

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 91, Muharrumul Haram 28, 1445 AH Wednesday August 16, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs. 15



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with the representatives of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President assures support on PEMRA (Amend) Bill 2023

President Alvi appreciates collective efforts of media community; Says amendment bill brought improvements to existing media law; Urges need for promoting diversity of thought and opinions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday assured media workers and the journalist community of his support for the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023. The president was talking to a delegation of the representatives of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The delegation included Afzal Butt, Arshad Ansari, Naz Afreen Saigol, Samad Ali, Shahab Zuberi, Shakeel Masud, Ijazul Haq, Kazim Khan, Ayaz Khan, and Azhar Abbas.

Talking to the delegation, the president appreciated the collective efforts of the media community for introducing amendments to the PEMRA law, especially to protect the rights of media workers.

He said that the linking of government advertisements with the payment of dues to electronic media employees would help address their issues.

The president discussed in detail various aspects of the bill with the visiting delegation. The amended bill had brought improvements to the existing media law, he said.

He also asked the members of the delegation to volunteer to educate the youth about fake news and disinformation, and highlighted that teenagers were among the most vulnerable populations to the scourge of fake news, and needed to be educated and sensitized about its implications.

He further said the media, especially senior journalists, should enhance linkages with academia and universities to guide and educate students about fake news and the new developments taking place in the field of journalism.

The president also urged the need to promote diversity of thought and opinions by promoting dialogue in society and free exchange of ideas. He said that the dynamics of new forms of media, especially social media, should be understood, adding that it was the responsibility of media to educate the people on morality and the use of social media in a responsible and constructive manner.

The delegation briefed the president about various provisions of the new bill that would benefit the journalist community as well as media employees.

## PM for road infrastructure in areas serving magnet for foreign investment

Emphasizes upon completion of road infrastructure in Balochistan and directed the reconstruction of Karachi to Chaman highway; Briefed in detail about ongoing work on Pinjarra bridge on Quetta-Sukkur Highway and Sawar bridge on Quetta-Zhob Road

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that an efficient road infrastructure played a pivotal role in the development and progress of any country and stressed for laying of road infrastructure in those areas which could attract foreign investment.

The caretaker prime minister chaired a meeting to review the ongoing road infrastructure projects. The meeting was attended by relevant authorities, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was briefed in detail about the ongoing work on Pinjarra bridge on Quetta-Sukkur Highway and Sawar bridge on Quetta-Zhob Road. The work on Pinjarra bridge, which was damaged during the last year's flood, would commence next month.

A causeway was constructed after floods which restored the vehicular movement.

The construction period of the new bridge with 15-meter height and 12-meter width, would take about nine months, it was further added.

The prime minister directed for reducing the stipulated time period for the completion of new bridge.

The meeting was apprised that the reconstruction and rehabilitation work on 118-km long Quetta-Dhadar Road and 188-km Dhadar-Jacobabad Road would be undertaken anew which would not only help in fuel saving but also reduce the vehicular pressure.

## 'Matter of public interest' ECP should conduct delimitations transparently, says CJP Bandial

Says Election Commission should resolve all issues before polls; SC refers matter of Sindh delimitations back to electoral body.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has returned the matter of delimitation of constituencies to Election Commission (EC).

The petitions filed against provincial delimitation of constituencies by EC in Sindh came up for hearing before 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial Tuesday.

The CJP remarked delimitation of constituencies is matter of public interest. The matter of delimitation of constituencies has come in SC several times. EC

should conduct delimitation of constituencies in transparent manner. There is too much sensitivity on delimitation of constituencies in Sindh. It is often complained by Sindh that delimitation of constituencies was not carried out correctly.

The CJP inquired during the hearing of the case EC is holding election when. Upon it DG Law EC shrugged his shoulders.

The CJP remarked no date has been set for election so far. EC should resolve all matters before election.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited the residence of President JUI-F Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman to express his condolences for those martyred in suicide attack in Khar, Bajaur at the JUI-F Workers' Convention Islamabad.

## News about resignation of Governor baseless and fabricated Independent Report

QUETTA: The Spokesman to Governor Balochistan Secretariat has contradicted a news item running on social media regarding resignation of Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

According to a statement issued here by the spokesman to Governor's Secretariat, the news running on social media about resignation of the Governor Balochistan is baseless and fabricated. There is no truth in the news in this regard, he added.

The spokesman urged the people associated with the media to avoid spreading unverified news and sensation.

## Caretaker PM vows to eliminate terrorism, promote peace

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits Maulana Fazal's residence to condole over death of party workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prime minister offered Fateha for the departed souls and prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

He reiterated that terrorist elements could not deter the morale of Pakistani nation and assured taking of steps against terrorism and maintenance of law and order in the country on priority basis.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on the occasion, felicitated PM Kakar on assuming the office of the caretaker prime minister and extended his best wishes.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori also accompanied the prime minister, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader Malik Sikander Khan Advocate meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo

## Sikander, Bizenjo engages in discussions to select interim Chief Minister

QUETTA (APP): Opposition Leader Malik Sikander Khan Advocate met with Outgoing Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Tuesday to evolve a consensus on the name of the caretaker chief minister.

They discussed the names of the proposed candidate to reach a consensus over a candidate for the post of interim chief minister as the decision has to be made within three days of assembly dissolution, under the law.

The two leaders, agreed to continue the discussions until to finalize the name of the caretaker chief minister by mutual agreement, said a handout released here.

A consensus on the name of the caretaker chief minister in Balochistan is expected soon.

On August 12, Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar signed the summary moved by CM Bizenjo for the dissolution of the provincial assembly.

## Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor selected for Tamgha-e-Imtiaz Independent Report

QUETTA: The Dean Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Turbat, Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch has been nominated for the civil award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in recognition of his meritorious services and performance in the literature.

The selection of Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch has been made on the eve of Independence Day, stated in an official hand out issued here on Tuesday.

The award would be conferred on Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch on Pakistan Day, 23rd March, 2024. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor of University of Turbat, Dr. Jan Muhammad as well as faculty members and students have congratulated Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch on his achievement.

The Vice Chancellor described the award not only for Dr. Abdul Saboor but also for the province and University of Turbat.

## Care taker PM decides to induct small cabinet

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has decided to keep small cabinet and consultation process has been accelerated in this regard.

Care taker PM has decided to review profile of all the persons by him in connection with cabinet.

The name of those who are likely to be inducted in care taker cabinet have come to fore.

Consultations have been started for giving portfolios of main ministries including ministry of foreign affairs, finance, interior and others.

As per sources the name of Faisal Vawda, Maj (Retd) Khurram Hamid Rokhri, Shahid Afridi, Qari Sadaqat Ali, Ahmad Cheema, Mushtaq Sukhera, Muhammad Ali Durrani, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Absar Alam, Salim Safi, Hamid Mir, Hafiz Sheikh, Gohar Ejaz, Dr Shoaib Suddal, Ahsan Bhoon, Sarfraz Bugti, Zulfiqar Cheema, Shamsad Akhtar, Raza Baqir, Ashtar Ausaf, Mohsin Jugnoo and Ayesha Raza Farooq are under consideration for induction in care taker cabinet.

