets of the militants, who now seem to be better equipped.

There has been a widespread perception

that the state does not possess the resolve to fight militancy. The distrust had increased with the disastrous decision of the security establishment to engage in negotiations with the banned TTP some years ago under the pressure of the Taliban government in Kabul and to allow thousands of militants to return home.

That flawed policy led to a resurgence in TTP activities. The militants, whose leadership is still based in Afghanistan, changed their strategy and, instead of carrying out terrorist attacks in public places, they are now focused on targeting the security forces and police. Hundreds of security personnel have lost their lives in militant attacks over the last few years. Yet, the distrust is too wide to be bridged. There are still questions about whether the establishment has really abandoned its old policy of protecting what are being described as the 'good Taliban'.

No too long ago, police in Bannu district went on a strike against the alleged conduct of the security forces. There are also

questions whether the state has a clear and comprehensive strategy to deal with the new militancy challenge. The high number of casualties borne by the security forces in what is described as 'intelligence-based operations' is intriguing.

It seems that the militants are gaining ground, notwithstanding the claims of an effective counterterrorism campaign being conducted. It is apparent that militancy cannot be fought without public confidence in the security forces. Unfortunately, this seems to be missing. The demand for the security forces to leave the troubled areas is certainly not workable.

Political instability and worsening confrontation between the federal and provincial (KP) governments also seems to have affected the state's capacity to fight militancy more effectively. There seems to be no coordination between the two on the issue. The increasing involvement of the establishment in political manipulation has also been the reason behind the lack of public

confidence in the security forces.

This lack of coordination between the federal and provincial governments has been more pronounced in the events of the last one week. In a knee-jerk reaction, Islamabad proscribed the PTM just a few days before the jirga. It was apparent that the provincial government was not taken on the board regarding a decision that would have a direct bearing on the province. Many have questioned the decision to ban an organisation (formed by young Pakhtuns who, along with their families, had been directly affected by the conflict) which opposes the TTP.

Some of its radical nationalist rhetoric may come in conflict with state policy, but banning an organisation not involved in violence will not help the fight against the TTP. It was a wise decision by the provincial government to allow the PTM to hold the jirga, though it is not clear whether the ban on the group has now been withdrawn. — Courtesy Dawn

Strategic trade shift

Aqdas Afzal

As the world's attention remains squarely focused on geopolitical conflicts, a silent revolution is reshaping global trade by linking trade, innovation and national security.

Given such momentous changes, Pakistan appears behind the curve by still hoping for free trade agreements with neighbouring countries such as India. As such, Pakistan's policymakers will need to develop strategic clarity before opening the country's borders to free trade.

The Washington Consensus, centred on free markets and deregulation, dominated post-Cold War economic thinking. However, China's rapid economic rise and the resulting loss of millions of US manufacturing jobs forced a rethink of free trade policies.

Bringing China into the free trade regime was supposed to turn that country into a Western-style liberal democracy. Instead, China's massive economic capabilities sucked millions of jobs out of industrial American cities like Detroit. According to an estimate by Janet Yellen, US treasury secretary, two million manufac-

turing jobs have disappeared since China joined the WTO in 2001.

At the same time, China's economic muscle has enabled hefty increases in military spending. This increased spending and millions of locally available engineers have enabled China to develop state-of-the-art armament, such as the Y-20 transporter plane that can carry several tanks over 7,800 kilometres, signalling expeditionary warfare capabilities.

To be sure, China's 'hard power' is moving in tandem with China's burgeoning 'soft power', increasingly on display through the Belt and Road Initiative as well as through development institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Such exponential increases in China's power have led analysts to predict China creating a new economic and political order.

Facing an existential challenge from China, the US finally turned away from the Washington Consensus in 2017. Robert Lighthizer, US trade representative under Donald Trump, was instrumental in developing a set of 'America First' economic policies that brought

down the curtain on free trade.

In No Trade is Free, Lighthizer highlighted the US trade deficit, which had reached \$921 billion in 2022, as a key statistic and argued that free trade had led to the loss of US manufacturing, stagnation of American wages, as well as the deterioration of America's strategic position against China.

In order to regain strategic dominance, Lighthizer proposed a new Washington Consensus for the US. Lighthizer convinced Trump to slap a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium imports, as well as impose similar tariffs on 75pc of Chinese exports to the US, while forcing Canada and Mexico to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The new Washington Consensus has gained wide currency in the US, as even after his election in 2020, President Joe Biden largely continued Trump's policy by keeping these tariffs in place. Actually, Biden took this new thinking even further by implementing a comprehensive industrial policy, using state power and public resources to build and maintain the capacity to

produce specific manufactures, including electric vehicles and semiconductors.

If Trump wins the election in 2024, the 'Maganomics' economic agenda will entail a radical extension of policies introduced during his first term. For instance, in the case of Chinese imports, Trump has talked about increasing tariffs to 60pc. By doubling down on his earlier attempts to wean the US off free trade, Trump hopes to restore manufacturing jobs despite concerns that his tariffs will disproportionately impact low-income households to the tune of an extra \$2,600 per year.

Even Vice President Kamala Harris' economic vision is not much different. It is expected that once in the White House, she will largely continue in the same direction set by Biden, who, after accusing China of "overcapacity", increased tariffs on a whole slew of Chinese imports. In other words, the US will keep moving away from free trade regardless of whoever is in the White House.

European policymakers have also taken a leaf out of the American playbook on the economy. In a recent report,

Mario Draghi proposes a paradigm shift for economic policy in Europe as Europeans seem to have been caught flat-footed by relying just on free trade. One of the report's main recommendations calls on European countries to channel savings towards investment, R&D spending and academic excellence or, in essence, an expansive industrial policy that will assist Europe regain its trade competitiveness.

Against the backdrop of such a fundamental shift in economic thinking, any proposal for free trade between Pakistan and India needs to be carefully scrutinised lest it creates a strategic disadvantage for Pakistan.

First, Pakistan and India should certainly pursue peaceful relations, but the idea that trade will boost peace between the two neighbours is not entirely convincing.

Despite vast bilateral trade, the rivalry between the US and China is only becoming more intense.

Second, even though untapped trade potential between Pakistan and India is often touted, trade with India will be no boon for Pakistan as it would lead to

a hefty trade surplus favouring India. For 2018, a year that can be considered the last year of 'normalised' trade between the two countries, Pakistan's exports to India covered only 23pc of imports.

Last, given the technological gap between the two countries, where Pakistan comes at 91 and India at 39 in the 2024 rankings of the Global Innovation Index, our quantum of low-value added exports would need to continuously increase every year to pay for high-value added imports from India. In a sense, given the technological gap, Pakistan would suffer from deteriorating terms of trade.

Global economic thinking has shifted from free trade to strategic trade, where state power now shapes competitive advantage. In order to play this new game, Pakistan must prioritise strengthening its industrial base and innovation capacity.

To that end, Pakistan's policymakers would do well to focus on increasing Pakistan's exports competitiveness by means of a comprehensive industrial and innovation policy rather than falling headfirst into free trade with India.

Clearing the air

Zofeen T. Ebrahim

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's historic visit — historic because the last official visit to Pakistan by an Indian foreign minister was undertaken by his predecessor, Sushma Swaraj, in 2015 to attend a conference — comes at a time when the air in the federal capital is at its crispest. There is just the right amount of nippriness in the evening air for a hot cup of the popular pink Kashmiri chai to produce the perfect warmth — and thus thwart the toxic air between India and Pakistan.

The high-level, 11-country SCO summit, which Mr Jaishankar and his delegation are attending, also comes at the start of the smog season. That is why climate experts in both India and Pakistan agree that, given the stalled formal bilateral talks between the two nuclear neighbours, the two can at least take baby steps and discuss shared issues which are likely to generate less mistrust, scepticism and suspicion because of scientific evidence.

The conversation can begin with air pollution, since we share and breathe the same air. According to the World Bank, an estimated total of 1.5 billion people in the two countries are exposed to this form of pollution. Yesterday's air quality data by IQAir showed Delhi and Lahore ranking as the second and fourth cities with the worst air quality.

