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CM Bugti directs immediate payment of salaries to varsities' teachers

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday ordered immediate payment of salaries to universities teachers and others staff and their pensions. He said that salaries are the right of working teachers and employees, timely payment of salaries should be ensured for improvement of education.

He expressed these views while presiding over a high-level meeting on the financial and administrative affairs of public sector universities at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshirvani, Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Mir Zahoor Buledi, Member of Balochistan Assembly Khair Jan, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary Imran Zarkoon, Finance Secretary Babar Khan, Secretary Higher Education Hafiz Muhammad Tahir and Vice Chancellors of

Public Sector Universities.

The financial and administrative affairs of the universities of Balochistan were reviewed and it was decided that there will be no new recruitment in the universities of Balochistan, Adhoc appointment of essential teaching staff will be under the new Act came under discussions during the meeting. In this context, legislation related to contract policy will be passed in the Balochistan Assembly soon, due to the financial crisis, new construction projects will not be created in the universities said in the meeting.

In the meeting, the Chief Minister of Balochistan approved the establishment of a committee headed by the Chief Secretary for measures under Public Private Partnership for the commercial activities of universities.

The Chief Minister said that the teachers who would perform their duty and could be entitled to salaries, but those could not pay salaries to anyone sitting at home saying that action to be taken against absentee and dereliction of duty officials.



Islamabad : Group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and heads of delegations of the 23rd SCO Council of Governments meeting .

Governor urges LEAs to enhance coordination for curbing terrorist activities

APP

Quetta: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhail on Wednesday urged all law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to enhance coordination for curbing terrorist activities from the areas of the province for interest of development. He said that we could not focus on our development projects, trade, health and education activities without ending the unrest and extremism.

He expressed these views while presiding over the review meeting regarding the law and order situation in Zhob Division. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, IG Police Muazzam Jah Ansari, ACS (Home) Shahab Ali Shah, Deputy Inspector General CTD Aitzaz Goriya, Commissioner Zhob Division Zeeshan Lashari, National Highway Authority Member Basharat Hussain, Deputy Commissioner Zhob District Mehboob Achakzai, Deputy

Commissioner Shirani District Sana Mah Jabeen Umrani and Deputy Commissioner Killa Saifullah Saeed Ahmed Domar and others.

On this occasion, the Governor said that for the sake of public interest and well-being, we need to take concrete steps by the law enforcement agencies, gather intelligence to make Zhob Division a cradle of lasting peace and harmony and increase immediate coordinated operations.

He said that we would ensure the safety of national highways and the functioning of economic activities across the province including Quetta-Zhob Highway.

He said that we are all united in our determination to restore lasting peace and prosperity in the entire province.

He appealed to the public to support our efforts to ensure the safety of people's lives and property and to restore lasting peace in every district.

Opposition Slams Balochistan Government Over Law and Order Failures

NEWS DESK

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 Aziz

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 only emboldening criminal elements. If the situation isn't brought under control, it will spiral further into chaos."

Ghulam Dastagir 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.



Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti while presiding over a high-level meeting on the financial and administrative affairs of public sector universities.

PM urges SCO member states to work together for well-connected, prosperous region

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to work together for a well-connected, integrated and prosperous region.

He was delivering the national statement at the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad today.

Shehbaz Sharif emphasized enhanced connectivity, poverty alleviation, climate action and greater business collaboration for a prosperous future.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of the establishment of a robust SCO connectivity framework, which should not merely boost regional trade, but also advance the vision of connected Euro-Asia.

He said projects such as Belt and Road Initiative and the International North-South Transport Corridor should be expanded, focusing on developing road, rail and digital infrastructure.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan welcomes the decisions to ensure and endorse the strategy for the development of energy cooperation-2030 and the establishment of Association of Investors. He said Pakistan stands ready to play its part in realizing the lofty ambitions.

