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'God is my witness':

Voice of masses

President denies signing Official Secrets, Army Act amendment bills

Says he did not sign the bills; alleges his staff "undermined his will and command"; Ministry of Law & Justice notes with grave concern President's tweet; PPP, PML-N call for President Alvi's resignation; PTI to take matter to Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): bills without signature forgive in sha Allah but I President Dr. Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets Amendment Bill and the Army Act Amendment Bill. In a statement on social networking website X (Twitter), Arif Alvi said that God is witness, I have not signed the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and the Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 because I do not agree with these laws.

He wrote that I had asked my staff to return the to render them ineffective.

Dr. Arif Alvi wrote, "I have confirmed with the staff several times whether they have been sent back (without signature) and I have been assured that they have been sent back.

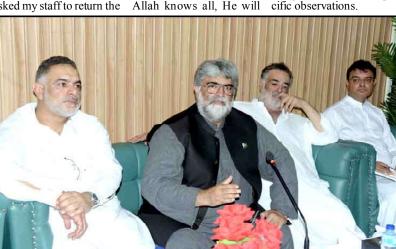
However I found out today that my staff did not agree to my wishes and He went against the order. He further wrote that

within the stipulated time ask forgiveness from those who will be affected by it. The Ministry of Lav

and Justice has noted with

grave concern President D Arif Alvi's recent tweet. The Ministry in a press release stated that as per Article 75 of the Constitution, when a Bill is sent for assent, the President has two options: either give as sent, or refer the matter to

the parliament with spe



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domk answering questions of participants during a reception

Minister visits NHA headquarters after assuming charge

Caretaker Minister of NHA, and others. They Communications, Postal Services, and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Sunday paid a visit to the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters following his assumption of the portfolio.

Head of the Public Relations Department Sabtain Raza Lodhi, conveved that a warm welcome was extended to Shahid Ashraf Tarar by various officials, including Federal Secretary of Communications and Postal Services, Captain ® Muhammad Khurram Agha, Zahir Shah, Member Admin, Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Member of the Board, Shakeel Anwar, General Manager of Establishment, Abdul Ghaffar the NHA and its en-Farooqui, Director of Es- deavors in different dotablishment, Umair

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saduzai, PRO to Chairman congratulated him on his new role, said a news re-

> Subsequently, an informative briefing session was organized by the NHA to apprise Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar of the ongoing challenges in under-construction projects and various sectors.

> The briefing was presented by key officials, including Member Planning Asim Amin, Member Engineering/EC Naseem Khattak, Member Finance Muhammad Tayvab and Member Admin Zahir

> The discussions revolved around the obstacles encountered by



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Communication Shahid Ashraf Tarar on a visit to Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway M-I and Hazara Expressway in order to inspect construction and maintenance

11 labourers killed, two injured in terrorist attack in North Waziristan

SHAWAL (Online): 11 laborers were killed in an explosion in a vehicle carrying laborers in Shawal Tehsil of North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the police, an explosion occurred in a vehicle near Gul Mirkot area of North Waziristan tehsil, as a result of which 11 laborers were killed while three people were missing and two were seriously injured.

DSP Thana Shawal Sherullah said total of 16 laborers were in the vehicle, the injured and dead bodies were shifted to a nearby

According to the hospital administration, the deceased were identified as Mubitullah, Sahab Noor, Jannatullah, Asadullah Khan, Mir Wali Khan, Maqbool Khan, Sher Zahid, Syed Manwar, Mohd Ayaz, Muhammad Wali, Gul Hussain while the injured were I include Umar Žahid, Umar Ayaz. Sources said that de-

ceased belong to South Waziristan, whose bodies have been shifted to their native areas. On the other hand, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar Hag and Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi strongly condemned the bomb blast for the loss of precious lives and expressed regrets.

Lal Jan posted as Principal Secretary to CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Grade 20 officer of Balochistan Civil Service (BCS) Lal Jan Jaffa has been posted as the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan with immediate effect and until further orders.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administra-Department tion (S&GAD).

According to the notification, Imran Gichki, the BSS officer of Grade 20 serving as the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister has been transferred and directed to report in the

Ali Wazir, Imaan Mazari remanded for participating in PTM protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): A local court in Islamabad on Sunday remanded forme Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir and human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari on Sunday for unlawful gathering, resistance and "interference in state

The two were arrested in the wee hours of Sunday morning by Islamabad police two days after they participated in a protes organised by the Pashtun Movement Tahaffuz

authorities wanted both of them as part of an ongoing investigation.

According to the firs information report (FIR) the two were arrested for staging a sit-in, resistance and interference in state af

Asad Umar 'arrested' in cipher case

ISLAÑABAD (INP): PTI leader and former federal minister Asad Umar has been arrested in Islamabad, his party has claimed on Sunday.

As per claims of the PTI legal team, the former finance minister has been arrested in the FIR registered over the misplacement of a US cipher. On Saturday, his fellow party leader and former foreign ministe Shah Mahmood Quresh was also arrested in the



ister Ahmed Irfan Aslam addressing an important press conference at PID

Bills become law after no objection from president within ten-day: Law Minister

There is no third option under Article 75 of the Constitution: Ahmad Irfan Aslam; Law Ministry's clarification removes ambiguity created by President's 'tweet': Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bill 2023 was received by Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Sunday said that under Article 75 of the Constitution, a bill automatically becomes law if the President didn't approves or reject it within stipulated time period of ten days.

He was addressing a press conference along with Caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi here.

The law minister said that the caretaker government has no political agenda and its mandate was also limited. He said that being the head of the federation, the president is

the presidency on August 2, while Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill reached there on August 8, after being passed by the two houses of the Parliament.

The caretaker law minister said that when a bill is sent to the President he

is sent to the President, he has two options: either to approve the bill or send it back to the Parliament with his observations in writing. There is no third option under Article 75 of the Constitution, he said, adding that ten days of time period is fixed in the Constitution to exercise one of these options.

Ahmed Irfan Aslam said that the President has

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmad

receiving Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeg Bin Fawzan Al-

ries of international tours

initiated in early 2022 and

reflect the Kingdom's

commitment to improving

the quality of services pro-

vided to Umrah performers.

hailed that Saudi Arabia had

restored Pakistan's pre-

coronavirus Hajj quota of

179,210 pilgrims and

abolished the upper age

limit of 65 years to perform

the annual pilgrimage this

ment has planned to discuss

the matter to expand the

'Road to Makkah' project

to other airports in Pakistan,

stating that a plan was un-

derway to extend this con-

venient service to additional

cities, Lahore and Karachi

the initiative would expedite

the processing of pilgrims

at the Saudi airport in order

to minimize wait times, al-

lowing them to proceed di-

rectly to their designated

buses upon arrival.

Minister explained that

he added.

The Pakistani govern-

Replying a question, he

Rabiya who arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit.

Saudi Hajj Minister arrives

in Pakistan on four-day visit

ISLAMABAD A(APP): that his visit is part of a se-

Saudi Minister for Hajj and

Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya along

with a delegation arrived in

Islamabad on Sunday

evening on a four-day visit.

comed by caretaker Federal

Minister for religious Af-

fairs Aneeq Ahmad and

Saudi Ambassador Nawaf

Saeed Almalki at the air-

Saudi delegation will dis-

cuss with Pakistani officials

various issues related to the

facilities being provided to

the Pakistani Hajj and

Umra pilgrims, Road to

will also meet with the Presi-

dent caretaker Prime Minis-

ter and the Chief of Army

Staff. The visiting Saudi del-

egation comprises heads of

the Saudi civil aviation and

airlines and other depart-

ister for Religious Affairs

Aneeq Ahmed Sunday said

Earlier Caretaker Min-

Saudi Minister for Hajj

Mecca project.

