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Pakistan, China reaffirm support to each other on core issues

Islamabad, Beijing express satisfaction over Pak-China strategic partnership; Ink 13 accords to strengthen bilateral cooperation in different areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Monday reiterated their support to each other on all core issues and pledged to develop China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-II at the highest standards. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

China praises counter-terrorism efforts of Pakistan Army

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who is in Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, held a significant meeting with Pakistani military officials.

During the meeting, Premier Li Qiang met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the service chiefs. The discussions reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen and expand the long-standing relations between Pakistan and China.

Key topics included defense cooperation and issues related to terrorism between the two countries. The Chinese Premier praised the role of Pakistan's armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang led the delegation-level talks at the Prime Minister's House.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership which was based on mutual trust and shared principles was being further strengthened with the pas-

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang unveiling a plaque to mark the completion of New Gwadar International Airport.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang holding a significant meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Service Chiefs.

Pakistan, Chinese PMs virtually inaugurate New Gwadar Int'l Airport

PM terms Gwadar Int'l airport a gift from China; to serve as catalyst for economic prosperity, regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the completion of Gwadar International Airport showed Chinese leadership's commitment and dedication to support Pakistan's economic agenda and develop its backward areas.

Addressing a ceremony of virtual inauguration of the newly completed Gwadar International Airport here, the prime minister said that the landmark achievement was all about time-tested friendship between the two countries.

He expressed the hope that the completion of this international airport would transform Gwadar's economy in particular and the economy of Pakistan in general.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang were at hands to unveil the plaque of Gwadar International Airport. The ceremony was attended by members of the both delegations, ministers, military leadership and senior officials.

The prime minister said that today, both sides had witnessed the signing and exchange of MoUs between the two countries in various fields of industry, commerce and agriculture.

"No doubt these MoUs will shape into agreements very soon through joint efforts of both countries. Once again, I thank you for your visit to Pakistan out of your busy schedule which is a reflection of your commitment to promoting friendship between

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Media persons of Balochistan playing constructive role despite unfavourable circumstances, financial hardships: CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti issues directives to concerned authorities to resolve issues being faced by journalists; orders to transfer land of Journalists Housing Society to Journalists Cooperative Society from Information Department; increases seed money of Journalists Welfare Fund from Rs. 230 million to Rs. 500 million immediately

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QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that media persons of the province playing their constructive role well despite the unfavourable circumstances and financial hardships.

He said that the media persons of province are infixed with the beautiful values and traditions of the province.

He said that we welcome positive criticism and it is his aim to free the media persons from the gov-

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ernment aid for healthy criticism as such every possible effort would be made to resolve their issues.

The Chief Minister was speaking to a delegation of senior media persons who called on him under leadership of President of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ), Khalil Ahmed, here on Monday.

Also present in the meeting were the former President of PFUJ, Salim Shahid, president of Quetta Press Club, Abdul Khaliq Rind and General Secretary

of BUJ, Abdul Shakoor.

During the meeting, the members of delegation apprised the Chief Minister about the issues of media persons including the delay in project of Journalists Housing Society.

The Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for resolving the issues.

He also directed to transfer the the proposed project of Journalists Housing Society.

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Two-day SCO CHG summit kicks off today as delegates start arriving

ISLAMABAD (APP): The twenty-third meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is set to begin on Tuesday, bringing together regional leaders to discuss enhancing collaboration with a focus on trade, economy, and cultural linkages.

The delegates from the countries participating in the annual gathering of SCO leaders have already started landing in the federal capital which has got a facelift with colorful lights, floral decorations, 'SCO countries' flags and banners to welcome the dignitaries.

The LED display screens have been installed on the main intersections - also beautifully painted with lights and murals. The landmarks across the city have been adorned with col-

orful lights and Pakistani flags, also creating a rare photo-op for the citizens and fodder for social media timelines.

Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang, along with a high-level delegation, has already landed in the federal capital to attend the moot and hold meetings with Pakistan's civil and military leadership.

The two-day meeting of SCO CHG the second highest forum within the SCO, will be chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the current chair of the Council.

Pakistan has assumed the rotating chair of the SCO CHG for 2023-24 at the previous meeting held in Bishkek on October 26, 2023 where the country was represented by that time Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani.

The leaders from the

SCO member states attending the summit include 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 Kahir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akybek, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar.

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

Large number of youths of Balochistan being provided opportunities of livelihood abroad, says CM

Sheikh Talal Khalifa Al Thani says youth of Balochistan to be provided opportunities of livelihood in Qatar



Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated his government's plan to send 30,000 youth of the province to Qatar and other countries after imparting them the necessary training under the CM Youth Skills Development Programme.

He said that it is for the first time in history of the province that the youngsters are being provided opportunities of livelihood abroad in large number. These youngsters would not only earn respectable livelihood for them and their families, but would also send foreign exchange back to Pakistan.

These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while speaking to the member of Royal family of Qatar, Sheikh Talal Khalifa Al Thani, who called on him along with other mem-

Naqvi did not assure Gohar of arranging his meeting with PTI founder

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior ministry has said no assurance has been given by interior minister Mohsin Naqvi for arranging meeting between barrister Gohar Ali with PTI founder Imran Khan.

According to statement issued by interior ministry spokesperson Barrister Gohar Ali Khan wrote a letter to interior minister Mohsin Naqvi whereby request was made for arranging his meeting with PTI founder.

Interior minister talked to barrister Gohar Ali by telephone. Interior minister held out assurance for reviewing the application. However no assurance was given about permission for meeting with PTI founder.

New Polio case reports from Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad has confirmed the detection of wild poliovirus type-1 case from Quetta District of Balochistan.

The index case had onset of paralysis on 22 August 2024.

This is the third polio case from district Quetta and the 33rd from Pakistan at large this year.

Governor Balochistan praises role of lawyers for rule of law and justice

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated he held the lawyers community in high esteem and appreciate their endeavours for promotion of the rule of law and justice.

