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Asks PTI to withdraw protest call amid SCO moot Pakistan ready to warmly host CHG-SCO meeting; matters within SCO framework to be discussed: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan was ready to host Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting on October 15-16 in Islamabad in which different significant issues would be discussed under the SCO framework.

Talking to media after his visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that certain countries had requested for bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the CHG-SCO which were finalized.

Replying to a query, he said that India had not requested for such bilateral meeting and only the matters related to SCO framework would be discussed by the SCO member states at the multilateral forum.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the deputy prime minister and foreign minister during a walk with the mediapersons to provide them first-hand information about the preparations of SCO summit.

About invitation to Afghanistan, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that since 2021, the Observers Status of that country had been virtually suspended as Afghanistan had neither been invited to nor participated in SCO meetings.

Therefore, he said, Pakistan could not take decision alone in this regard as the decisions were taken on the SCO forum by the member states.

Dar, to another question, said Pakistan is a host to CHG-SCO and would fully meet the responsibility.

About the North-South and South-South connectivity, he said the discussions with the relevant countries were in progress and continuing on the bilateral and multilateral levels.

But within the SCO framework and protocol, certain matters would be discussed under specific scope of discussions and within its contours, he further



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing Wahdat Ummat Conference



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar along with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar talking with media men after visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting

Tarar lauds China for helping Pakistan overcome energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday extended deep gratitude to China for helping Pakistan to overcome worst energy crisis faced by the country in the early years of previous decade.

Delivering his speech at the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan ceremony here, he said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned over decades and many generations.

“The friendship between Pakistan and China is being passed down from generation to generation,” the minister said adding that the people of Pakistan and China had emotional attachment to each other.

Tarar remarked that Beijing had supported Islamabad in all circumstances and this friendship had gone through storms and difficult times successfully and proved unbreakable. He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the manifestation of closeness and ideal friendship between the two countries.

Chinese premier Li due in Islamabad today for a four-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang is scheduled to undertake a four-day bilateral visit to Pakistan from October 14-17, 2024 to meet Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Premier Li will be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Office on Sunday.

The Chinese premier will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders and senior military leadership of Pakistan. He will also attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad on October 15-16.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier Li Qiang will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The two sides will also discuss regional and global developments.

Session of Balochistan Assembly to start today

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to begin in Quetta today (Monday).

It may be mentioned here that the Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail had summoned the session of Provincial Assembly last week for today.

The session would remain continued till October 28, 2024, as mentioned in the official notification issued here by the Provincial Assembly Secretariat.

PTI to delay Oct 15 protest if meeting with Imran granted

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced that it will hold ‘massive’ protests on October 15 at Islamabad's D-Chowk, if the party is not allowed to meet party founder Imran Khan.

While speaking to a private TV Channel, PTI Central Secretary Information Sheikh Waqas Akram set a condition for the government to withdraw from the announced protest. “Allow party founder Imran Khan's meeting with his family and lawyers or face massive protests on October 15,” Sheikh Waqas Akram said.

He said that the government has banned meetings with Imran Khan for the last five or six weeks, adding that even lawyers and family members are not allowed to meet him. We have no contact with our leader (Imran Khan) and reports of mistreatment in jail are concerning. Our protest is not against the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, but for access to Imran Khan's,” Sheikh Waqas Akram added.

Addresses Wahdat-e-Ummat Conference We must defeat those spreading hatred in the name of religion and division: CM Bugti

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, highlighted the importance of national unity, stating that various conspiracies have been hatched to divide the nation since the creation of Pakistan. He stressed that repeated attacks on national solidarity have weakened collective efforts.

Speaking at the Wahdat-e-Ummat (Unity of the Ummah) Conference on Sunday, the Chief Minister said, “Today, the Muslim Ummah is fragmented, which is why we are unable to raise a united voice against atrocities faced by Muslims around the world, including in Palestine.”

CM Bugti emphasized that violence on ethnic or religious grounds also constitutes terrorism. “We must defeat those spreading hatred in the name of religion and division,” he asserted, adding that terrorism fueled by nationalism or religion must be curbed. “We need to unite against violence and ensure that it is stopped,” he urged.

Dr. Rubaba lauds role of Pak Navy for ensuring national security

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has stated that the role of Pakistan Navy is commendable for the country's stability and provision of equal opportunities to youth especially women.

She was speaking to the Station Commander of Pak Navy in Quetta, Captain Abdullah Siddiqui here the other day.

During the course of meeting, detail discussion was held on the mutual cooperation and partnership between the professional training of women between the women development and Pak Navy and Women Development Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rubaba Buledi stressed the need to establish the professional development institute for women. She said that such institutions would provide opportunities to the women to prove their skills and polish their talent at the national level.

Bugti appreciates Chairman PPP's proposal: Federal constitutional court to ensure equal representation of all provinces, says CM

QUETTA: The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has highly appreciated the proposal of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari regarding federal constitutional court in the country and it (proposal) would prove to be good omen for all the provinces especially Balochistan.

In his tweet on social media account on Sunday morning, the Chief Minister said that equal representation of all the provinces would be made possible with establishment of the constitutional court.

The Chief Minister also said that the voice of all the provinces including Balochistan would be heard on equal basis.

He said that we are proud of the visionary approach of Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti expressed the hope that all nationalist parties of Balochistan would also open for all the provinces especially Balochistan.

Custom-free vehicles for Gwadar free Zones in offing

GWADAR (INP): Government has shown readiness to allow import of custom-free vehicles in Gwadar Free Zone North and Gwadar Free Zone South under regulatory frameworks laid down by Federal Board of Revenue, Custom and Excise & Taxation department, Balochistan.

This will give profuse impetus to Gwadar Free Zone and investors, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Ministry of Maritime Affairs has prepared the draft for regulatory mechanism for the import of vehicles by Gwadar Free Zone and its operating companies.

The regulatory framework has been formulated with the notification of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with the purpose to facilitate the operationalization of Gwadar Free Zone and expedite the industrialization process. As per the amended regulatory mechanism, Free Zone investors will be authorized to import custom duty-free vehicles for their construction and operation.

Governor exhorts engineers & architects to guide in construction of modern buildings thru 3D printing technology

QUETTA: The Governor of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted all the engineers and architects of the country to provide guidance in construction of the modern buildings through 3D printers and technology.

He also urged them to introduce new concept of science and technology regarding building code. He stressed that we have to decorate our engineers and architects with modern technology and skills of 3D printing in order to come at par with the international standard as it is need of our collective survival, without

which we would lag behind in all fields of innovation, productivity and economic development.

The Governor was addressing the annual exhibition and conference of the construction material organized by the Institute of Architects of Pakistan Quetta Chapter, here at a local hall the other day.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) delegation, led by Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaullah, and Federal Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, meets with MQM-Pakistan leadership, including Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, at Pakistan House.

Three-day annual exhibition & conference of construction material: Governor exhorts engineers & architects to guide in construction of modern buildings thru 3D printing technology

‘Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says time arises to computerize all our institutions and departments at earliest and focus on building capacity in professional sectors

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exhibition and conference and said that the engineers and builders are playing key role in providing strong foundation to the basic infrastructure in the country including Balochistan.

He said that it is clear that the country which would increase the production of solar energy would have bright future.

He urged the engineers to guide us to overcome the energy crisis in the country and province and that how

‘Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says time arises to computerize all our institutions and departments at earliest and focus on building capacity in professional sectors

Pakistan Army secures gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Army's team has been awarded the gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024, which concluded today in Wales, United Kingdom.

According to a press release issued here, the event, held from the 4th to the 13th of this month, marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the exercise, which upholds demanding professional standards.

Patrols from around the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of 60 kilometers (kms) within 48 hours, completing specialist tasks in a contested environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

This year, one hundred and twenty-eight teams from forty-two countries participated in the exercise, and the Pakistan Army's team demonstrated exceptional performance and secured the gold medal.

This year, Exercise Cambrian Patrol celebrated its 65th year and has retained its demanding professional standards; patrols all across the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of 60 kilometers (kms) within 48 hours, completing specialist tasks in a contested environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

According to the sources of Provincial Health Department, the polio immunization campaign would be launched in all 36 districts of the province.

The sources said that it has been targeted to vaccinate over 2.6 million children below five years of age.

More than 10,000 teams would be engaged for vaccination of children during the campaign, the sources maintained.

WALES: Pakistan Army Team participate in Exercise Cambrian Patrol-2024, held in Wales. This year, 128 teams from 42 Countries participated in the Exercise and out of all these teams, Pakistan Army's Team showed Exceptional Performance in the exercise and has been awarded with the Gold Medal.

PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to achievement of highest global standards on 'World Standards Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to support their relevant organizations achieving adherence to highest global standards and in accelerating Pakistan's journey toward sustainable economic development.

In a message on the World Standards Day being observed on October 14, the prime minister said that Pakistan joined the international community to commemorate the World Standards Day.

The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), a National Standards Body, was actively engaging with the global community and making efforts to inspire their domestic manufacturers to adopt standardization and quality-focused practices, thereby fostering a culture of excellence throughout the country, he added.

The prime minister said the theme for this year as set by International Organization for Standardization (ISO), "Shared Vision for a Better World," underscored the essential role of reliability and trust in driving the success of both the manufacturing and service sectors.

"Standards are indeed the foundation that makes everyday life functions seamless.

This theme invites us to reassess the competitive-

ness of our products in the international market," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

In line with the commitment to public safety, health and environment, the prime minister said that he was proud to highlight that the PSQCA had developed rigorous safety standards for automotive vehicles to protect the lives of our citizens. "Noteworthy achievement is that it has set a limit of 2% on industrially produced Trans Fatty Acids (iTFA) in food products, a critical step towards reducing cardiovascular diseases in Pakistan. These efforts reflect our determination to prioritize the well-being of our people through comprehensive and effective standards," he observed.