During the visit, the

He was cordially wel-

President gave observations in many laws and also sent back bills to the Parliament, he said.

Before today, he said, no such situation has come before us that anything has returned from the presidency without the signatures of the President.

The law minister said that these two bills have not been received back from the President Office despite Article 75 of the Constitution clearly provides a period of ten days in order to avoid any political ambiguity. If the President does not exercise the authority within this time period, the bill is con-sidered to be approved and He said that 'The Pakistan Army (Amendment) exercised these powers many times in the recent and distant past. The said.

Doors of CM

House opened for

people: Domki

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Caretaker

Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki has stated that the

doors of Chief Minster

House has been opened for

speaking to a select group

of gathering at the Circuit

House Sibi where he reached

on Sunday afternoon. Also

accompanied with him was

his brother and former Min-

ister of State, Mir Dostain

Minister also announced to

hold open katchehris in the

CM secretariat and dis-

sistant Commissioners of all

the Tehsils to hold open

katchehris in their respective

Deputy Commissioners

would inform the office of

Chief Minister about

progress of the open

katchehris in their respec-

In this regard, all the

tehsils fortnightly.

He also directed to As-

The caretaker Chief

Khan Domki.

He announced this while

people of the province.

Warmly welcomed upon arrival in Sibi:

Domki pledges to do best to resolve numerous problems being faced by Balochistan

Says topmost priority is to establish peace, conduct free, fair and impartial elections

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki has stated that the province is facing numerous problems and it would be his utmost

endeavour to resolve them.

Mir Ali Mardan

Domki said that as a caretaker Chief Minister, his authorities are limited. However, he would perform according to the guideline given by Election Commission of Pakistan. The caretaker Chief

Minister maintained that neither he would only exceed from his powers, nor he would let anyone do it.

This and similar other views were expressed by the caretaker Chief Minister while speaking to the

gathered at the Circuit House Sibi to greet him on becoming the caretaker Chief Minister, on Sunday.

His brother and former

Minister of State, Mir Dostain Khan Domki was also accompanied with It may be mentioned

here that it was the first official visit of caretaker Chief Minister to any area after assuming his office on Friday last. Mir Ali Mardan Domki

was warmly welcomed by the people upon his arrival at the Circuit House Sibi.

The petals of rose were showed on him by those present on the occasion. Guard of Honour was also presented to him by the smartly turned out continelders and other people gent of police.



ISLAMABAD: Former Member of Balochistan Assembly Mir Saleem Khoso called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Govt to ensure security, create jobs: Caretaker PM

MEHTARZAI people including leaders of Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said on Sunday that efforts would be made to provide employment opportunities and maintain peace and security while expediting the development process in Kan Mehtarzai. Killa Saifullah and other areas of Balochistan

PM Kakar while addressing a reception through a video link, organized by the All Parties Conference in his native village Kan Mehtarzai, said that he would visit Kan Mehtarzai soon and review the issues faced by local people.

Anwarul Haq Kakar said that he was grateful to all the organizers of today's reception for felicitating him on behalf of all political parties, tribal elders, scholars, civil society and lawyers from his native town after his nomination as caretaker prime minister.

A large number of

(APP): Caretaker Prime various political parties, tribal elders, scholars, journalists, farmers, lawyers and students participated in the reception ceremony

The government and opposition parties unanimously nominated Anwar Haq Kakar as caretaker Prime Minister.

The local notables expressed confidence that Anwaar ul Haq Kakar as caretaker Prime Minister would play his key role in the elimination of terrorism in the country conduct of transparent elections and restoration of law and or-

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Sunday held a meeting with Senator Arbab Umar Kasi and discussed issues related Balochistan.

Senator Kasi felicitated him on assuming the office of prime minister and expressed his best wishes.



which twenty people were killed and fifteen others injured when a passenger bus caught fire after being smashed into a pick-up carrying diesel drums at Motorway near Pindi Bhattian.

20 burnt to death, several injured in horrific bus-pick up collision

ISLAMABAD (APP): At Hospital. least 20 people including women and children, were burnt to death while several others sustained injuries in a collision between a passenger bus and a pickup carrying diesel barrels on Faisalabad Motorway near Pindi Bhattian early Sunday morning.

According to details, Rescue 1122 informed that the drivers of both vehicles were also killed in the crash.

The bus, carrying about 40 passengers, was going to Islamabad from Karachi when the horrified accident

The injured have been from admitted to Pindi Bhattian Islamabad.

The District Police Officer Dr Fahad talking to a private news channel said that the fire engulfed the bus shortly after the collision.

He said most of the in-

jured persons are in critical condition. The eyewitnesses said people from nearby areas tried to pull the passengers out of the burning bus by smashing windows. Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the accident of a passenger coach coming Karachi

tive districts. QUETTA: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Senator Abdul Qadir

and Senator Naseebullah Bazai meeting with Chief of Sarawan Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani

Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Monday August 21, 2023

Catch-22

The country's superior judiciary remains in a bind. Ever since an eight-member bench led by the chief justice acted prematurely to ensure that dice, a backlash to the Supreme Court (Practice Islamophobia in the West, or a display of socioses and Procedure) Act would be nomic pressures on the ava stillborn law, several senior justices have, on different occasions, been less than enthusiastic about hearing major cases till questions regarding the constitutionality of the aforementioned law are firmly decided.

The issue arose again during the Friday hearing of a petition challenging the changes made last year by the PDM government to the country's anti-corruption laws. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who is part of the three-member bench that has been hearing the long-running case, proposed the formation of a full-court bench to hear the matter, noting that since the SC had not yet issued a final judgement on the Practice and Procedure law, it may be best to refer the matter to a larger bench keeping in mind the implications of the case.

It may be recalled that, through the Practice and Procedure Act, the PDM government had sought to take suo its depth but the opportumotu powers and the prerogative to form benches away from the chief justice and hand them to a committee California is to feel the comprising the three seniormost judges of the apex court. Parts of the Practice possible forme to delve into its depth but the opportuand Procedure Act also made inity to just loiter on its petheir way into the later Su- riphery becomes so invigorating and involve preme Court (Review of Judgements and Orders) Act, which because of where I come from After all, I live in a the SC struck down last society where, say, the hor-

At one point in the ruling striking down the latter law, the chief justice observed that "it would veer towards irrationality to hold" that the legislature could supersede the CJP and enact a law taking away his prerogative to exercise and invoke jurisdiction under Article 184(3).

This would seem to suggest that the Practice and Procedure Act may meet a similar fate. However, the bench the level of curiosity students bring to the classroom hearing the case seems and this new academic year caught in a Catch-22 situation, with a decision either for there are no right or wrong or against the law complicated by the apex court's internal answers—what is objectivity, what is truth, who decides who is a journalist, divisions.

