

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 268 Rabi-ul-Awwal 08, 1445 AH Monday September 25, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Elections will be held in year, army nothing to do with elections: PM

NEW YORK (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that the elections will be held in the new year itself, the army has nothing to do with the general elections.

General elections can be held without Chairman PTI and his jailed associates involved in illegal activities.

In an interview to the American news agency, Anwarul Haq Kakar said that fair elections can be held even without the chairman PTI and hundreds of workers of his party who are in jail for involvement in vandalism and illegal activities.

Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the elections will be held in the new year itself, while the military intervention in the elections is not true, the army has nothing to do with the general elections.

The Caretaker Prime Minister said that the Election Commission is responsible for conducting the voting while the current head of the Election Commission is appointed by the Chairman PTI, so why would he oppose him?

He also said that no personal vendetta is being taken from anyone, action will be taken according to law, be it Chairman PTI or any other politician wants supremacy of law.

Earlier, in an interview to American TVCNN, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the elections are sure to be held on time and those who influence the election will be dealt with according to the law.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a ceremony held in his honor at Radio Pakistan Broadcasting House.

Practice & Procedure Act in SC, deadline for parties to file arguments till today

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the case against the Practice & Procedure Act in the Supreme Court, the parties have been given time to submit their written arguments only till Monday.

Orders for written replies were issued by the full court bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa and the hearing was adjourned and now the hearing will be resumed by the full court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on October 3.

The hearing of the case will be broadcast live on TV.

It should be clear that according to the written order of the previous hearing of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act case, Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa said that there is challenge on pending of Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

The order said that the Chief Justice will consult with two senior judges for the formation of benches, allocation of cases.

It should also be noted that the Attorney General of Pakistan sought respite to go abroad and therefore the hearing of the case had to be adjourned. He will also appear in court and submit additional answer.

JUI-F says: Elections shouldn't be held in winter

LAHORE (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) Secretary General Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidari said everyone should be held accountable without any discrimination.

Talking to media on Sunday, the JUI-F leader said that elections should not be held in winter as it would be difficult for the people living in mountainous areas to cast votes in the harsh weather conditions.

"Each party in the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has its own manifestos. If Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) stages protests against anyone, we are not bound to join them," said Haidari.

SC orders to compile list of conflicting decisions of high courts

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ordered to compile lists of conflicting decisions of the High Courts.

The Registrar Office of the SC has issued an important circular in the matter of discrepancies in the judgments of the five high courts and the circular has asked to prepare lists of judgments based on discrepancies.

According to the circular, appeals against the decisions of the high courts are pending in the SC. A number of inconsistencies have been identified in the challenged decisions of the high courts.

Pakistan, GCC agree to further strengthening cooperation

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan and Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to forge a comprehensive partnership with renewed focus on promotion of bilateral trade and business relations. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and the GCC Secretary-General Jaseem Mohamed Albudaiwi on the sidelines of 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction on the progress made in the negotiations on Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement and reiterated the need for its early conclusion.

The Secretary General agreed to cooperate closely to conclude Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement at the earliest. The Foreign Minister highlighted that Pakistan desires to strengthen institutional linkages with GCC and its member states, in line with the Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue between the two sides.

He underscored that Pakistan would be ready to host a GCC Foreign Ministers' Conference in Islamabad as proposed during the 1st meeting of the Political Dialogue held in March this year. During the meeting, the regional and global issues of mutual interest also came under discussion. The Foreign Minister briefed the Secretary General on situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and atrocities committed by Indian forces against innocent civilians.



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan's Sikh community shout slogans during a protest outside press club, in Provincial Capital, to condemn the killing of a Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori presenting the shield to the caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Shamshad Akhtar at the Governor House.

All political parties should have freedom to contest elections: Solangi

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that all political parties should have full freedom to contest elections.

In his speech at Radio Pakistan Karachi, he said it was clear in the Constitution that the system of the country will be run by elected representatives. "State media should not support or oppose any political party," Murtaza Solangi said.

The minister issued directives to the official media to give fair coverage to the registered political parties. It was the responsibility of the caretaker government to provide a conducive environment for transparent elections.

Murtaza Solangi maintained. He said that the government was working for the betterment of Radio Pakistan and that its broadcast should be digital.

Murtaza Solangi said he would try to solve radio problems under legal and constitutional powers. He assured that he would use his available time for the solution of problems. The minister said that Radio Pakistan should meet the demands of the modern age and this was his dream.

Murtaza Solangi said that the board of Radio Pakistan would be reconstituted soon and he considered it his responsibility to improve the affairs of Radio Pakistan.

Israel ties depend on national, Palestinian interests: FM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's decision to recognise Israel will be determined by its national interests and those of Palestinians, according to Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, who also said he didn't meet his Israeli counterpart on the sidelines of UN General Assembly session in New York.

Jilani was responding to claims by the Israeli Foreign Minister that 6 or 7 Muslim countries would make peace with the Jewish State if Saudi Arabia-Israel deal goes through. Foreign Minister Eli Cohen told Israel's KAN News on Friday that up to seven more Muslim countries could make peace with Israel if the Jewish State signs a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to the outlet immediately following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech at the United Nations General Assembly.



Minister of National Defence Turkiye, Defence Minister of Pakistan Lt. Gen Amjad Khan Niazi in a group photo along with commissioning crew onboard newly commissioned PNS BABUR

Govt evolves plan to collect additional Rs 721 billion from electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under IMF condition, government has worked out planning to charge additional Rs 721 billion to electricity consumers during current fiscal year.

Sources said electricity tariff will be inflated by Rs 1.25 per unit till September under the head of quarterly adjustment. This way government will collect additional Rs 39 billion from consumers against quarterly adjustment for the month of September.

Cost of electricity will be scaled up by Rs 4.37 per unit from September to December under fuel adjustment head and this way government will recover additional Rs 122 from the consumers.

Rs 560 billion will be charged to consumers through electricity bills by raising cost of electricity Rs 5.75 per unit under the head of rebasing of power tariff. The additional amount will be utilized to mitigate circular debt of power sector.

Finance ministry sources said circular debt of power sector will be restricted to Rs 2130 billion by the end of current year. Circular debt of power sector had reached Rs 2700 billion till June 2023.

FIA arrests passenger for travelling on fake visa

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration on Sunday arrested a passenger who was trying to travel to Spain on a fake visa.

According to FIA spokesperson, Babar Iqbal was taken into custody by the FIA team from Multan International Airport.

The visa of the passenger was found forged during immigration clearance. The arrested passenger is a resident of Gujrat.

Parents appealed to vaccinate children against diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Sunday appealed to parents to get their children vaccinated against various deadly diseases. In a video message about immunization of children, the minister said that effective measures are being taken to ensure 100% immunization coverage.

He said that the ministry of Health is determined to ensure universal health coverage. Dr Nadeem Jan said, "Innocent children are our future and they need regular medical care particularly their safety against various diseases through regular vaccination."

