

Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 20 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Thursday January 25, 2024, Rajab 13, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

PM for rejecting, collectively fighting enemies' propaganda against Pakistan

Pakistan's successes in the war against terrorism would not have been possible without the participation and support of the youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday affirmed that as responsible citizens, the people of Pakistan must reject and collectively fight the vicious propaganda onslaught unleashed by the enemies against Pakistan in the recent past.

The prime minister, addressing the Pakistan National Youth Convention 2024 as the chief guest, said the youth could play a constructive role in dealing with this emerging national security challenge provided they remained focused, and fact checked all details through authentic information from the state institutions rather than falling prey to the propaganda.

Chief of Army Staff

(COAS) General Asim Munir, NI (M), was the guest of honour. "We, as a nation, have fought the menace of terrorism most valiantly, offering unparalleled sacrifices," he said.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the role of armed forces in the fight against the menace of terrorism with full commitment and professional excellence.

"Pakistan's successes in the war against terrorism would not have been possible without the participation and support of the youth who make 65% of our population," he added.

Addressing the conference, the COAS underscored that the youth were Pakistan's biggest asset, and all optimism of a brighter future was associated with them. Conveying the message of hope, the COAS asked the youth to shun despondency. He referred to the historic role played by the youth in creation and development of Pakistan and exhorted them to partake in building the nation through discipline, honest toil and a genuine quest for knowledge. He highlighted the power potential of Pakistan, the demographic dividend, immense mineral wealth, a creative corpus of IT literate workforce, and great prospects in agriculture.

The COAS emphasized upon the importance of national unity and harmony to overcome multifarious challenges confronted by the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir addressing the participants of Pakistan National Youth Conference.

President calls for education emergency to enroll 26m out-of-school children

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for the enrollment of around 26 million out-of-school children in the country through drastic measures including education emergency, double shifts in educational institutes and utilizing the mosque for teaching purposes.

The president, addressing an event in connection with the World Education Day, also suggested a mechanism to engage the newly graduated and intermediate students for teaching the out-of-school children, offering them a stipend.

He said the educating the children was of paramount importance to produce a skilled and qualified workforce, not merely the laborers.

Lauding the contribution of the partner organisations, the president said the country should take advantage of their services for benefit of the future generations.

He informed the gathering that since Pakistan's inception, around 55,000 schools were built and the enrolment of out-of-school children required another 50,000 schools which was extremely difficult, considering educational budget of the provinces. In such a scenario, the out-of-box solutions were a must to cope with the challenge, he added.

Reiterating his suggestion to use the mosque platform as a centre of learning, he said the worship places were equipped with all basic facilities including electricity and clean drinking water. The platform can be used to teach out-of-school children in alternative timings including both boys and girls at separate mosques, he added.

President Alvi lauded the Benazir Income Support Program for its contributions to child and mother's health and suggested to link financial assistance with the enrolment of out-of-school children.

Highlighting the ratio of 15-20 percent of Dyslexia disease in the country, he appreciated the measures taken for the suffering children.

COAS says Purpose of social media, propaganda is to spread uncertainty, chaos, despair

Pakistan's forces always ready to tackle any kind of threat and conspiracy; Youth, guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said youth were the guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country, the epitome of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam's visionary leadership.

Addressing 'Pakistan National Youth Conference' at Jinnah Convention Center, he said: "It gives me great pleasure to address the future builders of Pakistan and Shaheen of Iqbal."

The Army Chief said the establishment of Pakistan highlighted the core issue that Islamic culture and civilization were different from Hindus in all respects and Muslims might not adopt Western civilization and culture.

The youth, he said should have immense confidence in their country, nation, culture, civilization and themselves. "The youth should be sure that they are a son of a great homeland and nation," he added.

He said Pakistan Army could fight against terrorists, but the cooperation of the entire nation was imperative in that regard.

The COAS said that the main objective of social media and propaganda was to spread uncertainty, chaos and despair, whereas social media news verification was critical as without research and positive thinking, society remained chaotic. Citing verses of the Holy Quran on disinformation, he said: "Allah Almighty says: 'O believers! If a transgressor brings news, you should firstly confirm it.'"

