

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVIII No. 275, Rabi-ul-Awwal 16, 1445 AH Tuesday October 03, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Presence of virus in environmental samples in Pishin matter of concern: Coverage of polio immunization campaigns gradually improved in Balochistan: Domki

Independent Report Islamabad on Monday. The Chief Minister also pointed out that no case of polio has been reported in Balochistan since January 27, 2021. The last case of polio had been reported from Kila Abdullah, he maintained. However, the polio virus has been detected in the environmental samples in Pishin district after 28 months, which is a matter of great concern for us. Mr. Domki also said that the virus detected in the Pishin environmental belongs to Afghanistan. On finding the virus, the special immunization campaign was launched on an emergent basis in Pishin from September 26. However, steps are being taken for prevention of the virus and stopping its spread to other areas.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the launching ceremony of National Polio Eradication Campaign. Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki is also present

PM stresses provision of skills to manpower according to contemporary requirements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday stressed the need to work on a war footing for the provision of skills to the country's manpower according to contemporary requirements. He said the professional education and vocational training programs should be prepared at par with the needs of the international market. Chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet here, the prime minister said steps should be taken to increase employment opportunities of skilled people abroad. On recommendation of federal ministry of education and professional training, the federal cabinet also approved the service level amended agreement be-



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozgezi

President condemns terrorist attack in Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a Turkiye's government building in Ankara. The president expressed hope that Turkiye would overcome terrorism under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "I am sure that Turkiye would eliminate the threat of terrorism under the dynamic leadership of President Erdogan," the president posted on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. One of the two terrorists blew himself up in front of the General Directorate of Security in Turkiye's capital Ankara on Sunday.

IHC dismisses lower courts' verdicts in nine bail petitions of PTI Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed decision of trial court for terminating pre-arrest bails of PTI's Chairman in nine case on the basis of non-pursuance. The court said bail petitions of PTI's head would be considered as pending and trial court would take decision after hearing them again. A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict on appeal of chairman PTI. It may be mentioned here Additional District and Session Court dismissed the interim bail petitions of PTI's head in six cases, while Anti-Terrorism Court turned terminated three bail petitions due to non-pursuance after his arrest in toshakhana case. The cases were connected with the incidents of May 3, violation of section-144 and protests in capital. The PTI's legal team had challenged the verdict in IHC.

Woman commits suicide along with four daughters

QUETTA (APP): A mother and her four young daughters have taken their own lives, allegedly as a result of relentless domestic violence, police said on Monday. They said the woman, a resident of Hazara Town Quetta resorted to consuming poison, tragically bringing her four daughters along with her. The dead bodies were shifted to the civil hospital Quetta and after medico-legal formalities handed over to heirs. Further probe is underway.

Interim Govt decides to evict 11 lacs foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan

In first phase, illegal residents, in second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker government has decided to evict 11 lacs foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement in funding, facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities. In the first phase, illegal residents, in the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled. "Illegally resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of Pakistan" said a source privy to the development and added that the plan for eviction of illegally residing Afghan citizens has also been approved as this lot is involved in funding, facilitating and smuggling terrorists whereas 7 lacs Afghans have not renewed their proof of residence in Pakistan. It has been informed that in the first phase, illegal residents will be deported along with those who do not renew their visas. In the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship will be deported, in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be deported. The Ministry of Interior has prepared a plan in consultation with the stakeholders and the Afghan government. In the meantime, the ministry has also issued directives to the concerned to compile a record of Afghans living without permits and prepare a transportation plan to bring them to the Afghan border. Apart from checking the records of all the Afghans residing in the country the concerned officials were directed to quickly deal with the applications filed regarding the registration of Afghans.

Governor visits SPH, CMH, inquire health of Mastung injured

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar visited the Trauma Center of Sandeman civil hospital and Combined Military Hospital here on Monday. During the visit, the Governor inquired about the health of persons injured in the suicide attack in Mastung in Friday last. He went to every injured of the Mastung blast and had interaction with them inquiring about their health. He on the occasion also appreciated the doctors and medical staff on provision of timely and better care of those injured in the blast.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar enquiring about health of injured of Mastung bomb blast during his visit to CMH

Jan Muhammad Achakzai says: Interim Govt. fully prepared to tackle any emergent situation

Independent Report QUETTA: The interim provincial government is fully prepared and active to tackle any emergent situation in the province. This was stated by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai in an official statement issued here on Monday. Jan Achakzai referred to the forecast by seismic research institute of solar system geometry survey (SSGS) and remarked that the advance prediction of the earthquake couldn't be made. However, the natural calamities are the reality. Our emergency services including MERS, PDMA, Pak Army, Frontier Corps, Civil administration, Levies, police, Fire

Interior minister says Security personnel involved in smuggling to face court martial

Says apex committee meetings being held to tackle terrorism; "Not right" to say security forces not involved in smuggling; Caretaker govt taking special measures to curb terrorism, hoarding, smuggling

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on Monday that any security personnel found engaged in cross-border smuggling will face court-martial proceedings. Bugti's statement follows a similar warning issued by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir, emphasising that security officials involved in cross-border smuggling would be subject to court martial. During a press conference in Islamabad, Bugti acknowledged the involvement of security forces in smuggling activities, stating, "If I say that security forces weren't involved [in smuggling], it won't be right as the smuggled items are transported via trucks, not camels." Bugti said that Gen Asim Munir had warned military personnel that involvement in illegal cross-border trade would not only result in court martial but also lead to imprisonment. He explained that the army had its accountability mechanism, which, while not publicly known, does exist. He said similar fourteen joint check posts are being established in Punjab, ten in Sindh and seven in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to control illegal activities. He said on the special reports from the intelligence agencies, an action is being taken against smugglers, hoarders including their facilitators' officials or civilians in all provinces. The minister said that for stoppage for sugar smuggling, the FBR using latest technology, was tracking the transportation of sugar and in the first phase 54 sugar mills had been taken on board whereas the rest were being taken on the system. National Counter Narcotics Center is being setup to control drugs smuggling, said the minister.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a press Conference.

