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Pak bolsters regional ties with Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan

PM emphasizes enhanced trade, investment between Pakistan, Kazakhstan; Meets Tajik counterpart; calls for cementing bilateral cooperation in trade, connectivity; Underlines need to increase Pak-Turkmen high-level exchanges: Calls for sustained Pak-Belarus exchanges to enhance cooperation in investment, joint tractors production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif engaged in multiple high-level bilateral meetings with regional counterparts during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit held in Islamabad on Tuesday. The discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, and regional connectivity between Pakistan and its Central Asian partners.

TURKMENISTAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday emphasized upon the need to increase high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

He stressed the importance of both sides continuing to work closely to realize the full potential of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the domains of trade, energy and connectivity.

On the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting, being held from 15-16 October in Islamabad, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs

of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov called on the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming Turkmenistan's participation in the SCO CHG Meeting as a 'Special Guest', the prime minister reaffirmed the significance of Pakistan's longstanding,

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcoming foreign dignitaries to the dinner for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) first day.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Li Qiang, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

COAS expresses desire to further strengthen Pak-Belarus military ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Roman Golovchenko on Tuesday met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here.



During the meeting, discussions were held on regional dynamics and enhancement of bilateral security and defence cooperation between the two nations, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said.

The COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs and expressed the desire to further strengthen the military partnership between both countries.

Prime Minister Golovchenko commended the Pakistan Armed Forces for their pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability, and acknowledged their professionalism and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Indian FM Jaishankar arrives to attend SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (INP): India's Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar arrived at the Noor Khan Airbase on Tuesday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit being held here on Wednesday.

He was received at the



ISLAMABAD: Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar being received by DG South Asia Ilyas Nizami at Nur Khan Airbase.

Security plan prepared for national highways in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The security plan has been prepared for protection of the passengers and transporters on the national highways in the Balochistan province.

The official sources said that the security plan has been prepared for prevention of the incidents of lawlessness on the highways of province.

Under the security plan, it has been decided to increase patrolling of the

personnels of law enforcement agencies on the highways.

According to the sources, patrolling of personnels of police, Levies, Frontier Corps and Balochistan Constabulary would be increased on the highways.

While on the other hand, checking mechanism has also been changed on different routes of the province from Quetta to Karachi, Quetta to Loralai and Quetta to Sibi.

PM extends warm welcome to Indian FM Jaishankar, others to SCO dinner

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar along with other international leaders during a dinner marking the first day of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on Tuesday.

While the main SCO meeting will take place on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hosted a welcome dinner for delegates on Tuesday. The Foreign Office said the premier will also hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines.

Live footage showed Pakistan's PM and Indian

FM having a brief chat while shaking hands.

This rare interaction marked the first visit by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in nearly a decade, highlighting the ongoing complexities in diplomatic ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Both leaders greeted each other at the dinner, which is part of the broader SCO summit activities taking place in the capital.

Jaishankar's arrival at Islamabad's airbase shortly before 3:30 PM was ceremoniously accompanied by children presenting him with bouquets of flowers, underscoring the event's importance.

Himmat Cards be launched on pattern of Punjab: Governor assures every possible support for solution to issues being faced by blind persons

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has assured that every possible cooperation would be extended to resolve the issues being faced by the persons with disabilities including the blind ones.

The Governor emphasized upon implementing the special quota allocated by the government for jobs in different departments of the province.

He also stressed to launch Himmat Cards for the special persons in

Balochistan on pattern of the Punjab government. In addition to this, it should be ensured that the offices concerning the special persons should be on first floor of the official buildings so that they may not face any inconvenience to get access to them.

He was addressing a special ceremony organized by the Pakistan Association of Blinds, Balochistan chapter here at the auditorium of Boy Scouts Association's Headquarter

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In meeting with President Zardari Chinese PM assures continued support for Pakistan's sovereignty, prosperity

Pakistan, China resolve to deepen strategic cooperation; President Zardari announces plans to visit China in November to further strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen strategic cooperation across key areas, including the economy, investment, and regional connectivity.

Both sides also emphasized the need to expedite the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

This was discussed during a meeting between

the visiting Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Li Qiang, and President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Welcoming the delegation, the president emphasized that Pakistan's friendship with its all-weather partner remained a cornerstone of the country's foreign policy.

He stressed the importance of exploring new avenues for cooperation as there was more space to expand bilateral relations.

He also underscored the need to enhance connectivity through all-weather road networks to strengthen trade and people-to-people linkages.

He said that Chinese companies should benefit from the investment opportunities in Pakistan by investing in the Pakistan

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PPP's Ministers & Advisors meet Sarfraz Bugti: We are determined to resolve public hardships, thru good governance: CM



Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that bringing good governance is top priority of the provincial government as the issues being faced by the people can be resolved through good governance.

He said that we are determined to resolve the

public hardships. He also said that we are committed to improving the health sector under guidance of the President Asif

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ISLAMABAD - 2024

New Vistas of Prosperity

Welcome to the Twenty-third Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Pakistan is proud to host this historic event, dedicated to strengthening bonds, addressing challenges and embracing opportunities for peace and stability.

Excellencies, welcome to Pakistan!

#SCOinPakistan Where Our Shared Future Begins #SCO2024 #SCO

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Government of Pakistan

PM reaffirms govt's commitment towards ensuring food security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed government's commitment towards ensuring food security, sustainable agriculture and the well-being of people.

"World Food Day recalls us of our duty of ensuring food security for our people. This year's theme of World Food Day is 'Right to foods for a better life and a better future,' the prime minister said in a message on the observance of World Food Day on October 16.

The prime minister said that the farmers were the backbone of the food system, who with their dedication and hard work, ensured that they had enough to eat.

"We are committed in supporting them with policies that focus on innovation, sustainability, and modernization in the agricultural sector. Our government is facilitating farmers to equip themselves with the technology they need to thrive in today's world, including access to modern agricultural machines, im-

proved infrastructure, and better market access," PM office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister said that the government had undertaken significant steps to transform the food system, adding through initiatives such as the introducing of new agri-tech solutions, and efforts to boost food processing and storage, they aimed to reduce food waste, enhance food safety, and ensure that their food systems were resilient in the face of global challenges.

"We are promoting and facilitating support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the food processing sector.

Our focus is the empowering the rural women entrepreneurs, who form a key component of our rural economy, to ensure that they also actively participate in this sector," he further added.

The prime minister said that their vision was to integrate Pakistan into the global food value chain by fostering public-private partnerships, encouraging

foreign investment, and promoting export-oriented growth in agriculture and food processing.

On this day, he said, they also recognized the importance of working closely with international partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to exchange knowledge, best practices, and innovations that could help them all move toward a society where food was not only abundant but also safe, nutritious, and sustainably produced.