Baqa orders release of irrigational water in Dhori Minor of Saifullah Canal

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar taking serious notice of the water shortage at Dhori Minor of Qubo subdivision of Saifullah Magasi Canal has directed the Irrigation dept to release water within 48 hours.

Concerned Irrigation Superintendent Engineer Amjad Jatoti submitted a report to the CM saying that the water shortage in the area of Dhori Minor said that it was a non-perennial Minor and carried water only in Rabi Season, however, some water was released for drinking purposes.

The report said that during the recent heavy rains abandoned water was released in Dhori Minor, therefore the growers of the area from RD-0-30 planted paddy crops.

The CM directed the concerned Superintendent Engineer to release water in Dhori Minor so that the standing paddy crop of the local growers of RD-0-30 may not turn pale. The CM directed the Irrigation dept to release water and report him.

Appreciation: The caretaker Chief minister appreciated the deputy Commissioner South Imtiaz Saryo-led operation against smuggled cloth and said the teamwork of Pakistan Customs, Rangers, and Police produced congenial results.

A joint team of Pakistan Customs, Rangers, and Police led by DC South conducted raids at Cloth Markets in District South and recovered smuggled cloth worth Rs250 million.

He hoped a similar teamwork would be demonstrated in operations against street criminals, drug mafia, and hoarders.



LAHORE: Mr. Khalil George, Federal Minister for Human Rights meets with Ch Shujaat Hussain at his residence in Gulberg.

Illegal immigrants should be deported as soon as possible: IGP

KARACHI (INP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar on Sunday directed top police officers to ensure the deportation of illegal immigrants as soon as possible.

This he directed at a meeting of top Sindh police officers held under his chairmanship at Central Police Office Karachi regarding law and order. Additional IG Karachi/Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rind delivered a point-to-point briefing on the ongoing policing measures in the city against illegal immigrants, smuggling, and prevention of street crimes. The IGP Sindh instructed officials at the meeting that the illegal immigrants should be deported as soon as possible and comprehensive recommendations should be prepared and sent to the Sindh government with overall measures regarding the illegal immigrants.

He said that the establishment of a joint task force consisting of FIA, Nadra, ANF, and police should also be made a part of the recommendations. The process of allocation of holding centers at different places should also be included in the recommendations regarding the deportation of illegal immigrants.

The IGP Sindh said that there is a declaration of war against street criminals, so the eradication of street criminals must be ensured in all circumstances. He urged the police to make a weekly progress report on the comprehensive performance of police against street crimes and he would take this report himself.

He said that strict supervision and monitoring of transportation from border areas should be ensured, adding that smuggling through those areas should be stopped in all circumstances by developing.



SHEIKHPURA: A view collision between Mianwali Express with goods train near Killa Sattar Shah railway station.

We have to admit that our Afghan policy has failed: Mushad Hussain

ISLAMABAD (Online): Muslim League-N Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed has said that Pervez Musharraf went out in our own government but we were helpless. It has to be admitted that our Afghan policy has failed, he added.

He further said that general Faiz gave a briefing to the Parliament on the negotiations with the Taliban. We asked General Faiz about the guarantor and he said that the guarantor is the Afghan Taliban.

Talking to private TV, Mushahid Hussain Syed said that General Faiz had a long and wide plan regarding the Taliban. His plan was to bring the Taliban into the mainstream to bring peace. It was all based on wishes and happiness. He said that the government of one and a half years has damaged the PML-N. Chairman PTI took the narrative that was ours.

There was only one achievement of the PDM government. The PDM government made the chairman PTI a hero from zero. There is no other choice but election, Mushad Hussain said.

The new Chief Justice is a breath of fresh air. Political leaders cannot be removed by the force of a stick.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

World Cup squad

The stress was on continuity — trusting and backing players who had been with the team — as Pakistan's squad for the World Cup was named on Friday. One change came due to Naseem Shah's injury, depriving Pakistan of a chance to play their fearsome pace trident comprising the young fast bowler, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf at the tournament in India. Hasan Ali, who last played a One-Day International for Pakistan in June 2022, has been drafted in place of Naseem with chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq crediting his ability to bowl with both the new and old ball as the reason for his inclusion. Hasan will have his work cut out for him as a replacement for Naseem, who not only took wickets but was also Pakistan's most economical bowler at the recent Asia Cup. There are no major surprises otherwise, with Pakistan's think tank opting to retain spin-bowling all-rounders Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz, despite their struggle to make an impact at the Asia Cup, where the challenge from Babar Azam's charges ended at the Super Four stage. Inzamam, a member of the squad that won the ODI World Cup in 1992, said he hoped the duo would do well but didn't specify how. Similar is the case of opener Fakhar Zaman, who will go to India, despite a poor performance at the Asia Cup.

For the World Cup campaign, Pakistan are hoping that things fall in place. It wasn't like this, though, before the Asia Cup, where Pakistan went in as the world's top-ranked ODI side. A thrashing at the hands of India and the narrow loss to Sri Lanka were the reality check the team needed. Pakistan have a history of going to tournaments with doubts hanging over their heads, only to overcome the odds and shine their way through. It is, therefore likely that they will overcome Naseem's injury as well as form issues to do that again.

Lavish diplomacy



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Earlier this month, India hosted, with gaudy fanfare, the 18th meeting of the G20. The outcome was an 83-paragraph declaration, which called for green development and inclusive growth, but broke no new ground. The declaration deplored the aggression against Ukraine but did not name Russia. Ukraine was irritated. However, it was not the substance but the optics and pomp and show that appeared to have been the host's top priority. India used the occasion to build its global stature, project itself as a leader of the Global South, and deepen inroads into the Muslim world.

By hosting the G20 summit, and, earlier, the SCO meetings, and playing an active role in expanding BRICS, India wants to send a message that a country, which is the world's most populous, with the fifth largest economy and a large democracy (Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindutva policies notwithstanding), should be a permanent member of the UN Security Council, an objective India has pursued for many decades in cooperation with Brazil, Germany and Japan.

This diplomatic extravaganza has, however, not been without its encumbrances. In order to showcase a 'shining' India, shanty neighbourhoods were hurriedly erased, displacing thousands of Indians. The initiative to host a preparatory G20 meeting, related to tourism, in occupied Kashmir also backfired as several G20 countries declined to participate

due to Kashmir's disputed status. More notably, Xi Jinping chose to stay away from the summit, the first time a Chinese president has done so. This reflects the tensions that still persist between India and China, and the latter's growing discomfort with forums dominated by the US.

India is struggling to balance its strategic partnership with the US with its cooperation with Russia and China. As for India's claim to a permanent seat at the UNSC, the opposition of a group of several important countries called 'Uniting for Consensus', as well as the African group, is likely to remain the main stumbling block.

The theme India chose for the summit 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' seems to have been designed to appeal to the developing world. India also tried to present itself as a voice of the Global South by proposing to invite the African Union to be a permanent G20 member. During the summit, India liaised closely with Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa — some of the leading lights of the Global South.