Nawaz Sharif books ticket for return to Pakistan

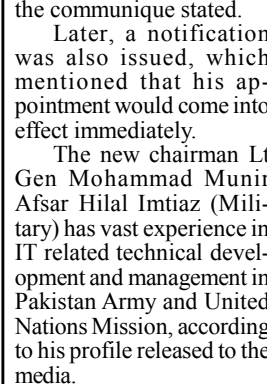
ISLAMABAD (Online): Ticket has been booked for return of Nawaz Sharif from London to Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif will land in Abu Dhabi international airport on October 21 from London. Advance booking for Nawaz Sharif has been made through private airlines flight 243. Booking has been made in business class of private airlines. Nawaz Sharif will leave Abu Dhabi for Lahore on October 21. Private airlines will land in Allama Iqbal international airport at 6.25 p.m.

No place for terrorists and their facilitators in Pakistan, reiterate Solangi, Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Murtaza Solangi welcomed Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti. The two ministers discussed matters of mutual interest including law and order situation in the country. In the meeting, both Murtaza Solangi and Sarfraz Bugti expressed their profound regret over the loss of precious lives in the recent bomb blasts in the country. Both the federal ministers reiterated that there was no place in Pakistan for terrorists and their facilitators.

Lt Gen Munir Afsar named Nadra's chairman

By M. Ilyas ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet Monday approved the appointment of Lieutenant General Munir Afsar as the chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra). The federal cabinet approved his appointment after it received a summary containing three names the communique stated. Later, a notification was also issued, which mentioned that his appointment would come into effect immediately. The new chairman Lt Gen Mohammad Munir Afsar Hilal Intiaz (Military) has vast experience in IT related technical development and management in Pakistan Army and United Nations Mission, according to his profile released to the media. Lt Gen Muhammad Munir is an MPhil in Public Policy and National Security Management.



Polio campaign starts in 34 districts of Balochistan

Foolproof security arrangements made for the campaign: CS **Independent Report** QUETTA: The country-wide anti-polio campaign started in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan province on Monday. The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan formally inaugurated the immunization campaign by administering anti-polio drops to the children at the Chief Secretary's office. Administration of the anti-polio vaccine to the children marked inauguration of the vital campaign against the crippling disease. Also present on the occasion were Secretary Health, Asfandyar Khan



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan administering drop to a child to formally inaugurate anti polio campaign

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Faizabad redux

The memory of the infamous Faizabad dharna of 2017 has returned to haunt Pakistan. When one looks back at the stand-off, which eventually saw the Tehreek-i-Labbaik catapulted into the political 'mainstream', there is little to feel but regret.

As the Supreme Court takes up review petitions against its 2019 verdict in the same case, the TLP is once again on the rampage, this time against minority communities.

Unfortunately, there has been, so far, no attempt by the state to clamp down on their disruptive activities — an approach in line with the security establishment's earlier inclination to allow a free hand to the group. Interestingly, those who had filed the review pleas against the 2019 Faizabad sit-in verdict now want them withdrawn.

They include the PTI, which participated in an extended smear campaign against the current chief justice following the judgement, but which now finds it more suitable for his verdict to be implemented without further qualification.

There are also some who do not want the matter to be revisited as this will invariably give rise to difficult questions about the present political context.

It may be recalled that the Supreme Court's Faizabad ruling had prompted a presidential reference against Justice Isa — a move that was widely seen as a 'punishment' for his attempt to hold the security forces to account.

The judgement was seen as a clarion call for unelected quarters to respect their oath, to stop interfering in the political domain, and to check religious extremists, instead of patronising them.

But none was ever prosecuted for engaging in unlawful political activity, and the TLP was allowed to flourish despite its virulent ideology, which recurrently caused immense embarrassment for the Pakistani authorities in later years.

The political instability seen lately and the repeated attacks on Pakistan's minority communities in recent weeks are just some of the symptoms of the state's failure to implement the Faizabad sit-in verdict.

After the Eid Milad-un-Nabi bombings this Friday, many observers have been wondering why Pakistan continues to be targeted by those seeking to shed innocent blood. It would appear that violent extremism continues to find easy outlets here because it ranks so low in our state's priorities.

Consider how the state responded to the Faizabad verdict. When the court excoriated the security agencies for failing to act firmly against those openly spreading hate and advocating extremism, the administration at the time, instead of ensuring that the miscreants were dealt with resolutely, attempted to neutralise the judge who had issued the ruling. As long as terrorists know that our state will turn a blind eye to bigotry and hate, there is little hope for us to be rid of the malignancies that have become embedded in our sociopolitical fabric.

Refugee question



Huma Yusuf

It has been a bad week for refugees. A debate is brewing on whether the UN's refugee convention is still fit for purpose. A recent Financial Times poll found that 56 per cent of Americans and 60pc of Britons say immigration is too high. Closer to home, our interim government authorised the deportation of undocumented Afghan refugees.

Our policymakers should closely follow the evolving global rhetoric on refugees for it will inevitably affect Pakistan's global standing.

It is not surprising that refugees are back in the headlines. According to the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, as of May this year, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced due to conflict, persecution or human rights violations, of which more than 35m were categorised as refugees.

Pakistan is in a double bind. On the one hand, as the preferred destination for over 2m Afghan refugees, it faces international pressure to sign up to the UN refugee convention (Pakistan is not a signatory and thus does not have national legislation guiding refugee and asylum protocols or non-refoulement, which is why it can deport vulnerable Afghans without breaching local or international law). On the other, as a (growing) exporter of refugees, it will face mounting pressure to stem the tide as well as aggressive containment approaches. Our economic, security and foreign policies are not adequately equipped to manage the challenge.

The interim set-up has already faced criticism for its decision to deport undocumented Afghan refugees (Pakistan hosts 1.4m documented Afghan refugees; an equal number of undocumented Afghans are also believed to reside in the country). The refugees complain of harassment and police mishandling, claiming that Pakistani authorities have been slow to approve registrations and visa extension applications. The international community is raising its eyebrow at a country ready to send Afghans, including girls and women, back to a country where human rights violations are extreme.