The establishment of Pakistan was just like the Tayyaba state (referring to Islamic State of Medina), that were founded under the sublime banner of Kalima-e-Tayyaba, the Army Chief said. "Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with abundant natural resources, agriculture and young manpower," he added.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony to commemorate the International Day of Education.

Solangi for improving fact check mechanism to counter misinformation

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said that the mechanism for fact-checking will have to be improved in the arena of digital media to counter fake news and misinformation.

Delivering his speech at the 2nd International Media and Communication Conference here, he said that the year 2024 was the year of elections in different countries including Pakistan, India, Indonesia, United States of America.

He urged the media industry to play a responsible role as its responsibility was to protect the public interest. "Journalism is primarily about defending the public's right to know," Murtaza Solangi main-

tained.

The minister said the challenges of the digital age were also great as artificial intelligence, deep fake, voice cloning and misinformation factories have made it difficult to sift fact from fiction.

He said that besides the benefits of modern technology in media, there were many risks also involved.

He said that many tasks are being done by using artificial intelligence and voice cloning.

The fundamental principle of journalism was the gatekeeper system to verify the facts but the new media had ignored "the gatekeeper".

In the era of artificial intelligence, deep fake, cyber cloning, he said it had become difficult to bring the truth to people, Murtaza Solangi opined.

SC stops JUI's candidate from contesting election from NA-252

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday dismissed the appeal of JUI's candidate Abdul Hafiz Loni and up held the verdict of election tribunal for rejecting his nomination papers from NA-252.

A three-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isha heard the appeal of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI)'s candidate Abdul Hafiz Loni.

The top court rejected the appeal of JUI candidate Abdul Hafeez and upheld the decision of the Election Tribunal and the Balochistan High Court.

During the course of proceeding, the petitioner lawyer adopted the stance that his client has completed his sentence announced in a graft reference.

PMLN will generate employment opportunities for youth after coming into power: Nawaz

NANKANA SAHIB (INP): PML-N Quaid, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has assured to generate employment opportunities for youth after coming into power.

Addressing at a public gathering in Nankana Sahib today, he said PML-N aims at undertaking historical development work with a commitment to rebuild the country.

Nawaz Sharif said serving the public is the manifesto of PML-N.

Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday asserted that Pakistan plunged into crises after he was unjustly removed as the prime minister on false charges.

The former prime minister questioned why he was ousted on false charges when he had no enmity with anyone. "I was not an imported prime minister."

Nawaz further questioned why a prime minister, who played a key role in making Pakistan a nuclear power, found him-

self handcuffed, jailed and convicted. He deplored that five judges had deposed him from the PM's Office for not taking a salary from his son.

The former premier wondered why the people of Pakistan faced distress after his removal, expressing his deep concern for their plight.

Nawaz stated that his heart would be at peace only if the people of Pakistan found relief from the prevailing crises of inflation, unemployment, energy shortfall and terrorism.

The venue of the PML-N rally reverberated with the chants of "Mian Saab, We love you", as the former three-time premier walked up to the stage.

Nawaz Sharif appreciated the enthusiasm of the party workers, supporters and constituents, saying that he had never seen such a sight on a very cold day.

ECP unveils final list of ten minority seats in NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has unveiled the ultimate compilation of ten minority seats within the National Assembly.

The final list consists of candidates from different parties, with 10 representing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), 5 from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), 2 from Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP), 7 from Pakistan People's Party (PPP), 4 from Jamaat-e-Islami, and 3 from Mutahidda Quomi Movement (MQM).

Would prefer to form govt with independent candidates if elected: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP): In an interview with Reuters in Larkana, Bilawal said, "You know, lots of independent politicians, probably the highest (number) in our history, are taking part in the coming elections."

It should be noted that after the PTI was stripped of its iconic 'bat' symbol, most of the independents would comprise PTI leaders who are contesting the upcoming elections as independent candidates. Party leader Gohar Khan has also expressed fears of horse-trading and floor crossing.



