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ISLAMABAD: President DrArifAlvi 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.

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 Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and

SLAMABAD (APP): Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The delegation in-

cluded Afzal Butt, Arshad Ansari, Naz Afreen Saigol, Sarmad Ali, Shahab Zuberi, Shakeel Masud, Ijazul Haq, Kazim Khan, Ayaz Khan, and Azhar Abbas. Talking to the delega-

tion, 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 Approves PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023 **Monitoring Desk**

SLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Tuesday accorded his approval to Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023.

The president ap-proved the bill under Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

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 exist-

ing 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 jour-nalists, 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



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, Bajuar 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's 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): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the residence of Amir of Jammiate-Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman to express condolences on the death of his party workers who martyred during a terrorist attack on a party conven-

tion in Khar, Bajaur district

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

The prime minister offered Fateha for the departed souls and prayed for the early recovery of the

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



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

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 govern-ments 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 dis-solved 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

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 Quddus Bizenjo and Leader of the Opposition Malik Sikandar Khan could not reach a consensus on any name so far.

The ECP said that it was mandated with the con- the Act ibid.

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 "It has become im-

stitutional duty to organise

and conduct elections in

terms of Article 218(3) of

perative 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

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

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that an efficient road infrastructure bridge on Quetta-Zhob 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.

minister chaired a meeting to review the ongoing road said in a press release.

Highway and Sawar Road. The work on damaged during the last year's flood, would commence next month.

A causeway was constructed after floods which The caretaker prime restored the vehicular movement

The construction peinfrastructure projects. riod of the new bridge with The meeting was attended 15-meter height and 12-PM Office Media Wing about nine months, it was further added.

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate meeting

Mohsin Jugnoo and Ayesha

Raza Farooq are under con-

sideration for induction in

of Brig (Retd) Muzaffar

Ranjha and Sittara Imtiaz

are also under consider-

to 12 ministers will take

given portfolio of ministry

of foreign affairs, Dr Shoaib

Suddal, ministry of interior,

Ahsan Bhoon, law minis-

try, Dr Hafeez Sheikh min-

istry of finance and Gohar

Ejaz ministry of industries.

Sources disclosed name

In the first phase 10

Care taker PM is in

care taker cabinet.

with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

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 acceler-

cided to review profile of all the persons by him in

connection with cabinet.

are likely to be inducted in

care taker cabinet have come

been started for giving port-

folios of main ministries

including ministry of for-eign affairs, finance, interior

name of Faisal Vawda, Maj

(Retd) Khurram Hamid

Rokhri, Shahid Afridi, Qari

Sadaqat Ali, Ahmad

As per sources the

Care taker PM has de-

The name of those who

Consultations have

ated in this regard.

to fore.

and others.

bridge on Quetta-Sukkar the completion of new alternate route.

prised that the reconstruc- commence soon and its Pinjarra bridge, which was tion and rehabilitation completion would take work on 118-km long Quetta-Dhadar Road and 188-km Dhadar-Jacobabad Road would be undertaken anew which would not (NHA) was playing an efonly help in fuel saving, but also reduce the nance and construction of vehicular pressure.

about the repair work on infrastructure in the improving the road netby relevant authorities, the meter width, would take Sawar bridge. The repair Balochistan province and work linking Balochistan work on the 282-meter long | directed the reconstruction | with other provinces. bridge was in the final

the prime minister di-stages while during the

ISLAMABAD (APP): briefed in detail about the rected for reducing the work, the traffic could not of Karachi to Chaman high-Caretaker Prime Minister ongoing work on Pinjarra stipulated time period for be diverted due to lack of way.

> The meeting was ap- work on the bridge would about six months.

The caretaker PM observed that the National Highway Authority ficient role in the mainteroads. He emphasized ing over the proposed It was also informed upon completion of road

He also asked for adop-

The reconstruction tion of the out of the box approach to expedite construction work because it was the responsibility of the government to provide facilities to the masses.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to expedite work on the ongoing projects on priority basis and sought briefprojects. He also asked for

Sikander, Bizenjo engages in discussions to select interim Chief Minister

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

They discussed the names of the proposed can-didate 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

The two leaders. agreed to continue the discussions until to finalize the ment, 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.

