

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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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 905,955, 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, Shakra 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.

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.

Kakar remarked. 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."

By siding with the West against the Soviets and again after 9/11, Pakistan paid a high price, Kakar said. "Pakistan in the last 30 years, has been treated unfairly by the West," he told the interviewer. "Every nation for itself... Why should we be worried about this competition? It's between two great powers, two great civilizations, and the implications [affect] 150-plus countries. And Pakistan is just one of them," PM

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.



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 Mukarama today to perform Umrah.



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.

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.

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.

According to the police, the preliminary investigation revealed that the rocket launcher was found by children on an agricultural land which they brought home — where it exploded.

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.

More than 100 dead, 150 injured in Iraq wedding inferno

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-Allaq told Reuters that 113 people had been confirmed dead, with state media putting the death toll at 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.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated a guided tour on the occasion of World Tourism Day at Governor House Lahore. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and members of the Caretaker Cabinet are also present on this occasion.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi: President approves 90-day remission in sentences of prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday announced a special remission of 90 days in sentence of prisoners on the eve of Eid Milad un Nabi.

The remission will be applicable for male prisoners above 65 years of age and women inmates over 60 years, who have completed one-third of their imprisonment.

The persons under 18 years who have served their one-third sentence will also get the benefit of remission.

President Alvi approved the remission for prisoners in accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution, the President's Office said.

The reduction in sentence will not apply to the prisoners involved in murder, espionage, and anti-State activities.

The other categories without remission include convicts of adultery, theft, dacoity, kidnapping, and terrorism. Also, the remission will not be applicable on those involved in financial crimes and the ones who incurred losses to the national exchequer.

Touchdown Hyderabad: Pakistan squad lands in India for World Cup

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: The Pakistan squad landed in India's Hyderabad on Wednesday to participate in the ICC World Cup 2023. The national team flew to India via Dubai and landed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. A video shared by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) showed the squad exiting the plane.

Confirming the development, the Press Trust of India said this is Pakistan's first visit to the neighbouring country in seven years. The Green Shirts previously traveled to India in 2016 for the

T20 world cup.

The Indian government had on Monday issued visas for the Pakistan squad after multiple delays. The development came after the PCB wrote a letter to the International Cricket Council expressing concerns over the visa issue.

The World Cup is scheduled to take place from Oct 5 to Nov 19 in India. Pakistan's opening match in the tournament is set for Oct 6 against the Netherlands in Hyderabad, while the highly anticipated match against arch-rivals India will take place in Ahmedabad on Oct 14.



HYDERABAD: Pakistan cricket team landed in India's Hyderabad to participate in the ICC World Cup 2023

Punjab Governor, CM inaugurates Safari-II at Governor House

LAHORE: International Tourism Day, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Safari-II at Governor House. CM Mohsin Naqvi said that students, general public, tourists and foreign guests can also pay a visit to the 400 years old building of Governor House. People of Lahore and other cities can also tour Governor House for the first time like the White House.

The people can make pre-booking from the joint app of Lahore Walled City Authority and TDCP. Governor Balighur Rehman said that we are ensuring

formal access of the general public to the Governor House and we will welcome all.

Governor Balighur Rehman and CM Mohsin Naqvi along with the Cabinet started the Safari tour from Anarkali Gate of Governor House. Governor Balighur Rehman, CM Mohsin Naqvi and the Cabinet were provided information by the authentic tour guide. Information about unique trees like sagwaan, kahal, pomegranate, litchi, mango, pies and arjun.

CM Mohsin Naqvi and the Caretaker Cabinet was taken on the visit under the leadership of Governor Punjab. The participants

of Safari-II were informed about the history of chobi stairs at the entry gate. They were informed about sword, sangeen, royal chair, table of lions and other unique items in the sword room. Six eras of Governor House was portrayed in the Sword Room.

7 precious paintings of Abdur Rehman Chughtai were shown in the ivory room of Governor House. Ancient and unique miniature paintings were also put for exhibition in the ivory room.

The history of Governor Riwayat was explained in the Hall Room. The pianos included in the antiques is more than 100 years old.

Over 2000 cops to perform security duties on Eid Milad-un-Nabi

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police have chalked out a comprehensive security plan for the main procession of 12th Rabiul Awal according to which, strict patrolling would be ensured during processions and other religious gatherings in the city.

According to the security plan, more than 2000 police personnel including Zonal DPOs, SDPOs

Islamabad Capital Police including Rangers and personnel of other law enforcement agencies would perform patrolling and security duties.

