

QUETTA VOICE

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Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Dr. Malik Baloch discussing something important with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti during the assembly session: photo provided by DGPR

India's Jaishankar departs after SCO summit, thanks Pakistan for warm hospitality

NEWS DESK: Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has left Pakistan after attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. Before his departure, Jaishankar expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani government for their "splendid hospitality" in a message posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"I thank the Government of Pakistan for the warm hospitality," Jaishankar wrote, extending further appreciation to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his graciousness during the event. The Indian foreign minister also thanked his counterpart, Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, and the people of Pakistan for the warm reception he received. He acknowledged the significance of his meetings, including face-to-face discussions with Dar during the summit.

Jaishankar attended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the delegates at the summit, where he and Dar sat next to each other. According to sources from Express News, the two engaged in informal conversations during the meal.

Earlier, Jaishankar had congratulated Pakistan on assuming the chairmanship of the SCO's Heads of Council. Speaking at the summit in Islamabad, he assured that India would offer "full cooperation" during Pakistan's tenure as chair.



"Our meeting is taking place at a time when the world is facing significant challenges. Two major conflicts are ongoing, which are affecting the global situation. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted developing countries," Jaishankar said in his address.

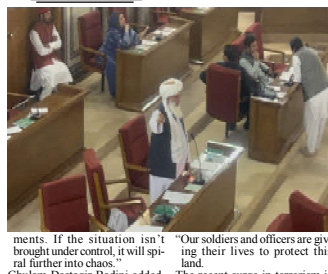
He highlighted the economic pressures faced by SCO member states, including debt challenges, and stressed the importance of mutual cooperation. The key objectives of the SCO Charter, he noted, are building mutual trust, friendship, and promoting cordial relations with neighbouring countries.

Opposition Slams Balochistan Government Over Law and Order Failures

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Opposition members of the Balochistan Assembly launched a sharp criticism of the provincial government, accusing it of failing to protect citizens, following the killing of 20 coal miners in the Dukki district. During a session chaired by Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, lawmakers expressed deep concerns about the deteriorating security situation. Maulana Noorullah condemned the brutal killing of the coal miners, stating, "These miners were mercilessly murdered. We demand justice and immediate action to hold those responsible accountable."

Opposition Leader Mir Younas Azz Zehri harshly criticized the government's handling of the security situation, stating, "The state of law and order has worsened to such a degree that none of the 65 lawmakers can travel safely on the highways of Balochistan." Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, echoing these concerns, warned, "The government's inaction is solely emboldening criminal elements. If the situation isn't brought under control, it will spiral further into chaos."



Ghulam Eastagor Badini added, "The people of Balochistan are living in constant fear. We need practical solutions, not just promises." Defending the government, Mir Zahoor Buledi, the Minister for Planning and Development, highlighted the sacrifices of security forces.

"Our soldiers and officers are giving their lives to protect this land. The recent surge in terrorism is fueled by foreign actors, and we are addressing these challenges," he said. Despite Buledi's reassurances, the opposition demanded immediate measures to restore peace and protect the people of Balochistan from further violence.

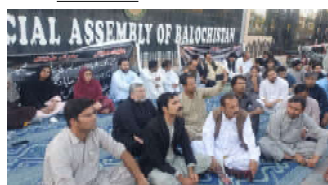
CM Balochistan Chairs High-Level Meeting to Address Financial and Administrative Issues in Public Universities

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: A high-level meeting to address the financial and administrative affairs of public sector universities in Balochistan was chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. The meeting was attended by key provincial officials, including Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Planning and Development Minister Mir Zahoor Buledi, and Vice Chancellors from Balochistan's public universities.

The meeting focused on the universities' pressing financial challenges, with CM Bugti issuing immediate directives to ensure the timely payment of salaries and pensions for faculty and staff. "Only those fulfilling their duties will be entitled to their salaries. No one will be paid for sitting at home," CM Bugti emphasized, warning of strict action against absenteeism.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over the unchecked rise in non-developmental expenditures at public universities and instructed Vice Chancellors to downsize excessive staffing and strengthen their financial management systems.