'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.

Supreme Court (SC) has returned the matter of delimitation of constituencies to Election Commission

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 Pa-

ISLAMABAD (Online): delimitation of constituencies in Sindh. It is often complained by Sindh that delimitation of constituencies was not carried out cor-

> 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

Later the SC returned the matter of delimitation of constituencies to EC.

It may be mentioned that delimitation of provincial constituencies PS 7, 8 and 9 Shikar pur, Sindh were challenged in



persons

selected for Tamgha-e-Imtiaz **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Dean Fac-

Professor Dr.

Abdul Saboor

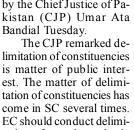
ulty of Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Turbat, Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch has been nominated for the civil award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in recognition of his meritorious services and perfor

contact with experts in dif-The selection of Profesferent fields and prominent sor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch has been made on the eve of According to sources Independence Day, stated in former ambassador Jalil an official hand out issued Abbas Jillani is likely to be here on Tuesday.

mance in the literature.

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 de scribed the award not only for Dr. Abdul Saboor bu also for the province and University of Turbat.



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



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

Daily soice of Masse, 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 the Upper House, a posivaried nature of the threat. In Gwadar, calamity was narrowly averted when security personnel confronted terrorists belonging to the banned Baloch due to the current mood 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 bulletproof 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 the universe. Some people army chief thanked the people of KP and Balochistan for "resiliently fighting ... terrorism", while he urged Afghanistan to shut" He learnt the art of prevent its soil from being used against Pakistan. Yet the battle his sight was declining 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 the power to see was a chaltake decisive action.

In this regard, a rally was ing for all those who can see held on Saturday under the aegis of the Bara Siasi Ittehad of adversity. 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 means the process of tive counterterrorism strategy is needed to calm the affected new order is facilitated via regions, dislodge the terrorists actions that make transition possible. In the climate and cause minimum disruptions in the lives of the local people, who have sacrificed from crises. In politics, it much over the past several means marching in step with the times you live in years and seen numerous and course correcting to counter-insurgency operations. Within Pakistan there in research innovative 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 the same sequential process sanctuary across the western border. Efforts to address maximising co-benefits. Pakistan's concerns on this front may have continued since therefore cannot be adthe Taliban took Kabul in 2021, but have yielded mixed results.

Sometimes there is talk of direct impact on the growth indicators of countries most cooperation, at other times affected and least prepared much acrimony. For example, the Taliban spokesman recently criticised Pakistan for being unable to address the implementation intent militancy issue. Instead of trading blame, both sides should in the puzzle is who, when work to ensure militants do not and how. This stumbling block has prevented us have the space to operate, with from achieving policy obthe onus on Kabul to prevent guired progress in our elianti-Pakistan terrorists from mate journey. There can be launching attacks.

Age of caretaking



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 tive move indeed. His nomination has been widely welcomed. How much of this is due to Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's affability and how much where few are willing to question the choice of those who matter is hard

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 kent 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; but this 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 rogue on those he is accused of being close to but his own fam-

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.

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 Quddus Bizenio having written a letter to Asif Ali Zardari, expressing his regret at having deciding 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

But while we await

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 Without any infor-

mation 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 If this had some bear-

ing 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 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 à la 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 in the home province. The that few can be sure of this

portant 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

eventuality.

Herein lies the rub. If

one of the reasons for the

delay is the PTI's popu-

larity, a second, more im-

in journalism when Pervez 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



Dr Naazir Mahmood

Without differences in our abilities, the world would have been a bland sphere in have more pizzazz than others, and one such person is Zahid Abdullah who according to him can perform all tasks with his "eyes wide living without sight some 20 years ago. Even before that, 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 lenge that he took head on. and his story is worth tell-

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 nis 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 liv-ing with disabilities. He believes that an inaccessible environment renders people disabled, not the impairment

the only area he is working of ethical behaviour in medi-

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 man-

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

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 Disability rights are not book also discusses the lack

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

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.

benefit from it.

