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PESHAWAR: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir attending meeting of Provincial Apex Committee.

ECP issues preliminary delimitation report in significant step towards polls

The publication of the preliminary constituencies will continue for 30 days from Sept 27 to Oct 26; Number of seats in the national and provincial assemblies will remain the same

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued preliminary list of new delimitations ahead of general polls. The chief election commissioner (CEC) and ECP members approved the preliminary list of new delimitations under the 2023 digital census data. After CEC's approval, the commission issued the initial list of the delimitations on its website. Yesterday, the delimitation process of for the national and provincial assemblies entered its final phase and the ECP decided to approve initial delimitations. For the National Assembly (NA), the voter quota for Punjab province

was fixed at 905,595, 913,000 for Sindh, 907,913 for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 930,900 for Balochistan and 787,954 for Islamabad. The voter quota for the Punjab Assembly will be 429,929, 428,431 for the Sindh Assembly, 355,270 for the KP Assembly and 292,047 for the Balochistan Assembly. The election commission will address the objections from October 28 to November 26, whereas, the objections could be filed against the delimitations from September 27 to October 26. The hearing on the pleas against the delimitations will be conducted till November 25. The ECP will unveil the final delimitations on November 30.

After the publication of the final delimitations, a 54-day election schedule will be announced and general polls will be held in the first week of January 2024. APP adds: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) posted the initial constituency report and Form 5 list on its website, www.ecp.gov.pk, on Wednesday for public access. According to ECP spokesman, the website also provides access to the preliminary constituency maps. The publication of the preliminary constituencies will continue for 30 days, commencing on September 27 and concluding on October 26, 2023. Voters within the relevant constituency have

the opportunity to submit objections (representations) regarding these initial delimitations to the Secretary of the Election Commission. These objections can be lodged at the Election Commission Secretariat, Shahr-e Dastur, Islamabad, until October 27, 2023. After assessing objections (representations) raised by relevant parties, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will render decisions from October 28 to November 26, 2023. It is a requirement that the individual submitting objections must be a registered voter within the respective constituency. The representation should be submitted to the Secretary of the Election Commission in the form of a memorandum. The voter in question will personally sign the memorandum and deliver it to the ECP Secretariat, either on their own or through a designated representative. To file representations, it is essential to provide (8) copies of the maps to the Election Commission. District maps can be obtained from the Election Commission by paying the appropriate fee. Submissions made through methods such as courier, post, or fax will not meet the requirements. To ensure the acceptance of representations, they must be submitted as per Rule 12 of the Elections Rules 2017.

West "over-obsessed" to contain Pakistan's "all-weather friend" China: PM Kakar

Pakistan was focusing on its own interests without choosing sides in the great power competition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that Pakistan was focusing on its own interests without choosing sides in the great power competition, and that the West was "over-obsessed" with efforts to contain China. He told the interviewer that Pakistan was charting a path, designed to avoid getting caught up in the competition between the West and Russia and China. He said Pakistan had no intention of committing to either camp in the growing US-China rivalry. The prime minister, in an interview with Washington Post during his visit to New York to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly session published on Wednesday, said Pakistan intended to stay "neutral" on Russia's war with Ukraine and saw China as its "all-weather friend" and "strategic partner." "It's not a Cold War. There is no Iron Curtain here. It's not that opaque. Everybody sees what is happening," the prime minister said. He said that the West was "over-obsessed" with efforts to contain China.

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Mentioning Pakistan's "neutral" stance on Ukraine, the prime minister said: "This crisis is creating challenges and at the same time it is creating opportunities also within the region, and we are looking at it both ways." Prime Minister Kakar flatly denied the allegations in a media report of Pakistan moving any munitions to Ukraine saying, "We have not gone for any sale which was directly intended for the Ukraine, not any sort of transactions, even through a third party." Regarding the arrest of workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the prime minister denied the alleged abuses and compared Pakistan's actions to the arrests in the United States of those who attacked the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Syed Ahmad Maroof, Pakistan Ambassador-Designate to Bangladesh during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

1400 personnel to be deployed for security: Jamali calls for especially focusing on security on 12th Rabiul Awwal

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need for exploiting opportunities with Bangladesh in areas of trade, investment and culture. The president expressed these views in a meeting with the country's ambassador-designate to Bangladesh Syed Ahmad Maroof here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Alvi mentioned that huge potential in trade existed between Pakistan and Bangladesh, which he said, needed special attention. He said the two countries enjoyed the commonalities of religion and history and emphasized the need to strengthen people-to-people and cultural ties. The president expressed best wishes for the envoy-designate and urged him to work towards bringing Pakistan and Bangladesh closer during his stint in Dhaka.

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali has underlined the need to especially focus on the security of 12th Rabiul Awwal particularly in the sensitive areas and districts of the province. He said that it is our collective responsibility of all to ensure foolproof security on 12th Rabiul Awwal all over the province. The Minister Home was addressing the meeting held to review the security arrangements on eve of 12th Rabiul Awwal, anti-polio campaign besides overall law and order, here on Wednesday. The Additional Inspec-

President stresses exploring trade, cultural opportunities with Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need for exploiting opportunities with Bangladesh in areas of trade, investment and culture. The president expressed these views in a meeting with the country's ambassador-designate to Bangladesh Syed Ahmad Maroof here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Alvi mentioned that huge potential in trade existed between Pakistan and Bangladesh, which he said, needed special attention. He said the two countries enjoyed the commonalities of religion and history and emphasized the need to strengthen people-to-people and cultural ties. The president expressed best wishes for the envoy-designate and urged him to work towards bringing Pakistan and Bangladesh closer during his stint in Dhaka.

Attends Provincial Apex Committee meeting. We have to synergise efforts for peace and prosperity of Pakistan: COAS

PESHAWAR (APP): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reiterated Pakistan Army's unflinching resolve to continue its role in ensuring peace and stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for providing a secure environment for economic development. He was speaking during Provincial Apex Committee in Peshawar on Wednesday. The army Chief called for synergizing efforts for peace and prosperity of the country. During the meeting, he was briefed about overall security situation including initiatives against smuggling, hoarding and drug trafficking. The participants of the meeting affirmed that state institutions and people are united for the protection of

life and property of citizens. The participants paid rich tribute to the Shuhada and their families. Meanwhile Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Peshawar and had an interactive session with the respectable women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) during 'KP Women Symposium - 2023'. The Army Chief encouraged the women to take part in the progress and development of KP and Newly Merged Districts (NMDs), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS also attended a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Caretaker Chief Minister KP, Muhammad Azam Khan.