Positioning himself as an alternate to the PML-N and PTI, Bilawal had recently called on supporters of ex-PM Imran Khan to vote for him while their leader is in jail. In the 2013 elections, the PPP came second after PML-N, garnering 42 of the 342 seats up for grabs. In 2018, with 54 seats, it was runner-up to the parties of both Nawaz and Imran.

However, Bilawal ruled out joining hands with either contender saying he preferred to form a government with independent candidates. The PPP chairman spoke to Reuters in an interview during a gruelling four-week campaign that took him to more than 33 towns, while other parties began canvassing just last week.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi addressing the Second International Media and Communication Conference at University of Management and Technology.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz assumes charge of caretaker Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Industries and Production Division Dr. Gohar Ejaz HI, SI on Wednesday assumed the charge of caretaker Federal Minister for Interior.

Senior officials of the Ministry welcomed Dr. Gohar Ejaz on this arrival in the Ministry of Interior.

The Interior Minister was given a detailed brief-

ing regarding the Ministry of Interior and its subsidiaries in the Introductory meeting with senior officers of the ministry.

The important portfolio was vacated after the resignation of Sarfraz Bugti as caretaker minister for interior.

Sarfraz Bugti had resigned from the portfolio for taking part in the general elections of 2024.

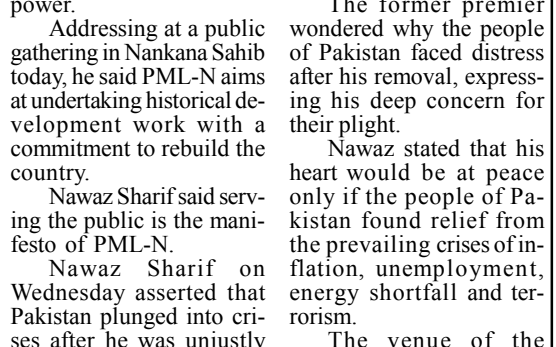
Dr. Gohar Ejaz is a notable figure in the dynamic second generation of business and industry leadership. Being the accomplished son of the late Senator Sheikh Ejaz Ahmed, he is a name synonymous with unparalleled business wisdom.

IMF to 'send' review mission to Pakistan after elections 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following Pakistan's assurance to impose new taxes, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday 'decided' to send its review mission to Pakistan after election 2024, sources said.

IMF will continue further talks on the Standby Arrangement (SBA) programme with the newly elected government of Pakistan after highly anticipated general elections.

However, the "IMF has not confirmed the schedule for conducting the second review". The last confirmation was made by the monetary fund in July 2023 which stated that the talks on the 2nd review will be held with the new government.



self handcuffed, jailed and convicted. He deplored that five judges had deposed him from the PM's Office for not taking a salary from his son.

The former premier wondered why the people of Pakistan faced distress after his removal, expressing his deep concern for their plight.

Nawaz stated that his heart would be at peace only if the people of Pakistan found relief from the prevailing crises of inflation, unemployment, energy shortfall and terrorism.

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ISLAMABAD: Relatives of Baluchistan missing persons stands in a queue waiting for boarding in a bus after the finish sitting protest (Dharna) in front of National Press Club in Federal Capital.

66 kids die of pneumonia across Punjab in current month

MULTAN (APP): A total of 66 kids died of pneumonia in public hospitals across South Punjab in the current month while 2,847 patients reported to health facilities.

Health Department South Punjab Spokesperson Assad Ullah Shahzad told APP on Wednesday that 41 deaths were reported from Children Complex Multan, nine from Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur, 14 from Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital D G Khan, and one each from Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan and Sir Sadiq Abbasi Hospital Bahawalpur while no death was reported from Nishtar Hospital Multan by January 23.

He stated that as many as 556 pneumonia patients visited out patient departments and 2,291 admitted to Accident & Emergency wards, with 2,207 of them recovered. It may be mentioned that pneumonia is an infection that inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs.