Pakistan uses deportations as a way to demonstrate it is cracking down on cross-border militancy, while also hoping it serves as a pressure tactic to elicit more support from Kabul to limit this security threat. This is largely ineffective given that most Afghan refugees are legitimately fleeing hunger, conflict and women's rights violations.

Pakistan should, instead, consider the benefits of welcoming Afghan refugees, as it has historically done. This would be humane and demonstrate that Pakistan does not condone the extremism and horrific misogyny of the Taliban. It would also position Pakistan well for future international negotiations in which it would want to advocate for Pakistani refugees in other countries to be treated humanely and in accordance with international laws.

As a first step, Pakistan should sign the UN refugee convention, but on the condition that its Western allies provide it with support to comply with non-refoulement requirements (the prohibition on states to return individuals to places where they would be at risk). Indeed, refugee management could become a core aspect of our foreign policy.

has been resisting setting up a Resettlement Support Centre to enable the US to process resettlement applications of Afghan refugees and relocate them onwards to the US. It argues that an RSC would trigger a flood of Afghan refugees. The US, meanwhile, refuses to handle resettlement cases without an RSC. This is an area for productive engagement between Pakistan and the US: Islamabad can enable Washington to meet its commitments in the wake of its messy Afghanistan exit, while receiving support to manage the influx of refugees in exchange.

Turkey is currently the world's largest refugee-hosting country, and knowledge sharing of best practices for refugee/asylum frameworks could be a key element of the growing partnership between the two states. Pakistan could also serve as a valuable interlocutor with allies such as China and the GCC to encourage them to take a greater share of the global refugee population in line with their economic status, an argument that can only be made from the moral high ground, but that would help sustain the relevance of Pakistan's voice globally, and help secure fair treatment for Pakistani refugees later.

The world is on a difficult trajectory and the number of refugees and asylum seekers will only soar. Our own worsening security and economic environment and sickening levels of religious intolerance mean that Pakistani refugees will be among that count. If we want to safeguard our compatriots, we must change our perspective on the refugee challenge. Let's not forget the age-old wisdom of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. -- Courtesy Dawn

Southern conundrum



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

The south of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has historically been a turbulent region. It has been a haven for freedom-loving anti-imperialists as well as those with an intense devotion to religion. It has seen long-drawn tribal feuds and major demographic transitions. All of these factors have kept the region alive in the news and in history books.

Of KP's total area of 101,741 square kilometres, south KP occupies 36,655 sq km, or 36 per cent. The region is administratively divided into three divisions and 12 districts (including the recently bifurcated South Waziristan). North Waziristan's border with Afghanistan stretches over 183km, and it neighbours the Afghan provinces of Khost, Paktia and Paktika, where militants are reportedly concentrated. South Waziristan's border with Afghanistan stretches over 107km and, further north, Kurram shares a 192km boundary with Afghanistan, adjoining Nangarhar, Khost, and Paktia.

After a spike in militancy and counterterrorism operations, certain parts of south KP experienced significant demographic changes. People from South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Kurram and Orakzai migrated to Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, and Kohat, respectively. D.I. Khan's population grew from 852,995 in the 1998 census to 1,625,088 persons in the 2017 census. Likewise, in 1998, Tank counted 238,216 people, rising to 390,626 in 2017. In

1998, Bannu had 675,667 people, which rose to 1,167,071 in 2017. Displacement and migration simultaneously de-tribalised the local culture while burdening the urban areas of Kohat, Bannu, and D.I. Khan.

Militancy in south KP is a consequence of historical, political and socioeconomic factors. The region lacks linguistic or ethnic homogeneity. Its effective governance req-uis-ites a thorough understanding of its history, diversity, and the nature of its tribal dynamics. The Wazir, Bhattani, Mehsud, Kundi, Bangash, Paracha, Afridi, Khattak, Banuchi, Marwat, Gandapur, Miankhel, Turi, Orakzai, and Banuri are its major tribes. Pashto, Seraiki, Hindko, Brahui, and Urdu are the spoken languages. The region also has substantial sectarian diversity, including a significant Shia presence in D.I. Khan, Kurram, Kohat, and Hangu.

South KP is home to conservative tribal communities that feel marginalised, and which shuttle between nationalism and religiosity. Poverty, unemployment and a lack of access to education and basic services have contributed to their sense of general hopelessness, leaving the poverty-stricken youth susceptible to radicalisation and militant recruitment. External actors have exploited the local population's feelings of marginalisation to their advantage.

Furthermore, poor infrastructure has hampered trade and economic development. A long spell of militancy and other factors have disrupted rail and air connectivity: the railway stations in Tank, Bannu, Hangu, Usterzai, and Thal stand abandoned, while the airports in Bannu, Parachinar, and D.I. Khan are no longer operational. Newly constructed roads in the former tribal areas have,

however, bridged some distances and improved governance, trade, and the mobility of security forces.

South KP gets very little time and space in Pakistani media. Keeping in view the communication barriers, radio broadcasts may prove an effective medium of communication in the region and may help counter prevailing extremist narratives. Radio Pakistan has a radio station in D.I. Khan, and FM radio stations are on air in Bannu, Hangu, Kohat, and North Waziristan. In the absence of effective communication, people rely on alternative media, external broadcasts, and social media content to get information, but these mediums often carry provocative content that may be detrimental to Pak--istan's interests.

Bannu, D.I. Khan, Kohat and Kurram were notified districts during the British era, so all, except Kurram, have cantonments. These districts were established primarily on the basis of their strategic importance; the colonial rulers wanted to improve their control over the tribal areas and improve revenue collection. Because the remaining districts in south KP were established after independence, the infrastructure they inherited was weak, which impacted public service. The mere creation of any more districts will not serve the interests of the state or the public; therefore, infrastructural development, improved public service delivery, and revenue collection should be the key focus areas. The dividends from the 25th Amendment for the newly merged districts have come in the form of growing realisation and acceptance of different institutions and fundamental human rights. However, resources are limited and expectations high: how to deliver in this context remains the real challenge. - Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

President directs National Savings to reimburse Rs 1.2m to woman fraud victim

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday directed the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) to reimburse an amount of Rs 1.2 million with profit to a woman victim of fraud.