As they look to the future, the prime minister said that he was confident that with continued dedication, innovation, and collaboration, they would be able to overcome the challenges of hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity.

"Let us work together to build a society where farmers are supported and facilitated to adopt sustainable agricultural practices so that everyone has access to nutritious food, and we are also able to ensure food security for our future generations," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Akybek Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting.

Sherry urges Pakistan to harness momentum for regional connectivity, growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party & former Ambassador Senator Sherry Rehman Tuesday stressed that Pakistan has a historic opportunity to leverage momentum and achieve its connectivity goals, particularly with numerous dignitaries from various states participating.

In an exclusive interview, Senator Sherry Rehman highlights connectivity potential and said it is best time for Pakistan's Chance to Shine globally.

Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized the importance of Pakistan leveraging its momentum to strengthen regional con-

nectivity, particularly through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gawadar.

Pakistanis are known for their genuine warmth and welcoming nature, which is deeply ingrained in the country's cultural fabric, she added.

This remarkable hospitality has the power to convey a strong message to the world, showcasing Pakistan's soft image and its people's kindness, she added.

By leveraging its hospitality, Pakistan can improve its international image, promote intercultural harmony and create employment opportunities for

future, she mentioned.

She further said the immense potential for Pakistan to fortify its economic and bilateral relationships with fellow nations.

This presents a golden opportunity for Pakistan to strengthen ties with brotherly countries, fostering cooperation in areas such as trade, economy, defense, culture, education and people-to-people contacts, she added.

Sherry Rehman emphasized that Pakistan must play its important role effectively in regional connectivity, leveraging its strategic location and economic potential to foster cooperation and growth.



ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov arrives in Pakistan to attend the 23rd SCO conference. Federal Minister for Privatization, Communication and Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, welcomes the Kazakhstan's Prime Minister at Islamabad International Airport.

APHC urges UN to hold India accountable for atrocities in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has made an urgent appeal to the United Nations to intervene and hold India accountable for its atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar condemned the actions of Indian occupation regime including the torture of innocent Kashmiris, seizure of their properties, and suppression of their right to self-determination through relentless cordon and search operations and house raids.

He said Indian personnel, including paramilitary, police, National Investigation Agency, and State Investigation Agency are ter-

rorizing Kashmiris to crush their legitimate demand for self-rule. Minhas emphasized that the BJP regime is exploiting the judiciary to intimidate Kashmiris, targeting Hurriyat leaders, journalists, scholars and ordinary citizens with fabricated cases. Kashmiris committed to the freedom struggle are being booked under draconian laws for their political beliefs and advocating for a plebiscite. Despite facing brutalities, the Kashmiri people remain resolute in pursuing their freedom cause. The spokesman urged the United Nations to play its role in settling the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people to avert a catastrophe like the one the world is witnessing in the Middle East.

MoIB releases song to welcome guests of SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has released a song to welcome the foreign guests attending 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) here in Islamabad.

The song gives an insight into Pakistan's colorful cultural heritage and tradition of hospitality, said a news statement.

Beautiful places, historical and important buildings and diverse culture of Pakistan are beautifully presented in the song.

The lyrics of the song entails the hospitality of the people of Pakistan and the spirit to welcome the SCO heads of state.

Khurram Dastgir Khan hails SCO summit as boost to Pakistan's economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz prominent leader Khurram Dastgir Khan Tuesday expressed pride in the government's hosting of the SCO summit, highlighting its potential to unlock bilateral ties and create economic opportunities.

In an interview with a private news channel, he said, "This historic move is seen as a significant step in strengthening Pakistan's relationships with neighboring countries, including China, with whom they have enjoyed warm and cordial relations."

"The SCO summit offers a platform to forge closer ties in areas such as trade, economy, invest-

AIOU Int'l moot: World should work on education diplomacy, Dr. Mukhtar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The world should work on education diplomacy and should use science not as a means of destruction but as a tool for global peace and development, said Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the 37th AIOU Annual Conference 2024 at Allama Iqbal Open University as a chief guest, yesterday (Monday).

The three-day conference of Asian Association of Open Universities titled "Expanding horizons.

TikTok removes 78,827,465 videos for 'breaching' its community guidelines

ISLAMABAD (APP): In its ongoing efforts to foster a safe and positive user experience, TikTok has removed 78,827,465 videos for breaching its community guidelines.

Notably, 144,430,133 of these videos were removed through automated systems, highlighting the platform's innovative use of its detection technology to eliminate harmful content in real time.

According to TikTok Q2 2024 Community Guidelines Enforcement Report, over 30,709,744 videos were removed from TikTok in Pakistan, in the latest reporting period, as the platform continues to strengthen its content moderation systems to safeguard its diverse community.

Key findings show that 99.5% of these videos were proactively removed before users reported them, with 97% taken down within 24 hours. These figures highlight TikTok's commitment to avoiding harmful content, ensuring a safer platform for Pakistani users, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

The report sheds light on the platform's proactive approach to content mod-

Pakistan desires to expand new avenues of cooperation with Kyrgyz Republic: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday while reiterating Pakistan's strong desire to further strengthen cooperation with Kyrgyz Republic, stressed the need to enhance new avenues of collaboration in the areas of trade, investment, people-to-people contacts and regional connectivity.

The prime minister held a bilateral meeting with Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Akybek Japarov on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting, being held in Islamabad from 15-16 October, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister thanked Kyrgyz Republic's positive and active participation in the SCO CHG Meeting and appreciated Kyrgyz Republic's support

extended to Pakistan as the SCO Chair.

The prime minister also recalled the warm and brotherly ties between the two countries and expressed satisfaction over the overall positive trajectory of the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

Akybek Japarov congratulated the prime minister on the successful organization of the SCO CHG meeting, as well as the excellent arrangements made for the visiting delegations.

He thanked Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the accompanying delegation.

Akybek Japarov reciprocated Kyrgyz Republic's strong desire to continue working with Pakistan for enhancing bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual benefit for the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Daily life suspended due to the SCO summit held in the Federal Capital.

IG Rizvi reviews foolproof security plans for SCO summit

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, on Tuesday presided over a high-level meeting to discuss security arrangements for the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit" in Islamabad.

A public relations officer told APP that the meeting was attended by DIG Headquarters Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer and other senior police officials.

During the meeting, IG Rizvi, reviewed the security arrangements and directed senior officers to implement more effective security measures.

The IG emphasized that security of the delega-

tion must be strengthened, by effectively utilizing the modern systems of the Safe City Islamabad. He added well-prepared police teams will be deployed at all entry and exit points of the high-security zone.