Interestingly, the most noted outcome of the event was an initiative that was not part of the summit's agenda or its declaration but a separate MOU signed on the sidelines, outlining a plan to create an India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Announcing the initiative, PM Modi was flanked by the US president and Saudi crown prince and other heads of state. The corridor is intended to enhance trade connectivity and economic integration by linking railways, ports, electricity and data networks.

The idea of a possible economic corridor between India and Europe through the Middle East was first floated in 2021 by Spanish scholar Michael

Tanchum, who wrote a paper titled India's Arab-Mediterranean Corridor: A Paradigm Shift in Strategic Connectivity to Europe. Last February, the UAE president is reported to have suggested this concept to the US president. The US lent its full support to the idea to counter-balance China's Belt & Road Initiative, enable India to make inroads into the Middle East, and facilitate Arab-Israeli normalisation.

Details of the initiative are still unclear. A map floated by the UAE (which erroneously shows the disputed territory of Jammu & Kashmir as part of India) indicates a route from Mumbai to Dubai, then over the Saudi and Jordanian landmass to the Israeli port of Haifa, and then through the Mediterranean Sea to the Greek port of Piraeus. This is a cumbersome multimodal route, easier envisaged than implemented. China has reacted cautiously. It knows that the IMEC can hardly challenge the BRI, which has already connected 155 countries. It is worth recalling that the earlier US-led initiatives of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and the Build Back Better World had also failed to take off. Turkey, too, expressed its reservations regarding the IMEC and backed an alternative route connecting the Gulf to Turkey through Iraq.

India's attempt to use the G-20 event for self-aggrandizement seems to have run into further problems as Canada has officially called it out for arranging, through its state agents, the murder of a Canadian Sikh inside Canada. It is time India's leadership recognises there are limits to hubris and it cannot stand tall by indulging in acute discrimination against non-Hindu minorities at home and violating all norms of international law abroad. - Courtesy Dawn

Wilting in the wilderness



Ghazi Salahuddin

Oh, to be young. Poets, writers and philosophers have celebrated this magical phase in one's life. A young person, anywhere and in any surroundings, would personify hope and adventure. But what does it mean to be young in Pakistan in the present times? This is the question I have frequently posed to any group of young people that I get the opportunity to interact with. That also means that I have taken up this subject on previous occasions. And I have to say it again that every encounter I have had with the young, particularly those who come from the supposedly educated middle class, has pushed me down in the dumps.

By way of a disclaimer, I must confess that I have been a proclaimed pessimist for many years and my disillusionment with the youth of Pakistan may have deepened because of my loss of hope in the future of this society. Anyhow, the propensity of the young to seek their future not in this but in some foreign country is increasing at such a pace that I find my pessimistic outlook resoundingly vindicated.

This, to be sure, is a general observation not deserving of specific and exclusive attention. However, I have noticed a number of news items this week that somehow relate to the young. I feel that it is important to probe their relevance to the evolving situation in this country. These are matters that would affect the lives of the young.

Where do I begin? The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) released,

on Tuesday, the latest statistics that showed that more than 21 million voters have been added to the electoral rolls since the last general elections. There should be no surprise in this because the youth bulge is a reality, but the issue is whether the new young voters can have an impact on the country's politics.

It is to be noted that the gender gap among voters has reduced with the addition of 11.74 million women voters compared to 9.28 million male voters. The overall gender gap, however, is still there. Given the low voter turnout in our elections, there is little expectation that the young voters will really make a difference.

When we talk about young voters, young women do not readily come to our mind. In a larger context, we see women on the campuses and in some workplaces. But we do not see them walking in the streets, breathing fresh air in open spaces and generally making their presence felt. Young women live a suppressed life, with consequences also in a moral sense. After all, the young have their passions and suppression is sure to bring up mental health issues.

Very briefly, I have to share my understanding of the young being largely removed from the realities of the national state of affairs. They have been depoliticized. Despite the wave that rose on social media, the impression that Imran Khan was able to mobilize the youth was not certified by the long marches and 'jail bhari' stratagems. Besides, many supporters may have been disheartened after the setback suffered by the PTI.

Without interpreting its sociological allusions, I will mention the report that with the death of a wounded robbery victim in Karachi on Wednesday, the number of people killed by the street criminals dur-

ing this yet unfinished year has reached 100. Consider the fact that this century was scored in only the city of Karachi and only in the arena of street crime. I had read somewhere that when a society is destabilized, the young have three options: political activism, drugs and crime. There is very little evidence of the young raising the banner of a revolution, though inflation and unemployment and lack of social justice have apparently set the stage for this option. Crime, we can see, is rising. So is drug addiction. A family we were friends with has emigrated solely because of their knowledge of how drugs are spreading in elite educational institutions, and they have a teenage son. We have also been told, almost as a matter of routine, that a certain percentage of children under five are stunted because of lack of adequate nourishment. This was so a number of years ago. This is so now. This percentage has stayed around 40. Isn't this a scary thought that these stunted children, with also cognitive deficiencies, grow up? What do they do? Where do they go? It would be destructive to study the faces that constitute a mob in a bazaar. In an overpopulated country, their number is bound to be in the millions.

My lament is that the young who are technically well educated and visibly well fed also seem to be wandering in some kind of a wilderness. Exceptions aside, you may encounter the likes of them on any campus of a public university. By the way, the teachers of the University of Karachi began their boycott of classes from Friday. The concerns they have may be genuine, but I wonder what nearly 40,000 students and hundreds of teachers will do when there are no classes. Will they find time to, say, read a book? -- Courtesy TheNews

Commerce News

CM Naqvi says: Punjab endeavouring to benefit from Chinese technology, expertise

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that Punjab would harness technology and expertise from China across all sectors.

Interacting with media outside the Hazrat Mian Mir shrine, Naqvi emphasised that during his visit to China along with a 15-member delegation comprising provincial ministers and high-ranking

officials the discussions centered only on technology.

The CM said they planned to utilise Chinese technology and expertise in the various fields, adding that they also secured cooperation from the Chinese team to combat smog.

In reply to a query, Naqvi said, "A strict crackdown is ongoing against hoarding, and daily actions are being taken.

However, people are still not returning to the markets."

Earlier, the caretaker CM attended a ceremony held to mark the beginning of the 400th Urs celebrations of the saint Hazrat Mian Mir, and laid a wreath at the shrine.

He also laid a foundation stone for a 'langar khana' (free kitchen) to be established with the cooperation of the Medina Foundation.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi talking with media persons at Sufi Saint Hazrat Mian Mir Shrine, during annual URS Sufi Saint Hazrat Mian Mir, in Provincial Capital.

'Pakistan has always exposed India's war crimes in occupied Kashmir'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has thanked the United Nations agencies and the Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar for strongly highlighting the atrocities of Indian soldiers on innocent Kashmiris in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Kashmir dispute in the United Nations General Assembly and at the international level.