Highlighting the importance of a stable Afghanistan, the Prime Minister said it is not only desirable but also essential

to fully realizing the great opportunities. He urged the international community to step forward with urgent humanitarian support for Afghanistan. He also called upon Afghan interim government to ensure that their soil is not misused for terrorism against its neighbors by any entity.

The Prime Minister called for collective efforts to address the root causes of poverty and uplift the quality of life for peoples of the region.

Describing climate change as existential crisis that transcends borders, Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan is on the front-line of climate induced disasters. He called for prioritizing environmental cooperation within the SCO to build resilience and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

He said Pakistan welcomes the recent SCO agreement on environmental protection and calls upon all member states to actively engage in both regional and global environmental efforts. He said Pakistan looks forward to organizing simulation exercises with SCO partners to bolster disaster preparedness across the region.

Talking about financial challenges, Shehbaz Sharif said reforming the global financial architecture and trade regimes is essential to fostering development. He said Pakistan supports the establishment of an SCO alternative development funding mechanism, which could provide the impetus needed for the revival of stalled development projects.

The Prime Minister further urged the SCO states to encourage their private sectors to cultivate an environment that is

conducive to do business and investment within the SCO region.

Shehbaz Sharif said the growing consensus among member states on the use of mutual currencies for settlements is a promising development.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan firmly believes that a stronger and more effective SCO is essential to achieving sustainable development in the region.

Shehbaz Sharif said SCO is the rich mosaic of our cultures and the diversity of our people that forms the heart of this organization. He added that Pakistan remains deeply committed to fostering people to people ties and cultural exchanges that bridge divides and promote harmony, cultivate understanding and deepen cooperation.

Earlier, in his opening remarks the Prime Minister said this meeting is another testament to the strength of our ties and collaboration among the diverse nations. He emphasized that SCO has the potential to drive socio-economic progress, enhance regional peace and stability and to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

The Heads of Delegations reaffirmed the commitment to cooperate on climate change and overcome its negative consequences through the exchange of experience and the study of best practices. They instructed the relevant ministries and departments to accelerate the establishment of the activities of the Special Working Group on Climate Change, including the adoption of the relevant Regulation.

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

APP

ISLAMABAD: The SCO member states have reaffirmed commitment to further develop mutual cooperation in different spheres, including security, trade, economy, investment and cultural and humanitarian ties to build a peaceful, safe, prosperous and ecologically clean planet Earth.

This was stated in the Joint Communiqué adopted at the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad today.

The Heads of Delegations considered it important to pursue sustainable and inclusive economic growth by optimizing the region's potential in areas such as green development, digital economy, trade, investment, poverty alleviation, healthcare, agriculture, industry, connectivity, energy, science and technology and climate change.

They stressed the importance of implementing the concept of cooperation in the development of the "New Economic Dialogue" among the SCO member states.

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

They reaffirmed the commitment to the peace-

ful settlement of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultations.

The Heads of Delegations considered it important to continue joint efforts to counter protectionist trade measures that are contrary to WTO rules and regulations, as well as to continue working on a transparent multilateral trading system. Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan while reaffirming support for China's One Belt, One Road initiative, noted ongoing work on joint implementation of the project, including efforts to bridge the Eurasian Economic Union and OBOR.

The heads of delegations reaffirmed their desire to ensure stable economic and social development in the SCO region. They 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. The communiqué noted that the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises is important to stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

The SCO meeting instructed the relevant Ministries and Departments of the Member States to intensify consultations on the establishment of the SCO Development Bank, the SCO Development Fund and the SCO Investment Fund.

SCO Summit to pave way for regional growth, stability: Musadik Malik

INP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, has expressed high hopes for the 23rd Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, emphasizing its potential to elevate the region's economic development and stability.

In an exclusive interview with APP, Malik stressed the importance of regional cooperation, drawing parallels between successful international bodies such as the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Malik highlighted the significant economic potential of the nations participating in the summit, representing 44% of the world's population and contributing nearly 30% to global GDP. He believes that by enhancing trade and cultural ties, these nations can unlock new opportunities for growth.