The growth of Pakistan's exports was directly linked with the compliance of our goods and services with the international standards, he said, adding this alignment helped to promote and build global consumer confidence in Pakistani products, broaden greater opportunities for their businesses worldwide and further stimulate economic growth in a sustainable manner. Conformity to such standards also bestowed a competitive advantage, enabling businesses to meet customer needs through optimized organizational and manufacturing processes, he opined.



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PCB Chairman Naqvi with selection committee, mentors review team performance

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi presided over a crucial two-hour joint meeting with the selection committee and team mentors to assess the current state of the national cricket team.



The meeting, which followed a separate session with the mentors, aimed to evaluate recent performances and fitness levels ahead of upcoming matches.

During the meeting, the selection committee provided Naqvi with insights regarding potential changes to the team lineup. It was agreed that the process of evaluating new players would be completed by the end of the current series.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of completing the fitness assessments for players within the same timeframe. Chairman Naqvi instructed the selection committee and mentors to focus on improving the quality of pitches used for domestic matches. Various suggestions were put forth during the discussions, reflecting the collaborative effort to elevate Pakistan cricket.

Notable attendees included selection committee members Aqib Javed, Azhar Ali, Aleem Dar, Hassan Cheema, advisor Bilal Afzal, Director Domestic Abdullah Khurram Niazi, and Director High Performance Nadeem Khan. Mentors Shoaib Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, and Saqlain Mushtaq were present, while mentor Sarfraz Ahmed and selection committee member Asad Shafiq participated via video link.

UN chief calls for equipping young people with skills on Disaster Risk Reduction Day

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has underscored the vital role of education in protecting children and empowering them to build a disaster-resilient future.

In a message marking Sunday's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN chief highlighted the severe impact of disasters on children.

"When disasters strike, they unleash enormous devastation on individuals, societies and economies. The ripple effects of death, destruction and displacement are unimaginable. Today, disasters are often supercharged by the climate crisis, increasing their frequency and intensity," he said.

"No one is safe, but children are particularly vulnerable," he added.

According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), approximately one billion children are at "extremely high risk" from the effects of climate change. Recent years have seen the highest levels of children affected by destructive flooding in over three decades. In the aftermath of disasters, children face disruptions to education, nutrition, and healthcare. They often lose access to essential social services and protection, while girls and children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to dangerous conditions.

Children from impoverished families are disproportionately impacted, further deepening the challenges they face in recovering from both disasters and the consequences of climate change.

Despite their vulnerabilities, Guterres stressed that children are not just victims of disaster.

"They have a huge stake in the future, and their ideas and innovations can help to reduce risk and build resilience."



MULTAN: Pakistan coach Jason Gillespie chats with Babar Azam during a practice session ahead of the Second Test Match against England at Multan Cricket Stadium.

HEC secures 3rd position in inter-departmental Karate championship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The team of Higher Education Commission (HEC), gave an impressive performance at the Inter-departmental Karate Championship held at Nishtar Park Sports Complex, Lahore, and secured 3rd position.

HEC team demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, winning a total of 18 medals, including 1 gold, 6 silver, and 11 bronze medals.

In the female category, Nimra Ali won the silver medal in Individual Kata, while the team comprising Hafiza Iqra Anwar, Summaya Razaqat, and Aayira Faisal won bronze medal in Team Kata. The team also won one bronze medal in Team Kumite.

Other notable female performances included four silver medals and three bronze medals in various weight categories.

The male team also gave a very good performance with Haris Nadeem winning a bronze medal in Individual Kata. The team comprising Haris Nadeem, Dilawar, Nouman Arshad, and Alyan secured bronze medal in Team Kata. The team won silver medal in Team Kumite, while Syed Wasi Haider clinched a gold medal in the below 75 kg weight category. Other male athletes won five bronze medals in various weight categories.

Expert guidance, up to the mark training, teamwork, athletes' dedication and hard work led to this impressive performance.

HEC's participation in the championship demonstrates its commitment to promoting sports excellence and empowering university students to achieve laurels in both academics and athletics.

Shah Farman resigns as senior Advisor to KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman has resigned from the cabinet due to his responsibilities as a member of the accountability committee formed to monitor performance of the provincial government.

According to the resignation, Shah Farman maintained that as a member of the accountability committee his role as an advisor would be affected therefore he had resigned as an advisor.

It is pertinent to mention here that Shah Farman had been selected as a member of committee to monitor the performance of the provincial government and cabinet members besides corrupt practices.

The other members of the committee included Senior legal expert Qazi Anwar, Advisor to KP CM on anti-corruption Musaddiq and Shah Farman.

25-year-old woman falls prey to honor killing in Swat

Independent Report
SWAT: A devastating incident has shaken the Swat valley, where a 25-year-old woman was brutally murdered in the name of honor. The victim, who was married to Iqbal, had been seeking refuge with her father due to domestic unrest. Tragically, her own husband and brothers allegedly committed the heinous crime, disposing of her body in a deep cave in Alagay village, Banjoot area, under the cover of midnight.

Honor killings, known locally as karo-kari, remain a pressing concern in Pakistan. Despite recent legal reforms, this practice continues to claim numerous lives. In 2021 alone, over 470 cases of honor killings were reported, with estimates suggesting that around 1,000 women fall victim to this practice annually.

Human rights activists and organizations are urging the public to condemn this practice and advocate for change. The persistence of honor killings underscores the need for sustained efforts to protect women's rights and promote a culture of tolerance and understanding.

Pakistan ready to warmly host...

Gaza and Lebanon issues. Pakistan has sent 10 consignments of humanitarian assistance to Palestine and further steps were on anvil for the relief aid, he added.

To a query, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister urged a specific political party without naming (PTI) it to take back its call for protest on October 15 in the larger national interests.

He said for the sake of politics, it was not good for the same political party that had been repeating the same scenario of 2014. Due to their protest, Chinese president's visit had been postponed.

During all parties conference on Gaza, the same political party did not attend it, he said, adding what message, they wanted to give?

It had already crossed all the red lines in the past and attacked the state institutions, Dar observed and stressed upon its leadership to rectify its wrong decision and call off their protest on 15 October in the large national interests.

The deputy prime minister also lauded the relevant ministries for making arrangements for the upcoming SCO event.



QUETTA: People are filling their water cans from public tap as they face shortage of drinking water in their area, during the hot weather of summer season, in Quetta.

PCB holds major surgery before second Test: Babar, Shaheen, Naseem dropped for remaining two Test matches against England

"We are fully committed to supporting them during this period so they can come back even stronger," says selection committee member.

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The national squad for the second and third Tests against England has been announced.

Former captain Babar Azam, ace fast bowlers Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi, along with wicketkeeper-batsman Sarfaraz Ahmed, have been dropped from the squad for the remaining matches.

The selection committee has also informed the PCB Chairman regarding these changes.

Sources indicated that the selectors decided to rest Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Shaheen Afridi in accordance to Pakistan's future international cricket schedule.

Additionally, Abrar Ahmed was unavailable for selection due to dengue fever.

In their place, wicket-keeper Haseebullah, spinner Mehran Mumtaz, Kamran Ghulam, fast bowler Muhammad Ali, and off-spinner Sajid Khan have been included.

Nauman Ali and Zahid Mahmood, who were initially part of the original squad but later dropped, have now been re-included in the 16-member squad.

The selection committee stated that choosing the team for the upcoming Tests

against England was a challenging task, requiring consideration of Pakistan's international schedule for 2024. Keeping these factors in mind, they decided to rest Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Shaheen Afridi.

Pakistan Squad: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamer Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wicketkeeper), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Haris, Mohammad Rizwan (wicketkeeper), Nauman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, and Zahid Mahmood.



QUETTA: Railway employees holding a protest demonstration in favour of their demands

Experts say

SCO summit vital opportunity for Pakistan to strengthen diplomatic, economic ties with member states

ISLAMABAD (APP): Experts and analysts on international and regional affairs believe that the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Islamabad will be an important opportunity for Pakistan to strengthen its economic and diplomatic ties with member countries and to agree on a unified strategy for countering terrorism.

The 23rd two-day summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is scheduled to take place on October 15 and 16 in Islamabad.

The SCO was established in 2001 and has nine member states, including China, Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan as its founding members while Pakistan, India and Iran joined the organization in 2017.

In preparation for the SCO meeting, the Pakistani government has implemented strict security measures, deploying thousands of police with military forces to ensure law and order and safety during the event.

Regional affairs experts and analysts said that the SCO presents a significant diplomatic and economic opportunity for Pakistan.

International relations expert at Institute of Strategic Study Islamabad (ISSI) Muhammad Taimur Khan said that this summit is a great opportunity for Pakistan to clarify how it can attract investment and contribute to regional connectivity.

Talking to APP he said, "This gives Pakistan an opportunity to push forward its economic and geopolitical interests on a broader stage, advocating for policies that promote regional peace, security, and prosperity. Through this engagement, Pakistan can not only deepen its ties with key regional players but also assert itself as a vital link in the broader Eurasian connectivity initiative."

Analysts believe the SCO is a big platform and it can turnaround not only in the region but in the entire world. "Pakistan, which is the 5th largest populous country in the world and its strategic location for international trade has further increased its significance to grab the opportunity for benefits of its people," senior journalist Ifiikhar Shirazi told APP.

He said discussions on security issues and current regional terrorism will also be significant at this summit, adding, "security issues and terrorism are a key agenda item for the SCO, and this meeting is important for discussing and resolving the issues particularly the terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, which poses a serious threat to the entire region."

Experts note that there is a growing trend in Pakistan to shift from a geo-strategic to a geo-economic focus, and this SCO summit will be an opportunity for Pakistan to advance and clarify this strategy.

