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CM invites "angry" Balochs to join national mainstream; ready to prepare effective policy for them

Mir Ali Mardan Domki says all political parties to be taken into confidence by convening consultation meeting once ECP announces general election date; reiterates interim govt.'s resolve to provide conducive environment for polls; ways wholehearted efforts continues to fully restore peace, prevent smuggling

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has once again invited the "angry" Balochs to come and join national mainstream. He said that he once again invites "angry" Baloch to come and join national mainstream and we are ready to prepare an effective for them (angry Balochs).

The caretaker Chief Minister said that all security agencies are working with determination to fully restore peace and maintain government's writ in the province.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour to establish conducive environment for the general elections as it is the mandate of interim government to conduct free and fair elections in peaceful environment.

He said that the meeting of all political parties would be called for consultation once the Election Commission of Pakistan announced the date of general elections.

He asserted that the provincial government would extend wholehearted assistance to the ECP for conducting free and fair elections.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking in a

programme of state-run TV (PTV) Quetta on Sunday.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki spoke at length about the priorities of the provincial government, problems being faced, government steps being taken to address them, talks with the "angry" Balochs and other issues.

The caretaker Chief Minister maintained that around 75 percent portion

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QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki enquiring about health of a child during his visit to Children Hospital



WADH: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar meeting with President Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal at his residence

Governor calls for taking sensitive situation of Wadh serious; finding sustainable solution to issue

Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar says tribes can't afford more tribal disputes, hatred; seeks cooperation of religious leaders, political and social elders and other key segments to play role

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has called for taking sensitive situation of Wadh serious and finding sustainable solution to it.

The Governor said that nationalities and tribes settled in Balochistan can't afford more tribal clashes, hatred and disputes, therefore, the religious leaders, social personalities, political elders should play their wholehearted role to resolve the issue in the best interest of province and its people.

The Governor was speaking on occasion of his meeting with chief of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal whom he met at his residence in Tehsil Wadh, Khuzdar on Sunday.

The Governor visited Wadh especially to meet the BNP chief and discussed with him the situation of Wadh, latest political situation of the province and other matters of mutual interests.

The Governor was concerned about the situation of Wadh saying that the situation is worsening in Wadh with every passing

day. He pointed out that the routine business has been badly affected at the local level while the children and women are facing mental agony.

Moreover, students and patients are also suffering due to the situation in Wadh, he maintained.

He said that if the steps were not taken to improve the situation in Wadh, then it may intensify the situation in Balochistan.

The Governor said that it is responsibility of the government to protect life and property of the masses.

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."

He said that frontline health workers are the real heroes of our immunization program, who perform their duties with dedication and devotion.



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

20 injured as two trains collide near Ferozewala

FEROZEWALA (INP): At least 20 passengers have been injured as a result of a horrific collision between two trains near Ferozewala.

According to details, the Mianwali Express collided with a goods train stationed at Qila Sattar Shah station in the Ferozewala area, as a result of which 20 passengers were injured.

As per railway officials, the train was en route from Mianwali to Lahore when it rammed into a good train parked at the station. The injured included the train driver and assistant.

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.

One dead as two vehicles collide in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): A man was killed after two vehicles collided with each other on Quetta's Airport Road on Sunday, police said.

Naimat Ullah lost his life in the fatal accident. The body was shifted to a state hospital for legal formalities.

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.

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 coun-

try 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



try 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

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.

GoB rejects BNP leaders allegations about grand operation in Wadh

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has firmly rejected the allegations made by BNP-Mengal Leader Agha Hassan Baloch regarding an alleged grand operation in Wadh. In a statement issued on Sunday, the government said that the allegations were baseless and that efforts had been made to defuse the situation. The statement also said that Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the BNM-Mengal Leader, had been consulted and informed about the matter on separate occasions and to which he gave his consent.

The statement further said that Sardar Mengal had suggested two representatives from his party to attend meetings, but that these representatives had failed to attend and had disregarded the instructions of their Party Chief.

The statement said that this raised questions about their loyalty and adherence to party guidelines.

The statement called on Sardar Mengal to investigate why his instructions had not been followed by his representatives, as it may indicate a loss of control over his party.

The statement assured that no grand operation would be conducted, as maintaining law and order was of utmost importance to the government.

The statement added that, despite any differences, the government held great respect for Sardar Akhtar Mengal, who is a seasoned politician in Balochistan.

Ameer JI demands of rulers to take back increase in prices of petrol, electricity immediately

Sirajul Haq says we want such Pakistan, which is free of corruption, poverty, ignorance and injustice; vows to continue struggle till the end

Independent Report

QUETTA: The central Ameer of Jama'at-e-Islami, Sirajul Haq has put forth immediate demand to the government to take back increase made in the prices of petrol and petroleum products and electricity tariffs in the country, otherwise, the JI's struggle would remain continued in future.

He asserted that he respects all those who follow and obey the law and constitution of the country. He lamented that the

is free of corruption, poverty, ignorance, injustice and other evils.

He said that when there is no price-hike in the countries around us including India, Iran, Nepal and Afghanistan, then why it (inflation) is in Pakistan and why the people are suffering from it.

He also said that he respects all those who follow and obey the law and constitution of the country.

He lamented that the

inflation has made the life of people of the country miserable and it has become very difficult for them to make their both ends meet. He also described the inflation as artificial and bogus which he vehemently rejected.

This and similar other views were expressed by the JI Ameer while addressing protest sit-in against the inflation here at the Jaffar

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QUETTA: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq addressing a protest gathering against the hike electricity and petrol prices in front of Governor House

Mercury drops to 10 degree Celsius in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Blowing cold winds in Quetta and other areas of Balochistan on Sunday morning, announcing about upcoming winter in the region.

Temperatures going down in the morning and evening times in Quetta, Balochistan's capital city, as people have started keeping fans off.

The Met Office recorded minimum temperature in Quetta 10 degree Celsius in the morning today, while the maximum temperature remained 27 degree Celsius.

Israel ties depend on national, Palestinian interests: FM

Jilani responds to Israeli FM's claims that up to 7 Muslim countries would make peace with Israel following Saudi deal

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, in which he touted a "new Middle East" where Israel and Saudi Arabia enjoyed diplomatic ties, Cohen said that "peace with Saudi Arabia means peace with the greater Muslim world." Jilani, however, said he didn't meet his Israeli counterpart.

Quetta Package would prove to be milestone: CS directs concerned high ups to complete QDP within stipulated time

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakel Qadir Khan has directed the concerned high ups to complete all the development projects of Quetta Development Package within the

stipulated time.

The Chief Secretary said that Quetta development Package is going to be a milestone for development of Quetta city as these projects are very important

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shaklee Qadir Khan inspecting ongoing projects under Quetta Development Package

Global scientists meet to save international deltas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Scientists from deltas of the world shared the scientific perspective of deltas in the UN Convention for Conserving River Deltas (UNCCRD) science meeting presided by Professor of Public Policy, Community Development & Applied Economics, University of Vermont, USA, Dr Asim Zia.

Indus Delta was represented by Dr. Altaf Siyal, a distinguished Professor at Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, who shed light on the pressing concerns plaguing the Indus Delta, a vital ecological region in South Asia. Dr. Siyal's presentation elucidated the multifaceted challenges that have led to the degradation of this critical ecosystem, a news release said.

Dr. Siyal emphasized several key factors that contributed to the Indus Delta's destruction, underscoring the need for immediate attention and concerted efforts to address these issues, which included diminishing river flows, reduced sediment supply, seawater intrusion, sea level rise, shrinking active Indus Delta, land subsidence, coastal erosion, and wave action and storm surges.

He talked about pollution from industrial waste, water scarcity, soil salinity, environmental and ecological degradation, and degradation of freshwater acquirers with resultant economic impacts of the annual loss of about \$2 billion due to Indus delta degradation.

Dr. Siyal made a compelling argument that the degradation and shrinking of the Indus Delta have intensified due to the diversion of Indus River flows through the construction of hydraulic structures, calling for a reevaluation of these practices.

He proposed an integrated approach for the revival of the Indus Delta, emphasizing the importance of leveraging indigenous knowledge and skills in this endeavour. He stressed the need for sustainable development and conservation strategies that engage local communities and respect the ecosystem's delicate balance.

Scholars from various other deltas participated were: Dr Kevin Xu, Director Coastal Studies Institute Louisiana State University; Dr Tan Sinh Bach; Dr Godi Godar; Dr. Ho Hua Loc and Dr Diana Rice provided scientific assessments of global deltas while in closing comprehensive synthesis with next steps and actions were presented by Dr. Emma.

