

Independent

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ECP issues preliminary delimitation report in significant step towards polls

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued preliminary list of new delimitations ahead of general polls. The chief election commissioner (CEC) and ECP members approved the preliminary list of new delimitations under the 2023 digital census data.

After CEC's approval, the commission issued the initial list of the delimitations on its website.

Yesterday, the delimitation process of for the national and provincial assemblies entered its final phase and the ECP decided to approve initial delimitations.

For the National Assembly (NA), the voter quota for Punjab province was fixed at 905,595, 913,000 for Sindh, 907,913 for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 930,900 for Balochistan and 787,954 for Islamabad.

The voter quota for the Punjab Assembly will be 429,929, 428,431 for the Sindh Assembly, 355,270 for the KP Assembly and 292,047 for the Balochistan Assembly.



PM Kakar arrives in Madinah Munawwarah

CM Baqar reviews progress of flood rehabilitation projects

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice Maqbool Baqar while reviewing the progress of Sindh Flood Rehabilitation Projects has directed the P&D dept to expedite the ongoing works so that not only the restoration of damaged infrastructure could be restored but it would generate economic activities at a local level.

The meeting was attended by Chairman P&D Shakeel Mangnejo, PSCM Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatui, and

Secretary Planning Asghar Memon.

Chairman P&D Shakil Mangnejo through a presentation told the CM that the floods-2022 had submerged 70 percent of the province with water, therefore 24 districts out of 30 were declared calamity-hit areas. The floods killed 1090, injured 8,422, washed away standing crops over 3,777,272 acres, displaced 12.36 million people, damaged 2.1 million houses, perished 436,435 livestock, and damaged 8,463 km of roads.

7-day polio campaign aiming to vaccinate 10m children to begin in Sindh from October 2

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KARACHI: A meeting of the Provincial Task Force on Polio Eradication chaired by Sindh Chief Secretary Dr Muhammad Fakhre Alam was informed that more than 80,000 polio workers in the 30 districts will be part of this



vaccination drive. The meeting was attended by Home Secretary Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Saleem Rajput, Additional IG Karachi Khadim Rind, Coordinator Emergency Operations Center Sindh Arshad Ali Sodhar, and other relevant officials. All district commissioners and deputy commissioners also participated in the meeting via video link.

The meeting reviewed the overall situation of the poliovirus and its containment efforts. Coordinator Emergency Operations Center Sindh, Arshad Ali Sodhar, informed the meeting that no polio cases have been reported in Sindh for the past 3 years, which is a significant success, and maintaining this success is a significant challenge.

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

KANDHKOT (APP): Eight people, including five children, lost their lives while five others sustained injuries after a rocket launcher's shell exploded in a house in Sindh's Kandhkot district on Wednesday.

Kandhkot Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rohail Khoso said that the incident took place in a house in the Ghora Ghat of Kutcha (riverine) area.

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

The rescue personnel shifted the bodies and injured people to the hospital as soon as the incident was reported, said the law enforcement agency, adding that an investigation into the matter has been started.



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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that Pakistan was focusing on its own interests without choosing sides in the great power competition, and that the West was "over-obsessed" with efforts to contain China.

The prime minister, in an interview with Washington Post during his visit to New York to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly session published on Wednesday, said

Pakistan intended to stay "neutral" on Russia's war with Ukraine and saw China as its "all-weather friend" and "strategic partner."

"It's not a Cold War. There is no Iron Curtain here. It's not that opaque. Everybody sees what is happening," the prime minister said. He said that the West was "over-obsessed" with efforts to contain China.

He told the interviewer that Pakistan was

charting a path, designed to avoid getting caught up in the competition between the West and Russia and China. He said Pakistan had no intention of committing to either camp in the growing US-China rivalry.

By siding with the West against the Soviets and again after 9/11, Pakistan paid a high price, Kakar said. "Pakistan in the last 30 years, has been treated unfairly by the West," he told the interviewer. "Every nation for itself... Why should we be worried about this competition? It's between two great powers, two great civilizations, and the implications [affect] 150-plus countries. And Pakistan is just one of them," PM Kakar remarked. Mentioning Pakistan's "neutral" stance on Ukraine, the prime minister said: "This crisis is creating challenges and at the same time it is creating opportunities also within the region, and we are looking at it both ways."