Girls and women with disabilities face extraordi-

nary discrimination and across many different parts misbehaviour, especially in of Lahore.' universities. In a society The story tells that where campus officers and these lawyers were regular

customers of the particular university teachers indulge restaurant but the pandemic in immoral and unethical practices of blackmailing intervened and they could students, one can imagine not meet as long as the how vulnerable disabled felockdown lasted. Now they male students are. regroup – minus the two Now something about who succumbed to the vi-Zahid's latest book 'Honour rus -and share their tales. Among Judges and Other

There is a lawver who Tales of Justice'. This is a claims to 'punish evil and marvellous collection of storeward virtue', coupled ries and revolves around a with a judge who has 'sad group of lawyers who gather at a restaurant in April 2021 roomy eyes'. There is one law practitioner who brews when the government lifted his own wine and always has Plan B ready for all the lockdown it imposed due to the Covid-19 paneventualities. Another lawdemic. The 15 lawyers ver nicknamed the gather on a rooftop of a Decoupler deals with divorce cases. Then there are popular restaurant near Heera Mandi in Lahore and lawyers in their 70s, with narrate their stories. The plenty of experiences to women of the red-light area

There is a female lawver with 'well-earned bragging rights' to claim that she They have been had never taken a single case shunned and condemned by before a judge and vet had some, but loved and patronthe most successful practice ized by most. The last one in the city. Not far behind is to condemn them was a cartoonish general who had the story of a public pros-ecutor famous for his "dogged pursuit of crimia permanent smile plastered on his face, though it was nals". Then there is "Wiley never reflected in his cold Wali" with a dubious reputation of hiring judges to eyes. When he closed down the Heera Mandi in the seek justice for his clients. -1980s, these girls spread - Courtesy TheNews

Let's adapt

government

agenda forward.

In Pakistan the climate

crisis is a cause that is cham-

pioned by all political par-

ties and experienced by

people at all levels. But de-

spite national consensus on

being a vulnerable and hard-

hit country, not enough has

been done to make a differ-

ence 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 rheto-

ric and take a more reflec-

tive view of the challenge.

There is a growing tendency

to attribute everything to

external finance and resort

to inaction. However, not

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 ap-

proaches can enhance pro-

ductivity, boost the

economy and incentivise

the world that has pros-

pered without giving

women equal access to op-

portunities and resources.

Giving women equal space

in society and freedom to

make life choices needs no

money and will serve as a

capital with a focus on sci-

ence and technology has

been the foundational build-

ing block for developed

countries to become resil-

ient societies. We need to

deliver quality education to

all citizens to build a re-

source pool for functions

needed by the state to

optimise opportunities for

Investing in human

powerful enabler.

There is no country in

family planning.



Aisha Khan

change through which integration into an emerging world, this refers to strengthening resilience to absorb shocks and recover with the times you live in stav ahead of the curve. In science, it means discovery, 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 ... anticipatory planning, thinking strategic and Climate change is not

a stand-alone subject and dressed in isolation. It changes demography, alters social dynamics and has a to cope with change.

The sectoral impacts of climate change are well researched and policies and plans in place to highlight through action frameworks. However, the missing piece quired progress in our clino progress without investing in enabling agencies re-

sponsible for structural ad-It is not a coincidence justments and making the that countries with high necessary changes at differhuman capital and empowent levels. In every society, ered women have sustainthe enablers are the people, able populations. Advocacy alone on family planning policymakers who together has not shown the desired results in Pakistan. The latwork on, and support strategies for enabling critical est census is a strong signal actions to push the change for the need to adopt an indirect management ap-

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

proach for long-term divi-

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 trajecall paradigm shifts cost tory 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 ig-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

Parvez Rahim

By virtue of the 18th 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' Oldage 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 migrant 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 Pensioners country. 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 accept-

able to employers. -- Cour-

Workers' benefit

have a specific significance

as the writer mentions in his

prologue:

promises to usher in

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.

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 use

cleaner air to breathe. The

Secretary

Miyawaki Forest to be

developed in 258 govt

schools in south Punjab

MULTAN (APP): In a alongside the monsoon

bold move to counter the planting season, said

sanctuary for students, the Miyawaki technique

Education South Punjab forests with a swiftness has unveiled plans to and density as it is 10

cultivate Miyawaki forests in 258 government schools. times faster and 30 times thicker, compared to

looming threats of climate official source.

change and offer a verdant

Department of School

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

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.

including the Secretary of School Education South Punjab, Rana Salim Ahmad Khan, and Secretary of

Forests South Punjab, Sarfraz Ahmed, are poised

dignitaries

transformation.