Muneeb Salman, an international and financial affairs researcher, noted that this will be an important conference, particularly for Pakistan's connectivity with Central Asia, given the prior work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking to APP, he mentioned that bilateral trade between Pakistan and China is nearly \$20 billion, but connecting Pakistan with resources rich Central Asia remains a long-standing ambition.

The gathering is expected to result in the adoption of key measures aimed at enhancing economic partnerships among member states and approving the SCO's budget for the upcoming year.

The summit will bring together Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Belarusian PM Roman Golovchenko and Iran's First Vice President Reza Aref. Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Olzhas Bek-tenov, Kyrgyzstan's Akybek Japarov, Tajikistan's Kohir Rasulzoda, and Uzbekistan's Abdulla Anipov are also expected to participate in the meeting.

India's Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar will represent his country.

No compromise on Pakistan's honor, Talal Chaudhry warns PTI

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senator Talal Chaudhry Sunday issued a strong warning regarding PTI's protest call and said that the government will not tolerate any actions that compromise Pakistan's respect and dignity. He declared the call as an attempt to blackmail the state and secure an NRO. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Talal said that the government will not tolerate any attempts to create chaos and called Imran Khan as 'history's VIP prisoner' who enjoys all facili-

ties while still making excuses and attempting to disrupt the SCO conference. According to Talal Chaudhry, PTI's actions are a threat to Pakistan's economic stability and national security. He reiterated the government's commitment to protecting Pakistan's respect and dignity, making it clear that no compromises will be made. He said Imran Khan leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has been receiving special treatment while in

jail, including separate kitchen facilities and opportunities to hold political meetings, adding, despite this, he continues to criticize the government and allegedly wants to disrupt the SCO summit and CPEC phase 2. The SCO summit and CPEC phase 2 are crucial for Pakistan's economic development and any disruptions could have significant consequences, he added. The government is focusing on addressing the country's economic woes and fulfilling its governing

responsibilities instead of targeting the opposition, he added. Responding to a query, he made it clear that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) can call for protests but they will not allow to dare to disrupt the state's proceedings, especially when Pakistan is hosting a significant international conference. Talal Chaudhry has strongly criticized PTI chairman Imran Khan for allegedly collaborating with external powers to create instability in Pakistan during the SCO summit.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover decorated with flags of various countries in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Electric bus service closed in the red zone of the Federal Capital, in connection with SCO Summit.

PTDC, Discover Pakistan TV sign MoU to promote tourism in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Discover Pakistan TV signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Friday for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan and abroad. Managing Director, PTDC, Aftab-ur Rehman Rana signed the MoU on behalf of PTDC while Dr. Kaiser Rafiq, CEO signed for Discover Pakistan TV. Through the MoU, both the organizations agreed to join hands to organize various promotional activities and initiatives to promote image of Pakistan as a tourist friendly destination at national and international level. The MoU also focuses on creation of high quality digital content on

tourist destinations of Pakistan, promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism through awareness campaign via digital and electronic media and engagement of national and international travel villagers to promote Pakistan as tourist destination. Moreover, it highlights the commitment of both the parties to continue the National Tourism Awards of Excellence as an annual high level affair to acknowledge the efforts of industry stakeholders for the promotion and development of tourism in Pakistan. MD, PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana on this occasion said, "PTDC being a national tourism organization is utilizing all its resources to promote tourism.

Election result rejection of what BJP has done to IIOJK: Omar Abdullah

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Conference vice President Omar Abdullah has said that the election result of the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is a rejection of what Bharatiya Janata Party has done to the people of the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, Omar Abdullah in a media interview in Srinagar said it is a rejection of what was done to the territory on August 5, 2019. "And I am also including all the seats outside the BJP's kitty-whether bagged by independents, the Peoples Democratic Party, or the alliance. This is a rejection of what the BJP did. To a query about his commitment to pass a reso-

lution in the assembly for the restoration of statehood and against the Article 370 move by the BJP, he said, "The resolution should come from the cabinet. Why wait for the assembly?" The assembly can debate and discuss other things, but the cabinet should be clear on the restoration of statehood, he added. To another query Omar Abdullah said, "In the initial phase, we will do whatever we can. But I don't believe we will remain a union territory. The prime minister is on record committing statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has said it is a three-step process: delimitation, elections and statehood.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Rawal Dam Chowk Flyover decorated in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.

Know about SCO CHG Summit Islamabad is hosting on Oct 15-16!

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is set to host the twenty-third meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) from October 15-16, 2024 here. To be held at the Jinnah Convention Centre, the meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the current chair of the CHG. What is SCO? Established by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on June 15, 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organization aimed at strengthening multisphere coopera-

tion, promoting peace and security, and new economic international order. Pakistan joined the SCO in 2017 and Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at her recent weekly press briefing, said that since then the country worked consistently and constructively to strengthen good neighbourly relations and remained committed to the purposes and principles of the SCO Charter and the values of the Shanghai Spirit.

The supreme decision-making body of the SCO is the Council of Heads of States (CHS) which meets annually and decides upon all the important issues of the Organization. What is SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG)? The Council of Heads of Government is the second highest forum within the SCO, with a primary focus on fostering cooperation among member states in socio-economic, trade, and financial sectors. The Council meets once a year to discuss the strategy of multilateral cooperation and priority areas within the Organization, determine fundamental and topical issues in economic and other spheres, and approve the budget of the SCO. The previous meeting of the SCO CHG was held in Bishkek on October 26, 2023 and Pakistan was represented by that time Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil

Abbas Jilani. In the said meeting, Pakistan had also assumed the rotating Chair of the Council of Heads of Government from 2023 to 2024. Who is attending SCO CHG in Islamabad? The SCO CHG meeting being held in Islamabad is expected to be participated by leaders from SCO states including Prime Ministers of China Li Qiang, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akylybek Japarov, Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov,

First Iranian Vice President Mohammadreza Aref, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. Other participants include Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai as an Observer and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov as a Special Guest. The representatives of international organizations including the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Economic Community are also expected to attend the moot.

Pakistan's pavilion at COP29 to host vibrant activities convening int'l experts: Bilal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Bilal Anwar on Sunday said Pakistan's pavilion at COP29 to host vibrant activities convening international experts for a healthy discourse on multifaceted topics around climate resilience. The Fund is assisting the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in formulation of the National Climate Finance Strategy that would be launched at the COP29. The Fund is also assisting in formulation of the

NDRMF is supporting the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination by extending financial and technical assistance in establishing the COP pavilion, pre-COP events and writing position papers on different agenda items like Article 13, Article 6 and others under the Paris Accord, the CEO NDRMF said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund. The Fund is also assisting in formulation of the

National Climate Finance Strategy that would be launched at the COP29, he said. Denouncing the criticism on COP Pavilions, Bilal Anwar said the criticism on the COP pavilions established by the country at previous conferences was unfair. "Pakistan's pavilion has enhanced its utility in the previous two to three COPs as during the COP27 due to 2022 floods it has garnered much attention whereas during the COP28, some 29 events were organised throughout the moot at the pavilion.

Caste system remains deep-rooted issue in India: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Everyday life for many in India is marked by caste-based oppression and societal violence as decades after independence, the caste system remains a deep-rooted issue in the country. A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said women from lower castes face a disproportionate risk of violence and harassment but caste-related crimes often escape justice in the Indian legal system. It said Hindu caste system represents one of

the oldest forms of social hierarchy which still exists and low-caste individuals are relegated to the most degrading and labor-intensive jobs across the country. The report lamented that India's democratic framework had not only failed to dismantle the caste system but had, in some ways, reinforced its structures. Within this hierarchy, Dalits are still viewed as 'untouchables,' facing systemic exclusion, it added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two persons were critically injured when a gas cylinder exploded in the Basic Health Unit of the Uch Gul Imam area of Athara Hazari on early Sunday morning. According to details, rescue 1122 said that a cylinder exploded inside a basic health unit, and due to the intensity of the blast, two people were injured, a private news channel reported. Rescue teams swiftly responded to the incident and shifted injured persons to nearby hospitals.



ISLAMABAD: Weekly Margallah Bazaar H-9 closed on Sunday, in connection with SCO Summit in the Federal Capital.

Education secretary shows commitment to revolutionize public schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani Sunday made a strong commitment to revolutionize Islamabad's public schools, transforming them into beacons of excellence within just one year where half of the work already being completed. In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he said the government's commitment to providing quality education in public schools, equal to or even surpassing that of private institutions. He highlighted the fo-

cus on teacher training programs and state-of-the-art art labs to bridge the gap between public and private education. This initiative aims to empower students with the latest skills, increasing their employment opportunities and equipping them for success in the digital age, he added. Secretary hailed a major milestone in the education sector, revealing that the transformative overhaul of public schools has led to a significant shift. "Mostly, students from private schools are now transferring to public schools," he noted.

Gas cylinder blast injures two in Athara Hazari

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Govt plans to integrate MoHR helpline for coordination b/w police, media & victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is planning to integrate the HRD Ministry's helpline 1099 to strengthen coordination between the police, media, and victims at the grassroots level. Talking to APP, Director General Ministry of Human Rights Dr. Jahanzeb Khan said that there is a dire need to create awareness about the helpline quarterly year. He said that the integration of helplines would help the people and 15 different officials' helplines integrate each other's and SOP would be completed that would facilitate the people. He said that the purpose of awareness

should be protection from abuse, and exploitation, for exploitation, without parental care, or used for child trafficking, abduction, and sale of children and rescue the women and marginalized segments of society. He said that the Government is taking action by law to radically increase women's representation in all administrative leadership positions (including departmental head offices and key field offices). Dr. Jahanzeb Khan also said that the media should play a vital role in this regard, adding that for the support and protection of victims, the media should maintain the code of ethics.