Five children among 8 killed in rocket launcher shell explosion in Kandhkot

KANDHKOT (APP): Eight people, including five children, lost their lives while five others sustained injuries after a rocket launcher's shell exploded in a house in Sindh's Kandhkot district on Wednesday. Kandhkot Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rohail Khoso said that the incident took place in a house in the Ghora Ghat of kutcha (riverine) area.

Station Commander Pakistan Navy Quetta Captain Muhammad Abdullah Siddiqui meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

QUETTA: Station Commander Pakistan Navy Quetta Captain Muhammad Abdullah Siddiqui meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

We have to make hard decisions to come out of tough economic conditions, says Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that we have to make hard decisions to come out of the toughest economic conditions, Pakistan is going through presently. The Governor said that the prevailing economic crisis can't be resolved by bringing minor reforms like increasing prices of daily commodities, taxation and saving food. He, however, insisted that all economic hardships can be resolved by putting the blue

Meeting chaired by CS reviewed preparations of general polls in Balochistan



Independent Report QUETTA: An important meeting was held to review the preparations of general elections in Balochistan here on Wednesday. The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presided over the meeting, which was attended by the Additional Chief secretary,

Saleh Muhammad Nasar, secretary Local Government department, Dostain Jamal, secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem, secretary Services and General Administration Department, Babar Khan, provincial Joint Election Commissioner and other concerned high ups.

PM Kakar arrives in Madinah Munawwarah



MADINAH MUNAWWARAH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived here on Wednesday on his private visit to Saudi Arabia.

Upon arrival, he was warmly received by Governor Madinah Faisal Bin Salman along with other senior officials of the Pakistani Embassy and Jeddah Consulate General at the Madinah Airport. The prime minister will leave for Makkah Mukarrah today to perform Umrah.

More than 100 dead, 150 injured in Iraq wedding inferno

Monitoring Desk

IRAQ: More than 100 people were killed and 150 injured in a fire at a wedding party in Hamdaniya district in Iraq's Nineveh province that left civil defence searching the charred skeleton of a building for survivors into the early hours of Wednesday. Nineveh Deputy Governor Hassan al-Allaqui told Reuters that 113 people had been confirmed dead, with state media putting the death toll at least 100, with 150 people injured. The fire ripped through a large events hall in the north-eastern region after fireworks were lit during the celebration, local civil defence said, according to state media. "We saw the fire pulsating, coming out of the hall. Those who managed got out and those who didn't got stuck. Even those who made their way out were broken," said Imad Yohana, a 34-year-old who escaped the inferno. Video from a Reuters correspondent at the site showed firefighters clambering over the charred wreckage of the building, shining lights over smouldering ruins. Preliminary information indicated that the building was made of highly flammable construction materials, contributing to its rapid collapse, state media said.

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Turbat would prove to be future silicone city of country: Jan Achakzai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has stated that Turbat is going to be the future silicone city of the country. The Minister said that the southern Balochistan is rich in resources besides having the educated human resource that can be beneficial for the CPEC projects. Jan Achakzai was speaking to the faculty

members and students during his visit to the Turbat University on Wednesday. The Vice Chancellor Dr Jan Muhammad, administration and faculty members welcomed the caretaker Minister upon his arrival in the Turbat university. He noted with pleasure that Turbat University is providing higher educational facilities to the youth of Kech and other areas of the province.

Court reopens NAB reference against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Accountability Court has reopened the reference against the former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi for the misuse of power in appointing Managing Director, PSO Inman-ul-Haq. The court stated in its order that the reference had been reopened in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court.



TURBAT: Vice Chancellor Dr Jan Muhammad presenting a shield to Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai during his visit to University of Turbat

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

More desecration

The far right, particularly in Europe, has been carrying out a sustained campaign of desecrating Islam's holiest symbols.

Over the past few months, there have been numerous instances where the Holy Quran has either been burnt or desecrated in European states.

While earlier instances occurred mostly in Sweden and Denmark, the latest outrage took place in the Netherlands on Sept 23, when the leader of the Dutch wing of Pegida, a notorious pan-European hate group, desecrated the Holy Book outside a number of Muslim embassies.

These included the missions of Pakistan, Turkiye and Indonesia. Before the Quran burnings, there was a wave of offensive caricatures, and if one is to travel back in time, there were Orientalist tropes demeaning Islam and its sacred figures in the name of 'scholarship'.

Clearly, these attacks on the Islamic faith are not motivated by an attachment to free speech, but by raw hatred. It should be noted that many of the hatemongers involved in these heinous acts belong to the same violent white nationalist ideological spectrum that spawned the killers who massacred Muslims in Christchurch, Oslo and Montreal.

Islamophobia is, therefore, not about intellectual notions of free speech, but about condoning and advocating real-world violence against Muslims. And it is not just Western extremists who use Islamophobia to target Muslims; the Sangh Parivar in India has been indulging in anti-Muslim violence for decades, now apparently with the state's blessings.

But one positive development in this regard was witnessed at the UN General Assembly last week, where leaders from the Muslim world — showing rare unity — spoke with one voice to condemn Islamophobia.

Turkish President Recep Erdogan said "a plague" of racism was afflicting the West, while Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi commented that the acts of desecration were "not worthy of human dignity". Pakistan has also consistently spoken up against Islamophobia at global forums. Beyond condemnation, practical steps are needed, particularly in the states where repeated acts of desecration have occurred, to put an end to these provocations. Both Denmark and Sweden are reportedly considering banning the desecration of religious texts on security grounds. These steps should help curb this menace and need to be ratified at the earliest. Just as Europe has taken a consistent approach against anti-Semitism — after millions of Jews were massacred on European soil over six decades ago — so too must Western states take a firm stand against Islamophobia. Just as questioning the Holocaust is a crime in many Western states, similarly, acts of hatred targeting Islam or any other religion must be outlawed. A new compact is needed between civilisations based on mutual respect and tolerance. This cannot be achieved if the most sacred symbols of one of the world's largest faiths are constantly attacked and desecrated.