President stresses exploring trade, cultural opportunities with Bangladesh

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

More than 100 dead, 150 injured in Iraq wedding inferno

IRAQ: More than 100 people were killed and 150 injured in a fire at a wedding party in Hamdaniya district in Iraq's Nineveh province that left civil defence searching the charred skeleton of a building for survivors into the early hours of Wednesday.

Nineveh Deputy Governor Hassan al-Allaq told Reuters that 113 people had been confirmed dead, with state media putting the death toll at at least 100, with 150 people injured.

The fire ripped through a large events hall in the north-eastern region after fireworks were lit during the celebration, local civil defence said, according to state media. "We saw the fire pulsating, coming out of the hall."

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

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

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

18 years who have served their one-third sentence will also get the benefit of remission. President Alvi approved the remission for prisoners in accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution, the President's Office said.

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

PM Kakar arrives in Madinah Munawwarah

MADINAH MUNAWWARAH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived here on Wednesday on his private visit to Saudi Arabia. Upon arrival, he was warmly received by Governor Madinah Faisal Bin Salman along with other senior officials of the Pakistani Embassy and Jeddah Consulate General at the Madinah Airport. The prime minister will leave for Makkah Mukarna today to perform Umrah.



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

Pak secures \$3.2 billion in loans in first two months of fiscal year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has secured \$3.206 billion in loans in the first two months of the current fiscal year 2023-24, compared to \$439.32 million borrowed during the same period of 2022-23, according to data from the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

The government budgeted \$2.4 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the current fiscal year and has received \$1.2 billion as the first

tranche of the \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) in July. However, the EAD data does not reflect this.

Additionally, there is no mention of \$1 billion disbursed by the UAE. If the IMF and UAE inflows are added, total inflows are \$5.405 billion during the first two months of the current fiscal year.

The \$3.206 billion includes \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia under the head of time deposit in July 2023.

Court reopens NAB reference against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

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

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

Says Pakistan Army will continue to play role in ensuring peace, stability in KP; Urges women to take part in KP's 'progress, development'

PESHAWAR (APP): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reiterated Pakistan Army's unflinching resolve to continue its role in ensuring peace and stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for providing a secure environment for economic development.

He was speaking during Provincial Apex Committee meeting in Peshawar on Wednesday. The army Chief called for synergizing efforts for peace and prosperity of the country.

During the meeting, he was briefed about overall security situation including initiatives against smuggling, hoarding and drug trafficking. The participants of the meeting affirmed that

state institutions and people are united for the protection of life and property of citizens.

The participants paid rich tribute to the Shuhada and their families.

Meanwhile Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Peshawar and had an inter-active session with the respectable women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) during 'KP Women Symposium-2023'. The Army Chief encouraged the women to take part in the progress and development of KP and Newly Merged Districts (NMDs), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.



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

Finance Minister reviews spending patterns of PSDP

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

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

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

The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of Sindh, Finance Ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Balochistan, besides the

Federal and provincial Finance Secretaries, Federal Secretary of Planning, as well as senior government officials.

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

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



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

Younus Dagher says

Govt to implement IT based services to enhance convenience, transparency

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh's Caretaker Minister for Revenue, Industry, and Commerce, Sindh, Muhammad Younus Dagher, has announced that the Sindh Government will implement IT based services to enhance convenience and transparency in processing all land related documentation including registration of documents at the offices of the Sindh Board of Revenue. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was signed between the Board of Revenue and the Punjab Information Technology Board at Revenue

House, Clifton, Karachi. Mr. Dagher told the news reporters that this agreement between the Sindh Board of Revenue and the Punjab Information Technology Board will ensure ease and transparency in the registration and mutation process through automation. This will eliminate delays in work, save people's time, and provide real-time updates through the services app. The new IT system will also facilitate an automated system of accountability.

He also revealed a target to activate the deed tracking system within one week which will be based on issuance of electronic token at the time of application in all sub-registrar offices. With the unique ID and QR code, the senior officers of the Board of Revenue, will be able to review the performance of sub-registrar offices and take timely action against delays and poor performance. The caretaker provincial minister, Muhammad Younus Dagher, further stated that the Sindh Board of Revenue aims to launch an e-service Android app and web portal in October next month.