The main procession

of the city would be completely cordoned off through heavy deployment. Procession would start from sector G-7 Jamia Masjid Al Raza and culminate near the shrine of Hazrat Sakhi Mahmud at Aabpara market after passing through various routes. The monitoring of processions would be ensured through drone cameras and CCTV cameras. Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, Officer Incharge Police Stations and other police officials would visit the routes of procession and ensure effective coordination among the security personnel performing duties.

Senior police officials would guide the subordinates and boost their morale in accomplishing duties in a responsible manner.

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 promote 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 elite leaders, including the military, politicians and businessmen, to prioritise 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, 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 (LLP) 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): Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on 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

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 the children affected by conjunctivitis in the classrooms.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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 Qawwal Fahir Parvez, along with his colleagues, bestowed the audience with the divine melodies of qawwali.



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.

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) corruption," the Xinhua readout of the politburo meeting said.

"The meeting emphasised 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 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.



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.

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.

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.

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

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-

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.



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 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 Foreign 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."

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

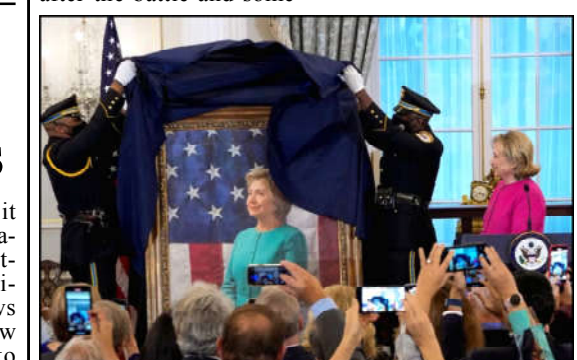
Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Several hundred members of Russia's Wagner private mercenary group have returned to eastern Ukraine to fight but are not having a significant impact on the battlefield, a Ukrainian military spokesperson said on Wednesday.

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 Demo-cratc 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 rioted by bombarding the right bank of the river which is controlled by government troops with support from Iran-backed militias, the Observatory said.

BISP plays pivotal role in supporting disadvantaged segments: Chairperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Wednesday said the Programme was playing a pivotal role in extending crucial support to disadvantaged individuals and families, enabling them to access essential resources and opportunities for personal and socio-economic development.

He was speaking during a meeting with a delegation of Ministers from Gilgit Baltistan including Minister for Tourism, Minister of Finance, Minister of Food, Chief Secretary and Addl. Secretary Gilgit Baltistan.

Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmed, was also present in the meeting.

During the meeting,

the delegation congratulated Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib on assuming charge of Chairperson in BISP.

A comprehensive discussion was held on the well-being and welfare of BISP beneficiaries in Gilgit Baltistan.

The participants also delved into various aspects of BISP and its wide array of initiatives, which encompass programs such as Benazir Kafalat, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, Benazir Nashounuma, Dynamic Registry of NSER, Benazir Social Protection Accounts, and more.

Furthermore, the delegation was briefed on the facilitative measures in place for the disbursement of payments and the registration process for BISP beneficiaries in Gilgit Baltistan.



Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) met to a delegation of Ministers, Secretary and Addl. Secretary from Gilgit Baltistan. Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed is also present in the meeting.

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.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong calls on Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif.

IG NH&MP pledges to ensure complete safety, timely assistance

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to improve the safety and efficiency of traffic on motorways and national highways, Inspector General of Motorways Police Sultan Ali Khawaja pledged to ensure timely assistance to road users, reduce accidents, and improve traffic monitoring system during his recent visit Multan.

During his visit, he held meetings with officials from the National Highways Authority (NHA) and Frontier Works Organization (FWO) to discuss measures to improve the traffic monitoring system. He also met with officers of the Motorway Police to review their performance and direct further improvement, public relations officer said on Wednesday.

In addition, IG Khawaja attended a public meeting where he listened to the concerns of employees and issued instructions on the spot to resolve their problems on priority.

IG Khawaja emphasized the importance of following traffic rules to reduce accidents. He also stressed the need for timely assistance to road users in need.

Doctor terms pink eye curable disease

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adenoviral conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye, is a viral infection of the eye that often resolves on its own within one or two weeks without medication. Talking to APP here on Wednesday, Consultant Eye Surgeon at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Dr. Inam Ul Haq Khan said that the public need not panic about pink eye, as it is not a pandemic and occurs periodically throughout the year. He said that in most cases, patients recover fully without any specific treatment as the immune system fights off the infection.