He said that the lawyers community plays important role in promoting culture of rights and responsibility



ties as well as maintaining the rule of law and creating balance among the individual rights and social duties.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of lawyers who called on him under leadership of the provincial president of Pakistan Muslim League-N's lawyers wing, Anwar Nasim Kasi who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

The Governor emphasized on the importance of legal struggle in formation of a society based on the justice. He expressed his resolve for support of the lawyers community and assured his every possible cooperation to the delegation for protection of their rights and interests.

No compromise on judicial reforms, says Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has asserted that judicial reforms will be implemented without any compromise.

Speaking at the launch of the Hari Card in Karachi on Monday, he emphasized the party's commitment to

Mazdoor Card, highlighting the PPP's focus on small farmers and the working class. Bilawal referred to the agricultural losses suffered during President Asif Ali Zardari's first term, noting that the government was forced to import food. He underscored the need to

Dar once again urges PTI to postpone protest in national interest

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has said that holding protests during a nationally important event does not send a positive message, urging those wishing to protest to wait until after the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

Talking to media in Islamabad, Dar highlighted Pakistan was fully prepared to welcome participants of the SCO summit, including leaders and delegates form member and observe states.

Pakistan emerges as important player in region: Tarar

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ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that Pakistan which faced isolation on foreign policy affairs in the past, had now emerged as a

government had succeeded to end diplomatic isolation of the country and now high level delegations from many countries have been visiting Pakistan in the recent past.

"We are a very active player in the region, and we

have to play an active role in the region", he remarked.

He said recently Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim concluded

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key player in the region.

Talking to the media after the inauguration of the Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said the present

Four policemen martyred, five terrorists killed in Bannu police line attack

BANNU (APP): At least four policemen were martyred and five terrorists killed when the latter attacked Bannu police lines here on Monday, police said.

The terrorists wearing 'Burqa' (veil) stormed the police line and started indiscriminate firing on policemen deployed at its main gate.

During the exchange of firing, which continued for about an hour. The gunshots rocked the police station, as a result, four police personnel embraced Shahadat while all the five attackers were

killed.

The KP Chief Minister has sought a report from police high ups of the incident.

He directed the Chief Secretary and IGP KP to reach Bannu. The security forces cordoned off the police line and started search operation.

The KP Governor and Chief Minister have strongly condemned the attack, emphasizing that terrorists will not undermine the police force's determination. They commended the bravery of the police for successfully thwarting the attack.

Chairman CDA says: Islamabad fully prepared for SCO summit with enhanced security, beautification

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa Monday confirmed that Islamabad was fully prepared to welcome esteemed international guests for the SCO summit, with the city's beautification and security measures significantly enhanced to ensure a pleasant and secure experience.

In an exclusive talk with a private news channel, Muhammad Ali Randhawa confirmed, "Islamabad is fully prepared under the strict instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's where CDA, in collaboration with other security departments including Army officials has implemented stringent security measures to ensure a secure experience for international guests."

Ali Randhawa expressed pride and honor that Islamabad had been chosen to host esteemed international guests for the SCO Summit.

"We are thrilled to welcome distinguished guests to our city," Randhawa said.

"Islamabad's roads and bridges have been transformed with illuminating decorations, creating a warm and welcoming ambience ahead of the summit," he added.

He said, "This vibrant display reflects Islamabad's commitment to showcasing its beauty and hospitality to the world."

"The city's enhanced infrastructure and beautification efforts demonstrate its readiness to host high-profile international events like the SCO summit," he added.

Chairman CDA also proudly announced that Islamabad's roads and

bridges were being upgraded and beautified under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision.

"This initiative aims to provide a warm welcome to esteemed international guests attending the SCO Summit," he added.

"As part of this effort, the city's infrastructure is being enhanced with digital and eco-friendly streamers, creating a visually stunning and environmentally conscious experience for residents and visitors alike."

Randhawa also expressed his gratitude to key stakeholders for their invaluable support in maintaining a peaceful environment in Islamabad, particularly in the lead-up to the SCO summit.

The Business Community also received praise for their contributions to the city's economic growth and development.

peaceful coexistence and collaborative progress, she highlighted.

By strengthening ties with SCO member states, Pakistan will further solidify its position as a key player in regional affairs, she added.

Aurangzeb emphasized the significance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in strengthening Pakistan's regional integration and connectivity.

She noted that Pakistan's participation in SCO forums, such as the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government, has enhanced its cooperation with member states in areas like trade, investment, energy, and counter-terrorism.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang introducing their respective delegations during the later's visit to Prime Minister's House.

New era of cooperation begins with Premier Li Qiang's Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang's arrival in Islamabad on Monday for the SCO summit has generated enthusiasm among analysts, praising strengthening China-Pakistan ties as historic visit will solidify relations, fostering a secure business environment for global investments in Pakistan.

Analysts Agha Iqar Haroon speaking to PTV news channel believe this visit marks the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the two nations, adding, China visit to Pakistan is expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure development, and CPEC phase

2. Agha Haroon Iqar highlights the potential for Pakistan's economic growth, adding, Pakistan has faced various economic challenges in the past, but with the right policies and investments, it can capitalize on its strategic location, young population, and natural resources to drive growth. Director China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Dr. Talat Shabbir believes the Chinese Premier's visit holds great symbolic significance for the region.

He said this visit will not only provide Pakistan with economic benefits but also shatter the notion of

diplomatic isolation.

The visit is expected to breathe new life into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a game-changing project that has been gaining momentum since its inception, he added.

Dr. Talat Shabbir is also optimistic that the Chinese Premier's visit will bring a comprehensive agenda, building on the momentum of CPEC Phase 2.

He credits the current government and the Chinese government for reviving hopes and commitments, especially after the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, where five new corridors for Phase 2 of CPEC were identified.

'Pakistan's ties with SCO countries to foster economic growth': Tahira Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N senator Tahira Aurangzeb Monday lauded the China-Pakistan friendship as a shining example of international cooperation and expressed heartfelt gratitude to SCO countries for placing their trust in Pakistan, which will significantly boost economic growth and regional stability.

In an interview with PTV news channel, she praised for the China-Pakistan friendship highlights the strong bonds between the two nations, fostered through years of cooperation and mutual understanding.