The Practice and Procedure various iterations of this Act may never have become an albatross around the SC's feel hopeful. About anyneck had the chief justice addressed the differences to me asking if the media within his court early and in reports too much bad news, an amicable manner. He was correct it. Over the years, asked repeatedly by his fellow judges to devise rules then disagreed on how it regulating suo motu and bench-fixing powers but re- make audiences feel good, fused to relinquish control offer hope. This year though, this bright, inquisiover them.

When the PDM government moved to capitalise on feel hopeful. these divisions for its own ends, he failed to rally support from within the institution behind him, to the optimism, I said I felt hopejudiciary's general detriment. However, it is never too late ful after reading about PPP giving land rights to 5,000 families in Larkana affected to learn from past mistakes. The chief justice still has a distributed the title deeds month till his retirement. He must spend it tying up loose which in itself is huge. It can have a ripple effect, I ends. Much time has been said. lost and grass trampled on in this fight between elephants. He must put it to rest.

Intention needs action



Muhammad **Amir Rana**

It was not just an isolated incident of religious prejuor a display of socioecoerage person, when a mob set fire to several churches and looted Christian homes in Jaranwala, Faisalabad district. It is indicative of the society the power elite has shaped. The state institutions' responses to this tragedy are as insincere as their pledges to root out extremism, given their lack of meaningful action.

Following each tragic incident, state institutions condemn the act and vow to take strict action against those responsible. However, after brief confrontations, the administration often capitulates to religious extremists. While the have never been put into

practice, with no display of superior courts tend to rule in favour of the victims in genuine intent to do so. such cases, their interven-While they have drafted intions seldom bring about ternal security policies, a lasting change. Many are National Action Plan (NAP), counter-violent exaware of the outcome of the one-man commission set up tremism strategies, estabto enforce a landmark Sulished CVE centres, and ispreme Court ruling on misued decrees like the stateendorsed fatwa Paigham-inority rights, and how its recommendations were dis-Pakistan, these efforts have missed by both the execuconsistently failed to manitive branch and religious fest as effective state policy. factions. Following the re-They serve merely as a facent tragedy, Islamabad cade, masking the state's police set up a religious and society's more trouminorities protection force. bling aspects. However, this move seem-The PDM govern-

ingly underscores the

about the state's policy, in-

stitutions might produce

numerous documents that

faiths.

state's inability to safeguard other CVE measure through its citizens of diverse a bill. However, it was thwarted by a few brave faiths. Many are aware of the police's often indifferparliamentarians who believed its motivations were ent attitude towards politically driven. The govmarginalised citizens. Deploying such a force might ernment reviewed numeronly exacerbate the hardous documents in its last ships faced by Pakistanis weeks, including the CVE belonging to minority policy. Ironically, the interior ministry and the so-Power called National Counterelites strengthen radical religious Terrorism Authority refined a CVE policy that groups by arming them with legal tools against reliwas never put into action. gious minorities and those Similarly, Paigham-i-Pakithat the majority refuses to stan has been unsuccessful in influencing the religious accept. When questioned

> The challenge of extremism is not as simple as imagined. A moderate image

cannot be manufactured; it needs societal transformation, which in turn requires a humanisation process. The dehumanisation of others cultivates the tendencies of extremism, and state- or society-run strategic communications or counter-narratives slowly impact these tendencies. Equal citizenship rights can cultivate humanisation tendencies in society. faced with the immediate

challenge of bridging the discrepancies between dement tried to introduce anclared policies and their actual implementation. However, beyond bridging these gaps, there is a pressing need for these institutions to adapt their strategies to address new and emerging threats. Rather than relying on general approaches like the NAP and CVE policies, Pakistan should formulate specific policies targeting extremist groups. This includes creating distinct strategies for groups like the TTP and TLP. However, the state

still believes religion can unite the nation and create a cohesive society. Religiously inspired actors often exploit this notion to promote their own goals

bedded in their sectarian and religious ideologies. This is why such groups, state's ideological project and undermined the common good of society. The common good is the wellbeing of the entire community, including its weakest and most vulnerable members. It is essential for the State institutions are sustainability of society. Religious groups undermine the common good by

> cause they prioritise their interests over those of the wider community. Instead of looking at the diversity of religious, cultural, and societal opinion in Pakistan as a sign of inclusiveness and plurality, power elites see it as a drawback. The state institutions do not have the orientation of how to manage diversity. This has significantly damaged the country's social fabric, mainly its humanistic values such as empathy and compassion, safeguarding individuals and societies from hate and ag-

and motives, largely em-

exploiting the state's ideo-

logical design. This is be-

on using religious groups to

achieve its purposes has also contributed to this dilemma. By outsourcing its national project to sectarincluding their political ian groups, the state has wings, have failed the given them a platform to promote their agendas. which often conflict with the common good. In order to address this dilemma, the state needs to stop exploiting religious groups for its purposes. It also needs to create a more inclusive and secular society where all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, can have a voice. Pakistan's state insti-

tutions and power elites often compare the country's situation to the rest of the world, particularly India. They attempt to suggest that religious persecution in Pakistan is not as severe as elsewhere. While such arguments might satisfy the elite, they do not alter the reality: Pakistan's situation is as dire as that of India. Comparing the two does not absolve the power elites of their duty to protect citizens of all faiths. It is understood that transformation processes take time, but they need The state's insistence to begin in the first place. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bob Dylan ma



Ghazi Salahuddin

One of my pleasures in visiting our elder daughter in southern California is to feel the warmth and glory of the cultural environment of Los Angeles. It is surely not possible for me to delve into nity to just loiter on its periphery becomes so invigorating and joyous. One of my pleasures in visiting our elder daughter in southern warmth and glory of the cultural environment of Los Angeles. It is surely not

It does feel like a dream ror of Jaranwala is possible - again and again - and American tour. I got a low where a film like Zindigi down on the importance of this kind of power has a ian city of Monza, where Madonna, who turned 65 TheNews

Tamasha cannot be released for public viewing. But since I am attempting to leave Pakistan behind for some time, let me share with you my sense of wonder about the influence of popular music and songs in this and other ad-

I sometimes talk about the books that have 'shaped America', a list compiled by the Library of Congress, and had reported about that unforgettable experience of attending a performance of the musical. 'Hamilton' on a previous visit. There is so much else to engage one's interest. However this is about the

vanced countries.

songs that people sing. When I arrived here about two weeks ago, I looked around for meaningful engagements of the artistic kind. There was a lot to choose from by way of 'immersive' experiences and events around museums and cultural complexes. But across the horizon was lit the name of Taylor cations is that Taylor Swift

and songwriter. geles, marking the end of the first leg of her North

these grand music shows from my teenage granddaughter Mahnoor, a high school senior. "We grew up with her, as she grew up in her personal life and her music," she said. She elaborated on how Taylor Swift became a support system for her fans. "I'm in Los Angeles and I love concerts", she added.

But the real mystery

of this is that if my granddaughter can be branded as a 'Swiftie' so would be the prime minister of the United Kingdom. Rishi Sunak and his family concluded this week their 10day vacation in Los Angeles and The New York Times had a story on how his activities were largely kept from the British media. The headline said: Rishi Sunak's vacation: Swift and Tavlor Disneyland. (The rest is a secret.)' Yes, he was at a Taylor Swift show.