The issues highlighted by all speakers underscored the urgency of addressing the environmental challenges facing global Deltas and considered it imperative that governments, researchers, environmental organizations, and communities collaborate to ensure the preservation and revitalization of the global vital ecosystem for future generations.



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.



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

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 Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi 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.

Meanwhile, the Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani also met with the OIC Secretary-General, Houssein Ibrahim Taha, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York.

Ameer JI demands of rulers...

Continued from page 1 when their leaders Asif Zardari and Shabbaz Sharif sought his support against PTI, and so he had also not supported PTI in the past.

He said that he considers all three political parties same, which did nothing for well being of the people.

Ameer JI said that we would give such Pakistan to the people where there is no poverty, unemployment, injustice and inflation.

He sought the support of people of Balochistan in the JI's struggle to achieve the goals.

He said that while he is in Quetta today as part of the JI's movement, he had been in Peshawar and Lahore, and now is going to Karachi.

Ameer JI also demanded of the rulers to resolve the issues of Balochistan and its people. He said that Chairman Senate, caretaker Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan all belong to Balochistan, therefore, the issues of Balochistan and its people should be resolved now.

He said that it is not his objective to make his son Prime Minister, while on the other hand, it is issue of Asif Ali Zardari as how to make Bilawal PM and so the issue of Nawaz Sharif is how to make Maryam PM of the country.

Rather his only issue is how to make the life of poor people easier, adding the JI chief asserted.

He said that he had not supported PPP, PML-N

ECP binds political parties to disclose details of those donating over Rs1 million

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has suggested 18 key changes in the election rules — using its powers conferred by Section 239 of the Elections Act, 2017 — mainly focusing on financial matters, candidature, and result compilation.

Under the amended laws, a political party will have to provide details of those who will donate one million rupees or more for the election expenses.

A statement issued by the ECP on Saturday announced a number of new forms will be introduced. Forms 67 and 68 will be included for election expenses, while form 69 will also be included for financing the political party.

Also, details of candidates' immovable property in the country, abroad, and assets purchased will also be revealed. Apart from this, the details of the candidates' vehicles,

jewellery, bank, or cash will also be mentioned in the form.

Furthermore, along with the election symbol of the candidates, the list will also be displayed on the website, the candidate will also provide details of campaign financing, along with election expenses to the returning officers.

The ECP said in the statement: "The present situation so warrants and it is expedient to carry out further amendments to Rules 51, 52(3), 66(3), 66(4), 71(2), 84(4), 85(2), 87(2), 134(1), 134(2), 134(2A), 134A, 137(1), 143(1), 143(4), 158(1), 158(3), 161(1), Form 41(g), Form 41(h), Form 67, Form 68, and annexures, and Form 69."

It has been explained that various amendments have been made to the Election Commission Rules in accordance with the law to address various scenarios and problems that arise over time.



ISLAMABAD: Girls Players of Pak Army and Islamabad Basket Ball are in action during match at Sports Complex, as Organized by KKAWF in Federal Capital.

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 manifestoes. If Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) stages protests against anyone, we are not bound to join them," said Haidari.

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.

Journalist Khalid arrested under PICA Act, sent to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): Journalist Khalid Jameel, who was arrested under the PICA Act, was sent to jail on judicial remand by the District and Sessions Court of Islamabad.

Islamabad-based journalist Khalid Jameel, who is associated with private TV, was produced in the court of District and Sessions Judge Mureed Abbas.

Advocate Naveed Malik appeared on behalf of Khalid Jameel. During the hearing of the case, another 6-day physical remand

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under IMF condition, government has worked out plan 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.

The plan worked out by finance ministry and energy ministry for enhancing power tariff has been shared with IMF.

Number of Afghan citizens living in Pakistan reached 3.7 mn

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 4,229,749, 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, 73,789 (5.5 percent) in Sindh, 41,520 (3.1 percent) in Islamabad and 4,352 (0.3 percent) in Azad Kashmir.

CS directs...

Continued from page 1 to facilitate the people.

The Chief Secretary was on his visit to Quetta city for inspection of different development projects being executed under the Quetta Package, here on Sunday.

The Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat and Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad were also accompanied with the Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary inspected the projects including Sabzal road, Sariab road, Eastern and Western bypass, Haza Ranji bus terminal and water treatment plant.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner briefed the Chief Secretary about different projects and their progress.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary directed to remove all the hurdles coming in way of smooth completion of the development projects.

He said that the Quetta would turn into modern beautiful city after completion of the development projects under Quetta Package. He also directed to complete the construction and expansion of roads at the earliest.

In addition to this, necessary steps should also be taken for improving the situation of cleanliness in Quetta on an emergent basis.



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

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. Politics is the name of possibilities. Elections are a very dangerous thing.



QUETTA: Jhalawan Awami Penal Leader, Nadeemur-Rehman Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

CM invites "angry" Balochs to...

Continued from page 1 of the province's budget is spent on the non-development expenditures, salaries and pensions while only 25 percent budget is allocated for the development purposes. Even this 25 percent budget is also not utilized accurately, adding he regretfully pointed out.

As a result the general public is still deprived of the basic amenities like education, health and clean drinking water in the province, he added.

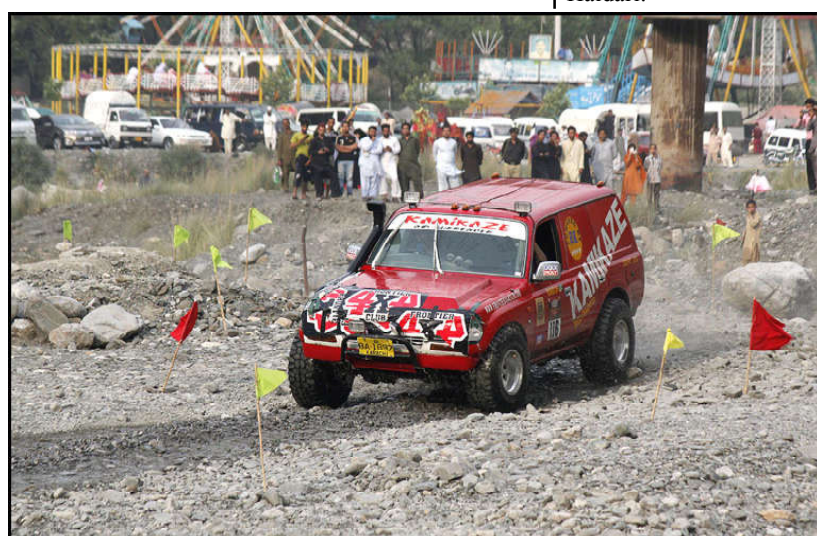
Referring the anti-smuggling initiatives, the caretaker Chief Minister said that wholehearted action is continued against the smuggling in collaboration with the federal government departments.

He said that a very fewer people are associated

with the smuggling, while big groups have become billionaire through smuggling.

However, prevention of smuggling is very important, the caretaker Chief Minister asserted.

He said that we have issued directives to the administrative secretaries to ensure transparency in recruitment process. He said that it is our utmost endeavour to ensure anyone of one's due right and every deserving person gets one's right. Mr. Domki said that we would do our best to bring positive reforms in the public service delivery institutions in the time we have. It would be better if the coming government may continue the process of reforms, otherwise, it would be answerable to the people.



ABBOTTABAD: A driver powers his vehicle during the Jeep Rally in Harno area.



25 SEP. 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 gainsaying 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 efforts 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 and disinformation, the traditional media including print, television and radio remains the most trusted source of news at 60%+ for each media. In contrast, online sources of news are the least trusted at 26%.

In an age dominated by social media, where misinformation and sensationalism often run rampant, newspapers stand as bastions of authenticity, well-researched reporting, and fact-

based journalism. They adhere to rigorous editorial standards and invest in thorough investigations, ensuring that the stories they publish are backed by verifiable facts and statistics. This commitment to accuracy and reliability not only bolsters democracy by providing citizens with trustworthy information but also contributes to the de-



velopment of a more informed and responsible society. In the battle against 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.

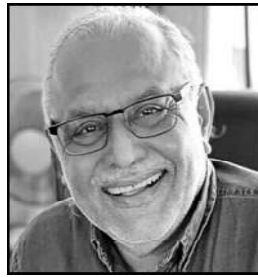
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World Cup squad

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.



Abbas Nasir

It is difficult to count how many times PML-N leaders from different tiers of the party have flown to London in recent months presumably in business or first class, but it's not difficult to say that the amount spent on these visits would have fed dozens if not hundreds of struggling families in inflation-crippled Pakistan.

For its part, the party could argue that its supreme leader Nawaz Sharif did not choose to go abroad but that his hand was forced by circumstances created by the sordid political engineering projects our blighted land is forced to endure far too often than is healthy.