The money was fraudulently withdrawn from the woman's account through the issuance of a fictitious cheque book and affixing her fake signatures on the withdrawal slip. President Alvi asked CDNS to refer the matter to FIA for proper investigation so that the

delinquent officials of CDNS involved in the scam may be brought to the book and punished.

The president issued these directions while deciding on a representation filed by CDNS (the Agency) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing CDNS to refer the matter to FIA for thorough investigation. As per details, the complainant Abida Riffat had alleged that she was maintaining a Pensioners Benefit Account with CDNS in Rawalpindi. She

found out in 2021 that an amount of Rs 1.2 million had been fraudulently withdrawn from her account in 2019 through another cheque book which was never issued to her.

She lodged a complaint with CDNS for investigation and recovery of her defrauded amount, but the matter was investigated in a superfluous manner and she was informed that she could not produce any evidence in support of her claim. Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Wafaqi

Mohtasib which asked CDNS to investigate the matter through FIA. CDNS then filed a representation with the President against the Mohtasib's decision.

President Alvi in his decision observed that CDNS in its letter dated 28.12.2021 had admitted that Rs 1.2 million were withdrawn from her account through the fake transaction on 23.05.2019 by affixing a fake signature on the withdrawal slip. He noted that during an internal inquiry conducted by CDNS,



ISLAKOT: Former President Lahore Bar Association Jameel Akhtar Baig Advocate Expert Economics addressing to a seminar on Tax System and Economic Challenges in Pakistan at SCCI organized by Government Graduate College of Commerce.

CPI inflation recorded at 31.4% in September

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 31.4 percent during the month of September 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Monday.

The inflation had increased to 27.4 percent during last month (August) whereas it was recorded at 23.2 percent during September, 2022,

according to the PBS data. On month-on-month basis, the inflation increased to 2.0 percent in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.7 percent in the previous month and a decrease of 1.2 percent in September 2022.

The urban CPI inflation increased to 29.7% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 25.0% in the previous month and

21.2% in September 2022. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 1.7% in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.6% in the previous month and a decrease of 2.1% in September 2022.

On the other hand, the rural CPI increased to 33.9% on year-on-year basis in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 30.9% in the previous month and 26.1% in September 2022.

PSX marks WIW 2023 with gong ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) along with numerous other exchanges and organisations across the world marked World Investor Week (WIW) 2023 through a gong ceremony held at PSX. The World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), of which PSX is an Affiliate Exchange, spearheads the WIW, the WIW is being held from October 2-8, 2023.

PSX is holding this event and organising the WIW for the third

consecutive year, said a press release issued here Monday. Present at the gong ceremony were representatives from the SECP, leading academic institutions, professional bodies, and securities brokers, amongst others.

The week-long activities in World Investor Week are planned to promote the importance of financial literacy and to raise awareness about investor education and protection.

FCCI becomes "First E-Chamber" of the country

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has attained a unique status of "First E-Chamber" of the country and it is a first baby step toward the complete transformation of FCCI into a dynamic and vibrant corporate entity, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI.

Addressing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the completion of his first year,

Revolutionize Agriculture Sector Unity Plantations, Green Corporate initiative join hands

Independent Report
KARACHI: Unity Plantations (Private) Limited [a wholly owned subsidiary of Sunridge Foods (Private) Limited, which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Unity Foods Limited, hereinafter collectively referred to as Unity Group] and Green

Corporate Initiative (Private) Limited are proud to announce a groundbreaking Master Collaboration Agreement that is set to reshape Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sector, bolstering food security and promoting sustainable development.

Trade deficit narrows by 42% in 1st quarter

ISLAMABAD (APP): The trade deficit contracted by 42.25 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

The Trade deficit from July-September (2023-24) was recorded at \$5.289 billion as against the deficit of \$9.159 billion in July-September (2022-23), showing negative growth of 42.25 per cent.

During the period under review, the

exports decreased by 3.78 per cent to \$6.899 billion compared to the exports of \$7.170 billion during the corresponding period of last year, according to the latest PBS data.

On the other hand, the imports narrowed by 25.36 per cent and were recorded at \$12.188 billion compared to \$16.329 billion last year.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the exports from the country increased by 1.15 per cent in September compared to the exports of the same month of last year.



PESHAWAR: Members of Pakistan Railway All Union Grand Alliance block railway track as they are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Cantt Railway Station in Peshawar.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where fourships namely, Mumbasa Express, MSC Shahar, Dignity and Doha carrying Containers, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Amali and Kana scheduled to load/offload Cement and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage.

CDNS attains Rs 400b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 400 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to 30th September.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday. He said this was Rs 200

billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said.

Naqvi launches special education drive, project of assistive devices distribution to special children

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi officially launched the special education admission campaign and initiated the distribution of assistive devices for special children at a local hotel.

In his address, Chief Minister Naqvi expressed gratitude towards all those involved in serving special children, emphasizing that it is both a religious and worldly obligation to care for them. He pledged unwavering commitment to the Department of Special Education, assuring prompt approval of all special education projects.

Highlighting the expansion of special centers in areas like Johar Town, Chief Minister Naqvi reaffirmed that endeavors for special children will be undertaken as acts of duty and devotion. Reflecting on his visit to the Government Pilot School on Wahdat Road, he expressed personal dismay at the situation. The school, housing 1650 students, had only 60 appointed teachers, with 35 on Election Commission duty and the rest on leave. A mere 10 to 15 teachers were left to educate the vast student population, leading to a concerning decline in quality. Chief Minister

Naqvi asserted that the responsibility for rectifying these conditions lies with the administration, not the children.

He called attention to the collective responsibility of the education department, its secretary, and minister in ensuring quality education and improving school conditions. Notable figures like Akhtar Rasool, Qari Sadaqat Ali, General Zaheer, General Bilal, and General Naveed Anjum had all attended the Pilot School on Wahdat Road, which, Chief Minister Naqvi lamented, had been grievously neglected.



