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Surrender not an option:

## PM Kakar vows to continue fight against terrorists

Praises sacrifices of martyrs for nation; says wars are not fought by individuals, but nations; Strongly abhorred terrorist acts and suicide attacks.

KARACHI (APP): Care- press conference during his tyrs. taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday categorically said that Pakistan would never surrender to radicalization, extremism a power that would return and intolerance but rather would fight without falling

should clear their misunderstanding.

by individuals... This war is fought by nation... Surrendering is not an option. what," he said during a

visit here.

Waziristan on Tuesday, he said that Pakistan was not 5,000 kilometers away from here.

prey to war fatigue. "This is our home. We "Those who think we are here. We will run our "This is our home. We will fall prey to war fatigue home in our own way," he

The prime minister This war is not fought said those trying to under-individuals... This war mine the morale of the Pakistani nation should clear their misunderstanding as We will fight no matter Pakistan would never forget the sacrifices of its marHe said Pakistan was

Referring to the mar- not fighting this war on alms tyrdom of soldiers in South but rather spending our own taxpayers' money.

> He said the Pakistani soldiers were not rendering sacrifices in return for the salaries. "Their service is not in return for salaries, rather respect and dignity is their salary. Salary is just meant to suffice their needs. The nation pays them in the form of respect," he remarked.

> Prime Minister Kakar said that those who were trying to create chaos in the name of religion were actu-

ally miscalculating and mis-

sage. They can fight for a limited time, but not for long. They are miscalculating and misreading whom they are faced with. We are not afraid of suicide attackers," he said.

Referring to the rescue operation of trapped eight passengers of a cable car in Battagram, the prime minister said the country's infrastructure was becoming a threat to human lives. "We were overwhelmingly over the moon as we heard the rescue of the last kid..



KARACHI: Flanked by Governor Sindh and Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing a press conference.

QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communication Ashraf Tarar meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Kha Domki

Caretaker Federal Minister Communication tells caretaker CM:

#### Completion of Quetta-Karachi, Quetta-**Zhob and Quetta-Jaccobabad** highways topmost priority

Work on construction of Pinjra pull to be started in September this year

QUETTA: The caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Ashraf Tarar has stated that the completion of different highways connecting Quetta to various parts of the country i..e, Karachi, Zhob and Jaccobabad is topmost priority of the interim government. The Federal Minister Communications said that all the projects of highways including Quetta-Karachi, Quetta-Zhob and Quetta-Jaccobabad would be put on fast track for early completion.

The work on construction of Pinjra pull (bridge) tember this year while the pace of work on the ongoing western bypass project

while speaking to the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Wednesday.

reconstruction as ell as repair and expansion of the roads and highways were discussed.

sion, the caretaker Federal Minister said that he is visiting Balochistan on directives of the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq

He said that it is directive of the Prime Minister to complete the projects of highways on priority basis. The Federal Minister

informed that the PC-I of

SC bench asks IHC to consider PTI chief's contentions against trial court's jurisdiction, maintainability of complaint ISLAMABAD (Online): by CJP Umar Ata Bandial Supreme Court (SC) de-

clared that decision in

Toshakhana case is prima

facie wrong.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial remarked trial court order in Toshakhana case is not correct. The matter is in high court therefore, we are not interfering in it to-

The SC while directing Islamabad High Court (IHC) to hear appeal tomorrow remarked "we will

hear the case again at 1 p.m. Appeal plea filed by chairman PTI against a decision of district election commission Islamabad and IHC in Toshakhana crimibench of SC presided over nomination papers.

Wednesday.

The other two members of bench are Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail.

At the inception of hearing Latif Khosa counsel for chairman PTI started his arguments.
The CJP remarked

there are three petitions before us. The counsel for chairman PTI explained that the petitioner has filed appeal pleas against differ-

ent decisions.

Latif Khosa said Imran Khan was elected Member of National Assembly (MNA) from Mianwali in 2018. He was nal case came up for hear- charged with concealing ing before a 3-member his and his wife assets in

Latif Khosa said member of parliament is bound to file details of his, his wife and children assets in EC till December 31 every

He held 6 MNAs sent

Trial court hastened Toshakhana verdict; observes CJP

reference against chairman PTI to speaker National Assembly (NA) wherein he was charged with filing false declaration of his as-

Speaker sent this reference to EC.
Counsel for chairman PTI read out section 4 and 137 of election act on being inquired by Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi.

He said EC can take action within 120 days.