Sources disclosed name of Brig (Retd) Muzaffar Ranjha and Sittara Imtiaz are also under consideration.

In the first phase 10 to 12 ministers will take oath.

## Seven students, teacher of a school among 8 injured in road accident in Kuchlak

Independent Report

QUETTA: A total of 31 persons including seven students and a female teacher of a school got injured in two different road accidents occurred in Kuchlak area of Quetta and Bolan area of Kachhi district on Tuesday.

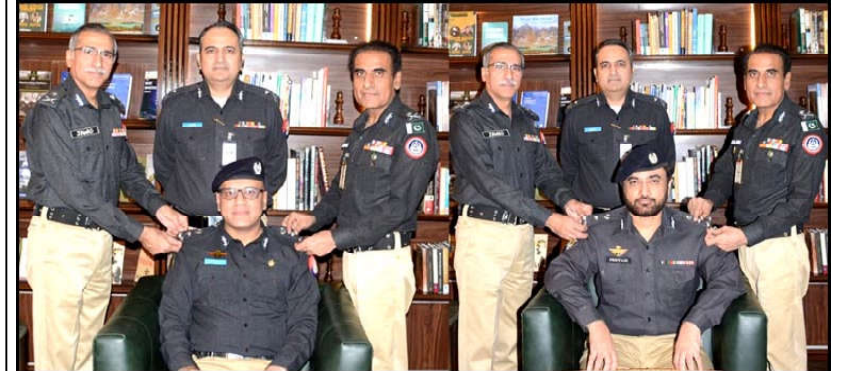
According to details, the first road accident occurred in Kuchlak area where a school van carrying female teacher and seven students of a school to main Quetta city met road accident. The van collided with a passenger coach coming from opposite direction at a turn in Kuchlak area. As a result eight persons including female teacher and seven other students aged between 6 to 15 years got injured.

The rescue teams and police reached the spot soon after the accident and shifted the injured to the civil hospital.

According to the hospital sources, all the injured have been admitted in the Trauma center and being provided necessary medical aid. However, condition of a student is stated to be critical.

The other accident occurred in Gogart area of Bolan where a passenger wagon rammed into a truck coming from opposite direction.

As a result of collision, some 23 passengers sustained injuries who were shifted to the civil hospital, Dhadhar. Condition of at least four passengers is stated to be critical. Out of all injured, some 11 were shifted in the trauma center of civil Hospital Quetta the same night.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional IG Police Jawad Ahmed Dogar pinning ranks to officers promoted as DIGs

## ECP urges caretakers to ensure 'level playing field' for all political parties in next polls

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday instructed caretaker governments in the Centre and all the provinces to provide a level playing field to all contesting candidates and political parties during the upcoming general elections in the country.

In a statement, the election watchdog said that the National Assembly and provincial Assemblies in Sindh and Balochistan stand dissolved on August 9, 11 and 12 respectively.

Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar — a lawmaker belonging to Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — has been selected as caretaker prime minister. The decision came after the second round of consultations between then prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved NA Raja Riaz, and a summary to this effect had been approved by President Arif Alvi under Article 224 1A.

In Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved provincial assembly Rana Ansar on Monday night reached a consensus on the appointment of Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar as the interim CM.

The selection for the name of caretaker chief minister in Balochistan remains in limbo, as incumbent CM Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and Leader of the Opposition Malik Sikander Khan could not reach a consensus on any name so far.

The ECP said that it was mandated with the constitutional duty to organise and conduct elections in terms of Article 218(3) of the Constitution and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the elections are conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with the law.

"It has become imperative that the ECP shall take all necessary steps under the Constitution and prevalent law for the smooth conduct of general elections," it added.

The electoral watchdog directed the caretaker governments at the federal and provincial levels to assist the ECP in holding elections in accordance with the law and ensure the compliance of all the notifications, directives and provisions as laid down in Section 230 of the Act ibid.



Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar offering Fateha for departed soul of Abascen Roshan son of PKMAP leader Essa Roshan

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Wednesday August 16, 2023

## Resurgent terrorism

As the nation enters a period of political transition, there is a critical need to stay focused on counterterrorism measures. This is particularly true for the militancy-hit parts of KP and Balochistan, where security forces regularly continue to face off against militants.

Two incidents on Sunday in the two provinces illustrate the varied nature of the threat. In Gwadar, calamity was narrowly averted when security personnel confronted terrorists belonging to the banned Baloch Liberation Army. The ISPR says two terrorists were killed as they attacked a convoy transporting Chinese workers in the port city. Luckily, the foreigners were travelling in bullet-proof vehicles. The Chinese consulate in Karachi has called upon the state to "severely punish the perpetrators and take concrete ... measures" to protect Chinese citizens and projects. In the other incident, a soldier was martyred while four TTP terrorists were killed in a gun battle in Bajaur.

The top brass is seemingly aware of the delicate situation. While addressing the Independence Day parade at Kakul, the army chief thanked the people of KP and Balochistan for "resiliently fighting ... terrorism", while he urged Afghanistan to prevent its soil from being used against Pakistan. Yet the battle against militancy cannot be an open-ended exercise, as people living in the affected regions have had enough of violence, and are demanding the state take decisive action.

In this regard, a rally was held on Saturday under the aegis of the Bara Siasi Ittehad in Khyber district. The event, which saw heavy participation from the public, was supported by political parties from across the ideological spectrum. The main demands of the rally participants were peace in their region, and an end to violence, extortion and militancy. This is only the latest of well-attended rallies in KP that have echoed similar demands.

Whether it is TTP, IS-K or separatist militants, an effective counterterrorism strategy is needed to calm the affected regions, dislodge the terrorists and cause minimum disruptions in the lives of the local people, who have sacrificed much over the past several years and seen numerous counter-insurgency operations. Within Pakistan there can be no safe havens for militants, their sympathisers or facilitators. Moreover, the state must continue working with the Afghan Taliban to ensure no anti-Pakistan militants find sanctuary across the western border. Efforts to address Pakistan's concerns on this front may have continued since the Taliban took Kabul in 2021, but have yielded mixed results.

Sometimes there is talk of cooperation, at other times much acrimony. For example, the Taliban spokesman recently criticised Pakistan for being unable to address the militancy issue. Instead of trading blame, both sides should work to ensure militants do not have the space to operate, with the onus on Kabul to prevent anti-Pakistan terrorists from launching attacks.



Arifa Noor

The parliament elected in 2018 has come to an end, but despite not lasting longer than its predecessors, it seemed to stretch on. The caretaker prime minister is in place, a dark horse for sure. A senator from the Balochistan Awami Party, he has announced stepping down from the party as well as the Upper House, a positive move indeed. His nomination has been widely welcomed. How much of this is due to Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's affability and how much due to the current mood where few are willing to question the choice of those who matter is hard to tell.