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ISLAMABAD: A man on his way carrying a bundle of dry woods on his head for domestic use.

IG Rizvi says: ICT police finalize security measures for SCO Summit, deploying 93% of force

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, under the supervision of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, is preparing for the upcoming SCO Summit 2024, with a comprehensive security plan now in place. Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated on Sunday that the ICT Police have developed an integrated security strategy to ensure safety during the event. IG Rizvi said that security duties have been finalized at various venues, airports, routes, fencelines, hotels, and residences of delegations, including the Noor Khan Air Base.

IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated that the Islamabad Police have developed an integrated traffic plan to minimize difficulties for citizens during the event. "Search and information-based operations are ongoing to ensure full security for all foreign heads of state, delegations, and guests," Rizvi said. IG Rizvi, said the security efforts involve collaboration across multiple agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, District Administration, Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Corps, other provincial police, intelligence agencies, traffic police, and the special branch.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Kirpa police team on Sunday raided a distillery in the area of Jinnah Garden which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of liquor. According to a police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city. In this regard, the Kirpa police teams conducted a raid at the distillery and recovered huge cache of liquor. Police team also nabbed three liquor dealers namely Zeeshan Ilyas, Muhammad Tariq and Khalid Masih during the raid while efforts are underway to arrest his other accomplices, he added. A resident of Sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Most of the public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) are in shambles, need civic authorities' attention to make them attractive places for visitors. The city is renowned for its abundance of resorts and public green spaces. However, these green spaces are now highlighting the necessity for regular maintenance by the relevant authorities. According to a senior official of Capital Development Authority (CDA), there are more than 300 public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad whereas over 820 staff is deployed for keeping these parks clean and green. A resident of Sector

ICT's public parks in dilapidated state due to poor maintenance

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G11/2, Haq Nawaz said, public parks in majority of areas including G-10, G-9, G-8, G-13 and G-7 were in poor condition with broken benches, broken lamps, overgrown grass, uneven walking tracks, trash strewn all over. Touqeer Ahmed, a regular visitor of playground in G-9 lamented the appalling condition of most parks and playgrounds, stating, "The lush greenery is overshadowed by the neglect, reflecting a lack of interest from CDA officials." Shahid Jameel, a resident of G-13/4, said, "Swings and other playing instruments installed at a park near his house had broken, posing a threat to children. It's heartbreaking to see our parks in this state."



ISLAMABAD: Daily wage laborers taking rest on the green belt.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairs 99th Governing Body meeting of Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency.

Governor urges PTI to defer protest call in national interest

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) should stop pursuing selfish political goals and call off the October 15 protest at D-Chowk, Islamabad in the larger national interest.

In an interview with APP here on Sunday, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that prime ministers of nine countries would arrive in Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15 and matter of pride for political forces present a positive image of the country instead of taking to the streets. "I understand force but when it national prestige, politics, avoid put Pakistan adding that fall if PTI called off week or so. On the Governor Punjab said PTI leadership needed to understand that politics of obstinacy had brought them to the verge where one wrong step could be fatal for their firebrand politics, adding that there was no room for stubbornness in politics. He urged the PTI leadership to take the path of dialogue and play productive role in taking the country ahead rather than leading it to anarchy.



Azma Bukhari says: Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the Punjab Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs and avoid playing the role of the opposition, like Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Bukhari pointed out that in Sindh, schools are often found with animals tied up, and there is a rampant culture of cheating and selling entire examination centres. She noted that in the province where the PPP has been in the government for 16 years, a 19th-century education system still prevails. She highlighted that seven districts in Punjab are at the top with the highest literacy rates, while many areas in Sindh lack schools altogether. The minister expressed that the

Governor should enjoy tea, coffee, and dried fruits at the Governor's House, as he has no role in administrative affairs. She responded to the Governor's statements by mentioning constant media reports about ghost employees and students in Sindh's education department. She emphasized that outside of two areas in Karachi and Hyderabad, literacy rates in the rest of Sindh are virtually zero. Azma Bukhari asserted that due to improved education standards in Punjab, students from government schools are achieving prominent positions in board examinations. She contrasted this with the recent incidents related to the MD CAT exam in Sindh that have drawn nationwide attention.

Public cooperation crucial for effective disaster management: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Irfan Ali Kathia has reaffirmed the authority's commitment to utilizing all available resources to address natural disasters. In a message on International Disaster Reduction Day, observed globally on Sunday, Kathia

highlighted the pervasive impact of climate change, noting that while disasters cause significant harm, they also provide important lessons. The DG stated that the government has implemented revolutionary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens, emphasizing that safeguarding these assets.



LAHORE: Visitors admire the artwork on display during the painting exhibition organized by the Knowledge Art Academy and Fortnight School System at the historic Wazir Khan Mosque.

Promoting healthy diet to combat malnutrition

PESHAWAR (APP): With birds chirping in canopy trees signaling the dawn of a new morning at village Dheri Mian Ishaq on River Kabul, the sunrays cast warm glow on mud house of Azhar Khan, a determined fruit and vegetable seller. Taking control of family business in 2020 in a difficult financial situation after tragic death of his father due to cardiac arrest, Azhar, 35 started selling organic products at Chamakan market in Peshawar. He daily brings fruits

and vegetables to this market from hometown in Nowshera district on rickshaw, toiling hard like many others to defeat poverty. Braving all odds in his early days of business, Azhar was now all smiles after seeing people's overwhelming response to organic fresh fruits and vegetables, useful in combating malnutrition especially in children and lactating mothers. Khan sells a variety of organic fruits and vegetables including guava, grapes, apples, peaches,

ladyfinger and ridged gourd to cater to rising consumers' demand for quality nutritious food and balanced diet. "As winter approaches, the demand for organic produce surges," he said. "Sometimes I had to visit twice to Chamkani for more fresh fruits and vegetables." He is not alone in this business as thousands others cultivating fruits and vegetables play a key role in promoting organic food at a time when millions of Pakistani are

prey to mal-nutrition, especially the kids and youngsters. Thousands of the families in the province are now inclined to use pesticides and chemicals free organic food for better health. "Balanced diet has critical role for better health," remarked Dr. Riaz Khan, a child specialist at the Government Hospital Pabbi Nowshera. "Balanced diet helps in combating malnutrition, particularly among children, lactating mothers and elderly citizens." He said healthy dietary practices must start

from infancy with breastfeeding infants and then in early childhood to raise a healthy generation. Declaring malnutrition as silent killer, Dr Riaz said it poses a significant threat to children health and cognitive development besides affecting their physical growth. "We rank second in the region with our 40% of children affected by this tendency due to socioeconomic imbalances, poverty and lack of access to quality medical treatment," he claimed.

CM Murad releases guidelines for 2025-26 ADP preparation

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has issued detailed guidelines to all government departments for the formulation of the Annual Development Program (ADP) 2025-26 in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year. The directive, issued through the Planning & Development (P&D) department, emphasises the importance of aligning with the prevailing economic conditions, federal policies, and the development agenda of the Sindh government. Mr. Shah stated that the ADP is designed to focus on sectoral priorities and socio-economic impact while adhering to both federal and provincial government guidelines. He instructed each department to ensure that

the proposed projects align with the government's development strategy and contribute to measurable socio-economic outcomes. Under the directives of the Chief Minister, departments are required to adhere to the comprehensive guidelines provided by the federal government's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), which is still pending. They should also follow the specific instructions issued by the CM. The CM has instructed that the initial edition of the ADP should be prepared based on sectoral priorities and implementation capacity within a budget size to be outlined in the Budget Strategy Paper (BSP). The final allocation will be determined based on the

availability of funds from the Finance Department. The CM's guidelines emphasize that 80 per cent of the total development budget should be allocated to ongoing schemes. He stated, "schemes expected to be completed by June 2025 must be finalized according to the original plan period." Additionally, for projects that have already utilized over 70 per cent of their total cost, departments are directed to allocate the remaining funds for completion in FY 2025-26. The chief minister emphasised that provincial departments must ensure counterpart funds for projects supported by international development partners. Furthermore, the ADP portfolio must be adjusted to address the aftermath of the 2022.

Chairs PHATA governing body CM approves surplus budget of Rs 34.73bn

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over the 99th meeting of the Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA) governing body, where a surplus budget of Rs 34.73 billion for the current financial year was approved. The meeting highlighted significant initiatives aimed at enhancing housing accessibility and operational efficiency within PHATA. During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed PHATA to develop a plan for completing housing projects through private partnerships. She also announced the approval of the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program, aimed at providing affordable housing. It was reported in the briefing that 544,000

individuals have registered on the program's portal, with 280,000 applications received for housing construction and over 76,000 draft applications submitted. The governing body authorized PHATA to sign contracts and instructed timely verification of applicants' documents. Additionally, it approved the upgrading of data entry operators' scales and the recruitment of civil sub-engineers under the PHATA Services Regulation 2004. A key decision was made to condition budget approvals on the governing body's authorization, rather than requiring cabinet approval. The meeting also permitted refunds to applicants from previous housing schemes who were not selected in the lottery.

Sindh govt actively working on construction of worship places of minorities: Naved

SANGHAR (APP): Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naved arrived in Sanghar. Upon his arrival in Sanghar he was warmly welcomed by Pakistan Peoples Party leader Rajesh Kumar Harsadani and Assistant Commissioner Shafiq Ahmed Arisar. The Chairman of the Municipal Committee Sanghar, Rashid Islam Mughal, was also present. During the discussion, the Deputy Speaker emphasized that the Sindh government is dedicated to the welfare of the public

and ensures complete religious freedom for minorities. He highlighted that the Sindh government is actively working on the construction of places of worship for minority communities. Moreover, he mentioned ongoing efforts to improve road infrastructure, establish educational and health institutions, and create employment opportunities across the province. After attending a lunch hosted by Rajesh Kumar Harsadani, Naved proceeded to Parsi Goth.