Justice Mazahir Naqvi inquired can one send reference against the case is not pending in trial it challenged.

other member. Latif Khosa replied no

member can send reference. EC too can take action within a stipulated Justice Jamal Khan

Mandokhail inquired if your appeal is accepted. trial court has already announced its decision. Then case will go where.

have challenged legal position also

Justice Mazahar Naqvi remarked you have not challenged the legal position of complaint then

have challenged legal position of complaint only. Justice

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Con-

trol, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti chairing a briefing session, at Ministry of Narcot-

court. We will send case

where after hearing it.
Latif Khosa said SC can nullify all this exercise. Munshi of Khawaja Haris was also kidnapped on the day of decision. The access to justice was

stopped.
The CJP inquired did you attach summary of facts with the petition. Latif Khosa said we what do you say that the complaint should have gone to magistrate instead

of additional session. Justice Mandokhail remarked the present case is not this that what you are saying.

Latif Khosa said we chairman PTI be sent or otherwise. You have come against the decision of Jamal IHC. Toshakhana central member of parliament Mandokhail inquired your case has been decided. Was

Independent Report details were shared by the dualization of Quetta-

would be started in Sephas been accelerated.

This and similar other

caretaker Federal Minister Jaccobabad road has been approved. He said that the National Highway Authority (NHA) would spent major portion of its resources in Balochistan. The caretaker Chief

During the course of Minister on the occasion meeting, the matters about noted with pleasure that the federal government has started paying attention on the province on directives of caretaker Prime Minis-Speaking on the occater. He said that the immediate rehabilitation of the bridges located on the Quetta-Karachi highway is very important as the people are facing severe problems due to the dam-

aged bridges.
The Federal Minister directed the Member NHA to take steps on emergent basis for rehabilitation of the damaged bridges

PTI Chairman

approaches SC

against CJ IHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on

Wednesday approached the

Supreme Court against

Islamabad High Court

(IHC) Chief Justice Aamer

filed on behalf of the PTI Chairman by Latif Khosa

in the apex court under Ar-

tice Aamer Farooq from

hearing the cases against

A petition has been

Farooq.

#### **Terrorists & affiliates to** be hunted down till their surrender to State: COAS

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Muniron Wednesday said the terrorists, their affiliates and abettors who were working on hostile agenda to destabilise the country, would be hunted down until their surrender to the State of Pakistan.

The Army Chief was interacting with the officers and troops deployed in Sherwangi area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan District where six brave soldiers had embraced Shahadat (martyrdom) on Tuesday while fighting gallantly against terrorists an Inter-Services Public Rela-

The COAS appreciated the unflinching resolve of army officers and troops in fighting the menace of terrorism.

"Shuhada (martyrs) are our pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain till the return of complete peace and stability in Paki stan," he added. General Asim Munii

was given a detailed brief

ing on the prevailing secu-

rity situation, including the ongoing intelligence and counter-terrorism opera-Earlier on his arrival

the COAS was received by the Commander Peshawar



Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir interacting with officers and troops deployed in Sherwangi area near Asman Manza in South

#### 'No political friends, enemies'; says Solangi

Says caretaker govt has no role in fixing election date

for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday reiterated that the interim dispensation had 'No political person injured, police said friends and no political en-

> While talking to a priviewpoint. "Criticism is their democratic right, we cannot

take this right from them. We are not in favour or

He said, "If the constitution, law, and courts take any action against someone. the government cannot stop the process."
"The Election Com-

mission of Pakistan is a constitutional body which had the responsibility to conduct free, transparent, and impartial elections."
"We will abide by our

oath, we cannot think of violating it at any stage' Murtaza Solangi said.

The government had no news of hopelessness and there should not be suspicion of breach of promise, he added

#### China, UAE envoys call on foreign minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Hamad Alzaabi and Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue on Wednesday separately called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani

ics Control in Islamabad.

In the meeting with the UAE envoy, the two sides discussed bilateral, regional as well as multilateral issues of mutual interest and the potential of enhancing trade and investment ties between the two countries, a Foreign Office statement

During the meeting with Chinese Charge d' Affaires, the two countries reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

#### riddled bodies found in Mand area of Kech **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The bullet riddled and handcuffed bodies of three persons were found in Mand area of Kech on Wednesday. According to the re-

ports reaching here, the levies force recovered bodies of three persons from the road side in Mula chat area.

