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Writes letter to CEC President Alvi proposes November 6 as election date

Says Constitution empowers him to appoint poll dates; Alvi calls for polls to be conducted across country on same date; Election to NA should be held by 89th day since dissolution.

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi Wednesday wrote a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and proposed November 6 as the date for general elections in the country.

In the letter, the president said he had dissolved the National Assembly on the prime minister's advice on August 9.

The president cited Article 48(5) of the Constitution, which he said "empowers and mandates the president 'to appoint a date not later than ninety days from the date of the dissolution, for the holding of a general election to the Assembly'".

Hence, "in terms of Article 48(5), the general election to the National Assembly should be held

by the 89th day of the date of dissolution of the National Assembly, i.e. Monday, 6th day of November 2023", the letter read.

The president recalled in the letter that "in an endeavour to fulfil the constitutional obligations, the Chief Election Commissioner was invited for a meeting to devise the modalities of implementing the constitutional intent and mandate".

But in his reply, the CEC "took a contrary view that as per the scheme of the Constitution and framework of electoral laws, it was the domain of the Election Commission, and following the publication of last preceding census on August 7, duly notified delimitation of constituencies was in progress,

a mandatory requirement stipulated by Article 51(5) of the Constitution and section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017", the letter said.

Moreover, the Law Ministry also had the same view on the matter, it said, adding that all four provincial governments were of the opinion that the announcement of the election date was the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) mandate.

"Further, there is a consensus that to strengthen the federation and to promote unity and harmony amongst provinces and to avoid incurring unnecessary expenses, general elections to the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies must be held on the same day," it further stated.



HUNZA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits Karakoram Area Development Authority's 'Hunar Khun' facility.

One nation, one law to be ensured No one will ever be allowed to hold society hostage: PM

GILGIT-BALTISTAN (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said no one will ever be allowed to hold the society hostage.

"There is no room for any foreign intelligence agency in Pakistan, our national institutions will take the matters towards improvement. No one should remain under any delusion. Addressing problems of Gilgit-Baltistan is our top priority, he said this while talking to media men after inaugurating OPD services at Cardiac hospital in Gilgit-Baltistan Wednesday.

People of Gilgit-

Baltistan (GB) have welcomed me with great love. GB is bouquet of people of diverse color and race, he added.

He went on to say accepting the rights of each other equal is foundation of society. Respecting each other is must. People don't remain same. The process of change continues.

"We will remove the misperceptions with wisdom. The responsibility for rights rests with the state. We will discharge it in befitting manner. I have come with a message for the people of GB that they should respect rights of each other. Man can never

resolve the problems alone. We have to live life together. This is peak of humanity.

The Prime Minister said it is the diversity and scenic beauty of Gilgit-Baltistan that attracts tourists not only from within Pakistan but also Europe and Asia.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said negotiations have been held with the Governor, the Chief Minister and other stakeholders about the constitutional matters of the region.

He mentioned that they are working towards finding constitutional solutions to questions related to the region's identity.

Over 600,000 Afghans came to Pak since Taliban takeover Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Over 600,000 Afghans have arrived in Pakistan in the two years since the Taliban retook control of Afghanistan in 2021.

According to official government estimates, 600,000 Afghans seeking asylum have arrived in the country since the Taliban returned to power, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Qaiser Khan Afridi told Anadolu Agency on Wednesday. "In addition to the new arrival, Pakistan hosts 1.3 million Afghan refugees who are holding the Proof of Registration Cards issued by the government," Afridi said.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressing officials of Pakistan and M/s DAMEN Shipyards during Launching ceremony of Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS HUNAIN at M/s DAMEN Shipyards Galati, Romania.



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his official visit to brotherly country.

COAS lauds Turkish military's efforts to maintain peace in region

Gen Munir meets President Erdogan, other high-ranking Turkish officials during visit to brotherly country; The chief of army staff conferred with Turkey's Legion of Merit; Turkish leaders acknowledge army, NDMA efforts during quake.

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS is on an official visit to the Republic of Türkiye.

The visit is part of the high level mutual visits by both the brotherly countries to enhance the historic diplomatic and military ties.

During the visit COAS called on Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Republic of Türkiye, Foreign and Defense Ministers, Commander of Turkish General Staff and Commanders of Turkish Land and Air forces.

During the meetings, COAS emphasized on enhancing defence collabora-

tion and training cooperation. COAS appreciated Turkish Military's efforts for maintaining peace and stability in the region and also praised the standards of operational readiness of Turkish Armed Forces.

Turkish leaders acknowledged the efforts extended by Pakistan Army Engineers who worked along NDMA Teams during the unfortunate earthquake that hit Türkiye in February this year.

COAS visited the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Ankara to pay homage to the great leader and laid floral wreath in his honour.

COAS later visited the Turkish Land Forces Headquarters, where on his arrival he was given a warm welcome and was presented with the Guard of Honour.

COAS was also conferred with the Legion of Merit by the Minister of Defense and Commander Turkish Land Forces in recognition of his services towards promoting defence relations between two countries.

During the ceremony COAS highlighted that, "Pakistan and Türkiye have strong brotherly relations which have always stood the test of times.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam convened a meeting with Provincial Law Ministers, Mr. Kanwar Dilshad (Punjab), Mr. Muhammad Omer Soomro (Sindh), Mr. Arshad Hussain Shah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Mr. Amanullah Kanrani (Balochistan), to discuss matters pertaining to the upcoming general elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies.

Caretaker Home Minister for speeding up operations against criminals

Independent Report
KARACHI: The caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brig. © Haris Nawaz while presiding over a high level meeting on law and order has directed law enforcement agencies to speed up intelligence-based operations against the street criminals, drug dealers, land grabbers and comb out illegal immigrants from the city, through mutual coordinated action.

The meeting was held here at the office of Home

Minister and attended by Home Secretary, Muhammad Iqbal Memon, IGP, Sindh Riffat Mukhtar; Addl. IGP Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind; Deputy Director General, Pakistan Rangers Sindh, and senior officers of other law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The Home Minister ordered to evolve a joint strategy for commencing a grand operation against the dacoits and their facilitators in the Katcha areas of the province.

Neither any investigation nor any identification parade is carried out in rape cases: SHC

KARACHI (Online): Justice Amjad Ali Sahito of Sindh High Court (SHC) has remarked neither any investigation is carried out nor any identification parade is conducted in rape cases. The bail plea of one Nazim accused in rape case came up for hearing before SHC Wednesday.

IG Sindh Riffat Mukhtar appeared on court's orders.

Justice Amjad Ali Sahito remarked "IG Sahb what devastation has taken place in Sindh in 15 years has not occurred anywhere. It is not known you will be where after 6

months. But you should do good thing with people of Sindh while leaving.