But the reception aside, there are questions about the selection process. Politicians of the

former government are whispering or saying out loud how they were kept in the dark about the dark horse on whom the spotlight was switched on last Saturday. First came the 'admission' of Khursheed Shah, who told the media his party did not know about Kakar. And how he may not have been a good choice. However, his words were followed by a statement from Shazia Marri dispelling the impression of the PPP having any reservations. Since then, Akhtar Mengal has issued a strongly worded letter on the matter.

Be that as it may, the story of how Anwaar Kakar was shortlisted and then chosen is still to be told; he is Pakistan and few of us can resist telling a good story. It is bound to come out sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, the rest of us will keep wondering about the details. After all, Raja Riaz was going to be the key man in making the decision, as many had been predicting, so did Shehbaz Sharif go rogue? Not to argue on those he is accused of being close to but his own fam-

## Age of caretaking

ily members? Or was it simply a matter of the family accepting the inevitable? As someone pointed out, once all the legislation was done, there was little leverage the PML-N enjoyed. In other words, even if Nawaz Sharif wanted Ishaq Dar as caretaker prime minister, there was little he could do to insist his choice be accepted. In case of a deadlock, the decision would have ended up with the ECP, and their wavelength is aligned with the stars that shine near the old airport of the twin cities.

But while we await the details, there are some news stories about BAP from recent days, which are intriguing to say the least. One was the random and rather short news story about Abdul Qudus Bizenjo having written a letter to Asif Ali Zardari, expressing his regret at having decided against joining the PPP. This news came in the last week of July. No outlet provided details on what this meant for the other BAP politicians who had joined PPP earlier in the year.

Shortly after came

the news of the Jam Kamal group in the BAP meeting the prime minister with a view to joining the PML-N. The delegation included the caretaker prime minister but again, the news disappeared as quickly as it appeared and there were few details on what the final decision was.

Without any information from any zarai, all one can assume is the efforts to push some in Balochistan to the PPP had become half-hearted if not been dropped altogether; and that some winds may also have begun to blow towards the PML-N.

If this had some bearing on the decision of the new caretaker prime minister, we may just find out soon enough. Once we do, we'll also find out why the PML-N is stoically quiet, while the PPP is not.

Mengal's letter is perhaps not all that important in the context of the politics of allies. However, it does point to something more pervasive if we want to give it importance, ie, how this appointment will be viewed in the home province. The

caretaker prime minister may not be in a position to assuage any of the discontent in Balochistan by his climb to the highest office (in theory) in the country.

But then, this is not a serious concern if elections are held in time. The caretaker prime minister is, after all, not there to hold state and society together. His or her job is to hold elections and go home. But in case he stays on a Punjab and KP, his personal reputation will come under strain. Whether that is a cost too heavy for the prime minister is hard to say; the past five years show no politician or party has found the price of power too high to pay. Will Kakar be the exception that proves the rule?

Moving beyond, it is worrying that everyone expects a delay in elections. No one thinks elections within three months are a possibility while some hope they will take place within six. A delay of more than six months is not in the realm of the impossible even though the variables are so many that few can be sure of this

eventuality. Herein lies the rub. If one of the reasons for the delay is the PTI's popularity, a second, more important one is of economic reform. If elections are delayed, some of the truly 'difficult' decisions will have to be taken under the caretaker set-up. This may range from quick privatisation to raise some cash, as well as expanding the tax base and/or reducing subsidies or cutting expenses. Each one of these solutions will lead to social costs — lobbies or sectors will be hurt and state-employed people will be let go. There will be a backlash, which will add to existing socioeconomic problems as well as the worsening security situation. Can Kakar Sahib be the face of these decisions? Will his cabinet bear the burden? I am reminded of my early years in journalism when Perviz Musharraf came in promising change but backed down soon enough. But then he wanted legitimacy and popularity. Perhaps those are not needed nowadays in the difficult times we face. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Fighting disability with creativity



Dr Naazir Mahmood

Without differences in our abilities, the world would have been a bland sphere in the universe. Some people have more pizzazz than others, and one such person is Zahid Abdullah who according to him can perform all tasks with his "eyes wide shut". He learnt the art of living without sight some 20 years ago. Even before that, his sight was declining steadily, and his gradual sight loss was a painful process as he knew that soon he would be a different person altogether. Till he lost the capacity to see in his early 30s. To live his life without the power to see was a challenge that he took head on, and his story is worth telling for all those who can see but lack the vision to transform their lives in the face of adversity.

Zahid is a master learner; he quickly adapted

to the new realities that enriched his other senses. He could hear and smell much better and his taste developed beyond simple culinary delights; he acquired a taste for creative arts, music, and of course drama in life; he had also studied a drama course as a student and teacher of English Language and Literature at the post-graduate level. With his partial sight he completed his first Master's degree at a public university and acquired another from a private university after he had lost his sight.

Zahid was not an only child of his parents; he had eight siblings and one can imagine the plight of a boy growing up with declining sight in such a large crowd. Ultimately, he managed to raise his three daughters and proved that a sightless father may be an even more caring parent.

Throughout his life he has fought against access barriers and advocated for a better physical and social environment for people living with disabilities. He believes that an inaccessible environment renders people disabled, not the impairment itself.

Disability rights are not the only area he is working

in. The right to information has become his lifelong passion, and he has delivered some remarkable instructions to relevant departments as the information commissioner. He is also a researcher, resource person and trainer who teaches how to improve productivity to his colleagues and learners in a friendly manner.

He has authored books and has become an objective commentator on human contradictions that he reflects in his writings. 'The Wise Man' was his second book that attracted the attention of readers in 2015. It was a collection of stories that he wrote in a humorous manner.

But here we are more interested in his first and third books. 'Disabled society' (2012) was his first ground-breaking book that deals with the challenges and problems people living with disabilities face in a society such as Pakistan. Its contents ranged from strategies to cope with disabilities and the misplaced concept of 'divine justice' and 'majoritarian dictatorship' that marginalizes a differently abled minority. The book also discusses the lack of ethical behaviour in medi-

cal professionals, a majority of whom need better training and capacity development in dealing with differently abled people.

Zahid has written 'Disabled society' with an insight that comes with a life of constant challenges and obstacles that hinder the path to a successful career. He has specifically focused on gender issues that are normally ignored in discussions about people with disabilities. One of the most significant contributions the book makes is on the front of information access. It argues that society itself blocks building barriers so that only a privileged few enjoys access to information and uses it for their benefits. Any information about the rights of the disabled is not easily available to those who may benefit from it.

The book is unique in that it includes four research papers on people with disabilities and the electoral process. The papers also deal with the gender divide that is even more harmful for women with disabilities; perhaps it is the first-ever research paper in Pakistan that so comprehensively covered the topic.