The bodies were re-

#### **President invites CEC to** fix date for general elections

In letter to CEC, Alvi cites constitutional requirement for president to decide date for elections within 90 days of NA dissolution; ECP decides to consult all political parties, including PTI, for elections schedule

ISLAMABAD (APP): tion Commission of Paki-President Dr Arif Alvi on stan (ECP) has decided to Wednesday invited Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja for a meeting by Thursday to fix an appropriate date for the general elections. Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter

to the Chief Election Commissioner, said since the National Assembly was dissolved on August 9, 2023, therefore under Article 48 (5) of the Constitution, he (as the president) was obliged to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of dissolution for the holding of general election of National Assem-

"Forgoing in view, the Chief Election Commissioner is invited for a meeting with the President today or tomorrow to fix an appropriate date," the letter noted.

INP adds: The Elec-

**OUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan** 

## Three bullet

moved to the civil hospital Mand for identification and necessary action. Later, they were identified as Dr. Hamid Buledi, his son Behroz and his nephew namely Abdul

#### elections and its date. The elections are expected early next year. Sources said the ECP would consult all political parties separately regarding the elections schedule and its date. During the consultation, the electoral watchdog will also talk about a road map of the upcoming general elections. Similarly, the commission will also consult over the issues of constituencies' delimitations and voter lists as well. The process of consulting the political parties will be initiated in next few days, sources added.

stan (ECP) has decided to

consult all major political

parties, including the PTI,

about upcoming general

The said the PML-N, the PPP, the PTI, the MQM, the JI, the ANP, the JUIF and all other major political parties will be taken onboard



Achakzai meeting with Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi at his residence

#### Plants sapling of Quetta pine at Governor House: Governor calls for maximum participation of people in tree plantation campaign

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to create awareness among the general public about tree plantation as it is crucial for overcoming the environmental pollution. He also directed to ensure maximum participation of



The Governor was speaking on occasion of beginning of the Monsoon tree plantation campaign hee at the Governor House on Wednesday. The Governor planted a plant of Quetta Pine to mark inauguration of the tree plantation campaign. Also present on the occasion was

Secretary Forests, Noor Muhammad Pirkani. He said that it is need of the hour to create awareness about importance and utility of the trees for overcoming the environmental pollution.

#### Jamal Shah announces to work without salary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah announced that he would not take a salary for his role as the Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage

and Culture. 'The minister has de-

The ministers' practice to work without drawing salaries is unprecedented in the country's

cided to work without remuneration, under the national spirit," said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

quarters' hospital. Soon after the incident security personnel cor-doned off the area and launch search operation against the miscreants.

ticle 186-A today.
"My cases should be transferred to the Lahore or Peshawar high courts from the Islamabad High Court (IHC)," petitioner pleaded. Petitioner also sought restraining IHC Chief Jus-

Blast leaves one injured in Lehri QUETTA (APP): A blast in ancestral town of Interim Chief Minister Balochistan Ali Mardan Domki left one

on Wednesday.

They said that a land mine planted by unknown miscreants exploded in Kach area of Lehri Tehsil of Sibi when a motorbike hit the landmine. The injured identified as Sikandar Talani was shifted to district head-

vate television talk show, he said all political parties had the freedom to present their

against any political party, Murtaza Solangi said. The minister said the caretaker government had no intention to interfere in

ISLAMABAD (APP): any activity under the con-Caretaker Federal Minister stitution and law of the

## Daily soice of Masse, Independent

Thursday August 24, 2023

#### **Persisting doubts**

As the debate over the controversial amendments to the Army Act and Official Secrets Act and their current legal status continues, dark clouds are gathering over the Aiwani-Sadr.

On Monday, following President Arif Alvi's allegation two disputed bills passed a day earlier that he had been undermined by his staff, the the president was deemed presidency dismissed its top to have given his consent. But his tweet two days afsecretary. While the presidency itself did not really specify why the secretary was dismissed, the contents of a 'confidential' letter penned by the officer and leaked to the media suggested that the secretary at least considered the two events to be directly related. Considering the officer's proposal to take the matter to court to clear his name, the issue could turn very messy for the president if it continues to hang.

According to the leaked letter, the secretary says the president never gave him any 'written decision' to either assent to or return the bills to parliament, so he should not be held responsible for 'delaying' them. On the other hand, the president had previously claimed and historical links to exthat he had asked for both nancing involves the provibills to be returned within sion of funds or financial the stipulated time and was support to terrorist organizations and individuals inassured during follow-ups

that they were. Considering these contrasting versions, a high-level inquiry into the matter has out acts of terror. Terrorbecome necessary. That it sim financing poses a significant threat to global sedoes not seem to have been curity as it allows terrorist initiated yet makes it all the their infrastructure and exmore intriguing. It also ought pand their reach. to be noted that whatever his ders with Afghanistan, a position may have been, the president seems not to have region plagued by decades of conflict and instability; the porous nature of the put his reasons for opposing the two bills in writing. This would suggest that his own hands are less than clean. His rather laid-back approach is also perplexing. So far, he has only posted a half-baked apology and fired a staff member without assigning any explicit reason.