KARACHI: Inspector General Police (IG) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar presiding over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

More desecration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Masood Lohar

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

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

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

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

Life is elsewhere

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Age-old dilemmas



Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

Finance Minister reviews Raast implementation

Highlights importance of public-private partnership

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

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

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

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

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

Other potential areas



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



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

SECP issues standardized constitutive documents for registration of Private Funds

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued standardized formats of documents, along with step-by-step guidance, for the registration of private fund as a notified entity.

The standardized documentation, available at SECP's website in editable formats, would promote consistency, encourage harmonized disclosures, and reduce the turnaround time required for the registration of a private fund, said a press release

issued here on Wednesday. The documents include, Trust Deed and Private Placement Memorandum (for registration of a fund in trust structure), Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Agreement, Custodian Agreement and Private Placement Memorandum (for registration of private fund in LLP structure).

Notable interest has been observed in the registration of private funds over the last couple of years.

FAO assistance sought for capacity building of agriculture experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan called on Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik Wednesday sought support from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to enhance assistance in capacity building of Pakistani experts in the field of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

Ms Florence Rolle, a Representative of the

its assistance in ensuring food security and agriculture production in the country.

He said that the prevailing collaboration between FAO and Pakistan to end hunger and achieve sustainable agriculture yield is very satisfactory.

He emphasized the importance of agriculture and the role of FAO in bolstering the agriculture sector of the country.

Dr Kausar Malik while welcoming Ms. Florence Rolle highlighted the longstanding partnership between the Government of Pakistan and the FAO of the United Nations and appreciated

Speakers urged green investments in tourist destinations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers urged the authorities concerned and the tourism management companies to prioritize green investments in services and infrastructure at tourist destinations across the country.

The seminar was organized by Devcom-Pakistan, ICLC and National Skills University (NSU) here on Wednesday to mark World Tourism Day, themed on "Tourism and Green Investments".

Using non-timber fuel, alternate energy,

water conservation, solid waste management and environment-friendly practices shall be promoted to ensure sustainable eco-tourism.

Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab ur Rehman Rana was the chief guest. The guest speakers included Vice Chancellor NSU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, President of Rural Development Foundation (RDF) Brig. Retd Muhammad Khan,

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Secretary ICLC Sibtain Raza, CEO Apex Adnan Saeed, Sumera Raza and Rana Tariq Javed.

Aftab ur Rehman Rana said the country's tourism and hospitality industry contributes 3.5 per cent to the country's GDP. Most of which is contributed by the domestic tourism that has flourished in recent years. About 6.5 million people are directly or indirectly engaged in the industry. This is quite unfortunate

that only a few know or are willing to invest in green practices.

The federal government has taken the provincial authorities on board to ensure sustainable ecotourism models, he said adding that more awareness campaigns and stakeholders' engagement is desired to control the undue interventions.

Prof. Dr Muhammad Mukhtar urged the youth to travel across the heavenly land of Pakistan which is full of diverse cultures and landscapes.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Head of Sub-Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Kofi Dwomo has said that Pak-Afghan Expo will certainly open the doors of economic development for both Afghans and Pakistanis.

He expressed these views during a meeting organized under the auspices of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).

Efforts on to broaden tax base: CC IR

FAISALABAD (APP): Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue (IR) FBR Faisalabad Zubair Bilal said on Wednesday the FBR had expedited efforts to broaden tax base by utilizing data of 30 major departments and banks.

Addressing a meeting of business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that in the first phase, notices would be issued only to the individuals executing big transactions which would

ultimately convince other potential taxpayers to join the tax net.

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

Naqvi spotlights health concerns and spurs immediate upgrades

Visit to Govt girls' higher secondary school Ravi Road

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

In response, Chief Minister Naqvi promptly

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

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

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

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



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

Minister announces arrests in Avastin injection scandal

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

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

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

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

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

Four dead, 1147 injured in Punjab road accidents

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

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

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

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

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

LG Minister visits WSSP Head Office

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

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

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

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

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

Three dacoits killed in shootout

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

importance of tourism and its promotion.

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

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



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

US DCM visits Peshawar, reaffirms support to fight militancy

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

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

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

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

Mehfil-e-Samaa held at Alhamra

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Arts Council, in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), arranged a Mehfil-e-Samaa, to express deep love and admiration for the Messenger of God (PBUH).