This exemplary relationship serves as a model for other countries, demonstrating the potential for

IG Islamabad review security arrangements for SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi is personally reviewing the security arrangements at the residences and venues of foreign heads of state and delegations. On this occasion, DIG Security Jawad Tariq and other senior police officers were also present.



ments for the ongoing "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2024" in the federal capital, Islamabad.

In this regard, he visited Safe City Islamabad, the Control Room at the SSP Security Office, and the Red Zone to review the security measures deployed

IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police have deployed more than 9,000 officers and officials for security duties to ensure foolproof security for the SCO Summit 2024. In addition, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, District Administration, Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC.

PCP chairman visits APP, felicitates newly elected union body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) Arshad Jadoon on Monday visited APP Office here and congratulated the newly elected union body, while expressing best wishes. The distinguished guests were extended a warm welcome.

Noted APP journalist Taimoor Jadoon and Famous Tiktoker Yasir Shami included the delegation.

President APP Employees Union Rana Abdul Rehman, General Secretary Ali Asghar, Dr Saeed Ahmad Ali extended a warm welcome to the guests. The Union body accompanied the delegation and also visited various sections of Radio Pakistan.

In an exclusive introduction, Rana Abdul Rehman said that APP remains committed to excellent journalistic traditions by covering objective and accurate reporting, observing code of ethics with regard to responsible journalism. Expressing his views during APP visit, the Chairman PCP said that APP is the unsung hero of the media industry. It is providing a vital service. He said it provides companionship to many in our community and worldwide, adding, APP provides crucial emergency information during disasters and in any challenging time. Famous Tiktoker Yasir Shami on this occasion appreciated various APP services and shared personal experiences.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are looking a Pakistani culture painting at Pak-China center ahead of inauguration ceremony of Media Facilitation Centre at Pak-China Friendship Center ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024.

PTI's protest call slammed as attack on national integrity during SCO Summit: Uzma

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Uzma Kardar Monday strongly condemned PTI's protest call during the SCO Summit, labeling it an attack on national integrity and instead emphasized the summit's historic significance as a unique opportunity for Pakistan to shine on the global stage.

Talking to PTV news channel, she highlighted the significance of the SCO Summit and the potential consequences of disrupting it. Uzma Kardar emphasized the importance of national unity and criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) decision to hold protests during the SCO Summit. She said, "PTI can hold



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony of Media Facilitation Centre at Pak-China Friendship Center ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024, in the Federal Capital.

Siddiqui criticizes PTI for undermining national dignity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Monday slammed PTI for consistently obstructing Pakistan's progress, urging them to prioritize national dignity and warned that choosing the SCO summit day for their actions would have severe repercussions.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he said, "PTI is habitual for disruption of the country's advancement, emphasizing the need for patriotism over political point-scoring."

He further criticized that despite senior leaders from PML-N and PPP being jailed, the country's matters were not derailed by similar blackmailing tactics, adding, the current disruptions were being driven by political agendas rather than genuine concerns for the nation's well-being.

He said, "PTI has a history of causing trouble whenever important events are on the horizon, adding, in the past, they disrupted

the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan and now they are poised to do it again."

"Their actions are reckless and selfish, prioritizing political gain over national dignity," he said, adding, "It is crucial to remember that Pakistan's reputation is at stake and such antics will only harm the country's interests."

Responding a query, he emphasized, "Even if a PTI leader is imprisoned, the party can still function effectively, just like PML-N and PPP did during similar circumstances."

"In fact, history shows that PML-N and PPP continued to operate smoothly despite having their senior leaders jailed," he mentioned.

For instance, during Nawaz Sharif's imprisonment, PML-N remained a strong opposition force, and similarly, PPP continued its political activities when Asif Ali Zardari was jailed, he highlighted.

Routes established for SCO Summit under ITP's supervision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) will lay the routes on Monday according to the traffic plan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2024 summit.

According to ITP statement, traffic on the Expressway will be halted from morning until noon.

While Srinagar Highway will be halted from afternoon to late evening, he added.

He said Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have issued a comprehensive traffic plan aimed at ensuring smooth traffic flow during this important international event.

In this regard 1100 officers from the ITP have been deployed to ensure smooth traffic flow and guide citizens to alternative routes.

Citizens are advised to avoid unnecessary travel and are encouraged to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience, CTO said.

For the latest updates on traffic conditions, the public is advised to tune in to Islamabad Police Radio FM 92.4 or contact 15, he said.

05 outlaws netted, weapons seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police have apprehended five outlaws involved in different anti-social activities, including possessing illegal weapons during last 24 hours.

A public relations officer talking to APP on Monday said that Islamabad Police Kohsar, Sumbal, Khanna and Bani Gala police station teams took legal action against anti social elements who were allegedly possessing illegal weapons. During the crackdown in different raids the police teams arrested five accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and recovered five pistols with ammunition from their possession. The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad, Syed Ali Raza said that the Islamabad Police are actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. The citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or the "ICT-15" app to help make the city crime-free.

SCO summit a major diplomatic breakthrough for Pakistan: Daniyal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Daniyal Chaudhary, stated on Monday that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit is a major step forward for Pakistan in both economic and diplomatic areas.

In an interview with a private news channel, he explained that the summit will help member countries work together to address key regional issues and will also boost Pakistan's global standing as a leader.

7th death anniversary of Nusrat Ara, 'Bil Batori,' observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 7th death anniversary of renowned stage star and TV artist Nusrat Ara, famously known as Bil Batori, was observed on Monday. According to a private news channel, she was born in Karachi back in 1964 and later moved to Lahore to pursue acting. The star rose to fame in the 90s with the hit TV drama Ainak Wala Jin, which saw her essay the ever-famous role of Bil Batori.



ISLAMABAD: A view of media facilitation center prepared for International and national media persons at Pak-China Friendship Center ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024 in the Federal Capital.

SCO media center launched to facilitate int'l, local media during regional moot

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Monday launched the 'Media Facilitation Center' equipped with most modern facilities to assist international and local media during the regional Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit 2024 being hosted by Pakistan for the first time on October 15-16.