GUJRAT: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain inaugurates 54th camp at Aisha Bashir Hospital.

4 killed over property issue in Kolai Palas

PESHAWAR (APP): At least four people were killed and as many injured in crossfire between the two groups over a property dispute in Kolai Palas district, Lower Kohistan, police informed on Sunday. Police said the unfortunate incident occurred between the two groups of Shal-kind tribe in Khalyar village of Kolai Palas. The issue started with the ownership of a piece of land turned into a bloody clash that resulted in deaths of three people from one side and one from the other.

PCP & MiracleFeet join hands to set free Clubfoot Clinic in AJK

PESHAWAR (APP): In a groundbreaking healthcare initiative, Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP) has partnered with MiracleFeet, a leading US-based NGO, to make life-changing clubfoot treatment possible for the children of Azad Kashmir as well. The partnership has launched a state-of-the-art Ponseti Clubfoot clinic at Helping Hand for Relief & Development's rehabilitation center in

Muzaffarabad. This clinic is set to transform the lives of children suffering from clubfoot by providing high-quality, 100% free treatment in AJK as well. Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEO of PCP, played a pioneer role in substantiating the idea wherein he made MiracleFeet's Regional Program Officer, Dr. Faisal Imtiaz, to collaborate with the senior management of Helping Hand in Islamabad.



MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Justice High Court Sadaqat Hussain Raja addressing the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officials of the Central Bar.

Health minister inquires after girl at Children's Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Sunday inquired after four-year-old Dua Fatima of Bahawalnagar at the Children's Hospital Lahore. Acting on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the minister reviewed the medical care being provided to the patient. During the visit, Professor Tipu Sultan, Medical Director of the hospital, briefed the minister on treatment and facilities available for Dua Fatima. The minister assured that children at the hospital were receiving the best medical care, and shared that the government had plans to further enhance pediatric treatment facilities at the Children's Hospital Lahore to ensure even better healthcare outcomes for young patients.

Practical steps underway to check inflation: Minister

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister of Zakat & Usher and Secretary General Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Sargodha division, Rana Munawer Ghous Khan, on Sunday said that the government is committed to checking inflation and increasing trade to provide relief to poor people. Talking to APP, he said that the federal government and all provincial governments were seriously working to address all the current issues under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He said that federal

and provincial governments would have to resolve the challenges of inflation. "The country is passing through a difficult situation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set conditions for the government to restrict subsidies. The government will have to make efforts for balancing supply and demand chain to provide relief to the common man. Improvement in the trade sector is a big challenge for us," he added. He said that the Special Investment Facilitation Centre (SIFC) had been established to facilitate investors and attract investment.

12 dead, 1585 injured in 1482 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least twelve persons were killed and 1585 injured in 1482 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 677 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 908 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 874 drivers, 78 underage drivers, 211 pedestrians, and 512 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 323 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 345 persons.



MULTAN: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against killing of Sani-e-Zahra and demanding justice for her, held in Multan.

Shazia Rizwan leads dengue awareness dengue walk

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information Punjab, Shazia Rizwan on Sunday visited Pir Wadhai Station various bus terminals to examine implementation of dengue SOPs. Talking on the occasion Shazia intimated stern actions against violations of SOPs devised by the health authority to prevent the dengue fever. She visited the workshops and washrooms of the bus terminals and expressed her satisfaction regarding cleanliness. She interacted

with the passengers during which she urged them to play their due role in the fight against dengue fever. Later, Shazia led an awareness walk regarding the dengue issues. She distributed dengue awareness pamphlets among the people. The Parliamentary Secretary directed the owners of bus stands to display awareness pamphlets at their terminals to educate the people about their responsibilities regarding dengue preventive measures.



HYDERABAD: Rescue workers busy in work after Lahore bounded train Karachi Express derailed near Hyderabad railway station.

Geoeconomic shifts demand greater economic integration: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, said on Sunday that the fast-paced geoeconomic and geostrategic shifts at regional and global levels underscore the growing importance of economic integration.

"It is high time to harness our collective strengths and forge a path towards sustainable growth and prosperity by promoting regional connectivity and cooperation," he said while addressing participants at the launching ceremony of reports by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK).

The Chairman lauded the reports titled "The Glorious 11 Years - How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories.

"Pakistan seeks to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering economic ties with our partner nations, and China stands at the very top," Gilani said.

He highlighted Pakistan's strategic location, abundant natural resources, and a sizeable workforce as factors that make it an attractive destination for foreign investment.

He stressed the importance of business-to-business linkages, noting that sustainable partnerships can attract foreign direct investment, promote technology sharing, and facilitate knowledge exchange between the two nations. Commending the

China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan for organizing the event, Gilani said that the reports offer valuable insights into the contributions, operational status, and investment confidence of Chinese companies in Pakistan.

"The reports effectively showcase CCCPK's commitment to promoting economic growth and business development in Pakistan through the efforts of 122 Chinese companies operating in the country, both state-owned and private enterprises," he added.

Gilani said that Pakistan offers immense potential for trade, investment, and joint ventures in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and technology.



SARGODHA: A man busy in making electric bulb holders on his setup.

President RCCI says: SCO summit paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between member states

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed hope that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held on October 15-16, will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity and cooperation between the states.

RCCI President, Usman Shaukat in a statement issued here on Sunday said that the SCO summit is paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between the member states.

"Pakistan being the host of this year's summit will play a key role in promoting bilateral relations and regional connectivity", he added

and said that the event is a pivotal moment for regional cooperation and shaping a shared future.

Usman Shaukat highlighted that Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a natural hub for trade and connectivity within the SCO. With direct access to the Arabian Sea and proximity to China and Central Asia, initiatives like CPEC are unlocking new trade routes and boosting regional cooperation, he added.

"The SCO member states represent 40% of the global population and 32% of the world's GDP which highlight their powerful potential to influence the future of the global economy and international relations", he added.

240 poultry units distributed among farmers

LODHHRAN (APP): The Livestock Department distributed 240 poultry units among farmers across the district to promote poultry under the Propagation of Backyard Poultry program to prevent stunted growth among children.

Deputy Director Livestock Lodhran, Dr Waqar Aslam, told APP here on Sunday said that the units consisted of five hens and one cock given to farmers at Rs 3300 per unit on first come, first served basis.

Poultry units were distributed only after farmers received training at a workshop on how to breed chicken and how to get them treated in case of an illness.

He said that the poultry units were sent to various veterinary hospitals at three tehsils of district Lodhran where from the units were distributed among farmers. He said that the initiative not only would make peoples' access to healthy diet easy but also bring profits to the owners.

He said that the initiative not only would make peoples' access to healthy diet easy but also bring profits to the owners.

Malik lauds Dr Yunus's call for India-Pakistan coop. to revive SAARC

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday hailed the recent statement of Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the interim government of Bangladesh calling upon India to temporarily set aside its issues with Pakistan in order to revive the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Commenting here, he lauded Dr Yunus for his pragmatic approach, emphasizing that regional collaboration was crucial for the economic prosperity of all SAARC nations. He noted that political differences between India and Pakistan had long hampered the progress of the organization, affecting trade, connectivity, and development across South

E&T dept records Rs 530m tax recovery in first quarter

MULTAN (APP): Excise & Taxation department reported a significant increase in tax recovery during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, collecting Rs 530 million compared to Rs 485 million in corresponding period. This impressive growth represented an additional Rs 45 million in revenue collection over the previous year. Official sources said on Sunday that the increase followed the announcement of a property tax rebate package by the Punjab Excise department, offering a 5 percent discount on property taxes from July 1 to September 30, 2024.



LAHORE: Shopkeepers prepare geysers ahead of the arrival of winter in the provincial capital.



MUSCAT: HH Sayyida Hujaija Bint Jaifar Al Said, International Ambassador for Social Responsibility, H.E. Faisal Bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Imran Ali, Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman inaugurating the First Pakistan Oman Business Forum.

Leghari says electricity tariffs to drop 8-10% per unit soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Leghari on Sunday issued warning to electricity thieves and corrupt officials for termination from their assignments who involved in corrupt practices.

He said that all those who involved will face the music from next month.

The minister vowed that the consumers can expect significant relief as power tariffs drop by 8-10% per unit in the near future.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, minister expressed hope that power

sector reforms are expected to bring good news for the public in the coming months, with anti-theft measures being implemented to increase transparency in the power system.

The goal is to provide reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity to citizens, he added.

Minister for Power warned to take stringent action against officers involved in power theft, stating that those found guilty of corrupt practices will be terminated from service starting next month.

Leghari directed for

stern action against the corrupt officers within the power sector and decided to take a zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

The minister emphasized that the government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards officers engaged in power theft, whether involvement proved today or during past. Minister has outlined key steps to address pressing power sector issues, ensuring reliable electricity supply and resolving long-standing problems, adding, we are upgrading, repairing feeders to reduce power losses and faults.

101,790 Kissan cards issued to farmers in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): As many as 101,790 kissan cards have so far been distributed among farmers against the set target of 344,391 cards in three divisions of South Punjab.

According to Agri department sources, Kissan Cards were being provided to farmers as per direction by Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu and Special Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Sarfraz Ahmad Magasi. A total of 696,886 applications were received from growers for Kissan cards on 8171 and Rabta App in three divisions of South Punjab

including Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur.

The agri department received 128,331 Kissan cards while 182,605 cases were approved by the Bank of Punjab till October 12. Similarly, 215,275 applications were received by farmers for Punjab Chief Minister's Green Tractors scheme across South Punjab. As many as 184,077 applications were uploaded on online portal while 31,198 applications of non-computerized Mouzas were received manually at Deputy Director Agriculture Extension offices concerned.