Girls and women with disabilities face extraordi-

nary discrimination and misbehaviour, especially in universities. In a society where campus officers and university teachers indulge in immoral and unethical practices of blackmailing students, one can imagine how vulnerable disabled female students are.

Now something about Zahid's latest book 'Honour Among Judges and Other Tales of Justice'. This is a marvellous collection of stories and revolves around a group of lawyers who gather at a restaurant in April 2021 when the government lifted the lockdown it imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 15 lawyers gather on a rooftop of a popular restaurant near Heera Mandi in Lahore and narrate their stories. The women of the red-light area have a specific significance as the writer mentions in his prologue:

"They have been shunned and condemned by some, but loved and patronized by most. The last one to condemn them was a cartoonish general who had a permanent smile plastered on his face, though it was never reflected in his cold eyes. When he closed down the Heera Mandi in the 1980s, these girls spread

across many different parts of Lahore."

The story tells that these lawyers were regular customers of the particular restaurant but the pandemic intervened and they could not meet as long as the lockdown lasted. Now they regroup — minus the two who succumbed to the virus — and share their tales.

There is a lawyer who claims to 'punish evil and reward virtue', coupled with a judge who has 'sad roomy eyes'. There is one law practitioner who brews his own wine and always has Plan B ready for all eventualities. Another lawyer nicknamed the Decoupler deals with divorce cases. Then there are lawyers in their 70s, with plenty of experiences to share.

There is a female lawyer with 'well-earned bragging rights' to claim that she had never taken a single case before a judge and yet had the most successful practice in the city. Not far behind is the story of a public prosecutor famous for his "dogged pursuit of criminals". Then there is "Wiley Wali" with a dubious reputation of hiring judges to seek justice for his clients. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Let's adapt



Aisha Khan

Adaptation by definition means the process of change through which integration into an emerging new order is facilitated via actions that make transition possible. In the climate world, this refers to strengthening resilience to absorb shocks and recover from crises. In politics, it means marching in step with the times you live in and course correcting to stay ahead of the curve. In science, it means discovery, in research innovative thinking, in media effective communication and at the people's level, embracing change and willingness to transform.

You can look at adaptation through any lens but the end response will yield the same sequential process ... anticipatory planning, thinking strategic and maximising co-benefits.

Climate change is not a stand-alone subject and therefore cannot be addressed in isolation. It changes demography, alters social dynamics and has a direct impact on the growth indicators of countries most affected and least prepared to cope with change.

The sectoral impacts of climate change are well researched and policies and plans in place to highlight implementation intent through action frameworks. However, the missing piece in the puzzle is who, when and how. This stumbling block has prevented us from achieving policy objectives and making the required progress in our climate journey. There can be no progress without investing in enabling agencies re-

sponsible for structural adjustments and making the necessary changes at different levels. In every society, the enablers are the people, government and policymakers who together work on, and support strategies for enabling critical actions to push the change agenda forward.

In Pakistan the climate crisis is a cause that is championed by all political parties and experienced by people at all levels. But despite national consensus on being a vulnerable and hard-hit country, not enough has been done to make a difference on ground. This places a high responsibility on the interim government to own the climate agenda and use the momentum for raising the level of engagement to a higher equilibrium. This is a time to go beyond rhetoric and take a more reflective view of the challenge.

There is a growing tendency to attribute everything to external finance and resort to inaction. However, not all paradigm shifts cost money. Finance is only a byproduct of good policy. A little soul-searching may help us to understand that investment in people, shift in policy, and indirect approaches can enhance productivity, boost the economy and incentivise family planning.

There is no country in the world that has prospered without giving women equal access to opportunities and resources. Giving women equal space in society and freedom to make life choices needs no money and will serve as a powerful enabler.

Investing in human capital with a focus on science and technology has been the foundational building block for developed countries to become resilient societies. We need to deliver quality education to all citizens to build a resource pool for functions needed by the state to optimise opportunities for growth.

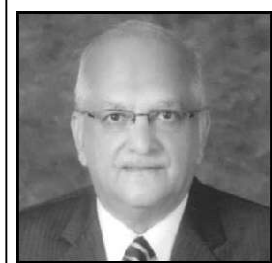
It is not a coincidence that countries with high human capital and empowered women have sustainable populations. Advocacy alone on family planning has not shown the desired results in Pakistan. The latest census is a strong signal for the need to adopt an indirect management approach for long-term dividends.

Twinning human capital with gender empowerment may well provide the answer to the population conundrum.

There is global recognition that climate change knows no borders. It is also pertinent to note that the relevance of impact is more powerful when disruptive changes take place in your neighbourhood. This makes regional integration an imperative and an essential part of adaptation, not just in the climate domain but also at the political, and people's level. As part of one South Asia, no country can forge its future trajectory without taking cognisance of climate-triggered upheavals in the region. Moving beyond past barriers to find common ground is also a part of adaptation that can no longer be ignored.

As political parties prepare for the next elections, it is important that clarity is provided to the people on actions that will be part of their electoral manifestos on climate change. The vision for a resilient Pakistan needs to go beyond going green to transformative changes in the social landscape and demonstration of political will to shift from status quo to new and dynamic equations for internal and external cohesion. An enabling environment is the product of actions set in motion by enablers. It is time to adapt and move forward recognising constraints and building an evolving narrative for a safe future. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Workers' benefit



Parvez Rahim

By virtue of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, all labour laws were devolved to the provinces, which then got the authority to amend them or make new laws. They have been doing so but the lack of coordination among them has caused acute differences in benefits for workers.

The Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution, constituted under the 1976 Act, is the only such scheme which continues to be administered centrally by the federal government of the day despite devolution. There is no doubt that issues relating to disbursement of pension to retired employees will arise if the Act is devolved to the provinces. Nevertheless, over the last 13 years, the federal government has made no effort to give legal cover to retaining this scheme. In 2014, the Sindh Employees' Old-age Benefits Act was promulgated but has not been operational as the federal government has not transferred the funds to Sindh.

EOBI was being managed smoothly until devolution and all three stakeholders — employers, employees and government — faced no issues. An increase in employers' monthly contribution would mostly be followed by an increase in pension. After devolution, the federal government had no lawful authority to administer the scheme but has continued with it on an ad hoc basis.

A 2005 amendment to the Act of 1976 changed the basis of the monthly contribution by employers from a percentage of the

fixed amount to the following: "wages" means the rates of wages as declared under the Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers Ordinance, 1969". After devolution, any amendments carried out by the government in federal laws would only extend to Islamabad Capital Territory, and not beyond.

Fixing the minimum wage for unskilled workers became a provincial subject after devolution, but employers would not accept these for paying EOBI contribution as the relevant law for the purpose was the 1969 ordinance. Consequently, some employers continued to pay the contribution at six per cent of Rs6,000 per insured employee, which was the minimum wage rate under the latter ordinance at the time of devolution in April 2010.