APHC-AJK Information Secretary Imtiaz Wani in a statement issued in Islamabad, said Pakistan has always exposed the war

Pink eye cases surge in Lahore: 85 new infections reported

LAHORE (APP): The provincial metropolis is currently grappling with a significant rise in cases of Pink Eye during the ongoing rainy season.

The health department officials reported 85 new cases of conjunctivitis, commonly known as Pink Eye, within the past 24 hours.

People afflicted with this infection are finding it difficult to venture outdoors due to the adverse effects of sunlight and dust on their eyes.

Noted eye surgeon, Dr. Intzar Hussain Butt, shared his recommendations with the APP, urging affected individuals to use prescribed eye drops, cold water, and tissues for eye cleansing.

Dr. Butt explained that conjunctivitis is an inflammation or infection of the transparent membrane, known as the conjunctiva, which lines the eyelid and covers the eyeball.

He emphasized the importance of avoiding physical contact with infected individuals and refraining from sharing personal items such as handkerchiefs, pillows, and makeup.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Ghamkol Sharif Kohat led by Pir Syed Junaid Shah meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Ningxia, Punjab govts signs two sister cities agreements

LAHORE (INP): Ningxia province, China and Governments of Punjab have signed two agreements during visit of Punjab's caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi to China.

These agreements established Sahiwal & Wuzhong, as well as Bahawalpur & Zhang Wei, as sister cities.

The signing ceremony took place in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia province, with Minister for Industry and Agriculture SM Tanvir representing the Punjab government, according to Gwadar Pro. The ceremony was attended by provincial ministers Azfar Ali Nasir and Ibrahim Hasan Murad, as well as Secretary Finance Mujahid Sherdil, alongside senior officials from Ningxia. These agreements are aimed at fostering strong

Weather turns pleasant in parts of Punjab after light rain

LAHORE (INP): The weather turned pleasant in several cities of Punjab including Lahore as light rain lashed in parts of the province.

Lahore was under dark clouds since morning and metropolitan also witnessed drizzle in many areas including Abbott Road, Shimla Pahari, Garhi Shahu and Mall Road.

The rain also lashed in Faisalabad, Chiniot, Sahiwal, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Okara and Patoki. The weather also turned pleasant in Bhowana, Sharaqpur and Lalian after light rain.

The low-laying areas were inundated while electricity remained suspended in many areas due to the tripping of several feeders.

KP Caretaker Minister pledges development for merged districts

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Minister Syed Aamir Abdullah Pledges Development for Merged Districts. The caretaker minister for Industry and Commerce, Tribal Affairs, and Technical Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Aamir Abdullah, has affirmed the government's commitment to utilizing all available resources for the development of merged districts. He expressed the goal of bringing these regions to the same level of development as other districts within the province. Syed Amir Abdullah highlighted that the caretaker provincial government, led by Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan, is diligently pursuing federal funding for the merged districts. He expressed optimism about the prospects of receiving positive news in this regard.

These statements were made by the Provincial Minister during his address to the District Jirga in Kalaya, Orakzai district, where he also received a briefing from the Deputy Commissioner on the district's development and law and order. Minister Abdullah commended the district government's efforts to enhance the welfare of the local population and stressed the importance of providing maximum facilities in alignment with the government's vision for the merged districts.

During the visit, the provincial minister assured Orakzai district leaders of his intent to facilitate proper training for local residents.



Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah visiting different stalls during the 2nd Gilgit-Baltistan Career Fest 2023.

'Newspaper Readership Day' In an age of rapid information dissemination, newspapers continue to hold special place

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: On 'National Newspapers Readership Day', we celebrate the value of printed news in our lives.

In a world increasingly driven by digital media, this day serves as a reminder of the irreplaceable role newspapers play in shaping our society. In an age of rapid

information dissemination, newspapers continue to hold a special place. They provide credible information in an ocean of misinformation. With seasoned journalists and editorial standards, newspapers are an example of truth and accountability. 'National Newspapers

Readership Day' observed every year on 25th September is an opportunity to salute the editors, reporters, photographers, and countless others who work tirelessly to deliver the news to our doorstep every day.

Print media serve as a platform for dialogue, debate, and the exchange of ideas,

nurturing a sense of national identity. Today, I would like to address the vital role of a free press in upholding the principles of democracy, particularly in the context of free and fair elections.

As the Minister of Information, it is imperative to emphasize the significance of an independent and responsible media in ensuring the integrity of our electoral processes. In a democratic society, free and fair elections are the cornerstone of a vibrant and accountable government.

They provide citizens with the opportunity to voice their preferences and choose their leaders.



NATIONAL NEWSPAPER READERSHIP DAY



M E S S A G E S



Dr. Arif Alvi
President Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I extend my sincere congratulations to all newspaper readers and the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on the occasion of National Newspaper Readership Day. Reading newspapers has a greater educative value as they provide us knowledge and information about the social, economic, and political issues as well as sports, culture and entertainment. They educate the readers about the developments taking place in the national and international arena and broaden the mental horizon of the readers. Besides, newspapers play important role in shaping public opinion and influencing and guiding the decision-makers by providing their input and insight.

It is an established fact that newspapers are effective means of communication and can change perceptions and opinions of the society. So, they should play their role in reformation of society by bringing positive changes and behavioral improvement. The world is facing multiple economic and social challenges, including health issues and the scourge of fake news. In order to address these challenges, newspapers need to educate the readers and raise awareness among them about the social issues such as the growing population, women's rights of inheritance and their socio-economic empowerment, apart from guiding the people about breast cancer and mental health and disability issues. Additionally, the society is facing the dilemma of moral and ethical degradation and it is the responsibility of all means of communication to promote good values, tolerance, mutual respect, brotherhood and unity among the people.

In today's world, fake news is the greatest challenge being faced by the world and it requires the collective efforts of all segments of the society, including media, scholars, writers and religious leaders to discourage the menace of fake news. Furthermore, the journalistic ethics demands to avoid biased reporting and publish news stories with truthfulness, accuracy and impartiality. We must preserve this important source of information that keeps us informed about the important events and developments taking place across the globe.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) for their commitment to celebrating National Newspaper Readership Day. I am confident that this initiative will significantly contribute to nurturing the habit of reading among our people, empowering them with the knowledge and insight to make informed decisions for a better future.



Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar
Caretaker Prime Minister

Today, we celebrate the "National Newspaper Readership Day" to recognize the importance and the utility of reading newspapers as a reliable source of news and information. Newspapers have long been a cornerstone of democracy, which provides us with valuable information, diverse perspectives, and a platform for public discourse.

Despite the growth of electronic and digital media, newspapers still play a significant role in creating awareness and educating the people about various economic and social issues. Currently, the world is facing the challenge of fake news. The role of newspapers has become even more important to discourage the spread of fake news. By objective reporting and adhering to the principles of responsible, impartial, truthful, and accountable journalism, newspapers are the best tool to fight disinformation and fake news.