The question is: what was the president thinking? Had he always wished to play his world appeared to be movhand at the last minute, scuttling the laws only when his ties between countries indecision would be difficult to reverse? These two bills appeared to have had some very powerful sponsors backing powers in order to survive, them. Despite repeated oppor- it suggested that neither could afford a protracted tunities, our parliamentarians war. This status quo of an ultimately found them rather difficult to resist despite their fore our very eyes. earlier protestations. Was the president's dillydallying followed by a public denial, therefore, a considered strat- the cumulative health of the egy to carefully outmanoeuvre world's struggling economies, her own experience, those who would have done too, makes her particularly anything to see these bills

Alternatively, was it simply that he took a massive U-turn parents belonged to the after facing criticism from his party for providing the state extremely restricted world that existed at that with a noose to hang its leaders with? Or, finally, was it the Soviet Union over that he genuinely opposed East Europe. According to her, "things were cheap these bills and wanted them but not available". Her latest remarks came just reviewed but was undermined by his subordinates, who may announced a partial ban have been acting on somebody else's orders? It is critical that the nation gets to the bottom of this fiasco, and it ties between the US and is the president's responsibility to have the record set apart, so too is the war in Ukraine. Recent US intelstraight.

## Presidential indiscretion



Zahid Hussain

Curiously, it was through X (formerly Twitter) that President Arif Alvi chose to deny that he had assented to the bills amending the Official Secrets Act and the Army Act, plunging the country into yet another constitutional crisis. The by parliament earlier this month were enacted after ter the notification has opened a new Pandora's

While the president's delayed denial, and that too through social media, is inexplicable, it has nevertheless rendered the validity of these Acts controversial. The entire episode has further widened the cracks within the country's power structure, amplifying the

existing chaos. president's statement blaming bureaucratic foul play has made the matter more It has also exposed the

president's own predicament as he desperately tries to defend his position under fire. The demand for his resignation has certainly put pressure on him, with just a few weeks left for the end of his term in the top office. Meanwhile, the debate over the validity of the enacted laws has given a new twist to the ongoing political battle. The matter is now likely to go to the Supreme Court. But the controversy

surrounding the disputed Acts that provide sweeping powers to the security agencies is certainly not going to go away whatever the outcome of the legal battle. The way the two bills were pushed through parliament, just days before the dissolution of the National Assembly ignoring the voices of dissent, has raised questions about the intention behind the move. It is apparent that the

former ruling coalition deliberately passed the bills that provide sweeping rages on, the authorities powers to the security have set up a special court

The agencies, undermining civil rights. The latest controversy over the legal status of the enacted laws has also brought into the question the political cost of strengthening the powers of the security apparatus. The PDM coalition's shameful capitulation will have long-term consequences for the democratic process. The draconian laws that are currently being used against its political opponent could come back to haunt it. It is a lesson of history that our political leaders conveniently ignore for short-term political gains

While demanding the president's resignation over the assent controversy, the PDM parties have come together to defend the black laws. Interestingly, it's the PML-N whose leaders now - as opposed to when they were in the opposition where they were never tired of talking about civilian supremacy — are the biggest exponents of the laws strengthening establishment's strangle-

While the debate over the legality of the two Acts

under the amended Official Secrets Act to try PTI leaders in the cipher case. Among the accused are former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. There are also several other PTI leaders and supporters who are likely to face trial under the Army Act. What we are witnessing is arguably the most

ruthless crackdown against a political party in recent times. Hundreds of PTI supporters are languishing in jail without trial; many of them are believed to have been held on trumped-up charges. Some PTI women supporters have been detained for overthree months without being produced before a trial court and having been denied bail. All that has made a mockery of justice and the rule of law. The newly enacted amended laws enhancing the powers of the security agencies will make things worse.