The SCO media facilitation center was launched here at Pak-China Friendship Center by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting flanked by senior officers of the Ministry.

The center has been decorated with thematic pictorials, banners and decorative material, fountains, highlighting the national landmarks of the members states participating in the two-day regional summit.

The SCO conference would be participated by nine full member countries being represented by the prime ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan along-with the vice president of Iran and the external affairs minister of India.

It is to mention here that the organization was established in 2001 by China and Russia to discuss security concerns in Central Asia and the wider region. The media center has SMDs projecting banners of different SCO members, whereas a dedicated multimedia showcasing eye catching landscapes and cultural heritage of Pakistan has been installed. The Ministry has also set up a display center providing literature regarding notable literary figures, cultural heritage, archeological sites.

SCO Summit: City streets shine with lights and decorations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has finalized all administrative arrangements, with final touches in place, and the city is ready to welcome the delegates of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

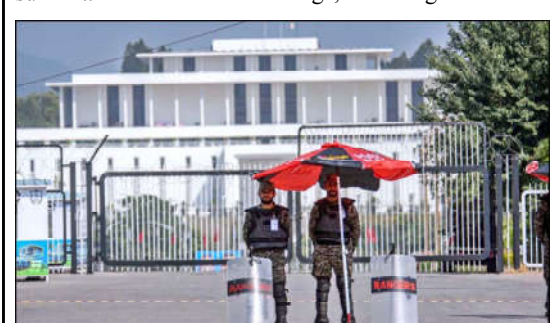
Meanwhile, the streets, buildings, and public spaces have been carefully prepared for the international event.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, in preparation for the SCO meeting, the city has been fully decorated. Before the guests arrive, streets have been adorned with lights and decorations, giving the city a fresh look. Major highways now feature green spaces and crescents, adding a touch of nature to the urban landscape.

As part of a beautification drive, various statues have been installed at key intersections. Government offices, private business centers, and buildings have also been revamped, ready to greet the visiting dignitaries.

Private businesses, including plazas, petrol stations, and restaurants, are prepared to accommodate the needs of international guests during the summit.

At night, the city offers an even more impressive view, with lights illuminating the skyline and key areas across the city.



ISLAMABAD: Security officials are on high alert as security beefed up in the Federal Capital for the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted view of 7th Avenue due to three day holiday ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024, in the Federal Capital.

Sherry takes MQM into confidence on constitutional amendment during meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Vice president PPP Senator Sherry Rehman and Dr Asim Hussain have met MQM delegation in Sindh House.

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Dr Farooq Sattar and Amin ul Haq were included in MQM delegation.

During the meeting both the sides agreed on moving ahead on matter of constitutional amendment with consensus and transparency.

They also agreed on continuing such contacts in the meeting.

Later Sherry Rehman said while talking to journalists we are taking all stake holders into confidence on our constitutional amendment draft under the directives of chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

We have today informed MQM leaders with

reference to establishment of constitutional courts.

During the meeting both the sides presented their priorities. A comprehensive meeting was held with MQM leaders. Constructive talks were held.

MQM leader Farooq Sattar said basic view point of all parties is stability of the court without which neither government can perform nor can it deliver.

He said that a day before PML-N delegation had come. Two days before we had met Prime Minister. Today PPP delegation has come. I think it is good omen. These contacts should be established this way. Dead lock is being sorted out. There will be deadlock if there is no politics after meetings. There will be politics. We are politicians. We should do politics.

New ADB country director for Pakistan assumes office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asian Development Bank's (ADB) newly appointed Country Director for Pakistan, Xiaojin (Emma) Fan joined the Pakistan Resident Mission here Monday to officially commence her role.

As Country Director, Ms. Fan will oversee ADB's operations in Pakistan, including the implementation of the country partnership strategy (CPS) that prioritizes lifting growth, increasing resilience, and boosting competitiveness, said ADB press release issued here.

Ms. Fan will also lead the consultation for the new CPS covering the period from 2026 to 2030, it added. "I am delighted to be back in Pakistan to lead the country office. I look forward to promoting ADB's longstanding partnership with the government and people of Pakistan," said Ms. Fan.

"ADB will continue to work closely with Pakistan's federal and provincial governments,

the private sector, and other stakeholders to speed-up economic recovery, implement reforms, and champion policies and development processes to create jobs. We'll scale up our support for climate resilience, private sector development, and institutional development; and we will continue to foster livable cities, rural development, digital ecosystems, growth centers, and regional cooperation and integration," she added.

A national of New Zealand, Ms. Fan holds a Doctorate in Economics from the Australian National University, and Master's and bachelor's degrees from Lanzhou University in the People's Republic of China (PRC). She has more than 30 years of professional experience, including 22 years in ADB.

Ms. Fan joined ADB in June 2002 as an Economist, and since then has held positions of increasing responsibility in various departments across the bank. In December 2013, she was appointed as Advisor for ADB's Strategic Planning Department (SPD) and the Head of its Results Management Unit. In June 2016, she was appointed as the Regional Director of ADB's Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO) and in 2019 as Director for Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division of the East Asia Department.

Following the introduction of ADB's New Operating Model in June 2023, Ms. Fan was redesignated as Director, Finance in Sector Group-Finance, where she had been successfully building the pipeline for the finance sector, strategically leading the sovereign-non-sovereign collaborations involving multiple ADB corporate initiatives. As Country Director for Pakistan, Ms. Fan succeeds Yong Ye who held the post from 2021.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributing Benazir Hari Cards to the farmers in a ceremony at the Chief Minister House. PPP Women's Central President Faryal Talpur, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Sindh Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Meher is also present.

Chinese premier's visit to strengthen Pakistan-China economic ties: Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Monday that Chinese Premier Li Qiang's four-day visit to Pakistan marks another significant milestone in further deepening bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries besides fortifying the invincible bonds of brotherhood and steadfastness of friendship. In his statement issued here, he said the visit underscores the unwavering friendship and brotherhood that has characterized China-Pakistan ties for decades. Both countries share a deep-rooted bond that has been described as "higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea," and Premier Li's visit is set to solidify these ties even further.