HYDERABAD: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) President, GM Jamali addresses during Health Insurance Card distribution ceremony held at Hyderabad press club.

Drive against adulteration in food, milk planned: Maani

PESHAWAR (APP): The Food Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has planned a comprehensive drive against adulteration in edible commodities, especially milk. Zariful Maani, Secretary Food said that a comprehensive drive was planned utilizing egg-tagging to ensure the quality of milk and other food items.

After a series of consultative meetings involving stakeholders and officials, the Secretary of Food has issued directives to prioritize food,

especially milk. The Secretary, along with the Director General and all officers, will actively engage in the field to ensure transparent quality checks.

Altuf Hussain, Director of Operations, along with mobile lab testing experts, provided a briefing to the Secretary and conducted real-time tests on milk and water, covering fresh milk (chemical and composition checks) and processed milk (composition check), as well as water tests.

LHC orders police to produce Sheikh within a week

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench has ordered police to present Sheikh Rashid within a week.

The petition against arrest of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan here Monday.

RPO Rawalpindi Syed Khuram appeared in the court.

The court questioned from RPO Rawalpindi Sheikh Rashid and two other persons with him are where. Will you give it in writing to court or produce Sheikh Rashid.

On being inquired from court, the RPO sought 15 days time more from the court. The court remarked 15 days are too much. This is not ordinary matter. Two days time will be too much.

Justice Sadaqat Ali remarked I give 7 days time due to request of Sardar Abdul Razzaq counsel for the petitioner. If Sheikh Rashid is not produced within a week, the court will order for registration of FIR.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing 'Right to Information Day' function as a special guest at Governor House.

KP Universities bars from granting new affiliation to new institutions, colleges

PESHAWAR (APP): The Higher Education Department (HED) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has barred the public sector universities of the province from granting fresh or new affiliation to any new institution, college or programme till finalization of fresh policy by Higher Education Commission (HEC).

According to a letter issued to the public sector universities, the HED explained that the main reason behind was violation of HEC policy for

affiliation by the universities and granting affiliation to colleges without having proper qualified teaching faculty, meeting necessary academic and physical requirements.

It said that some universities of KP were violating jurisdiction policy whereas some colleges were running BS programmes which were affiliated with such universities where the BS programme was not offered at the main campus.

DC oversees polio eradication campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Afzal Wazir on Monday supervised the polio eradication teams in various areas while convincing reluctant parents to administer polio drops to their children.

Under the supervision of the provincial government, a seven-day polio eradication campaign is underway in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Naseer Bagh Road, Regi, Hayatabad, Peshatkhar and other areas to oversee the polio eradication campaign.

Governor for access to RTI thru departmental websites

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has asked the Punjab government to speed up access to basic information under the right to information (RTI) law through websites of all provincial departments.

Addressing a ceremony in connection with the 'Right to Information Day' at the Governor's House here on Monday, he said it is a good omen that Pakistan is among the 125 countries in the world where RTI has been implemented as a law.

The event was organised by Punjab Information Commission in collaboration with the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI). Chief Information Commissioner Mehboob

Qadir Shah, senior judges, lawyers, vice chancellors and principals of various colleges were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said the main purpose of this event is to highlight the importance of Right to Information in the development of the country, adding that in the countries where the RTI law is effectively implemented, level of corruption is low.

He said RTI has a key role in eradicating corruption in government institutions, making the work of public officials effective and in good governance, adding the RTI Act ensures transparency in the financial and administrative affairs of government institutions.



HYFERABAD: Health worker administering polio vaccine drops to a child during a Polio vaccination campaign at Government Hospital at Norani basti.

7-day anti polio campaign starts in KP; 7.478mln children to be immunized

PESHAWAR (APP): The seven-day anti-polio campaign started across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday wherein as many as 7.478 million children under the age of five would be vaccinated against the crippling polio disease.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), in the first phase of the polio campaign, all children under the age of five in Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand and Hazara divisions would be given

polio drops while in the second phase of the campaign, which would continue from October 9 to 13, all children up to five years of age in Bannu and DI Khan divisions would be vaccinated.

During this campaign, vitamin A would also be given to children to increase their immunity, said the EOC, adding that in the first phase of the campaign, in all the districts of Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand and Hazara divisions.

Social media campaign against Governor KP baseless

PESHAWAR (APP): The personal assistant (PA) to the governor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maaz Fida, said on Monday that the campaign of corruption made against the governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, and the mayor of Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali, on social media is unfounded. She added that the opponents, despite using all of their resources, would be unable to prove any evidence of corruption against either of the two individuals.

The Governor's PA responded to several allegations made on social media by stating that the Governor and Mayor of Peshawar had provided unparalleled services to their citizens and that any rumors spread on social media were completely untrue.

He asserted that the governor and the mayor of Peshawar deserved praise for their devoted work and approachable demeanor. The opponents tried to discredit the mayor's and governor's positions, but they countered the misinformation with their steadfast.

Rescue 1122 handles 572 emergencies in Sep

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Rescue 1122 on Monday issued a monthly performance report, featuring a total of 572 emergencies tackled with response time ranging within seven minutes by the district's emergency service during the last month.

Sharing the report, the spokesman of the Rescue 1122 said, the service provided first medical aid to about 592 patients and subsequently shifted them to hospitals while tackling different emergencies in September under the leadership of District Emergency Officer Awais Babar.

International News

Biden says there's 'not much time' to keep aid flowing to Ukraine and Congress must 'stop the games'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden said that American aid to Ukraine will keep flowing for now as he sought to reassure allies of continued U.S. financial support for the war effort. But time is running out, the president said in a warning to Congress.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said in remarks from the Roosevelt Room after Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding package late Saturday that dropped assistance for Ukraine in the battle against Russia.

"We have time, not

much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency," he said, noting that the funding bill lasts only until mid-November. Biden urged Congress to negotiate an aid package as soon as possible.