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

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



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

International News

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

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

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

“(We) need to...promote those who do

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Ukraine and providing it with intelligence information and helping plan attacks on Russian facilities. Unconfirmed news reports said Storm Shadow missiles provided to Ukraine by the U.K. and France were used in the attack on the headquarters. There was no comment from the U.K. Ministry of Defense, which in the past has declined to discuss intelligence-related matters.

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

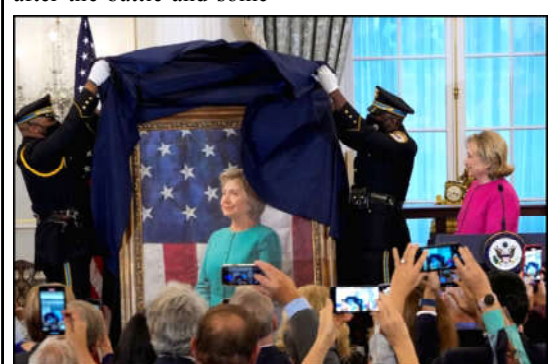
Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Several hundred members of Russia's Wagner private mercenary group have returned to eastern Ukraine to fight but are not having a significant impact on the battlefield, a Ukrainian military spokesman said on Wednesday.

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

They left Bakhmut after the battle and some

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

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



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

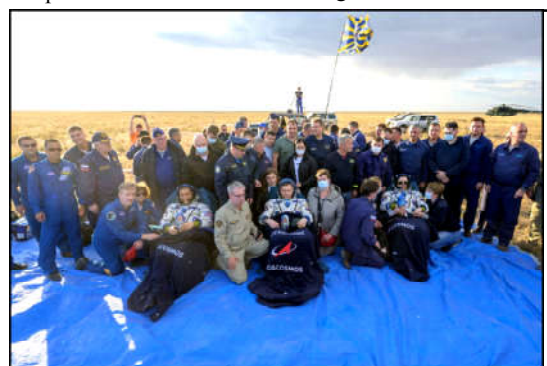
25 killed in Damascus clash between Syrian, Kurdish forces

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asked about the allegations at a Council on For-

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

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

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

Naval Chief calls for recommitting to principles of maritime safety, marine conservation

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

"I look forward to a profound and cumulative response by all stakeholders," the Naval Chief said. World Maritime Day, a significant reminder of maritime safety, security, and environmental conservation, is marked annually, urging nations to work together for sustainable maritime practices, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

On this World Maritime Day, he said as we look back to our shared maritime heritage and achievements, let us also look ahead with determination, commitment, and resolve to align our national objectives with the ongoing global shift towards sustainable and green marine practices. "I urge all the stakeholders to embrace these evolving paradigms. Particularly, I reiterate Pakistan Navy's resolve to ensure maritime safety and uphold environmental mandates," he added.



KARACHI: Member (R&S), Board of Revenue Syed Ahmed Ali Shah and Director General (e-Governance), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) signing the service level agreement for launching e-Registration & e-Mutation System of properties in Sindh.

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

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

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

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

Following the South Asia nuclear tests, Ambassador Akram said that Pakistan proposed the establishment of a Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in

South Asia, to be premised on three interlocking and mutually reinforcing elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional arms balance.

The Pakistani envoy, who was speaking at an event to commemorate the 'International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons', reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world that is achieved in a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory manner, assuring undiminished security for all States at the lowest possible level of armaments.

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



MOHENJO DARO: A delegation of Czech Republic tourists are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

SFA and SSWMB work together to use waste food for productive purposes. DG

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: Sindh Food Authority and Sindh Solid Waste Management Board will work together for the disposal of food waste according to the proper SOPs. Sindh Food Authority, during regular inspections, discards food items which are harmful for human consumption. Need was felt to dispose of them properly and recycle them for further productive purposes.

The goal is to help achieve sustainability, allowing the food waste from the farms, restaurants, hotels, food processing plants, etc. to go back to the farms as fertilizer for future food and other productive uses. In this detailed meeting was held at the office of DG Sindh Solid Waste Management Board attended by Agha Fakhar Hussain DG SFA and MD Imtiaz Shah along with their respective technical teams. Different

short-term, medium-term and long-term options were discussed. It was decided that a detailed survey would be conducted by the joint groups and the detailed MoU would be signed for this purpose.