"Universities must focus on efficient financial practices to avoid waste," he stated. Key decisions were made, including a freeze on new hires and non-essential construction. The recruitment of essential teaching staff will proceed on an ad-hoc basis under a new act. To boost the financial independence of universities, a committee led by Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan was established to explore public-private partnership initiatives for commercial activities within the institutions. CM Bugti also highlighted the need for comprehensive legislation, instructing the in-

roduction of the Balochistan Contract Appointment Act to streamline appointments on a contractual basis. He reassured that despite the financial difficulties, the government would continue to support public universities, but in return, he called for "better results and accountability."

This meeting underscores the government's commitment to improving the financial stability and governance of public universities in Balochistan, ensuring that resources are managed efficiently while providing quality education to the province's students.

Ruthless Cutting of Ziarat's Ancient Juniper Trees Continues Unchecked

From Our Correspondent:

ZIARAT: home to the world's second-largest juniper forest, faces relentless deforestation as the ruthless cutting of ancient juniper trees continues unchecked. This alarming destruction threatens one of Pakistan's most treasured natural heritages, with minimal intervention from the authorities responsible for protecting the forest. The centuries-old juniper trees, which play a crucial role in maintaining the region's biodiversity and combating climate change, are being felled at an alarming rate.

Despite the government's claims of forest conservation, illegal logging persists, raising serious questions about the lack of accountability within the departments tasked with protecting this national asset. Environmentalists have long sounded the alarm, yet deforestation in Ziarat continues unabated. The destruction of these ancient trees must be urgently addressed to preserve Pakistan's ecological legacy. Where is the accountability? Immediate action is needed to save the juniper forest before it's too late.



Boxer Mohammad Wasim Triumphs in Ranking Fight, Receives Hero's Welcome in Quetta

Sports Reporter:

QUETTA: Pakistan's renowned boxer, Mohammad Wasim, arrived in Quetta to a warm reception after his impressive victory in a World Boxing Federation (WBF) ranking fight held in Malta. Wasim knocked out Georgia's Jaba Memeshishi in the third round, marking another significant achievement for the country on the international stage.

Wasim has once again made the country proud," remarked Meena Majeed. She praised the boxer as "a shining example of Balochistan's talent," promising that the provincial government would continue to support local athletes. "There is immense potential in the youth of Quetta, and we are committed to nurturing this talent," Majeed added. "Every



Provincial Advisor for Sports, Meena Majeed, along with Secretary Sports Tariq Qamar Baloch and Director General Sports Yasir Bazai, welcomed the champion at Quetta International Airport. Speaking to the media, Mohammad Wasim expressed his gratitude to the Government of Balochistan for the warm reception. "I'm proud to bring this victory home. I'm confident that one day, I'll bring the world title to Pakistan," he said. Wasim's victory in the ranking fight follows in the footsteps of Shahzaib Rind, another rising star from Quetta, who recently gained international acclaim. "After Shahzaib, Mohammad

need of our sportsmen will be met, ensuring they have the resources to compete at international levels." As a proud representative of Balochistan, Wasim's triumph on the world stage showcases the positive side of the province, with talented athletes like him making headlines globally. The sports advisor further emphasized the importance of Chief Minister Balochistan's initiative to uplift youth through sports programs, aiming to bring more young talent to the forefront. With Wasim's victory in Malta, hopes are high for more international achievements from Quetta's emerging sports stars.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Governments Meeting in Islamabad.

The Persistent Polio Challenge in Balochistan

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Clearing the air

Continued to page 2

Foreign media correspondents laud arrangements made for international journalists at SCO Media Facilitation Centre

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Gwadar's New Airport: A Gateway to Regional Prosperity

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial:

The New Gwadar International Airport, nearing completion under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)...

One of the most significant aspects of the project is the airport's secure, uninterrupted power supply. Connected to three separate transmission lines through a 12 MW contract with Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO)...

The extension of the East Bay Expressway, connecting Gwadar Port to the new airport, will further streamline the transport of goods and passengers.