SNGPL disconnects 11 meters, removes six extensions

MULTAN (APP): In an ongoing effort to control gas loss and prevent unauthorized usage, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force, under the directives of the General Manager, has taken strict action.

During a recent operation, the task force disconnected 11 gas meters, including one that was found to be used for commercial purposes by a domestic consumer.

Further departmental action has been recommended against this user for violating regulations.

Additionally, three consumers were discovered to have relocated their gas meters away from the original service area, resulting in gas leakage and losses for the department.

Their meters were promptly disconnected to prevent further damage.



ISLAMABAD: Citizen busy in shopping at Weekly Bazaar at Sector G-10, in the Federal Capital.

Taking strides in hydrocarbon discoveries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Besides successful negotiations with Independent Power Producers for providing relief to consumers, the government also takes strides in oil and gas exploration with five new explorations during last year hoped to mitigate masses suffering.

The remarkable stride towards energy self-sufficiency, five significant hydrocarbon discoveries by Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) during last financial year are poised to play a crucial role in helping Pakistan meet its growing energy demands.

As the demand of

natural gas is increasing with every passing day, the OGDCL spokesman says, these discoveries would help lessen the burden on existing local oil and gas resource.

He informed that recent five discoveries in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa helped the country to achieve an average daily output of 33,117 barrels per day (BPD) of crude oil, 717 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas and 717 metric tons per day (MTD) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Without the production curtailments by SNGPL and UPL, crude oil production could have reached 33,495 BPD, gas

production 771 MMSCFD and LPG production 736 MTD, reflecting potential increases of 1,107 BPD (3.1%), 7 MMSCFD (0.9%), and 16 MTD (2.2%), respectively, over last year's figures.

"The government's efforts have played a key role in reversing the declining production trend seen over the past five years, during which crude oil and gas output had dropped by 20% and 24.6%, respectively," the spokesman said.

The local gas production in the country stood at around 3200 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) and about 200 MMCFD consumed in its extraction. Out of the

Oman-Pak Business Forum discusses joint investment opportunities

MUSCAT (INP): The Omani-Pakistani Business Forum today discussed opportunities for joint cooperation between the two sides in various economic, health and entrepreneurship fields.

During the forum, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) presented visual display in which it outlined investment opportunities and incentives offered to investors in those zones.

The forum also touched on opportunities available in Pakistan.

The participants engaged in a discussion

panel that elaborated on business prospects and the legal setup supporting investment. In addition, an exhibition was organized to showcase Pakistani products.

Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), stressed the importance of enhancing joint projects, commercial exchange and investments between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Pakistan. He laid emphasis on projects that support economic diversification.



H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, emphasizing the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global starting.

Traders, economists condemn PTI's protest call amid SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Traders and analysts Sunday expressed grave concerns over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, urging the party leadership to reconsider and postpone their decision.

Talking to PTV news channel, economists slammed PTI's protest call during the SCO Summit as "self-destructive," citing concerns over economic instability and damage to Pakistan's global image.

The protest, scheduled for October 15 has sparked widespread criticism, with many urging PTI to reconsider their decision.

Business community in Islamabad stressed that the SCO conference, a vital platform for promoting regional economic cooperation and hoping that PTI's leadership will reconsider their decision for the nation's economic interests instead of personal interest. "This move will undermine Pakistan's credibility in the international community. We need to focus on economic diplomacy, not political posturing, said a renowned economist Dr Noor Fatima.

"The SCO conference is an opportunity to strengthen our ties with regional countries. PTI's call may jeopardize our chances of benefiting from this platform."



MULTAN: Vendors are busy preparing flower garlands at their roadside setup.

Saudi investment vital for reviving Pakistan's economy: PFC CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Sunday that Saudi investment in Pakistan presents a crucial opportunity to revitalize the country's industrial and commercial sectors, which were the backbone of sustainable economic growth.

Chairing council board of directors meeting here, he said the government must take a judicious approach to ensure that this influx of capital was fully utilized to accelerate industrial and commercial activities. Strategic planning and transparency were essential to channel these investments into key areas

like infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing. He said prioritizing the restoration and expansion of the manufacturing sector was vital, as it served as the engine of growth. Full scale reviving manufacturing sector could generate employment, boost exports, and enhance productivity, ultimately improving Pakistan's trade balance. A stronger manufacturing base could also lead to technology transfers and skill development, which were crucial for long-term economic stability.

Mian Kashif said a focus on creating investor-friendly policies and improving ease of doing business would attract further investments.

Palestinian officials say 22 killed in Israeli airstrikes

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The Israeli military renewed its orders for Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip to leave their homes and shelters as troops continue a weeklong offensive against militants. Most of the fighting has centered in and around Jabaliya, which has been pounded by Israeli war jets and artillery. Residents said they have been trapped inside their homes and shelters.

Israel also has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah with waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and a ground invasion at the border after a year of exchanges of fire. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hamas' ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel's offensive in Lebanon has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced

about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

It's been a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Lebanon's Health Ministry says Israeli strikes kill more than a dozen

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Israeli airstrikes hit multiple areas in southern and eastern Lebanon, killing more than a dozen people and causing damage to hospitals, the Lebanese Health Ministry said, as fighting with the Hezbollah militant group continued.

Nine people were killed in Maisra village in the northeast, with 15 wounded, the ministry said. Four people were killed and 18 wounded in an apartment building on the edge of Barja south of Beirut.

The ministry said Rayak and Tal Chaha hospitals in the Bekaa Valley were damaged, while seven people were wounded in strikes on Brital and Temnine in Baalbek-Hermel province. In Nabatieh, eight people were wounded.

Beirut's southern suburbs, which have previously faced heavy bombardment, have not been struck in the past 48 hours. Hezbollah functions as a state within a state there.



BEIRUT: Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf waves during his visit to the site of an Israeli air strike in the Basta neighbourhood.

Fifth UN staffer hit, as Israel threatens to target ambulances

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The Israeli army on Saturday threatened to target ambulances in southern Lebanon, claiming they are being used by Hezbollah to "transport fighters and weapons".

The warning came on a day when a fifth staffer of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was wounded in yet another strike, after Israel admitted that its forces fired at a "threat" near a UN peacekeeping position and

that a "hit" was responsible for wounding two Blue Helmets. The incidents of shooting at UN peacekeepers in past few days have sparked a fierce diplomatic backlash. The Israeli military on Saturday threatened the people of Lebanon not to return to their homes.

"For your own protection, do not return to your homes until further notice. Do not go south; anyone who goes south may put his life at risk," the military warned.

Nicaragua breaks diplomatic relations with Israel

Monitoring Desk
MANAGUA: Nicaragua is breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel, the Central American nation said on Friday, calling the Israeli government "fascist" and "genocidal."

Nicaragua's government, in a statement, said the break in relations was due to Israel's attacks on Palestinian territories.

The nation's congress had, earlier in the day, passed a resolution requesting Nicaragua take action to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Gaza conflict. The conflict, the Nicaraguan government said, now also "extends against Lebanon and gravely threatens Syria, Yemen and Iran."

Iran has no red line in defending itself, foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran said on Sunday that it has "no red lines" in defending itself, as the Middle East anxiously braced for Israel's response to missile attacks from its arch-foe two weeks ago.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi's comments appeared intended to dispel suggestions that Iran would absorb an Israeli strike without a further response, as Tehran did earlier this year when Israel last struck Iran after a volley of Iranian missiles.

clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araqchi said in a post on X.

Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel on Oct. 1 amid an escalation in fighting between Israel and its proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Many were intercepted in flight but some penetrated missile defences, although the only fatality was a Palestinian killed by debris that fell on the West Bank.

Italy's Meloni tells Israel's Netanyahu attacks on UN peacekeepers are unacceptable

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has told her Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu that attacks on U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon are unacceptable, her office said on Sunday.

"Prime Minister Meloni reiterated the unacceptability of UNIFIL being attacked by Israeli armed forces," the Italian government said in a statement.



Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' Movement attend an event to mark Indigenous Resistance Day, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Kenya inter-communal clashes kill 18

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Inter-communal clashes in southeastern Kenya have killed at least 18 people in the past two weeks, police said on Saturday, as security was boosted in the affected areas.

Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki declared 12 areas of Tana River County "dangerous and disturbed" due to the clashes, which have pitted communities of pastoralists against resettled flood victims.

The fighting, which has been most severe in the town of Bura, began when the county government offered land to rehoming people displaced by flooding on the banks of Tana River, the longest in Kenya.

Local pastoralists protested, arguing that those people being relocated would be occupying their grazing grounds.

Navalny wrote he knew he would die in prison in new memoir

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, who was President Vladimir Putin's top political opponent before his death in February, believed he would die in prison, according to his posthumous memoir which will be released on October 22.

The New Yorker published excerpts from the book, featuring writing from Navalny's prison diary and earlier. "I will spend the rest of my life in prison and die here," he wrote on March 22, 2022.

"There will not be anybody to say goodbye to... All anniversaries will be celebrated without me."

Thousands march in Spain to demand affordable housing

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Thousands protested on Sunday in Madrid to demand more affordable housing amid rising anger from Spaniards who feel they are being priced out of the market.

Under the slogan "Housing is a right, not a business", residents marched in the Spanish capital to demand lower housing rental prices and better living conditions. Twelve thousand people took to the streets, according to the Spanish government.

ASEAN urges early accord on South China Sea code, end to Myanmar violence

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Southeast Asian leaders called on Sunday for swift agreement on a code of conduct for the South China Sea based on international law, while demanding an immediate halt to fighting in Myanmar and inclusive peace talks to end its civil war.