"There is a tremendous opportunity for these countries to evolve strategies through dialogue. Together, we can enhance economic activity, create new businesses, and ultimately provide more jobs for the youth," Malik said, outlining one of the summit's key objectives.

President for boosting economic cooperation with Turkmenistan

APP

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

He also called for greater linkages between the stock exchanges of the two brotherly countries to improve economic cooperation.

The president expressed these views while talking to Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who along with Ambassador of Turkmenistan to

Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov, called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with Turkmenistan, which were based on common values, religion and culture.

He called for working together for the shared prosperity and stability in the region and the betterment of the people of Pakistan and Turkmenistan. The president also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to the early completion of the TAPI Gas pipeline project, adding that the project would greatly help in the economic development of the two countries.

India commits to working with Pakistan during SCO leadership tenure: Jaishankar

INP

ISLAMABAD: Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in his address at the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, emphasized the need for peace, stability, and regional cooperation to drive economic development and prosperity.

He highlighted that cross-border infiltration disrupts trade and hampers public relations between nations, stressing the importance of mutual respect and sovereign equality among SCO members.

Jaishankar underscored the potential of industrial cooperation, particularly by small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in boosting employment, competition and expanding markets. "Collective initiatives can

increase resources and encourage investment flows, benefiting business communities through larger networks," the Indian foreign minister stated.

Focusing on environmental sustainability, Jaishankar advocated for joint measures in environmental protection, noting that the International Solar Alliance can promote renewable energy, while the Alliance for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure helps prepare member nations for climate-related challenges.

Jaishankar also demanded joint cooperation to solve global problems. He addressed global health challenges, asserting that affordable and accessible drugs would aid in the treatment of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Pakistan, Russia agree to boost cooperation in different sectors

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have agreed to pursue robust dialogue and cooperation in the areas of trade, industry, energy, connectivity, science, technology and education.

This understanding was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Mishustin in Islamabad today, on the sidelines of 23rd SCO Heads of Council of Heads of Government meeting.

Both the Prime Ministers discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation and noted the positive momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations over the last two decades.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to maintain close cooperation on all areas of mutual interest. They also agreed on lingual exchanges among the two countries to enhance people-to-people relations and an increased cooperation among the banking sectors of the two countries to facilitate trade and investment.

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recalled his first foreign visit to Moscow, expressing a desire to transform these warm memories into a lasting friendship with Russia. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening political, economic, and defense ties with the Russian Federation.

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

Shehbaz Sharif also recalled his productive meeting with President Vladimir Putin in July this year in Astana during the course of which they had agreed to meaningful enhancement of relations between the two countries. He also emphasized on the need of direct flights between Russia and Pakistan for enhanced connectivity between the two countries.

The Russian Prime Minister appreciated the remarkable arrangements done by Pakistan for the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting.

Furthermore, he thanked the Government and the people of Pakistan for warm welcome and exemplary hospitality extended to him and the Russian delegation.

He expressed his desire to further bolster the existing cooperation between Russia and Pakistan to next level.

Hosting 23rd SCO summit a milestone for Pakistan: Tarar

INP

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

Talking to media persons at Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said some inimical elements were claiming that Pakistan has been isolated at international level but now the world can see that the heads of major countries had visited our country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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By Khawaja Farooq

Medicaid Fraud Mafia: How Iftikhar Butt Exploited Adult Day Care Centers in New York

A shocking adult day care fraud has recently emerged in New York, with Iftikhar Butt named as the mastermind behind an elaborate scheme that has financially ruined many and exploited the state's Medicaid system. This case has drawn comparisons to the infamous fraud orchestrated by Zakia Khan earlier this year, as Butt's illegal actions mirror a widespread pattern of exploiting social adult day care centers.