Notable

CM for boosting efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister complete centers with a Mohsin Naqvi visited the

rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Raiwand on Tuesday, where he assessed the facilities highlighted the importance

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 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

Senior Journalist, at Sukkur press club.

LWMC, Motorway

Police sign MoU for

licensing of drivers

LAHORE (APP): The MoU. LWMC CEO Babar Lahore Waste Management Sahib Din, DIG Motorway

Lahore Waste Management Company and National Highway and Motorway Wirk, and a large number

SMBR reviews state land

management system

LAHORE (APP): Senior tolerance policy towards

the Directorate of Land nepotism would be met Records (DLR) here with immediate

training and licensing.
Under the MoU,
LWMC's drivers and other

completion of technical

provide awareness about road safety and rules.
According to LWMC

Chaudhary, Motorway

Shahbaz Alam and Deputy

Member Board of Revenue

(SMBR) Nabil Javed

reviewed the state land

management system under

Land Records Authority

Information Technology

Board (PITB), Directorate

of Land Records (DLR)

and other relevant

departments attended the

meeting, the SMBR issued

processes and ensure

these directives was to

address the issue of groups

unlawfully occupying

meeting.During

transparency.

government land.

Nabil

(PLRA),

Officers from Punjab

Punjab

spokesman

combined capacity of 400 beds across different areas of Lahore within a span of two weeks.

The provided for the recovery of individuals struggling with drug addiction.

He thoroughly inspected the various and regular addicts at 'Roshan Ghar'.

He pledged to allocate all processory resources for inspected the various He pledged to allocate all sections and wards necessary resources for effective treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and he stressed the significance of digitising the these

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 officers.

Report and the Secretary of part of the effort to combat Punjab Health, with a mandate to drug trafficking, a 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 '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, Principa of Allama Igbal Medical



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 which was granted by the accountability court on Tuesday handed over former Punjab chief Special prosecutor
Waris Ali Janjua, who
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 5 minutes to talk rules and regulations. to his client before

court.

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 Guirat 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

He further alleged that submitting arguments, after settling the matter of Minister inaugurates

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 Parvaiz 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.

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

to inaugurate the ambitious campaign. The concerted effort new forests give us hope will usher in the growth of for better future, he Miyawaki

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

forests maintained

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

MULTAN Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Capt. ® Saqib Zafar, said that the South Punjab Secretariat has put the region on a new path of development.

the Civil Service Academy has been digitized and ewho called at his office here filing system on Tuesday.

South Punjab Saqib Ali Shoaib Khan Tareen and Wali Khan were also of the country.

He further said that now not even a single penny could be transferred He expressed these an integrated mechanism views while talking to a has been developed for the delegation of 36 officers of timely resolution of public under training Pakistan grievances.He said

present in the meeting.

Secretary Agriculture correspondence. The under construction Secretariat Ateel, Secretary Services will also be a refle South Punjab Amjad corporate culture. will also be a reflection of Deputy Director Civil Punjab plays a key role in

from development funds allocated in the budget out of South Punjab. Likewise, Administrative Service at secretariat office system introduced for official

ACS said that South Service Academy Rehmat the agricultural production

IGP orders to launch crackdown to eradicate drug menace in GB

GILGIT (APP): Inspector including the DIG Special General of Police (IGP) Gilgit-Baltistan Àfzal 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

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. Mehmood Butt concluded by saying that anti-social



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 I.I Chundrigar road in Karachi.

TMA Hangu unveils app for easy access to municipal services

PESHAWAR (APP): Municipal Tehsil 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)

Office, Hangu on Tuesday. TMA Hangu has developed the app in collaboration with FCDO

National Governance (SNG) Programme Speaking on the occasion, 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

developed in partnership with the (Foreign, Commonwealth Government, Elections, and Development Office and Rural Development (FCDO)—Funded Sub- (LGERD) KP.