In 2015, the federal government made an amendment to the 1969 ordinance, fixing the minimum wage at Rs13,000. The relevant notice to employers by the EOBI to pay a monthly contribution of 6pc of this amount was challenged by them across Pakistan before their respective high courts. They got favourable judgments from the Punjab, KP and Balochistan courts, whereby the EOBI's claim was set aside.

The Sindh High Court in its judgement dated Feb 22, 2023, has held that employers are required to pay a contribution of 6pc of the prevailing minimum wage of Rs25,000 per insured employee. High courts in the other provinces have granted stay orders on paying the contribution at this rate. While employers in Sindh are paying it, those in the other provinces pay workers at rates ranging from 6pc of Rs3,000 to Rs13,000 or at whatever rate they deem appropriate.

The federal government would be empowered to resolve this issue by taking EOBI into its fold

through a parliamentary majority. Doing so would be in the interest of all stakeholders. EOBI could then fix the same amount of contribution across the country. Pensioners wouldn't have to wait for years for an increase in pensions; employers would have no cause to agitate. The authorities should realise that EOBI will not sustain the current ad hoc arrangement for long.

Another law which needs to have a uniform policy relates to maternity leave. The West Pakistan Maternity Benefit Ordinance, 1958, was promulgated by repealing existing laws on the subject. Under this ordinance, women with at least four months' employment in an establishment immediately preceding the day of delivery are eligible to get 12 weeks of maternity leave with full payment of salary, six weeks before and six weeks after childbirth. The employer is prohibited from dismissing the services of a woman in this situation.

Punjab and KP follow leave stipulations of the 1958 ordinance, but Sindh has a total of 16 and Balochistan 14 weeks of maternity leave with different conditions for eligibility. As requirements are not different anywhere, it is more realistic to have similar conditions and quantum of leave in the entire country. Under all these enactments, there is no limit to the number of times a woman may avail her maternity leave during her employment with the same employer. Conversely, most progressive organisations allow maternity leave only twice during a woman's career. The respective provincial legislatures should also consider prevailing industrial practices to this effect. Having a realistic common policy for the grant of maternity benefits all over Pakistan will be more acceptable to employers. -- Courtesy Dawn

## CM for boosting efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the 'Roshan Ghar' rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Raiwand on Tuesday, where he assessed the facilities provided for the recovery of individuals struggling with drug addiction. He thoroughly inspected the various sections and wards dedicated to the drug addicts, engaging with them and encouraging them to overcome their addiction. During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi emphasised the need to enhance the rehabilitation and treatment services for drug addicts. He also issued directives for the establishment of new centers to cater to their rehabilitation. He assigned the task of building additional centers to the Secretary of Social Welfare

and the Secretary of Health, with a mandate to complete centers with a combined capacity of 400 beds across different areas of Lahore within a span of two weeks. The CM also highlighted the importance of providing quality nutrition and regular supply of fruits to the addicts at 'Roshan Ghar'. He pledged to allocate all necessary resources for effective treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and he stressed the significance of digitising the records of these individuals. While touring the facility, Mohsin Naqvi visited the computer lab and domestic tailoring lab that serve the drug addicts. He acknowledged the devastating impact of addiction on families and expressed his commitment to helping those affected find a path to recovery. As

part of the effort to combat drug trafficking, a comprehensive crackdown had been initiated across Punjab. The chief minister received detailed briefings from the Secretary of Social Welfare regarding the rehabilitation process for drug addicts and from the Secretary of Health concerning the available treatment facilities. The briefing revealed that 'Roshan Ghar' currently houses up to 100 beds. Present on this occasion were Provincial Minister of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Dr. Javed Akram, along with the secretaries of Health, Industry and Excise, Commissioner of Lahore, Director General of Social Welfare, Deputy Commissioner, Principal of Allama Iqbal Medical College and other relevant officers.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Amir Meer inaugurates 4 new buses for Culture Department.

## Corruption case: Parvez Elahi remand in NAB custody till Aug 21

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Tuesday handed over former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on physical remand till August 21 in a case of receiving kickbacks in development projects. Earlier, the NAB team produced the PTI president before Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani amid strict security. Advocate Amjad Pervaiz requested the court to grant him 15 minutes to talk to his client before submitting arguments,

which was granted by the court. Special prosecutor Waris Ali Janjua, who represented the NAB, requested for physical remand of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. He argued that four persons had already been arrested in connection with the case. He submitted that as chief minister Punjab, Parvez Elahi gave a development package of Rs 72 billion for Gujrat division alone. He submitted that a list of 200 projects was finalised and approval was given for the projects on a fast-track basis, in violation of the rules and regulations. He further alleged that after settling the matter of

the kickbacks, the amounts for the projects were released even before the commencement of the work. He submitted that the step was also a violation of the law and the bureau had strong evidence in this regard. At this stage, Parvez Elahi's counsel Advocate Amjad Pervaiz submitted that the cases were pending at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court against the arrest of his client. Therefore, the court should give the physical remand of Parvez Elahi till Monday, so that the decision of the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court would also come by then, he added.

## Miyawaki Forest to be developed in 258 govt schools in south Punjab

MULTAN (APP): In a bold move to counter the looming threats of climate change and offer a verdant sanctuary for students, the Department of School Education South Punjab has unveiled plans to cultivate Miyawaki forests in 258 government schools. The pioneering endeavor, designed to tackle tree scarcity and forge a resilient ecosystem, enters its second phase with 258 selected schools slated to embrace the transformation. The inaugural planting of the Miyawaki forests is set to unfurl on August 16 (Wednesday) in a gala event at the Government High School Jamia Uloom New Multan. Notable dignitaries including the Secretary of School Education South Punjab, Rana Salim Ahmad Khan, and Secretary of Forests South Punjab, Sarfraz Ahmed, are poised to inaugurate the ambitious campaign. The concerted effort will usher in the growth of Miyawaki forests alongside the monsoon planting season, said official source. The innovative Miyawaki technique promises to usher in forests with a swiftness and density as it is 10 times faster and 30 times thicker, compared to natural forests. Secretary Rana Salim Ahmad Khan underscored the urgency of the initiative, revealing Pakistan's fifth-ranking status among nations bearing the brunt of climate change ramifications. Tackling this dilemma becomes the cornerstone of preserving both the present and the posterity. Secretary Khan further emphasized that metropolises and densely populated zones, often marred by pollution and a dearth of greenery, would get immense benefits from the Miyawaki Forests. Planting Miyawaki forest is a good idea. It will make cities better and give us cleaner air to breathe. The new forests give us hope for better future, he maintained.



PESHAWAR: Pharmacy Students are holding protest demonstration for their rights, at Peshawar press club.