"The vast majority of both parties — Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House — support helping Ukraine and the brutal aggression that is being thrust upon them by Russia," Biden said. "Stop playing games, get this done."

But many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on. Republican resis-

tance to the aid has been gaining momentum and the next steps are ahead, given the resistance from the hard-right flank.

While Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has begun a process to potentially consider legislation providing additional Ukraine aid, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., faces a more difficult task in keeping the commitment he made over the objections of nearly half of his GOP majority. He told CBS "Face on the Nation" that he supported "being able to make sure Ukraine has the weapons that they need," but that his priority was security at the U.S.-Mexico border.



Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar, right, and United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei attend the ADIPEC, Oil and Energy exhibition and conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

COP28 president says oil companies support 2050 net-zero goal

Monitoring Desk
ABU DHABI: COP28 president Sultan al-Jaber said on Monday that more than 20 oil and gas companies were rallying around his calls to curb carbon emissions ahead of a United Nations summit on climate change in Abu Dhabi, which is also head of United Arab Emirates oil giant ADNOC, has this year urged the energy industry to join the fight against climate change.

He was a controversial pick to lead COP28, which begins next month, because his country is an OPEC member and a major oil exporter.

"We need a system-wide holistic transformation of entire economies - economies that currently run on the equivalent of 250 million barrels of oil, gas, and coal every single day," Jaber said at an oil and gas conference in Abu Dhabi.

Zelenskiy says cooperation with EU vital for victory, Kyiv needs defence support

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Ukrainian victory in its war with Russia depends on cooperation with the European Union, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told EU foreign ministers gathered in Kyiv on Monday.

Zelenskiy also underlined the importance of "defence support" for Ukraine after the U.S. Congress left Ukraine war aid out of a spending bill and an election in Slovakia was won by a party whose leader said he would end military supplies from army storage to Ukraine.

Ukraine hopes to meet a series of EU criteria for joining the bloc and has relied heavily on Western military assistance since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

"I am sure that Ukraine and the entire free world are capable of winning this confrontation. But our victory depends directly on our cooperation with you."



French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock speak to the media before EU-Ukraine foreign ministers meeting, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

After Ankara bombing, Turkiye hits back in Iraq and at home

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkiye said it unleashed air strikes on militant targets in northern Iraq and detained suspects in Istanbul overnight, hours after Kurdish militants said they orchestrated the first bomb attack in the capital Ankara in years.

On Sunday morning, two attackers detonated a bomb near government buildings in Ankara, leaving them both dead and wounding two police officers. The outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group claimed responsibility.

The defence ministry said many militants were "neutralised", a term mostly used to mean killed, in air strikes that destroyed 20 targets — caves, shelters and depots used by the PKK in Iraq's Metina, Hakurk, Qandil and Gara regions.

Turkiye has stepped up military action against the PKK in northern Iraq over the last few years in operations it says are conducted under self-defence rights arising from Article 51 of the United Nations charter.

The PKK is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union. It launched an insurgency in southeast Turkiye in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

On Sunday, CCTV footage obtained by Reuters showed a vehicle pulling up outside the interior ministry's main gate in Ankara and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being engulfed in an explosion.

The PKK is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union. It launched an insurgency in southeast Turkiye in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

On Sunday, CCTV footage obtained by Reuters showed a vehicle pulling up outside the interior ministry's main gate in Ankara and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being engulfed in an explosion.

The PKK is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union. It launched an insurgency in southeast Turkiye in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

UAE holds major oil and gas conference just ahead of hosting UN climate talks in Dubai

Monitoring Desk
ABU DHABI: The Emirati president-designate of the upcoming United Nations COP28 climate talks urged oil and gas companies Monday to be "central to the solution" for climate change, a message delivered even as the industry boosts its production to enjoy rising global energy prices.

The appeal by Sultan al-Jaber highlights the gap between climate activists suspicious of his industry and his calls to drastically slash the world's emissions by nearly half in seven years to limit global

warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times.

While addressing a major international concern, his remarks came at a marquee oil industry event highlighting the state oil company he oversees — feeding the concerns of those already critical of his appointment while also drawing applause from the same energy firms he wants to court at the upcoming COP28 talks starting in November. "That is our North Star. It is, in fact, our only destination," al-Jaber said.



Firefighters try to extinguish a fire at a police headquarters in Ismailia.

Early voting begins in New Zealand's general election and in Australia for Indigenous 'Voice'

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: Early voting began on Monday in New Zealand for the nation's Oct. 14 general election, with conservative contender Christopher Luxon casting his ballot.

Early voting also began in some parts of Australia in a referendum that would enshrine in Australia's constitution a mechanism for Indigenous people to advise Parliament on policies that affect their lives.

In New Zealand, the campaign of Prime Minister Chris Hipkins faced a setback on Sunday when he tested positive for COVID-19.

He said he would isolate for five days or until he returned a negative test, but planned to continue with

some engagements over Zoom.

Hipkins and his liberal Labour Party have been lagging behind the opposition National Party, led by Christopher Luxon, in opinion polls.

Luxon on Sunday released a 100-day action plan he said would deliver tax relief, rebuild the economy and restore law and order.

"New Zealanders have waited six long years for a government that focuses on what matters to them, and gets things done," Luxon said.

In Australia, where voting is compulsory, some 98% of eligible Australians have signed up to vote in the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launched the National Polio Eradication Campaign by administering polio drops to child.

Chairman HEC assures to resolve issues of universities: Sustainable measures being taken to remove educational and social backwardness: Amjad Rasheed

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance, Amjad Rasheed has stated that sustainable measures are being taken to resolve the issues of masses and remove the educational and social backwardness from the province.

Higher Education Commission and other personalities during his visit to the federal capital on Monday. Amjad Rasheed also visited the Neftech head office and Pakistan Baitul Maal and Executive Director and head of the Baitul Maal there.

Speaking to the head of Pakistan Baitul Maal, the caretaker Finance Minister urged him to expand the circle of social programme for the assistance of poor people living in the remote areas of the province.