Environment lawyer Ahmad Rafay Alam believes clean air should be an obvious agenda item for discussion at the summit. In fact, it would have made sense, he says, to hold the meeting in Lahore so that the attendees could view acclaimed British artist Dryden Goodwin's art

work titled Breathe, which highlights air pollution in Lahore through posters, digital billboards and projections on multiple sites across the city. This piece of art is part of the ongoing Lahore Biennale 03. According to Alam, Goodwin's work takes the discussion on air pollution out of the dryness of policy language and speaks directly to the heart. Abid Omar, a clean air campaigner, also the artist's model, said there was time still and the digital artwork can be projected on the façade of important buildings in Islamabad, as well as Karachi, even after the summit is over, as it will inform and educate the masses.

To understand how deadly air pollution can be, one must understand the real culprit: inhalable particulate matter, which has a diameter of 2.5 micrometres and is finer than the finest human hair (which has a diameter of about 70µm) and is visible only under an electron microscope. When inhaled, it affects your heart and lungs. Research has found a connection between air pollution and the health of newborn babies — low birthweight, miscarriages and stillbirths. And, among young children, these particles can cause asthma, a reduction in brain volume, behavioural dysfunction, and impaired lung growth. It's a scary thought, but imagine South Asia burdened by a generation of unhealthy children, many of whom may not live to become adults.

But this particulate matter does not stay put or respect borders. It travels long distances. Similarly, the air above us and across the region.

Therefore, cleaning up the air in your own city or country is an exercise in futility, since there are

six air sheds over the South Asian region in which the polluted air remains trapped and that can lead to an estimated two million premature deaths in the region.

Thus, a shared problem requires a shared strategy to eliminate it. It is time to move from bickering over which country spews the most poison and work together to overcome the challenge.

At a meeting organised last week in Nairobi by the UK-based Con-ciliation Re-so-urces between Indian and Pa-kistani exp-er-its, ambassad-o-rs, journalists and parliame-narians, air pollution exp-e-rt-s, dismissing the silo-ed approach, and recommended greater cross-border engagement between the two countries in the form of knowledge-sharing and by treating the issue as a year-round problem rather than a seasonal event that gets underway with the onset of winter and as smog engulfs the two Punjab.

There were discussions on developing a long-term strategy for diversification of crop-ping patterns, capacity building of ju-d-ges, lawyers, members of parliament and doctors, and sharing best practices so as not to reinvent the wheel.

For example, India's 2017 Odisha Millet Mission — a transition to a more equitable food system that has brought millet back on the farmer's radar and people's menu — can be tweaked and replicated in Pakistan. Millet is a hardy, climate-smart grain and an ideal choice for areas prone to drought and heat stresses.

Similarly, tested practices that failed or were not the best ones for the region, can also be shared so as not to repeat mistakes and erroneous technologies. — Courtesy Dawn

Disunited nations

Mahir Ali

The inability of the UN to facilitate the primary goal set out in its hopeful charter nearly eight decades ago, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war", stands out in stark relief every time failure greets its efforts to halt ongoing hostilities. That depressing pattern was established not long after the UN was set up in 1945.

It has, since then, vastly expanded in terms of both membership and subsidiary or affiliated organisations, many of which can be credited with worthy achievements in tricky environments — alongside grave inadequacies that reflect structural problems or funding deficiencies. Nor can anyone ignore the abuse of the UN as a platform for aggression, as in the case of the first major post-World War II conflagration, the Korean War, an ideologically motivated US-led intervention that was technically a UN operation.

Half a century later, a similar effort to obtain the UN Security Council's imprimatur for unwarranted aggression against Iraq fell short of US expectations. There can be little doubt, though, that the way the UNSC is constituted militates against the UN's purported mission "to maintain international peace and security". Talk of reform often focuses on expanding and/or restructuring the UNSC's permanent membership, which excludes the Global South.

India is one of the main contenders, alongside the likes of Brazil and Nigeria. The UK boasted a vast empire in 1945, but is barely able to govern itself 80 years later; besides, its foreign policy inclinations are barely distinguishable from those of the US. France is marginally more independent,

but not necessarily an adequate representative of Europe.

Apart from a membership reshuffle, it is vital to restrict or, better still, abolish the veto power of permanent members. Permitting its exercise becomes particularly absurd when one or more of these members are themselves engaged in unjustified hostilities or other violations of the UN Charter, or closely allied with an offensive belligerent. For instance, what are the chances of a binding resolution aimed at halting Russia's aggression against Ukraine, or castigating China for violating the rights of its Uighur and Tibetan minorities? And the US, naturally, has protected Israel against even mild reprimands.

But even worthwhile resolutions that are passed don't resolve anything if they are ignored by the relevant parties. They are dug out every now and then for rhetorical purposes, then returned to the archival graveyard that is destined to be their final resting place. The goals portended in efforts led by other UN bodies on sustainable development, climate change or the environment often meet a similar fate. Their implementation remains an aspiration.

Empowering resolutions passed by, say, a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly — weighted according to population — might be a possible alternative to tussles in the UNSC. It was alarming, though, to see some of the loudest voices in the assembly's 79th session last month representing a council of war rather than recipes for peace. If Benjamin Netanyahu was, predictably, the worst offender, Russia's Sergey Lavrov wasn't far behind, and both Pakistan's prime

minister and India's foreign minister contributed to the antagonistic atmosphere. Some of the wisest speeches were made by South American leaders. Chile's Gabriel Boric, for instance, declared: "I refuse to choose between the terror of Hamas or the genocide carried out by Netanyahu's Israel; we have no reason to choose between barbarities — I choose humanity."

That, ultimately, is what the UN is supposed to be all about. It has frequently faltered, but its shortfalls and demonstrated impotence at crucial junctures testify not to its irrelevance but to its structural deficiencies. In his role as secretary-general, former Portuguese PM António Guterres has generally tended to be wise. He probably did not expect to be declared persona non grata by a member state, let alone that only 104 nations would leap to his defence in an initiative laudably led by Chile. But then, Israel has never been a fan of advocates for human rights or peace, as demonstrated by its crusade against UN peacekeepers in Lebanon and the UN Relief and Works Agency that has helped to sustain Palestinian refugees since 1948.

Perhaps the best way of halting Israel's genocidal ambitions would be the kind of international boycott, divestment and sanctions that persuaded an earlier apartheid state to opt for a non-racial democracy. Alternatively, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris could stop providing Israel with the means to perpetrate the evil that has expanded from Gaza to the West Bank and Lebanon, with Iran in the crosshairs. In all too many ways, the UN's relevance depends on which way the US goes, regardless of who wins next month's presidential election. — Courtesy Dawn

Kuki Khel tribe ends 75 days long sit in Torkham Road

PESHAWAR (APP): A Jirga of elders from the Kuki Khel tribe of District Khyber called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, on Wednesday at the Chief Minister's House and held extensive consultations on the issue of repatriation of temporary displaced people of Kuki Khel tribe to their native areas.

MNA Iqbal Afridi, MPAs Sohail Afridi and Abdul Ghani Afridi, Commissioner Peshawar, Secretary Relief, Deputy Commissioner Khyber and others were also present on the occasion.

It was agreed in the meeting to immediately initiate the registration process for the return of residents to areas which have been cleared whereas for the remaining displaced families, it was decided to hold a meeting with the relevant institutions next week to develop a timeline and action plan for their

repatriation. Following the Chief Minister's assurance, the Jirga announced the cancellation of a proposed march towards Tirah and ended their sit-in on the Torkham Road, which had been staged for the last 75 days.

The Jirga expressed full confidence in the Chief Minister's commitment for the repatriation of the displaced persons and lauded his leading role in resolving the issue of October 11, peacefully.

"The Chief Minister's wisdom and able leadership prevented bloodshed and resolved the issue in peaceful manner" they remarked and expressed profound appreciation for his crucial role in this regard and said "As the Chief Minister had successfully resolved the October 11 and Bannu issues, we trust that he will also address our concerns", they remarked.