Newspapers also provide an in-depth analyses, investigative reporting, and thought-provoking opinion pieces that contribute to a reasonable understanding of the world around us. The news stories are filed after proper research that are once more filtered through a rigorous editorial check for accuracy before publication. This feature distinguishes newspapers and make the print medium more credible source of information.

On this special day, I would like to express my gratitude to all the journalists, editors, and newspaper staff who work tirelessly to bring us the news every day. Their dedication to the pursuit of truth and their commitment to upholding the principles of journalism are commendable.

I encourage my fellow citizens to support the newspaper industry through subscription to newspapers. Through this gesture, we would not only gain access to reliable sources of information but would also contribute to the sustainability of this important institution of our society.

I deeply appreciate the remarkable initiative of the All Pakistan Newspaper Society to celebrate 25 September as the National Newspaper Readership Day.



Murtaza Solangi
Caretaker Minister of Information & Broadcasting

I feel honoured to congratulate the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on declaring 25th September as the National Newspaper Readership Day which is certainly indicative of the priority that the industry accords to the newspaper readership. I am of the opinion that in the era of fake news and after the advent of social media, the newspaper readership has attained even more importance for authentic reporting. If put in comparison with other media of information, the print media still possesses unequivocal significance in terms of the veracity of information and news.

With the advent of social media, it was speculated that newspapers would become obsolete and redundant. However, with the dissemination of fake news and misinformation, newspapers became more important and relevant than ever because the print media is based on facts, and the newspapers still have the system of editorial control to check fake news.

In addition to fake news and the storming of social media, the electronic media, too, is scrambling for breaking news and complaints of providing and promoting fake news with little factuality. Therefore, I believe that the habit of newspaper reading should be instilled in our people once again. Taking recourse to history, the newspaper echoed the voice of our people that imbued the spirit of freedom and independence which eventually culminated in the establishment of Pakistan in 1947. Those newspapers were at the forefront to fight for our independence and helped to unite the nation towards the single aim of achieving our separate homeland. Today, I take pride in stating that our newspapers have grown and developed themselves over the years, and can stand any competition whatsoever, with any international newspapers across the globe.

On behalf of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, I appreciate the efforts of the APNS for observing the National Newspaper Readership Day in acquainting the nation with the significance of newspaper reading. There is no gaining saying that the newspapers are a source of reliable and authentic information in an era of massive proliferation of fake news and it is encouraging to see that the newspapers have upheld their authenticity, credibility, and reliability, despite the advent of digital media. Moreover, the newspapers also helped in effectively putting Pakistan's stance across the globe. Lastly, I reiterate the Government's resolve to promote freedom of expression and urge the print media fraternity to join hands with the Government to develop an educated and enlightened nation.



Mohsin Naqvi
Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab

Newspapers are the most authentic source of accurate information, and therefore have been, are, and will remain an important part of every society. The importance of newspapers in raising public awareness is unquestionable.

Newspapers have played a pivotal role in every society in promoting free democratic values. In the Pakistan Movement, newspapers played a crucial role in raising awareness among the people of the importance of a separate homeland.

In developed societies, newspapers are still printed and sold with great enthusiasm. The habit of reading newspapers has declined in the digital age, but it cannot be completely eradicated. Newspapers provide easy and affordable access to accurate and authentic information. Despite the rise of electronic and digital media, newspapers remain a great source of information for readers.

By reading newspapers, one can gain awareness of various economic and social issues. Reading newspapers also expands the reader's exposure to language and vocabulary.

Newspapers are the most authentic source of accurate information, therefore newspapers were, are and will remain an important part of every society. The importance of newspapers for raising public awareness is unquestionable. Newspapers have played an unforgettable role in every society for the promotion of free democratic values. In Pakistan movement, newspapers played an important role in raising awareness of the importance of a separate homeland among the people. In developed societies, newspapers are still being printed and sold with full gusto. The habit of newspaper reading, has diminished in the digital age, but it cannot be eradicated by any means. Newspapers provide easy and affordable access to accurate and authentic information. Despite electronic and digital media, newspapers are still a great source of information for readers. By studying newspapers one gets awareness of various economic and social issues. The reader's access to the language and vocabulary is also widened by reading newspapers.



Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar
Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) for celebrating National Newspaper Readership Day, highlighting the importance of newspaper readership in the country. National Newspaper Readership Day is an extremely relevant day to establish and promote the habit of reading in Pakistan. In this digital age and time, one cannot deny the importance of newspapers as they provide us with news with facts and information with sources. The Government of Sindh wholeheartedly supports the National Newspaper Readership Day and urges the entire nation to develop a habit of reading newspapers and checking facts before falling prey to fake news and rumors. Let's just join hands for this cause of combatting fake news. We should also instill the habit of reading newspapers in our children as well so that they grow up to become responsible and socially aware citizens of Pakistan. With this, I would like to once again appreciate the step taken by APNS and acknowledge their efforts for the said cause. Here's wishing to celebrate National Newspaper Readership Day for years and years to come.



Muhammad Azam Khan
Caretaker Chief Minister KP

It is a shatter of pleasure that the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has declared 25th September as "National Newspaper Readership Day"; and has been celebrating the day since 2019 for which it deserves appreciation.

The initiative will help highlight the importance of newspaper readership, and promote the habit of reading in the country which is, unfortunately, declining due to the mushroom growth of social and digital media. Social and digital media have changed the very dynamics of communication and dissemination of information, resulting in manipulated and out-of-context messages, news, and information, causing fears, conflicts, and controversies.

In view of the above facts, the relevance of Print Media can hardly be underestimated. The new media might have brought about revolution, but the Print Media still remains the most credible and authentic source of information when it comes to disseminating news and information. Promotion of reading habits among citizens will effectively, combat the challenges posed by the unchecked onslaught of fake news.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa firmly believes in the fundamental and constitutional right of freedom of the press and considers an independent and free media absolutely imperative for a developed and civilized society.

We also believe that without freedom of the press and ensuring people's right to know, our cherished goal of a strong and democratic Pakistan cannot be materialized.

I appreciate the initiative of the APNS, and I am confident that celebrating this day would encourage more and more people to opt for reading and have a shared understanding of issues of national importance.



Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki
Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan

We are living in a dynamic world, which is, at the pinnacle of the technological advancement where mobile phone has replaced number of things that used to be integral part of everyone's daily life.

In addition to affecting variety of other things, the latest technological innovations have caused a dramatic fall in newspaper readership, one of life's essential necessities.

It has become more challenging to distinguish between true, credible and factual reporting and misinformation falsehood with the introduction of new trends in digital media.

The rapid development of social media and technology, particularly widely available mobile phone technology, unfortunately, has led to a significant fall in newspaper readership.

The phoney and negligent social media platforms have filled the void left by the decline in newspaper readership and accurate reporting of events, wreaking havoc on society. The general public needed to be made acutely aware of the sensitive nature of the problems that were putting the entire society in danger.