He said during the delegation's movement, all major roads will be completely closed, and alternative routes will be provided at various intersections, keeping in mind the convenience of the public.

IG Rizvi further assured that the Islamabad Police will use all available resources to provide foolproof security to all delegations and will make every possible effort to uphold the dignity and honor of the country.

Grand Search and Combing Operation by ICT Police in Saddar Zone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police late night conducted a grand search and combing operation in various areas of the Sumbal police station in the Saddar Zone. A public relations officer told APP, "Under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified its crackdown against criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city." He said, "This initiative is particularly crucial as authorities ramp up security measures in preparation for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2024.

Historic SCO meeting in Pakistan: a moment of pride: former CPEC PD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Hassan Dawood Butt, former CPEC Project Director, emphasized on Tuesday that the 23rd Summit of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) marked a historic milestone and a moment of pride for Pakistan after 27 years.

Talking to APP, he noted that the SCO meeting's primary agenda was to strengthen regional cooperation among member countries, focusing on economic, trade, and infrastruc-

ture collaboration. The meeting provided a platform to tackle challenges and explore opportunities for shared development.

He stated that the participation of member countries in the meeting aimed to foster peace, stability, and economic development in the region, benefiting all, including Pakistan.

He also mentioned that the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would create new development opportunities.

This phase would pri-

oritize infrastructure development, industrial cooperation, agriculture, science and technology, and socio-economic projects, contributing to the stabilization of Pakistan's economy. It would also create more local employment opportunities and enhance regional economic activities.

He stated that under the second phase of CPEC, development would take place in the agriculture and energy sectors, which would increase the productivity of Pakistan's agricultural sector and improve energy self-sufficiency.



ISLAMABAD: Urs (death anniversary of a Sufi saint) of Sheikh Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Gillani being held Golra Sharif in the Federal Capital.

Over 200,000 AMI meters installed in various areas of Rawalpindi so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has successfully installed over 200,000 state of the art Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters so far in various parts of Rawalpindi City and Cantonment Circles.

Terming the AMI a revolutionary initiative in power sector by the government, Project Director Moshin Raza Gillani said that this project is successfully continue in two operation circles of IESCO i.e. Rawalpindi city and Rawalpindi Cant.

CEO Pink Ribbon Pak appeals to combat 'Breast Cancer through Social Media'

ISLAMABAD (APP): CEO & founder of pink ribbon Pakistan Omer Aftab Tuesday made a pressing appeal to the youth for increased breast cancer awareness through social media, particularly as Breast Cancer Awareness Month continues where despite ongoing efforts only 1 in 4 women in Pakistan undergo mammography screenings. In an interview with a private news channel, CEO stressed that by utilizing social media effectively, the youth can play a vital role in educating.

Chinese Premier's visit to herald new era for CPEC: Dr Talat Shabbir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of strategic studies Dr. Talat Shabbir Tuesday said that Chinese Premier's visit to Pakistan will be a game-changer for the country, marking the beginning of a new era for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, he said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is poised to be a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, with estimates suggesting it will generate millions of jobs by 2030, adding, The Submit is expected to usher in a new era of cooperation and growth for Pakistan, with CPEC at the forefront of this strategic partnership.

Hosting the prestigious SCO meeting in Islamabad is a significant diplomatic achievement for Pakistan, marking a major



ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclists use pedestrian bridge during road closure at Zero point area due to security reasons ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2024 summit.

Chinese Premier's visit to herald new era for CPEC: Dr Talat Shabbir

success in its foreign policy endeavors, he added.

This milestone event not only showcases Pakistan's capability to bring together influential nations but also underscores its growing prominence on the global stage, he mentioned.

Pakistan's warm welcome to esteemed delegates from participating countries further solidifies its commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue and cooperation, he noted.

Dr Shabbir further highlighted that such a high-profile international gathering is taking place in Pakistan after a considerable hiatus as a testament to the country's revitalized diplomatic stature.

Responding to a query, he replied that CPEC phase 2 has the potential to transform Pakistan's economy, boosting growth, creating jobs, and enhancing regional connectivity.

Taking care of special children is nothing less than a virtue: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of Down Syndrome Association Pakistan led by Member Provincial Assembly Salma Hashmi called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that taking care of special children and equipping them with education is nothing less than a virtue. Governor Punjab appreciated the efforts of Dawn Syndrome Association to educate and train the children with Down Syndrome in an inclusive environment. Governor Punjab said that such institutions which are serving humanity should be encouraged in every way. Governor Punjab assured the delegation of all possible support for Down Syndrome Association. Member Provincial Assembly Salma Hashmi informed the Punjab Governor about the efforts of Dawn Syndrome Association to provide inclusive education to children with Down syndrome like the developed countries and make them active members of the society.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan along with delegation of Down Syndrome Association Pakistan led by Member Provincial Assembly Salma Hashmi offering Dua after sapling tree at Governor House.

Rubina Khalid discusses BISP expansion plans with Sindh legislators

KARACHI (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Senator Rubina Khalid on Tuesday, held key meetings with Sindh ministers and provincial legislators to discuss matters related to expansion of BISP program and its outreach as well as addressing the challenges faced by beneficiaries. Senator Rubina Khalid along with other senior officials of BISP held a meeting with Chairman Public Accounts Committee of Sindh Assembly Nisar Ahmad Khuro at Sindh Assembly building, General Secretary PPP Sindh Waqar Mehdi, provincial President PPP Ladies wing Sindh Shagufta Jumani, women MPAs and other office bearers of PPP women wing attended the meeting. During the discussion, the Chairperson said that BISP was providing financial assistance to deserving families and now we are focusing on skill development of young members of registered families to ensure their self-reliance. She said that BISP was the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto that was realized by President Asif Ali Zardari. The unique social security program not only provided financial assistance to women folk but also secured their identity in the national database. It was clear directives of President Asif Ali Zardari that BISP beneficiaries should get the entire amount of quarterly stipend without any deduction and they must be dealt with respect by the BISP officials at all the centers across the country, she said adding that strict actions had been taken on such complaints against the involved persons.

Suthra Punjab outsourcing bidding completed in 64 tehsils: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that in line with the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif regarding Suthra Punjab, the bidding process has been completed in 64 tehsils of the province and the pre-qualification process will be completed in the rest of tehsils during October. He was chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. Secretary Local Government Department Shakeel Ahmed Mian, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq, CEO of LWMC Babar Sahib Din were also present while CEOs of other waste management companies participated through video link. On this occasion, the progress on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Suthra Punjab program and outsourcing model was reviewed in detail. Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq expressed his satisfaction over the significant progress on outsourcing of cleaning system in Punjab. He said that the active participation of private contractors in the new system is clear proof of confidence in the Chief Minister's vision. The provincial minister, while directing the pre-qualification work to be accelerated, reiterated his commitment to introduce a sanitation system that would be long-lasting and effective as well. Zeeshan Rafiq directed CEOs of waste management companies to be in constant touch with qualified private contractors for better service delivery. "Outsourcing is a new experience, we all have to understand the challenges being faced.