He further observed cheque is given to investigation officer through one hand and is withdrawn from him through other hand. Investigation officers say funds are not provided to them. Therefore, why should we spend money on investigation out of our own pocket. Justice Amjad Ali Sahito remarked why the funds for the investigation are not provided directly to police station instead of providing them to every district.

Interim Federal, Provincial Law Ministers vow to ensure transparent elections

Urge all state organs to respect ECP's authority regarding election date

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal and provincial law ministers on Wednesday during a meeting underscored the importance of upholding the principles of democracy and ensuring the smooth conduct of elections.

Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam convened a meeting with provincial law ministers including Kanwar Dilshad (Punjab), Muhammad Omer Soomro (Sindh), Arshad Hussain Shah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Amanullah Kanrani (Balochistan).

The meeting was held to discuss matters pertaining to the upcoming general elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies, said a press release.

During the meeting, all Law Ministers underscored

the importance of upholding the principles of democracy and ensuring the smooth conduct of elections.

It was unanimously agreed that the Constitution must be read as a whole and no provision of the Constitution be read in isolation from other relevant provisions. As per the Constitution, the conduct of general elections and announcement of election dates is the sole competence of the Election Commission of Pakistan. The Provincial Law Ministers emphasized that in order to strengthen the Federation, ensure harmony amongst all federating units and avoid unnecessary financial burden on the national exchequer incurred owing to the provision of security arrangements on different election dates.



Ambassador of Morocco Muhammad Karmouna meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori in Islamabad.

PPP to knock down anti-state elements in elections: Bilawal

MULTAN (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that his party will knock down the anti-state elements in the upcoming general elections.

While addressing a gathering of party activists and general public at Syedwala Bypass on Wednesday, he said that PPP contested previous general elections despite challenges like martyrdom of Ms Benazir Bhutto and the abduction of Ali Haider Gilani.

Bilawal Bhutto said that timely general elections were mandatory but could be delayed due to some reasons.

Expressing gratitude to Multan for its unwaver-

ing support for the PPP, he highlighted its commitment to democracy.

The PPP Chairman recalled the historic victory of Musa Gilani in the by-elections, which marked a significant achievement for the PPP in Multan and added that Multan had never disappointed him.

He said, "When I visited Multan during the movement against PTI's puppet government, the people of Multan extended complete support towards PPP."

The former foreign minister added that they removed Khan's government in a democratic manner.

Bilawal hoped that the people of Multan would continue to extend support to PPP in the future.



MULTAN: Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari giving a shield to the winner students of the Speech competition titled International Responsibilities of Pakistan during his visit to the University.

Mayor Karachi directs KMC's Land dept to conduct survey of their land

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Wednesday directed the land department to conduct an immediate survey of their land at Sharea Faisal, I.I Chandrigar Road, University Road, and Sindh Muslim Society.

He expressed these views while presiding over an important meeting of KMC departments related to revenue collection.

He said that to ensure revenue from KMC assets, recovery departments must ensure implementation of instructions within 30 days. Mayor Karachi's spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Afzal Zaidi, Finance Advisor Ghulam Murtaza Bhutto, Head of Revenue departments, and

other officers were also present.

He said that PD Orangi should get possession of 2600 yards of KMC's land within 30 days and the challans of the Land Department, Katchi Abadi, PD Orangi, and State Department regarding land must be based on the QR code.

The Mayor Karachi said that the State Department within 30 days ensure recovery of Rs 100 million from KMC markets and parking under bridges.

He said that possession of all such parking sites should be obtained within 30 days, he said that recovery should be seen with regard to the BTS mobile towers installed in the city within a month, and no vehicle should be parked on the PIDC road.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

CJP's legacy

It was "bitter" constitutional litigation, the chief justice believes, that ultimately affected the court's performance. But was it just that? Speaking at a full court reference held to mark the start of a new judicial year, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Monday regretted that the Supreme Court had been pushed into "a trying contest". "We sat back and became its victim and suffered in performance," he reflected. Yet the Supreme Court can hardly be described as having "sat back" while the country's institutions and political parties were making a mad grab for power.

Over Justice Bandial's tenure, the apex court found itself stumbling from one controversy to another, starting from its overturning of the National Assembly deputy speaker's decision to throw out a no-confidence vote against then PM Imran Khan. At the time, the decision was widely hailed for having put to rest the doctrine of necessity. However, it also set a precedent for the court to go beyond established boundaries as it attempted to do 'justice'. Shortly after, the apex court 'rewrote' the Constitution by nullifying lawmakers' power to defy party lines. Given the political consequences of the court's interventions in these cases, criticism and controversy followed.

It, therefore, surprised no one when, barely a year later, the court's internal differences spilled out into the public domain. The court had overstepped once again by taking up petitions against election delays while the high courts were still hearing the matter. As some of the judges put their foot down to protest their institution's 'transgressions', matters started to unravel quickly. While the PDM government tried to flame the divisions within the court, the chief justice failed to restore unity within his ranks. Progress on key cases quickly stalled, and justice was put on the back-burner as the change of guard loomed closer.

As Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial prepares to hang up his robes, he has started feeling the weight of this legacy he leaves behind. It is difficult not to empathise with him. Less than two years ago, he was celebrated for being a "soft-spoken man of integrity" and a "competent judge" who was "learned and fair-minded". But the same people who once spoke so highly of Justice Bandial later ruthlessly assailed his capabilities, with some accusing him of "fixing" benches with "like-minded judges" and running a "one-man show". It cannot be easy for anyone to see their reputation — achieved through an entire lifetime's work — be ruthlessly attacked and reduced in such a manner. But such a thing is perhaps unavoidable now, given the judicialisation of our politics. The incoming chief justice should take the experience of the incumbent and those immediately before him as a warning. A ruthless commitment to fair play could help him avoid a similar end next year.

Abused at work



Kishwar Enam

Children are a country's most precious investment. But in Pakistan, poor children don't fall in this category. Even after 75 years of existence, we as a nation have not given sufficient importance to child rights.

Child domestic labour refers to hiring children under 18 years in households, with or without a salary. Figures from 2016 showed 12 million child labourers in the country. A study in 2003 showed that eight per cent of all child labour was related to domestic work.

It is also estimated that around 40pc of Pakistanis live in poverty, with some 24pc below the poverty line. For families in such situations, survival is the primary goal. Due to lack of family planning, every child born becomes an additional burden on the parents. Instead of sending them to school, they are sent to work. In some households, having more children means more income, leading to a reprehensible scenario where children are birthed solely for financial gain. The conditions under which these children work is often irrelevant, as long as the parents receive a monthly salary.