The All Pakistan Newspapers Society deserves praise for picking up the reins and embarking on a protracted campaign to revive the once-common practise of newspaper reading.

I appreciate the efforts of APNS for the revival to the newspaper readership habits. However, it is our collective responsibility that we need to encourage and educate our people about developing reading habits as it contributes greatly towards the intellectual development of the nation.

I commend APNS for honouring "National Newspaper Readership Day" in order to educate the public about the value of reading newspapers on behalf of the Balochistan government. Newspapers are unquestionably a source of trustworthy and accurate information in a time when fake news is widely disseminated.

To mark the occasion, I call upon every segment of the society to contribute to APNS's noble cause and help spread the habit of reading newspapers.

Instead of relying on phoney and irresponsible news, let's turn to real, thoroughly researched, and well-informed content.

I sincerely hope that our serious attempts to revive newspaper reading habits would put an end to the fierce rivalry of false information and fake news.

Crucial Role of Newspapers in Combating Fake News & Upholding Democracy

Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan stands as a beacon of hope, guaranteeing fundamental freedoms that underpin a thriving democracy. It highlights the rights to freedom of speech, expression, and a free press, safeguarding these rights against reasonable restrictions imposed by the law. This provision constitutes the bedrock upon which the democratic edifice of Pakistan stands, allowing its citizens to be well-informed and active participants in the nation's growth.

Article 19-A of the constitution further strengthens the right to information. It affirms that every citizen shall have the right to access information on all matters of public importance, subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by the law. Together, these constitutional provisions underscore the critical role of newspapers and journalism in a democratic society.

The cornerstone of a robust and vibrant democracy lies in the unfettered freedom of expression and a free press. Independent newspapers with unwavering editorial policies and steadfast adherence to journalistic ethics play an indispensable role in strengthening the democratic fabric of any nation. The significance of newspapers has become even more prominent in the face of the recent proliferation of digital media platforms and social networking

sites, many of which grapple with issues of credibility, truthfulness, and relevance in the dissemination of news and information.

Newspapers, in particular, occupy a unique and irreplaceable space within a democratic system. They serve as catalysts for constructive debate, offering a platform for diverse segments of society to voice their opinions on matters of political, economic, religious, social, and other policy concerns. In a media landscape comprising television, radio, print, and online sources, newspapers have established themselves as paragons of accurate and robust reporting, independence, and accountability.

Intergraf, a prominent European printing industry association, underscores the democratic importance of printed newspapers within the European Union. Printed newspapers reach an estimated 30% of people in the EU-27, encompassing more than 130 million individuals. This outreach ensures the participation and informed decision-making of all citizens in public debates and elections, preserving their right to choose how they consume news and information.

In a democracy, principles such as the rule of law, citizens' rights, fair and free elections, and the protection of individual rights can only be upheld and safeguarded through a free press. Newspapers also serve as

educators for voters, providing them insights into politics, parties, politicians, and their policies so the citizens can make well-informed and well-thought decisions. This becomes even more important in view of our own general elections scheduled for January 2024.

Journalists employed by newspapers possess a formidable array of skills, including research acumen and critical thinking. The best journalists know which questions to ask, which leads to pursue, and how to rigorously fact-check their findings. Another pivotal role of a free press is to serve as a watchdog over governments and powerful institutions, exposing instances of corruption and violations of human rights a duty that is indispensable for the health of democracy.

The enduring confidence expressed by readers in the factual content of newspapers underscores their continued relevance, even in the digital age.

According to the Eurobarometer survey on fake news, newspapers remain a beacon of truth, serving as a vital counterbalance to the unchecked spread of misinformation on social media platforms.

Research conducted over the last four years by the European E-Read on the impact of digitization on reading practices, known as the Stavanger Declaration, suggests that detailed and research-based stories in newspapers offer superior benefits for comprehension,

concentration, and critical thinking compared to reading from screens. The transition from paper to digital is not neutral; comprehension and concentration are often stronger when reading from paper, particularly when time constraints apply.

Furthermore, a meta-study involving 54 studies with over



170,000 participants indicates that comprehension of long-form informational text is consistently more effective when read on paper than on screens. Reading newspapers, whether in print or digitally, has far-reaching effects beyond mere information consumption, including fostering mental focus, patience, discipline, enhancing linguistic knowledge, and contributing to personal well-being.

Newspapers, as the oldest mass communication medium, have the unparalleled ability to reach a wide audience, regard-

less of income or educational background. They have traditionally served as invaluable sources of information about local, regional, national, and international events. Beyond merely presenting facts, newspapers excel at interpreting and explaining complex issues, offering readers a nuanced understanding of various topics.

Newspapers also play a vital role in raising public awareness. They have been instrumental in educating the masses on health, commerce, education, social responsibilities, public safety laws, environmental concerns, hygiene, labor rights, disaster management, and civic issues. Newspapers have consistently defended citizens' rights, especially during times of military dictatorship or civilian government challenges.

Beyond their role in information dissemination, newspapers facilitate social activities, such as matrimonial and personal advertisements, becoming an indispensable part of daily life. Classified advertisements, community announcements, and communal notices constitute significant components of newspaper content. Features on sports, education, campus news, cultural events, music, dance, drama, literature, and fine arts enrich the reading experience, offering comprehensive insights into the happenings in the community.

Modern newspapers allocate

space for readers to voice their opinions through letters to the editor sections. This should be considered as the initial example of citizens journalism that allows readers to express their grievances or appreciation concerning reports or incidents within society. Additionally, newspapers inform readers about political activities, new laws, rules, and regulations that impact society.

For students, reading newspapers is particularly advantageous. It exposes them to a wide range of topics, enhances their oratory skills, and fosters active participation in speeches, debates, and conversations. Daily newspaper reading not only broadens students' understanding but also improves their vocabulary and familiarity with various writing styles and reporting techniques, which they may not find through social media news formats.

Given the pivotal role newspapers play in fostering an informed citizenry and preserving democratic values, it is imperative that the government extends its support to print industry by providing special grants, concession on printing paper and material, reasonable advertisements as compared to other communication media as it is the easiest, most accessible and less cost medium for creating awareness in the masses besides providing education, information and entertainment to the citizens.