SUKKUR: Members of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) are holding protest demonstration against killing of Jan Muhammad Mehai 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

Highway and Motorway
Police on Tuesday signed
a Memorandum of
Understanding (MoU) for
technical training and
Motorway
Motorway
Police
Motorway
Police It has been reported licensing of drivers of participated in the event. that the summary sent by operational vehicles. Addressing the event, More than 3,000 LWMC CEO Babar Sahib has also been approved, LWMC drivers will be Din said that the according to which the assisted in technical department is taking all project will cost seven and possible steps to train and a half crore rupees. Among the historic

guide workers. "Trained staff is the gates to be restored are Shiranwala Gate, Lohari staff will be eligible for strong pillar of the international licence, on organization. Our workers Gate, Kashmiri Gate and Roshnai Gate, instructions are our valuable asset who training. Further, the perform the duties of Education Wing of cleaning Lahore with full have been issued to remove all encroachments from Motorway Police will honesty and hard work on outside.

every occasion festival," he added. He thanked Motorway Police Ahmed Umar Nasir Aziz for supporting Police Sector Commander this great initiative and requested the cooperation CEO LWMC Fahad of citizens to support the Mehmood signed the LWMC staff.

corruption and nepotism in

the land acquisition

system. He stated that any

instance of bribery and

disciplinary action. In a bid

to enhance efficiency, he

mandated the swift dissemination of all rules

and regulations related to

management to all deputy

need for timely registration

of areas which were yet to

He also stressed the

commissioners (DCs).

registration.

acquisition

lightning strike

critical

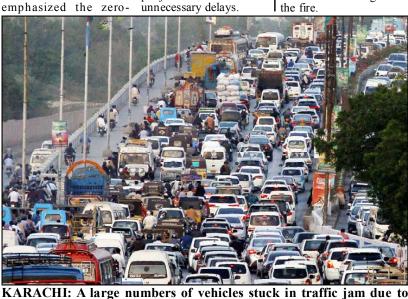
According to a police spokesman, the lightning station where the mall khana was established which results in a blast subsequently the whole building was damaged. The including assistant subinspector Imtiaz, Wireless operator Bilawal Siddiqui, constable Sajjad, Faizan

directives to streamline complete their online One of the injured was shifted to Rawalpindi He directed the PLRA The foremost among to expedite the creation of due to his critical injuries comprehensive Soon after the incident dashboard as this was in rescue 1122 teams reached line with the commitment the spot and carried out to ensure that government rescue services. The fire projects did not suffer tenders have extinguished



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

hit a portion of the police spokesman has said that five police officials and Touqeer.



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

new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore LAHORE (APP): In a bid buses for various tour packages, he informed. Amir Mir said that in the future, additional buses

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 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 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 be introduced under the World Bank project, offering tourists the opportunity to explore aĥore's captivating

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 an excellent opportunity to explore 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



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 counsel of the petitioner's two-member bench of Advocate Malik Ajmal Peshawar High Court Advocate said that as soon (PHC) on Monday as the petitioners are directed the National released from jail, they are Accountability Bureau (NAB), Anti-Corruption He said that anti-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 Qazl Subhan asked the anticorruption watchdogs to provide details of all the cases and inquiries against the petitioners. legal con Earlier, the legal petitioner.

He said that anticorruption bodies had not provided details of the cases and inquiries against

The court has asked NAB, Anti-Corruption and FIA to respond on the next hearing. Meanwhile, in another case, against former MNA Anwer Taj, the court adjourned the hearing till August 21 due to the unavailability of the legal counsel of the

Commissioner visits DHQ to inspect facilities

Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatha on Tuesday Chatta also visited the visited the District hospital's Neurosurgery, Headquarters Hospital(DHQ) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients there.

He interacted with the patients and their attendants a n d inquired about the redressed.

RAWALPINDI (APP): treatment facilities provided to them at the hospital.

Chatta also visited the 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

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

LAHROE (Online); Anti Terrorist Court (ATC) heard post arrest bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) leader Dr. Yasmeen Rashid in four different cases of May 09 inc ident. Judge Ijaz Ahmed of

ATC heard case. Court summoned lawyers for arguments.