## S.Punjab secretariat puts region on new path of development: ACS

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Capt. Saqib Zafar, said that the South Punjab Secretariat has put the region on a new path of development. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of 36 officers of under training Pakistan Administrative Service at the Civil Service Academy who called at his office here on Tuesday. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary Services South Punjab Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen and Deputy Director Civil Service Academy Rehmat Wali Khan were also present in the meeting. He further said that now not even a single penny could be transferred from development funds allocated in the budget out of South Punjab. Likewise, an integrated mechanism has been developed for the timely resolution of public grievances. He said secretariat office system has been digitized and e-filing system been introduced for official correspondence. The under construction Secretariat will also be a reflection of corporate culture. ACS said that South Punjab plays a key role in the agricultural production of the country.

present in the meeting. He further said that now not even a single penny could be transferred from development funds allocated in the budget out of South Punjab. Likewise, an integrated mechanism has been developed for the timely resolution of public grievances. He said secretariat office system has been digitized and e-filing system been introduced for official correspondence. The under construction Secretariat will also be a reflection of corporate culture. ACS said that South Punjab plays a key role in the agricultural production of the country.

## IGP orders to launch crackdown to eradicate drug menace in GB

GILGIT (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mahmood Butt on Tuesday issued orders to start crackdown against traffickers and drug addicts to stop the use and sale of drugs in Gilgit-Baltistan. According to a press release issued from the spokesman of Gilgit-Baltistan police office, IGP Gilgit-Baltistan has given strict instructions to the DIGs of all ranges and the SSPs of all districts including the DIG Special Branch to prevent drug dealers and traffickers. He issued order to take strict legal action against them. IGP GB said that to save the youth from this scourge, the region has to be free from drugs. He added use all your resources for this. The IGP urged immediate and strict implementation of these instructions. Afzal Mahmood Butt concluded by saying that anti-social elements target.

including the DIG Special Branch to prevent drug dealers and traffickers. He issued order to take strict legal action against them. IGP GB said that to save the youth from this scourge, the region has to be free from drugs. He added use all your resources for this. The IGP urged immediate and strict implementation of these instructions. Afzal Mahmood Butt concluded by saying that anti-social elements target.



KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on LI Chundrigar road in Karachi.

## TMA Hangu unveils app for easy access to municipal services

PESHAWAR (APP): National Governance Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Hangu launched an E-TMA app to make access to municipal services easy. The launching ceremony of the app was held at the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hangu, Fazal Akbar highlighted the role of the app in establishing a transparent and efficient governance system tailored to meet the needs of the people. This pioneering digital solution, developed in partnership with the Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development (LGERD) KP.

National Governance Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Hangu launched an E-TMA app to make access to municipal services easy. The launching ceremony of the app was held at the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hangu, Fazal Akbar highlighted the role of the app in establishing a transparent and efficient governance system tailored to meet the needs of the people. This pioneering digital solution, developed in partnership with the Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development (LGERD) KP.



SUKKUR: Members of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) are holding protest demonstration against killing of Jan Muhammad Mehar Senior Journalist, at Sukkur press club.

## LWMC, Motorway Police sign MoU for licensing of drivers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company and National Highway and Motorway Police on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical training and licensing of drivers of operational vehicles. More than 3,000 LWMC drivers will be assisted in technical training and licensing. Under the MoU, LWMC's drivers and other staff will be eligible for international licence, on completion of technical training. Further, the Education Wing of Motorway Police will provide awareness about road safety and rules. According to LWMC spokesman Umar Chaudhary, Motorway Police Sector Commander Shahbaz Alam and Deputy CEO LWMC Fahad Mehmood signed the

MoU. LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, DIG Motorway Police Ahmed Nasir Aziz Wirk, and a large number of LWMC officers including a licensing and education team from Motorway Police participated in the event. Addressing the event, LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din said that the department is taking all possible steps to train and guide workers. "Trained staff is the strong pillar of the organization. Our workers are our valuable asset who perform the duties of cleaning Lahore with full honesty and hard work on every occasion and festival," he added. He thanked IG Motorway Police Ahmed Nasir Aziz for supporting this great initiative and requested the cooperation of citizens to support the LWMC staff.

## Restoration of Lahore's historical gates approved

LAHORE (Online): Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has approved the plan to restore four historical gates to their original condition out of 11 historical gates and one Mori. It has been reported that the summary sent by the Walled City Authority has also been approved, according to which the project will cost seven and a half crore rupees. Among the historic gates to be restored are Shiranwala Gate, Lohari Gate, Kashmiri Gate and Roshnai Gate, instructions have been issued to remove all encroachments from outside.

## Minister inaugurates new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore

LAHORE (APP): In a bid to boost tourism, the Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism Amir Mir on Tuesday inaugurated four new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore. Through a collaboration of Punjab Tourism Department and Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), these newly introduced single-deck buses would now run on the roads of the city. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the minister said the new buses would also be utilized for tours to Wagah Border and Gurdwara Kartarpur. Currently, these buses would operate within Lahore. TDCP's Sales and Tour Promotion Wing would also utilize these

buses for various tour packages, he informed. Amir Mir said that in the future, additional buses would be introduced under the World Bank project, offering tourists the opportunity to explore destinations like Murree, Patriata and other northern areas. He added that three buses were already operating in Lahore and the total count would reach at seven, providing tourists with an excellent opportunity to explore Lahore's captivating landscapes and historical sites. AC and non-AC buses would also operate in different cities during seasonal events, he said. Secretary Tourism Asif Bilal Lodhi expressed hope that these initiatives would open a new chapter for tourism in the province.

## Police arrest six for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police on the directives of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations conducted raids in different areas and netted six accused of possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Bani, Race Course, Taxila, Saddar Wah, and Rawat police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested six namely Anwar, Muzamil, Waseem, Asif, Umair, and Jawad, and recovered five 30-bore pistols, a 32 bore pistol and ammunition. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. Divisional Superintendents of Police said that strict action by the law was being taken against the lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon.

## Five injured as lightning strike hits Attock Kurd police station

ATTOCK (APP): The Attock Kurd Police station turned into rubble as a Police spokesman attributed it to lightning which hits the building in the early hours of Tuesday. Five Policemen were also injured in the incident, among them one critical. According to a police spokesman, the lightning hit a portion of the police station where the mall khana was established which results in a blast subsequently the whole building was damaged. The spokesman has said that five police officials including assistant sub-inspector Imtiaz, Wireless operator Bilawal Siddiqui, constable Sajjad, Faizan, and Louqeer. One of the injured was shifted to Rawalpindi due to his critical injuries. Soon after the incident, rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and carried out rescue services. The fire tenders have extinguished the fire.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Mansoor Qadri presides over the syndicate meeting DG Khan University.

## PHC seeks details of cases, inquiries against ex MNA, MPA

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Anti-Corruption Department and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to provide details of the cases registered against former MNA Mehboob Shah and MPA Humayun. The bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Qazi Subhan asked the anti-corruption watchdogs to provide details of all the cases and inquiries against the petitioners. Earlier, the legal

counsel of the petitioner's Advocate Malik Ajmal Advocate said that as soon as the petitioners are released from jail, they are arrested in another case. He said that anti-corruption bodies had not provided details of the cases and inquiries against them. The court has asked NAB, Anti-Corruption and FIA to respond on the next hearing. Meanwhile, in another case, against former MNA Anwar Taj, the court adjourned the hearing till August 21 due to the unavailability of the legal counsel of the petitioner.