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) recently confirmed the successful testing of the airport, including a test flight of an AirKing B700.

Under the Open Skies policy, the New Gwadar International Airport will be operated through a joint venture involving Pakistan, Oman, and China.

Khadi Khalid, the airport's manager, highlighted that the new facility will revolutionize air travel in the region.

More than just an infrastructure project, the New Gwadar International Airport is a key driver of Gwadar's economic future.

Under the Open Skies policy, the New Gwadar International Airport will be operated through a joint venture involving Pakistan, Oman, and China.

Clearing the air

By Zofeen T. Ebrahim:

INDIAN External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's historic visit — historic because the last official visit to Pakistan by an Indian foreign minister was undertaken by his predecessor, Sushma Swaraj, in 2015 to attend a conference — comes at a time when the air in the federal capital is at its crispest.

There is just the right amount of rhapsody in the evening air for a hot cup of chai to produce the perfect warmth — and thus thwart the toxic air between India and Pakistan.

The high-level, 11-country SCO summit, which Mr Jaishankar and his delegation are attending, also comes at the start of the smog season. That is why climate experts in both India and Pakistan agree that, given the stalled formal bilateral talks, it is worth the two nuclear neighbours, the two can at least take baby steps and discuss shared discussions on pollution.

To understand how deadly air pollution can be, one must understand the real culprit: inhaled particulate matter, which has a diameter of 2.5 micrometres and is finer than the finest human hair (which has a diameter of about 75 micrometres).

When inhaled, it affects your heart and lungs. Research has found a connection between air pollution and the health of newborn babies — low birthweight, miscarriages and stillbirths.

item for discussion at the summit. In fact, it would have made sense, he says, to hold the meeting in Lahore so that the attendees could view acclaimed British artist Dryden Goodwin's artwork titled Breathe, which highlights air pollution in Lahore through posters, digital billboards and projections on multiple sites across the city.

What made the assembly significant was the wide-ranging participation from right groups to the leaders of almost all major political parties. The gathering took place at a time when the province has been hit by another wave of terrorism. Administrative control appears to have completely fallen in some of the districts with the retreat of armed militants.

But this particulate matter does not stay put or respect borders. It travels long distances. It chokes the air above us and across the region. Therefore, clearing up the air in your own city or country is an exercise in futility, since there are six air sheds over the South Asian region in which the polluted air remains trapped and can lead to an estimated two million premature deaths in the region.

Thus, a shared problem requires a shared strategy to eliminate it. It is time to move from bickering over which country spends the most position and work together to overcome the challenge. At a meeting organised last week in Nairobi by the UK-based C o n - c i l i a t i o n - o - f - I n d i a n - a n d - P a - k i s t a n i a n a m b a s s a d o - r s , j o u r n a l i s t s , p a r l i a m e n t a n s , a i r p o l l u t i o n e x p e r t s , d i s m i s s i n g t h e s i l o - e d a p p r o a c h , a n d r e c o m m e n d i n g g r e a t e r c r o s s - b o r d e r e n g a g e m e n t b e t w e e n t h e t w o c o u n t r i e s i n t h e f o r m o f k n o w l e d g e - s h a r i n g a n d b y t r e a t i n g t h e i s s u e a s a y e a r - l o n g p r o b l e m r a t h e r t h a n a s e a s o n a l e v e n t t h a t g e t s u n d e r w a y w i t h t h e o n s e t o f w i n t e r a n d a s s m o g e n g u l f s t h e t w o P u n j a b s .

The wages of conflict

By Zahid Hussain:

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

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

The state initially tried to clamp down on it. Just days before the jirga, the federal government proscribed the PTM, declaring the group and organiser anti-state.

The younger generation has borne the brunt of the devastation. Many young people, born during the conflict, do not see any future for themselves without education.

There are questions whether the state has a clear strategy to deal with the militant challenge. Mounting public despair in KP is evident. The younger generation has borne the brunt of the devastation. Many young people, born during the conflict, do not see any future for themselves without education.