Surely the people of the province would benefit from the fruits of measures being taken on directives of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. Amjad Rasheed mentioned that he had meeting with heads of all three institutions on directives of the Prime Minister.

On this, the Neftech Director assured to expand the training programmes all the province. While during the course of meeting with Chairman HEC, the matters about issues being faced by the universities were discussed. The release of grants for the universities was also discussed during the meeting.

The Chairman HEC assured that the progress would be ensured for resolving the financial and administrative matters of the public universities.

This was shared by the Minister Finance while speaking to the Chairman

During meeting with the Executive Director of Neftech, the Minister



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Irrigation Mir Danish Lango meeting with Provincial Sports Minister Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani

In all 4867 connections found involved in power pilferage, 158 arrested so far: QESCO

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 4,867 electricity connections have so far been involved in the pilferage and some 158 arrested on the same charges as the extensive campaign is continued by the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) all over the province. This was informed by the spokesman of QESCO while sharing detail of the Company's crackdown against the power pilferers and defaulters.

the power pilferage and defaulters. He said that 1255 applications have been submitted against the power pilferers in the province.

Out of them, 380 FIRs have been registered against the thieves while 158 arrested so far on the charges of pilfering. These FIRs have been registered i.e., 66 in Quetta, 89 in Loralai, 65 in Khuzdar, 93 in Sibi, 46 in Pishin and 21 in Makran.

According to QESCO spokesman, the crackdown is continued without any discrimination in all areas against those involved in

Over Rs. 120 million have been charged fine to the power pilferers and over Rs. 88 million have been received from them.

Muhammad Ali, Zhang discuss mutual interest issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali has held a significant meeting with the Vice President of China National Petroleum Corporation, Mr. Zhang, during the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Progressive Energy Congress (ADIPEC). The discussions revolved around various issues of mutual interest between the two na-

tions, according to a news release received here on Monday. Both sides expressed their willingness to enhance future cooperation in the vital energy sector. ADIPEC, renowned as one of the world's largest energy events, is currently underway in Abu Dhabi, attracting participation from 2,200 companies and featuring 30 country pavilions that showcase cutting-edge energy strategies.

Customs seizes two tankers filled with Iranian diesel

GWADAR (INP): Pakistan Customs has foiled a bid to smuggle Iranian diesel, worth Rs40.4 million in Gwadar, Balochistan on Monday. Customs Intelligence during an action in Gwadar, seized two oil tankers filled with 80,000 Iranian diesel worth Rs40.4 million.

he added. Earlier, Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar directed the customs authorities and law enforcement agencies to strictly curb the smuggling of sugar, petroleum products, urea, agricultural products and other items.

DG Customs Faiz Ahmed said the two tankers filled with Iranian diesel were being smuggled to parts of Balochistan when the action was taken.

The caretaker premier issued the directives while chairing a high-level meeting regarding smuggling control in border areas.

Receipts of a private fuel station were also confiscated from the seized oil tankers, which proved 'fake' upon investigation.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Trade Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Minister for Petroleum Muhammad Ali, Advisor to the PM Ahmed Chema,



HUB: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries, Excise and Taxation Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmedzai issuing directives to MLAs during his visit to site of under construction road network project

PM urges every section of society to play role in complete eradication of polio

Launches anti-polio vaccine drive targeting 44 mln children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday called upon every section of the society to play role in complete eradication of polio virus from the country. He said everyone would have to participate in this sacred task to ensure safe and healthy future of children of the country. Chairing a meeting of the National Task Force for eradication of polio here, the prime minister directed the concerned authorities to engage religious scholars, teachers, parents and all stakeholders to become part of the polio awareness campaign in the country. He also directed to ensure security of the polio workers during the anti-polio campaign. Expressing satisfaction over the significant drop of polio cases in the country, the prime minister vowed to continue ef-

orts till complete uprooting of this crippling disease from the country.

The nation would celebrate the day when every child of the country would be completely safe from this disease, the prime minister said adding that it was a fact that all the religious scholars, including Imam-e-Kaaba, had declared the polio vaccine absolutely safe and very necessary for the future of children without disabilities. PM Kakar expressing concern over reports of polio virus in the three districts of the country, directed to run a special anti-polio campaign in areas where the polio virus had been reported.

"We are grateful to the international partners for their active participation and key support in Pakistan's National Polio Program," he added. The meeting was informed that

compared to the 20 cases reported in the country in 2022, only two cases had been reported this year, which was mainly due to the continuation of anti-polio campaigns at the national level.

The prime minister appreciated the ministry of health, National Task Force, provincial governments and administration, and law enforcement agencies for their tireless efforts in eradicating polio virus from the country.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday launched the five-day anti-polio vaccination drive targeting around 44 million children across the country.

The prime minister initiated the campaign by administering anti-polio vaccine oral drops and vitamin A to children, here at the PM House.



QUETTA: Senior Advisor for Overseas Pakistanis Federal Ombudsman ambassador retired Fouzia Nasreen visiting One Window Facilitation Desk at Quetta Airport

Caretaker Minister LG calls for ensuring provision of health facilities to masses

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Government, Sheikh Mahmoodul Hasan Mandokhail has stated that medical is a sacred profession and as such it should be ensured to provide necessary facilities to the masses.

He said that he would be approaching the concerned authorities on the issue of lack of medicines in the hospitals.

The caretaker Minister was speaking on occasion of his visit to the District Headquarter Hospital Zhob on Monday.

The Minister visited different sections of the hospital and inspected the services being provided to the patients.

Also present on the occasion were the former Senator, Sheikh Saeedul Hasan Mandokhail, District Health Officer, Dr. Muzaffar Shah, Medical Superintendent, Dr. Noorul Haq and other concerned.

Several patients on the occasion complained about the lack of medicines in the hospital. Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Minister said that it is included in government's priorities to provide healthcare facilities to the masses.

For the purpose, huge funds are being spent to bring improvement in the healthcare facilities in the public sector hospitals, he added.

Chairman CII calls on PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology Qibla Ayaz called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday. During the meeting, Qibla Ayaz paid tribute to the prime minister on successfully representing Pakistan in the United National General Assembly (UNGA).