Chief Minister Ali

Amin Gandapur appreciated the Kuki Khel elders for reposing trust to resolve the issue and assured them that he would make every possible efforts to live up to their expectations. He stated that a meeting with relevant stakeholders would be held next week to finalize a plan for the repatriation and rehabilitation of the displaced people.

He said that the tribal people have made tremendous sacrifices in the war against terrorism, leaving their homes and enduring hardships for the sake of peace in the country. He reassured them that the return and resettlement of these people is a priority of his government.

On the occasion, the chief minister directed the relevant authorities to commence the process for procurement of necessary items for the return and resettlement of the displaced families.



LAHORE: Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman presides over the 48th meeting of Punjab Pension Fund Management Committee.

Minister chairs Standing Committee on Interfaith Harmony meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora chaired a meeting of the Punjab Regional Standing Committee on Interfaith Harmony during his visit to Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) office, here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by FPCCI Vice President and Regional Chairman Zaki Aijaz, Convener Saleem Shakir, Director Rabia Dar, and other executive committee members.

The agenda included detailed discussions on minority affairs, human

rights, and economic development. Various proposals were presented, including providing scholarships for business people, appointing a focal person from the Department of Minority Affairs to liaise with the chamber, introducing a Minority Card similar to the Himmat Card, and establishing a Minority Development Fund under the Evacuee Trust Property Board. Zaki Aijaz highlighted FPCCI's Vision 2030, emphasizing the goal of increasing exports to US \$ 100 billion. He also stressed the importance of interfaith harmony for global peace.

Minister vows to soon make KP universities financially stable

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan on Wednesday said that soon the public sector universities of the province would be made financially stable.

He said that for this purpose, the provincial government has divided the universities into different categories.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Jinnah Residential Colony



MULTAN: MNA Syed Ali Qasim Gillani inaugurating the NADRA office on Sher Shah Road near Muzaffarabad.

Court orders transfer of reference against ex-MD Pak Rail to special court

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Wednesday ordered the transfer of a corruption reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against former managing director of Pakistan Railways, Zahoor Khattak, and others to the Special Court (Central) in Lahore.

The court ruled that due to amendments in the anti-graft watchdog's law, which limited its jurisdiction, it can no longer hear cases involving amounts less than Rs. 500 million. The accused are

now required to appear before the Special Court (Central) for further proceedings, it added.

Accountability Court Judge Nadeem Gulzar passed the order while allowing an application filed by the accused for the transfer of the reference to the Special Court (Central). The accused had submitted that the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the matter as the Supreme Court had restored the amendments in the NAB law and set aside its earlier verdict, which struck down the amendments.

4 dead as vehicle overturns in Vehari

VEHARI (APP): Four members of a family were killed on the spot after a speedy vehicle overturned in Vehari district of Punjab on Wednesday.

As per details, rescue sources said that the incident occurred near the Ladan area of Vehari where the vehicle overturned when the driver slept while driving, private news channels reported.

The rescue officials stated that the incident reportedly claimed the lives of four family members who were on their way back from Lahore.

11 dead, 1,484 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,484 others injured in 1,395 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 641 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 843 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 806 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 185 pedestrians, and 504 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 282 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 318 people, followed by Multan with 93 accidents and 87 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 87 accidents and 94 victims.

World White Cane Day observed

KOHAT (APP): In connection with World White Cane Day a formal function was held at Nistar Special Education Center KDA here on Wednesday.

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram, and attended by the district officer Social Welfare Amjad Afridi, Principal Nistar Special Education Center Kohat and special persons. The objective of celebrating White Cane Day is to create awareness in the society regarding the rights of disabled, special persons and to mobilize all stakeholders to collectively work in this respect.

Deputy Commissioner Kohat, in his address said that the White Cane is not just a walking stick for the blind but it is a symbol of their identity and dignity.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presents Marilina Armellini, Italian Ambassador to Pakistan with a replica of the iconic The Priest-King an ancient artefact from the Bronze Age civilization of Mohenjo Daro, at CM House in Karachi.

Maryam says students misled to run a 'malicious' campaign

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said on Wednesday that a mountain was made out of a molehill to malign the image of Pakistan.

Addressing the media here in connection with an alleged rape of a college student, she said an issue was made about something that did not exist.

She said students were misled to run an "ugly" campaign. "A girl was named as a victim. The girl had been admitted to the hospital since October 2 and was in the ICU."

She said that the police received information that the incident of rape had taken place. After which the police took immediate action.

Chief Minister Maryam said this campaign was based on lies. "That girl is not a victim of rape,

she is a victim of dirty politics."

A conspiracy was hatched after failing to spread anarchy, she said and added that those who hatched the conspiracy would be taken to task.

She criticised the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and said that it made this very dangerous plan after failing [to fulfil their agenda]. "SCO meeting is being held in Pakistan after a long time. Inflation is decreasing. The stock market is soaring. The country has been progressing."

"I call the PTI a terrorist party. Their agenda is to ruin Pakistan when it is put on path to progress."

The chief minister said a story was fabricated. False accusations were made against the girl. Police wanted to be complainant. But, I think, the Punjab

government should be a complainant as this is not just the case of one girl.

"Now I have come to the conclusion that after repeatedly failing in mustering support for its protest demonstrations and rallies, the party has hatched another conspiracy to bring a bad name to the government."

The CM said that the SCO summit had been held in Islamabad and the country was on the path to progress. "But the problem with the PTI is that it does not want Pakistan to prosper. Because, if it does that, its popularity receives a blow."

Calling a few anchors on mainstream media as well as those running YouTube channels PTI-paid, she said they were also part of the conspiracy.



LAHORE: Renowned Religious Scholar Dr. Zakir Naik meeting with Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain.

CM KP inaugurates Jalojai housing scheme, sports complex

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday inaugurated a low-cost housing scheme under the Naya Pakistan Housing Program in Jalojai, Nowshera.

The project spans 150 kanals and carries an estimated cost of Rs3,300 million. The housing scheme will consist of 1,320 low-cost apartments, each with a covered area of 780 square feet. The scheme is targeted at individuals with a monthly income of less than Rs 50,000. To make the apartments more affordable, the federal government has provided a

subsidy of Rs300,000, while the provincial government has contributed a subsidy of PKR 400,000 per unit.

In addition to the housing scheme, the Chief Minister also inaugurated a Sports Complex in Jalojai. The complex, with a project cost of Rs. 170 million, features squash courts, a futsal ground, artificial tennis, and basketball courts. A 500-meter-long jogging track is also part of the facility.

The central park within the project covers 42 kanals, while 8 kanals are dedicated to sports facilities, offering residents a range of recreational activities.

Minister stresses collaboration with JICA on health projects

LAHORE (APP): Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir has called for an action plan on maternal and child health projects in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

During a review meeting of public health projects in cooperation with the JICA on Wednesday, he requested an operational plan for JICA's maternal and child health project within a

week. He emphasised that he would personally oversee the ongoing health sector initiatives facilitated by JICA in Punjab.

Highlighting JICA's critical role, Khawaja Imran Nazir stated that the Japanese agency has been providing significant financial support for various developmental projects in the province. He praised JICA for launching a pilot project on maternal and child health in three tehsils of the Multan.



KARACHI: Relatives offering Fathia, on the occasion of the death anniversary of the first Prime Minister of the country Liaquat Ali Khan.

Dialogue on Judicial reforms at Governor House held

PESHAWAR (APP): The Human Rights Cell of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) organized the fourth seminar titled "Dialogue on Judicial Reforms" at the Governor House here on Wednesday.

The event focused on discussing necessary reforms within the country's judicial system.

Key speakers included Farhatullah Babar President of the PPP Human Rights Cell, Ahmad Karim Kundi Member of the Provincial Assembly and General Secretary Malaika Raza, alongside various legal experts. Attendees comprised legal and political professionals as well as representatives from civil society.

The speakers emphasized the importance of constitutional amendments to ensure judicial representation

across all provinces.

They said that constitutional courts remain an incomplete aspect of the Charter of Democracy and reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to fundamental rights and the rule of law.

It was highlighted that over 50 democratic countries have established constitutional courts, positioning every Pakistani citizen as a vital stakeholder in these proposed amendments.