Life is elsewhere



Masood Lohar

Historian Will Durant once stated, "A great civilisation is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself with-in." The patterns and characteristics leading to the downfall of great civilisations, empires, and states are remarkably consistent. This self-destruction is evident in the narratives of civilisations like Egypt, Mesopotamia and our own Indus Valley. Even the modern-day story of the mighty Soviet Union doesn't deviate much.

With socio-cultural decay, corruption, escalating poverty, ethnic and sectarian strife, and a constant economic crisis, Pakistan's case is unique. However, a distinctive factor exacerbating these challenges is the 'life is elsewhere' mentality fostered by dual citizenship.

Pakistan's dual citizenship policy, allowing its citizens to hold passports from 21 countries, including developed nations, has created a disconcerting trend. The elite — rulers, business tycoons, retired army chiefs and bureaucrats, etc — often aspire to maintain their connections with Pakistan while residing elsewhere. This dual identity erodes patriotism, fostering an attitude that nurtures ad hoc decision-making and mediocrity.

Pakistan has, in essence, become the proverbial golden-egg-laying duck for its elite. Those in positions of power amass wealth with the intention of relocating abroad, exploiting the nation's resources for personal gain all the time. The prevailing attitude is

one of self-interest, where everyone seems intent on maximising their personal wealth, often at the expense of national welfare. The moment these elites exit power or retire, their focus swiftly shifts elsewhere, leaving behind a void in the leadership.

India has taken a different approach. India does not allow dual citizenship. Instead, it offers the status of Overseas Citizenship of India to its citizens who acquire foreign citizenship. The OCI card comes with several benefits, including a lifelong free travel visa to India, and the freedom to live, work, conduct business, and own assets/properties there. However, OCI cardholders do not have an Indian passport, the right to vote or hold public positions, and are subject to restrictions on purchasing agricultural land.

The question of dual citizenship's impact on a developing country like ours is complex. On the one hand, it can lead to 'brain drain', as skilled individuals may permanently reside in their second country, resulting in a loss of talent. Dual citizens may also have divided loyalties, potentially causing a conflict of interest in politics and business. Their involvement in domestic politics can contribute to political instability, and over-reliance on remittances from dual citizens can create economic vulnerabilities. Additionally, governments may worry about the loyalty and security of dual citizens, especially during times of political unrest or conflict. It is imperative to reflect on the role of dual citizenship in exacerbating Pakistan's myriad challenges. The 'life is elsewhere' mentality among the elite must be addressed. Re-evaluating the dual citizenship policy could potentially compel the nation's well-

educated and influential figures to invest in Pakistan's prosperity, rather than viewing the country as a stepping stone to personal enrichment abroad.

Many dual-national Pakistanis are diverting remittances to real estate, rather than productive areas such as industry and infrastructure. This shift hinders industrial and service sector investment, redirecting working capital and concessional finance into real estate. Speculative real estate investments drive up housing prices, worsening wealth inequality and failing to address the need for affordable housing.

Banning dual citizenship could prompt positive change by necessitating elite commitment to national prosperity. Despite corruption, it could redirect the focus towards domestic investment, benefiting industry and development. While not the sole cause of Pakistan's issues, dual citizenship fosters self-interest. Re-evaluating this policy could rejuvenate national development commitment, pushing leaders, including the military, politicians and businessmen, to prioritize their homeland's well-being. Coupled with proactive policies, it could steer Pakistan towards recovery and prosperity.

The quick-profit-making spree of the elite must know the old way of Eskimos killing wolves. The Eskimo coats a knife blade with animal blood, allowing it to freeze in layers. When a wolf finds the blood-scented knife and licks it in frenzy, it eventually exposes the sharp blade. The wolf's intense craving for blood blinds it to the pain of the blade, leading to its demise. The 'wolf' here is definitely licking its own blood now. Time to wake and howl. -- Courtesy Dawn

Age-old dilemmas



Mahir Ali

It seems likely at this juncture that the next presidential contest in the United States will once more pit Joe Biden against Donald Trump. Biden will be almost 82 years old at that stage, while Trump will be 78. Opinion polls suggest almost 70 per cent of Democrat-aligned voters consider Biden too old to be a viable contestant. Yet the party hierarchy appears not to have considered any viable alternatives. At 80, Biden is already the oldest president the US has ever had. Ronald Reagan was 'only' 77 when he passed the baton to George H.W. Bush, and it emerged only after his presidency that there was some evidence of dementia while Reagan held what is seen as the most powerful post in the world. The founding fathers of the US, many of whom were not yet 40 when they signed the Declaration of Independence, did not consider age or term limits. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson set the precedent for no more than two-term presidencies, but it wasn't until after the thrice re-elected Franklin Roosevelt died early into his fourth term that the constitution was amended to restrict presidencies to eight years.

No age barrier was decreed, however, let alone limits on senators or congressmen. That's why Americans still have to contend with the likes of Mitch McConnell, the 81-year-old Senate minority leader who has exhibited more than one 'senior moment', and the 90-year-old

Democrat senator Dianne Feinstein, who frequently seems to be unaware of her surroundings, let alone her tasks. Almost 20 other senators and members of the House of Representatives are in their 80s. This level of decrepitude is unprecedented in US history. It is partly a consequence, obviously, of the steady increase in life expectancy since the previous century, reflected in the rising retirement age across many parts of the world.

No one can seriously claim that age takes its toll uniformly. Nor would it be fair to say that younger US voters take their cues entirely from the decades-long gap between themselves and their electoral choices. After all, youth support was crucial to the presidential runs of independent senator Bernie Sanders — now 82 — in both 2016 and 2020. The outcome of the primaries in both those years may well have been very different had the Democratic establishment not intervened decisively.

Young Americans rallied to Sanders' cause precisely because he addressed some of their biggest concerns and offered viable alternatives, instead of offering to stick to the status quo (Hillary Clinton), or to return to it (Biden). A Sanders presidency might have been a disaster in either of those instances in the face of bipartisan congressional resistance to his progressive agenda, but at least it would have helped to clarify the foibles and fallacies of America's democratic pretensions.

In all too many ways, the prospect of a re-contest in November 2024 between the incumbent and his predecessor — the first time in more than 100 years when two presidents would be in the fray — demonstrates the deficiencies of American democracy. A majority of the electorate is wary of both potential contenders, but that doesn't seem to matter.