The situation is even more disheartening when child rights violations occur in the homes of educated and financially stable families. The recent case of 14-year-old Rizwana, who worked as domestic help in the home of a well-to-do judge is an example. Rizwana's parents did not see her for six months. When they were finally

called to take her home, they discovered she had been brutally abused. The responsibility for this situation lies with the judge and his wife, Rizwana's parents, the trafficker who brought her from her village, and all those who silently watched her work without questioning the circumstances. It seems that our state is blind to these issues. Children are often preferred over adult domestic workers because they can be paid lower salaries, take up less space, require less food, and are easily controlled and threatened. It is ironic that employers often justify hiring children by claiming that they are helping them live their lives. Employing a child for work is not a favour; it is a crime. It robs them of their precious childhood. It denies them their right to education, trapping not only them but also future generations in a cycle of exploitation.

The proportion of girls involved in domestic labour is much higher than boys, perpetuating gender inequality and limiting future opportunities for girls. For these children, the stress from excessive workloads leads to anxiety, and the loneliness of being away from home can result in depression. Constantly comparing their lives to those of their employer's children can cause low self-esteem and a sense of hopelessness. It can lead to feelings of jealousy, aggression, and cause conduct disorders. In some households, making these children work beyond their capabilities is not the end of it, as they are subjected to abuse — physical, sexual and psychological.

Another recent case is that of nine-year-old Fatima, who was sexually abused in the haveli of a pir or spiritual leader. Sadly, she succumbed to her injuries. It was later revealed that many other girls were living in the house as domestic workers. These girls are given as gifts to these pirs and feudal lords, and parents receive nominal amounts of money in return. Heart-breaking stories of child domestic labourers treated as slaves by their monstrous employers and often losing their lives come to light every now and then.

Pakistan has ratified conventions on child labour and has laws in place to address this issue. Punjab was the first province to pass a law specifically targeting domestic labour in 2019, which banned children below 15 years old from working as domestic labourers. Sindh does not have a specific law for child domestic labour, but when the Sindh Child Protection Law was amended in 2021, child labour in domestic and commercial settings was included in the definition of child abuse, making it more than just a labour issue. In 2020, a domestic labour law was passed in Islamabad Capital Territory as well. Despite having various laws on child rights, there is inconsistency in the definition of the upper age limit for a child in each law. To address this confusion, it is crucial to establish a unified definition of a child as anyone below 18 years old. This will help clarify the age criteria across all laws. Furthermore, child domestic labour should be banned and criminalised, with the offence being added to the Pakistan Penal Code as a non-bailable and non-compoundable offence. We cannot afford to lose more children like Zohra, Tayyaba, Kinza, Rizwana and Fatima. Our society, lawmakers and government must prioritise action on poverty alleviation, population control, free compulsory education and protecting children from exploitation and abuse. — Courtesy Dawn

Silencing a songbird



Mahir Ali

Just a few days after the elected president of Chile, his close friend and comrade Salvador Allende, had met a violent death in his workplace, the man described by Gabriel García Márquez as "the greatest poet of the 20th century, in any language" lay on his bed in a Santiago clinic, ailing and distraught.

The poet's wife, Matilde, had left his bedside to return to their home in Isla Negra to collect some books that Pablo Neruda wished to take with him to Mexico, where he had been invited to retreat by the country's president, Luis Echeverría. She received a phone call from Neruda, who sounded unusually agitated. She rushed back, fearing the worst.

On doctors' orders, Matilde had tried to shield her husband from the worst news about the atrocities unfolding in the wake of the Sept 11, 1973, coup. But he could not be denied access to his friends, and when she returned, a highly distressed Neruda informed her: "They're killing people, they're handing their bodies over in pieces. The morgue's full of the dead... Didn't you know what happened to Victor Jara? He was one of those they tore to pieces, they destroyed his hands... Oh my God, that's like killing a nightingale. And they say he kept on singing and singing, and that drove them wild."

His information was reasonably accurate. Victor Jara was arguably the most potent symbol of the cultural revolution that had accompanied —

and in some ways facilitated — Popular Unity's ascent to power in 1970. He was an internationally acclaimed theatre director who had, since his deprived childhood, also been deeply immersed in Chilean folk music, and eventually started writing his own songs to supplement the vast repertoire he had imbibed from his mother and his broader milieu.

In 1969, he won joint first prize at the first festival of Nueva Canción Chilena — Chilean New Song — with Plegaria a un Labrador (Prayer to a Worker). It was a genre he had helped to propagate, following in the footsteps of Violeta Parra. The festival was held at Estadio Chile, where Jara returned four years later as a prisoner of the junta that snuffed out with extreme prejudice the very idea of a more equitable and humane nation.

On the morning of Sept 11, Jara bid farewell to his family and drove off to his workplace, the State Technical University, despite knowing that a military coup had been launched. Curfew prevented him from returning home, and the following day Jara and hundreds of fellow teachers and students were marched to the nearby stadium, which was serving as a concentration camp for political prisoners. He was recognised and singled out at the gate, abused in the vilest terms, and brutally assaulted. That was just the preamble to at least three days of extreme torture before an officer blew out his brains, and then encouraged his underlings to fire their machine-guns into the assassinated avatar of an aborted dream.

When his widow located his body among the hundreds of unidentified corpses in the city morgue two days later, guided by a yo-yung communist who risked his life to in-form her, it was riddled

with 44 bullet holes. Thanks mainly to Joan Jara and her associates in Chile and abroad, eight former military officers were sentenced five years ago, among them possibly the beast who had battered the hands that gattered strummed the guitar. The alleged chief perpetrator, however, remains at liberty in Florida.

Goaded to sing after his initial torture, Victor had defiantly burst into a verse of Venceremos, the Popular Unity theme song. And before he was plucked away from fellow detainees for his final ordeal, he scribbled an anti-fascist poem that, miraculously, was smuggled out of the stadium and soon enough rang out in various parts of the world.

Unaware of all this, Neruda died on the eve of his scheduled departure for Mexico. Some evidence has lately emerged to suggest that he was poisoned, but it remains inconclusive and the whole truth may never be ascertained. It's fairly obvious that an outraged and outspoken Neruda would have been an unpleasant prospect for the Pinochet junta. But whether or not it played any role in silencing the poet, the recent Nobel laureate — unlike Allende or Jara — could not be denied a proper funeral. As armed soldiers and police looked on, deterred from action by dozens of foreign correspondents, the hundreds of funeral marchers recited Neruda's verses, then burst into the Internationale, before raising slogans that invoked (and immortalised) not just Neruda but also Allende and Victor Jara. Half a century later, the outstanding poet's last journey still reflects both the final embers of Popular Unity and the first sparks of the relentless resistance that eventually thwarted the neoliberal aspirations of the US-backed military clique. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Gohar says enough fertilizer stock for upcoming 'Rabi' crop

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries & Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz has categorically stated that there is no shortage of fertilizer in the country for the upcoming Rabi crop.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee here in the Ministry of Industries & Productions.