## Dr. Yasmeen post arrest bail plea, lawyers' arguments

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorist Court (ATC) heard post arrest bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr. Yasmeen Rashid in four different cases of May 09 incident. Judge Ijaz Ahmed of ATC heard case. Court summoned lawyers for arguments. Case number 23/1271 and 23/1280 in Gulberg Police Station are filed against accused. Case number 23/36 in Model Town Police Station and case number 23/108 in Server Road police station are also registered against accused Yasmin Rashid.

## Commissioner visits DHQ to inspect facilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatha on Tuesday visited the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients there. He interacted with the patients and their attendants and inquired about the

treatment facilities provided to them at the hospital. Chatha also visited the hospital's Neurosurgery, Emergency, OPD and operation theatre and directed the concerned to keep functional all the medical equipment and air conditioners of the hospital so that public grievances could be redressed.

## Anti-polio drive begins in Khyber

PESHAWAR (Online): A seven-day anti-polio drive has kicked off in district Khyber of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the campaign, more than two-hundred thousand children up to age of five will be administered anti-polio vaccine. A total of nine-hundred and sixty-five teams have been formed for this purpose.



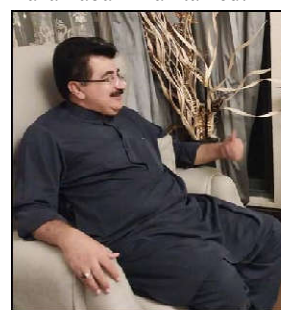
KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to construction and repairing work of Natha Khan Bridge located on Shahrah-e-Faisal in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting to review ongoing road infrastructure projects.

## Raza Rabbani says: Delayed elections not to be in favour of country, people

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani said on Tuesday that despite passage of six days after dissolution of National Assembly, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has not yet announced elections. The Senator said, "Time passes rapidly over the 90 days' constitutional deadline for elections but regrettably the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has yet to issue a comprehensive statement on the election."



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo

## Hurriyat leaders say: India's status in Kashmir is nothing but an aggressor

SRINAGAR (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders and organizations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have said that India's status in Kashmir is nothing but an aggressor, so it has no right to celebrate its Independence Day in the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC leaders Khadim Hussain and Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi in a joint statement issued in Srinagar said that India had snatched the freedom of Kashmiri Muslims at gunpoint. The leaders said that India was taking their lands, houses, business centers to make Kashmiri Muslims strangers in their own homeland.



HUB: Journalists are holding protest demonstration against killing of Jan Muhammad Mehar Senior Journalist, at Hub Press Club.

## NA speaker extends felicitations to Pakistan Civil Award nominees

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, on Tuesday, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the individuals nominated for the prestigious Pakistan Civil Awards in a gesture of appreciation and recognition. These awards, which acknowledge remarkable contributions in diverse fields, including social, public, educational, scientific, heroic, artistic, literary, cultural, journalistic, and medical domains, reflect the nation's gratitude for their exceptional services. A notable highlight of Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf's message was the

profound tribute paid to senior political leader Syed Qaim Ali Shah. Acknowledging Shah's profound political acumen and unmatched insights, he lauded him as a seasoned political and social luminary. "A significant historical figure, Syed Qaim Ali Shah stands as the sole surviving member of the 1973 Constitutional Committee, having the distinct honor of signing the Constitution. Given his extensive political, social, constitutional, and public contributions, the conferment of the esteemed Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian award, is seen as a commendable acknowledgment," he maintained.



QUETTA: Secretary Social Welfare Imran Khan presiding over 20th meeting of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund

## NAB Balochistan organises Independence Day celebration

QUETTA (APP): Like proud nations, NAB Balochistan celebrated Independence Day with zealous and enthusiastic manner. NAB officers, officials and other staff participated therein ardently. The children of NAB employees dressed up in colorful ceremonious clothes in accordance with the day put in their presence at the event. Director General NAB Mr. Zafar Iqbal Khan unfurled the flag in the presence of cheers and faces of the participants. Soon after hoisting the flag, Mr. Zafar Iqbal Khan mingled with the officers, staff and children. He individually shook hands with every officer, official and kid in connection with the Independence Day celebration. Groups photos with kids, officers and officials were taken separately for their solacement. Subsequently, the Director General made a speech in commemoration of day. He put heartfelt felicitations for the day. He paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions of Pakistan movement. He counted the benefits of independence by recalling plight of Muslims before the creation of Pakistan. He recalled the Quaid's quote "Work, Work and only Work" and advised the audience that the development of Pakistan is hidden in hard working. He advised to adapt the lives on the principals of "Self-Accountability is the Best Accountability". The ceremony ended at comprecation where in Qari Abdul Hafeez made special prayers for the permanency and prosperity of the country.

## Samsam Bukhari quits PTI

LAHORE (INP): Former Punjab minister Samsam Bukhari on Tuesday announced to part ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after condemning May 9 violence. Samsam Bukhari made this announcement after meeting Istekham-e-Pakistan Party chairman Jahangir Khan Tareen in Lahore. The meeting was also attended by senior leaders of the party including Aun Chaudhry, Noman Langrial and others. The former provincial minister is likely to join IPP in the coming days. Bukhari in his statement said like every patriotic Pakistani he also condemns May 9 violence, triggered after the arrest of the former prime minister in A-Qadir Trust case. He urged the need for joint efforts for the betterment of the country. Earlier, Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Interior, Attaullah Tarar shared an alleged leaked audio conversation.

## Achakzai expresses concern rise in narcotics dens in Chaman

CHAMAN: The senior Vice President of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Provincial Minister, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has expressed deep concern over the increase in dens of narcotics as well as lack of health and education facilities in Chaman. He charged that the corruption has been rampant in the development schemes. He said that the development works have been carried out in a specific area. This and similar views were expressed by Abdul Khaliq Achakzai while addressing an emergent press conference in Chaman on Tuesday. He said that the present decision of Election Commission is appropriate regarding the constituencies as he had been separated from his workers. He demanded of the concerned quarters to conduct inquiry into the corruption done in development projects of previous Chaman. He said that tribes are settled in the area for centuries, but those who raised the slogan of "Bacha Khan" made an attempt to create hatred in Chaman by establishing grid station, sports complex and girls college in a specific area. The senior leader of BAP on the occasion congratulated the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar and hoped that he would not leave any stone unturned in performing his responsibilities. He said that a political party has done nothing for the area except nationalism and spreading hatred. Also present on the occasion were Attaullah Achakzai, Matiullah Achakzai and other office bearers of BAP.