LAHORE: Students of Punjab Group of Colleges (PGC) are holding protest demonstration against the alleged rape of a first-year female student by a security guard in college premises, at College premises located on Gulberg area in Lahore.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairs meeting with Lahore Development Authority, held at CM House in Lahore.

CM reviews city infrastructure, orders encroachment removal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a high-level meeting and expressed concern over the deteriorating state of Karachi's infrastructure, identifying ongoing development projects, damaged roads, drainage issues, illegal parking and rampant encroachments as major contributors to the city's severe traffic congestion. The CM, in a decisive move, set a deadline for clearing encroachments from 10 to 15 key roads in the city for which he constituted a task force under Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani and ordered immediate efforts to uplift the affected areas. Shah pointed out the role of drug addicts in damaging public infrastructure, pointing out that they steal steel rods, streetlight pipes, and other materials, causing further degradation of public spaces. "I want the administration to relocate all drug users currently living under bridges and in slum areas. Their theft of steel rods from bridges and streetlights not only defaces the city but also undermines our development efforts," Shah stressed, directing civic agencies to strengthen vigilance to prevent such thefts.

The Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), Rasheed Solangi, informed the Chief Minister (CM) that they have begun issuing QR codes for all approvals, as per the CM's instructions. The CM was informed that out of 425 buildings currently under construction, 201 have been issued permits with QR codes, which will enable better regulation and monitoring. Scanning the QR code will reveal the date of approval, NOC for advertisement, date of starting and completion, number of floors, name of the builder, architect, and contractor, and cost of a flat/shop based on its location/floor. To another question, the Chief Minister was informed that the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) in District South had identified 25 commercial buildings with approved reserved car parking spaces, but the owners had illegally converted these areas into godowns. With the support of the Commissioner and the Additional Inspector General of Police, Karachi, six of the parking areas have been restored, three buildings have been sealed, and notices have been issued to the rest.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting on various issues in the city, held at CM House in Karachi.

Governor assents to anti-narcotics force bill

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has signed the Anti-Narcotics Force Bill here on Tuesday. The legislation is aimed at establishing special anti-narcotics courts. The Anti-Narcotics Force will play a more active role to bring criminals to justice, he said adding that this legislation is the need of the hour. The Governor said that drug dealers are making the youth of the society addicted to drugs. He said that the establishment of special courts will help in drug prevention.

CM forms committee to probe rape case

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif constituted a 7-member high-powered committee to investigate the private college alleged rape case, and directed it to submit a detailed investigative report within 48 hours. The CM directed the investigation committee to record evidence of the abuse case, besides statements of the parties concerned. She also directed them to examine police action and response of the college administration to the case. The CM appointed the Chief Secretary convener of the committee. Other members of the committee include Secretaries Home.

KP Law Minister says: Work on under-construction building of LMH Kohat will resume soon

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that work on the under-construction building of Liaquat Memorial Women and Children Hospital Kohat will be resumed soon for which the PDWP has already approved revised estimate of more than Rs.2.44 Billion. This he said while talking to the local people on the occasion of his visit to the Union Council Ziarat Sheikh Allah Dad the other day. He on this occasion also conduced the sad demise of the members of Taleeghi Jamaat who were died in a road accident recently and prayed for the eternal peace of the deceased. The minister said that a Tender of Rs.1 Billion has already been done for the said hospital in April this year, out of which Rs.20 Million have been released. He added that Liaquat Memorial Hospital will be equipped with modern medical equipment and facilities. He vowed that best medical treatment facilities for women and children of Kohat will be available at local level soon. Aftab Alam specially thanked the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur for generously provision of the required funds for the building of the Liaquat Memorial Hospital, which has been pending for last many years.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister Transport Bilal Akbar and Provincial Minister of Baitul-Mal Shaukat Butt distributing "Himmat Cards" for the Orange Line train to the disabled at the Jain Mandir Orange Line stop in the provincial capital.

Federal Ombudsman intervenes to waive fine for widow, restore ID card

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi Tuesday successfully intervened to waive a fine imposed by NADRA and restore the ID card of a widow from Havelian. The woman had filed a complaint at the Abbottabad regional office, reporting a fine of 10,000 rupees for the issuance of a duplicate ID card, which had led to the suspension of her identification. Upon receiving the complaint, the Federal Ombudsman Secretary's Regional Office promptly issued notices to NADRA officials and requested a comprehensive report on the case. Following a thorough investigation and hearing, Ombudsman Qureshi ruled in favor of the complainant, ordering NADRA to immediately waive the fine and restore her ID card. In compliance with these directives, NADRA Abbottabad has reinstated the widow's ID card and waived the fine. The complainant expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Ombudsman Qureshi and Rashid Ahmad, the Advisor In-Charge of the Abbottabad Regional Office.

CM seeks details of illegal housing schemes from LDA

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting here on Tuesday, sought details about illegal housing schemes from Lahore Development Authority (LDA). During the meeting, proposal to impose a ban with regard to selling of plot files on illegal housing schemes was reviewed. LDA DG was directed to submit a report within 15 days in this regard. The chief minister directed the development institutions to submit a comprehensive plan to fill the potholes of roads in Lahore. 'LDA Development and CM Initiative' were comprehensively reviewed in the meeting. The CM was apprised in a detailed briefing about the 'Lahore Shop and Drop Tramway' that the 8.2 km long tram will pass through Kalma Chowk, Main Boulevard, Hussain Chowk, MM Alam Road, Mini Market and other areas. Five trams will be operated simultaneously and trams will be available after every two minutes at every stop. A briefing was also given about the project of construction of special road from Karim Block to Motorway. The proposal to demolish Data Nagar flyover in view of its dilapidated condition was reviewed in the meeting. 'LDA Road Network Restructuring Plan' was also submitted in the meeting. Senator Pervez Rashid, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presenting shield to renowned religious leader Dr. Zakir Naik during Inter-Faith Leadership meetup.