UNGA Session

Caretaker PM vociferously spells out Pakistan's views on regional, global perspectives, generating wider

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has emphatically conveyed Pakistan's views on key regional and global issues, during his recently concluded five-day visit to New York, where he addressed the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, besides holding sidelines meetings with the world leaders. Contrary to the impression created by a section of media regarding the prime minister's visit, the successfully marked visit drew immense interest among the world leaders and governments

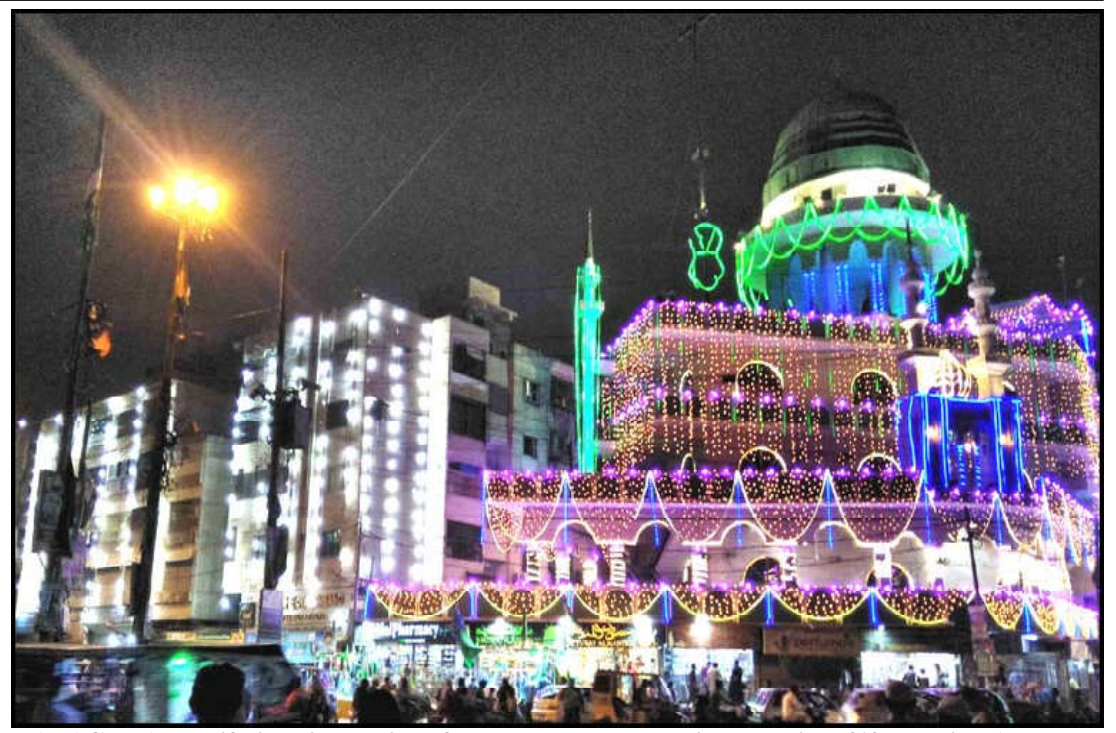
representatives who harken to the prime minister's forthright viewpoints which were broadly highlighted by the international media. The visit was also marked with prominence amidst Canadian prime minister announcing Indian state's role behind a gruesome murder of Khalistan Sikh leader in Canada.

In New York, PM Kakar told the world leaders about 'India's rogue behaviour' which vindicated Pakistan's persistent stance about alarming rise of extremists ruling saffron junta of RSS-inspired BJP whose religious fanatics are not only

hell bent upon persecuting the minorities in India, but also the growing Hindu supremacist trend poses an existential threat to the regional and global peace.

The prime minister's views were acknowledged by his diverse audience as the Western countries voiced their concerns over the Indian state sponsored murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh leader and Canadian citizen after the irrefutable evidences keep emerging. The prime minister mentioned Kashmir, Islamophobia, financial inequality, Covid triggered inflation, climate change, peace in Afghanistan,

UN role and reforms, and terrorism issues, in his address to the UNGA session. Being the first interim prime minister to represent Pakistan at the world body, Kakar held important discussions with Iranian President, UN Secretary General, Chinese Vice President, President of Uzbekistan and heads of different financial institutions on the sidelines of the UNGA 78. In a bilateral meeting with President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi, the caretaker prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthen and deepen ties with the brotherly country.



KARACHI: A beautiful illuminated view of Kanzul Emaan Mosque in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, the birthday anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) coming ahead, at Gurumandir area in Karachi.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi talks to a folk artist after a ceremony held in his honor at Radio Pakistan Broadcasting House.

Ashrafi earns global acclaim for addressing Kashmir, Palestine issues at Mauritania conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, addressing an international conference held in Mauritania, highlighted the issues of Kashmir and Palestine in a resounding manner the other day. Representing Pakistan wholeheartedly, he gained widespread praise for his concise and insightful thoughts from global leaders attending the conference, said a statement received here on Sunday.

The conference, attended by delegates from 65 Islamic countries, included the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani and Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa. Ashrafi highlighted that the issues of Palestine and Kashmir were concerns

for the Muslim Ummah (community), and unity was essential to resolve them.

He expressed faith in peaceful negotiations, stating that the Muslim Ummah valued dialogue but could not tolerate the desecration of its sacred scriptures. He pledged unwavering support for the oppressed Kashmiri and Palestinian brethren, vowing to raise their voices on every international platform. Ashrafi emphasized that the current challenges facing the Muslim Ummah could be resolved through negotiations, promoting dialogue between all religions and sects as a pathway to peace. He stressed that Pakistan was not alone in this struggle as the entire Islamic world stood by it.

He said Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia share Pakistan's stance on Kashmir. He further stated that Islam was a religion of peace and the unjust killing of innocent humans was unequivocally prohibited in Islamic law.

He highlighted the importance of upholding the sanctity of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him's life and the respect for all celestial books, prophets, and messengers.

He emphasized that the OIC, and United Nations (UN) should make earnest efforts fostering interfaith and inter-sect harmony to work collectively for global peace. In conclusion, Ashrafi urged the OIC and UN to take effective measures concerning these matters, ensuring the protection of sacred values and promoting interfaith and inter-sect harmony.



SUKKUR: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Ghanta Ghar Chowk in Sukkur.

Altaf Shakoor says: Whistleblower culture needed to fight corruption

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan needs a whistleblower culture to check the growing corruption and attacks of the economic hitmen of capitalists sitting in corridors of power in shape of so-called politicians, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday.

He said in the West, especially Europe, the governments encourage whistleblowers in every walk of life so that the insiders detect and warn about any corruption and wrongdoing before it causes too much harm.

He said the whistleblowers are fully protected under the law and they are even given a share from the money recovered from the corrupt mafias. He said in Pakistan economic hitmen of the capitalist have penetrated the government system and devalued the national economy. These economic hitmen

working in guise of politicians. These so-called politicians sadly have looted the national economy in the periods of all three main political parties: Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The shameful scandal of IPPs, their whooping profit margin and permission to them to send their fat profits outside the country in US dollars have shaken the whole nation.

He said no doubt the economic hitmen operating under the political cover of the PPP, PML-N and PTI are responsible for the IPPs scam and they should be fully unmasked and dealt as per law. He said it is heartening to know that some lawyers and activists are going to file a constitutional petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the IPPs mega scandal.

PPP, Senate once again face off secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani has refused to call the meeting on the second requisition of the People's Party because the People's Party did not succeed in completing the required 25 members for the meeting and the members of the other parties signed the requisition has now taken it back.