He said the visit will help expanding cooperation in various sectors, particularly in trade, infrastructure development, and energy projects. China is already Pakistan's largest trading partner and a key player in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has brought billions of dollars in investments to Pakistan. This visit will further enhance these economic initiatives, fostering mutual growth and development, he added.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said in addition to trade and economic discussions, the visit will also reaffirm the strategic partnership and political cooperation between the two countries. Premier Li's visit symbolizes the steadfastness of the China-Pakistan friendship, a relationship built on mutual respect, trust, and shared interests.

Huawei showcases innovative AI-Ready Cloud at GITEX 2024 in Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huawei Cloud is set to demonstrate its commitment to intelligent upgrades at GITEX 2024 in Dubai through its innovative AI-ready cloud to meet the industry-specific requirements, including carrier, government, finance, media and entertainment, Web3, and e-commerce and retail.

According to a news release received here on Monday Alan Qi, President of Huawei Cloud Middle East and Central Asia, said, "Huawei Cloud brings global digital transformation best practices to the region with AI-native cloud services like databases, big data, data governance, software development, and AI. We partner with industry leaders to create solutions for government, electricity, finance, media, e-commerce, and retail, promoting digital and intelligent transformation. Additionally, we connect local industries with global enterprises to foster innovation through peer exchanges and successful practices."

Under its "Everything-as-a-Service" strategy, Huawei Cloud offers all-digital, all-cloud, and AI-driven services, including Infrastructure, Technology, and Expertise as a Service.

Shahzad Rasheed - CEO of Huawei Cloud Pakistan, said, "At Gitex, we're witnessing the future of cloud innovation unfold before our eyes. We're not only shaping the future of global cloud innovation but also unlocking immense potential for Pakistan's digital transformation. As the demand for secure, scalable, and AI-driven solutions rises, we are committed to enabling Pakistani businesses to harness the power of the cloud, driving growth and positioning the country as a key player in the global digital economy."

Technological innovations combining industry know-how and strong ecosystems are crucial for a successful digital transformation.

During GITEX Global 2024, Huawei Cloud, together with its partners, has launched major solutions for five industries - digital government, media & entertainment, Web3, e-commerce and retail, and carrier.

For carriers, Huawei Cloud helps them migrate

their applications to the cloud, improving efficiency and enabling light-asset operations. Additionally, carriers can rapidly innovate with new business-to-business models on Huawei Cloud, empowering them to offer more dynamic services to their customers.

For digital governments, Huawei Cloud provides consultancy and technology in constructing national government clouds, enabling the efficient implementation of future cities that are perceptive, intelligent, and safe.

In media & entertainment industry, Huawei Cloud helps traditional companies reshape digital content production by upgrading to a cloud-native architecture that adapts to future business demands.

Customers can also use Huawei's one-stop OTT solution to quickly build content processing and distribution capabilities, enabling low latency and a smooth viewing experience.

In addition, MetaStudio, the digital content production pipeline.



ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper arranging and displaying perfumes to attract the customers in the city.

Sindh energy dept to set up foundation for effective CSR initiatives by RE companies

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Monday, said that an inclusive foundation will be established to ensure more effective CSR initiatives by renewable energy companies in coastal district of Thatta.

Nasir Shah, while chairing a meeting on Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives for the welfare of local people by renewable energy (RE) companies, stated that the foundation having representation of people through their elected representatives along with Sindh government, energy department and RE companies - will work in close coordination to make CSR initiatives more effective and result oriented under one umbrella. The minister called the RE companies for expanding their CSR initiatives to facilitate the local population of district Thatta while consensus was developed on joint measures in education and health sector to improve condition of schools and hospitals and resolving issues as to provision of clean drinking water and employment through CSR, said a statement issued here.

Sindh Minister for Prisons and Works and Services Ali Hasan Zardari, Minister Awwaf Religious Affairs, Zakat and Usher Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, MNA Sadiq Ali Memon, MPA Dr. Sikandar Shoro, Secretary Energy Mosaadiq Ahmed Khan, Project Director Alternative Energy Mahfouz Ahmad Qazi and representatives of RE companies working in Thatta district also attended the meeting.

Ali Hasan Zardari, Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, Sadiq Ali Memon, Dr. Sikandar Shoro stressed on coordinated CSR interventions and suggested that all the steps should be taken from a single platform containing all the stakeholders so that more steps could be taken to improve the basic facilities for the local populace.



DUBAI: Pakistan's Ambassador to UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at GITEX GLOBAL at Dubai World Trade Centre.

'CM livestock card will be launched soon'

SARGODHA (APP): Director General of Livestock and Dairy Development Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ashraf on Monday visited the Livestock Complex Sargodha.

During his visit, he inspected various facilities including the Director Livestock Office, Diagnostic Laboratory, Vaccine Cold Chain, and the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Facilitation Desk.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf also planted a sapling in the office lawn and expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness of the premises.

Director Livestock Dr. Arif Sultan provided a briefing and presented a performance report.

Additional Directors of Livestock from all four districts were also present during the briefing.

In his address, Director General of Livestock and Dairy Development Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ashraf said that the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Card will be launched soon. This initiative aims to provide interest-free loans ranging from Rs 135,000 to Rs 270,000 to livestock farmers who own 5 to 10 young calves or heifers.

He said that the loans would enable farmers to purchase high-quality approved feed, silage, and mineral mixtures to improve the health and growth of their animals.

This, in turn, is expected to boost meat production in the country, meeting domestic needs and earning valuable foreign exchange, he added.

SIFC playing pivotal role in country's economic development

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Investment Facilitation Council is playing a pivotal role in taking the country's economy on the path of development and restoring the confidence of the world.

As a result of these efforts, China, Russia and Brazil have recently expressed their desire to invest in various sectors of Pakistan.

China desires to shift its various industries to Pakistan while Russia and Brazil are involved in trade agreements with Pakistan.

The first Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum was held in Moscow, in which more than sixty government officials from the Russian side participated.

Pakistan has also imported high-breed cattle from Brazil under an agreement.