The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary for Industries Mr Asad Rehman Gilani, prominent fertilizer manufacturers, and

ministry officials.

During the meeting, Dr. Gohar Ejaz announced that there is a substantial 3.3 million-ton stockpile of fertilizer available for the upcoming 'Rabi' season.

This surplus is expected to adequately meet the agricultural demands for the entire season, ensuring that farmers have the necessary resources to boost their yields.

Furthermore, the minister assured that gas supply to the fertilizer industry would be

maintained at full capacity, guaranteeing uninterrupted production.

This commitment aims to support the agricultural sector by providing essential fertilizers on time.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was Dr. Gohar Ejaz's announcement that the government would make every effort to ensure that fertilizers are accessible to farmers at the government-fixed rates. This initiative seeks to protect farmers from the burden of soaring fertilizer prices.

SBP holds Art Exhibition to commemorate 75 years of its inception

KARACHI (APP): A unique art exhibition titled 'Resurgence: A Kaleidoscope of Dreams' aimed at celebrating the 75-year journey of SBP and Pakistan's national development, and providing a platform for talented young artists of the country to envision a progressive future began here on Wednesday.

Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan Dr. Inayat Hussain inaugurated

the exhibition that will remain open to the general public for two weeks, according to a statement issued here.

The exhibition showcases the exceptional talent of emerging artists, hailing from all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. Through diverse artistic expressions, the young artists incorporated the essence of Pakistan's cultural heritage.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, Maersk Columbus, Chemroad Rose and Chem Bulldog, carrying Container and Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Liquid Cargo Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Cap Andreas, MSC Ellen and OM with Containers and LPG are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran, called on Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, & Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Finance Division.

PTCL achieves seamless go-live of SAP S/4HANA for enhanced efficiency, growth

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (PTCL) has successfully implemented SAP RISE with SAP S/4HANA, marking an innovative digital transformation within the telecom sector.

This strategic move is poised to modernize PTCL Group's corporate operations, fostering efficiency, effectiveness, and a culture of digitization said a news release.

The official go-live ceremony took place at

PTCL HQ in Islamabad, graced by the presence of senior management from PTCL & Ufone 4G, as well as distinguished figures from SAP, IBM, and Amazon Web Services (AWS). The ceremony also included appreciation certificates for team members involved in this transformation.

PTCL & Ufone 4G, pioneers in Pakistan's telecom sector, became the first to leverage a blend of top-notch SAP ERP solutions, facilitated by the SAP S/4HANA Private Cloud. This collaboration is

a monumental transformation that will optimize resource allocation, real-time data insights, streamlining business processes, and bridging organizational information silos. This is so far the largest customer go-live on SAP RISE with SAP S/4HANA in Pakistan, with IBM as their implementation partner and AWS as their hosting partner. While appreciating teams successfully implementing the transformation process, Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said,

Further hike in interest rate to be disastrous for economy: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has expressed serious concerns over the reports of increase in interest rates by State Bank.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, he said that interest rates were already

so high that any further increase would prove disastrous for the economy. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the policymakers before making a decision in this regard should consider its implication. He said the central bank was considering increasing the interest rate from one hundred to one hundred and fifty basis points as it thinks it will help reduce inflation while also stabilising foreign exchange reserves.

SNGPL disconnects 20 gas connections over illegal compressor use

MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has disconnected 20 Sui gas connections during an ongoing drive against compressors. According to SNGPL official sources, the campaign against illegal usage of compressors and giving illegal extensions was underway across the region. The task force was raiding on a daily basis at various places.

IT Minister, CEO Karandaz discuss collaborate in steering Pak towards digital economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr Umar Saif and CEO Karandaz, Waqas Ul Hassan discussed collaborating methods in steering Pakistan towards a digital economy.

During a meeting between the minister and the CEO of Karandaz decided to introduce a digital payment system into the country's economy.

Dr. Umar Saif expressed his enthusiasm for this partnership, emphasizing that Karandaz and State Bank of Pakistan have successfully implemented a payment system that

nearly 30 million people are currently using.

This collaboration aims to propel Pakistan towards a digitized economy where digital payments will become the norm, enabling people to make purchases conveniently.

In this transformative endeavour, he said, the cash will gradually give way to digital payments, making it easier for citizens to conduct transactions and participate in the digital economy.

The minister said the initiative is poised to have a significant impact on Pakistan's economic landscape, heralding the dawn of a digital era.



KARACHI: Citizens are refill their gas cylinder with LPG gas at a shop as residents are facing shortage of Sui Gas, at Lines area in Karachi.

411 power pilferers charged Rs 37.236m fine: LESCO

LAHORE (INP): Keeping with its commitment to end the evil of electricity theft, the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) continued its anti-power theft operation on the seventh consecutive day and managed to find 411 connections pilfering electricity in all its circles of operation.

The company's spokesman told the media here on Wednesday that applications for the first information reports (FIRs) against all

electricity thieves had been filed with the respective police stations, out of which cases were registered while six accused arrested.

The LESCO inspection teams disconnected 12 commercial and 397 domestic connections and charged 757,824 units of detection bill amounting to Rs 37.236 million to all the electricity pilferers, caught on the seventh day of operation.



ISLAMABAD: PTCL and Ufone 4G Group Chief Technology Officer, Jafar Khalid, Managing Director SAP Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan, Saqib Ahmad and senior officials in group photo during ceremony to mark the successful implementation of SAP Rise with SAP S/4HANA to enhance the efficiency and growth of PTCL, held at the PTCL Headquarter in Islamabad

Governor KP says: Quality education, research studies imperative for sustainable economic progress, development

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday said that the quality higher education and research studies in universities were vital for sustainable economic progress and development of the country.

Briefing newsmen about the fiscal analysis of KP universities 2021-2024 report prepared by the Governor's Secretariat KP here, the Governor said that no country could achieve goals of economic prosperity and development unless it equipped its people with an ornament of quality higher education and

concentrated on excellent research work. He said the research based education generates employment opportunities and alleviates poverty in society. The Governor said that a total of 34 public sector universities were providing quality higher education to students in KP despite financial constraints.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that the revenue of most of the public sectors universities was decreasing and expenditures were increasing due to poor planning and wrong selection of sites for the establishment of new universities by the past governments.

He said that only one percent was being spent on research work which was very low compared to international standards. The Governor said that in last four to five months, eight public sector universities in KP were functioning without a vice chancellor while VCs of additional seven universities are going to retire shortly. He said that the former PTI government has done great injustice with the universities after passing an act that complicated the appointment of vice chancellors and KP's domiciled human resource for induction in public sector universities.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing a Press conference regarding financial situation of Universities. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Dr. Qasim Jan is also present.