What I have gathered Swift, the celebrated singer and songwriter. is recognized as a "prominent culture figure of [the] There were six shows of Taylor Swift in Los Anof Taylor Swift in Los Anof Taylor Swift in Los Anour time like the Beatles were in the sixties. The point I am making is that

bearing on ideas and values that are generated in a soci-

Last week, The New York Times had a serious analysis of the Taylor Swift phenomenon, telling its readers "How Taylor Swift's Eras Tour conquered the world". It argues that "the pop star's recordbreaking, career spawning show has dominated the summer, commanding attention and whipping up demand at a level thought unachievable in a fragmented age"

Look at some figures. Taylor Swift sells about \$14 million in tickets each night. with an audience of about 70,000 people. There are 146 stadium dates in her present tour, going well into 2024. Its sales could reach \$1.4 billion or more. Scalped tickets go up to \$3000 or more.

Taylor Swift may be at the centre of the music world: we have veteran singer-songwriters like Bob Dylan and Bruce Springstein and what I know about Springstein's European tour last month is also like a fairvtale for me with evidence provided by my younger daughter, Aliya. She lives in the Ital-

the last concert of the tour was held.

In the first place, she had bought the tickets for herself and friends Kiran and George in May 2022 for the July 2023 concert and I remember that it was a rather hectic exercise. She tells me that on the morning of the concert, she met some people at a cafe who had attended the first concert of the tour in Barcelona and wanted to do the last one in Monza. She learnt that attending Springstein concerts multiple times is the done thing. At the concert, she met a lady who was attending her 24th. By the way, Barack Obama and Steven Spielberg had also flown to Barcelona for the

Recalling her experience, Aliya tells me: "We were overcome by the power of one man and his music that got 70,000 people to gather almost like a community, from many different parts of the world, to sing along every line from the lyrics of his songs and just come together because they all love vious question: how could him. And they will do it again and again."

concert.

no space left to talk about songwriter? -- Courtesy

this week. In a tribute. The New York Times said: "She has accomplished what few artists have done: she has changed the world ... The battle against bigotry she has fought is far from over".

Finally, let me conclude with a reference to Bob Dylan who, way back in the sixties, had given a voice to America's civil rights movement, inciting social change with songs like 'The times, they are achanging'. He was crowned by the hippies as the guru of rock'n'roll.

It came like a bombshell in the literary world when Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016 because he was a lyricist whose words penetrated the human soul. He did not attend the presentation ceremony due to "having other engagements"

In late 2017, Harvard professor Richard F Thomas, a world expert on classical poetry, published his book titled: 'Why Bob Dylan matters'. It is meant the world's most prestigious book prize be I feel sorry that I have awarded to a singer-

Are kids alright?



Muna Khan

I'm always impressed by is no different. I enjoy disetc. However, in the six years I have been teaching course, something is different: these students do not

and if so, how would they students have always felt there's a lot of bad news, should be rectified and if it was a journalist's job to tive, thoughtful group of students didn't think there representing every ideolwas anything to make them

I'm rarely at a loss for broke my heart that morning. They deserve better. In an attempt to create some by the floods. Last month. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari — in women's names.

Not many of my students knew about this. It hadn't created waves like the contenders for interim prime minister or anything

to do with the former can't- be playing a role in the "omibe-named prime minister. nous declines pummelling They all knew about the media organisations of all Intercept story but no one had read the whole piece. It's not surprising to hear that none of them read a metrics physical copy of the newspaper. They are, after all, digital natives.

But because they don't see themselves or the issues that impact them in mainstream media, they are less eager to engage with news as it's presented today. This has the beginnings of a media outlet's nightmare: a future audience that does not want to consume the news it's selling.

This isn't unique to Pakistan.

According to a study by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 38 per cent of people it polled in the US said they "sometimes or often avoid news". The number of those who had replied "very" or "extremely interested in the news" has shrunk over the

This "news avoidance" could be a response to "hyper information", a constant access to information on all devices, say researchers. "Digital media has made news ubiquitous from thousands of sources ogy, geography and language," the report says.

This can drive feelings words but hearing this of depression, hopeless- city's infrastructure, disness, anxiety and anger, it

> These emotions are living rooms across Pakistan. However, a change in leadership isn't going to fix this. Young people care more about economic security and climate change, two issues that directly impact their well-being and future. And they see all political parties as a graveyard of dead ideas. Can you blame them? In his column for Washington Post earlier this month, Paul Farhi noted how news avoidance may

kinds"

I am not lucky enough to have access to audience organisations here but given the rise of YouTube 'journalists' who do not have to deal with the same restrictions (or consequences) as those in the press, I feel confident saying things don't look good. It requires a major rethink. How can media out-

lets present news in a way that engages people, not alienate them? Can profitdriven models produce journalism done in the public interest? More importantly, can the media treat young people as stakeholders whose opinions are taken seriously. Various sources list the median age in Pakistan as 21. Who is reporting on their dreams, aspirations, fears etc with as much seriousness given to tried and dusted leaders?

A lot of young people in Pakistan connect with leaders like Saad Rizvi, Manzoor Pashteen. Mohsin Dawar as well as a host of folks on social media offering alternative viewpoints to history. There is a dearth of young and instantly available people in newsrooms assisting in making decisions about how, what to cover for younger audiences concerned about things like the high fees of education, the crimination

policymaking. They should not be treated as indifferevident in classrooms and ent to the problems but as participants who may offer solutions to issues that impact them the most.

The press is considered the fourth pillar of a democracy because it shines a light on issues that allow the public to make smart choices, especially at election time. The media can break its current trend of covering only the (outdated) political class by focusing on the young whose future is at stake. -Courtesy Dawn



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Post-dinner conversations in most urban middle-class households start these days with commentaries on the unstable politics and abysmal economic situation of Pakistan and end with the concern about the youth exodus from Pakistan to the seemingly greener pastures of North America, Europe, Australia and the Gulf. However, before drawing any conclusions, it would be important to take a broader look at the issue.

Firstly, Pakistanis going abroad is not a new phenomenon. Since 1971, the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment estimates that over 10 million Pakistanis have gone abroad for employment. Secondly, figures vary from year to year, with no particular trend of a steep rise. In 2022, 800,000 left Pakistan for employment overseas, which is less than the prepandemic figure of 946,571 in 2015. Thirdly, accurate numbers of those going abroad are hard to estimate because many avail student visas or permanent residency visas or go abroad through illegal means. Hence, what is more

relevant to the debate are not the numbers but reports that most of those moving abroad these days comprise Pakistan's vouth PIDE economist Faheem Jahangir Khan says that "67 per cent of Pakistani voungsters want to leave the country". The trend of brain drain is also being reported by other surveys and analyses.

The youth are

stan as opposed to the Pakistan's future leaders. At a time when the European West where they are paid adequately, with a contriand Chinese populations are aging, the youth bulge bution to the retirement here is an advantage if they Some professionals can participate in the development of their own country rather than serving so-

like Maheen Ahmad, who teaches at a premier institution in Islamabad, wish to go abroad only to imare desperately looking for prove educational qualifications. She recognises, though, the growing financial difficulties of salaried professionals and limited job growth prospects in The second source of

frustration for the youth is the deep political polarisation that exists and that is exacerbating the economic crisis. Nearly every family has been affected by this bitter political divide, particularly the youth. The third reason for the youth's growing disaffection is their aspiration for A major reason that a life of respect, dignity frustrates our youth is the and prosperity. They want equal opportunities and a level playing field. They are disappointed to find that the system does not work for them, but just for a select few, ie, the elite.