The public's growing distrust of the state and the security forces, which was manifested in the speeches and resolution passed at the jirga. The scale of destruction, both in terms of human and financial losses in the province over two decades of violence, was highlighted in statistics provided at the assembly.

There has been a widespread perception that the state does not possess the resolve to fight militancy. The militants are gaining ground, notwithstanding the claims of an effective counterterrorism campaign being conducted.

It is apparent that militancy cannot be fought without public confidence in the security forces. Unfortunately, this seems to be missing.

Political instability and worsening confrontation between the federal and provincial (KP) governments also seems to have affected the state's capacity to fight militancy more effectively.

Some of its radical nationalist rhetoric may come in conflict with state policy, but banning an organisation not involved in violence will not help the fight against the security forces to leave the troubled areas is certainly not workable.

Political instability and worsening confrontation between the federal and provincial (KP) governments also seems to have affected the state's capacity to fight militancy more effectively.

Strategic trade shift

By Aqdas Afzal:

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

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

The Washington Consensus, centred on free markets and deregulation, dominated post-Cold War economic thinking. However, China's rapid economic rise and the resulting loss of millions of jobs out of industrial American cities like Detroit.

At a meeting organised last week in Nairobi by the UK-based C o n - c i l i a t i o n - o - f - I n d i a n - a n d - P a - k i s t a n i a n a m b a s s a d o - r s , j o u r n a l i s t s , p a r l i a m e n t a n s , a i r p o l l u t i o n e x p e r t s , d i s m i s s i n g t h e s i l o - e d a p p r o a c h , a n d r e c o m m e n d i n g g r e a t e r c r o s s - b o r d e r e n g a g e m e n t b e t w e e n t h e t w o c o u n t r i e s i n t h e f o r m o f k n o w l e d g e - s h a r i n g a n d b y t r e a t i n g t h e i s s u e a s a y e a r - l o n g p r o b l e m r a t h e r t h a n a s e a s o n a l e v e n t t h a t g e t s u n d e r w a y w i t h t h e o n s e t o f w i n t e r a n d a s s m o g e n g u l f s t h e t w o P u n j a b s .

China's rapid economic rise and the resulting loss of millions of jobs out of industrial American cities like Detroit. Facing an existential challenge from China, the US finally turned away from the Washington Consensus in 2017.

Robert Lighthizer, US trade representative under Donald Trump, was instrumental in developing a set of 'America First' economic policies that brought down the curtain on free trade.

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

In order to regain strategic dominance, Lighthizer proposed a new Washington Consensus for the US. Lighthizer convinced Trump to slap a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium imports, as well as impose similar tariffs on 75pc of Chinese exports to the US.

The new Washington Consensus has gained wide currency in the US, as even after his election in 2020, President Joe Biden largely continued Trump's policy by keeping these tariffs in place.

Actually, Biden took this new thinking even further by implementing a comprehensive industrial policy, using state power and public resources to build and maintain the capacity to produce specific manufactures, including electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Even Vice President Kamala Harris' economic vision is not much different from Biden's. In other words, the US will keep moving away from free trade regardless of whoever is in the White House.

proposes a paradigm shift for economic policy in Europe as Europeans seem to have been caught flat-footed by recession in 2024.

One of the report's main recommendations calls on European countries to channel savings towards investment, R&D spending and academic excellence or, in essence, to channel industrial policy that will assist Europe regain its trade competitiveness.

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

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

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

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By Mahir Ali:

THE inability of the UN to facilitate the primary goal set out in its hopeful charter nearly eight decades ago...

power of permanent members. Permitting a council war rather than recipes for rhetorical purposes, then returned to the archival past...

97th session last month were largely unsuccessful. The war rather than recipes for rhetorical purposes, then returned to the archival past...

to all about. It has frequently failed, but its shortcomings and undeniable impotence at crucial junctures testify not to its irrelevance but to its structural deficiencies.

No sustainable peace, stability without addressing Kashmir dispute: Mirwaiz

SRINAGAR (INP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has underscored that sustainable peace, stability, and economic development in the region cannot be achieved without addressing the Kashmir dispute.