It is hardly surprising that substantial numbers of young Americans can't be bothered to vote, or that older generations have fewer concerns about backing older candidates — even though the average age is now being taken to extremes. Even Nancy Pelosi, the 83-year-old former speaker of the House of Representatives, intends to run again — for what would be her 19th term. One can only wonder whether such tenacity is intended to somehow serve the public interest, or to find a slot in the Guinness World Records.

The question of age and cognitive decline is a tricky one. It's taken for granted that intellectual capacity declines with the decades, but its effects are disparate. There are people in their 90s whose minds remain sharp, and some whose physical agility can be envied by far younger folks. Others can't disguise their decrepitude. The retirement age has steadily been rising in many parts of the world, sometimes in the face of stiff resistance (ask Emmanuel Macron), but the general rule of a cut-off age is widely accepted. Not so, however, for US politicians. Or judges. A respected court of appeals judge recently had to be suspended for refusing to cooperate in an investigation into her competence at the age of 96. It's hard to imagine why anyone would be unwilling to comfortably take a backseat once they hit their mid-60s or 70s. And while this isn't US democracy's biggest shortcoming (or indulgence), it occasionally has its entertainment — such as when Trump (who shouldn't have been a presidential candidate at any age) tried to diss Biden by claiming he threatened to take America into World War II. Perhaps he was confusing the incumbent with Roosevelt. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Finance Minister reviews Raast implementation

Highlights importance of public-private partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reviewing implementation status of RAAST, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on Wednesday highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals and inclusive growth.

During a meeting with Country Lead (Pakistan), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF),

Syed Ali Mahmood, and Chief Executive Officer, Karandaaz, Waqas ul Hasan, she welcomed the contribution of their organizations in this regard. The minister highlighted government's commitment to fostering inclusive economic growth, attracting investments, and addressing socio-economic challenges in the country.

The Minister thanked the BMGF for its assistance on RAAST and the integrated social safety

net programme and welcomed the idea of signing a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the future support on Digital Pakistan Stack. The meeting was aimed at reviewing the implementation status of Raast-Pakistan Instant Payment System support provided by the BMGF, integrated social safety net programme and BMGF's offer for assistance on the Digital Pakistan Stack.

Other potential areas of collaboration including climate finance and upscaling conditional cash transfers to integrated social payments also came under discussion. On the occasion, Waqas ul Hasan, CEO Karandaaz briefed the Minister on Raast-Pakistan Instant Payment System support provided by the BMGF through Karandaaz and outlined the key features of the Digital Pakistan Stack i.e. next generation of Raast.



The caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar meet the Country Lead (Pak), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Syed Ali Mahmood and CEO Waqas ul Hasan at Finance Division.



ISLAMABAD: CEO National Steel along with delegation from the steel industry called on Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz at the Commerce Ministry.

SECP issues standardized constitutive documents for registration of Private Funds

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued standardized formats of documents, along with step-by-step guidance, for the registration of private fund as a notified entity. The standardized documentation, available at SECP's website in editable formats, would promote consistency, encourage harmonized disclosures, and reduce the turnaround time required for the registration of a private fund, said a press release

issued here on Wednesday. The documents include, Trust Deed and Private Placement Memorandum (for registration of a fund in trust structure), Limited Liability Partnership Agreement, Custodian Agreement and Private Placement Memorandum (for registration of private fund in LLP structure). Notable interest has been observed in the registration of private funds over the last couple of years.

FAO assistance sought for capacity building of agriculture experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik Wednesday sought support from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to enhance assistance in capacity building of Pakistani experts in the field of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. Ms Florence Rolle, a Representative of the

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik and discussed matters relating to agriculture development. Dr Kausar Malik while welcoming Ms. Florence Rolle highlighted the longstanding partnership between the Government of Pakistan and the FAO of the United Nations and appreciated

its assistance in ensuring food security and agriculture production in the country. He said that the prevailing collaboration between FAO and Pakistan to end hunger and achieve sustainable agriculture yield is very satisfactory. He emphasized the importance of agriculture and the role of FAO in bolstering the agriculture sector of the country.

Speakers urged green investments in tourist destinations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers urged the authorities concerned and the tourism management companies to prioritize green investments in services and infrastructure at tourist destinations across the country. The seminar was organized by Devcom-Pakistan, ICLC and National Skills University (NSU) here on Wednesday to mark World Tourism Day, themed on "Tourism and Green Investments". Using non-timber fuel, alternate energy,

water conservation, solid waste management and environment-friendly practices shall be promoted to ensure sustainable eco-tourism. Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab ur Rehman Rana was the chief guest. The guest speakers included Vice Chancellor NSU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, President of Rural Development Foundation (RDF) Brig. Retd Muhammad Khan,

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Secretary ICLC Sibtain Raza, CEO Apex Adnan Saeed, Sumera Raza and Rana Tariq Javed. Aftab ur Rehman Rana said the country's tourism and hospitality industry contributes 3.5 per cent to the country's GDP. Most of which is contributed by the domestic tourism that has flourished in recent years. About 6.5 million people are directly or indirectly engaged in the industry. This is quite unfortunate

that only a few know or are willing to invest in green practices. The federal government has taken the provincial authorities on board to ensure sustainable ecotourism models, he said adding that more awareness campaigns and stakeholders' engagement is desired to control the undue interventions. Prof. Dr Muhammad Mukhtar urged the youth to travel across the heavenly land of Pakistan which is full of diverse cultures and landscapes.

Outdoor is an open book that makes travellers learn about the cultural and heritage assets of the country. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed urged the authorities to control the damage to the green cover that is being done by the environment, unfriendly structures, housing societies, timber mafia, littering and unmanaged solid waste. He said local communities are the main stakeholders of the tourist destinations.

Pak-Afghan Expo to open doors of economic uplift: UNHCR

PESHAWAR (APP): Head of Sub-Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Kofi Dwomo has said that Pak-Afghan Expo will certainly open the doors of economic development for both Afghans and Pakistanis. He expressed these views during a meeting organized under the auspices of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).

Efforts on to broaden tax base: CC IR

FAISALABAD (APP): Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue (IR) FBR Faisalabad Zubair Bilal said on Wednesday the FBR had expedited efforts to broaden tax base by utilizing data of 30 major departments and banks. Addressing a meeting of business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that in the first phase, notices would be issued only to the individuals executing big transactions which would

ultimately convince other potential taxpayers to join the tax net. He said there was a trust deficit between the taxpayers and the tax collectors which could be dispelled by promoting reliable and friendly linkages. He acknowledged the importance of taxpayers and said that they were actually partners in national uplift and we must remove their apprehensions so that they could enter into the tax net with their own sweet will.