KP CM directs For implementation of minimum monthly wages

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has ruled out compromise on the rights of the labourers and directed the concerned authorities for the implementation of minimum monthly wages in any circumstances. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the Labour Department here on Wednesday. Besides, the Provincial Minister for Labour, Fazal Shakoor, the Secretary Labour and Advocate General and other concerned authorities also attended the meeting. The meeting took various steps and decisions for the welfare of labourers and workers of the industrial units and brickkilns. The chief minister directed the authorities for the opening of the bank accounts of labourers and workers of the industrial sector to transfer their salaries to them. The chief minister also directed the authorities to sit with the owners of industries and framed a comprehensive policy for the protection of the rights of labourers. He further directed for provision of protection to the employment of the workers of the industrial sector and a platform for the redressal of the complaints and prevention of injustice in this regard. The chief minister further directed for fixation of a job quota for

employment of the local labourers and its strict implementation. He on this occasion said that workers of brickkilns are met out cruelty and excesses and said that they will not allow the exploitation of those workers in any circumstances and directed for special focus on the prevention of excesses with workers of brickkilns. The chief minister said that the provision of justice and protection to the rights of such oppressed class of the society is the responsibility of the government and directed the concerned authorities to register brickkilns and compile data of the labourers working in them.



KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Rubina Khalid and Chairman Public Accounts Committee Sindh Assembly Nisar Ahmad Khuro jointly chairing a meeting of elected representatives at Sindh Assembly building.

Governor pays tributes to women on Int'l rural women's day

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori in his message on International Rural Women's Day paid tributes to the rural women. He said, "Today is the day to recognize the great services of rural women. Governor Tessori said that rural women have an unforgettable role in agriculture and rural development. Rural women have a key role in promoting environmental protection, he said adding that gender equality and women empowerment are top priorities. He said that acknowledging the tireless work of rural women is our collective responsibility."

PDWP approves five development schemes worth Rs 8.471b

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) in its 37 meeting of fiscal year 2024-25 here Tuesday approved five development schemes worth of Rs 8.471 billion. Chaired by Acting Chairman of P&D Board, Dr Asif Tufail, the meeting approved the following schemes: Establishment of a State-of-the-Art Wildlife Hospital at Safari Zoo, Lahore, at a cost of Rs 2482 million. Chief Minister Wildlife Rescue Force at a cost of Rs 2363 million. Immersive Wildlife Experience (cinema and moving theatre) in Punjab at a cost of Rs 1765 million. Environmental Monitoring of Industrial Units (DLI 1-3, PGDP World Bank) at a cost of Rs 861 million. Replacement of Old/Condemned Equipment of PFSA at a cost of Rs 1,000 million. Additionally, the Punjab Tourism for Economic Growth Project (PETGP) - World Bank-assisted scheme is recommended for CDWP at a cost of Rs 12.472 billion.

'Maryam Ke Dastak' now covers 22 districts

LAHORE (APP): The 'Maryam Ke Dastak' initiative, launched by Chief Minister of Punjab (CM) Maryam Nawaz and executed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), has expanded to 22 districts across Punjab to enhance public service delivery. The citizens of Kasur, Jhang, Attock, Bhakkar, Khanewal, Multan, Bahawalnagar, Sialkot, Jhelum, Mianwali and Sheikhupura can also now avail over 60 government services from the comfort of their homes. Previously these services were available in 11 districts: Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sargodha, Sahawal, Okara and Pakpatan. Since its launch on June 4, 2024, the program has rapidly expanded from offering 10 essential public services in the Lahore district to over 60 services across 22 districts within a mere three months. The 'Dastak Doorstep Services App' offers services related to Driving Licenses, the Police Department.

Health adviser visits UNICEF Office Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Health Ihtisham Ali and Health Secretary Adeel Shah visited UNICEF Peshawar office and express gratitude for support and assistance being provided to provincial health authorities. They were received by UNICEF Health Team Lead Dr Inamullah, Program Manager Wisam Hazem and Nutrition Specialist.

Rubina underscores need of promoting skill development for poverty alleviation

KARACHI (APP): The Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Program, Senator Rubina Khalid underscoring the need of promoting skill development for poverty alleviation, Tuesday, said that BISP is determined to equip the youth with vocational training for ensuring employment opportunities to them.

While chairing a meeting during visit of Hunar Foundation in Korangi area of Karachi, she said that our focus is on provision of the vocational training to young members of families registered with BISP in accordance with international standards and global market demand so that they could be able to earn decent livelihood for their families and contribute in economic stability of the country.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighting the BISP's key role in social protection and providing financial assistance to the deserving families across the country said that BISP was trying to meet the gap in expenditure and income of the deserving households through financial assistance.

Currently around 9.3 million registered families were getting financial assistance through quarterly stipends and the number was expected to enhance more than 10 million after completion of dynamic registration process, she informed.

Youth comprise a large portion of national population and we have to engage the young people and utilize their energies for development and economic stability of the country, she said and vowed that BISP was gearing up for providing technical and skill training to enable individuals to secure employment both locally and internationally, thereby improving their economic conditions.

She added that skill development will help bringing people out of poverty and achievement of poverty graduation targets will create space for registration of new families in the BISP.

We had positive talks with members of Sindh cabinet about coordinated efforts for skill development in the province while BISP was also engaged with NAVTEC, STEVA and other vocational training bodies, she said and also emphasized the importance of cooperation between BISP and vocational training institutions.

Senator Rubina Khalid further stressed the importance of securing internationally recognized certifications for skilled workers and said.



KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Rubina Khalid observing the facilities at textile and design center of Hunar Foundation Korangi.

Pakistan Night highlights chances for IT sector growth

DUBAI (APP): A special networking event, 'Pakistan Night' held at Dubai Association Pakistan as part of the GITEX Global 2024 activities on Tuesday, highlighted opportunities for information technology sector growth.

This event was organized to foster connections among tech professionals and business leaders, which attracted hundreds of tech executives from various nationalities, providing a unique platform for collaboration and exchange of ideas.

Sheikh Mana Bin Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum graced the occasion as a chief guest. Ghanim Al Falasi, Senior VP Entrepreneurship and Innovation Dubai Silicon Oasis, and other Emirati dignitaries also attended the event.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, expressed his gratitude to his Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for providing such a significant platform through GITEX.

"With events like these, we can substantially increase our IT-related exports and showcase Pakistan's technological potential on the global stage," the ambassador stated.

He further emphasized the importance of leveraging international platforms to promote Pakistan's growing tech industry and expand its global footprint.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Minister of State for IT & Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Ambassador Tirmizi thanked GITEX Global for declaring Pakistan as a tech destination in 2024.

The Ambassador highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Pakistan Software Houses Association (PASHA), and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for jointly working towards strengthening Pakistan's IT industry.

Pak envoy to US Rizwan Sheikh begins visit to Texas in effort to expand economic ties

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, met with the leadership of U.S. state of Texas, business community, and Pakistani diaspora in Dallas and Houston in his efforts to further strengthen Islamabad-Washington relationship, according to a Pakistani embassy press release.