So, what can be done to stem the brain drain? First, the country needs stable politics, a charter of economy that binds political governments to ensure continuity of economic policies, and ease of doing business for investors, traders, and industrialists. Secondly, job creation should be a high priority. Since governments can create only so many jobs, it is industry which can absorb educated and semi-skilled youth. The education system should pivot towards technical education and vocational training to feed industry and the IT sector.

Thirdly, we need an efficient judicial system at all levels. Above all, the country needs a climate of justice, equal opportunity and dignity for every citizen. The National Security Policy announced last year and provides a good way forward. -- Courtesy Dawn

Brain drain

cieties abroad. The reality,

however, is that students

scholarships to study in the

US, Australia, Europe,

China and East Asia. Those

already in foreign universi-

ties are reluctant to return

because of joblessness in

the country. Talented IT

professionals are being

lured by West-based com-

panies who offer lucrative

terms. Our leadership and

intelligentsia, therefore,

have a responsibility to

identify the reasons for the

youth leaving Pakistan, and

then make policies that

incentivise the youth to

pervasive unemployment

in the country. There are

nearly 200 universities in

Pakistan many of which

award degrees in disciplines

for which there are no jobs

in the market. Having spent

considerable sums on edu-

cation, not finding a well-

paying job is a deeply frus-

trating experience for a

young person. The lucky

ones who find jobs are also

frustrated because of abys-

mally low salaries. Sarah

Gilani, a start-up profes-

sional who worked for

many years in Pakistan and

now lives and works in

Austria, says that the work

culture in Pakistan is rigid

and leaves little room for a

healthy work-life balance,

particularly for working

also want to move abroad

for better salaries and ac-

cess to modern medical

technologies. Sameera

Rabbani, who graduated

from a medical school in

Lahore and now lives in

Australia, observed that

doctors are underpaid,

underappreciated in Paki-

overworked

Young physicians

women.

work for the country.

CM Punjab says:

Rs2m approved for each affected family of Jaranwala

Independent Report FAISALABAD: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Rs.2 million was approved as compensation for each Christian family affected by riots in Jaranwala three

Addressing a meeting at ACE Church Isa Nagri Jaranwala here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan was a motherland for every Pakistani including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus and the government would support and help every oppressed

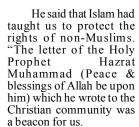
He said that he along with his cabinet members had come here to express solidarity with the Christian community as the Jaranwala incident was a major tragedy for all.

'My team had been working for the last three days for early rehabilitation of affected In this Christian community and

to provide justice to the affectees at every cost", he added. He said that the Secretary Communication and Works along with his team had started work for the rehabilitation of the churches yesterday and two churches had so far been fully restored while restoration work of the rest of the churches was in full swing.

He announced that he would not take rest until all the churches were completely restored although he had to visit Jaranwala repeatedly for the purpose. He said that the government had promised to restore all churches affected in the Jaranwala incident to their original condition and this work would definitely be completed on a warfooting according to the will and aspiration of Christian

"Complete people. rehabilitation of Christian affectees and provision of connection, it had a number justice to them was not just of meetings with the a statement but it would be seen obviously as a real action," he assured.



"In this letter, the Muslims were instructed to take care of the rights of the Christian community and this order remained in force till the Day of Judgment. Therefore, i was our religious obligation follow

commandment given to us by our beloved Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) because it was the greatest commandment for us," he added.

On this occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister urgently called a meeting of his cabinet inside the church and the cabinet secretary presented its one-point agenda for financial assistance to compensate the affectees of the Jaranwala tragedy.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi is distributing supplies during his visit Danish School Camp regarding the incident Christian Colony Jaranwala.

CM flays tragic blast in Shawal, extends condolences to victims' families

Strongly condemning the condolences and sympathy heart-wrenching incident in to the families of the North Waziristan, Chief Wictims. Minister (CM) of Khyber He for the explosion that claimed the lives of 11 laborers in the Shawal area.

The CM denounced the heinous act of violence

(APP): extended his heartfelt

He assured them that observing poor conditions

are with the families who have lost their loved ones."

'We share in their pain and are committed to assisting them in any way. that resulted in the loss of he added. CM prayed for innocent lives and the departed souls and the disrupted the peace of the region.

disrupted the peace of the injured and urged patience In this time of grief and strength for the and shock, Azam Khan bereaved families.

26 dengue case reported in various Lahore areas

(APP): Twenty-six new cases of dengue were reported in Lahore on Sunday while the anti-dengue squad destroyed larvae at 968 places in the province during surveillance. ongoing

According to Health Department sources, besides the dengue virus cases, 968 larvae cases were reported in the last 24 hours, with many patients under treatment in different hospitals of the city. Various squads conducted surveillance at indoor and outdoor places to detect dengue larvae.

The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department sources told APP that 26 new cases of dengue were reported in Lahore on Sunday including eight cases from Aziz Bhati Town, six from

Allama Iqbal Town, two each from Shalimar, Wahga, Ravi, Data Ganj Bakhs Towns and four from other areas of the city.

D e p u t y Commissioner (DC) Lahore Rafia Haider is continuously paying surprise visits to check the performance of dengue teams after a fear of rise in dengue cases after rains. reviewed performance of dengue teams working in various areas and ordered strict action against ghost workers. Checking of more than 5,000 places will be ensured on a daily basis, she directed.

In a statement, she announced that the number of dengue surveillance could be increased, keeping in mind the rain alerts of meteorological department.

Pakhtunkhwa (KP) the government stood by Muhammad Azam Khan them and would provide all Hospital Kahna during a on Sunday expressed his deep sorrow and unequivocal condemnation unequivocal condemnation on Sunday expressed his difficult period. He said, "Our prayers for providing false false for providing false for providing false false for providing false false for providing false false for providing false He criticized the staff

providing false information and noted issues like non-functioning air-conditioners cleanliness problems, and blood stains on bed-sheets. The patients expressed concerns about staff inspected

CM unhappy

with Kahna

hospital

facilities

Caretaker Punjab Chief

Minister Syed Mohsin

Naqvi expressed strong

dissatisfaction after

LAHORE

behaviour and delays in medical check-ups. Naqvi various departments, contacted the health secretary and expressed disappointment at the hospital's state. The Commissioner Lahore division and Deputy Commissioner Lahore were also present.

72,330 citizens provided licensing services: CTO

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan Sunday said that traffic police provided licensing services to some 72,330 citizens during the last month while breaking all records in providing licensing services to the masses.

The number of driving testing centers in the district have also been increased from 3 to 7 to facilitate the citizens, the

He said that the mobile service vans were providing door-to-door licensing services to



PESHAWAR: Members of the Christian minority hold placards as they shout slogans during a protest against mob attacks that erupted the day before in Jaranwala, near Faisalabad, in Peshawar, Pakistan, 20 August 2023. Armed mobs in Jaranwala targeted two churches and private homes, setting them on fire and causing widespread destruction. The attack was sparked by the discovery of torn pages of the Muslims holy book Koran with alleged blasphemous content near a Christian colony.



BAHAWALPUR: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, is receiving a briefing from the Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa about the security measures implemented on the occasion of his visit at the Mari Qasim and Mochiwala Dams.

Governor GB meets Governor KP, discusses joint work on tourism sector

Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah reached Governor House Peshawar on his visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali.