The ASEAN chairman's statement represents the consensus from meetings ended on Friday of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos, which included diplomats from the United States, Russia, China, Japan, India and South Korea.

Confrontations have been rising in disputed waters of the South China Sea between China, which claims sovereignty over almost all the vital waterway, and ASEAN members including the Philippines and more recently Vietnam.

The rows have raised risks of an escalation that could eventually involve the United States, which is bound by treaty to defend the Philippines if it is attacked.

The sea, where \$3 trillion worth of trade passes annually, was a major point of contention at the ASEAN meetings, particularly with Russia and China objecting to a reference to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a US official said.

As Hezbollah and Israel battle on the border, Lebanon's army watches from the sidelines

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon, Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have clashed along the border while the Lebanese army has largely stood on the sidelines.

It's not the first time the national army has found itself watching war at home from the discomfiting position of bystander.

Lebanon's widely beloved army is one of the few institutions that bridge the country's sectarian and political divides.

Several army commanders have become president, and the current commander, Gen. Joseph Aoun, is widely regarded as one of the front-runners to step in when the deadlocked parliament fills a two-year vacuum and names a president.

But with an aging arsenal and no air defenses, and battered by five years of economic crisis, the national army is ill-prepared to defend Lebanon against

either aerial bombardment or a ground offensive by a well-equipped modern army like Israel's.

The army is militarily overshadowed by Hezbollah. The Lebanese army has about 80,000 troops, with around 5,000 of them deployed in the south. Hezbollah has more than 100,000 fighters, according to the militant group's late leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Its arsenal — built with support from Iran — is also more advanced.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

In recent weeks, Israel has conducted a major aerial bombardment of Lebanon and a ground invasion that it says aims to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow displaced residents of northern Israel to return.

Sister of North Korean leader lashes out at South Korean drones

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, on Saturday warned Seoul of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones are found flying over Pyongyang.

She also criticised the South Korean military over its response to the North's claim that South Korean drones entered the sky of the capital city in a statement carried by state media KCNA.

On Friday, North Korea's foreign ministry accused South Korea of sending drones into Pyongyang at night this week and last and that the intrusion demanded retaliatory action.

In response, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it could not confirm the North's accusations.

"The fact that the means which carried the leaflets is the very drones is the core of the seriousness of the recent incident," Kim was quoted as saying, referring to anti-North Korea leaflets.

Kim said the blame lies with the South Korean military if it failed to identify drones sent by a non-governmental organization crossing the border.

North Korea has been floating thousands of balloons with trash attached into the South since May, exacerbating tensions between the two countries.

Pyongyang says they are a response to some activists and North Korean defectors in South Korea who fly balloons into the North carrying aid parcels and leaflets criticising leader Kim Jong Un.

Kremlin says Kamala Harris remarks on Putin expose US view of the world

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Saturday that Democratic Party presidential candidate Kamala Harris's description of Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "murderous dictator" exposed how politicians in Washington sought to impose their views on the world.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov's comment was the latest jab in exchanges revolving around the US presidential election and the Kremlin's more than 2 1/2-year-old war in Ukraine.

"The lofty political establishment of the United States of America, to all appearances, is infused with such a political culture," Russian news agencies quoted Peskov as telling a television interviewer.

"This is probably the quintessence of the very model of international relations that they are trying to foist on the entire world, a model that most in the world are beginning to like less and less."

Peskov's comments appeared to be in response to Harris's criticism of a report in a newly released book by US journalist Bob Wood-

ward that Republican candidate and former president Donald Trump, while in office, had sent COVID tests to Russia at the height of the pandemic. In a radio interview, she described Putin as a "murderous dictator".

With relations between Russia and the United States plunging to depths not seen since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, each side has told the other to stop discussing domestic issues.

The United States told Putin to stop commenting on the US election back in February and then again last month when the Kremlin leader suggested he favoured Harris over Trump in the forthcoming poll because of her "infectious laugh".

That exchange prompted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to say that Putin "often jokes" in his public statements.

According to summaries of Woodward's book by the Washington Post and the New York Times, US President Joe Biden was privately scathing about several foreign leaders, including Putin, whom he described as the "epitome of evil".



Myanmar's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Thailand's Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa, Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Laos' Prime Minister Sonexay Siphonxay, Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal.

Taiwan spots Chinese carrier, China military video says 'prepared for battle'

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan reported a Chinese aircraft carrier group sailing to the island's south on Sunday, as China's military put out a video saying it was "prepared for battle" amid concerns in Taipei about the possibility of a new round of Chinese war games.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, detests its president Lai Ching-te as a "separatist", and the Chinese military routinely operates around the island.

Last week at his keynote national day speech, Lai said the People's Re-

public of China had no right to represent Taiwan, but that the island was willing to work with Beijing to combat challenges like climate change, striking both a firm and conciliatory tone, but drawing anger from China.

Taiwan's defence ministry said in a statement that a Chinese navy group led by the carrier the Liaoning had entered waters near the Bashi Channel, which connects the South China Sea and the Pacific and separates Taiwan from the Philippines. It said the carrier group was expected to enter the Western Pacific.

Indian Muslim politician shot dead in Mumbai

Monitoring Desk
MUMBAI: A senior Muslim politician in India's financial capital Mumbai was shot dead on Saturday, weeks ahead of key state elections, with police probing the role of a notorious crime gang.

Baba Siddique, 66, a local lawmaker and former minister in Maharashtra state, was shot multiple times in the chest outside his son's office in Mumbai, Indian media reported. Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, from the same party as Siddique, said he was "shocked" by the "cowardly attack". The Hindustan Times newspaper reported that two suspected attackers had been arrested.

Poland to suspend right to asylum after border tensions

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland plans to temporarily suspend the right to asylum as part of a strategy to limit illegal migration amidst tensions with Belarus, which Warsaw accuses of channelling migrants across its border.

"One of the elements of the migration strategy will be the temporary territorial suspension of the right to asylum," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Saturday. "I will demand this, I will demand recognition in Europe for this decision," he told a congress held by his liberal Civic Coalition (KO) grouping, the largest member of Poland's coalition government. Tusk said the right to asylum was being used by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin and by people smugglers in a way that goes against the essence of the right to asylum.

UK's flagship investment summit suffers bumpy build-up

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The UK government hosts international business leaders on Monday to try and secure much-needed investment for Britain but the build-up has been chaotic with a major firm reportedly threatening to shelve a project.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, the leader of the new Labour government, hopes the International Investment Summit in London will show the UK is "the best place in the world to do business".

Starmer has been in power for just three months after securing a

thumping majority in the general election.

But he is already on the back foot, with a YouGov poll showing only 18 per cent of Britons approve of his government's record to date.

Labour sees Monday's event as an opportunity to demonstrate its pro-business agenda and to stabilise the economy after 14 years of chaotic Conservative rule and Britain's departure from the European Union.

Starmer is expected to announce billions of pounds in investments.



Police stand guard next to the crime scene where politician Baba Siddique was shot dead in Mumbai.

Gilani says: Govt committed to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate risks associated with natural disasters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate the risks associated with natural disasters.

"We are working to strengthen early warning systems, enhance disaster preparedness at the community level, and invest in resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change," he said in a message on the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

"We join the global community in raising awareness about the importance of reducing disaster risks and building resilience in the face of natural calamities. This day serves as a reminder of the vulnerability of nations like Pakistan to the growing threats of

climate change and environmental disasters," he added.

"Pakistan, a country with a diverse geography and a rich cultural heritage, has been deeply impacted by the devastating effects of climate change," the chairman highlighted.

He said, "Pakistan has witnessed the tragic consequences of natural disasters, from floods displacing millions and destroying livelihoods, to earthquakes that have shattered communities and infrastructure."

"Each disaster has not only caused untold human suffering but has also strained our economy and resources, underscoring the urgent need for effective disaster risk management and climate resilience," Gilani said.

He further said, "The increasing frequency and intensity of floods, particularly the catastrophic floods of recent years, have

highlighted the critical importance of preparedness and adaptation measures."

"I urge all Pakistanis to take active steps to learn about disaster risks and contribute to disaster reduction efforts. By educating ourselves and others, we can save lives and protect our communities from the worst impacts of natural disasters," he said.

Gilani reminded, "Climate change is not just a local issue but a global one." "Pakistan is among the countries that contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet we are disproportionately affected by its consequences," he added.

He called on the international community to take bold and immediate action to reduce carbon emissions and support vulnerable nations like Pakistan in building resilience against the impacts of climate change.



QUETTA: President PML(N) Sariab Town and Chairman Sariab Taraqi Pasand Panel Malik M. Muslahuddin Mengal Advocate meeting with Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan

Tarar highlights economic progress, international ties ahead of SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, stated on Sunday that Pakistan has made significant progress this year in both foreign policy and economic sectors, adopting an open approach towards trade and investment.

Speaking with foreign media correspondents about the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit scheduled for October 15, Tarar emphasized that "Pakistan is emerging on the international stage, and the world is beginning to recognize its true potential." He high-

lighted the recent successful visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan, during which key discussions on bilateral relations, investment, and cooperation took place. During this visit, the Malaysian PM announced an increase in imports from Pakistan, including rice and Halal meat. Tarar remarked, "Exports of rice, Halal meat, and other commodities to Malaysia will further strengthen the relationship between our two countries." Additionally, Tarar noted a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia, led by the Saudi Minister of Investment, recently visited Pakistan and signed several

memoranda of understanding (MoUs) valued at \$2.2 billion to enhance bilateral cooperation. He mentioned that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has shown interest in increasing trade with Pakistan.

Regarding the economy, Tarar reported that inflation has decreased to 6.9% from over 32% last year, and all economic indicators are showing positive trends. The trade deficit continues to shrink, while exports have increased by 14%. He expressed gratitude to overseas Pakistanis for contributing to record foreign remittances of \$8.8 billion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

Tirmizi underlines significance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global.