Butt's scam involved setting up sham adult day care centers such as Murshid Social Adult Day Care, Staten Island Social Adult Day Care, Dervish Social Adult Day Care, and Sufi Social Adult Day Care. Through these operations, he allegedly misused Medicaid and government insurance funds meant for vulnerable adults. According to multiple reports, these centers claimed services that were never provided, resulting in massive financial gains at the expense of Medicaid and innocent taxpayers.

More disturbingly, Butt is accused of forming a mafia-like network. He cleverly involved 2-3 innocent people with clean backgrounds, using them to shield his illegal activities. These individuals were manipulated through community functions and other social events, giving Butt credibility in local circles while he continued his schemes. Beyond defrauding Medicaid, Butt reportedly caused financial devastation to community members.

One landlord, a respected Pakistani-American, suffered a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars after Butt rented a building for his operations and failed to pay rent. Butt has also failed to pay his employees, many of whom were underpaid in cash, violating minimum wage laws in New York City. Workers have accused Butt of verbal abuse and withholding salaries, adding labor law violations to his long list of transgressions. Adding to his notoriety, Iftikhar Butt engaged in polygamy, which is prohibited by U.S. law.

He married an American woman despite already being married in Pakistan, further entangling himself in legal trouble. The community is now calling for a full investigation into Butt's assets and for him to be held accountable for his role in defrauding the healthcare system and exploiting innocent individuals.

As this case unfolds, it sheds light on the rampant misuse of Medicaid funds by fraudulent adult day care operators.

With Iftikhar Butt at the center of this scandal, New York authorities are under pressure to intensify investigations and enforce stricter regulations to prevent further exploitation of seniors and vulnerable populations.



Zakia Khan,

Iftikhar Butt

This story is reminiscent of the larger \$68 million Medicaid fraud case involving Zakia Khan, who similarly manipulated Medicaid through her adult day care centers and a home care agency.

The demand for accountability is growing as New Yorkers become increasingly aware of how these fraudulent operations are draining essential public resources.

It is reported that Iftikhar Butt has swindled many naive Pakistani-Americans by showing them false dreams and teaching them tricks for making money, taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, and then disappearing.

He is now trying to contact prominent individuals in the youth community to recover his money. It is also known that he misbehaves with both uneducated and educated Pakistani girls and women, openly telling them that his wife belongs to a particular family and works in a law firm. Therefore, no one can take legal action against him, as Pakistani-Americans cannot afford the attorney fees in the U.S.

Two steps back

PAKISTAN is making leaps. Just not of the desired kind. The country has mind-bogglingly gone from eight polio cases at end of June to 33 by mid-October. Whereas much has been written on the subject this year, this sustained rise in cases points to a deeper issue: systemic healthcare failures.

While it is true that the government is confronted with challenges such as disinformation, parental refusal, and attacks on polio workers, it is time we realise that our children are falling victim not only to the virus, but also to the lack of healthcare infrastructure and poor governance.

In Balochistan, for instance, where immunisation coverage is as low as 37pc, children are vulnerable not just to polio but also a range of preventable diseases. Many RHCs remain non-functional or under-resourced, leaving large populations without basic healthcare. This makes vaccination campaigns, however well-intentioned, only acute fixes when the real issue is chronic neglect of public health services.

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

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

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

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

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



By Hassan Jatt

Oppression of the Innocent Is Injustice

The quality of education in Pakistan is already at its worst. This is a country where many people are against educating girls. However, over time, parents started showing courage and began educating their daughters. Awareness was just starting to grow among people when Pakistan was hit by another issue, as it often happens.

Recently, a tragic incident occurred at the Punjab Group of Colleges. A first-year female student was in the basement of the Gulberg Branch (Campus 10) when the security guard, taking advantage of the situation, locked her there and assaulted her. Her cries were heard by the teachers and students, and she was immediately taken to the hospital, where she is still receiving treatment. As long as such monsters exist in society, people cannot live with dignity. This isn't the first such incident. What happened to Zainab in Kasur



was also horrifying, and the incident on the motorway, where a mother was assaulted in front of her children, was heart-wrenching too. Worse than the crime is that the victims are often blamed afterward. People asked why the woman was on the motorway alone at night or why the girl went to the basement.