Mr. Abdul Mohamin Khan, Regional Chairman South & VP FPCCI; Mr. Qian Qiu Zhu, lead CAEDA delegation & President of Cross-Border Trade Development Committee; Mr. Aman Paracha & Mr. Asif Sakhi, VPs FPCCI; Mr. Shabbir Mansha, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan-China Business Council; Mr. Zia UlArfeen, SVP KCCI and prominent business leaders of Pakistan & China, also participated in the session.

Political activity in capital must be under the law: MCCI president

MULTAN (APP): Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said on Monday that any political activity in the federal capital must be followed under the law, especially during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Talking to APP here Monday, he asked the government to take appropriate measures for maintaining peace and order in the capital after understanding the gravity of the situation.

He said there should

be no unlawful gatherings in Islamabad, especially during the SCO summit.

The government's role is to ensure equal rights for all citizens to balance the situation while maintaining peace, he added. He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was a business conference and a key event for fostering economic collaboration among SCO member states. He said there would be an active participation from business leaders, investors and policymakers from across the region.

SCO summit in Pak big diplomatic milestone: PBF

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) President Khawaja Mehboob-ur-Rehman Monday termed Pakistan's hosting of the SCO Heads of Government meeting a noteworthy diplomatic milestone.

This event not only highlights Pakistan's commitment to the SCO's objectives but also provides a valuable opportunity to enhance its global standing. The SCO's representation of nearly one-third of the world's population amplifies its significance, making it a vital platform for dialogue on key issues. This meeting

can pave the way for strengthened ties and collaborative efforts among member states, particularly in areas such as trade, security, and development. Pakistan's role as the host emphasizes its dedication to these goals and its desire to be a key player in shaping regional policies, he added.

PBF's Senior Vice President Amna Munawwar Awan said that Pakistan's hosting of the SCO meeting is being seen as a significant diplomatic achievement. It provides a platform for strengthening ties with key countries, particularly China.

Rupee sheds 03 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 03 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.66 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.63.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278 and Rs279.50 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 48 paisa to close at Rs303.46 against the last day's closing of Rs303.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs1.85, whereas a decrease of 26 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs362.79 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs363.05.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Apollon-D. Maersk Saratoga, Karpathos Dawn, Solar Catei and Isabella Kosan scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Palm oil and Chemicals berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Sunday.



LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) Muntaha Ashraf in a group photo with Chinese delegation during a meeting.

SCO Summit: An event of immense significance for fostering regional stability: ICCI

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Nasir M Qureshi on Monday said that Pakistan is honored to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, an event of immense significance for fostering regional stability, prosperity, and socio-economic development.

"We are confident that the agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) formed during this conference will have the potential to transform the economic landscape, bringing new opportunities and partnerships for member countries.

With China and Russia's capable leadership, we believe this conference could create a balanced global power dynamic, enhancing the socio-economic influence of the entire region," he added.

Despite the multiple challenges being faced by it, the business community of Islamabad fully understands the importance of this event for Pakistan and the region.

We view our economic sacrifices during this period as a contribution to the greater national interest and regional stability.

It is our belief that the short-term losses we are enduring will ultimately pave the way for long-term peace, security, and economic growth.

This sacrifice is not just for the benefit of Pakistan, but for the collective good of all SCO member states. We hope and pray that the outcomes of the SCO conference will lead to lasting peace and security.

Minister Kirmani says: Institutional reforms to improve service delivery

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Monday said that service delivery would be enhanced through institutional reforms in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister.

In a statement issued here, he announced that special powers were being granted to the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture to resolve institutional challenges through better policy-making and provide improved services to farmers. Chairing a meeting at the Agriculture House, the minister highlighted that Punjab focused on promoting innovation and value addition in the agriculture sector.

Generous funding was being provided to ensure that production targets were met strengthening the national economy, he added. The transformation of agriculture would lead to economic stability, he noted.

Key participants in the meeting included Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Usama Khan Leghari and Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali. Minister Kirmani further said that the performance of departments such as crop reporting, floriculture, Punjab Seed Corporation, soil fertility, sugarcane research and development board would be regularly reviewed by the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture.



RAWALPINDI: The shops in different markets are closed in view of the decision of the administration to keep the residential hotels closed in connection with the SCO conference held in the Federal Capital.

Israel says 4 soldiers killed by Hezbollah drone attack while Israeli strike in Gaza leaves 20 dead

Monitoring Desk
DEIR AL-BALAH: A Hezbollah drone attack on an army base in central Israel killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others Sunday, the military said, in the deadliest strike by the militant group since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks ago. The Lebanon-based Hezbollah called the attack near Binyamina city retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that killed 22 people. It later said it targeted Israel's elite Golani brigade, launching dozens of missiles to occupy Israeli air defense systems during the assault by "squadrons" of drones.

Israel's national rescue service said the attack wounded 61. With Israel's advanced air-defense systems, it's rare for so many people to be injured by drones or missiles. Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily in the year since the war in Gaza began, and fighting has escalated.

Israel launched its

ground operation in Lebanon earlier this month with the goal of weakening Hezbollah and pushing the militant group away from the border to allow thousands of displaced Israelis to return to their homes.

Inside Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 20 people including children at a school Sunday night, according to two local hospitals. The school in Nuseirat was sheltering some of the many Palestinians displaced by the war.

Meanwhile, explosions hit early Monday outside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, killing three people and injuring about 50 others, the hospital said. Tents caught fire, and residents of the Central Gaza community carried the injured into the hospital.

Hezbollah's deadly strike in Israel came the same day that the United States announced it would send a new air-defense system to Israel to help bolster protection against missiles, along with troops needed to



Lebanese army soldier inspects a site damaged by an Israeli air strike in the Christian-majority region of Aitou in north Lebanon.

China deploys record 125 warplanes in large scale military drill in warning to Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: China employed a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning aircraft carrier and ships, in large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands Monday, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait, officials said.

China made clear it was to punish Taiwan's president for rejecting Beijing's claim of sovereignty over the self-governed island.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a

speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment."

"This is a resolute punishment for Lai Ching-te's continuous fabrication of 'Taiwan independence' nonsense," China's Taiwan Affairs Office said in a statement.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said 90 of the aircraft, including warplanes, helicopters and drones, were spotted within Taiwan's air defense identification zone. The single-day record counted aircraft from 5:02 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Shipping traffic was operating as normal, the ministry said.