In Houston, Ambassador Sheikh inaugurated the first-ever 2-day Pakistan Literature Festival, organized by the International Academy of Letters. In his remarks, the Ambassador emphasized the role of art, literature, people-to-people contacts, and public diplomacy in strengthening Pak-US relations.

Earlier, the Ambassador met with the leadership of the Ismaili community at the Jamaat Khana, commending their contributions under the guidance of Prince Karim Aga Khan.

"There are immense opportunities to forge a strong partnership between Pakistan and Texas in diverse fields, including IT, agriculture, textiles, and sports," the ambassador said as he began a 3-day visit to Texas on Monday with that message.

"Our diaspora in the United States can play a pivotal role in strengthening economic ties with the U.S. while also helping their counterparts capitalize on economic opportunities in Pakistan," he said.

On the first day of his visit, Ambassador Sheikh met with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and discussed a range of matters aimed at boosting ties for mutual benefit. As the 8th largest economy in the world, Texas offers significant trade and economic opportunities for Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of closed Petrol Pump due to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, in Islamabad.



PESHAWAR: Ex Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing to the meeting of Mohmand Chamber of Commerce.

SCCI calls for joint initiatives to improve Pak-Iran trade

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Moqem Khan called for cementing bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Iran, said a release issued here Tuesday.

He was talking to Ali Banafshekhah, Iranian Consul General in Peshawar during a meeting held here at the Chamber House.

The meeting was attended by SCCI vice president Shehryar Khan, members of the executive committee Aftab Iqbal, Muhammad Ashfaq and Nadeem Rafiq, Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan, Secretary Sohail Anjum and others.

Ali Banafshekhah who was accompanied by commercial attaché Hossein Maiki, said Iran wants to improve trade and economic relations with Pakistan and all brotherly and neighboring countries.

He said bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Iran is very low, which needed to be improved by efficient exploitation of potentials of the both countries. He said that Iran is ready to extend all kinds of cooperation to strengthen the mutual trade relations with Pakistan.

The meeting thoroughly deliberated upon prospects of enhancing mutual Pak-Iran trade, exchange of business delegations, holding of joint trade exhibitions and hurdles in the trade.

SCCI President, Faisal Moqem assured full cooperation to strengthen the bilateral Pak-Iran trade. He emphasized that problems should be resolved by table talks to promote the business and trade between the two brotherly Islamic countries adding that SCCI would continue playing a role in promoting Pak-Iran relationship.

Stakeholders advocate documentation of mine workers

PESHAWAR (APP): President, Frontier Mines Owners Association (FMOA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sherbandi Khan Marwath has called for the registration of all mine workers to make them entitled for due rights of social and labour welfare.

He made this call while speaking during a joint session on 'Documented Mining Economy' initiated under the auspices of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) in collaboration with State Life Insurance Corporation here on Tuesday.

He said that out of 200,000 mine workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only 65,000 have been registered either with Employees Old-Age Benefit Institute (EOBI) or Minerals Department of the province.

He stressed need for bringing all of the workers under the documented regime, so that they may get due rights of social and labour welfare. He added that the State Life Insurance should come up with solid proposal of ensuring optimum coverage to the mine workers while addressing their problems, including the mobility and frequent job switching.

The step, he said will also help the mine owners retain their workers for considerable time period while the safety and social needs of employees are assured. Speaking on the occasion, Sajjad Khattak (Area Manager, State Life Insurance Co.),



QUETTA: Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) President, Haji Ayub Maryani exchanging views with Dr. Noorullah Musakhel, Director General MERC Balochistan during meeting held in Quetta.

PTCL Group reports 15.3% YoY revenue growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading telecom and ICT services provider in the country, has reported a 15.3% year-on-year (YoY) revenue growth, reaching Rs. 160.6 billion.

This growth was primarily driven by the strong performance of the consumer segment, led by fixed broadband, mobile data, and wholesale & business solutions.

Announcing its financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2024, following a Board of Directors meeting, the company disclosed an operating profit of Rs. 1.6 billion. However, it also reported a net loss of Rs. 15.3 billion.

In 2024, PTCL Group upheld its momentum and strengthened its position as a major telecom service provider in Pakistan. PTCL achieved revenue of Rs 79.5 billion during the first nine months of 2024, which is 11.1% higher than the same period of last year, mainly driven by growth in fixed line, wholesale & business solutions segments.

The company has posted an operating profit of Rs 8.2 billion during the first nine months of 2024, which is 27.6% higher as compared to the same period of 2023. The company has posted a net profit of Rs 1 billion during the period, according to a news release issued here on Tuesday.

PTCL's aggressive deployment of Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) is the cornerstone for the topline growth. Continuing from the past quarters, PTCL's strategic focus remained on enhancing customer experience by providing the fastest and most reliable internet services under its flagship 'Flash Fiber' FTTH brand, which boosts PTCL as one of the leading FTTH operators in the industry.



HYDERABAD: Village women busy in routine work at a farm field at Hatari area while the world is observing International Day of Rural Women.

Dr Khalid says: Food security can be ensured by promoting pulses cultivation

FAISALABAD (APP): Chief Scientist Pulses Research Institute (PRI) of Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Dr Khalid Hussain said that food security could be ensured by promoting cultivation of pulses in the country.

Addressing a briefing arranged regarding Annual Rabi Research Program of Pulses Research Institute in AARI here on Tuesday, he said that Pakistan was spending huge money on the import of pulses.

If this commodity was promoted at local level, it would not only help in catering to domestic food requirements but would also play a pivotal role in fetching precious foreign exchange through its export and trimming down its import bill, he added. He said that the pulses were a cheap source of protein which was very essential for human health whereas residues of its crops would also increase soil fertility manifolds. He urged the agronomists to introduce new varieties of pulses which could help the growers in getting maximum yield even during harsh weather conditions.

He also emphasized the growers to cultivate pulses in other crops so that they could get maximum production with minimum input cost.

Agri experts Dr Muhammad Asif, Dr Zia Chishti and Amir Amin said that lentil was the second major pulses after chickpea which was cultivated at a large scale during Rabi. They said that Pulses Research Institute AARI had introduced six new varieties of lentil which had not only maximum resistance against various diseases but these varieties.

IMF says global public debt to top \$100 trillion, growth may accelerate

NEW YORK (INP): The world's total public debt is set to exceed \$100 trillion this year for the first time, and may grow more quickly than forecast as political sentiment favors higher spending and slow growth amplifies borrowing needs and costs, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday.

The IMF's latest Fiscal Monitor report showed global public debt will reach 93 per cent of global gross domestic product by the end of 2024 and approach 100pc by 2030. That would exceed its 99pc peak during COVID-19. It would also be up 10 percentage points from 2019, before the pandemic exploded government spending.