According to Education Minister Rana Hayat Sikandar, the principal of the Punjab Group of Colleges deleted

the video footage and later shut off the cameras. However, some students have voice notes from the principal. The owners and management of Punjab Group of Colleges are now violating human rights to protect the college's name and reputation. The people responsible for delivering justice, like Punjab IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar, told the protesting students to go inside, or another incident might happen. How can we expect justice from such people?

When such evils spread in society, the criminals should be made an example in public. The execution of one person can save the lives of thousands.

People have the full right to live in peace. In the name of human rights, everyone is equal. The supremacy of law will open the doors to justice, but the condition is that the protectors of the law should be the voice of the oppressed, not sympathizers of the oppressor.

DAILY MIRROR

Kashmir not integral part of India: Pakistan

ONLINE

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

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

"This disputed status of Kashmir is acknowledged by the UN and the international community," Shah, a first secretary at the Pakistani Mission to the UN, said in a response to an accusation by an Indian delegate that Pakistan was misinterpreting the principle of self-determination which, he said, does not justify undermining a member state's territorial integrity.

The Indian delegate, Eldos Mathew Punnoose, a counsellor at India's Mission to the UN, was reacting to a sharp statement by Pakistan UN

Ambassador Munir Akram who described the Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," and called on the U.N. to push for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and Kashmiri people's wishes.

"India is under a legally binding obligation under Article 25 of the UN Charter to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination," the Pakistani delegate said, pointing out that Kashmir is being held by brute force, with all pro-freedom Hurriyat Leaders remaining incarcerated and many having died in custody under suspicious circumstances.

Far from seeking a peaceful solution to the dispute, Ansar Shah pointed out that India has resorted to belligerence against Pakistan — threatening to "take over" liberated Azad Jammu and Kashmir, reminding New Delhi that Islamabad will respond decisively to any Indian aggression.

The Pakistani delegate went on to call India the "mother" of terrorism in South Asia, having resorted to terrorism against all its neighbours as a tool of its hegemonic policies.

"India's campaign of targeted terrorist assassinations in third countries is now common knowledge," he said, adding, its agents have been responsible for at least 22 targeted assassinations in Pakistan.

"The Indian terrorist franchise has now gone global — with at least one assassination carried out in Canada and second attempted in the United States," Shah said.

In this regard, the Pakistani delegate referred to the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's threat that his "New India comes in your home to kill you!", saying, "Just yesterday, Canada expelled India's top diplomats as 'persons of interest' in such criminal activities.

"We submit: this New India is a dangerous entity. Unless Hindutva fascism is opposed; unless India's sense of impunity is ended; unless India's Muslims, Christians and other minorities are protected

from genocide; unless the Kashmiri people are freed from the yoke of Indian colonialism, the threat of wider violence and conflict spread by this state-sponsor of terrorism will remain a clear and present danger," the Pakistani delegate added.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with Mikhail Mishustin, Russian Prime Minister along with a delegation held in Islamabad

Omar Abdullah sworn in as IIOJK's first chief minister after revocation of Article 370

INP

ISLAMABAD: After the revocation of the special status granted under Article 370 in 2019 and the establishment of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as a federal unit, Omar Abdullah has taken the oath as the first chief minister.

According to international news agencies, in the recent elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah's National Conference party secured the most seats, winning 43 seats. Meanwhile, the allied Congress party achieved success in 8 constituencies.

"We look forward to working with the Government of India to resolve the people's problems and the best way to do that would be to start by restoring statehood to J-K," Mr Abdullah told an Indian news channel after offering prayers at the Hazratbal shrine.