Matters of mutual interest and other important issues were discussed in the meeting. In the meeting, the

wo governors discussed the promotion of tourism activities between Khyber Baltistan and for the is a need to develop the development of the tourism sector in Khyber-

It was also agreed to take joint measures to provide the best facilities. On this occasion, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that Gilgit-Baltistan is an area rich in tourism and natural

regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will benefit the country's economy. He said Babu Sar top to Gilgit-Baltistan and all these areas are very Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit attractive for tourists, there

Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Ghulam Ali On this occasion

Governor GB Syed Mehdi Shah thanked for the hospitality and said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are peaceful resources. The promotion of tourism in Gilgitpeople and the crime rate Baltistan and the northern here is also negligible. Gilgit and Skardu are

very attractive places for domestic and foreign Providing facilities to tourists from Naran, Kaghan, Babusar Top to Gilgit-Baltistan will not only develop the

Punjab Ombudsman intervenes to provide relief to widow

LAHORE (APP): In doing a job as a spray compliance with the orders of Punjab Ombudsman Maj ® Azam Suleman Khan, the Parks and Horticulture Authority Gujranwala has disbursed outstanding dues of Rs.2,401,974 to the widow of an employee who had passed away during

The widow had Office of the Punjab Ombudsman for the ombudsman's office, provision of outstanding dues of her late husband that belonged to her late who died in 2020 while

Gujranwala. Despite her appeals, the PHA Gujranwala had not taken action to address the financial obligations owed to her following her husband's death. The applicant also

added that she and all other dependents were unemployed. Seeking lodged a complaint to the equitable resolution, she turned seeking outstanding dues

arrested 13 outlaws DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police

Dera police

arrested 13 outlaws and recovered weapons and stolen goats from them in the limits of Shaheed Nawab police station or Sunday.

According to the details, on the direction of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SHO Shaheed Nawab Police Station Khanzada Khan carried out operations against the criminal elements and arrested two accused Alam Sher son of Behram Khan resident of Wanda Budh and Gul Niaz son of Dil Muhammad.



KARACHI: Members of civil society holds placards during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Lahore Police ensures foolproof security at churches

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer for the security of the (CCPO) Bilal Siddique churches.CCPO Lahore Kamyana said that Lahore said that snipers along with Police made the best additional police personnel arrangements for the security of Christian churches. Security of community coming to Christian places of worship in the churches of worship was being ensured the provincial capital here with the help of modern on Sunday.

possible resources were being used to protect the Bilal Siddian life and property of the Christians. The Lahore Police was providing full PRIO and Elite Force for Police was providing full

equipment. Checking at the He said that all entering and exiting points

Siddique

Man caught with 2.73kg ice-drug at BKIA

PESHAWAR (APP) Airport Security Force (ASF) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Sunday recovered 2.73Kg ice-drug concealed in secret compartment of a bag of a Doha-bound passenger at Bacha Khan International Airport (BKIA), an official said. He said a passenger named Mohammad Noman has been arrested when his traveler bag was thoroughly examined. He kept 2.73 kg ice-drug at layers in the bag. Case has been registered against the security for the places of worship as well as the the churches.

The data like force for security for the places of effective patrolling around smuggler under Control of Narcotics.

Governor visits riverside areas to monitor flood situation

Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman visited riverside area of Mari Shah and Mochiwala to monitor the flood situation, here

Commissioner of Bahawalpur Division Dr Ehtesham Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Zaheer Anwar Jappa, and officers of relevant departments were also

Governor Punjab said that all departments should precautionary measures to protect the people from floods.

He said, "The district administration has been working to avoid floods since the first water flow

He said that all possible measures should Anwar added.

be taken to maintain the strength of 30 levee dams in the region.

government institutions perform their duties to protect the life and property of the people from floods, he added.

"Divisional and district administrations have made plans to deal with possible floods."

Dr Ehtsham Anwar said, "Rescue and relief have been camps established in the riverside areas.""People living in the river area are being shifted

to safe areas," he told. He said, "The survey of the livestock and the people living in riverside areas has been completed.'

"Around 76,000 people have been shifted from the flood area to safe localities," Dr Ehtsham



Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club

LGKP releases half of grant for annual development projects

PESHAWAR (APP): After were also given for Tehsil a long struggle, the Local Government Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa grant for annual development projects.

issued a grant of 19.55.88 to 27 TMEs of the Local as 11 million out of 26

offices in Abbottabad Swat, Bannu, Dera and Kohat, and many other (KP) has released half the districts."The notification says, "Atleast 5% of the fixed grant has been According to the details issued by the finance department, "The Finance Department has and Dir Upper,

Municipalities Department. Out of 166 Government Department million rupees, 60 million rupees have been released million has been released for the purchase of for the purchase of bucket sanitation vehicles in vehicles to Bannu and various districts, according Swabi Municipalities to the Local Government

Trainee DSPs from Sindh police called on IGP Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Deputy
Superintendents of Police
(DSPs) under training from
Sindh Police met IG Police
Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar
here at the Central Police
Office on Sunday Office on Sunday.

Senior police officers and DSPs under training briefed IG Punjab about their training and field Bashir Tarar, attachments.

training officers observed various sections, including Front Desk, Police Station

Additional

IG Punjab Dr. Usman IG Punjab visited the Anwar provided guidance modern police Station to DSPs under training for Mozang Lahore. Under a successful professional career.He mentioned that practical workings of the presentations given by young officers reflect deep insights and challenges of Record Management, field duties.



(MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui talking to media persons after offering fateha for the departed soul of brother of Kanwar Naveed Jamil Deputy Convener MQM during condolence meeting held in Hyderabad

Bringing 4.7mn out of school children in KP under education net a gigantic task

PESHAWAR (APP): the authorities concerned. Where literacy rate is detrimental in bringing socio-economic uplift in a country and putting it on the path to development and prosperity, it also indicates the priorities of a particular government it set for the well-being of the masses.

In a country like Pakistan where the population has crossed the psychological barrier of 240 million in May this year, and where there are an estimated 22.8 million out-of-school children, the education sector was in dire need of having more attention and resources by

The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)'s national socioeconomic registration census report 2021 revealed that 4.7 million children aged 5 to 16 years were out of school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The breakup of the data informed that 1.38 million male and 2.38 million female students were out of school in KP, while 0.36 million male and 0.65 million were out of school in seven merged tribal districts owing to a lack of educational institutions, and other poverty socioeconomic barriers

caused

mostly

population explosion. The percentage of 77 percent was reported in Palas Kolai district followed by 70 percent Kohistan, 69 percent in Lower Kohistan, 61 in Torghar, 55 in Shangla, 53 in Lakki Marwat and 51 percent each in Tank and Batagram districts.

In erstwhile Fata, around 66 percent of children were out-ofschool North in Waziristan, 63 percent in Bajaur, 61 in South Waziristan, 51 each in Mohmand and Khyber, and 47 percent each in Kurram and Orakazai

untimely death of my father due to blood cancer. After enormous financial problems, I started labour work to support my six sisters and an ailing mother," said Faizur Rehman (18), a resident of Pabbi Nowshera while tears rolling down over his cheeks.