Released a week before the IMF and World Bank hold annual meetings in Washington, the Fiscal Monitor said there are good reasons to believe future debt levels could be well higher than currently projected, including a desire to spend more in the US, the world's largest economy.

"Fiscal policy uncertainty has increased, and political red lines on taxation have become more entrenched," the IMF said in the report. "Spending pressures to address green transitions, population aging, security concerns, and long-standing development challenges are mounting."

The IMF's concerns about rising debt levels comes three weeks before a US presidential election in which both candidates have promised new tax breaks and spending that could add trillions of dollars to federal deficits.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's tax cut plans would add some \$7.5 trillion in new debt over 10 years.

SBP to Celebrate Women Entrepreneurship Day on November 19, 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will celebrate Women Entrepreneurship Day (WED) on November 19, 2024. The event will be inaugurated by Governor SBP Jameel Ahmad at the SBP. The event is expected to bring together top officials from banks and non-bank institutions and working women associations to recognize the significant contributions of women entrepreneurs in the economy.

Besides other activities, the event will also include recognition awards to high-performing banks that have consistently extended loans to female borrowers. Additionally, awards will be presented to women-led businesses across various categories, acknowledging their remarkable achievements in the entrepreneurial landscape.

The event will feature both on-ground and virtual activities throughout Pakistan, with commercial banks collaborating to create tailored products for women-led businesses. Initiatives will include workshops, awareness campaigns about SBP SME financing, and mentorship programs designed to empower potential businesswomen and enhance their loan eligibility.

WED is a global initiative aimed at acknowledging and supporting women who drive innovation, create jobs, and significantly contribute to economic growth.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain presenting shield to Chairman Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

Pakistan calls India's occupation of Kashmir 'worst manifestation' of colonialism; urges peaceful settlement

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Describing India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan has underscored the need for the resolution of the decades-old dispute over the Himalayan state to achieve durable peace in South Asia.

"The United Nations and all its Member States are bound by the UN Charter to promote a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee on Monday.

Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, he said, "There are still peoples who are denied the right to self-determination, among them the people of occupied Kashmir and Palestine."

Condemning Israeli genocidal war against the Palestinian people and the aggression against Lebanon, the Pakistani envoy said, "Israel's massacres and brutalities will not extinguish the struggle for freedom and self-determination of the people of Palestine". In this context, he advocated a two-state solution to usher in lasting peace in the Middle East.

"Similarly, India's occupation of Jammu & Kashmir is another worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," he added.

The right of self-termination of the Kashmiri people, Ambassador Akram said, was explicitly recognized in UNSC resolution 47 (1948) and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under UN auspices.

These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said.

"Under Article 25 of the UN Charter, both parties are obliged to implement these resolutions," he added.

On Kashmir, the Pakistani envoy said, "For 75 years, through force and fraud, India has avoided the implementation of UN resolutions, and since 1989, it's 'brutal' campaign of repression killed 100,000 Kashmiris.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan H.E. Olzhas Bektenov on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Head of Government Meeting.

President stresses for expanding bilateral trade volume with Kyrgyzstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday stressed the need for expanding the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan by focusing on trade in value added products across various sectors to strengthen economic ties and boost mutual prosperity.

Talking to Akybek Zhaparov Usenbekovich Chairman of the Cabinet of the Kyrgyz Republic who called on him along with delegation on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting here, the president said Kyrgyzstan could also benefit from the Karachi and Gwadar ports.

The president also expressed the government's desire to expand cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in all sectors of mutual interests.

He extended gratitude to Kyrgyzstan for supporting Pakistan's successful election to the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council.

Expressing his views during the meeting, Akybek Zhaparov Usenbekovich said Kyrgyzstan always prioritized promotion of trade with the friendly countries.

Kyrgyzstan wants to enhance bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in various sectors of business, economy and technology, he said adding that due to Kyrgyzstan's economic development, there were significant opportunities for the workforce in the construction and textile sectors in the country.

SCO holds strategic value for Pak foreign policy: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, emphasized on Thursday that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit holds significant strategic value, presenting a crucial opportunity to open new economic and diplomatic avenues for the country.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the SCO offers a vital platform for multilateral engagements, enabling member states to collaborate on a broad spectrum of issues.

He stated that the successful hosting of the SCO will significantly boost regional cooperation and strengthen Pakistan's global standing. In response to a query about bilateral talks with India, he clarified that, according to SCO regulations.

Pakistan considers China one of its closest friends: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani met with the Premier of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Qiang, on Tuesday and said that Pakistan considers China one of its closest friends, with both nations committed to mutual trust, respect, and goodwill.

The meeting, aimed at deepening the bond of friendship and enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of economics, trade, and investment said a news release issued by the Senate Secretariat.

He underscored the historic ties between Pakistan and China, tracing back over 2,000 years to the ancient Silk Road, which served as a bridge of friendship between the two ancient civilizations.

He acknowledged the strong amity that has characterized Pakistan-China relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in May 1951 and said that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China. Paying tribute to the visionaries who built this enduring relationship, including former Prime Ministers Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, as well as Chinese leadership, he reflected on their contributions to solidifying ties.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Qohir Rasulzoda calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads Meeting.

Balochistan reports 17th polio cases this year; Minister Health highly concerned about rise in cases

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Balochistan province has reported 17th case of polio virus from Quetta district.

According to the sources of Health Department, the polio virus has been detected in a child belonging to Quetta. Although further details about the fresh polio case has not been received yet, but it was learnt that the symptoms of polio were shown in the affected child on August 22, this year. It may be mentioned here that it is the third case of polio from Quetta district from where two cases of the crippling disease have already been reported from the metropolis.

Earlier, six cases of polio were reported from Killa Abdullah with two cases reported from Zhoab and one each from Dera Bugti, Chaman, Jhal Magasi, Killa Saifullah, Kharan and Pishin. It may also be mentioned here that the Quetta block has recorded 11 polio cases and 65 positive sewerage samples. With this, Balochistan remains the most affected province, with 17 cases reported. Sindh has recorded 10 cases, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa four, and one case each from Islamabad and Punjab. In view of the increase in polio cases, the Health Department has already decided to launch a special immunization campaign in the province from October 28, 2024.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Italy, Marilina ARMELLINI, along with Rear Admiral Stefano BARBERI, Capability Director of the Italian Defence General Staff, called on Commander Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib.

Global Handwashing Day observed: Rubaba emphasizes upon importance of following hygiene principles

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for the Women Development Department, emphasized the importance of following basic hygiene principles, such as handwashing, to ensure our health.

She made these remarks while addressing participants at an event held at Government Girls High School Killi Sheikhan, Quetta, in marking the Global Handwashing Day.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi stated that a significant cause of deaths among children under five each year is respiratory diseases and diarrhea, which can be prevented through the simple act of handwashing. While washing hands may seem trivial, it plays a crucial role in saving lives.

Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy shine at Int'l Sailing Regatta in Brazil

KARACHI (APP): The Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy (PNA) Sailing team achieved a historic feat by securing Silver medal and overall second position in 79th International Naval Academy Sailing Competition held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A total of nine teams competed from around the world in J24 Boat category, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The participating teams included Cadets from Naval Academies of Pakistan, Brazil, China, Italy, Portugal, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and India. Speaking on the occasion, the PNA team captain dedicated the victory to the quality training of Pakistan Naval Academy. After securing first position during International Sailing Championship in Sri Lanka earlier in August this year, this is consecutive second extraordinary performance at international level during last three months by cadets of PNA.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addressing an event organized by the Balochistan Blind Association to mark White Cane Safety Day.

China trustworthy, sincere friend of Pakistan: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday and said China is a trustworthy and sincere friend of Pakistan and the country takes great pride in its everlasting friendship with China.

According to a news release issued by the National Assembly Secretariat, during the meeting, both sides discussed parliamentary and economic relations, as well as matters of mutual interest.

Both countries agreed to further expand parliamentary and economic ties. Welcoming the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, the Speaker expressed confidence that the Premier's visit would serve as a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations. He lauded the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit being hosted in Pakistan, stating that it was a great honor for the country.

He expressed hope that the SCO summit would enhance regional cooperation and strengthen regional stability. He reiterated that Pakistan attaches great importance to the SCO platform and that the summit would help project Pakistan's positive image on the global stage. He also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to working for regional development.

Foolproof security to be ensured: Sharif

QUETTA (INP): Superintendent Police City Muhammad Sharif emphasized his commitment to maintaining law and order by tightening the grip on criminal elements and drug dealers.

Talking to media, he said police checkpoints across the City Police jurisdiction have been reinforced for more effective security checks.

SP Sharif assured that every complaint received at the City Police Station and other precincts within the circle will be addressed promptly, ensuring justice for all citizens.

"It is the core responsibility of the police to ensure that no one is subjected to injustice," he added.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola along with MPA Shahida Rauf, Uzma Yaqoob and Fouzia Shaheen visiting District Jail Quetta.

BBISE introduces grading system, establishes complaint cell

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta has introduced a grading system and launched an e-complaints cell for the first time in the province's history. This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani here on Tuesday. Secretary of Colleges and Higher Education, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, and BBISE Chairman Ijaz Baloch attended the meeting. It was announced, in the meeting, that Balochistan would replace the traditional marks-based system with a grading system, in line with the minister's vision for educational reforms. Following the Federal Board, Balochistan Board will become the second board in Pakistan to adopt this grading system.

As per new system, students will now receive grades instead of marks, and the concept of first, second, and third positions will be abolished.

Pak envoy gather in I'abad ahead of SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (INP): In preparation for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, most Pakistani ambassadors stationed in SCO member countries have been called back to Islamabad.

The ambassadors were summoned to assist in the coordination and organization of the conference.

Ambassadors from key member states, including China, Russia, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan, have already arrived in Islamabad, further emphasizing the importance of Pakistan's role in the summit.

Additionally, Pakistan's head of mission in India is also present in the capital for the high-level discussions, signaling the country's comprehensive diplomatic engagement ahead of the event.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani inaugurating portal to register online complaints in Balochistan Board Office. Secretary Higher Education Hafiz Muhammad Tahir and Chairman Board Ejaz Baloch are also present.

Minister Food expresses anguish over opening of private medical store in DHQ Hospital Harnai

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Food, Noor Muhammad Durrani has expressed anguish over opening a private medical store by the Medical Superintendent in the District Headquarter Hospital Harnai. The Provincial Minister asserted that we would not allow anyone to open private medical store in a government hospital at all. Rather, all available resources would be utilized for ensuring provision of all free medical facilities including free medicines to the people in all health centers of the district including DHQ Hospital Harnai.

He was speaking to the district officers and public delegations who called on him during his visit to Harnai on Tuesday.

Noor Muhammad Durrani said that Deputy Commissioner Harnai and Medical Superintendent of the Hospital have been asked to address these issues and no such complaints should be received from anyone in future.

The Minister said that we would not tolerate any negligence in the health and education sectors anyway.

Nausherwani gives financial aid of Rs. 400,000 for treatment of ailing father of Farah Yousaf

INDEPENDENT REPORT GHARIBABAD OF NOSHKI. She not only continued her education in extreme poverty and miserable circumstances, but is also an athlete. Being athlete, she brightened name of the province at the national level.

The Minister Finance expressed best wishes for the recovery of her father.

He also appreciated the hard work and good performance in different sports.

It may be mentioned here that Farah Yousaf hails from a poor family and is the daughter of a tailor master belonging to Killi

Heavy machinery set ablaze in attacks on construction camps at Kalat

KALAT (INP): Unidentified armed assailants carried out two attacks on camps of crash plants working on the National Highway in Kalat and Mangochar late at night on Tuesday.

According to media reports, during the attack, several pieces of heavy machinery were set on fire, causing significant damage.

The Levies sources said the armed men held the labourers at the camp hostage for a long time before eventually releasing them unharmed.

The channel reported that the motive of the militants behind the attacks remains unclear, and local authorities are investigating the incident.

Daesh terrorist, facilitators arrested in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): A terrorist of banned ISIS or Daesh, eager to target political gatherings, has been arrested in Peshawar during an intelligence-based operation conducted by Counter Terrorism Department. According to police sources, the arrested terrorist was staying in a rented house along with his family. After a strong response, the terrorist was arrested during an hour-long operation, police sources said.

PWD making all out efforts to provide reproductive health commodities: Secretary

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Secretary Population Welfare Department Balochistan, Abdullah Khan, on Tuesday highlighted the importance of reproductive health, saying that the mandate of reproductive health services specifically falls under the mandate of Population Welfare Department (PWD) and the department is making all out efforts to provide reproductive health commodities in the province.

Addressing on the occasion of a one day awareness seminar titled: "Uplifting Ceremony of Population Welfare Programme," he stressed the participants to disseminate the message of the department in all corners of Balochistan.

Present among the participants were Director General PWD Muhammad Azeem Kakar, Director PMCT Naem Khan Kasi, Director Adm Juma Khan, district officers and a large number of women participants from Balochistan.

Secretary Population Welfare was of the view that the true women empowerment lied in creating awareness among women regarding their reproductive rights, adding that the ideal of a healthy society could only be achieved through empowering women.

He said that the stunted growth among children, anemic mothers and malnourished youth are all due to lack of awareness on family planning which is a life saving intervention.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa presiding over a meeting regarding performance of the department.