The PPP and the Senate Secretariat have come face to face again on the issue of convening the Senate meeting on the requisition of the People's Party because the requisition is not signed by the required members.

For this reason, the Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani is also reluctant to call the meeting.

On the other hand, the

position of the Senate Secretariat is that the members of other parties included in the re-submitted requisition have withdrawn, including Sadia Abbasi, Abida Azim, Hidayatullah, Muhammad Qasim and Omar Farooq.

He has withdrawn his name from the requisition.

The 21-member PPP does not have the required number to submit a requisition alone.

The signature of at least 25 members on the requisition is necessary for the Senate meeting.

In the first requisition that was submitted, it was also revealed that the signatures of some members were not certified in the requisition of Senator Shahadat Awan.

Number of Afghan citizens living in Pak reached 3.7 million

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan continues to be one of the largest refugee hosting countries in the world due to which the number of Afghan nationals living in the country has reached 3.7 million.

For more than 40 years, numerous illegal Afghan citizens have been trafficked in Pakistan.

According to the data of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees up to June 2023, the total number of Afghan citizens living in Pakistan is 3.7 lakh,

of which only 1.3 lakh 30 thousand are registered while 7 lakh 75 thousand are living without registration. Similarly, 68.8 percent of Afghans live in urban or semi-urban areas of Pakistan, while 31.2 percent live in 54 different areas. According to statistics up to June 2023, the total number of illegal Afghan citizens living in Pakistan is 4229,749, of which 71,358 (52.6 percent) are from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,21,677 (24.1 percent) from Balochistan, 1,91,53 (14.3 percent) in Punjab.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada take keen interest in a sculpture during visiting at Lahore Museum, in Provincial Capital.

Road named after Allama Iqbal in New York City's Queens borough

NEW YORK (Online): With Pakistan's Independence Day around the corner, a road in New York City's Queens borough has been named after Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the country's national poet who visualized and then worked for a separate homeland for Muslims of the sub-continent.

'Allama Iqbal Avenue' was inaugurated at a well-attended ceremony in Richmond Hill section of Queens, amid loud slogans of 'Pakistan Zinda Bad' by people waving the national flag. The event marked the culmination of intensive lobbying efforts over a long period by the Pakistani-American community members, with the leading role played by the American-Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG), a not-for-profit organization.

Pakistan's Ambassa-

dor to United States Masood Khan congratulated President American Pakistani Advocacy Group Ali Rashid for his leadership in having the avenue co-named as 'Allama Iqbal Avenue' in New York.

He also paid tribute to Ali Rashid for his resolute efforts to build better relations between Pakistan and the United States and creating greater awareness about the history and culture of Pakistan in the United States.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker of the New York City Council Adrienne Adams said as we approach Pakistan Independence Day, he is honored to celebrate the co-naming of 109th Street and 101st Avenue as 'Allama Iqbal Avenue'. He said Allama Iqbal's work and vision led to the creation of Pakistan as an independent country.



KARACHI: Members of Action Committee Land City are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

Pakistan Navy commissions first MILGEM Ship PNS BABUR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Navy has commissioned the first MILGEM Ship PNS BABUR at the commissioning ceremony held at Istanbul Naval Shipyard, Turkey. The event was graced by the Minister of National Defence Turkiye Yasar Guler and Defence Minister of Pakistan Lieutenant General Anwar Ali Hyder as chief guests flanked by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, a Pakistan Navy news release said on Sunday. Addressing on the occasion, Turkish Defence Minister termed the brotherly Pakistan-Turkiye relations as exemplary and acknowledged the potential for further collaboration in the field of defence production.

He lauded the efforts and remarkable work done by Istanbul Naval Shipyard and ASFAT (Turkish Firm).

He also thanked the Government of Pakistan and Pakistan Navy for exceptional support during the recent devastating earthquakes at Turkiye.

During his address, the Defence Minister of Pakistan admired the collaboration of the Ministry of Defence Production Pakistan, Ministry of National Defence of Turkiye, ASFAT and Pakistan Navy for the synergized efforts to make the project a success and congratulated all teams on the successful commissioning of 1st MILGEM Ship.

He added that the relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye is unique because of deep rooted historical ties between the two brotherly countries, hence cooperation shall continue in future as well. Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi underlined that PN MILGEM Ships fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors will play a key role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. He expressed his gratitude for enhanced collaboration in defence production especially in Mari-time domain between the two countries. The Admiral stated that in line with the government policies, Pakistan Navy has adopted indigenization of platforms and hence it is very satisfying to see modern warships being built in collaboration with brotherly country Turkiye.

PN MILGEM Class ships are the most technologically advanced and state-of-the-art surface platforms being constructed for Pakistan Navy.

The ships will be fitted with latest Command and Control Systems including modern weapons and sensors.

The contract for construction of four MILGEM Class ships for Pakistan was signed between Ministry of Defence Production, Pakistan and ASFAT in 2018. Under the project, two ships are under construction at Istanbul Naval Shipyard, while the other two are being constructed at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works.

October 21 won't be a good day, Faisal Vawda warns Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior politician Faisal Vawda while warning Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif that October 21 will not be a good day for him said that the country cannot progress unless 18 political leaders are punished.

Speaking in a private TV channel program, he said he is the one who will decide which party to join, emphasizing that no party will make that choice for him. Rejecting the rumors that he had sought governorship position, he said that there is misinformation circulating about him.

Vawda clarified that he is currently not affiliating with any political party and asserted that he will make his political decisions independently, based on his own understanding and assessment of the situation.

Expressing his views on the political landscape, he acknowledged interim Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar as a prominent figure and mentioned that current political developments are of a temporary nature, with the upcoming government expected to serve for a duration ranging from 12 to 17 months, primarily influenced by the wishes of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Terminating the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as homeopathic, he said that the previous elections were not transparent, and the next elections will not be transparent either.

The senior politician went on to say that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir and Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa are the hope for the country, adding that Pakistan shouldn't be disappointed with the Chief Justice. He also predicted that Arshad Sharif case will be reopened, adding that the real faces of some people will be exposed.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

Pakistan airspace fully covered with state of the art Radar system: CAA

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Airspace is fully covered with state of the art Radar system for the provision of Air Traffic Services to all Aircraft including transit, landing and taking off while operating through Pakistan, it started in a press release.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Spokesperson stated that all the equipment provided by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority are ground based equipment for which VOR (VHF Omnidirectional range) is a navigation aid (navaid) that provides azimuth information for high and low altitude routes and Airport approaches.

On the other hand another ground based equipment called ILS (Instrument landing system) which is a precision runway approach aid to provide Pilots with vertical and horizontal guidance during the landing, he stated.

As far as GPS (global positioning system) is concerned, it's a USA owned utility that provides users with positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) services. GPS is a network of satellites and currently 31 GPS Satellites are orbiting around the Earth providing users with accurate information on position, velocity and time, anywhere in the World.