Elaborating on the early symptoms, Dr. Inam said that pink eye involves itching, watery discharge, redness, and pain in the affected eye. He said that sometimes only one eye is infected initially, while the other eye later becomes involved as the virus spreads.

He explained that the viral infection can also cause systemic symptoms like cough, fever, diarrhea, and swollen lymph nodes in the neck or around the ears which reflects the body's overall immune response.

To aid recovery, Dr. Inam recommended building up one's natural immunity through proper nutrition including soup, boiled eggs, and adequate hydration. "Gentle eye rinsing with clean water and artificial tears can provide symptomatic relief, but home remedies should be avoided as they may worsen the condition", he added.

Antibiotic eye medications are often prescribed by the consultants, Dr. Inam said adding that such medicines do not treat the underlying virus directly.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva taking interest in paintings during exhibition by Raja Chengez Sultan at Tanzara Art Gallery in Federal Capital.

CDA initiates crackdown on encroachments and illegal constructions in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a determined effort to combat encroachments and illegal constructions, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a comprehensive crackdown across various areas of the federal capital.

Following the directives of Chairman Captain Anwar ul Haq, the Building Control Directorate of the CDA, in collaboration with the Enforcement Directorate, local administration, and Islamabad Police, executed a stringent operation targeting several locations, including GT Road, T-Chowk, Sohan Ada, and adjacent areas. The operation resulted in the demolition of multiple commercial buildings found in violation of building by-laws.

During this operation against building by-law violations, a total of 14 structures constructed without CDA approval were demolished, and notices were issued to the property owners.

The crackdown extended to other areas across Islamabad, such as H-12, Pothohar Road, Kuri Road, Park Road, Bari Imam, and Rawal Town. These operations led to the removal of unauthorized constructions using heavy machinery.

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 Imran-ul-Haq. The court stated in its order that the reference had been reopened in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court. It added that the hearings would resume on October 24 from the point where it was previously halted. In this regard, the court issued notices to Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and other accused.

PMD announces exit of monsoon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The official exit of monsoon season in Pakistan with another rain spell accompanied by snowfall in hilly areas from Thursday to Saturday announced by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) is a clear indication of the transition from the summer to winter season.

This rain spell, expected in the parts of Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan will further decrease the temperatures in the country compelling the citizens to bring out the woollies with the arrival of the winter season.

Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrehman 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.

IHC merges Bibi's audio case with former CJ son's case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday merged the audio leaked case of the PTT Chief's wife Bushra Bibi with the son of the former chief justice, Najam-ul-Saqib case.

Justice Babar Sattar heard the petition of Bushra Bibi against the summons notice in the audio-leaked case.

On behalf of the federal government, Additional Attorney General Manawar Iqbal Dogal appeared and apprised the court that the police had asked FIA to record a voice sample of Bushra Bibi.

502 cases registered against traffic rule violators in Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have taken proactive measures to address serious traffic violations by registering cases against offenders and also cancelled multiple driving licenses. A police spokesman said that a total of 502 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been filed across various police stations under the jurisdiction of the Islamabad Capital Police against individuals involved in diverse traffic violations.

Saudi envoy highlights Kingdom's transformative reforms, global influence under 'Vision 2030'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said under the wise leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the dynamic vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom had emerged as a beacon of progress and prosperity.

Addressing an event in connection with the 93rd National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia here, he said their commitment to economic diversification, social reform, and global engagement had charted an inspiring path towards a brighter future.

Welcoming all the distinguished guests on the occasion, Ambassador Al-Malki said it was a day to celebrate the Kingdom's significant contributions to regional stability, technological advancement, and cultural preservation.

"The wise leadership's unwavering dedication to diplomacy, science, and innovation has not only transformed Saudi Arabia but has also resonated on the global stage," he maintained.

Appreciating the historical ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Al-Malki said the diplomatic relations between the two countries were nothing but sincere Islamic brotherhood and pure love for each other.

Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi, in an exclusive talk with APP, said that King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had made remarkable achievements across multiple fronts, showcasing Saudi Arabia's rapid transformation and global influence within a relatively short span of time.

He said under their leadership, Saudi Arabia had played a pivotal role in regional diplomacy, promoting stability in the Middle East. He said initiatives like the Arab coalition in Yemen and efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis reflected their commitment to regional peace.

Dr. Al-Otaibi said the crown prince's Vision 2030 plan had ushered in a wave of economic and social reforms, diversifying the Saudi economy, reducing its dependency on oil, and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.