P&D directed to take land acquisition into account in foreign funded projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to KP Caretaker CM on Planning & Development (P&D), Communications & Works, and Public Health Engineering (PHE), Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shan has directed the authorities of the P&D Department to take into account the procedure of land purchase, expenditures, and other required processes in the feasibility reports of development schemes

particularly of foreign-funded projects. He issued these directives during a briefing regarding foreign-funded projects here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Chief P&D Akhtar Rahman and other planning officers.

He said that besides, the imposition of Section IV, a strategy should also be evolved for land acquisition in the land scarcity districts of the province.

EIB recovers 156 Kg hashish, 96 Kg opium

PESHAWAR (APP): Excise Intelligence Bureau (EIB) here Wednesday foiled a bid of narcotics smuggling and recovered hashish and opium from a car near Motorway Toll Plaza.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of EIB started checking vehicles near the toll plaza. During checking 96 kilograms of opium and 156 kilogram hashish were recovered from a private V-8 vehicle.

Smugglers also resorted to firing at EIB team and escaped from the scene after abandoning the car.

A vehicle of EIB was also damaged by the collision of smugglers' car and six persons sustained minor injuries in the incident.

The case has been registered in Excise Station Peshawar Region and an investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, Director General Excise and Narcotics Control, Akmal Khattak appreciated the performance of EIB team in foiling the smuggling bid.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with the doctors and para-medical staff of Cardiac Hospital.

Equipping youth with IT education is the need of hour: Baligh

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the ceremony of distribution of certificates of appreciation to IT trainers under the aegis of Akhuwat Foundation here at Governor House Lahore today as a special guest.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that information technology has become an integral part of

modern life and equipping the young generation with information technology education is the need of the hour. He said the target of economic development can be achieved by increasing IT software exports. Governor Punjab said that Akhuwat Foundation is doing a good job by giving free IT training to the youth.

He said that such people and institutions which are working for the welfare of the people are

the bright face of the society which needs to be shown to the world. Governor Punjab said that in our society, deficiencies, flaws, and negative things are highlighted, while there are many good things in our society that also need to be highlighted. Governor Punjab added that he was happy to know that Akhuwat Foundation was offering free courses to students in graphic designing, digital marketing, web and mobile

Meeting decides to establish two base camps, 19 check posts in Katcha area

MULTAN (APP): Important decisions have been taken to maintain law and order on permanent basis in Katcha Area of South Punjab as two base camps and 19 check posts will be constructed for the police in Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur districts.

As many as three armored vehicles will also be purchased for the police and Planning & Development department Punjab has approved Rs 1.94 billion in this regard.

An important meeting was held in South

Punjab Secretariat on Wednesday regarding infrastructure development in Katcha area. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. @ Saqib Zafar, Additional IG Police South Punjab Maqsood-ul-Hasan participated in the meeting while Chairman P&D Punjab Ifthikhar Ali Sahu joined the meeting through video link. RPO DG Khan, RPO Bahawalpur, DPO Rahim Yar Khan and DPO Rajanpur participated in the meeting virtually.

Two bodies found

FAISALABAD (APP): Bodies of two persons were found from different parts of the area of Thikriwala police station. Police spokesman said here on Wednesday that some passersby witnessed corpse of a 35-year-old man lying near Lunda Bridge on Ring Road Chak No.64-JB and informed the police. Meanwhile, body of a 30-year-old youth Mehboob Elahi was found from the Dera of his friend Ahmad Raza in Chak No.64-JB. The police took both bodies into custody and shifted them to mortuary for postmortem while further investigation was under progress, he added.

Decision to ensure execution of daily trial of accused on May 9

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker government of Punjab has decided to ensure implementation of decision of daily trial in jail in respect of accused of May 9 tragedy.

Meeting was held under caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore.

The progress on issues related to events of May 9 and Jaranwala was reviewed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed a team consisting of 3 ministers and senior officers to visit Jaranwala and submit report.

It was also decided in the meeting to ensure implementation of decision of daily trial of perpetrators of May 9 mayhem in jail.

He has also ordered to submit all the challans of Lahore within 3 days on incident of May 9.

It was told in the briefing given in the meeting that construction and renovation of 9 churches in Jaranwala has been completed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed to complete the construction and renovation of 13 more churches in 2 weeks.



KARACHI: A view of the massive garbage along the Fish Harbor, which is endanger for the human and as well for the sea species, needs the attention of concern authority.

China-Pak Belt and Road Joint Laboratory to be established in KP varsities

PESHAWAR (APP): The Southeast University (SEU) Nanyang, China's delegation and Prof. Dr. Ifthikhar Hussain, Vice Chancellor UET Peshawar discussed the possibility of establishing the "China-Pak Belt and Road Joint Laboratory for Smart Disaster Prevention of major Infrastructure" here on Wednesday.

The laboratory will be established in five designated universities of Pakistan including UET Peshawar, UET Lahore, NED Karachi, NUST and BUETEM Quetta.

The delegation met with Secretary Relief and Rehabilitation KP Abdul Basit, Deputy Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Islamabad, Raja Shehreyar, VC University of Science and Technology, Bannu, Prof. Dr. Khair-uz-Zaman, VC University of Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Jehan Bakht. The senior officials from PDMA KP, Center for Disaster Preparedness and Management, UoP, China Study Center UoP and Civil Engineering Department UET Peshawar gave their presentations.

International News

Kim Jong Un meets Putin in Russia as missiles launch from North Korea

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a rare summit on Wednesday at which they discussed military matters, the war in Ukraine and possible Russian help for the secretive Communist state's satellite programme. Putin showed Kim around Russia's most advanced space rocket launch site in Russia's Far East and discussed the possibility of sending a North Korean cosmonaut into space. Kim, who arrived by train from North Korea, asked detailed questions about rockets as Putin showed him around the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

70, and Kim, 39, held talks for several hours with their ministers and then discussed world affairs and possible areas of cooperation one-on-one, followed by an opulent lunch of Russian "pelmeni" dumplings stuffed with Kamchatka crab and then sturgeon with mushrooms and potatoes.

Kim raised a toast with a glass of Russian wine to Putin's health, to the victory of "great Russia" and to Korean-Russian friendship, predicting victory for Moscow in its "sacred fight" with the West in the Ukraine war.

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"I firmly believe that the heroic Russian army and people will brilliantly

inherit their victories and traditions and vigorously demonstrate their noble dignity and honour on the two fronts of military operations and building a powerful nation," Kim told Putin.

"The Russian army and people will certainly win a great victory in the sacred struggle for the punishment of a great evil that claims hegemony and feeds an expansionist illusion," Kim added, raising his glass.