Case number 23/1271 and 23/1280 in Gulburg 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.

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 twohundred thousand children up to age of five will be administered anti-polio vaccine.A total of ninehundred and sixty-five teams have been formed for this purpose.

Rules out political alliance

IPP decides to expose PDM, PTI failed policies

(IPP) on Tuesday decided to expose previous rainbow coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on their failed

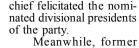
The IPP had started its election campaign with verve. In this regard, the IPP top brass had formulated the strategy

Jahangir Khan Tareen and party chairman Abdul Aleem Khan hosted the luncheon to discuss matters related to the general elec-

IPP supremo also instructed the party workers to start campaigning in their

During the meeting, it was decided to focus on the highlight the issue of the

IPP was gearing up and working hard for the general elections, he added.



PTI stalwart Hashim Dogar officially made his announcement of joining the 'grandiose' party.
IPP rules out political

President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Abdul Aleem Khan, ruled out coalition alliance



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 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 about elections.

The Senator said, 'Time passes rapidly over the 90 days' constitutional deadline for elections but regretfully the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has yet to issue a comprehensive statement on the election.

The ECP should inform about the time limit it required for fixing boundaries of constituencies after approval of the digital population census results,' Raza Rabani maintained

election commission should not treat the issue as a routine matter." "The delay in holding elections within the period allowed by the constitution, will bring serious consequences for the federation," he cautioned. Senator Raza Rabbani had earlier also warned that delay in elections would prove to be "dangerous" for the federa-tion. The PPP Senator had commented after the CCI unanimously approved the 7th Population and Housing Census, making it almost certain that the general elections would not be

held within the constitutional period and during the current year as the election commission will be needed time for fresh delimitation of the constituencies

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq

Sanjrani meeting with Balochistan Chief Minis-

Hurrivat leaders sav:

India's status in Kashmir

is nothing but an aggressor
SRINAGAR (INP): All APHC leader from

Parties Hurriyat Confer- Jammu and Jammu and

ence leaders and organiza- Kashmir Social Peace Fo-

tions in Indian Illegally Oc- rum, Advocate Devinder

cupied Jammu and Kashmir Singh Bahl in a statement

APHC leader from

said that Kashmiri people

celebrate India's Indepen

dence Day as a black day

every year, and every national day of India as a black

day. He said that on August

5, 2019, the fascist Modi

government violated the

rights of the Kashmiri

people to turn the Muslim

majority of the occupied

territory into a minority

Muhammad Yasin Attai

Maulana Musab Nadvi and

Jammu and Kashmii

People's Movement, Jammu

and Kashmir Pir Panjal Free

dom Movement and Jammu

and Kashmir People

leaders

Hurriyat

ter Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

have said that India's sta-

tus in Kashmir is nothing

but an aggressor, so it has

no right to celebrate its In-

dependence Day in the ter-

ritory. According to Kash-

mir Media Service, APHC

leaders Khadim Hussain

and Syed Sibte Shabbir

Qummi in a joint statement

issued in Srinagar said that

India had snatched the free-

dom of Kashmiri Muslims

India was taking their

lands, houses, business

centers to make Kashmiri

Muslims strangers in their

The leaders said that

at gunpoint.

own homeland

proud nations, NAB staff and children Balochistan celebrated In-He individually shook dependence Day with zealhands with every officer, ous and enthusiastic manofficial and kid in connecner. NAB officers, officials tion with the Independence and other staff participated Day celebration. Groups photos with kids, officers The children of NAB and officials were taken employees dressed up in separately for their solacecolorful ceremonious

NAB Balochistan organises

Subsequently, the Diclothes in accordance with the day put in their presrector General made a speech in commemoration General NAB Mr. Zafar of day. He put heartfelt fe-Iqbal Khan unfurled the flag licitations for the day. He in the presence of cheers paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

Independence Day celebration QUETTA (APP): Like mingled with the officers, 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 wherein Oari Abdul Hafeez made special prayers for the per-Jinnah and his companions of Pakistan movement. He manner and prosperity of the country.

Samsam Bukhari quits PTI

ence at the event. Director

faces of the participants.