He said the Kingdom had invested significantly in research and development, leading to the estab-

lishment of advanced technology centers and initiatives. He said Saudi Arabia was also home to NEOM, an ambitious futuristic city project aimed at becoming a global technology and innovation hub.

He said hosting major events like the Formula 1 Grand Prix and the Dakar Rally, and investing in sports infrastructure, had positioned Saudi Arabia as a vibrant destination for sports and entertainment, opening up new avenues for tourism and cultural exchange.

He said the leadership's focus on infrastructure development had resulted in mega-projects like the Riyadh Metro, Jeddah Tower, and Qiddiya Entertainment City, enhancing the quality of life for Saudi citizens and attracting international investments.



Senator Manzoor Ahmed, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad

IT Ministry plans to digitize Hajj operations

ISLAMABAD (INP): The next year's Hajj operation will be fully digitized in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications to make Hajj pilgrims aware of all issues in time and resolve any kind of complaints immediately.

The decision was taken on Wednesday at a meeting of the special committee constituted under Prime Minister directive earlier this month, said a news release.

The meeting was chaired by caretaker Minister for IT & Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, while co-chairman Religious Affairs Minister Aneeq Ahmed also attended the meeting.

The meeting was briefed by concerned officials about the system used so far in the Hajj operation.

Dr. Umar Saif said that as per the directives of the Prime Minister, a Smart Phone Application and Web-portal would be developed while whole Hajj operation would be digitized to have independent reviews from the Hajj, on the analogy of leading platforms dealing with housing and hospitality.

Through this system, pilgrims will be able to give their feedback digitally regarding Hajj operations and facilities.

Dr. Umar Saif directed National Information Technology Board (NITB) to immediately upgrade the existing system of Hajj operation till the completion of the digitization process and remove its shortcomings and directed the Chief Executive Officer of NITB to deploy an expert team in the Ministry of Religious Affairs to monitor the system.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov presenting book Chief Guest Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed during the book presentation ceremony titled "The History of Patriotic War Personality Factor" at the Azerbaijan Embassy.

RTI laws crucial to promote transparency in govt: Info Commissioners

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Information Commissioner of the Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) Ijaz Hassan Awan and both Information Commissioners Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and Huzaifa Rahman have underscored the pivotal significance of Right to Information (RTI) laws in fostering transparency within government institutions.

In a media statement issued in relation to Universal Access to Information Day being observed on September 28, the commissioners emphasized that Article 19-A of the Constitution granted the fundamental right of access to information to all the citizens which was however subject to certain limitations.

They stated that this constitutional provision was the cornerstone of a democratic society, enabling citizens to stay informed and hold government bodies accountable for their actions.

They elaborated on the vital role of RTI laws in empowering citizens to actively participate in the democratic process.

When citizens have access to information, they can make informed decisions, engage in constructive dialogue, and ultimately contribute to better governance and the right to vote, they added.

The commissioners emphasized that RTI laws were a tool to ensure that government institutions remained transparent, responsive, and accountable to the people they served.

They stressed that these laws provided a mechanism for citizens to obtain information and documents from public bodies, thereby reducing the opacity that could often surround government operations.

They reassured that the Pakistan Information Commission was committed to upholding the principles of transparency through access to information enshrined in the country's Constitution.

The officials affirmed their dedication to assisting citizens in their pursuit of information and ensuring that public bodies adhere to the requirements of the RTI laws.



ISLAMABAD: An eye catching view of the OGDCL Tower illuminated with colorful decoration lights for the celebrations for Eid-e-Milad an-Nabi with great Zeal in Federal Capital.

IAEA launches publication highlighting Pakistan's role in promoting peaceful Nuclear Technology Cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General of the IAEA, Rafael Mariano Grossi has launched a publication 'Pakistan: Partnering with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for Strengthening South-South Cooperation to highlight the role of Pakistan in strengthening South-South Cooperation through the Promotion of peaceful uses of Nuclear Technology.'

At a side event, hosted by Pakistan, to highlight its contributions to South-South cooperation in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The event was organized on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the General Conference, currently ongoing in Vienna, Austria, and covered the ongoing partnerships of Pakistan with the IAEA under its Technical Cooperation Department for the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for socioeconomic progress in developing countries.

It was attended by senior-level officials including from the Ghana Nuclear Regulatory Authority which is collaborating with the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), according to a news release received here on Wednesday.

During his opening remarks, the Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Raja Ali Raza Anwar, highlighted the great importance Pakistan accorded to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme due to which significant contributions to developmental gains in diverse fields had been achieved in the country.

These included food, agriculture, human health, nuclear power, water resource management, industry and education.