Naqvi spotlights health concerns and spurs immediate upgrades

Visit to Govt girls' higher secondary school Ravi Road

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi embarked on an extensive visit to the Government Girls Higher Secondary School on Ravi Road today. During his inspection, Chief Minister Naqvi toured the classrooms and interacted with both boys and girls. His visit was marked by concern upon witnessing children affected by conjunctivitis in the classrooms.

In response, Chief Minister Naqvi promptly

announced a statewide holiday for schools in Punjab tomorrow, prioritizing the safety of the students. He underscored that schools would remain closed on the day following Eid Milad-un-Nabi, as well as on Saturday and Sunday, in observance of public holidays. Chief Minister Naqvi expressed hope that a four-day respite for the children would lead to a reduction in the spread of conjunctivitis, with the situation anticipated to improve come Monday.

Chief Minister Naqvi noted with concern that in every class, 6 to 7 students were affected by conjunctivitis, and even some teachers had been afflicted. The school's computer lab housed outdated, non-functional computer systems dating back to 2009, and the classrooms lacked adequate lighting and fans.

Promptly addressing the issue, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi immediately summoned the Secretary Schools Education and EDO

Schools. On the instructions of Chief Minister, Provincial Minister School Education Mansoor Qadir also reached the school. Chief Minister also ordered to buy new computers and increase the number of lights and fans in the classrooms. He further emphasized the need for a fresh coat of paint and the assurance of basic amenities in the classrooms. The Chief Minister paid visits to the principal's office and the staff room.



GILGIT: Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate chairing a meeting regarding NATCO issues at Assembly Secretariat.

Minister announces arrests in Avastin injection scandal

LAHORE (APP): In a significant development, Dr. Jamal Nasir, the Punjab's Minister of Primary and Secondary Health, revealed that two individuals involved in filling and selling Avastin injections in small syringes have been apprehended. This revelation comes as part of an ongoing investigation into the potentially harmful injections.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Dr. Nasir disclosed that the initial phase of the inquiry concerning the impact of these injections on patients' vision is nearing completion. The Primary Health Department has

commenced the collection of patients' records on a dedicated dashboard.

The exact number of affected patients will be determined and announced once the dashboard information is processed. As of now, 68 patients are on record, and this figure may rise by an additional 10 to 15 cases.

Regarding the impact of the injections on patients' vision, Dr. Nasir explained that the true condition of patients' eyes will only become clear once the infection is under control. He provided an update on the situation at Mayo Hospital, where 20 patients are being treated.

Four dead, 1147 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least four people were killed while 1147 injured in 1106 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Of them, 576 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 571 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue Medical Teams.

Analysis show that 536 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 164 pedestrians, and 451 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

3 non custom paid vehicles with articles worth Rs 30m seized

DG KHAN (APP): In a successful operation, Border Military Police (BMP) seized three non-custom paid vehicles along with different articles worth Rs 30 millions during a raid conducted at Tuman Khosa area in Dera Ghazi Khan. Political Assistant Koh-e-Suleman Mushtaq Ahmed supervised the raid. Non custom paid vehicles were transporting parts of different machineries.

LG Minister visits WSSP Head Office

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Engineer Amir Nadeem Durrani, the Caretaker Minister for Local Government and Public Health Engineering, paid a visit to the Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) Head Office here on Wednesday. Secretary Local Government, Muhammad Daud Khan, and other officials accompanied him.

During the visit, Dr. Hasan Nasir, CEO WSSP, provided a detailed briefing to the delegation on

WSSP's operational, financial, and administrative matters, as well as its achievements and current challenges.

In attendance were GM Planning and HR Syed Zameer-ul-Hasan, Chief Financial Officer Hyder Ali, GM Operations Syed Tarab Shah, and GM Projects Dr. Mahboob Alam.

The Caretaker Minister was informed that technology has been harnessed to enhance the delivery of civic services and improve their quality.

US DCM visits Peshawar, reaffirms support to fight militancy

PESHAWAR (APP): U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer visited Peshawar the Inspector General of Frontier Corps at the historic Fort Balahisar and announced a new \$250,000 program to enhance the Frontier Corps' nighttime operational capabilities.

During the visit, he also reaffirmed U.S. commitment to border security and continued support for Pakistan in the

fight against militancy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release issued here by the US Consulate on Wednesday.

DCM Schofer also met with Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat and delivered \$350,000 worth of safety and security equipment to enhance the safety and effectiveness of police forces conducting perilous counter-terrorism operations.

Three dacoits killed in shootout

FAISALABAD (APP): Three armed bandits were killed in a shootout with Thikriwala police near Sadhar bypass, Jhang Road on Wednesday.

Police took all the three bodies into custody and shifted to the mortuary at Allied Hospital.

According to police here, five armed dacoits were looting a passerby at a picket near Sadhar bypass, Jhang road when someone informed the police. A heavy contingent of police forces reached the site and encircled the outlaws.

Mehfil-e-Samaa held at Alhamra

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Arts Council, in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), arranged a Mehfil-e-Samaa, to express deep love and admiration for the Messenger of God (PBUH). Prominent Qawal Tahir Parvez, along with his colleagues, bestowed the audience with the divine melodies of qawwali.

Their performance not only rekindled the faith of those in attendance but also received wholehearted applause from the captivated audience.

CM KP Azam says: KP gov't to promote tourism as industry

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan has said that the provincial government is taking steps to promote tourism as an industry.

In a message issued in connection with World Tourism Day being observed across the world including Pakistan on September 27 each year, he said that the provincial government is working under an integrated strategy to provide all facilities to domestic and foreign tourists.

The purpose of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about the

importance of tourism and its promotion.

He said that millions of domestic and foreign tourists come to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and enjoy its natural beauty and hospitality. He said that so far, more than 11 million domestic and foreign tourists have visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the current calendar year.

The caretaker chief minister added that the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the province need to be effectively utilized for tourism. He said that Pakistan and especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has immense opportunities for tourism.



KARACHI: People are filling their water cans from public tap as they facing shortage of drinking water in their area, at Lyari area in Karachi.



FAISALABAD: Students are engaging in risky behavior by traveling on the rooftop of a passenger bus at Millat Road, which may cause any mishap and needs the attention of concerned authorities.