The party could also argue that it was removed from office at the height of

its popularity, when all economic indicators were pointed northwards, and that since then, everything in the realm of the economy has gone pear-shaped. Predictably, it would blame the PTI for the current crisis.

What it won't do is to acknowledge that while its finance minister Ishaq Dar's policies may have kept inflation and the exchange rate under control, and even allowed a reasonable growth rate, these policies, at the same time, created a current account deficit which would offset the high growth dividend.

It is unlikely to admit that after the vote of no-confidence removed the PTI government from power and the PML-N-led PDM coalition was ushered into government, finance minister Miftah Ismail moved very quickly to re-establish a dialogue for the restoration of the IMF programme.

As we speak, it can't be said with certainty whether it was the PTI's 'scorched earth' policy — that included unilaterally reneging on the IMF agreement — in its final weeks in office, when it knew the end was near, that caused more harm to the economy

or the PML-N's 'family first' policy — whereby Miftah Ismail was replaced by Ishaq Dar.

Mr Dar came into office pledging a robust approach in negotiations with the IMF and implied Mr Ismail was way too meek. He famously said "aankhon mein aankhein daal kar baat karni chahiye" [look them in the eye and negotiate]. It took him several months to lose the staring match.

Only Mr Dar may be privy to why this process was dragged out for so long; what each and every one of us knows is that the delay cost the country dearly.

To be fair, the PML-N or PDM could not have anticipated or controlled the huge rise in global energy prices following the Ukraine conflict. But the Dar procrastination meant that any steps to mitigate the crisis were months, and not weeks, in coming. This may explain some of the London back and forth, as the party rather desperately tries to formulate and build a 'narrative' or campaign strategy/slogans that will enable it to win back its support base

at least in Punjab.

Having been in politics for four decades, Nawaz Sharif knows all is not well. He'd also be aware that millions of people whose lives have been destroyed by unprecedented inflation and a moribund economy will blame the last government in power for their pain.

Given the challenges of their day-to-day existence, I doubt whether anyone will remember how bad or good life was under the PTI. They are more likely to be informed by their horrendous present and blame the PDM and the caretaker governments, because many see the latter as a continuation of the former.

That both the caretakers and the PDM government are/were backed by the establishment would also reinforce this perception. Of course, the perception has also much to do with the systematic demonisation of the PML-N and PPP as part of the last political engineering project.

As the political engineers are finding out, once embedded in the minds of the people, including in

their own ranks, such perceptions are not easily erased, or even prised out by force. This has created a dilemma for Nawaz Sharif more than it has for the establishment.

While the establishment may think it can 'shock and awe' its way to its desired objective, and the younger brother may be content with riding back into power on its coattails, the elder knows a thing or two about electoral politics and also how much faith he can place in factors other than the voters.

Therefore, he knows the importance of a credible strategy to win back the political capital the party believes it has lost since the vote of no-confidence a bare 17 months ago. Whereas his October 2020 Gujranwala rally address, that named generals Bajwa and Faiz for undermining democracy, had found considerable traction among central Punjab voters in particular and buoyed his popularity, some three years later the shoe is on the other foot.

Even incarcerated, Imran Khan now owns that narrative. It may well

be certain that Imran Khan won't be allowed to run in the elections, let alone win them, it is also clear Nawaz Sharif will know that it is not all his for the taking till he has a roadmap and a credible winning strategy for each step of the way to the January elections. (I'm sticking my neck out and saying they'll happen in January.) The PML-N will also know that it can push just that far and no further, particularly when a sympathetic military leadership is seen as helping it pave its way back to power. Can Mr Sharif push for accountability of generals, notably the most recent former army chief, and risk creating a sentiment within the establishment that it upends or flips the whole chessboard?

One factor is going in his favour (but he'll have to calibrate exactly to what extent) is that it is not as if the establishment has several choices. It, too, is caught in a vice-like grip and will perhaps step back and not react to this rhetoric. While it remains mere rhetoric that is. -- Courtesy Dawn

PML-N's poll strategy torment

Electoral gender gap



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

The good news is that the gender gap among registered voters is narrowing with every new release of the electoral rolls. The latest registered voters' statistics of July 25, released recently by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), indicate a gender gap of 7.9 per cent, which is the lowest over the past 21 years, and is almost equal to the lowest recorded such gap of 7.67pc in 2002.

Not only has the gap narrowed, the addition of female voters since June 20, 2023 — when the last edition of electoral rolls was released — has outstripped additional male voters, as 504,755 women voters were added to the electoral rolls compared to the 408,643 male voters during the last one month. The number of registered women voters, therefore,

has increased at a quicker pace, registering a 0.9pc growth compared to men's registered votes which has increased by 0.6pc since June. This trend seems to be holding in the longer perspective as well because women's registered votes increased by over 25pc compared to men's votes, which have increased only by about 16pc since May 2018.

The gender gap among registered voters had started rising after the 2002 elections and reached a peak of a little less than 13pc at the time of the 2013 polls. Several interventions by the ECP, civil society and international donors helped stem the tide. Effective advocacy ahead of the 2013 election led to the generation of district-wise gender-based voters' statistics which helped in identifying the districts with the highest gender gap, followed by focused action to provide CNICs in those districts.

Nadra provided mobile vans to spare women in villages and remote locations the inconvenience of travelling to Nadra offices, which can take a whole day to complete the formalities for a CNIC — a prerequisite to registering as a voter.

The ECP, for the first time, separately counted votes cast by women in the 2013 general election as a pilot project, which gave an idea of women voters' turnout at each polling station, and overall in each constituency, province and country. The separate counting of women's votes was formally adopted as regular practice during the 2018 elections. In general, a lower women voter turnout in most of the constituencies also raised the level of awareness about the electoral gender gap.

Because of these multiple efforts, the gap gradually started coming down after the general elections of 2013 and the downward trend continues. This progress over the years should be commended and the narrowing of the electoral gender gap be applauded. However, we should not overlook that there are potentially around 3.5 million eligible women above the age of 18 who are not registered as voters. Although the ECP and some other entities estimate the gender gap to be over 10m, by subtracting the total number of registered women voters (58.47m) from a total

number of male registered voters (68.51m), this methodology is somewhat questionable, because it assumes that the number of male and female registered voters should be equal, which can't be the case because the female population in the country is, in fact, less than the male population.

According to the census of 2017, the percentage of women in the national population is 48.79pc. Sadly, the gender-wise population in the 2023 census is still not available, and therefore, one may assume that the same percentage of women is applicable even in 2023. Assuming that women voters' percentage of the total registered voters should be the same as in the overall population, the desired number of registered women voters nationally should be 61.96m compared to the 58.47m who have actually registered as voters in the recent electoral rolls, leaving a gap of around 3.5m women, which translates into 2.75pc of the total registered voters.

Irrespective of the methodology of estimating the gender gap, the fact

remains is that we have a serious issue, ie, a large number of eligible women are missing in our voters' list. An estimated 3.5m women voters translates into over 13,000 voters on average in each of the 266 National Assembly constituencies. This number of voters is larger than the margin of victory in over 100 NA constituencies, which means that the missing women, if registered as voters, can alter the results of more than a third of the national legislature. The prevailing electoral gender gap is, therefore, not only tantamount to denying the right of franchise to such a large number of women, it also casts a dark shadow over the fairness of elections in the country.

In India, our next-door neighbour, which embarked on its democratic journey as an independent state concurrently as Pakistan, the gender gap among registered voters as of March 2023 is 3.26pc. Using the method of estimation conventionally employed, this comes to less than half of the gender gap of 7.9pc in Pakistan. In case we estimate the gender gap by the other method explained in the

article, the registered voters' gender gap percentage in Pakistan (2.75pc) works out to be a whopping 21 times greater than India's gender gap percentage (0.13pc).

The same drastic contrast can be seen in the women voter turnout in Pakistan and India. In the general election of 2018, the women voter turnout was recorded at 46.25pc, which was 5.25 percentage points lower than the overall voter turnout. India's women voter turnout in the 2019 Lok Sabha election was 67.19pc, just 0.21 percentage points below the overall voter turnout.