Soon after hoisting the flag, Mr. Zafar Iqbal Khan

therein ardently.

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 includ-ing 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 Al-Qadir Trust case. He also 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 concerned quarters to con-

Independent Report CHAMAN: The senior 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

Chaman on Tuesday. He said that the present decision of Election Commission is appropriate regarding the constituencies

while addressing an emer-

gent press conference in

duct 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 con-

Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar and hoped that he would not leave any stone unturned in performing his responsibilities. He said that a politi-

gratulated the caretaker

cal party has done nothing for the area except nationalism and spreading hatred.

Also present on the occasion were Attaullah as he had been separated Achakzai, Matiullah from his workers Achakzai and other office He demanded of the bearers of BAP.



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

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

ISLAMABAD 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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): An sions were conducted. The Youth Organising Committees will work under the supervision of the Provincial 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 Sharif was appointed as the chairperson while Bilal Azhar Kayani as the secre-

Fawad Ch files new written apology in contempt of EC case

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

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 ad-

journing the hearing of the case till August 24 remarked we order on next hearing



respective constituencies.

On this occasion, Mr Tareen vowed to move his party forward for the sake of the national interest. The

Mr Tareen made it clear the IPP will fulfil the dream of creating 'Naya

prices of the petroleum Sources divulged that (POL) products and power

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.

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The special Food Festival was organized at the Railway Station Quetta on Monday

The Festival which marked the celebrations of Independence Day was organized in collaboration with the Balochistan Food Authority and district ad-

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

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 Infor-Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat among those who visited the food festival and enjoyed the festivity there.

They also inspected the stalls and expressed

However, the stall of pleasure over interest of the BFA remained the center of people in the Festival. **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 dur-

ducer 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



connection with Independence Day in Washington

Urooj Aftab is an internationally recognized Pa-

Ambassador Masood Khan said that that diplomacy and interstate relations were all about perceptions and Urooj Aftab has helped

kistani American vocalist, music composer and pro- about Pakistan. changing the perceptions about Pakistan. 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 care-

taker 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 departed, 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

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

SC dismisses contempt of court plea against Ahsan

Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed contempt of court plea against former federal minister Ahsan

Ahsan Iqbal had said we have also respect like a military officer or judge. The case came up for

hearing before CJP Ûmar Ata Bandial here Tuesday. The CJP remarked Ahsan Iqbal had said we have too respect like any army officer or judge. This

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

sentence is not enough to

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

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 Musafasir in Sukkur.

During search, three members of banned outfit including Akram Ali Rashid Hussain and Muhammad Yousaf 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.

US dollar strengthens further gainst

rupeeKARACHI (INP): The value of the US dollar has surged against the Pakistani rupee in the interbank exchange, causing concerns for the local economy.

At the beginning of the business week, the US dollar recorded a notable gain of one rupee against the rupee, solidifying its upward trajectory. The dollar rose by

Rs3.60 in the interbank

market on Tuesday morning, reaching a new high of Rs292.10. The greenback also rose by Rs6 in the open market, reaching Rs302. The increase in the dollar came amid concerns about

outlook Currency experts and dealers reported that on the opening day of the business week, the US dollar continued its ascent, becoming more expensive by an additional rupee in the interbank market

the country's economic

This development comes on the heels of a previous increase, where on the final day of the prior week

tion against killing of Jan Muhammad Mehar Senior Journalist, at Hub Press Club. NA speaker extends felicitations to Pakistan

HUB: Journalists are holding protest demonstra-

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 ap-

preciation 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.

conferment of the esteemed

A notable highlight of Speaker Raja Pervaiz as a commendable acknowl-Ashraf's message was the edgment," he maintained.

cal 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

Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian award, is seen

Civil Award nominees profound tribute paid to senior political leader Syed Qaim Ali Shah. Acknowledging Shah's profound political acumen and unmatchable insights, he lauded him as a seasoned political and social luminary. "A significant histori-

with the Toshakhana case.

join the investigation team.

Maryam chairs party meeting to interview candidates for in KP

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 divitary of the committee.

Election Commissioner (CEC) Tuesday. Fawad Chaudhry and counsel Faisal

Chaudhry appeared in the