International News

China to step up anti-graft efforts for better economic development, says Xinhua

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China will step up anti-corruption efforts in state-owned companies and the financial sector to increase their economic contributions, state news agency Xinhua reported on Wednesday, citing a politburo meeting chaired by President Xi Jinping.

The remarks from the politburo, a top decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party, come a day after party inspection teams concluded investigations into dozens of state-owned enterprises.

"(We) need to...promote those who do

not dare to, cannot and do not want to (engage in) in corruption," the Xinhua readout of the politburo meeting said.

"The meeting emphasized that (we) should continuously enhance the...core competitiveness of state-owned enterprises, and...increase the efforts of financial enterprises to serve the real economy and national strategy."

The Chinese government has experienced a turbulent time with the disappearance of former foreign minister Qin Gang and defence minister Li Shangfu.

The vanishing of officials in China is often followed by the announcement of investigations into suspected disciplinary infractions but Beijing has yet to explain why Qin and Li remain out of public sight.

Qin has been missing for three months and Li for one month.

With tensions over Taiwan, the South China Sea, and over U.S. export controls that target the Chinese military and advanced tech sector, Xi's rule has been marked by a focus on national security risks within the party, government, and large industries.



International Space Station (ISS) crew members, Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin and NASA astronaut Frank Rubio, rest in chairs after landing in the Soyuz MS-23 space capsule in a remote area near Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan.

Azerbaijan says 192 of its troops were killed in last week's offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A total of 192 Azerbaijani troops were killed and 511 were wounded during Azerbaijan's offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh last week, the country's Health Ministry announced on Wednesday. It also said that one Azeri civilian died in the hostilities.

Nagorno-Karabakh officials said earlier that at least 200 people on their side, including 10 civilians, were killed and over 400 were wounded in the fight-

ing. The military operation allowed Azerbaijan to reclaim full control over the breakaway region that was run by separatists for about 30 years.

Tens of thousands of ethnic Armenians — more than a third of the region's population — have already left.

More are likely to follow after separatist troops agreed to lay down arms and Azerbaijan lifted a 10-month blockade of the road linking the territory to Armenia.

Turkey will back Sweden's NATO bid if U.S. keeps promise on F-16 sale - Erdogan

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey's parliament will keep its promise to ratify Sweden's NATO bid if U.S. President Joe Biden's administration paves the way for F-16 jet sales to Ankara, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday, according to Turkish media.

Speaking to reporters on his flight back from Azerbaijan's exclave of Nakhchivan, Erdogan said that Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed Sweden's NATO membership bid last week in New York.

The U.S. administration is linking F-16 fighter jet sales to Turkey with Ankara's ratification of Sweden's bid, Erdogan said.

"If they (the U.S.) keep their promises, our parliament will keep its own promise as well. Turkish parliament will have the final say on Sweden's NATO membership," he said.



South Korea's deputy foreign minister for political affairs, Chung Byung-won, Japan's Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Funakoshi Takehiro, and China's Assistant Foreign Minister, Nong Rong, pose for photographs during their meeting in Seoul, South Korea.

Russia accuses Ukraine's Western allies of helping attack its Black Sea Fleet headquarters

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia on Wednesday accused Ukraine's Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week's missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters on the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

"There is no doubt that the attack had been planned in advance using Western intelligence means, NATO satellite assets and reconnaissance

planes and was implemented upon the advice of American and British security agencies and in close coordination with them," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing.

Moscow has repeatedly claimed that the U.S. and its NATO allies have effectively become involved in the conflict by supplying weapons to

Ukraine and providing it with intelligence information and helping plan attacks on Russian facilities. Unconfirmed news reports said Storm Shadow missiles provided to Ukraine by the U.K. and France were used in the attack on the headquarters.

There was no comment from the U.K. Ministry of Defense, which in the past has declined to discuss intelligence-related matters.

India would look into any 'specific' info on Sikh separatist killing in Canada: Jaishankar

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said on Tuesday that India has told Canada it was open to looking into any "specific" or "relevant" information it provides on the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that Ottawa had credible intelligence linking Indian agents to the murder, prompting an angry initial reaction from New Delhi, which denies the allegation.

Asked about the allegations at a Council on For-

eign Relations event in New York, Jaishankar detailed India's response in diplomatic engagements.

"One, we told the Canadians that this is not the government of India's policy," he said. "Two, we told the Canadians saying that look, if you have something specific, if you have something relevant, you know, let us know — we are open to looking at it."

India last week suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country.

Several hundred Wagner fighters return to Ukraine, impact limited - Kyiv

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Several hundred members of Russia's Wagner private mercenary group have returned to eastern Ukraine to fight but are not having a significant impact on the battlefield, a Ukrainian military spokesman said on Wednesday.

Wagner fighters played an important role in Russia's capture of the eastern city of Bakhmut in May after one of the longest and fiercest battles of Moscow's 19-month war in Ukraine.

They left Bakhmut after the battle and some

went to Belarus under a deal that ended a brief mutiny by Wagner in June, during which it took control of a Russian military headquarters and marched on Moscow.

Since Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was killed on Aug. 23 when a private jet in which he was traveling crashed in unexplained circumstances, the Kremlin has sought to bring the group under tighter state control. Russian military bloggers have reported that some Wagner fighters have been returning to Ukraine.



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton looks at her portrait during its unveiling, at the State Department in Washington, U.S.

25 killed in Damascus clash between Syrian, Kurdish forces

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Fighters loyal to the Syrian government clashed with Kurdish-led forces in a mainly Arab district of eastern Syria, leaving 25 people dead in two days, a war monitor said on Tuesday. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), who are backed by Washington, said they had "driven out the regime gunmen who had infiltrated the Dheiban area" of Deir Ezzor province in the gun battles which erupted on Monday.

Earlier this month, the same area saw 10 days of fighting between the SDF and armed Arab tribesmen in which 90 people were killed. Britain-based moni-

tor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the latest clashes erupted when pro-government fighters crossed the Euphrates river, which separates pro-government forces in southwestern Deir Ezzor from the SDF in the northeast.

It said 21 of the dead were Damascus loyalists and three were SDF fighters. A woman was also killed. The SDF said the loyalist fighters had crossed the Euphrates "under cover of an indiscriminate bombardment" of its positions. The SDF riposted by bombarding the right bank of the river which is controlled by government troops with support from Iran-backed militias, the Observatory said.