Sindh Food Authority proposed, in the meeting, for the installation of specialized garbage bins at different food streets and the industrial areas initially. In the first phase ten main food streets of Karachi have been identified where bins will be installed so that waste food may be stored there for further processing. From industrial zones, waste food collected from there will also be stored at certain points and SSWMB teams will collect this waste food. In the second phase food industries will be separated for the purpose. It was also decided that all stakeholders would be taken on board to make it a success.

Imran gained remarkable popularity, says Miftah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Miftah Ismail, a prominent figure in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has acknowledged that Imran Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has gained remarkable popularity, surpassing other political leaders, as revealed in a recent opinion poll. Miftah, along with Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Mustafa Khokhar, who initially proposed the idea of "Reimagining Pakistan" seminars, is contemplating the formation of a new political party. While no official decision has been made yet, they are actively considering the possibility.

Miftah disclosed that they conducted a public opinion survey in July of this year, which indicated Imran's substantial lead in popularity. Abbasi's discussions regarding his political future within the PML-N and the idea of a new political party are part of their strategic exploration before reaching a final verdict.

PEMRA seeks SC's permission to withdraw review petition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Wednesday filed a miscellaneous application to Supreme Court and requested permission to withdraw review petition in Faizabad sit-in case.

The authority had stated in its application that it didn't want to pursue the review petition and requested the top court to allow it to withdraw the case. It may be mentioned here that the top court's bench would take up Faizabad sit-in review petitions tomorrow for hearing. Earlier, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) had also filed an identical application to the SC for withdrawal of review petition.



KARACHI: Connect-Hear Zehra Dhanjee receives memorabilia during ceremony of the conclusion of a sign language training session for PTCL Group Customer Services Staffs, held in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: 2nd Session of 5th Executive Committee Meeting of SIFC.

Health minister meets Saudi ambassador

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

The minister said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have historically strong brotherly relations. The Saudi ambassador assured that Saudi Arabia will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the welfare projects of its people.

The minister shared that Pakistan is all set to host the first-ever Global Health Security Summit later this year in Islamabad reflecting the strongest com-

mitment of the country at the highest level to the Global Health Security Agenda.

The Saudi ambassador highly appreciated the initiative of holding the Global Health Security Summit.

The minister shared that coordinated steps are being taken to ensure an uninterrupted supply of medicines across the country on a permanent basis.

The ambassador was informed that although Pakistan is manufacturing vaccines there is a need for transfer of technology to enhance capacity. He added the ministry is looking forward to starting collaboration with friendly countries.

Pak-Qatar culture ministers discuss bilateral relations, cultural issues

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

During the meeting, the interim minister and his Qatari counterpart discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and cultural issues of mutual interest.

Speaking on the occasion, Jamal Shah underscored that Pakistan attached importance to its longstanding and brotherly ties with Qatar that were based on common interests and shared values. The two Culture Ministers stressed the need to further strengthen cultural ties between Pakistan and Qatar. They emphasized the importance of advancing negotiations on the proposed Pakistan and Qatar cultural exchanges.



Sindh forms committee to monitor industrial safety measures

KARACHI (INP): The Government of Sindh has constituted a 6-member committee to ensure safety measures in factories.

Provincial home secretary will be chairman of the committee with secretaries of labour, environment, climate change and coastal development, industries, law and parliamentary affairs. Commissioner Karachi, D.G Sindh Building Control Authority as members.

The government committee will compile a list of all factories in Karachi, government said. "It will prepare standard operating procedures (SOPs) and enforce them according to laws."

The committee will take steps to ensure public hygiene and safety measures. "It will revisit existing laws pertaining to installation, operation and registration of factories," government said.

Safety measures will be tightened in all factories of Karachi under the orders of the Sindh High Court.

Sindh High Court on Monday while hearing Baldia factory fire implementation case summoned progress report from the chief secretary of Sindh with regard to safety measures in factories and implementation of labour laws.

"Regrettably several factories are lacking firefighting equipment," court observed.

"There are 4000 registered factories according to the labour department report."

There are contradictory reports from the labour and industries departments," chief secretary said.

"According to the K-electric report the power utility has given 32,000 industrial connections," Sindh chief secretary said.

Termination of case against PTI chief, challenged in SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): An appeal has been moved to the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday, challenging the termination of a case against PTI Chairman pertaining to speeches against state institutions.

Petitioner Abdul Khaleel Kakar had challenged the verdict of Balochistan High Court (BHC). It said that chairman PTI had not joined the investigation but the police had filed case the challan against him to the court.