North Korea set to blow up cross-border roads with South amid drone row, Seoul says

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea is getting ready to blow up roads that cross the heavily militarized border with South Korea, Seoul said on Monday, amid an escalating war of words after the North accused its rival of sending drones over its capital Pyongyang.

North Korean troops were working under camouflage on the roads on its side of the border near the west and east coasts that are likely preparations to blow up the roads, possibly as early as on Monday, South Korea's military spokesman said.

Last week, North Korea's Army said it would completely cut roads and railways connected to South Korea and fortify the areas on its side of the border, state media KCNA reported. Separately, North Korea on Friday accused South Korea of sending drones to scatter a "huge number" of anti-North leaflets over Pyongyang, in what it called a political and military provocation that

could lead to armed conflict.

Lee Sung-jun, a spokesman for the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff, declined on Monday to answer questions over whether the South Korean military or civilians flew the drones.

In further statements over the weekend, North Korea warned of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones were again found to be flying over Pyongyang. On Sunday, it said it has put eight fully armed artillery units at the border "on standby to open fire."

South Korea's military has said its refusal to answer questions on the drones is because addressing what the North has alleged would be to get drawn into a tactic by Pyongyang to fabricate excuses for provocations. South Korea has sought to boost its anti-drone defenses since 2022, Lee said, when five North Korean drones entered its airspace and flew over the capital Seoul for several hours.

Israeli minister denounces UN peacekeepers as fighting rages

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen on Monday accused the United Nations' UNIFIL peacekeepers in south Lebanon of being a "useless" force that failed to protect Israelis from Hezbollah attacks and called on it to withdraw as fighting ramps up.

"The State of Israel will do everything to ensure the safety of its citizens, and if the UN cannot help, at least it should not interfere, and move its personnel from the combat zones," he said on X.

Israel and the United Nations have been trading accusations over the peacekeepers in south Lebanon, as Israel pushes its forces through the area in an attempt to wipe out Iran-backed Hezbollah and its military infrastructure.

The UN said Israeli tanks had burst into its base on Sunday, the latest allegations of Israeli violations against peacekeeping forces, that have been condemned by Hezbollah and by Israel's allies.

Israel disputed the UN account and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the peacekeepers to withdraw, saying they were providing "human shields" for Hezbollah during an upsurge in hostilities.

The UNIFIL peacekeeping force said two Israeli Merkava tanks destroyed the main gate of a base and forcibly entered before dawn on Sunday. After the tanks left, shells exploded 100 metres (yards) away, releasing smoke which blew across the base and sickened UN personnel, it said in a statement.

Kremlin says NATO's nuclear exercises fuel tensions in light of 'hot war' in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said that NATO's annual nuclear exercise involving nuclear-capable military aircraft, which began on Monday, was fuelling tensions in light of the "hot war" unfolding in Ukraine. NATO was due to begin its annual "Steadfast Noon" nuclear exercise on Monday, the alliance's Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Thursday, something he cast as a powerful display of deterrence capabilities against a backdrop of heightened

nuclear rhetoric from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

F-35A fighter jets and B-52 bombers will be among some 60 aircraft from 13 nations taking part in the exercise, hosted by Belgium and The Netherlands, NATO officials said.

"In the conditions of a hot war, which is going on within the framework of the Ukrainian conflict, such exercises lead to nothing but further escalation of tension," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Russia calls on BRICS partners to create alternative to IMF

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia, which chairs the BRICS group this year, has called on its partners to create an alternative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to counter political pressure from Western nations ahead of the BRICS summit later this month. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, and China, has expanded to include South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Top BRICS finance and central bank officials are meeting in Moscow this week.

Philippine defence minister doubts China's intent on South China Sea code

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines doubts China's intention to negotiate a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea although Manila is looking forward to continuing discussions, Defence Minister Gilberto Teodoro said on Monday.

Teodoro said that while President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had approved "good-faith discussions" with China over the long-delayed code, he doubted Beijing's sincerity.

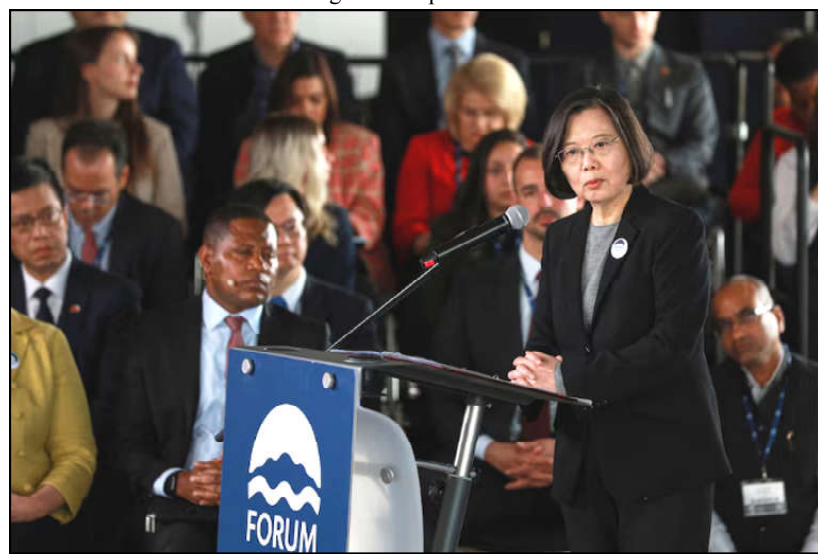
Lessons from Iran missile attacks for defending against China's advanced arsenal

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Iran's missile barrage this month against Israel, after a similar large-scale attack in April, shows the value, as well as the shortcomings, of US and allied missile defences in a potential Indo-Pacific conflict with China, analysts say.

Although differences between the two scenarios limit the lessons that can be learnt, the nearly 400 missiles of different types that Iran has fired at Israel this year offer the United States and China some idea of what works and what does not.