U.S. and South Korean officials have expressed concern that Kim could provide weapons and ammunition to Russia, which has expended vast stocks in more than 18 months of war in Ukraine. Moscow and Pyongyang have denied such intentions.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un examine a launch pad during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovskiy, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region, Russia.

EU chief announces major review saying the bloc should grow to over 30 members

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The European Union's chief executive said Wednesday that her services will launch a major series of policy reviews to ensure that the 27-nation bloc can still function properly as it invites in new members in coming years.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the EU must prepare to grow to more than 30 members. Ukraine, Moldova and countries in the Western Balkans are among those in line.

Even at 27 strong, "the world's biggest trading bloc

finds it difficult to make some decisions, particularly those requiring unanimous agreement. Hungary and Poland, notably, have come under fire from Brussels for democratic backsliding and they've routinely voted against foreign policy and migration decisions.

Still, pressure is mounting for Europe to open its doors. Concerns have been raised about Russia's influence in the Western Balkans, particularly in Serbia and Bosnia. Some countries in the region have waited for years to join and have sometimes seen

progress in their membership quest stymied.

"History is now calling us to work on completing our union," von der Leyen told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France. "In a world where size and weight matters, it is clearly in Europe's strategic interest." At the same time, she said, "we need to look closer at each policy and see how they would be affected." Von der Leyen said the commission's reviews will examine how each policy sector in areas like the economy, energy, agriculture or migration would need to be adapted in the event of expansion.



People carrying a banner saying "No to the mine. Yes to life" take part in an anti-lithium protest in Covas do Barroso, Portugal.

China, Venezuela sign agreements on economy, trade, tourism

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China and Venezuela signed several bilateral cooperation documents focused on various areas including economy, trade and tourism, China's state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) said on Wednesday.

In promoting stronger ties between the two countries, China's President Xi Jinping signed the deals with Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro after a meeting in Beijing.

Xi pointed out that the two countries are partners with shared development, state media reported, highlighting that both are "good friends with mutual trust." Xi also noted that next year will be the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Venezuela.

The two countries also signed deals on the economy and trade, science and technology, civil aviation, and aerospace.

US okays fund transfer to Iran in prisoner deal

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States confirmed on Monday it had signed off on the transfer of \$6 billion in frozen Iranian funds from South Korea, paving the way for five US citizens to leave Tehran.

The two countries announced last month, after protracted negotiations, a deal in which the US citizens were freed from prison and put under house arrest, with the expectation they will fly out of Iran once the funds are moved to an account in Qatar. Secretary of State Antony Blinken notified Congress that he had gone ahead on a key part of the agreement, signing a waiver that will shield banks involved in the transfer from US sanctions.

The money transfer is "a critical step in securing the release of these five US citizens", a State Department spokesperson said.

Taliban say Chinese envoy appointed to Kabul in first ambassadorial appointment since takeover

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: A new Chinese ambassador presented his credentials to the Taliban's prime minister in Kabul on Wednesday, Afghan officials said, adding it was the first appointment of a foreign envoy at the ambassadorial level since the Taliban took power in 2021.

The Taliban have not been officially recognised by any foreign government. It was not immediately clear if Wednesday's appointment signalled any steps

by Beijing towards formal recognition of the Taliban.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to request for comment.

"Mohammad Hassan Akhund, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, accepted the credentials of Mr Zhao Xing, the new Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, during a ceremony," said the Taliban administration's deputy spokesman, Bilal Karimi, in a statement.

Fire at Vietnam kills 56

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: A fire at an apartment block in Vietnam's capital Hanoi has killed 56 people, among them children, and injured 37, police said on Wednesday. The fire broke out during the night in a nine-story building, home to about 150 residents, according to the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA), which said the blaze was contained by 2 a.m. (1900 GMT). Television images showed firefighters equipped with hoses and ladders at the scene by night, while a column of thick, dark smoke billowed from the building by day.

North Korea fires two ballistic missiles with leader Kim away in Russia

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea fired two ballistic missiles off its east coast, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Japanese Coast Guard said on Wednesday, just hours before leader Kim Jong Un was expected to meet President Vladimir Putin in Russia. It was the first such launch to occur while Kim was abroad for a rare trip, analysts said.

No details on the size or range of the missiles were immediately available. But about five minutes after the first launch warning, Japan's Coast Guard reported the missile had fallen

into the sea. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsumo told reporters that Japan had lodged a protest against North Korea through diplomatic channels in Beijing.

Both missiles fell in the sea outside Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), he added.

The nuclear-armed North has conducted regular launches of everything from short-range and cruise missiles to massive intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that can strike the continental United States.



Demonstrators protest at a picket line outside of St Thomas' Hospital as junior doctors strike over pay and conditions, in London, Britain.

NATO member Romania finds more suspected drone fragments near its border with Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
BUCHAREST: NATO member Romania found what appear to be new drone fragments near its border with war-torn Ukraine on Wednesday, in the third such finding in the past week, the Ministry of National Defense said.

Two helicopters from the Romanian Air Force were deployed with specialist teams to Nufaru and Victoria in the eastern Tulcea county where "fragments that could have come from a drone" are spread over an area of "several tens of meters," the ministry said in a statement.

It said in a separate statement that it has no-

tified the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations about areas near the border that could be at risk of incidents as Russian forces attack Ukraine's Danube River ports across the river from Romania.

Emergency authorities have received phone calls "about possible cases of drone impacts" between three localities, including Nufaru, the ministry said. An investigation will be carried out after samples are collected and examined by experts, it said.

Wednesday's findings are the third such discovery on Romanian soil since last Thursday.

PM directs to reconstruct, improve GB's communication infrastructure

HUNZA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to formulate a strategy to reconstruct and improve the communication infrastructure of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with socio-political leaders of Hunza and visit to Hunar Kohn project of Karakorum Area Development Organization (KADO), assured for early resolution of electricity-related issues faced by the region.

The delegation apprised the prime minister of the issues pertaining to demand and supply of electricity in Hunza, allocation of additional seats for

Hunza in the GB Assembly in proportion to the population and other matters.

The prime minister instructed for formulation of a strategy for generation of electricity in coordination with the power sector.

The GB's political leadership briefed the prime minister about the challenges confronting the tourism sector of the region.

They requested the prime minister to order establishment of aerial connectivity with different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan.