It is quite obvious that Pakistan has a lot of catching up to do with regard to closing the electoral gender gap. One is tempted to plead that getting a CNIC to be able to register as a voter may be made mandatory, but intensification of the CNIC-making campaign and greater emphasis on civic education focusing on women, especially in the rural areas, may quicken the pace of minimising Pakistan's electoral gender gap. -- Courtesy Dawn

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 occu-

pied 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 to 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 during 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 instructive 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

Punjab Governor says: Life & teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is source of guidance for all mankind

**Baligh asks Japanese Ambassador to consider
the inclusion of Pakistan in the GSP**

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the annual Khatm-e-Nabuwat (SAW) Conference at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Lahore as Chief Guest. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that belief in the oneness of Allah (Tauhid) and finality of Prophethood, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet of Allah is the integral part of our faith. He said that the slightest doubt in this belief is enough to exclude anyone from the circle of Islam. Governor Punjab said that Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala sent Hazrat Muhammad, (PBUH), to the world as a mercy for all the humanity, and ended the chain of Prophethood

after him. He said that the life and teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the source of guidance for all mankind until the Day of Judgment. Governor Punjab added that no Muslim can compromise on the honour of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Governor Punjab further said that during the Muslim League (N) era, between 2013 and 2018, a bill was passed to teach recitation and translation of the Holy Quran compulsory to the Muslim children. Governor Punjab further said that in our religion, great emphasis has been placed on high morals and character building. He said that in the light of his instructions as chancellor, special attention is being paid to the character building of students in the universities.

Governor Punjab further said that our religion prohibits believing what we hear and spreading it without verification. He said that we should adopt the habit of research and should not believe in unproven news. A large number of religious scholars, including Maulana Fazal Rahim, Shabbir Usmani, Maulana Abdul Rauf Makki were present in the ceremony. The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Wada Mitsuhiro, met the Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at the Governor House, Lahore. A detailed discussion on increasing bilateral cooperation in trade, tourism and education sectors was held during the meeting.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur-Rehman addressing annual Khatm-e-Nabuwat (SAWW) Conference at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Lahore.

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.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Ghankol 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

and friendly ties between Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, and their Chinese counterparts. Under the terms of the agreement, mutual understanding and collaboration will be promoted through the exchange of delegations and cooperation efforts. Additionally, the sister cities will extend support to each other across various sectors, including the fields of economy, trade, science, and technology.

Furthermore, senior officials and line departments from these sister cities will share expertise and engage in reciprocal visits. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his warm welcome to these agreements and recognized their significance in the context of Pakistan-China relations.

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.

FIA spokesperson further said the accused had been transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Multan for further legal action. The FIA officials are investigating from the arrested about the agents through which he got the fake visa. Last month, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) immigration staff offloaded an Afghan woman while boarding a flight to France at Peshawar airport after her passport was found fake.

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. There may be a reason of space weather event (Ionospheric disturbance) which may impact on GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) performance, possibly leading to loss of GNSS Signals.

126 new dengue cases reported

LAHORE (INP): Punjab reported 126 new cases of dengue fever in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases in the province this year to 3522. According to the Punjab Health Department, Lahore accounted for 42 of the new cases, while Rawalpindi reported 48, Multan reported 16, and Faisalabad reported 6.

Currently, 120 dengue patients are under treatment in hospitals across Punjab. The health department has advised people to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites, such as wearing long sleeves and pants, using mosquito nets, and using insect repellent.

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, with a focus on developing and enhancing the cottage industry.

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. According to reports, heavy rain lashed in Faisalabad and downpour created havoc in low-laying areas.



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.

Illegal immigrants should be deported as soon as possible: IGP

KARACHI (INP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Rifkat 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.

Three brothers held for street crime, robberies

KARACHI (INP): Tumuria police arrested three brothers involved in street crimes after an encounter on Sunday.

SHO Taimuria Zarulfaqr Haider said that the three arrested brothers were identified as Syed Arsalan, Syed Salman and Syed Shah Mir, sons of Syed Furqan Hussain. They are residents of Manghopir and are involved in several looting incidents in District Central.

3 TT pistols, 3 mobile phones, laptops and 2 stolen motorcycles were recovered from the possession of the accused, which were stolen from Tumuria and Hydari police station limits.

SHO Haider said that the arrested accused are habitual criminals who have been arrested and jailed before. Cases have been registered against them in Gulistan Johar, Shariah Faisal, Gulshan Iqbal, Azizabad, Liaquatabad, Tumuria, Rizvia, New Karachi Industrial Area, In CTD, New Karachi.

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

KARACHI (INP): 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 Imitiaz 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.



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.

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 devoured 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.



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.



RAWALPINDI: An illuminated view of a Mosque decorated with colourful lights in connection with Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) at Pirwadai Road as the nation starts preparation to celebrate in befitting manners.

Mushaal lauds PM for raising voice for oppressed Kashmiris at UNGA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick on Sunday extolled the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for raising voice for the oppressed Kashmiris in his address at the UN General Assembly session.

The SAPM, while addressing the award ceremony arranged by Bright Future Society, said "I am grateful to the PM for highlighting the state terrorism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir at global stage".

Mushaal said that PM's address in the General Assembly not only helped exposed the Indian fascist and notorious face before the world but it would also encourage the Kashmiri brothers and sisters that Pakistan never missed the chance to bring

to lime light the brutalities of the Indian brutal forces before the world.

She pointed out that the PM as the ambassador and advocate of Kashmiris highlighted the worst human rights violations in the occupied valley before the international community.

Mushaal vowed that Pakistan will continue to expose India's Hindu fascist regime at every forum globally. SAPM said that the oppressed Kashmiris see Pakistan as the center of their hopes for achieving their right to self-determination as India fascist Narendra Modi led government turned the scenic Kashmir valley into a killing field. She said that all top Hurriyat leaders including her husband Yasin Malik was in Indian Illegally and unlawful incarceration as they were detained in fake, fabricated and politically motivated

cases to silence their just voices. Moreover, she said that Hindutva regime even subject other minorities to worst state oppression.

Mushaal said Indian government was not only involved in state terrorism in IIOJK but its notorious agency carried out terrorist activities across the world. She stated that the recent killing of Sikh separatist leader in Canada exposed the ugly face of Hindutva regime before the world.

She urged the international community and UN bodies to take immediate steps for resolving the Kashmir issue and releasing detained Kashmir leaders and other freedom fighters because the regional peace would remain elusive without settlement of the long-standing Kashmir dispute as per the wishes of the people of the occupied territory and UN resolutions.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan is presiding over a meeting of Ministers and senior Officers.

Noor, Sarah Inam's fathers demand SC to expedite trials to serve justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): The father of murdered Noor Muqadam, former ambassador Shauqat Muqadam and father of Sarah Inam, the other victim of brutal physical violence that caused her death, Inam-ur-Rahim on Sunday beseeched the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) to expedite the trial of their daughters' murders to serve justice for the innocent.

Sara Inam's father Inam-ur-Rahim and Noor Muqadam's father, former Ambassador Shauqat Muqadam held a press conference here at the National Press Club flanked by social workers to apprise the media and flag an appeal to the Apex Court for justice for their daughters.

Ambassador Shauqat said Sarah Inam was killed in a very painful way, adding, "After this incident, me and my wife went to Inam Sahib's house. We knew the pain these people were going through. We approached the courts for justice but a lengthy trial followed."

He said during the trial of Noor Muqadam it was

claimed that it was an open and shut case, and we were told that there would be a fair trial. He added that on February 24, 2022, my daughter's killer was sentenced to death.

"The case went to the High Court and Noor's killer (Zahir Jafer) was sentenced to death twice. Chief Justice Amir Farooq sentenced Zahir Jafer capital punishment and upheld his punishment. Now my daughter's case is pending in the Supreme Court, Shauqat Muqadam said.

"It is requested that the Supreme Court should hear this case as soon as possible," he urged.

He said that if such cases were lingered on for years then the public will lose their confidence in the system.

He emphasized that a message should be sent and would be conveyed in the society through the supremacy of law.

Shaukat Muqadam also requested the SCP to hear Sarah Inam's case so that she could get justice. "These girls wanted to do a lot in the society."

Wassan says elections will be held on Jan 28

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Manzoor Wassan predicted that the general elections will be held in the country on Sunday (January 28).

Manzoor Wassan who is known for his political predictions made a special conversation with the media and workers at his residence in Karachi on Sunday.

Manzoor Wassan predicted that the problems of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan will increase before the general elections.

The PPP leader said the people should be prepared as elections will be held on Sunday, January 28.

He said Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Mian Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan after seeing the situation and it will be clear in October whether he is returning homeland or not.

PPP's Wassan said his party [PPP] will form a government with the power of the people and the process of accountability will continue even after the general election.



Federal caretaker health minister Dr Nadeem Jan and provincial care taker primary and secondary health care minister Dr Jamal Nasir meeting today in Islamabad

Case of loss of vision due to injection, health minister took notice, order for investigation

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan has taken notice of the case of loss of sight due to injection in various cities of Punjab and said that the injections have been withdrawn from the market.

While legal action has also been initiated against 2 suppliers, a supply chain report has been sought, he added.

Talking to the media yesterday, the caretaker federal health minister said that the complaints of eye injections had also come from Multan, Kasur and Faisalabad, and legal proceedings have been initiated against the suppliers.