The President of the Pakistan Labour Federation (PLF) commended the PPP Human Rights Cell for fostering dialogue with legal experts and civil society, asserting that the party's chairman is uniquely engaging the public by sharing the draft of the constitutional amendments.



KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program, Rubina Khalid talking to media persons after visiting BISP Nasho Noma Centre.

Chairperson BISP visits Benazir Nashonuma Centre

KARACHI (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Wednesday visited the BISP's Benazir Nashonuma Centre at Pir Ilahi Bux Colony here.

Speaking about the objective of her visit, she said that the purpose is to inspect the standard of the facilities and services being provided at the Center.

She also lauded the Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho and said the contribution of Dr. Azra in the health sector is outstanding.

She said that growth stunting is a serious challenge and if it is not addressed in the two years, it becomes irreversible and that is the reason behind launching of Benazir Nashonuma program under the BISP.

Our beneficiaries under this program are being provided cash as well as food supplement to improve health of mothers and children, she added.

Senator Rubina Khalid said that around 9.3 million current beneficiaries of the BISP are expected to cross 10 million by the 2025. The BISP was the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to help the people below the poverty line. This program provides assistance to the women and also helps them get identity, she added.

She said that the process of registration under the BISP is continuing and a large number of women are being registered under it.

She said that we also moving toward skill development program and the children of our beneficiaries would also be provided skills training to help them get employment.

Senator Rubina Khalid said that Benazir Nashonuma Centre meant to address the issues of stunting growth of children which helps the woman throughout pregnancy period and up-to two years of age of the child.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Transport, Sharjeel Inam Memon take keen interest in E-Turbo new electric bikes (e-bike) during the launching ceremony held at local hotel in Karachi.

Commissioner reviews progress on Lahore development plan

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood chaired a divisional meeting focused on the Lahore development plan and district development schemes, here on Wednesday. The meeting presented the Lahore development plan, alongside various district-level schemes for approval. A total of 94 schemes from the Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) and 114 schemes from the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) were submitted for approval. Each scheme was thoroughly reviewed by the working committee chaired by the Commissioner. During the meeting, Assistant Commissioners from relevant areas briefed the committee on the details of each development scheme under the Lahore Development Plan.

Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood emphasized that the Chief Minister of

Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is focusing on the development of neglected and underprivileged areas within the city. He assured that all projects under the Lahore Development Plan will be monitored continuously to ensure transparency and sustainability. The working committee approved all the schemes presented and directed that a comprehensive review be undertaken to avoid duplication of projects.

The Commissioner also instructed that agencies such as PTCL and Sui Gas be notified that no digging will be allowed after the implementation of the Lahore Development Plan. Additionally, four road sector schemes from Kasur were also presented for approval.

Commissioner Lahore stressed the importance of adhering to quality standards and timelines for the completion of each development scheme.

Smallholder Farmers FFC Ltd and ZTBL sign Industry-First MOU to enhance financial access

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited and Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL) have entered into a groundbreaking partnership to promote financial inclusion and support for smallholder farmers in Pakistan. This collaboration aims to integrate farmers into the formal financial system while providing them with essential agricultural resources and innovative solutions to enhance

Yaqoob Bhatti, President & CEO of ZTBL. The ceremony, attended by senior officials from both organizations, marked a significant step toward empowering farmers and addressing Pakistan's agricultural challenges.

Mr. Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer of Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, emphasized the importance of the partnership, stating, "This MOU strengthens our mission to provide smallholder farmers with



productivity and livelihoods. This is the first-of-its-kind agreement in the industry, pioneering a new way forward for agricultural financing and farmer empowerment.

The MOU was formally signed by Mr. Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer of Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, and Mr. Tahir

the tools they need to improve productivity and contribute to Pakistan's food security. By combining our innovative solutions with ZTBL's financial services, we are not only empowering farmers but also pioneering our way ahead in sustainable agricultural practices across the country."

Taxation Reforms: FPCCI & FBR to join forces: Atif

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that, in a milestone development, FPCCI and FBR have agreed to consult, collaborate and synergize on a comprehensive taxation reforms agenda. This is the only way forward for the economy of Pakistan as revenue generation provides the very basis of any country's fiscal policies and development plan – nonetheless, the same needs to be done in a consultative, inclusive and pragmatic manner, he added.

It is pertinent to note that Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), paid a detailed visit to the Head Office of FPCCI – the apex body – at the Federation House, Karachi. He was accompanied by c-level FBR team and senior officials from various FBR departments, who collectively responded to questions from senior trade, industry and media representatives.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh reiterated his earlier stance that the two guiding

principles of any taxation reforms in Pakistan should be broadening of the tax-base and simplification of the taxation system; coupled with rationalization of tax rates, facilitation and incentivizing taxation culture.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, presented the principled apprehensions and demands of FPCCI. He observed that FBR's revenue target is PKR. 12.97 trillion – representing a 40 percent YoY increase – while the economy is growing at only 2 percent. This is huge cause of concern for the business community; and, may result in new taxes, mini budgets and taxing the already taxed even further.

E Turbo Motors launches cheapest EV motorbikes in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): E Turbo Motors has set a new benchmark in Pakistan's electric vehicle (EV) industry by introducing the cheapest and fastest EV motorcycles in the country. In this regard, an inaugural ceremony was held here on Wednesday, the senior minister Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon was the special guest of the event. Consuls General of various countries, CEOs of various organizations belonging to the corporate sector, media representatives and other guests also participated in the event.

The motorcycles introduced by eTurbo Motors can easily travel up to 300 km on a single charge, which is an affordable and eco-friendly solution to the growing transportation needs in Pakistan. With the vision of Green Pakistan, the company has set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with

an initial production capacity of 10,000 units per annum with an extensive capital investment of Rs 500 million in the SITE area to expand the market demand base. Senior Minister Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed his best wishes for the project and said that the launch of eTurbo Motors is an important step towards fulfilling Pakistan's green energy ambitions. This investment will not only help meet the country's environmental goals but also create employment opportunities.

He felicitated eTurbo Motors on achieving important milestone. The CEO of eTurbo Motors, Sheikh Osama Nadeem said that our vision is to provide affordable, environment-friendly and reliable means of transportation for every Pakistani. We have designed our motorcycle range to meet the needs of different segments.



QUETTA: A delegation of Traders meeting with Senior Vice President Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Akhtar Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan meeting with Iran's Minister for Industry, Mining, and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, during the SCO 2024 summit. The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade, industrial cooperation, and regional economic ties.

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan vow to boost bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to boost economic cooperation, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan here on Wednesday recognized significant potential for increasing trade between the two countries, which currently is valued at just US\$ 8.63 million.

The discussion for improving bilateral trade was made during a meeting between Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Cheema and Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, Daniyar Amangeldiev and his delegation on the sidelines of SCO Summit.

Pakistan's exports to Kyrgyzstan stand at US\$ 3.33 million, while imports from the Central Asian

nation reached US\$ 5.3 million in the fiscal year 2022-23.

On the occasion, Cheema vowed to enhance trade between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan and highlighted the need to enhance these figures and address the existing trade imbalance.

He expressed appreciation for the Kyrgyz delegation's participation in the 23rd Council of Heads of Government meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Islamabad, according to press release issued by Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

The Minister expressed eagerness to host the upcoming 5th Session of the IGC in Islamabad and reiterated Pakistan's dedication to strengthening ties through this mechanism.

Moreover, various sectors for mutual cooperation were discussed, including trade, agriculture, energy, mining, digital development, tourism, health, banking, and education.

He also emphasized on the importance of convening Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to foster collaboration in key sectors such as agriculture and trade.



Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman FBR, is addressing senior representatives of business community and media at FPCCI Head Office, Federation House, Karachi.

Zubair sees bright economic prospects for Pakistan with China's help

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former governor Sindh Mohammad Zubair Wednesday expressed optimism about Pakistan's economic future, hoping that China's leadership will play a significant role in making Pakistan's economy brighter and believes that Pak-Russia relations will also provide better opportunities for the country's economic growth.