CNS calls for recommitting to principles of maritime safety, marine conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, in his message on World Maritime Day, demanded the nation to recommit to the principles of maritime safety and marine conservation and reaffirm its solemn pledge to the maritime world that "our commitment goes on", both in spirit and in action.

"I look forward to a profound and cumulative response by all stakeholders," the Naval Chief said.

World Maritime Day, a significant reminder of maritime safety, security, and environmental conservation, is marked annually, urging nations to work together for sustainable maritime practices, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Under the aegis of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), this year holds special significance as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the International

Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).



Accordingly, this year's theme 'MARPOL at 50 - Our Commitment Goes On' is intended to pay tribute to our efforts under IMO's long history of protecting the environment from pollution through the impact of shipping via a robust regulatory framework and emphasis on its ongoing commitment to prevention of our oceans from pollution.

MARPOL's legacy

stretches over five decades, symbolizing our collective efforts against marine pollution emphasizing the duty we all hold to protect the lifeblood of our planet.

The Naval Chief said, "As we reflect on the journey, the statistics remain alarming; marine pollution's ripple effects on ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods of coastal communities urge us to take more concerted actions.

Pakistan Navy stands at the forefront to conserve the maritime environment. In alignment with MARPOL principles, we have instituted measures to curtail emissions, enhance energy efficiency and, in earnest, implement pollution prevention strategies. Our ongoing efforts against marine pollution bear testimony to our unwavering commitment."

On this World Maritime Day, he said as we look back to our shared maritime heritage and achievements,

Pak-Qatar culture ministers discuss bilateral relations, cultural issues

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah called on Qatari Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrehaman bin Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani on the margins of the 12th Conference of the Culture Ministers of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) of OIC held in Doha, Qatar.

During the meeting, the interim minister and his Qatari counterpart discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and cul-



tural issues of mutual interest.

Speaking on the occasion, Jamal Shah underscored that Pakistan attached importance to its longstanding and brotherly ties with Qatar that were based on common interests and shared values.

The two Culture Ministers stressed the need to further strengthen cultural ties between Pakistan and Qatar. They emphasized the importance of advancing negotiations on the proposed Pakistan and Qatar cultural exchanges.



The Federal Minister of Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Division Dr. Shamshad Akhtar held a meeting with the Provincial Finance Minister at the Finance Division.

Finance Minister reviews spending patterns of PSDP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Division Dr. Shamshad Akhtar on Wednesday reviewed the spending patterns of the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) and controlling prices of essential commodities.

The Federal Minister of Finance held a meeting with the Provincial Finance Ministers at the Finance Division, according to a press release issued here.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format, where the respective Provincial Ministers joined through the video link.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister of Sindh, Finance Ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Balochistan, besides the Federal and provincial Finance Secretaries, Federal Secretary of Planning, as well as senior government officials.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing the spending patterns of PSDP, controlling prices of essential commodities, enhancing the quality of services in education and health sectors, and providing relief to the general public by strengthening the social safety nets.

The Finance Minister emphasized that the provinces are the interface with the public and have a major role to play in improving social services as well as ensuring food security and stabilizing prices by minimizing the gap between the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities.

She added that policy and fiscal coordination between the federal and provincial governments is pivotal for economic prosperity and sustainable growth.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar underscored that there is a huge potential for rationalizing the public expenditure arrangements between the federal and provincial governments for promoting efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure, as well as prioritization for speedy and smooth implementation of the projects under public sector development programs, with emphasis on social protection.

She underlined that the corrective measures in this regard would not only result in substantive savings but would also contribute to improving the effectiveness and implementation of the project in the priority sectors of education and health.

While sensitizing the provincial finance Ministers regarding the expenditure and revenue targets in the current budget of the FY 2023-24.

Jan Achakzai visits NRSP office & Makran Medical College

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the office of National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in Turbat on Wednesday.

During the visit, the Incharge of NRSP informed the Minister information about different projects of NRSP.

He said that work is continued under the programme in different rural areas of the province.

Jan Achakzai praised the role of NRSP for development of the social sector and hoped that other private sector would also follow the footsteps of NRSP and play role in development of the province.

Meanwhile, Mr Jan also visited the Makran Medical College in Turbat the same day.

The principal of college, Dr Afzal Khaliq received him and apprised him the issues before faced by the college.



QUETTA: Central leader of BNP and former Federal Minister Agha Hassan Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wai Khan Kakar.

Health minister meets Saudi ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan met with the ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki on Wednesday and discussed matters related to the health sector.

The minister said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have historically strong brotherly relations.

The Saudi ambassador assured that Saudi Arabia will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the welfare projects of its people.

The minister shared that Pakistan is all set to host the first-ever Global Health Security Summit later this year in Islamabad reflecting the strongest commitment of the country at the highest level to the Global Health Security Agenda.

The Saudi ambassador highly appreciated the initiative of holding the Global Health Security Summit. The minister shared that coordinated steps are being taken to ensure an uninterrupted supply of medicines across the country on a permanent basis.

District Chagai gets first Indus Mobile Health Clinic

QUETTA (APP): The collaboration between Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) and Indus Hospital & Healthcare Network (IHHN) resulted in district Chagai receiving its first Indus Mobile Health Clinic last week.

The IHHN has donated this Mobile Clinic to the district to provide healthcare for an interim period of three months while the RDMC-funded Indus Hospital at Nokkundi is being set up. This will ensure that basic health care is made available as a priority while permanent infrastructure can be developed.

The Indus Hospital Mobile Clinic, which was inaugurated by the RDMC Country Head and members of the Community Development Committee (CDC), will be located in six identified places across Nokkundi to create better access to healthcare facilities. The mobile clinic is an innovative Mobile Medical Unit set in a state-of-the-art bus run and managed by the Indus Hospital.

The IHHN is a credible and renowned leading charity hospital network in Pakistan that brings a high standard of health services to local communities in both urban and rural locations. Apart from offering primary healthcare through a team of doctors and community workers, the Mobile Medical Unit also houses a lab and pharmacy with essential medical supplies. "This mobile clinic will provide much-needed healthcare to the local communities in and around Nokkundi temporarily until we can set up the Indus Hospital facility at Nokkundi. Once the Nokkundi hospital is up and running, it will replace the mobile clinic and locals will have a permanent medical facility to serve them in the area," said Ali Ehsan Rind, the Country Manager of RDMC. As with all other social investment projects funded by RDMC.