He expressed concern over the global challenges faced by Muslims, emphasizing that the dire situation in Palestine is troubling not only for Muslims but for all of humanity. He underscored the vital role of mosques, social, economic, and political matters.



ISLAMABAD: Belara's Prime Minister Roman Alexandrovich Golovchenko departed today after attending 23rd SCO summit in Islamabad. Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communication, Abdul-Aleem Khan bid farewell to Belara's Prime Minister at Islamabad International Airport.

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

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

Both sides emphasized that their time-tested friendship has gained renewed vigor. Under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, bilateral relations continue to enjoy robust momentum. China reaffirmed its commitment to prioritizing its relationship with Pakistan in its foreign policy, while Pakistan underscored that its ties with China are the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

APHC-AJK leaders condemn Indian govt's Hindutva agenda in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter have expressed grave concerns over the actions of the RSS-backed Indian government, particularly its systematic campaign to erase the identity of Kashmiri Muslims and impose Hindutva ideology in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Zahid Ashraf highlighted the urgent need for resistance against the destructive agenda of Hindutva forces. They argued that the RSS's manifesto aims to undermine the unique cultural identity of Kashmiris and convert the territory's Muslim majority into a minority.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Treasury Babar Khan is presiding over the meeting related to Local Fund Audit.



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

Joint Statement at the end of Chinese Premier Li Qiang's visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): At the invitation of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Li Qiang, Premier of the People's Republic of China, paid an official visit to Pakistan from October 14 to 17, 2024 and participated in the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization chaired by Pakistan.

Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries has made significant progress. After Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful official visit to China in June 2024, the two countries have enjoyed even stronger political mutual trust, more vibrant cooperation, and closer strategic coordination.

During the visit, Premier Li Qiang met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and met with Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan; H.E. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate; H.E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly. The Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the two countries, as well as the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force of Pakistan, were also present.

The two sides noted that in a transforming and turbulent world where major changes are unfolding at a faster pace, the Pakistan-China relationship is of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation is bound to fail.

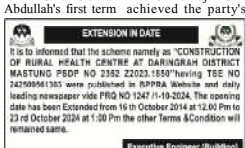
Omar Abdullah sworn in as chief minister following sham elections in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah was sworn in as Chief Minister today, following his National Conference party's victory in the recently held sham elections.

as Chief Minister since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Notable attendees included prominent political figures such as Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, alongside other National Conference leaders who gathered to support Omar Abdullah during this moment.

For the first time in a decade, IIOJK will have an elected government, following the dissolution of the tenant Governor Manoj Sinha administering the oath to Omar Abdullah and his council of ministers.

secure a lasting resolution to the region's political future. This pursuit of self-determination is deeply rooted in Kashmir's history, tracing back to the 1949 UN Commission for India and Pakistan resolution advocating for a free and impartial plebiscite.



ISLAMABAD: Omar Abdullah was sworn in as Chief Minister today, following his National Conference party's victory in the recently held sham elections.

LAND ACQUISITION notice regarding the acquisition of land for the construction of a road, including details of the project and the responsible authority.

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Maryam Nawaz calls for respectful attitude to end food wastage

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has called for a respectful attitude to end the food wastage.

Sharing her message on World Food Day, she highlighted the grave issue of food insecurity grappling millions across the world. The billions tons of food wastage was a concerning, she emphasised.

Maryam Nawaz highlighted that Islam addressed the value of blessing of food and prohibited its wastage.

She stated that a civilised behaviour was needed to stop the wastage of food in homes, hotels and ceremonies. Maryam labelled the wastage of food as carelessness and

apathy. Punjab CM announced that one dish policy was being implemented effectively to halt the food wastage. The violation of one-dish policy would be subjected to strict action, she warned.

She urged to avoid food wastage ensuring availability of safe and quality food for future generations.

CM Maryam Nawaz asserted that "Let's build a society where everyone has an access to food."