Talking to a Private news channel, he highlighted the benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and how it will connect Pakistan with the entire world.

Zubair also elaborated on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, describing it as a

shining example of cooperation and mutual respect.

He highlighted the multifaceted relationship between the two nations, which has grown from strength to strength over the years.

Zubair emphasized that China's unwavering support for Pakistan on regional and international platforms has been a source of strength for the country. He also noted that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, creating new opportunities for growth and development.

The former governor expressed his optimism that the Pakistan-China friendship will continue to flourish in the years to come, bringing prosperity

Gold prices up by Rs.2,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs. 2,200 and was sold at Rs. 277,200 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 275,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,886 to Rs. 237,654 from Rs. 235,768 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 217,850 from Rs. 216,121, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,614.88, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$22 to \$2,675 from \$2,653.



SIALKOT: A group photograph of Additional Director Staff (NIM) Hina Khalid, National Institute of Management, Lahore, President Ikram ul Haq, with Business community during visit SCCL.

RTO Peshawar holds seminar on sales tax declaration

PESHAWAR (APP): On the directives of the Chief Commissioner of Inland Revenue Yasir Ali, the Regional Tax Office (RTO) Peshawar organized a special seminar on the importance of the Sales Tax Declaration.

Besides Zonal Commissioners, Mohammad Nawaz, Dr Farooq Jameel, Shaheed Mehboob, Fazle Subhan and Ishfaq Mahmood, the Chief Finance Officers (CFOs)/Accounts of the 25 large business sectors including cement, steel, textile and beverages attended the seminar on the special invitation, according to a press release issued here on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Commissioner Peshawar Zone, Dr Farooq Jameel gave a detailed presentation on accurate tax declaration, sales tax returns, attached documents and benefits of the accurate input tax claim and the consequences of the wrong declaration.

He also highlighted the sales tax theft and fraud and termed it poisonous for the economy. A playback video of the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

CGPA hosts Public-Private dialogue to empower women entrepreneurs in Charsadda

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA), in partnership with the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) Charsadda, held a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Tuesday, aimed at improving the business environment for women entrepreneurs in Charsadda.

The event concluded with an interactive session, allowing attendees to share experiences and propose solutions to strengthen the local business ecosystem.

This initiative is part of CGPA's ongoing efforts to support women entrepreneurs and promote inclusive growth through public-private partnerships.

The dialogue focused on addressing challenges faced by women-led businesses and identifying strategies for enhancing access to resources and support.

CGPA highlighted the need for stronger business infrastructure to promote women's entrepreneurship and foster public-private cooperation.

The event facilitated collaboration between local Elected and District administration officials and women business leaders.

Participants including the President of WCCI Charsadda, local women entrepreneurs, the Additional Deputy Commissioner & Assistant Commissioner of Charsadda Participated.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Cheema in meeting with Kyrgyz Finance Minister Daniyar Amangeldiev.

80 Pakistani Companies Participate in GITEG Global 2024 in Dubai

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Sajjad Mustafa Syed, Chairman of Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), has said that Pakistan – as the Tech Destination – made a remarkable impact at GITEG Global 2024 in Dubai with the grand inauguration of Pakistan Pavilion and the much-anticipated Pakistan Night, hosted by P@SHA and the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) in coordination.

Mr. Syed added that these events showcased Pakistan's dynamic IT sector and magnified its status as the official Tech Destination of the Year by GITEG Global. He apprised that the inauguration ceremony

notably featured H. E. Mr. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, ambassador of Pakistan UAE; high-ranking officials from Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC); Muhammad Umair Nizam, Senior Vice Chairman P@SHA; Raheel Iqbal, Vice Chairman P@SHA and CEOs of some of the top IT companies of Pakistan.

P@SHA Chief maintained that being celebrated as Tech Destination of the Year on a global platform is no less than a game-changer; and, sets the stage for exponential growth in IT & ITeS exports of the country – if capitalized through consistency in trade, taxation, SME, IT industry and STZA related policies.



SIALKOT: A group photograph of Additional Director Staff (NIM) Hina Khalid, National Institute of Management, Lahore, President Ikram ul Haq, with Business community during visit SCCL.

KP Minister directs completion of saffron seeds purchase

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Minister for Agriculture Major (Rtd) Sajjad Barakwal has directed that the process of purchasing saffron seeds should be completed within a week and suitable land should be selected for its successful cultivation and substantial increase in production.

He issued these directives while presiding over the meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Agriculture Department here on Wednesday.

Besides, Secretary Agriculture, Atta-ur-Rehman, Director Generals of all wings of the department and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

He said that a joint coordination committee should be formed in all the districts of the province in which the district directors of all wings of the agriculture department will be members. Committee will help in co-operation between all the wings of the Agriculture Department at the district level and adopt a common plan of action.

A committee was also formed to monitor the

process so that Saffron cultivation can be timely. Provincial minister Sajjad Barakwal directed to take immediate steps for the establishment of a research center for the improvement of irrigation in the agricultural sector.

For the timely completion of the ongoing projects Sajjad Barakwal said that the projects for which the funds have been allocated should be completed on time and the funds for the completion of the schemes should be used in a transparent manner so that the farmers get relief and their crops increase significantly.

He emphasized that any kind of delay and negligence in this regard will not be tolerated and a report on the utilization of funds and completion of projects should be submitted within a week.

Provincial Minister for Agriculture directed the relevant officers to establish the best links for agricultural development in the province and to form a joint coordination committee at the district level for this purpose, adding that the officers.



LAHORE: People busy in purchasing fruits and vegetable at a market on the occasion of World Food Day in the provincial capital.

PSX stays bullish, gains 365 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 365.32 more points, a positive change of 0.43 percent, closing at 86,205.66 points against 85,840.34 points on the last trading day.

A total of 474,333,405 shares were traded during the day as compared to 422,107,359 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 26.942 billion against Rs. 24.467 billion on the last trading day. As many as 445 companies transacted their shares in the stock market,

227 of them recorded gains and 150 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 68 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were The Searle Company with 26,011,365 shares at Rs 63.32 per share, Hub Power Company with 24,345,667 shares at Rs 101.73 per share and Hum Network with 22,574,161 shares at Rs 14.24 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 156.55 per share price, closing at Rs 17,634.00, whereas the runner-up was Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited with Rs 138.57 rise in its per share.

Israeli strikes kill 21 in Lebanon, including in a town with a dark history of civilian deaths

Monitoring Desk
QANA: Israeli airstrikes pounded areas across Lebanon, killing at least 21 people, officials said Wednesday, including more than a dozen in a southern town where Israeli bombardments in previous conflicts are seared into local memory.

Elsewhere in the south, a city's mayor was among the dead in a strike that Lebanese officials said targeted a meeting coordinating relief efforts.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the strikes late Tuesday on the southern town of Qana, where 15 people were killed. Associated Press photos and video of the scene showed several flattened buildings and others with their top floors collapsed. Rescue workers carried away the remains of dead people and used a bulldozer to remove rubble, as they searched for more victims.

In 1996, Israeli artillery shelling on a United Nations compound housing hundreds of displaced

people in Qana killed at least 100 civilians and wounded scores more people, including four U.N. peacekeepers. During the 2006 war, an Israeli strike on a residential building killed nearly three dozen people, a third of them children. Israel said at the time that it struck a Hezbollah rocket launcher behind the building.

"Qana always gets its share," Mayor Mohammed Krasht told the AP, referring to the town's grim history.

"What solution can be hoped for in light of this reality?" he asked in a statement.

The Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah command centers and weapons facilities that had been embedded in civilian areas of Nabatiyeh in Wednesday's strikes, without providing evidence.

Israel also resumed its barrage on Beirut's southern suburbs after a six-day pause, hitting what it said was an arms warehouse under an apartment building, without providing evi-

dence. The military warned residents to evacuate before the strike, and there were no reports of casualties.

The strikes on southern Beirut came after Mikati said the United States had given him assurances that Israel would curb its strikes on the capital.

Hezbollah has a strong presence in southern Beirut, known as the Dahiyeh, which is also a residential and commercial area home to large numbers of civilians and people affiliated with the militant group.