"I left education in

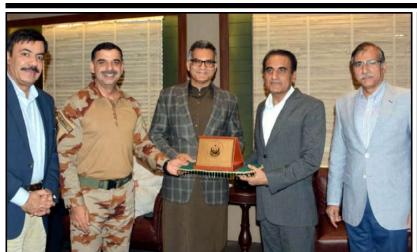
"My father wanted to see me as an engineer but the fortune overturned and I was left with no option painstaking construction family," he added. free unif Besides poverty and and bags.

but to enter the labour work to support my

socioeconomic imbalances highest childhood after the especially in rural areas, he said most of poor students left education due to the expansive cost of books and other education expenses.

Muhammad Shahab Khan, Chief Planning Officer, Education Education Department KP told APP that bringing out of school children under education net was a big challenge.

For bringing 300,000 children to schools in KP in the next three years billions of rupees were required including Rs2.10 billion for the provision of free uniforms, stationary



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presenting a memorial shield to outgoing Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili at a farewell luncheon hosted in his honour

Ahsan meets CPC leader Ma Xingrui

URUMQI (China) (APP): Former federal minister dent Xi Jinping's strong Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Sunday called on Ma Xingrui, Member of the Polit Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC [Communist Party of China] Xinjiang Uyghurs Autonomous Regional Committee.

He was accompanied by Senator Mahmood-ul-Hassan and other officials of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, a news release

The Chinese side also included Erkin Tuniyas, Governor of Xinjiang, Chen Weijun, Executive Vice-Chairman of the People's Government of Xinjiang, Kaysar Abdukerin, Vice Chairman of the People's Government of Xinjiang and other high-ranking officials from Xinjiang.

Warmly welcoming the Pakistani side, Party Secretary Ma Xingrui remarked that both countries have withstood the vicissitudes of times, despite the

commitment to further solidify Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnerships in diverse fields.
Party Secretary Ma

lauded the statesmanship, professionalism and educational background of Prof Ahsan Iqbal which enabled valuable contribution towards the development and success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He called him a seasoned and accomplished politician to make more contributions toward the success of CPEC in the future. He remarked that President Xi Jinping desired to make CPEC an "exemplary" Project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with Xinjiang playing a central role in regional and economic development. The Party Secretary

reaffirmed Government's strong commitment to fully realize the potential of the Khunjrab-Sost-Kashgar border mar-



QUETTA: President Balochistan National Party SardarAkhtar Jan Mengal condoling with Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani over sad demise

Khaliq Maqbool looks forward to free fair general elections

HYDERABAD (APP): Convener of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said the constitution of Pakistan has laid down the procedure of holding free and fair elections and that law should be followed in letter and

Talking to the media at the Soyam of MQM-P's Deputy Convener Kunwar Navid Jameel in Latifabad here on Sunday, Siddiqui observed that the recently

conducted population census had shown an increase of 50 million people in the country's population since the last census. According to him, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was expected to carry out the delimitation of constituencies in light of the increased population. Siddiqui expressed hope that the ECP with the support of the caretaker governments in the centre and the provinces would be able to conduct free and fair elections



QUETTA: President Pakistan Islamic Medical Association Balochistan Abdul Jabbar administers oath to the newly elected members of Shura.

Siraj indicates to go to SC against ECP for getting election date

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief Sirajul Haq for their own interests. indicated to go to Supreme Court of Pakistan against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for not announcing the election's

Addressing a press conference, Sirajul Haq said that even to date the Election Commission has not announced the date of the elections and this act of the Commission is a violation of the constitu-

Siraj also demanded the Election Commission to conduct transparent elections alleging that the previous governments used the

Sirajul Haq alleged that PDM and PPP conspired to postpone the election adding the Election Com-

mission should reconsider its decision and announce immediate elections, the caretaker government should conduct transparent elections instead of jumping around.

Talking about inflation, Sirajul Haque said that according to a research, electricity prices have increased by 72 percent in a few months, now the solution to all these problems lies only with the

CM visits native area Lehri; offers fateha for grave of

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reached his native area, Lehri on Sunday morning.

father

Soon after his arrival in Lehri, the caretaker Chief Minister visited his ances tral graveyard and offered fateha for his departed soulm Hazoor Bakhsh Domki and other elders.

He also showered rose petals at the graves of his father and other elders.

Meanwhile, people of his native area and elders also met the caretaker Chief Minister and greeted him on assuming his

Speaking to them, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that he got this status with the prayers of his elders and people of the area. Later, he moved to Sibi from Lehri the same

PCG recovers huge quantity of drugs dumped underground

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) seized a large quantity of drugs worth millions from Balochistan.

According to spokesman for PCG on Sunday, the PCG on a tip off recov ered 1488kg fine quality hashish dumped under

The seized drugs were reportedly to be smuggled abroad via sea route.

Approximated value of the recovered drugs in the international market | rally. was 24.83 million dollars The PCG had initiated the legal proceedings.

Iman arrested for insulting institutions

ISLAMABAD (Online) Islamabad Police arrested Iman Mazari for her speech against the country's institutions in an organization meeting on Friday.

Former federal minister Shireen Mazari (mother of Iman Mazari) said in a statement on the social net working website X that female police and people in plain clothes took her daughter away.

She said that they asked the officers for the warrant which they did not show, they went round the whole house.

Solangi grieved over loss of lives in road mishap

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangion Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the accident of a passenger coach coming from Karachi to Islamabad

In a statement, the minister expressed sympathy and condolences to the families of those who died in the tragic accident.

The reasons should be determined so that such accidents can be avoided in the future," Solangi said.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss with fortitude.

Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi also prayed for early recov-

Jaranwala incident investigation PUC, Church of Pakistan announce 24-member

committee

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and Church of Pakistan on Sunday jointly established a 24-member committee in a concerted effort to address the tragic incident in Jaranwala, foster interfaith and interdenominational unity, and quell extremist narratives.

Chairman Muhammad Mahmood Ashrafi and Church of Pakistan President Bishop Azad Marshal, the committee comprises diverse leaders including Bishop Aleem Anwar, Bishop Arshad Joseph, Muswar Abbasi, Pastor Immanuel Khokhar, Zaheer Abbas, Pastor Shahzad

Co-chaired by PUC

Lorraine, Bishop Leoradic Paul, Bishop Alvin Samorel, Mishaal Samorel, Sahil Advocate, Pir Naqibur Rehman, Sahibzada Hassan Haseebur Rehman, Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Allama Arif Wahidi, Allama Tahirul Hasan, Maulana Asadullah Maulana Muhammad Siddiqui, Farzd Islam, Sardar Ajmal Advocate,

other dignitaries Ashrafi emphasized during a media interaction that building a peaceful and resilient Pakistan required active participation from all segments of society. He stressed the inclusion of leaders from various reli-

Sajid Iqbal Advocate and

committee, bridging the gap between Muslim and Christian leaders. "We must strive to cultivate tolerance, respect, and patience in our society and reject any attempts to exploit religion for personal or political gains," he added.

He further noted that concerted efforts would be made across all levels to discourage illegal actions under the guise of blasphemy or religious insult.