For Washington, the main takeaway from Iran's Oct. 1 attacks — the largest sample yet of ballistic missiles fired against modern defences — could be that Beijing's missiles would be more difficult to intercept than Iran's and that the ability to strike back would be needed to deter a mass attack, said Collin Koh of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

"If we look purely through the lenses of deterrence, no longer can one pin hopes on deterrence by denial only — that is, the hope that effective defences can blunt the efficacy of missile strikes," Koh said.



Former Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen speaks during the annual Forum 2000 conference in Prague, Czech Republic.

Russia says it captured a southern Ukraine village in a push before winter comes

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia said Monday that it has captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, including in eastern areas that are the main focus of Moscow's military effort before winter arrives.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago they struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia's Krasnodar region

WHO approves Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents

Monitoring Desk
MUNICH: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Monday it had approved Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, an age group considered especially vulnerable to outbreaks of the disease that has triggered global concern. The WHO said in a statement that it gave the Jynneos vaccine prequalification for adolescents on Oct 8. The WHO declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years in August after a new type of the virus spread from the Democratic Republic of Congo to its neighbours.

New Delhi bans fireworks to curb air pollution

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's capital New Delhi on Monday ordered a "complete ban" on fireworks in a bid to curb air pollution in a city where levels are regularly ranked among the worst in the world.

The ban is the toughest in a string of restrictions on the hugely popular firecrackers — rules that have been widely flouted.

"There will be a complete ban on the manufacturing, storage, selling [...] and bursting of all kinds of firecrackers," the Delhi Pollution Control Committee said in a statement.

The order was made because of the "public interest to curb high air pollution", it said. It comes two weeks before Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights on November 1, where many see fireworks as integral to celebrations.



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee areas in northern Gaza Strip following an Israeli evacuation order, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Jabalia.

Indonesia's Prabowo may offer Sri Mulyani a cabinet post, sources say

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto is considering offering current finance minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati a cabinet minister post in his administration, three sources told Reuters, as the president-elect finalises his ministerial picks. Prabowo on Monday held meetings with dozens of people in his South Jakarta residence, mostly politicians in his broad coalition, who said they had been asked to serve as ministers after Prabowo's Sunday inauguration.

It was unclear if Sri Mulyani was invited to Prabowo's residence — she did not show up until late afternoon — but three sources with knowledge of the situation told Reuters Prabowo was considering a cabinet seat for her.

Former World Bank managing director Sri Mulyani could be asked to stay on as finance minister or become coordinating minister of economic affairs because of the confidence financial markets have in her, said one of the sources, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the information.

Russia jails French researcher for three years in 'foreign agent' case

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Russian court Monday sentenced French researcher Laurent Vinatier to three years in a penal colony for breaking a law on registering as a "foreign agent."

A Russian court on Monday convicted a French citizen of collecting military information and sentenced him to three years in prison.

Laurent Vinatier, who was arrested in Moscow in June, earlier admitted guilt, setting the stage for a fast-tracked trial. His lawyers asked the court to sentence him to a fine.

Brazil looks to curb spending after local elections, sources say

Monitoring Desk
BRASILIA: The Brazilian government is preparing to roll out measures to curb mandatory spending after a second round of municipal elections at the end of the month, two Finance Ministry officials told Reuters.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has focused largely on restoring the country's fiscal balance with more tax revenue since he took office last year.

However, the sources say his government is now looking at spending controls to hit budget targets and stabilize gross debt below 80% of gross domestic product (GDP).

Investors and private economists have been skeptical of Lula's ability to deliver on budget promises, with interest rates rising in Brazil and the leftist president wary of belt-tightening as recent polls show his popularity under pressure.

Lula reiterated in a Friday radio interview that he aims to expand an income tax exemption for poor Brazilians, vowing to fulfill that election promise by the end of his term in 2026.

That exemption has garnered attention after newspaper Folha de S. Paulo reported that the government could raise taxes on millionaires to off-

set its estimated 35 billion reais fiscal impact.

However, one of the sources said the government's economic team sees the introduction of spending controls as more urgent. A second source from the ministry said the containment of mandatory expenses is intended to strengthen Brazil's fiscal framework, creating room for discretionary spending.

The rapid expansion of mandatory expenses such as public salaries and pensions is squeezing out investments and other programs due to a spending cap imposed under the new framework.

After starting to control expenses by cleaning up public registries and tackling fraud in social programs, the government is now preparing initiatives that will require congressional approval, the first source said.

The initial package, focused on specific expenditures, will likely be followed by a second, "tougher" set of more structural proposals, the source added, without giving details. Since last month, government officials have said the rules governing the so-called BPC program are under scrutiny.

India withdraws envoy, diplomats named 'persons of interest' in Canada probe

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India withdrew its envoy to Canada on Monday along with other officials and diplomats who Ottawa named as "persons of interest" in a matter related to an investigation in the country, the foreign ministry said.

New Delhi rejected the "preposterous imputations" of the Canadian assertion, made in a diplomatic communication on Sunday, saying it was part of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's "political agenda" centred around "vote bank politics".

The foreign ministry also said it summoned the Canadian Charge d'Affaires on Monday and informed him that the "baseless targeting" of Indian diplomats and officials in Canada was "completely unacceptable".

"We have no faith in



A woman works at a firecracker factory on the outskirts of Sivakasi in India's Tamil Nadu state.

'Unsustainable' housing crisis bedevils Spain's socialist govt

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Spain's acute housing crisis is piling pressure on Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez as his government's measures yield few results and frustration boils over among beleaguered citizens.

"Finding a place to rent has now become a minefield, especially for the young," 24-year-old Juan Lozano told AFP.

"There is hardly any supply, and when there is, the prices are sky high."

Lozano was one of around 22,000 protesters who thronged central Madrid on Sunday to vent

Man arrested near Trump rally in California faces gun charges

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A man arrested at a security checkpoint near Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's California rally on Saturday faces gun charges after he was found in possession of loaded firearms, multiple passports and a fake license plate, the local sheriff said on Sunday.

Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said he believed his department halted an assassination attempt, though he acknowledged that was "speculation." The suspect was released on bail on Saturday, jail records showed. A fed-