With a total of 51 seats out of 90, the National Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah, nominated his son Omar Abdullah as chief minister.

Omar Abdullah previously served as the chief minister of IIOJK from 2009 to 2015 under the pro-India puppet administration.

Delegation led By MPA Zarak Khan calls on Governor

APP

Quetta: A delegation led by Provincial Member of Assembly (MPA) Zarak Khan Mandukhail called on Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan

Mandukhail at Governor House Quetta on Wednesday and discussed the issues of his constituencies. Former Councilor Aslam Kurd informed

about the recent increase in the rents of the government headquarters, saying that the burden is on low-income families which are already struggling with economic hardship and inflation.

Governor Mandukhail listened to their problems with care and attention and assured the delegation of his all possible support in solving these problems.

SCO SG lauds Pakistan for making top-notch arrangements for SCO-CHG meeting

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming has commended Pakistan for making excellent arrangements for a high quality meeting of the SCO heads of government.

Addressing a news conference along with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad today, he said Pakistan also made significant contributions to the success of the moot.

Zhang Ming mentioned that the SCO meeting focused on practical cooperation amongst the member states. He said in-depth discussions were held on prospects of cooperation in different areas such as trade, investment, transport, energy and agriculture.

The Secretary General said the Concept of Cooperation on the development of a new economic dialogue among the SCO member states was adopted at the meeting. He said it is aimed at enhancing trade and economic cooperation.

Pakistan Iran discuss ways to strengthen trade relations, industrial cooperation

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran, on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 2024 summit here on Wednesday, discussed ways for strengthening trade relations, enhancing industrial cooperation and cultural exchange.

According to press release issued by commerce ministry, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a productive bilateral meeting with Iranian Minister for Industry, Mining, and Trade, Mohammad Atabak.

During the meeting, both ministers emphasized the importance of boosting economic ties through increased bilateral trade and investment.

They also explored avenues for collaboration in sectors of mutual interest, realizing that there was a huge potential for bilateral trade, which needed to be exploited.

The ministers discussed the potential for Pakistan and Iran to cooperate more closely in the regional market and

beyond, leveraging the SCO platform to facilitate trade growth and regional stability.

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted strategic location of both brotherly countries as a gateway to Central Asia and Middle East. He stressed the need for stronger economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, not only to enhance bilateral trade but also to promote prosperity in the wider region.

Both sides expressed their commitment to continuing discussions and developing action plans

to overcome existing trade barriers and streamline regulations to facilitate smoother business interactions between the two countries.

The meeting underscores the importance of regional cooperation through platforms like SCO, as both Pakistan and Iran look to strengthen ties and enhance their roles in the global market.

Finally, the Iranian Minister invited his counterpart for a high level visit to Iran, the statement added.

Pakistan can effectively showcase its commitment to regional stability via SCO platform: Khurram Dastagir

INP

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

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

"Pakistan's involvement in the SCO enables the country to demonstrate its peaceful intentions and resolve challenges through diplomatic means," he added.

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

"The organization offers a unique opportunity for countries to come together and address their differences peacefully, fostering regional stability and cooperation," Khan underscored.

"The SCO has emerged as a robust and influential platform, captivating the attention of Western nations," Khan noted.

Students misled to run 'malicious' campaign over fake incident: CM Maryam

APP

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

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

She said students were misled to run an "ugly" campaign. "A girl was named as a victim. The girl had been admitted to the hospital since October 2 and was in the ICU." She said that the police received information that the incident of rape had taken place. After which the police took immediate action. A conspiracy was hatched after failing to spread anarchy, she said and added that those who hatched the conspiracy would be taken to task. The chief minister said a story was fabricated. False accusations were made against the girl. Police wanted to be complainant. But, I think, the Punjab government should be the complainant as this is not just the case of one girl.

CHG-SCO meeting adopts decisions to guide future of organization with enhanced role in regional connectivity, investment: Dar

INP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (CHG-SCO) meeting have adopted a number of decisions and documents to guide the future of organization with enhanced role in regional connectivity, trade, investment and economic prosperity.