The chairman of the Council informed the prime minister about the current status of religious harmony in the country.

He also invited PM Kakar to attend the general meeting of the Council of Islamic Ideology.

The prime minister said the Islamic Ideology Council had been playing active role in maintaining law and order and religious harmony in the country.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Price Control Mechanism

People urged to verify their voter registration via SMS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Aspiring voters can confirm their registration status on the voter lists by sending their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) number to 8300 as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) allows eligible citizens to register, transfer, or correct their voting details until October 25th. According to an ECP official, after sending SMS to 8300, an automated response will be generated, furnishing information such as the name of the electoral area, block code, and serial number. Each registered voter has the option to verify their details by visiting the District Election Commissioner's office in their respective area, where the complete electoral roll is accessible.

These forms can then be submitted to the appropriate offices of Form Registration Officers and Assistant Registration Officers. He mentioned that citizens can obtain information by dialing the ECP helpline at 051-8848888, where they will receive responses from a tele-computerized system. It is important to mention here that the ECP had removed restrictions on voter lists nationwide, enabling eligible individuals to register, transfer or update their voting information until October 25th.

The addresses and contact information for the DEC's offices across the

four provinces can be found on the Election Commission's website. He mentioned that voters have the option to download Form-21 (for voter registration or transfer), Form-22 (for raising objections or addressing omissions in voting), and Form-23 (for correcting personal details).

He said whispers are in the air about the changes in Senate.

Gilani blames PTI gov't poor policies of recent wave of terrorism

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister, Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, on Monday, blamed the poor policies of the former government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for the recent string of terrorism in the country. Gillani during his visit to a private university told reporters that level playing should be given to all political parties except those who were involved in the May 9 attacks. All political forces had agreed to frame a National Action Plan (NAP) when they were left with no option, Gilani said and added it meant that neither Pakistan nor other countries would allow its soil to be used against one another.

The ex-prime minister recalled military operations in Malakand and Swat that restored peace in the country.

Replying to a question, Gilani said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee in its recent meeting had given all powers to Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari for reconciliatory politics.

Governor stresses need to set up Artificial Intelligence laboratory in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to establish an Artificial Intelligence Laboratory in the province as it would determine new avenues of innovation and modernity.



The Governor was speaking to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed the latest political situation, role of modern technology in sustainable development, complete operationalisation of the

technical institutions, besides other matters of mutual interests. Speaking on the occasion,

stressed the need to establish an Artificial Intelligence Laboratory in the province as it would determine new avenues of innovation and modernity. The Governor said that actually technology is the basis of economic and social development and this is reality that the dream of bright future can't be materialised without getting acquainted about the modern technology.

The Governor said that the bright future of Pakistan is linked with Balochistan.

Therefore, it is necessary to divert the attention of national and international investors towards the existing opportunities of profitable investment in the province.

Aneeq Ahmed says: Solution to all contemporary issues lies in Seerat-un-Nabi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Monday said that the solution to all contemporary issues lied in the Seerat of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Addressing as chief guest, he expressed his appreciation for the first-ever Seerat Conference organized within the Federal Tax Ombudsman Secretariat, emphasizing that Allah Almighty had exalted the mention of His beloved Prophet, which would endure until the Day of Judgment. He said, "The excellent moral values exemplified by the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) are the same values that guide us today." The minister said the re-

vered Prophet's exemplary ethics remained the standard for humanity. He said the Holy Quran, which is the first book on the Seerat of Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), should serve as a mirror for both individuals and nations. He said the Holy Quran sternly warns those who did not implement its system on Allah Almighty's land. Federal Tax Ombudsman, Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah organized the Seerat Conference themed 'Solving Contemporary Issues in the Light of the Prophet's Seerat' within his department.

The conference brought together tax officials and employees for a competition of Naats and speeches on the Seerat.

1st installment released to Health dept: Health Cards to be launched in Balochistan this month, announces Chief Secretary

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has announced that the Health Cards would be launched by end of this month in the province.

He mentioned that the Health Card programme was already launched in different other provinces, however, it was pending in Balochistan.

While speaking to the media persons on occasion of inauguration of the anti-polio campaign at his office on Monday, the Chief Secretary said that all the issues in way of launch of the Health Cards have been resolved. He also informed that after resolving the issues, the first installment of the programme has also been released to the Health department, he added.

The Chief Secretary said that he is not going to give an exact date for the Health Cards, however, he is sure that the same would be started on any date during this month.

He mentioned that the Health Card programme was already launched in different other provinces, however, it was pending in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) Provincial Chief, Maulana Abdul Wasay addresses to media persons during press conference.

Mushaal Malik assures journalists to attend long standing issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights (SAPM) Mushaal Hussain Malik assured WJAP delegation to resolve their long-standing demands including health card, wages, conveyance and housing quota.

She expressed these views during a meeting held at Prime Minister Secretariat here on Monday. On the occasion, problems faced by women journalists and possible measures to resolve them were discussed in detail.

Replying to women journalist issues, she said the Ministry of Human Rights has included in its 100-day plan on a priority basis that women journalists should be given representation in health card and housing schemes ensuring a 33 percent quota for them.

Special Assistant for Human Rights Mashal Malik assured full support for the practical solution of all the problems of women associated with the profession of journalism.

Those accompanying Fauzia Kalsoom Rana in the delegation were Ms Rehana Bukhari, reporter at APP, correspondent Germany media organization Deutsche Welle Ismat Jabin, reporter of 24 News Rozzeena Ali, Rukhshanda Taj Baloch from APP Balochi Service, reporter Umreen from News One, freelance journalist Afshan Qureshi, freelance journalist Sabahat Khan associated with DRF and DW, editor of Credible News Pakistan Anila Mahmood, reporter of WJAP TV Ayesha Naz, reporter of Talon News Ayman Syed.

Apart from this, the ministry's support was assured for the fulfillment of the long-standing demands of WJAP for gender audit and implementation of gender policy in the media industry.