The Israeli military posted an evacuation warning on the social media platform X ahead of the strike in Beirut. An Associated Press photographer saw three airstrikes in the area, the first coming less than an hour after the notice.

In Nabatiyeh, more than half a dozen strikes hit the city and surrounding areas, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry, which said at least six people were killed and 43 wounded, with rescue efforts still underway.



A civil defence member of the Islamic Health Authority walks at a site damaged in an Israeli strike in Nabatieh, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, southern Lebanon.

Arab American group rejects both Kamala, Trump over Israel support

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The Arab American Political Action Committee has said it will not endorse Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris or Republican former president Donald Trump citing what it called their "blind support" for Israel in wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

The Nov 5 US elections will mark the first time AAPAC has chosen not to endorse a candidate since the group's 1998 inception. It usually endorses Demo-

crats. Polls show the race between Harris and Trump as tight. Arab and Muslim Americans overwhelmingly backed President Joe Biden in 2020 but have been vocal opponents of US support for Israel, which has eroded their backing of Democrats.

Trump has historically had low approval from that community due to past statements and his policy of a travel ban targeting Muslim-majority nations when he was in office.

EU sanctions Iran over ballistic missiles transferred to Russia

Monitoring Desk
LUXEMBOURG: At a meeting in Luxembourg, EU foreign ministers on Monday imposed sanctions on prominent Iranian officials and entities, including airlines, accused of taking part in the transfer of missiles and drones for Russia to use against Ukraine.

They also called on Israel to stop attacking UN peacekeepers at the Israel-Lebanon border.

European Union foreign ministers approved the sanctions on seven entities, including Iran Air, and seven individuals, including deputy defence minister Seyed Hamzeh Ghalandari

and senior officials of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, the bloc said.

Leading European powers Britain, France and Germany adopted similar sanctions last month over Iranian missile transfers to Russia, as did the United States.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the adoption of the sanctions by the entire bloc, while adding: "More is needed."

"The Iranian regime's support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is unacceptable and must stop," she posted on social media.

China urges caution in Israel-Iran tensions, calls for ceasefire

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on all parties involved in tensions between Israel and Iran to exercise caution and avoid escalating the situation.

In a phone conversation with Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Wang also urged Israel to ensure the safety of personnel of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a foreign ministry statement said.

Japan conveys to China its concern over military drills around Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan has conveyed to China its concern over the military drills conducted around Taiwan on Monday, Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kazuhiko Aoki told a regular press conference.

"We are aware China carried out military drills around Taiwan yesterday."

The government is watching related developments with grave interest and has informed the Chinese side of our concerns," Aoki said on Tuesday.

Fuel tanker explodes in Nigeria, killing at least 140 people

Monitoring Desk
JIGAWA: A fuel tanker explosion in northern Nigeria has killed more than 140 people, a spokesman for the national emergency agency told AFP on Wednesday. Victims were burnt to death trying to collect fuel that had spilled from the crashed vehicle in the town of Majia in Jigawa state.

Nura Abdullahi, a spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), said "more than 140" people have been buried in a mass grave and warned the toll was likely to rise further.

The incident occurred in Majia town in the Taura local government area, about 530 kilometres north

of the capital Abuja, spokesperson for Jigawa State Police Command Lawan Shiisu Adam told Reuters by telephone.

The wounded were taken to local hospitals in Ringim and Hadejia towns where they were being treated, Adam said. A mass burial for the dead will be held later in the day, he said. Many roads in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, are poorly maintained and riven with potholes, causing accidents that claim dozens of lives every year. Last month, at least 48 people were killed in north-central Nigeria when a fuel tanker exploded after colliding with another truck carrying travellers and cattle.

UK govt 'looking at' sanctioning far-right Israeli finance, security ministers

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Wednesday that the government was weighing up sanctions against far-right Israeli ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

Asked in parliament if the government would sanction the pair, Starmer said: "We are looking at that because there are obviously abhorrent comments along with other really concerning activity in the West Bank."

National Security Minister Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, the finance minister, are vocal supporters of settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law.

Smotrich has also triggered an international uproar by suggesting it would be justified to starve two million Gazans to free Israeli hostages in the Palestinian territory.

Earlier this week, former foreign secretary

David Cameron revealed that the previous Conservative government had been "working on" sanctions against the "extreme" politicians.

Starmer's Labour government announced separate sanctions against seven Israeli settler outposts and organisations on Tuesday.

Israeli settler violence and military raids have intensified in the occupied territory following Hamas's October 7 attack last year.

Pointing to the "dire" humanitarian situation in Gaza, Starmer also called for Israel to "take all possible steps to avoid civilian casualties, to allow aid into Gaza in much greater volume".

Foreign Secretary David Lammy meanwhile announced that the UK, France and Algeria had called an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council following UN reports that "barely any food has entered" North Gaza in the last two weeks.

Ukraine calls for sanctions over alleged North Korean involvement in war

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine called on its allies on Wednesday to impose new sanctions on Pyongyang after it said North Korea had become a de facto participant in the war in Ukraine on Russia's side.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told parliament in a speech to outline his victory plan that his spy services had confirmed North Korea's supply of both weapons and people to Russia, echoing similar comments in recent days.

"These are workers for Russian factories to replace Russians killed in the war. And personnel for the Russian army. This is the participation of a second state in the war against Ukraine on the side of Russia," Zelenskyy said.

The Kremlin has denied the allegation of North Korea sending people as "fake news". Moscow and Pyongyang have denied arms transfers but have said they will boost military ties, possibly including joint drills.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybida said Kyiv's allies should respond firmly, including by imposing new sanctions and further isolating Pyongyang, whose relations with Russia have grown closer since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"This is a huge threat of further escalation. We are approaching a new phase, new realities of war," he said at a news conference in the Black Sea city of Odesa.

Mexico military's role in migrant massacre comes under sharp scrutiny

Monitoring Desk
HUIXTLA: A wooden fence, warped and battered by a crashing vehicle, is the only sign on this quiet dirt road of the six migrants killed by Mexican soldiers who opened fire on a pickup truck here earlier this month.

While the military has said soldiers fired on a convoy they mistook for organised crime after hearing explosions, local residents interviewed by Reuters cast doubt on that account.

The killings occurred on the evening of Oct 1, just hours after Claudia Sheinbaum was inaugurated as Mexico's first female president, sparking renewed outcry over the role of the military in public security and the human cost of US pressure to keep down the number of migrants arriving at its southern border.

Sheinbaum described the incident as "deplorable" and called for an investigation while pledging more broadly that there would be no impunity under her new government. But Mexico has a dismal record of successfully prosecuting violent crimes, with only about 1% of all crimes resolved, according to Human Rights Watch.

Investigations, par-

ticularly when they target the armed forces, tend to peter out unresolved, most famously in the case of 43 students who disappeared in 2014 in which the army has been repeatedly implicated.

This month's massacre also underlines how security forces, under pressure to combat widespread lawlessness in states like Chiapas, can cause harm to vulnerable communities they are mandated to protect.

On a recent afternoon, residents and a police officer told Reuters of a worsening security crisis as smugglers increasingly transport migrants through this poor neighborhood on the outskirts of the town of Huixtla and some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Mexico's southern border with Guatemala.

Mexico's defense ministry has said two soldiers opened fire on the pick-up truck carrying migrants after hearing explosions.

Four migrants died immediately while two more died in hospital. The soldiers have been detained and will be tried under military laws, a key issue for human rights activists who say the process lacks transparency.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses lawmakers as he presents the so-called 'Victory Plan' during a parliament session, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

China ready to strengthen co-operation with Russia, Mongolia

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's Premier Li Qiang proposed closer three-way ties with Russia and Mongolia at a meeting on Wednesday with counterparts from his neighbours held on the sidelines of Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit, state media said.

The three have grown closer in recent years, with China and Mongolia both rolling out the red carpet this year for Russian President Vladimir Putin, as Moscow did for China's Xi Jinping in 2023, before Beijing then hosted Mongolia's president.