Addressing a presser at the conclusion of two-day CHG-SCO summit along with SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said that it was an honour for Pakistan to organize and host the 23rd CHG-SCO meeting of the member states.

He said that they were grateful to the leaders of the member states for their constructive contributions and output.

Pakistan as a chair of CHG-SCO made every effort to identify the areas of further collaboration among the member countries which included enhanced connectivity, poverty elimination and climate change etc, he added.

He said Pakistan had already collaborated with the member countries of the region in this regard and it was due to its efforts that several areas of cooperation were now approved including the concepts of economy, trade organization, development of creative economy and creation of new economy dialogue among the SCO members.

The two-day CHG-SCO concluded in serene and idyllic Capital of Pakistan that nestled at the Margalla foothills. Pakistan hosted the global event which was attended by leaders of SCO member states who brainstormed in the backdrop of recent global challenges to economy, peace and stability. SCO is the world's largest conglomerate of the Eurasian countries on the basis of world's population, geographic location and economy with more than 23 percent global GDP.

The deputy prime minister said during Pakistan's tenure as the chair of SCO, it was a year's long process to reach to these consultations and outcome by emphasizing upon the SCO member states to uphold the Shanghai spirit.

He said the prime minister of Pakistan during his address in the CHO-SCO meeting, had reiterated country's complete commitment to SCO Charter and objectives, besides stressing that SCO was ideally placed to serve as a vital platform for the sustainable development, securing peace and attaining regional prosperity.



Quetta: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhil in a meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan and IG Police Balochistan.

Pakistan making efforts for regional connectivity, security among SCO member countries: Kakar

INP

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

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

ing SCO member countries.

"There is also a great opportunity among all the heads of the participating countries to discuss several regional challenges," he added. To a question, he said that no doubt India is a major player in the South Asia region but currently our focus is on the entire region. "Pakistan is not just focusing on India as we have major engagements with the heads of all member countries especially the PM's of China and Russia," he added. To another query, Kakar also called the need for activating other regional forums such as SAARC in the interest of regional countries for the economic prosperity and connectivity between the South Asian countries.

US demands Israel allow humanitarian aid into Gaza or risk losing military support

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: In what was seen as an overly delayed action, the United States has put Israel on notice that it could risk losing access to American weapons unless it allows more humanitarian aid to flow to Palestinians in the war-shattered Gaza Strip.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin — not President Joe Biden — sent a letter to their counterparts in Israel on Sunday warning that Israel must take steps within the next 30 days to allow more food and other humanitarian assistance into Gaza or face restrictions on U.S. military aid.

"We are writing now to underscore the U.S. government's deep concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, and seek urgent and sustained actions by your government this month to reverse this trajectory," they wrote, according to a copy of the letter posted by an Axios reporter on X.

Muslim diplomats noted that the letter does not call for a ceasefire that the UN Security Council and the international community has been demanding for months.

The letter follows a recent drop in

humanitarian assistance reaching the people of Gaza, said John Kirby, the White House spokesman on national security issues.

Kirby said making sure Palestinians have access to humanitarian assistance "is obviously something we've been very, very concerned about since the beginning of the conflict."

The letter was not intended as a threat, Kirby explained, but "was simply meant to reiterate the sense of urgency we feel and the seriousness with which we feel it, about the need for an increase, a dramatic increase, in humanitarian assistance." The administration made a similar request for concrete measures to boost humanitarian assistance back in April, Kirby said, "and that letter did receive a constructive response from the Israelis."

The letter is the clearest ultimatum yet to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government since the Gaza conflict began a year ago, raising the prospect of a shift in Washington's support for Israel. Coming just three weeks before the U.S. presidential election, any cracks in that support could raise the pressure on Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, who has supported Israel, but also has lamented the scale of human suffering in Gaza.



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