CHAMAN: Balochistan Awami party Sr. Vice president Cap(R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai is addressing a press conference at Press Club.

## JIT grills Bushra Bibi for 20 minutes in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Bushra Bibi, who is the former first lady and wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, Tuesday appeared before a joint investigation team (JIT) in connection with the Toshakhana case. The former first lady reached the DIG Office in Islamabad accompanied by the PTI's legal team where she was interrogated by the investigation team probing the Toshakhana case. The development comes after Bushra Bibi met Imran Khan in Attock jail earlier today, the sources said, adding that their meeting lasted for about two hours. She had left for the DIG office after her meeting with Khan, the sources added. The session court had directed Bushra Bibi to join the investigation team. Speaking to media persons after the appearance before the JIT, PTI legal team's Quratul Ain said that Bushra Bibi underwent interrogation for about 20 minutes. The JIT asked 20 questions from the former first lady and she answered all of the questions, Quratul Ain said.

## Maryam chairs party meeting to interview candidates for in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): An organisational meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Youth Wing was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz to interview candidates for the posts of Youth Coordinators in seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Interviews of candidates from Bannu, Hazara, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand and Kohat divisions were conducted. The Youth Organising Committees will work under the supervision of the Provincial Youth Organising Committee. Earlier, the Youth Organising Committee of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was formed. PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz was appointed as the chairperson while Bilal Azhar Kayani as the secretary of the committee.

## Fawad Ch files new written apology in contempt of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has filed new written apology in Election Commission (EC) in contempt of EC case. The contempt of EC case came up for hearing before 5 members bench of EC presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Tuesday. Fawad Chaudhry and his counsel Faisal Chaudhry appeared in the court. Fawad Chaudhry took the plea during the hearing of the case that "you said in order my language was not correct. I am filing my written apology again after correcting my language. He filed new written apology in the EC. The CEC while adjourning the hearing of the case till August 24 remarked we order on next hearing.

## Rules out political alliance IPP decides to expose PDM, PTI failed policies

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Istekham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) on Tuesday decided to expose previous rainbow coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on their failed policies. The IPP had started its election campaign with verve. In this regard, the IPP top brass had formulated the strategy. Sources divulged that IPP patron-in-chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and party chairman Abdul Aleem Khan hosted the luncheon to discuss matters related to the general elections. IPP supreme also instructed the party workers to start campaigning in their respective constituencies. During the meeting, it was decided to focus on the prices of the petroleum (POL) products and power.

The huddle also decided to highlight the issue of the inflated electricity bills. On this occasion, Mr Tareen vowed to move his party forward for the sake of the national interest. The IPP was gearing up and working hard for the general elections, he added. Mr Tareen made it clear the IPP will fulfil the dream of creating 'Naya Pakistan'. The IPP patron-in-chief felicitated the nominated divisional presidents of the party. Meanwhile, former PTI stalwart Hashim Dogar officially made his announcement of joining the "grandiose" party. IPP rules out political alliance. President of the Istekham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Abdul Aleem Khan, ruled out coalition alliance with any political party.



ISLAMABAD: An Afghan national with her hands and face painted rakes part with others in a demonstration against the Taliban government on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

## SC dismisses contempt of court plea against Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed contempt of court plea against former federal minister Ahsan Iqbal. Ahsan Iqbal had said we have also respect like a military officer or judge. The case came up for hearing before CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday. The CJP remarked Ahsan Iqbal had said we have too respect like any army officer or judge. This sentence is not enough to run a case further. The CJP remarked this is upto us to decide if the contempt of court has taken place or otherwise. The petitioner Mehmood Akhtar Naqvi Sahb, you informed, thanks. The CJP further remarked to my views Ahsan Iqbal is very serious and intellectual man. May be he has said some thing under sentiments.

## Masood decorates Urooj Aftab with President's 'Pride of Performance' Award

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has decorated GRAMMY award winner Urooj Aftab with prestigious President's Pride of Performance award during a ceremony held in connection with Independence Day in Washington DC.

Urooj Aftab is an internationally recognized Pakistani American vocalist, music composer and producer in the United States. She is the first Pakistani woman to ever win a GRAMMY award. Lauding her achievement especially in bringing the people of Pakistan and US closer to each other with the power of music, Ambassador Masood Khan said that that diplomacy and interstate relations were all about perceptions and Urooj Aftab has helped changing the perceptions about Pakistan.



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan presenting the President's Pride of Performance award to Urooj Aftab.

## 3 terrorists of banned outfit held

SUKKUR (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested three terrorists of a banned outfit besides recovering hand grenades and detonators from their possession here on Tuesday. According to the CTD spokesperson, a team of the department searched a Jaffarabad bound vehicle near Dargah Pir Musafisir in Sukkur. During search, three members of banned outfit including Akram Ali, Rashid Hussain and Muhammad Yousef were arrested. Three hand grenades, a timer, 20 detonators, nut bolt, ball bearings, 400 gram explosive chemical, 15 feet safety fuse wire were recovered and vehicle was taken into custody. The CTD spokesperson said that the detainees were involved in assisting the terrorist and target killing of several people. Further investigation from them was underway.

## Food Festival arranged to mark I. Day celebrations at Railway Station Qta

QUETTA: The special Food Festival was organized at the Railway Station Quetta on Monday night. The Festival which marked the celebrations of Independence Day was organized in collaboration with the Balochistan Food Authority and district administration. Different stalls with variety of foods were set up in the Festival by the famous food points and outlets of the city and district administration that attracted a large number of people. They also inspected the stalls and expressed pleasure over interest of the people in the Festival.

special attention of the people where they were informed about the proper and healthy diet and food. The exhibitory tests were also conducted at the BFA stall to check quality of food. In addition to this, music programme was also arranged that enthralled the participants. The Commissioner Quetta, Sohailur Rehman Baloch and Secretary Information, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat among those who visited the food festival and enjoyed the festivity there.



QUETTA: Pakistan Mili Tehreek Chairman, Syed Ghulam Rabbani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta Press Club.

## PDM's hopes dashed to ground after appointment of a caretaker PM: Rashid

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the hopes and aspirations of the 13-party opposition alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), were dashed to the ground after the appointment of a caretaker prime minister. In a message on social media, Rashid said that the PDM parties were ashamed of each other and did not even have the courage to congratulate each other on the appointment of the caretaker PM. He said that the PDM parties were asking each other what had happened and how it had happened. Rashid also criticized the way the 16-month-old PDM government de-

parted, saying that they were humiliated and not even considered worthy of being consulted. He asked in which country of the world Section 144 was imposed on Independence Day. He said that electricity was cut off in those areas where the headquarters of all the military organizations were located. People were arrested and locked up in police stations, he added. The AML chief said that the institutions should make it clear where women and children were kept after they were taken away from their homes. He warned that the seeds of hatred which were being sown in Pakistan would not yield any positive results. The consequences might be dire, he said.