"China is ready to work with Russia and Mongolia to further enhance mutual trust, strengthen co-ordination and promote deeper ... trilateral co-operation," Li, China's second-ranking official, said, according to the official news agency, Xinhua.

He was speaking to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Mongolia's Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene.

Mongolia is not a member of the SCO, a China-led Eurasian security bloc, having chosen instead to be an observer state since 2004.

Indian opposition pushes Modi for discussion on worsening Canada ties

Monitoring Desk
MUMBAI: India's main opposition Congress party has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to take all political parties into confidence regarding worsening ties with Canada a day after the two countries said they expelled each other's diplomats.

Ties deteriorated further on Monday with the expulsions, while Canada linked India's diplomats to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader and accused the South Asian nation of a broader effort to target Indian dissidents in Canada.

Qatar to hold referendum on measure to abandon legislative elections

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Qatar will hold a rare referendum for citizens to vote on a set of constitutional amendments, including a proposal that would abandon an effort to introduce elections, the Gulf Arab state's emir said on Tuesday.

Qatar held its first-ever elections in 2021 to choose two-thirds of the members of the advisory Shura Council. The elections sparked rare tribal tensions in Qatar after some members of a main Bedouin tribe found themselves ineligible to vote in the poll.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on Tuesday called the elections "an experiment" that was reviewed and led the government to propose the constitutional amendments.

North Gaza hospitals say food, medicines running out as Israel presses offensive

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Palestinian health officials called on Wednesday for a humanitarian corridor to three hospitals in northern Gaza that have come close to collapse as Israeli troops have cut off the area during almost two weeks of heavy fighting against Hamas.

Doctors at the Kamal Adwan, Al-Awda and the Indonesian hospitals have refused to leave their patients despite evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military at the start of a major push into the Jabalia

area of northern Gaza 12 days ago.

"We are calling on the international community, the Red Cross and the World Health Organization to play their humanitarian role by opening up a corridor towards our healthcare system," said Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital.

"We are talking about more than 300 medical staff working at Kamal Adwan Hospital, and we can't provide even a single meal for them to be able to offer medical services safely."

Amazon, Google make dueling nuclear investments to power data centers with clean energy

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Amazon on Wednesday said that it was investing in small nuclear reactors, coming just two days after a similar announcement by Google, as both tech giants seek new sources of carbon-free electricity to meet surging demand from data centers and artificial intelligence.

The plans come as the owner of the shuttered Three Mile Island nuclear power plant said last month it plans to restart the reactor so tech giant Microsoft can buy the power to supply its data centers. All three companies have been investing in solar and wind technolo-

gies, which make electricity without producing greenhouse gas emissions. Now they say they need to go further in the search for clean electricity to meet both demand and their own commitments to cut emissions.

Nuclear energy is a climate solution in that its reactors don't emit the planet-warming greenhouse gases that come from power plants that burn fossil fuels, such as oil, coal and gas. The demand for power is surging globally as buildings and vehicles electrify. People used more electricity than ever last year, placing strain on electric grids around the world.

Egypt's Sisi replaces head of powerful general intelligence agency

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi named Hassan Mahmoud Rashad as the new head of the powerful general intelligence agency on Wednesday, appointing the outgoing chief Abbas Kamel as an adviser to the presidency.

The agency has played a leading role under Sisi, with Kamel handling foreign policy matters including the conflicts in Gaza and Sudan, as well as domestic security issues linked to a long-running crackdown on political dissent.

Campaigning begins for Japan's parliamentary election

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Official campaigning for Japan's Oct. 27 parliamentary election began Tuesday with new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba seeking a mandate for his policies and for reforms after the governing party's political funds scandal.

More than 1,300 candidates were expected to enter the races for the 465-seat Lower House before registration closes later Tuesday. Ishiba called the snap election after he took office as prime minister on Oct. 1. As customary for Liberal Democratic Party leaders over the past decade.



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

President for boosting economic cooperation with Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday underlined the importance of increasing economic cooperation and business-to-business relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

He also called for greater linkages between the stock exchanges of the two brotherly countries to improve economic cooperation. The president expressed these views while talking to Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov, who along with Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov, called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. Welcoming the delega-

tion, the president said that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with Turkmenistan, which were based on common values, religion and culture. He called for working together for the shared prosperity and stability in the region and the betterment of the people of Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

The president also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to the early completion of the TAPI Gas pipeline project, adding that the project would greatly help in the economic development of the two countries.

Rashid Meredov thanked the president for participation in the International Forum on the 300th birth anniversary celebrations of Magtymguli Faragi in Ashgabat, saying that it was a great gesture of respect for the Turkmen

people. He also conveyed the special greetings of President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, and National Leader of the Turkmen People and Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, to President Asif Ali Zardari.

The President thanked the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov for his participation in the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad.

The president also thanked the Turkmenistan government for its warm hospitality extended to him during his visit to Ashgabat.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presiding over a meeting regarding law and order situation in Zhob Division.

Hosting 23rd SCO summit a milestone for Pakistan: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday termed Pakistan's hosting of 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit as a milestone in the context of international relations. Talking to media persons at Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said some inimical elements were claiming that Pakistan has been isolated at international level but now the world can see that the heads of major countries had visited our country.

"Russian and Chinese Prime Ministers' arrival in Pakistan is good omen for us Pakistan reputation has been restored with this

summit", he added.

He said that Pakistan had made excellent arrangements for the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit being held in Islamabad today.

He said after 27 years an event of this magnitude was being hosted by Pakistan. "It is definitely an honour for Pakistan to host the 23rd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif", he remarked.

He said that Islamabad, one of the most beautiful cities of the world, has been specially decorated for this summit and the foreign delegates have given good remarks about the city.

He said by hosting this

summit Pakistan had once again proved it had the capacity and capability to host such mega events.

"World leaders and delegates will take away good impressions from Pakistan which would help further promote the soft and positive image of the country. "The minister said last night, the Prime Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the distinguished guests attending the SCO Summit and cultural event also marked the occasion portraying the culture of the member countries.

He said the Media Facilitation Center had been set up for local and foreign journalists covering the SCO Summit at the China-Pakistan Friendship Centre.

Jam Kamal, Iranian Minister meet to strengthen bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2024 summit in Islamabad, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan met with Iranian Minister for Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak and discussed strengthening trade relations, enhancing industrial cooperation, and cultural exchange.

During the meeting, both ministers emphasized the importance of boosting economic ties through increased bilateral trade and investment, said a news release here on Wednesday.

They also explored avenues for collaboration in sectors of mutual interest. There is huge potential for bilateral trade however it yet to be realized.

The ministers discussed the potential for Pakistan and Iran to cooperate more closely in the regional market and beyond, leveraging the SCO platform to facilitate trade growth and regional stability.

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted strategic location of both brotherly countries as a gateway to Central Asia and Middle East.



QUETTA: MNA Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

Kashmir not India's integral part never was, nor will be: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has rejected India's claim that Jammu and Kashmir was its "integral part" and sought a UN-led plebiscite to determine the will of the Kashmiri people, as Security Council resolutions.

"Jammu and Kashmir is not, never has been, and will never be an 'integral part of India,'" Pakistani delegate Anshar Shah told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee on Tuesday.

The Indian delegate, Eldos Mathew Punnoose, a counsellor at India's Mission to the UN, was reacting to a sharp statement by Pakistan UN Ambassador Munir Akram who described the Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," and called on the U.N. to push for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and Kashmiri people's wishes.

"India is under a legally binding obligation under Article 25 of the UN Charter to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination," the Pakistani delegate said, pointing out that Kashmir is being held by brute force, with all pro-freedom

World fame boxer Waseem gets warm welcome in hometown

QUETTA: The world fame professional boxer, Muhammad Waseem arrived home town, Quetta on Wednesday afternoon after registering thumping victory against the Georgian boxer in an international ranking fight in Malta earlier this month.

The Advisor for Sports and Youth Affairs, Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch along with the Secretary Sports and other concerned high ups welcomed Muhammad Waseem at the Quetta airport. Speaking to the media persons soon after his arrival at the Quetta airport, boxer Muhammad Waseem thanked the provincial government for warm welcome accorded to him on his arrival. He said that he is very much pleased on winning international ranking fight. He pledged to keep on earning laurels for the country at the international level and maintained that he would bring the world boxing title in the country.



ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

BA session resumes: We can't talk about illegal practice of smuggling in provincial assembly: CM

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has categorically stated that we can't talk about the illegal activity of smuggling in the legislative assembly of the province.

He said that there are extraordinary circumstances in the province while separatist movement is going on.

He said that the smuggling of fuel has been causing loss of billions of rupees.

He said that those benefiting from the smuggling of fuel are others and he would reveal their names soon. However, we are trying to find the way out of the issue. The Chief Minister was speaking in the session of provincial assembly here on Wednesday.

The session was chaired by Speaker Provincial Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

As the member of provincial assembly belonging to Balochistan Awami Party, Agha Umar Ahmedza and others belonging to the opposition staged walk out of the house on the issue of raid at the residence of Sardar Saleh Bhotani, the Chief Minister maintained that the raid was not done at his (Bhotani) residence in the jurisdiction of Balochistan. He said that the provincial government can't do anything if the raid was outside the province.

Earlier, the leader of opposition Mir Younas Zehri criticized the government about the law and order situation in the province.

He said that law and order situation is not under control of the government.

He said that even the provincial ministers are upset about their security.

The Minister Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Buledi said that the external and international forces have become active in the province.

He said that we should expose the enemies instead of levelling allegations on our security institutions.

He said that the international forces are using banned organizations in the province. He said that we have to condemn the incidents of terrorism together.

Earlier, the MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch said that the doors of livelihood are being closed on the people by closing borders.

Ayaz lauds Pakistan's pivotal role in fostering regional cooperation via SCO platform

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has extended heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and all other stakeholders for the successful organization of the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

The prestigious event, attended by heads of governments and senior officials from member states, showcases Pakistan's growing stature on the international stage.

In a statement, Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the significance of the SCO in strengthening cooperation and collective action across key areas, including sustainable development, regional connectivity, economic integration, climate action, and poverty alleviation.

"The outcomes of this summit will undoubtedly contribute to a safer, more prosperous future for the region and the world," he noted.

CM visits residence of Zafar Zehri; condoles death of mother

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti visited the residence of member Provincial Assembly, Nawabzada Mir Zafarullah Zehri here on Wednesday.

During the visit, Chief Minister condoled with Nawabzada Zafarullah Zehri the death of his mother.

He also offered feteiha for the departed soul praying that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

PTI founder no longer in running for Oxford University's chancellor

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan is no longer in the running for the position of Oxford University's chancellor.

The university has released a list of 38 candidates competing for the role, however, Imran Khan's name was not included.

The election process will commence on October 28, with the first round of voting narrowing down the candidates to the top five. These five individuals will then proceed to the final round of elections starting on November 4.

The successful candidate will be announced by the end of November, marking the end of the election process.

It is worth mention here incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan decided to enter the race to be elected the new Chancellor of the University of Oxford.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi shaking hand with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti before Assembly session.

Governor assures Resolve issues of people of constituency of Zarak Mandokhail

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: A delegation of the people hailing from the election constituency of Member Provincial Assembly, Zarak Khan Mandokhail met the Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail here on Wednesday.

The delegation was led by the MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail apprised the Governor about the issues being faced by the people of election constituency.

The former councillor Aslam Kurd informed the Governor about recent increase in the rent of government quarters. He said that the increased rent is burden on the low income families, which are already facing financial hardships and inflation.

The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues and assured every possible cooperation to resolve them.

Medical camp set up to prevent seasonal diseases in Lasbela

QUETTA (APP): Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal has taken immediate notice of the death of three children due to viral infection in the affected Goralas of Kanraj constituency.

He also orders have been issued to implement the health plan for the treatment of seasonal diseases in the remote tehsil Kanraj of Lasbela district. On special directive of Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Humira Baloch, the district officer

of the health department reached Kanraj on an emergency basis and set up a medical camp, said press release issued here. PPHI teams under the leadership of the District Support Manager have reached the affected areas on time on the instructions of Lasbela administration. In addition to the medical and paramedical staff vaccinators in the rescue teams, the volunteers of Lasbela Welfare Trust are also participating in the support.

Three police personnel injured in IED blast in Buner

PESHAWAR (APP): An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near a police mobile unit at Ambela, resulting in injuries to three police personnel.

District Police Officer (DPO) Shah Hassan Khan confirmed the incident and said, "Police have cordon off the area."

The injured officers were transferred to the District Headquarters Hospital in Daggar for medical treatment.

Premier Li Qiang Pakistan visit reinforces all-weather bilateral partnership: China

BEIJING (APP): Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning stated on Wednesday that during his ongoing visit, Chinese Premier Li Qiang has engaged in extensive and in-depth discussions with Pakistan's government, parliament, and military leaders, which will certainly lead to positive outcomes.

This visit by China's Premier of the State Council is the latest after 11 years, she said during her regular briefing in response to a question about Premier Li Qiang's visit to Pakistan and its major outcomes.

Mao Ning said that the visit marks the exchanges at the government level between the two countries within a year.

Sharing details, she said that Premier Li Qiang held in-depth discussions with leaders of Pakistan's government, parliament, and military. The ongoing visit has achieved three key positive results.

First, consolidating the all-weather friendship

between China and Pakistan.

Both sides emphasized that their time-tested friendship has gained renewed vigor. Under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, bilateral relations continue to enjoy robust momentum. China reaffirmed its commitment to prioritizing its relationship with Pakistan in its foreign policy, while Pakistan underscored that its ties with China are the cornerstone of its foreign policy, with this friendship being widely recognized and overwhelming consensus across all sectors of Pakistani society.

Both nations agreed to continue firmly supporting each other's core interests, enhancing high-level exchanges, and working together toward modernization and national rejuvenation. They also pledged to accelerate the creation of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving the Chinese Premier H.E. Li Qiang at the venue of the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting.

CM assures every possible assistance to boxer Waseem

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that boxer Muhammad Waseem is our pride and as such every possible assistance would be extended to him.

The Chief Minister directed to the Sports and Culture department to send a summary to him for assistance of boxer Muhammad Waseem.

He was speaking to Boxer Muhammad Waseem who called on him here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Wednesday.

Also present in the meeting were the Advisor to Chief Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch, Member National Assembly, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Secretary Sports and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Minister congratulated Muhammad Waseem on winning 13 international fights during his professional career.

He said that we are providing opportunities to promote sports in the province. In this regard, the youth of province also are being provided better opportunities of healthy activities, adding he mentioned. The Chief Minister also mentioned that first youth policy of the province has been approved in which there is an important role of Nawabzada Jamal Raisani.

He said that father of Jamal Raisani, Nawabzada Siraj Raisani had also rendered sacrifice of his life for the country.



QUETTA: Director of Public Health Dr. Safia Mengal meeting with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

Development of educational, healthcare institutions top priority of Govt: Dr. Rubaba

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for the Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized that the development of educational and healthcare institutions in Balochistan is a key priority of the provincial government.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi made these remarks during a meeting with Dr. Safia Mengal, Director of the Institute of Public Health.

During the discussion, she noted that increasing

the number of classrooms at the IPH is essential to providing a better learning environment for female students. She further added that all necessary resources will be utilized to enhance the institute's performance and meet the needs of its students.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi also indicated her intention to personally visit the Institute of Public Health in the coming days to review the situation firsthand and ensure that steps are taken to resolve the issues.

UoT hosts workshop on "Job interview & CV writing skills" for business students

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Department of Management Sciences at the University of Turbat (UoT) hosted a one-day workshop on "Job Interview and CV Writing Skills" in the video conference room of UoT.

Students from the Faculty of Business and Economics participated in the workshop. Dr. Ahmed Salman Abbasi, Director of

Training, Student Affairs, Learning Partners, & Outreach Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, Karachi, and Dr. Ghulam Jan, Assistant Professor at the Department of Management Sciences, UoT served as resource persons of the event. Dr. Ahmed Salman Abbasi shared his expertise on job interview skills with students via video link.