The petition stated that the BHC had announced the verdict apparently against the facts. PTI Chairman had approached the BHC to quash the FIR and to terminate the arrest warrants against him.

LHC summons PM Kakar, CM Naqvi over social media profanity content

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court summoned the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Oct 16 in connection with blasphemous content posting on social media.

The LHC Justice Shujaat Ali Khan heard the case and ordered the PM and CM Punjab to appear before the court on Oct 16.

The judge remarked that for eight months the federal government could not submit the report. Whereupon, the federal lawyer said that we would submit the reports. Then court remarked that have you come here for sightseeing, why the report has not been submitted? This case belongs to all of us, neither its yours nor court's, the court remarked.

JJ chief voices concerns over electricity policies

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq on Wednesday raised serious concerns about the management of line losses by the government, saying that it placed an undue burden on the general public.

The JI ameer's remarks came at a time when the issue of rising electricity prices and associated challenges were a topic of significant national discourse.

Addressing the issue, Haq emphasized that while every Pakistani diligently pays their electricity bills each month, the cost of electricity consumed did not represent a government subsidy. Instead, he argued that every Pakistani who paid their electricity bill inadvertently contributed to covering the unpaid bills of five others, likening the situation to a form of collective financial burden.

Furthermore, he cited the remarks of Miftah Ismail, who noted the increasing difficulty in sustaining basic electricity consumption, such as operating four light bulbs and one fan within households. Regardless of actual electricity consumption, every individual is subjected to a monthly penalty. The JI chief also drew attention to the alarming trend of certain individuals or entities amassing wealth and assets at an ever-increasing rate, including properties, sugar mills, and factories.

Haq also criticized the government's approach to managing electricity prices, stating that instead of providing affordable electricity to the public, the government has entered into agreements that have resulted in a continuous escalation of prices.

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

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

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that the rights of minority communities were fully protected in Pakistan and several measures had been taken for their welfare, adding, Pakistan always protected the rights of people from all minorities, including Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and Parsis, and would ensure a secure environment for them in future as well.

"Pakistan will move forward according to teachings of Quaid-e-Azam and

Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who called for peace and brotherhood among all religions" he added. He reminded that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his speech on August 11, 1947, gave a clear message about the equality of rights of minorities.

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

Replying a question, he said Indian government had proven themselves unwilling to protect minority religious communities and other vulnerable groups from frequent attack, adding, the Narendra Modi regime was promoting the Hindutva ideology to harassed Muslims and other minorities.



LARKANA: Girl students of Government Begum Nusrat Bhutto Girls Degree College Larkana are reciting Naat during Mehfil e Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday anniversary celebration of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) coming ahead, held at school premises in Larkana.

A live mobile app to be developed for pilgrims' ease: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday said the ministry would develop a live mobile app to enhance the convenience of pilgrims, offering detailed information and tracking capabilities.

Aneeq Ahmed, in a meeting with Caretaker Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif, agreed that the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication would collaborate with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to bring improvement and reforms to the Hajj IT system, ensuring better

services and addressing complaints more efficiently for the revered Hajj pilgrims.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Punjab Information Technology Board, National IT Board, besides Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony's Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, and IT team.

Aneeq Ahmed expressed his desire to digitize the entire Hajj operation and make it paperless from end to end.

He said in Saudi Arabia, computerized systems would be established for the movement and financial transactions of pilgrims.



HYDERABAD: Members of Awami Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against killing of Nazia Channa and demanding justice for her, at Hyderabad press club.

On intervention of Ombudsman Sindh Family pension and service dues of rupees six million paid to widow

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan Honourable Ombudsman Sindh, expressed his satisfaction on payment of rupees six million as family pension to Mst. Sat Bharai R/o. District Chakwal.

The above named complainant had filed a complaint thereby alleging that the District Accounts Office, Sukkur refused to grant full family pension in respect of her husband, died in a road accident on 7.12.2004, as other widow also expired about eight year back. The complaint was admitted and taken up with the Agency. In response District Account

Officer, Sukkur addressed a letter to the Director School Education, Sukkur with the request to accord necessary sanction as required under the law. The Director School Education after getting required documents from the complainant forwarded the same to the District Accounts Officer, Sukkur who subsequently reported that the deceased government employee Muhammad Iqbal had received papers of one widow only though both widows and their children were entitled for the same and further added that being 16 years old case.