World Food Day is being observed today (Wednesday) across the world including Pakistan to promote awareness of hunger and action for the future of food, people, and the

planet. This year's theme of World Food Day is "Right to food for a better life and a better future."

World Food Day celebrated every year worldwide on October 16, marks to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945.

The day is celebrated widely by many other organisations concerned with hunger and food security, including the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Alad Cheema in meeting with Kyrgyz Finance Minister Daniyar Amangeldiev

Heads of SCO member states reaffirm commitment to peacefully resolving disputes through dialogue

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

In a joint declaration issued at the conclusion of the two-day SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting held here, the heads of delegations called for sustainable and inclusive economic growth of member states by optimizing the region's potential in areas such as green development, digital economy, trade, e-commerce, finance and banking, investment, high technology, start-ups and innovation, poverty alleviation, health care, including traditional and folk medicine, agriculture, industry, transport, logistics connectivity, energy, including renewable energy, communications, science and technology, environment and climate change.

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

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

The event was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and was attended by the leaders from the SCO member states including China's Premier of the State Council Li Qiang, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akylybek, Trade Minister of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Atabek, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar.

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

Among other dignitaries attending the moot include SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, Director of Executive Committee SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Ruslan Mirzayev, Chairman of the Board of SCO Business Council AH Ibrahim Shaikh and Chairman of the Council of SCO Interbank Union Marat Yelibaev.

The heads of delegation noted significant shifts in the global economy due to advancements in technology and e-commerce, expressing concern over reduced investment and disrupted supply chains caused by protectionist measures and trade barriers.

Opposing unilateral sanctions and trade restrictions, the delegations emphasized the need for a multilateral trading system to support global sustainable development.

Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan reiterated their support for China's One Belt, One Road initiative, highlighting ongoing collaborative efforts to integrate this project with the Eurasian Economic Union.

The heads of delegation underscored the importance of leveraging regional potential and international cooperation to facilitate equitable interactions within the SCO.

They called for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, advocating for optimization in green development, digital economy, health care, agriculture, energy, and environmental initiatives.

Heads of delegation also praised Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the SCO for 2023-2024 and emphasized the importance of implementing decisions from the July 4, 2024, CHS meeting, while expressing support for China's chairmanship for 2024-2025.

HEC issues public warning about increasing incidents of fraudulent activities on social media

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has issued a public warning about increasing incidents of fraudulent activities involving scam calls and fake social media pages falsely claiming affiliation with the commission.

In a public alert, the HEC stated that some imposters, claiming affiliation with the HEC, are defrauding the public by making scam calls to extract personal information for degree attestation or re-verification of already attested documents.

Some individuals, posing as HEC Attestation Agents, are offering services for degree attestation, demanding excessive fees for services, far beyond the prescribed charges.

Fake social media pages are also being used to deceive the public by promoting unauthorized degree verification services. The HEC has clarified that it does not employ any agents or representatives for attestation purposes and does not make unsolicited calls or contact individuals regarding these services.

The public is urged to use only the official HEC website (www.hec.gov.pk) or the HEC attestation portal

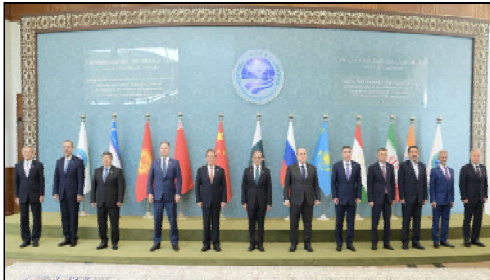
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KARACHI: Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid is inspecting facilities at Benazir Nashunuma Center PIB Colony Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Family photo of Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Heads of Delegation of the 23rd SCO Heads of Government Meeting in Islamabad.

PM Shehbaz hopes SCO summit will bring in the wonderful outcomes for benefit of regional economies

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed the hope that the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will bring in the wonderful outcomes for the benefit of regional economies and uplifting its people.

The prime minister, who chaired the meeting as current chair of the Council, in his opening remarks, welcomed the guests to Islamabad and said the summit manifested the collective voice and wishes of over 40 percent of world population.