A case has been registered against the suppliers of fake injections, eye medicine is not allowed to be sold in the market, the injections have been withdrawn from the market, a report has been sought on the supply chain of the medicine.

He said that the conjunctivitis epidemic is being investigated, a committee has been formed on conjunctivitis, which will report in 3 days, while the cases of dengue in Punjab are less than last year, there has been no death due to dengue in Punjab. Non-supply of essential medicines is under investigation, action will be taken.

He said that they are investigating the matter from different angles, will redress the loss of the patients, will provide them with the best medical facilities, want the improvement in the health sector to be seen by the public, the final statement after the investigation of the incident will be issued.

On the other hand, the caretaker provincial health minister Dr. Javed Akram said that about 40 people of Lahore were affected by the substandard injection. All stocks of substan-

dard injections were withdrawn from the market. Dr. Jamal Nasir said that this vaccine is 100 mg, such incidents also happened in Kasur and Sadiqabad, the number of patients at this time is between 14 and 20.

Dr. Jamal Nasir further said that we first filed an FIR against Naveed and Hafiz Bilal, they are very cruel people, they were earning up to 1 lakh rupees per injection.

Apart from this, the Health Department took notice of the infection in Oyston injection and issued a warning and formed a five-member inquiry committee. A five-member inquiry committee has been formed under the leadership of Professor Asad Aslam.

The committee has started investigation from every angle, all necessary steps will be taken to ensure transparent investigation of the incident.

COP28 'great opportunity' for Pakistan to discuss ideas on climate change: UAE envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The upcoming 28th Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) would be a "great opportunity" for Pakistan to discuss ideas on how to support countries most affected by climate change, UAE's Ambassador

hosted COP27 last year.

The Gulf country will host the COP28 from Nov.30 to Dec. 12, with the global conference expected to attract about 70,000 people, including heads of state, government officials, international industry lead-

ers, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youngsters, and non-state players.

Pakistan is recognized among the countries most affected by climate change around the world.

In June 2022, raging floods triggered by unusually heavy monsoon rains and melting glaciers killed over 1,700 and swept away large swathes of crops and damaged critical infrastructure. Pakistan estimated damages and economic losses from the floods to be over \$30 billion, Arab News reported. "Pakistan is one of the top five countries affected by climate change," Al-Zaabi said in an interview with Arab News.

"The Pakistani delegation who is going to participate in COP28 at Dubai Expo, it is a great opportunity for them to discuss more the ideas on how to support countries affected by climate change," he added.



To Pakistan Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi said. The UAE will be the second Arab state to host the climate conference after Egypt

Roster of Judges for hearing various cases in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): The roster of judges has been issued for the hearing of various cases in the Supreme Court, in which five benches will hear the cases on September 25 and September 28.

According to the issued cause list, each bench will hear more than 300 different cases in four days.

Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Issa, Justice Aminuddin and Justice Athar Manullah in bench number one, Justice Sardar Tariq and Justice Musrat Hilali in bench number two,

Justice Ejazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar and Justice Shahdoheed in bench number three, Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Syed Mazhar Ali Naqvi in bench number four. And Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and bench number five includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhel, Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi.

The series of disposal of cases started by Chief Justice Qazi Faizi Yasei after taking oath continues continuously.

IRSA releases 201,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 201,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 161,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1547.36 feet and was 149.36 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 96,700 cusecs and 110,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1230.85 feet, which was 180.85 feet higher than its dead level.

Tribute paid to Police, Armed forces martyrs, heroes at Sports Complex

ISLAMABAD: A dignified ceremony was held at the Islamabad Sports Complex to pay homage to the martyrs and heroes of Pakistan Police and Armed Forces.

The event, attended by a significant number of citizens, including the police, law enforcement department, business community, families of martyrs, and veterans, saw the heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices made by these brave individuals, a public relations officer said.

He said that the Islamabad Capital Police with the support of Islamabad business community organized an hon-

orable event at Islamabad's Sports Complex to pay tribute to Pakistan armed forces and Police forces who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, fighting terrorism. The ceremony was attended by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer, Dr. Akbar Naseer Khan, senior police officers, members of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the business community, families of martyrs and he-

Representatives from the business community addressed the gathering, acknowledging the sacrifices made by Pakistan's Armed Forces and Police, affirming their commitment to support and stand by them. They emphasized that the martyrs and heroes have unwaveringly protected the nation, and their sacrifices have fortified the country's security.

During the event, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, and CEO Centaurus mall Sardar Yasir Ilyas honored the families of the martyrs and heroes on stage, presenting them with recogni-



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Pakistan PM's speech at UNGA morale-booster for Kashmiris: Masarat Alam

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), while hailing Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, said Pakistan is true champion of the Kashmiri cause and has once again forcefully raised the Kashmiris' right to self-determination at the global forum.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the jailed APHC Chairman Masarat Alam Butt in a message from New Delhi's Tihar jail said the powerful speech of the Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister at the UN is a morale booster for the oppressed Kashmiris confronting Indian state terrorism.

"Kashmiris are indebted to Pakistan for representing them at international forums and expressing unequivocal support to the just struggle of right to self-determination," he added.

He also thanked the President of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

for their full support and interpretation of the fundamental right, right to self-determination of the Kashmiris, at the UN General Assembly.

Masarat Alam Butt called upon the world community to uphold its commitments viz-a-viz Kashmiris' right to self-determination and the UN should send a clear message to the Modi regime to halt its illegal actions aimed at changing the demography, culture and identity of IIOJK.

Meanwhile, another APHC jailed leader, Bilal Siddiqi in a message from Central Jail, Srinagar, said Kashmir and Palestine are the oldest global disputes present on the UN agenda, and the continued loss of life in the two regions betrays utter failure of the World Body when it comes to these two grave issues.

Kashmir and Palestine disputes, he added, will continue to put a question mark on the UN credibility unless these issues are resolved as per the World Body's resolutions and aspirations of the people of Kashmir and Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: Famous singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan is performing during musical concert to Honor Pakistan's Martyrs and Ghazis at Liaqat Gymnasium Sports Complex in Federal Capital, organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce (ICCI).



ISLAMABAD: Students are reciting Naat in the annual Mehfil-e-Milad held at Model College for Girls 1-8/3.

Eid Milad to be celebrated with splendor in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal dawned, Pakistan has come alive with vibrant celebrations in honor of Eid Miladun Nabi, the birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him, slated for September 29.

The devout across the country have embarked on adorning mosques, homes, and businesses with resplendent lights, creating a captivating atmosphere.

In the bustling Industrial Area, Sector I-9, industrialists have not only adorned their business establishments but also illuminated the roadsides with an array of colorful lights, lending a picturesque charm to the surroundings. Government buildings, following an annual tradition, have been aglow with radiant lights in preparation for the 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, the date observed for this revered occasion.

In recognition of the significance of Eid Miladun Nabi, both the federal and provincial governments have officially declared September 29 as a public holiday, marking it as a day of traditional and religious reverence. In anticipation of the festivities, the Islamabad Capital Territory administration, Islamabad Police, and Islamabad Traffic Police have devised stringent security and traffic plans to ensure the smooth progress of rallies in the federal capital and its adjacent areas during the celebration of Eid Miladun Nabi.

This proactive approach would maintain peace and security throughout the commemorations. Speaking to APP, Muhammad Amir Attari, a Public Relations Officer of Dawat-e-Islami in Islamabad, shared details of the grand celebrations planned for this auspicious

occasion.

He disclosed that numerous rallies would be organized, commencing from various sectors and suburban areas of the federal capital, as a tribute to the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him.

The main march, orchestrated by Dawat-e-Islami in the federal capital, would commence from Jamea Masjid Faizan-e-Madina, Sector G-11 Markaz, following Friday Prayer. It would culminate at the same venue with Magrib Prayer, accompanied by supplications for Pakistan's peace, progress, prosperity, security, and sovereignty.

Amir Attari emphasized that these rallies, in commemoration of Eid Miladun Nabi, would not be confined to Pakistan alone but would resonate across the world, demonstrating heartfelt reverence for the Holy Prophet

Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him under the banner of Dawat-e-Islami. He also noted the substantial investment in the decoration of Faizan-e-Madina, Islamabad, with captivating lights. Furthermore, he highlighted that Mehfil-e-Milad (gatherings to celebrate the birth of the Prophet) and Seerat Conferences were being held nationwide to shed light on the exemplary life of the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him and to inspire believers to follow His noble path, ultimately contributing to the betterment of humanity. In addition, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony would host the two-day 48th International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference — Practical Wisdom for Economic Prosperity in the light of Sunnah — on Rabi-ul-Awwal 11-12 (September 28-29) in the federal capital.

Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed APP that renowned Ulama and religious scholars, both national and international would address the conference to highlight the multiple aspects of the Sunnah Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), besides tackling the contemporary issues confronting the Muslim Ummah. He said the first day of the conference, would feature the distribution of awards for Seerat-related articles and books.

The theme of current year's competition for articles and books, was "Practical Wisdom for Economic Prosperity in the light of the Life of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)," he added. Umar Butt said a total of 137 books and 94 articles on the theme had been submitted to the religious ministry and after thorough review and shortlisting by a

committee of at least three experts, including professors with doctorates, a high-level apex body would eventually take a final decision about their publications. He said the 66 recipients of shields, certificates, and cash prizes, would include 31 individuals receiving awards for books and 35 for articles. Umar Butt said the religious ministry had also planned to get standard articles on the Seerat-un-Nabi published for their placement at libraries in universities and research institutions across the country. Naat Khawam would also recite Naat during the opening session of the conference, he added.

On the second day, he mentioned that Ulama and scholars would highlight multiple aspects of the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him's life, particularly with reference to economic concepts, including economic stability.

Twelve outlaws arrested: drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 12 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Margalla police team arrested an accused named Hamza Dildar and recovered one 9mm pistol with ammunition from his possession. The Shamilar police team arrested an ac-

cused named Ibrar involved in illegally selling petrol and diesel. Likewise, the Golra police team arrested two professional beggars and registered a case under the beggars act against them. The Sangiani police team arrested an accused named Rahim Ullah involved in illegally selling petrol. Similarly, the Kirpa police team arrested two accused named Dildar and Dildar Khan involved in drug peddling and recovered 290 gram heroin from their possession. The Lohi Bher police team arrested two accused named Amraiz and Amir Nawaz and recovered two 30 bore pistol from their possession. The Lohi Bher Police team also arrested the accused named Sadiq involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders.

Russian airstrikes kill 2 and wound 3 in southern Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian airstrikes on Sunday killed two people and wounded three others in southern Ukraine's Kherson province, the region's governor reported Sunday as the war in Ukraine entered a 20th month. According to Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin, Russian forces struck the city of Beryslav, destroying an unspecified number of private houses. A woman was killed and three people were wounded, including a police officer, he said. Another airstrike also killed a 67-year-old man in the village of L'love, Prokudin said without specifying the type of weapons used in the attack. The communities hit both are located in the Ukrainian-controlled part of the Kherson region, where the Dnieper River that bisects the province

has marked a battle line since Russian troops withdrew across it in November 2022, a retreat that boosted the invaded country's morale. The Russians regrouped on the river's eastern bank and regularly shell cities and villages across the river, including the city of Kherson, the regional capital that was occupied early on in the war but retaken by Ukrainian forces more than 10 months ago. In Russia, a Ukrainian drone hit an administrative building in the city of Kursk and "insignificantly damaged" the roof, regional Gov. Roman Starovoi reported. He didn't report any casualties or say what the building housed. Unconfirmed media reports both in Russia and Ukraine said it was the offices of the Kursk branch of Russia's main security

agency, the Federal Security Service, also known as the FSB. The Kursk region of Russia borders Ukraine and also is a frequent target of attacks. The drone strike on Sunday took place as residents commemorated the anniversary of the regional capital's founding. There was no immediate comment from the Ukrainian authorities, who usually don't acknowledge responsibility for attacks on Russian territory. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was traveling home from North America, where he addressed the U.N. General Assembly and paid his first wartime visit to Canada. In a social media statement Saturday, Zelenskyy said he stopped in Poland on his way back to Ukraine to give state awards to two Polish volunteers.



Palestinians check a damaged house following an Israeli raid in Tulkarm in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Kamala Harris tasked with new role fighting US gun violence

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris took on a new role on Friday fighting gun violence, a job likely to give her more visibility ahead of the 2024 election. The 58-year-old Democrat will head up the new White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which will provide coordination on the issue but largely lacks any kind of enforceable power to tackle the scourge in a country that has more firearms than people. "We know true freedom is not possible if people are not safe," Harris said in a statement announcing the new office. "We do not have a moment to spare nor a life to spare" while the United States is "torn apart" by gun violence, she said at the White

House on Friday. "After every mass shooting, we hear a simple message, the same message all over the country," she added, saying Americans are begging for their leaders to "do something, please do something." Despite the new push, the White House does not have unilateral power to meaningfully limit gun use in the United States, such as by banning assault weapons. Any substantial moves would have to come from Congress, where fiercely anti-gun regulation Republicans control the House of Representatives. Biden has therefore tried to work around legislative requirements and imposed certain regulatory and administrative restrictions, which have only a limited scope.

Israeli forces kill 2 Palestinians in West Bank raid: ministry

Monitoring Desk
WEST BANK: Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians in a pre-dawn raid in the West Bank on Sunday, the Palestinian health ministry said, as the army confirmed it carried out "counter-terrorism" activity in the occupied territory. Violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has surged since early last year, particularly in the West Bank, where the latest deaths bring to eight the number of Palestinians killed in Israeli incursions since Tuesday. "Two Palestinians were killed by live Israeli bullets to the head" in the town of Tulkarem, the ministry said, while the army confirmed a soldier had been "moderately injured by gunshot fragments" during clashes in Nur Shams refugee camp near the town.

40,000 march in Spain against amnesty for Catalan separatists

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Tens of thousands of Spaniards protested in Madrid on Sunday against possible plans by acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to grant an amnesty to Catalan separatists to keep himself in office after an election he failed to win. Waving Spanish flags, supporters of the opposition conservative People's Party (PP) travelled from across Spain to attend the rally in Madrid. Authorities estimated the size of the crowd at 40,000. Sanchez, who came second in an election in July, could stay in office if he wins the support of exiled former Catalonia leader Carles Puigdemont, whose Junts per Catalunya party controls seven seats in parliament. Puigdemont, wanted in Spain for attempting the

region's secession, has demanded that legal action be dropped against fellow separatists as a condition for his support. Alberto Nunez Feijoo, leader of the PP which won the most votes on July 23, said he would never concede to demands for an amnesty for organisers of a 2017 independence referendum in Catalonia, which was held despite courts ruling it was illegal. Withdrawing criminal cases against the separatists would amount to granting an amnesty to "coup plotters", he told supporters at the Madrid rally. Gregorio Casteneda, 72, a pensioner, had travelled from Santander on Spain's north coast to show his opposition to any amnesty. "I am not in favour of the government that we have.



People attend a rally against a possible amnesty for Catalan separatist leaders in Madrid, Spain.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is welcomed at the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters, where he was felicitated a day after the women's reservation bill was passed by the Indian Parliament in New Delhi.

Biden to host Pacific island leaders in US charm offensive vs China

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will host a second summit with Pacific island leaders this week, part of a U.S. charm offensive to block further Chinese inroads into a strategic region Washington has long considered its own backyard. During the three-day meeting, the U.S. will announce diplomatic recognition for two Pacific islands, promise new money for infrastructure, including to improve Internet connectivity via undersea cables, and honor regional leaders at an NFL game.

Biden held an inaugural summit with the islanders at the White House a year ago and was due to meet them again in Papua New Guinea in May. That plan was scrapped when a U.S. debt-ceiling crisis forced Biden to cut short an Asia trip. At last year's summit with 14 Pacific island nations, Biden's administration pledged to help islanders fend off China's "economic coercion" and a joint declaration resolved to strengthen their partnership, saying they shared a vision for a region where "democracy will be able to flourish."

The White House said this year's effort would focus on priorities including climate change, economic growth, sustainable development, public health and countering illegal fishing. The United States will also officially recognize the Cook Islands and another small nation, Niue, for the first time during the summit. In Baltimore on Sunday, the leaders will see a Coast Guard cutter in the harbor and be briefed on combating illegal fishing by the Commandant of the Coast Guard, an official said.

At least 16 killed in coal mine fire in southwest China

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: At least 16 people were killed in a coal mine fire on Sunday in southwest China's Guizhou province, local officials said. The fire broke out at the Shanjiashu Coal Mine at around 8:10am (0010 GMT), the Panzhou City government said in a notice posted to its website on Sunday night. "It was preliminarily determined that the conveyor belt caught fire, causing 16 people to be trapped," it added, with no further details on what was damaged or how the fire began.