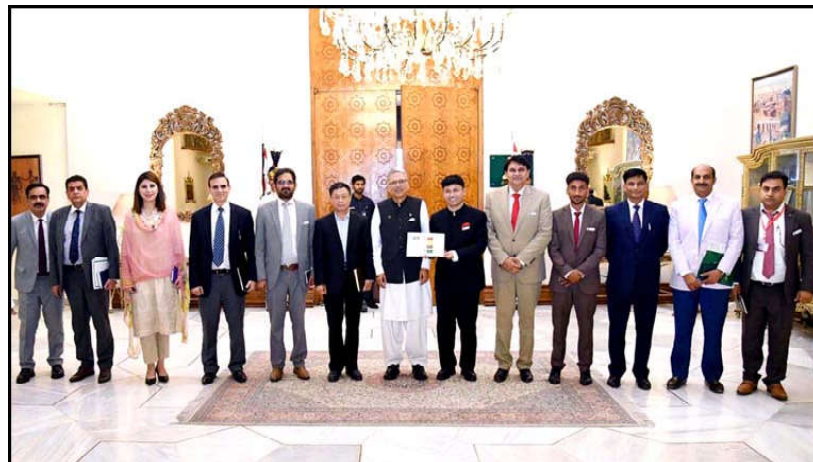
Prime Minister Kakar directed the GB chief secretary to utilise all-out resources for early resolution of the issues.

The prime minister also visited the digital hub at KADO's Hunar Kohn project and rehabilitation center for the special persons.

He lauded the KADO's services for the welfare of local population.

Prime Minister Kakar, while interacting with the freelancer students of Hunar Kohn project, said the passion of GB youth for development was appreciable.

Former GB Governor Mir Ghazanfar Ali Khan, ex-member of GB Assembly Rani Attiq, members of GB Assembly Col. (Retd) Ubaidullah Baig and Dilshad Bano, and other socio-political leaders attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Tang Chinese International Education and Technology (Pvt) Ltd led by Mr. Song Jianying, which called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

CNS highlights importance of maritime security under prevailing threats

Pakistan Navy's offshore patrol vessel launching ceremony held in Romania

ROMANIA (INP): Launching Ceremony of state-of-the-art Offshore Patrol Vessel, PNS HUNAIN (Desig) being built for Pakistan Navy was held in Romania.

On the occasion as the chief guest, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi highlighted the importance of maritime security under the prevailing conventional and non-conventional maritime threats to energy and trade highways passing through Indian Ocean Region.

He expressed his confidence that induction of these multipurpose and highly adaptive platforms will further strengthen combat capability of Pakistan Navy Fleet in safeguarding maritime frontiers.

APP adds: The launching ceremony of the most modern offshore patrol vessel, Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN (Desig), being built for Pakistan Navy was held at M/s DAMEN Shipyard Galati, Romania, on Wednesday.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was the chief guest at the ceremony, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Naval Chief highlighted the importance of maritime security under the prevailing conventional and non-conventional maritime threats to energy and trade highways passing through the Indian Ocean Region.

In this context, he underscored that the Pakistan Navy had tremendous contribution in successfully providing a secure sea environment for maritime trade since 2004.

Kashmiris to stage anti India demo during Modi's address to UNGA: Sultan

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri diaspora community would hold an anti-India protest demonstration in front of the UN office in New York on September 26 when Indian premier Narendra Modi will be addressing the UN General Assembly.

The anti-India protest, he said, would be attended and addressed by the representatives of the Kashmiri expatriate community hailing from different parts of the world.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Barrister Sultan said that the protest demonstration being staged in front of the UN General



Ambassador of Ethiopia Jamal Bakar Abdullah meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori in Islamabad.

Haris pays surprise visit to Central Jail

KARACHI: The caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brig. @ Haris Nawaz paid a surprise visit to Central Jail Karachi where he reviewed the facilities being provided to the prisoners.



He inspected the barracks of male and female inmates and appraised himself about their problems; and inquired about the behavior of the jail staff toward prisoners. He also inspected the prison kitchen and checked the standard of meals and list of daily menu being served to the prisoners.

The minister also visited different sections of the prison including the hospital, vocational training centre and art gallery. "Prisoners are also human beings, they should get basic facilities; social reforms would translate to a reduction in the number of inmates", he observed.

No alliance with PPP likely in next elections, says Rana Sanaullah

LAHORE (INP): PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday vehemently denied any possibility of alliance with the People's Party in next elections.

"There can be seat adjustment with the PPP on a limited level but there are minimal chances of even such electoral adjustment," Rana Sanaullah said.

"The PPP's criticism on the PML-N suit them and they have right to do so," PML-N leader said.

Replying a question, Sanaullah said that as a political party, the PTI has right to do politics and they are entitled of it. "The PTI should keep the elements responsible for May 09 incidents, at distance from it," he was opined.

He said the PML-N will decide about alliance with any party after general elections.



KARACHI: Members of Peoples Labour Union (DMC East) are holding protest demonstration against non-payment dues salaries, outside DMC East Office in Karachi.

CAA approves construction of New ATC tower at Karachi airport

KARACHI (INP): In a significant development, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Wednesday decided to construct a 'state-of-the-art' air traffic control (ATC) tower at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi.

During a board meeting convened in Karachi, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) approved crucial decisions geared towards improving airport infrastructure and safety measures.

The authority has decided to construct a world-class Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower and a Rescue Fire Fighting (RFF) complex at Jinnah International Airport.

Sources indicated that the current ATC tower, which has been in service for a remarkable 91 years, faces height limitations and is no longer considered adequate for modern aviation needs.

The approval for a new, modern ATC tower is expected to not only address these limitations but also significantly improve visibility and flight safety, meanwhile, the project is expected to complete in a year.

Furthermore, the decision to establish a RFF complex is aimed at boost fire safety measures at Karachi airport.



MULTAN: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses during public gathering meeting held at Muzaffargarh area in Multan.

Minister seeks media role to counter negative agenda of hostile elements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneque Ahmad on Wednesday urged the media and religious scholars to play their due role in countering the negative agenda of hostile elements poised to disrupt peace in the country.

Anti-state elements are trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere of this country through different tactics, he said while talking to PTV.

He said the government was organizing the conferences in major cities to promote interfaith harmony, peace, and tolerance, he said.

The Hindu, Sikh, Christian, and Muslim communities are participating in these conferences to spread the message of peace, tolerance, and harmony among the masses, he remarked.

Commenting on the Jaranwala tragedy, he said, the state was responsible for protecting the life and property of every citizen. He said the print and electronic media should come forward to create awareness among youth for the bright future of Pakistan.

Caretaker PM will attend General Assembly meeting, Munir Akram

WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan Ambassador to US Munir Akram said that Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar is coming to attend General Assembly meeting.

He told that caretaker PM visit to US will be very busy. PM will participate in 5 summit meetings.

In a statement Munir Akram said that how will delegation from Occupied Kashmir come? They have been locked up. The people of Occupied Kashmir will be represented by delegation of Azad Kashmir.

He said that wherever international meetings are held, if Pakistan does not participate then it is not right. Whoever is PM or Foreign Minister he represents Pakistan.