He said that the presence of the SCO leaders also evidenced their collective spirit of promoting cooperation, sustainable development and regional prosperity.

He said the 23rd SCO CHG was the testament to the strength of ties among the SCO member states and the collaboration among the diverse nations.

The prime minister said that the SCO countries had immense potential to ensure development, regional peace and stability as well as improving the lives of their people.

He also called for using the summit to exchange ideas and share best practices to promote economic cooperation for the betterment of their societies.

Earlier, the prime minister received the participating leaders at the venue before a group photo with them. The leaders from the SCO member states attending the summit include China's Premier of the State Council Li Qiang.

Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers' Cabinet Zhaparov Akylybek, Trade Minister of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Atabek, and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar.

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

Among other dignitaries attending the moot include SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, Director of Executive Committee SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Ruslan Mirzayev, Chairman of the Board of SCO Business Council AH Ibrahim Shaikh and Chairman of the Council of SCO Interbank Union Marat Yelibaev.

The heads of delegation noted significant shifts in the global economy due to advancements in technology and e-commerce, expressing concern over reduced investment and disrupted supply chains caused by protectionist measures and trade barriers.

Opposing unilateral sanctions and trade restrictions, the delegations emphasized the need for a multilateral trading system to support global sustainable development.

Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan reiterated their support for China's One Belt, One Road initiative, highlighting ongoing collaborative efforts to integrate this project with the Eurasian Economic Union.

The heads of delegation underscored the importance of leveraging regional potential and international cooperation to facilitate equitable interactions within the SCO.

They called for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, advocating for optimization in green development, digital economy, health care, agriculture, energy, and environmental initiatives.

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Tarar terms Pakistan's hosting of SCO summit as milestone in context of international relations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar on Wednesday termed Pakistan's hosting of 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit as a milestone in the context of international relations.

Talking to media persons at Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said some immical elements were claiming that Pakistan has been isolated at international level but now the world can see that the heads of major countries had visited our country. "Russian and Chinese Prime Ministers' arrival in Pakistan is good omen for us Pakistan reputation has been restored with this summit", he added.

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

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

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

He said by hosting this summit Pakistan had once again proved it had the capacity and capability to host such mega events.

"World leaders and delegates will take away good impressions from Pakistan which would help further promote the soft and positive image of the country,"

The minister said last night, the Prime Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the distinguished guests attending the SCO Summit and cultural event also marked the occasion portraying

the culture of the member countries.

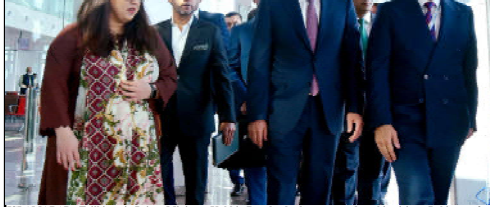
He said the Media Facilitation Center had been set up for local and foreign journalists covering the SCO Summit at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

He said that the state-of-the-art facilities were provided at the media centre so that the journalists could perform their professional duties easily and transmit news stories about the summit.

He said during his speech Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke about regional security, counter-terrorism and climate change.

He said such forums provide opportunities to discuss issues being faced by the countries of the region.

He opined that it was also very important to promote cultural exchanges as the states of the region have many cultural similarities. "Culture plays an important role in the public and soft image of any country," he added.



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

Foreign media correspondents laud arrangements made for international journalists at SCO Media Facilitation Centre

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

The media correspondents while requesting anonymity said the thematic setting, digital library, high speed internet facility, computers and printing facilities with multiple TV screens providing live news

coverage of different news channels from the member states of the SCO were all well planned to ensure all out coverage arrangements at Pak-China Friendship Centre.

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

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

Another journalist commented that the studio and podcast cabin was really a great facility on the site as many of them had recorded podcasts and live interviews on the SCO updates.

The foreign journalists expressed their great admiration for the musical night on the inaugural day where the qawwali night hosted left all the participants spell bound.

A running cafeteria was also established to provide food and refreshments to the participants which was availed by local and international journalists.