Emergency personnel extinguished the blaze and temperatures at the site returned to normal, but "after preliminary verification, 16 people have no vital signs", the notice said. The Panzhou City mine is about 3,600 kilometres (2,250 miles) southwest of the capital Beijing. China — the world's biggest emitter of the pollutants driving climate change — operates thousands of coal mines, even as Beijing has pledged to peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

France pledges \$150 million to UN's IFAD fund for rural areas

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to invest \$150 million in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to fight poverty and climate change in rural areas. France decided to host and organise the 13th replenishment of IFAD, and was now launching a call for contributions by making the commitment, Macron said in a video message broadcast during a charity concert organized in New York by the non-profit group Global Citizen. IFAD is a Rome-based United Nations agency working to address poverty and hunger in developing countries' rural areas.



European MP and former Brexit negotiator Guy Verhofstadt and anti-Brexit campaigner Gina Miller take part in a rally calling for the UK to rejoin the EU.

Jailed Kremlin critic transferred to a prison in Siberia, placed in 'punishment cell,' lawyer says

Monitoring Desk
TALLINN: An imprisoned Russian opposition figure has been transferred to a maximum security prison in Siberia and placed in a tiny "punishment cell," his lawyer said Sunday. Vladimir Kara-Murza Jr., 42, earlier this year was convicted of treason for publicly denouncing Russia's war in Ukraine and sentenced to 25 years in prison as part of the Kremlin's relentless crackdown on critics. On Thursday, he arrived at IK-6 — a maximum security penal colony in the Siberian city of Omsk, his

lawyer Vadim Prokhorov said in a Facebook post Sunday. Prokhorov said the transfer from a detention center in Moscow, where Kara-Murza was being held pending trial and appeals, took less than three weeks. Russian prison transfers, usually done by train, are notorious for taking a long time, sometimes weeks, during which there's no access to prisoners, and information about their whereabouts is limited. Kara-Murza, a journalist and an opposition activist, was jailed in April 2022.

Ex-Wagner commander arrested in Norway

Monitoring Desk
OSLO: Norwegian police have arrested a former commander of the Wagner mercenary group on suspicion that he tried to illegally cross the border back into Russia after seeking asylum in Norway earlier this year, the man's lawyer said on Saturday. Andrei Medvedev, who escaped Russia in January via its Arctic border with Norway, has described running as Russian guards fired shots at him. He has spoken about his time fighting in Ukraine as part of the Wagner group. Police said in a statement late on Friday that a man in his 20s had been taken into custody for attempting to illegally cross the Russian border.

Thousands march in France to protest against police violence

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Tens of thousands of people marched in France Saturday to protest police violence in demonstrations organised by the left, with clashes breaking out on the margins of the Paris rally. The nationwide protest came just under three months after the point-blank killing by a policeman of a youth outside Paris at a traffic check sparked over a week of rioting in Paris and elsewhere. In Paris, demonstrators of all ages held up placards proclaiming "Stop

state violence". "Don't forgive or forget" or "The law kills", with a statue of justice with its eyes crossed out in red. The demonstrators took particular aim at article 435-1 of the internal security code, introduced in 2017, which extends the possibility for the forces of law and order to shoot in the event of a suspect's refusal to comply. The demonstrators were responding to a call by the radical left including the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI).

Italy criticises Germany for funding migrant charity groups

Monitoring Desk
ROME: A German plan to finance charities helping migrants in the Mediterranean causes difficulties for Italy, defence minister Guido Crosetto said on Sunday, as Rome tries to enforce tougher measures to stem the flow of sea arrivals. Following reports in Italian media, a spokesperson for the German foreign ministry said on Friday that Berlin was implementing a parliamentary financial support.

Iran's Raisi says Israeli 'normalisation' deals will fail

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said in a US television interview on Sunday that US-sponsored efforts to normalise Israeli relations with Gulf Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, "will see no success". In an interview with CNN, Raisi also said Iran had not said it does not want nuclear inspectors from the United Nations' nuclear watchdog in the country. Raisi has said Iran has no issue with the UN nuclear watchdog's inspection of its nuclear sites, days after Tehran barred multiple inspectors assigned to the country. Israel has moved closer to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan

and Morocco following a US-driven diplomatic initiative in 2020 which pushed for normalisation of relations. Establishing ties with Saudi Arabia — home to some of Islam's holiest sites — would be the grand prize for Israel and change the geopolitics of the Middle East. Commenting on Iran's nuclear programme, Raisi said: "We have announced time and time again that the use of nuclear weapons, the use of weapons of mass destruction in general, do not have a place. Why? Because we don't believe in it, nor do we have a need for it." "The Islamic Republic of Iran hasn't said we do not wish any inspectors to be here."

Armenian PM blames Russia for failing to ensure security

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Sunday the likelihood was rising that ethnic Armenians would flee the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh and blame Russia for failing to ensure Armenian security. If 120,000 people go down the Lachin corridor to Armenia, the small South Caucasian country could face both a humanitarian and political crisis. "If proper conditions are not created for the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh to live in their homes and there are no effective protection mechanisms against ethnic cleansing, the likelihood is rising that the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh will see exile from their homeland as the only way to save their lives and identity," Pashinyan said in address to the nation. "Responsibility for such a development of events will fall entirely on Azerbaijan, which adopted a policy of ethnic cleansing, and on the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Nagorno-Karabakh," he said, according to a government transcript. He added that the Armenian-Russian strategic partnership was "not enough to ensure the external security of Armenia". Last week, Azerbaijan scored a victory over ethnic Armenians who have controlled the Karabakh region since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. An adviser to the leader of the Karabakh Armenians told Reuters earlier on Sunday that the population would leave because they feel unsafe under Azerbaijani rule.

porter. "Serbia's 'little green men' with armoured vehicles are 15 km inside Kosovo territory (Banjska), where a terror attack against Kosovo police resulted in a police officer being killed & another wounded." Blerim Vela, chief of staff to Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani, said in a post on social media platform X. Reuters could not verify Vela's comments. In her own post on X, Osmani condemned the incident as a terrorist attack by Serbian criminal groups. There was no immediate reaction on the incident from Serbian officials. Tensions have run high in Kosovo, the former Serbian province, after clashes in May when more than 90 NATO peacekeeping soldiers and some 50 Serb protesters were injured in northern Kosovo. Ethnic Albanians form more than 90% of the population in Kosovo, with Serbs being the majority only in its northern region where a Serb-majority municipalities association is planned.

One police officer killed, another hurt in Kosovo gunfire, PM Kurti says

Monitoring Desk
NORTH MITROVICA: One Kosovo police officer was killed and another injured during a shooting in a village in the north of Kosovo early on Sunday, in the first such major violence in months, Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti said in a statement. "At this moment, gunfire with various caliber firearms against our police is still ongoing," Kurti said in a post on Facebook, describing the incident as a terrorist action. "The attackers are professionals wearing masks and heavily armed." Kosovo police said in a statement that early on Sunday, two heavy vehicles without license plates were positioned on a bridge in the village of Banjska, blocking the entrance and firing at the police units that arrived "with an arsenal of firearms, including hand grenades and arm launchers". NATO troops, along with members of the EU police force EULEX and Kosovo police, could be seen patrolling the road leading to Banjska, according to a Reuters reporter.

and integrate the region, but the Armenians say they fear repression. "Our people do not want to live as part of Azerbaijan. Ninety-nine point nine percent prefer to leave our historic lands," David Babayan, an adviser to Samvel Shahramanyan, the president of the self-styled Republic of Artsakh, told Reuters. "The fate of our poor people will go down in history as a disgrace and a shame for the Armenian people and for the whole civilised world," Babayan said. "Those responsible for our fate will one day have to answer before God for their sins." The Armenian leaders of Karabakh said in a statement that all those made homeless by the Azerbaijani military operation and wanting to leave would be escorted to Armenia by Russian peacekeepers.

Karabakh's 120,000 Armenians will leave for Armenia, adviser to leader says

Monitoring Desk
NEAR KORNIDZOR: The 120,000 ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh will leave for Armenia as they do not want to live as part of Azerbaijan and fear ethnic cleansing, the leadership of the breakaway region told Reuters on Sunday. Armenia's Prime Minister also said the Karabakh Armenians were likely to leave the region, and that Armenia was ready to take them in, following a defeat last week at the hands of Azerbaijan in a conflict dating to the fall of the Soviet Union. The Armenians of Karabakh, a territory internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but previously beyond Baku's control, were forced to declare a ceasefire on Sept. 20 after a lightning 24-hour military operation by the much larger Azerbaijani military. Azerbaijan says it will guarantee their rights

and integrate the region, but the Armenians say they fear repression. "Our people do not want to live as part of Azerbaijan. Ninety-nine point nine percent prefer to leave our historic lands," David Babayan, an adviser to Samvel Shahramanyan, the president of the self-styled Republic of Artsakh, told Reuters. "The fate of our poor people will go down in history as a disgrace and a shame for the Armenian people and for the whole civilised world," Babayan said. "Those responsible for our fate will one day have to answer before God for their sins." The Armenian leaders of Karabakh said in a statement that all those made homeless by the Azerbaijani military operation and wanting to leave would be escorted to Armenia by Russian peacekeepers.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Karkar 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 perse-

cuting 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.