Govt taking steps to protect rights of children, girls: Fauzia

QUETTA (APP): Senior Advisor Child Grievance Commissioner Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Fauzia Nasreen presided over meeting to review of stakeholders at Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Headquarters. In which proposals were considered regarding children's rights, education, health and other issues in the province during the meeting.

On this occasion Fauzia Nasreen said that the government of Balochistan province is taking all possible measures to protect the rights of children and girls. She said that the tribal traditions of the province are a source of pride and satisfaction to see children and girls with respect.

She said that all the stakeholders along with the central and provincial ombudsman need to pay more attention to issues like prevention of early marriage of girls, education of children, health, food, child labor so that the architect of our future can contribute to the development of the country.

JAS leaders say: Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) to be celebrated with religious zeal & fervour

Procession to be taken out from Bacha Khan chowk

Independent Report

QUETTA: The leaders of Jama'at Ahle Sunnat (JAS) have announced that the Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) would be observed with due religious zeal and fervour in the provincial metropolis on Friday.

The main procession marking the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) would be taken out from the Bacha Khan Chowk where almost 30 small processions would gather before.

This was announced by the leader of JAS, Pir Syed Habibullah Chishti while addressing press conference at the Quetta Press Club on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were other leaders of JAS Balochistan. Pir Syed Habibullah Chishti said that the main procession would pass through the Liaquat bazar, junction chowk, prince road, Masjid Road, Shahrah-e-Iqbal and terminate at the Manan chowk.

He said that the procession would not go to the Suraj Ganj bazaar because of the time of Jumma prayer.

He on the occasion said that it would be difficult to make the security plan successful without their consultation. He charged that the caretaker provincial government appears to be in deep slumber over the great day of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW). He, however, thanked the Metropolitan Corporation for the cleanliness arrangements made on route of the Eid Milad procession.



QUETTA: Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Balochistan Leader, Habibullah Shah Chishti addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Pak committed to goal of a world without nukes, peaceful S. Asia: Munir

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming its commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world, Pakistan told the U.N. that India was responsible for introducing nuclear weapons in South Asia with a test of an atomic device in 1974, forcing Pakistan to follow suit.

"In South Asia, nuclear weapons capability was introduced by one state in 1974," Ambassador Munir Akram said, without naming India.

"That state also initiated the South Asia nuclear weapons explosions in 1998," he said, adding, "Pakistan was compelled to follow suit in order to restore strategic stability and deter the aggression against it."

Following the South Asia nuclear tests, Ambassador Akram said that Pakistan proposed the establishment of a Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in South Asia, to be premised on three interlocking and mutually reinforcing elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional arms balance. The Pakistani envoy, who was speaking at an event to commemorate the 'International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons', reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world that is achieved in a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory manner, assuring undiminished security for all states at the lowest possible level of armaments.

"The proposal remains on the table," Ambassador Akram said, adding that Pakistan's security policy continues to be defined by restraint and responsibility and avoidance of a mutually debilitating arms race in the region.

Pakistan, he said, strongly supports all international efforts seeking to promote fair and equitable solutions to disarmament and non-proliferation challenges. "Discriminatory approaches, double standards and selectivity in the application of global norms not only weaken global disarmament efforts,



HUB: Canadian High Commissioner in Pakistan Leslie Scanlon visiting Bela.

Minorities in India under attack, direct state involved in HR violations: Khalil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George Wednesday said that Pakistan was far better than India for securing minorities' rights as India's religious minorities were under attack and state was direct involved in human right violations.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that the rights of minority communities were fully protected in Pakistan and several

measures had been taken for their welfare, adding, Pakistan always protected the rights of people from all minorities, including Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and Parsis, and would ensure a secure environment for them in future as well.

"Pakistan will move forward according to teachings of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who called for peace and brotherhood among all religions" he added. He re-

minded that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his speech on August 11, 1947, gave a clear message about the equality of rights of minorities.

He said people of all religions in the country had equal constitutional and political rights, and they were allowed to take part in all fields of life.

Replying a question, he said Indian government had proven themselves unwilling to protect minority religious communities.

QDEG says: Stern action to be taken against non-functional schools & absentee teachers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta District Education Group (QDEG) has decided to take stern action against the absentee teachers and the closed and non-functional schools in the district.

This was decided in a meeting of the QDEG, which was held with Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Muhammad Anwar Kakar in the chair on Wednesday.

The District Education Officer (Male), DEO (Female), representatives of UNICEF and other concerned officials were in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the situation regarding the closed and non-functional

schools besides absentee and attached teachers in the schools.

A committee was also formed to collect and compile the data of absentee and attached teachers as well as about the schools, which are closed or occupied in the district by October 2, 2023.

The committee would present its report in next meeting of the District Education Group.

In view of the report, certain important decisions would be made, it was decided further in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, ADC General asserted that no negligence would be tolerated on the matter of absentee teachers and non-functional schools.



NASEERABAD: CEO of Chattar Wasila Rah and famous singer Hadiqa Kiani along with FC Balochistan 72 Wing Chattar, Colonel Ahmed Khan cutting ribbon during handing over of houses built for flood-affected families, held in Kundi area.

In all 4017 connections found involved in theft: Over Rs. 533 million recovered from power pilferers & defaulters as crackdown continues

Independent Report

QUETTA: Over 533 million rupees have so far been recovered from the electricity pilferers and defaulters during the crackdown launched by the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) in the province.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, Rs. 473 millions have been recovered from the defaulters of the electricity dues and Rs. 60 millions recovered from those involved in the pilferage of electricity in the province.

The amount was recovered on charges of the fine from the electricity thieves, the QESCO spokesman mentioned.

He informed that in all 4017 power connections were found involved in the pilferage of electricity in the province while 1180 applications have been submitted in different police stations in this regard.

Out of them, 339 FIRs have been chalked against the power pilferers in different thanas of the province, he mentioned

adding that 124 persons were also arrested on the same charges. All power thieves were charged fine of over Rs. 100 million on the charges of power pilfering, the spokesman maintained.

Moreover, 13 transformers running illegally and those of the defaulters were also removed in different areas of the province.

The QESCO spokesman asserted that the crackdown against the power pilferers and defaulters would remain continued in future as well.



QUETTA: Commissioner Child Protection Federal Ombudsman retired Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen talking with different stake holders regarding protection of children.