Ashrafi said the PUC had pledged to provide assistance to the young victims of the Jaranwala incident, announcing their commitment to organize arrangements for the affected girls' dowries as part of their ongoing support



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PKMAPMehmood Khan Achakzai meeting with leader of JUI, former Chief Minister KPK Akram Khan Durrani

Court grants one day physical remand of Iman in terrorism case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Regional court of Islamabad granted one day physical remand of Iman Mazari in terrorism case and one day judicial remand on interference in government work and holding unauthorised public meeting. According to details

former human rights minister Shireen Mazari's daughter and human rights activist Iman Mazari and former Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir were arrested in case of intervention in government work after participation in (Pashtun Tahafuz Movement) PTM public unsecure afterward.

rest Iman Mazari was presented in additional and session court duty judge

On the start of hearing media persons' entrance was prevented from court room and deployed huge contingents of police out side the court. Police demanded

physical remand of Iman Mazari and presented other FIRS (First Information Report) of rebellion and terrorism before judge. During hearing Shireen

Mazari came on rostrum and said she is not nominated in the case then why her cell phone was snatched. CCTV cameras of her house were broken. She said I imagine myself Judge said to Shireen

Mazari to approached the relevant platform and said Inquiry officer 'if you don't need please return her cell phone'



QUETTA: Members of Majlis-e-Wahdat Muslim and Methodis Church attending a seminar in connection with the Jaranwala incident.

Sutlej witnesses 'worst flooding in three decades'

high levels at Ganda Singh Wala Barrage resulting in the families from 72 villages in Kasur and Chunian, while three people drowned in trying to find higher ground. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reported that a high-level flooding situation was underway in the Sutlej River and the situation would depend on wa-

ter flow at Harike Headworks and Ferozepur Headworks. The water level had risen to 23 feet, with a flow of 269,000 cusecs at the Ganda Singh Wala Barrage. In Sulemanki, there was a moderate level of flooding with a flow of 83,072 cusecs. There is a looming threat of extremely high-level flooding at Head Sulemanki in the next 24

The water flow had reached 30,142 cusecs at Head Islam. The risk of extreme flooding in Head Islam is expected to commence from August 22.

KASUR (INP): The Sutlej However, the water flow in River surged to extremely Sindh, Jhelum, Chenab, and

Raviremained normal. The administrative evacuation of hundreds of authorities of the districts adjacent to the Sutlej River were put on high alert and measures had been implefloodwater in Kasur while mented to restrict the movement of people in areas near Sutlej. Relevant deputy commissioners have been directed to reinforce the dykes along the Sutlej River.

In Kasur, two of the three villagers who drowned in the floodwater had been fished out while the rescue efforts were underway to find the third person. According to Rescue officials, Jamshed of village Athat Singh and Aslam and Mola of village Verram Jhugian wanted to shift to a safer place on their own. They were holding hands due to floodwater but the gushing water swallowed them after separating them. Separately, over 100 buffaloes of a farmer at village Usmanwala near Ganda Singh were swept away while being trans-

Caretaker PM pays tribute to Rashid Minhas **Shaheed**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Sunday paid tribute to Pi-lot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan e Haider) on 52nd anniversary of his martyrdom.

The prime minister on social media platform-X, posted "Observing the 52nd anniversary of martyrdom of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan e Haider) today, we as a nation salute his undying courage.

Rashid Minhas theed's act 1971 preserved the national dignity and his legacy of valor remained undimmed. he added in his post.

President's tweet give arises to many question then constitutionals

(SLAMABAD (Online) Pakistan People Party senator Raza Rabbani said presideny Alvi's tweet caused arouse of more real questions as compared to some constitutional questions. Under article-50 of 1973 constitution President is the part of Parliament, he said. Further he said President's statement should be investigated under whole committee of senate in which whole senate sits. Relative staff should appear in front of Bar of Senate. He maintained that President leveled very serious allegations and it will have far reaching consequences on whole

4 Pakistanis held in Saudi Arabia for drug trafficking **Monitoring Desk**

RIYADH: Five people, including four Pakistanis, have been arrested in Saudi Arabia on the charges of drug trafficking.

According to the Saudinews agency, the antinarcotics department in Riyadh took action against the drug dealers based on information from intelligence agencies.

In a statement issued by the General Directorate of Narcotics Control, 1.9 kilos of methamphetamine was recovered from the possession of the four Pakistani nationals



QUETTA: New appointed Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Caretaker Chief Minister says: LEAs would have to adopt effective strategy to restore law & order, tackle security challenges

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki has emphasized that the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) would have to adopt effective strategy to restore law and order and cope with the security challenges.

He also stressed that the police would also have to go for smart policing along with modernity doing away with the conventional policing

Mardan Domki was addressing the law and order situation in Sibi on Sunday. He was briefed about the law and order situation in Sibi. Deputy Inspector General of Police Sibi Range, Ali date and top priority Sher Jhakrani briefed the interim government.

caretaker Chief Minister in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that use of modern technical is very

necessary in policing. He also underlined the need to create sense of protection among masses adopting the concept of safe city in all big cities of

the province. He directed the police force to bring more improvement in its performance and also get confi-

dence of the masses. Mir Ali Mardan Domkin on the occasion mentioned that holding free and fair elections in peaceful environment is the mandate and top priority of the

rehabilitation of the

affectees and demanded

indiscriminate action

against those responsible

sion, Sherry Rehman said

that Pakistan People's

Party strongly condemned

Jaranwala incident and said

that the minorities had

equal rights in Pakistan and

the whole nation was sad-

Speaking on the occa-

for this tragedy.

Visits Jaranwala **PPP** delegation expresses sympathy with Christian affectees

FAISALABAD (APP):A delegation of senior politicians of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has visited Jaranwala here on Sunday and expressed sympathy with the people of the Christian community affected in August 16 trag-

The delegation comprising of former Chairman Senate Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, former federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Rana Farooq Saeed and Nadeem Afzal Chan went to Christian Colony and condemned the riotous incident in

dened due to Jaranwala tragedy She said that some elements had tried to disrupt peace in the country. Therefore, the accused involved in this incident should be



LEHRI: FC Wing Commander Col. Shams meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. Former State Minister Mir Dostain Khan Domki is also present

Rana believes PPP objecting to fresh delimitations over fear of losing seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former interior minister Rana Sanaullah said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was objecting to the fresh delimitations on the basis of the 2023 census out of fear of losing a few seats as an increase in the number of Karachi seats was expected. Remarks of Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) senior leader came during a Geo News programme "Jirga", programme wherein he maintained that a delay in conducting general elections beyond 90 days would not make any difference. He said that the Council of Common Interests (CCI), in which PPP leaders were also present, had approved the new census by consensus.

On August 17, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced the elections couldn't be held in three months due to the requirement of fresh delimitations after the no-tification of census 2023, as decided by the CCI.

"There is a consensus of the entire nation on this census. New delimitation is

a constitutional requirement," Sanaullah said.

He explained that evervone objected to the 2017 census, but since elections were around the corner, a one-time "amendment" was made to hold polls on that particular headcount. He stressed that hold-

ing elections on a "tainted census of 2017" would be unconstitutional. Therefore, delaying polls for another 80 or 90 days would not be an issue, he added. In contrast to the PML-N's position, PPP

Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman urged the ECP to duly announce the date of general elections in line with the provisions of Article 224 of the Constitution "Our Constitution

binds the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct general elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly, however, there is no constitutional requirement for conducting delimitation,' Rehman said, calling upon the ECP to announce the election date to fulfill the constitutional obligation



KAN MEHTARZAI: Former opposition leader Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate, Malik Ramzan Mehtarzai and others addressing a ceremony held to greet Anwaarul Haq Kakar on becoming Caretaker Prime Minister. Large numbers of tribal elders and citizens are present

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