He said that Pakistan was proud to be recognized as the 'Tech Destination of the Year 2024' by GITEX Global, which was a testament to the country's progress in the IT and tech industries. Ambassador Tirmizi said that this recognition reinforced Pakistan's status as an emerging hub for digital innovation and entrepreneurship. As GITEX Global 2024, the world's largest technology exhibition, approaches its opening from October 14 to 18, Pakistan will be significantly represented at this prestigious event, a press release said.

With a contingent of

24 leading exhibitors from the country, Pakistan aims to showcase its growing capabilities in the IT sector.

Tirmizi emphasized that GITEX Global offered an ideal platform for companies to connect with global tech leaders, investors, and potential partners.

He further said that it was a unique opportunity for their exhibitors to showcase their capabilities and explore collaborations.

The Government of Pakistan is facilitating a 156-square-meter exhibition space at the Dubai World Trade Centre where Pakistani companies are poised to make a lasting impression. This year's participation underscores Pakistan's growing influence in the global digital economy and reaffirms the country's potential as a leading IT destination.



QUETTA: Central leader of PKMAP Abdul Raheem Ziaratwal and Abdul Qahar Wadan expressing solidarity with UoB Academic Staff Association and BUTEMS Staff Association during their visit to hunger strike camp



QUETTA: Pro-Vice Chancellor the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan and Executive Director of Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) Pakistan Ms. Uzma Yaqoob signing an agreement regarding cooperation in the climate change and social sector

APC rejects elections as India's ploy to divert attention from rights abuses in IIOJK

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): All Parties Conference has rejected the recent elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, labeling them a diversion by the Modi-led Indian regime from the severe human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Chaired by the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the APC issued a declaration emphasizing that these elections cannot substitute the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and demanded India allow Kashmiris to freely decide their future.

The conference paid tribute to the resilient people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir who continue to resist oppression and uphold their freedom struggle. The leaders also saluted the unwavering spirit of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and the Kashmiri youth, who

persist despite facing severe Indian repression.

Expressing solidarity with Palestine, the conference condemned Israeli aggression and urged the United Nations and the OIC to intervene and stop the genocide of Palestinians. The leaders expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian people. The conference strongly condemned India's attempts to create unrest in Azad Kashmir and praised the sacrifices of the Pakistani armed forces defending the Line of Control. The Pakistani military is seen as a protector, while Indian forces are perpetrating new atrocities against Kashmiris.

Acknowledging Pakistan's support, the conference thanked the government and people of Pakistan for providing relief to the people of Azad Kashmir despite financial challenges, and appreciated

the efforts of the President, Prime Minister, Army Chief, and national security agencies.

The conference honored the martyrs of the Kashmir freedom movement and the Pakistani and Azad Kashmir armed forces and police. It pledged to pursue national unity and development while discouraging divisive elements.

The leaders condemned terrorism within Pakistan and stated that the people of Azad Kashmir stand with their armed forces in the fight against terrorism. Welcoming the SCO summit in Islamabad, the conference called for an end to the atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The leaders vowed to resolve longstanding public issues through democratic means and rejected any parallel governance under the guise of addressing public grievances.

BUIITEMS & FDI Pakistan agree on cooperation in climate change & social sector, sign MoU

QUETTA: The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) Pakistan have agreed upon cooperation in the climate change and social sector.

In this regard, BUIITEMS and FDI Pakistan signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan and the Executive Director of FDI, Ms. Uzma Yaqoob signed the MoU on behalf

of their respective institutions.

The documents of MoU were also exchanged on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, they said that Pakistan is affected due to effects of the climate change.

They said that although there's no role of Pakistan in the emissions of Green gases, however, Pakistan is affected due to unexpected rains and floods and disasters every year.

In this regard, there is a dire need to create awareness among the students about environmental pollution, they stressed.

President condolences death of Ex-Chinese VP

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday condoled the death of former Chinese Vice Premier Wu Bangguo and said that the late Chinese leader was a sincere friend of Pakistan.

"Wu Bangguo played a commendable role in strengthening Pak-China ties," President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

President Zardari further said that the sympathies and prayers of the people of Pakistan were with the Chinese people, their government, and the bereaved family.

63 dangerous criminals killed in Kacha area

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab police's intelligence-based operations are ongoing in Kacha area of Rahim Yar Khan in which 63 dangerous criminals were killed and 45 injured so far. A Punjab police spokesperson briefed that Rahim Yar Khan police had established permanent posts in Kacha area with a consistent deployment of police personnel. The Punjab police are present in the region with full force and extensive resources.

Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said that all necessary resources, including long-range weapons, vehicles and bulletproof ve-

hicles, were being utilized against criminal elements.

The intelligence-based targeted operations will continue in Kacha till the complete elimination of criminal activities.

He also highlighted that the police's Anti-Honey Trap Cell was operational round-the-clock to protect the public.

So far, 531 citizens had been prevented from being kidnapped in Kacha area through vigilance at border checkpoints. Police teams will continue the intelligence-based targeted operations to completely eradicate the heinous crimes.



QUETTA: Activists of Bugti Rabita Committee protesting against the Bandits of Katcha outside Quetta Press Club.

DG visits GDA Public Higher Secondary School in Gwadar

QUETTA: The Director General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Shafiqat Anwar Shahwani visited the GDA Public Higher Secondary School in Gwadar.

The Principal of GDA School, Raja Imtiaz Hussain briefed the Director General GDA about the overall performance of the school.

Meanwhile, the DG

GDA participated in the sciences and arts competition held among students of the school.

A large number of students participated in the competition and displayed their projects. The Director General appreciated the creative work of the students and had time with them.

The shields and prizes were distributed among the outstanding students.

Gandapur's absence demoralized PTI workers: Atif Khan

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Atif Khan said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur's absence demoralized party workers during their protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk.

In an exclusive interview with a private TV Channel, he said that there was no clear message from the party leadership regarding the protest strategy on October 4. "The leadership should have clarified its further course of action after the workers reached D-Chowk. The workers should have been communicated clearly to hold just a protest or stage a sit-in," Atif Khan added.

He said that after all that, the PTI workers are disappointed. Expressing concerns over the party's current trajectory, Atif Khan said that currently

they are lacking clear direction and decision-making. To a question, he said the PTI cannot be eliminated by the forces who want to do so. "Eventually, stakeholders will have to negotiate and find a way forward with the PTI."

When asked about potential deals, Atif Khan responded, "Deals are made for personal gain, while the right path is for the country's benefit." Regarding the PTI's current leadership, Atif Khan voiced his dissatisfaction, stating, "Everyone in the party is playing a double game; those who meet in Adiala Jail (with Imran Khan) discuss unnecessary matters."

Earlier on Friday, the PTI announced another protest demonstration at Islamabad's D-Chowk on October 15, the day when Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

Nine Leviesmen including Dafadar dismissed on absence in Kohlu

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kohlu Aqeel Baloch dismissed 9 levies personnel including Levies Dafadar for absence long time from duty and notification issued in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner said in press release issued here on Sunday that actions are being taken against the employees who are negligent in their duties in other departments across the district.

He said that absentee employees are not entitled to any discount saying that actions such as deduction of salaries, issuance of demand notices and dismissal from employment are being implemented for employees found guilty of negligence.

He said that the district administration is trying to solve public problems.

RTA cracks down on vehicle ordinance violators

NASIRABAD: The Regional Transport Authority continued its crackdown on vehicle ordinance violators for the second consecutive day. The operation, led by Regional Transport Secretary Nasirabad Noor Ahmed Domki, was carried out under the directives of Commissioner Nasirabad Division Muinur Rehman Khan.

Seven vehicles were fined, with penalties total-

ing Rs. 7,500, for violating traffic laws. Additionally, 29 drivers were warned to remove illegal jhuggis (makeshift structures). Transporters overcharging passengers were also strictly warned and directed to refrain from the practice.

Noor Ahmed Domki stated that fixing public transport fares is a priority, and a meeting with transport owners will be convened soon to determine rates.

Report on power sector "Glorious years in Pak" launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): A work report of the "Glorious 11-Years - How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories was launched here on Sunday.

The launching ceremony was arranged by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPC).

Those who attended the event included Liu Yanggang, Vice General Manager of Three Gorges South Asia Investment Company in Pakistan.



GWADAR: Director General Gwadar Development Authority Shafiqat Anwar Shahwani inaugurating science competition and inspecting models of students during his visit to GDA Public Higher Secondary School

Pakistanis illegally traveling to Spain lost their lives

WAZIRABAD (INP): Four Pakistani nationals lost their lives while attempting to illegally travel to Spain.

It reported in media that young men, who were hiding in the ship's cargo, succumbed to suffocation in the hold.

According to reports, the incident occurred in Mauritania, where one of the victims has been identified as Abu Huraira, a resident of Wazirabad's Jinnah Colony. Family sources revealed that Abu Huraira had left for Spain a month ago, and was sent off by an agent named Usman.

Earlier, a boat carrying migrants capsized off Spain's Canary islands overnight, killing at least nine people and leaving 48 missing, the national maritime rescue service said on Saturday.

Eighty-four people

were on board and 27 were rescued after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the archipelago, a statement said.

This follows the death of 39 migrants in early September when their boat sank off Senegal while attempting a similar crossing to the Canaries, from where migrants hope to reach mainland Europe.

Thousands of migrants have died in recent years setting off into the Atlantic to reach Europe onboard overcrowded and often dilapidated boats.

In late August, Spain's prime minister visited Mauritania and The Gambia to sign cooperation agreements to crack down on people smugglers while expanding pathways for legal immigration.



QUETTA: Citizens busy in buying daily commodities from Joint road Sunday bazaar.