Minister of National Defence Turkiye, Defence Minister of Pakistan Lt. Gen (retd) Anwar Ali Hyder and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in a group photo along with commissioning crew onboard newly commissioned PNS BABUR.



QUETTA: Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi listening problems of patients during his visit to BMC hospital.

Caretaker CM directs to expand medical services of BIC HQ for making it exemplary center

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki has directed to the concerned authorities to expand the medical services of Balochistan Institute of Child Healthcare Quetta (BIC HQ) for making it an exemplary institution of children diseases.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the surprise visit to BIC HQ on Sunday.

He reviewed the medical treatment facilities avail-

able at the Institute.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary Health, Asfandyar Yar Kakar and Chief Executive Officer of BIC HQ, Habibullah Babar besides other concerned.

It was informed to the Chief Minister that new CT scan machine has been purchased while the whole hospital has been solarized.

With this, the amount otherwise spent on account of the utility bills would be utilized for improving medical services at the institute.

Moreover, new block is also in last stages of completion costing Rs. 1.5 billion. The work on new block would be completed by end of October this year, it was informed further.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister directed to install the CT scan in the hospital immediately.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the pace of work of under construction block besides making the energy system solarized in the hospital.

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) supremo 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).

Terming 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.

NAB & Pakistan cannot go together, Zardari's position is correct

LONDON (Online): Muslim League (N) leader Malik Ahmed Khan has said that NAB and Pakistan cannot go together.

This position of Asif Zardari is correct, Talking to the media in London, PML-N leader Malik Ahmed Khan said that the NAB law is a cause of disaster for Pakistan.

He is friendly with Caretaker Prime Minister

Anwar Haq Kakar, but did not meet him during his stay at the hotel.

He came to London for personal work. He said that NAB's decision is not against politicians but against Pakistan.

Civil servants are not ready to sign any file with this law of NAB.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was also asked to abolish this law through Parliament.

Gift of Umrah ticket to Pak artist who painted portrait of Saudi Prince

LAHORE (Online): Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, has gifted a ticket for Umrah to Pakistani artist Omar Jaral, who created the portrait of Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.

According to Arab media report, 33-year-old Omar Jaral suffers from cerebral palsy (CP) and uses a computer to communicate.

Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki met Omar Jaral in Lahore at an event organized on the occasion of the 93rd National Day of Saudi Arabia.

First snowfall in Neelum Valley ushers in snap winter feel

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Neelum Valley has received the first snowfall of the year.

Ratti Gali Lake, Baboon Valley and Shouner Lake have received snowfall. The first snowfall has ushered in winter in the upper areas of Neelum Valley.

Tourists in large numbers were seen at Ratti Gali Lake, Baboon Valley, Chitta Katha Lake, and Patlian Lake.

The weather became pleasant as different cities of Punjab including Lahore received light rain today.

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.

Accountability Court restores 22 NAB references

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Rawalpindi Accountability Court has restored 22 NAB references, which will be heard on Monday, September 25, in compliance with the Supreme Court's order declaring the NAB amendments null and void.

The accused of all the references have been summoned to the court after issuing notices. The NAB prosecutor said that the accused who finished the case from jail will be sent to Adiala jail again. Accused of 8 cases will be charged. All mudarabah, fake housing

reference and corruption cases were restored.

Accountability Court Judge Raja Qamar Zaman accepted the request to reopen the references. Summoning notices to the accused in all 22 references are being delivered to the respective police stations today. The court ordered that the summon notices should also be made to comply with the accused today. The court has also called for additional police force on the occasion of the hearing of 22 references reopened on Monday, September 25.

Pak 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, Turkiye. The event was graced by the Minister of National Defence Turkiye Yasar Güler 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, Turkiye 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 underscored that PN MILGEM Ships fitted with state-of-the-art.

Tiger strays into Parachinar bazaar, injures two

PARACHINAR (INP): Two people were injured after a tiger attacked them at a bazaar in Parachinar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Sunday morning.

However, the shopkeepers managed to cage the animal in a shop. According to District Forest Officer Wildlife Munsif Ali, the injured people were shifted to Parachinar Hospital. Soon after the incident, a team of the Wildlife Department reached.



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

UNDP holds workshop with media to foster awareness in combating HIV/AIDS stigma

Independent Report
QUETTA: Intending to combat the prevailing stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) organized a workshop for media professionals in Quetta. The initiative is part of UNDP's larger drive to foster accurate and sensitive reporting on the subject, contributing to broader awareness and understanding within the community. This was the fifth engagement with the national-level media, and UNDP has earlier held workshops for media in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, and Karachi.

The workshop commenced with a recital from the Holy Quran, setting a contemplative tone for the discussions. Mubashir Akram introduced the workshop structure, providing participants with an outline of the sessions.

Taking the stage next, Zulfiqar Durrani, Head of

Office, UNDP Balochistan, provided insights about the HIV prevention project with AIDS control program. "Our efforts in Balochistan are geared towards not just controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS, but also altering the narrative surrounding the condition," he stated. Durrani also stressed the importance of community engagement and acknowledged the media's role in disseminating correct information, saying, "Every story that is told right brings us one step closer to a stigma-free society." Summayyah Rasheed, Program Officer Stigma and Discrimination, briefed the audience on the overall scope of the UNDP project sponsored by the Global Fund. "This initiative represents a collaborative endeavor to end the spread HIV but the associated discrimination," said Rasheed. She added, "With the support of media professionals,



KHALIQABAD: Provincial Advisor for Irrigation Mir Danish Langho being briefed about machinery during his visit to Khaliqabad Hospital.

GoB takes notice of police cops torture on a citizen

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has taken notice of the torture on a citizen by police personnel in Shahbaz Town area on Sunday.

According to an official hand out issued here, the provincial government has ordered to the Inspector General of Police to conduct an inquiry into the matter and take action against those involved in the torture. In this regard, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai said that the government took notice of the matter after a video of torture on the citizen got viral.

He asserted that such behaviour of police is not

tolerable with the citizens. He said that government has issued directives to Inspector General of Police to inquire the matter and take stern action against those involved in the torture.

He said that the differences between police and public may increase with such untoward incidents, however, the government would not let this happen because of mistake of any personal. It may be mentioned here that the police along with QESCO had raided Shahbaz town area of Quetta on Sunday. During the action, police tortured a citizen allegedly involved in electricity theft when he refused to go with the police.

Pakistan's envoy presents credentials to Queen of Denmark

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark Shoaib Sarwar has presented his credentials to Her Majesty Queen of Denmark, Margrethe 2 on Friday (September 22) in Copenhagen. Ambassador Sarwar, before his appointment as Ambassador to Denmark, served at Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad as Joint Secretary, a press release received here on Sunday said. During his diplomatic career, Shoaib Sarwar has earlier served in Canada, Netherlands and USA. He holds BA(Hons) from University of Kent in United Kingdom and MBA from New York University, USA

Special anti-polio campaign kicks off in Killa Abdullah, Chaman & six UCs of Pishin today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The special anti-polio campaign is scheduled to start in Killa Abdullah and Chaman districts and six union councils of Pishin district from today (Monday).

According to the Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication, the campaign is being launched to vaccinate over 170,000 children below five years of age during the campaign.

that whole districts of Killa Abdullah and Chaman while six union councils of Pishin district would be covered in the special campaign that would remain continued for seven days.

In all 449 mobile teams along with other fix and transit points teams have been formed for the special campaign.

Moreover, a full-fledged countrywide anti-polio campaign is also due to be started all over the province from October 2,

2023. The necessary arrangements are being made for the campaign. During the campaign, around 2.6 million children would be administered the anti-polio vaccine.

In addition to the anti-polio vaccine, the Vitamin A drops would also be administered to the children, the EOC sources informed.

This national campaign would also remain continued for seven days after starting on October 2.



HUB: Members of Sikh Community protesting against killing of Hardeep Singh in front of Lasbella Press Club.



QUETTA: DG new Tech Hussain Magsi is inspecting the verification test of skilled persons who are going to Saudi Arabia.

Martyred soldier laid to rest with military honour

RAWALPINDI (APP): The funeral prayers of, Shaheed, Sepoy Shakeel Shafiqat who embraced martyrdom a day earlier during an intelligence-based operation against the

Khanewal district. The martyr was buried with full military honours, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Military and civil of-



terrorists in Mir Ali area of North Waziristan, were offered on Sunday in his native village Kabirvala of

officials, relatives of the martyr and people from different walks of life attended the funeral prayer, it said.