Pakistan Ambassador to US Munir Akram said that Pakistan representation in annual General Assembly session is essential.

Munir Akram also said that whoever is PM, he will promote Pakistan's interest in General Assembly session.

Air Chief vows to enhance Pak-Azerbaijan inter-military ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu has reaffirmed his steadfast determination to further enhance the existing inter-military cooperation with Azerbaijan particularly in the fields of training and defence aviation.

He expressed the resolve while talking to Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov in Islamabad on Wednesday.

On this occasion, he offered full cooperation for comprehensive training programs in order to strengthen their technical skills and foster greater interoperability between the two air forces.

In the backdrop of upcoming major air exercise being held at Air Power Centre of Excellence, the Air Chief emphasized the pivotal role of joint aerial drills between the respective air forces to foster mutual learning and effectively



address common security challenges. In his remarks, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan expressed admiration for PAF's notable achievements in nurturing a vibrant and progressive domestic aviation industry.

Journalist shot dead, protest held against murder

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Armed motorcyclists gunned down a journalist and injured three others in Madina Market of Muridke district Sheikhupura on Wednesday.

Police said that two armed motorcyclists sprayed bullets at journalist Amanat Ali Chouhan killed him on the spot and injuring three others.

Heavy contingent of police headed by District Police Officers (DPO) reached the scene and collected evidences from the crime scene.

The body and injured were moved to hospital for medico-legal formalities where the injured were referred to Lahore.

Calls for urgent measures SHRC alarmed over non-recovery of Kashmiri abductees

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Human Rights Commission has raised alarm over the non-recovery of remaining abductees from District Kashmir-Kandhot and has written letter to Inspector General of Sindh Police Riffat Mukhtar and Home Department Sindh for urgent intervention to ensure recovery of abductees and maintenance of law and order in the district.

Sindh Human Rights Commission sent a fact-finding mission to district Kashmir-Kandhot to observe the protest organized by Hindu community and the civil society, and assess the human rights violations in the district.

The fact-finding mission was led by Member Board Sukhdev Assardas Hemnani and comprised SHRC team. Upon assessment, the mission found growing mistrust of the public against local police with respect to transparency of police operations, lack of registered cases, discrepancies in the number of abductees and overall police cooperation.

In its letter to IGP Sindh and Home Department, SHRC has drawn the attention of authorities towards the issue of underreported abductions and towards reports of delay in handing over of one the abductees, Mr. Sagar Kumar who is claimed to have been recovered by the police as conveyed to the community and the family.

The Commission has urged authorities to take immediate and comprehensive action to investigate abductions, facilitate the safe return of all remaining abductees and address the systemic hurdles hindering the reporting and resolution of the cases.

Religious scholar shot dead in Karachi

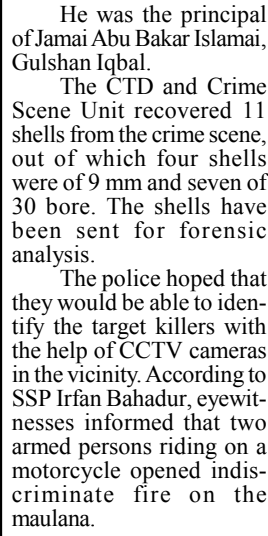
KARACHI (INP): A religious scholar has been assassinated in the Gulistan Johar area of Karachi, on Wednesday.

According to police, some unknown armed persons riding a motorcycle opened fire on Maulana Ziaur Rehman who was taking a stroll in the park near the FBR building in Gulistan Johar. He died instantly as a result of the indiscriminate fire.

He was the principal of Jama'at Abu Bakar Islamai, Gulshan Iqbal.

The CTD and Crime Scene Unit recovered 11 shells from the crime scene, out of which four shells were of 9 mm and seven of 30 bore. The shells have been sent for forensic analysis.

The police hoped that they would be able to identify the target killers with the help of CCTV cameras in the vicinity. According to SSP Irfan Bahadur, eyewitnesses informed that two armed persons riding on a motorcycle opened indiscriminate fire on the maulana.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy handing over the seized narcotics to ANF Officials.

Pakistan Navy seizes huge cache of narcotics at sea

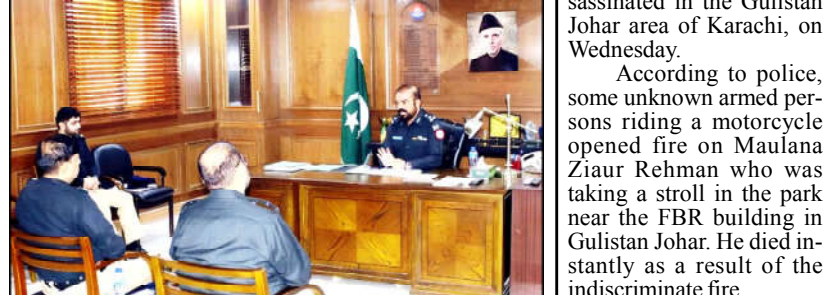
KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Navy in an intelligence-based counter-narcotics operation alongwith the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized approximately 782 kilogrammes (Kgs) of narcotics at the Arabian Sea on Wednesday.

The apprehended drugs were stowed in hidden compartments of a fishing boat that was successfully intercepted by a Pakistan Navy Ship, a news release said.

The estimated value of seized narcotics is US \$ 235 million in the international market.

The seized drugs were subsequently handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings.

The successful execution of the Anti-Narcotics Operation is a demonstration of the Pakistan Navy's resolve to deter, dissuade and disrupt all illegal activities in the maritime zones of Pakistan.



LARKANA: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Larkana Range, Javed Soinharo Jiskani presides over the meeting to maintain the Law & Order situation held at his office in Larkana.

KSrelief distributes 12000 food packages among flood affectees of KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSrelief) has initiated a project aimed at ensuring food security for the year 2023-24.

In collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), KSrelief has distributed 12,000 food packages to assist individuals affected by the floods residing in the Lower and Upper Chitral, as well as Dir districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

This package was a part of the second phase of the Food Security Support Project in Pakistan for the year 2023-24. During this second phase, KSrelief was also distributing 4,400 food packages to flood victims in Punjab's Muzaffargarh and Bahawalnagar districts, 5,000 Food packages in

Sajawal and Dadu districts of Sindh province, and 11,000 food packages in Kharan, Sahabatpur, and Washuk in Balochistan. In total, this initiative aims to benefit 226,800 people through the distribution of 32,400 food packages across Pakistan.

Each package weighed 95 kgs which contains 80kg of flour, cooking oil of 5 liters, 5kg of Sugar, 5kg of Daal Chana, which will be sufficient for a family throughout the month.

This project comes under the umbrella of humanitarian projects of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to assist needy families and achieving food security for the neediest groups of communities in Pakistan.