All this is happening as the country prepares for elections, raising doubts about prospects of a democratic transition. What is most alarming is the intensification in crackdown on the political opposition under the military-backed interim government whose impartiality is questionable. There is a strong perception of the interim administration being just an extension of the security establishment. Moreover, the pre-

vailing uncertainty over the election schedule has reinforced suspicions about the country moving towards a prolonged period of interim rule with all the powers to take policy decisions. The PML-N and most other PDM parties now favour delaying elections beyond the constitutional limit of 90 days. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already announced that delimitation of the constituencies as required under the new census will take at least four months to complete before pollarrangements, requiring another three months, can

It may be a valid point, vet there is no clear time frame given by the ECP for the polls. There is also a strong view that there is no need for fresh delimitation of constituencies. There appears a clear division

What is most intriguing is the ambiguous position taken by the PML-N leadership on the poll delay. The confusion also reflects the power tussle within the Shariffamily and the party's diminishing electoral prospects in the face of PTI's strong challenge, despite the crackdown against it and efforts to dismantle the party. In its 16 months of rule, the PML-N-led coalition has little to show by way of performance, especially on the economic front; this has further eroded its support

The PML-N also seems to have lost a lot of political capital because of its opportunistic alignment with the security establish-

Instead of debating the veracity or otherwise of the president's statement, the political parties should focus on mitigating the damage done to the democratic process because of these draconian laws. The ongoing political persecution will only worsen the situation. The only way out of this predicament is to hold fair and free elections within within the former ruling the stipulated time frame. -- Courtesy Dawn

## terror financing



**Dr Maqsood Ahmed** 

Pakistan has faced significant challenges in combating terrorism financing due to its complex geopolitical landscape, porous borders, tremist groups. Terror fivolved in extremist activities. These funds are utilized to sustain the operational capabilities of such groups, including recruitment, training, and carrying organizations to maintain

border has made it challenging to monitor and regulate the movement of funds. weapons, and individuals associated with terrorism.

Pakistan's large informal economy provides ample opportunities for illicit financial activities, including money laundering and terrorism financing. Cash transactions and Hawala' networks, an alternative remittance system, further complicate efforts to track and trace suspicious financial flows.

Pakistan has witnessed the presence of nonstate actors and extremist groups within its territory. The existence of these groups has posed challenges in dismantling their financial networks effectively. But the country has made significant strides in strengthening its legal framework to counter terrorism financing and enacted laws specifically targeting money laundering and terrorism financing, such as the Anti-Money rorism financing activities and enhance penalties for

Pakistan has estab- ganizations, has launched lished its financial monitor- awareness campaigns to

ing unit (FMU) to serve as the central authority responsible for receiving, analyzing, and disseminating suspicious transaction reports. The FMU collaborates with international counterparts to share intelligence and investigate ter-

rorism financing networks. Recognizing the transnational nature of terrorism financing, Pakistan has actively engaged in international cooperation initiatives. It has worked closely with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental body combatting money laundering and terrorism financing, to implement recommended measures and improve its compliance with interna-

tional standards. Pakistan has also undertaken reforms to strengthen its financial sector's resilience against terrorism financing. Banks and financial institutions have implemented the robust know your customer (KYC) and customer due Laundering Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act. These dures to identify and report laws aim to criminalize ter- suspicious transactions promptly. The Pakistani government, in collaboration with civil society or-

educate people about the dangers of terrorism financing. These initiatives aim to encourage citizens to report suspicious activities and discourage them from unknowingly contributing to terrorism financing.

Through legislative measures, international cooperation, financial-sector reforms and public awareness campaigns, Pakistan is striving to dismantle terrorism financing networks and improve its overall security situation. Addressing terror financing requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. It is significant to continuously review and update the existing laws related to terrorism financing to ensure they are robust comprehensive and in line with international standards. Implementing strict penalties for offenders and streamlining the prosecution process is re-

effective legal action. Strengthening border security measures by employing advanced technology, such as biometric sysequipment, to monitor and

quired to ensure swift and

taken in collaboration with neighboring countries to share intelligence and coordinate efforts. It is also essential to

invest in training and capacity-building programmes for financial intelligence units (FIUs) to enhance their ability to identify, analyze and act upon suspicious financial transactions and ensure effective coordination and information sharing among FIUs, law-enforcement agencies and financial institutions.

There is a need also to address the informal economy by promoting financial inclusion and encouraging the use of formal banking channels and regulating informal money transfer systems, such as 'Hawala' to minimize their potential for exploitation by terrorist financiers.

By strengthening collaboration with international partners, including intelligence agencies, financial institutions, and orgasharing information, intelcross-border terrorism ficontrol the movement of nancing networks, a robust individuals, funds, and mechanism may be devised goods across borders are and continue to enhance stan. also significant steps to be anti-money laundering TheNews

(AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) measures within the financial

It is also important to establish effective communication channels and mechanisms for sharing intelligence among law-enforcement agencies, financial institutions, and FIUs, encourage timely reporting of suspicious activities and facilitate cooperation to track and disrupt terrorism financing flows.

Besides prioritizing the enactment and implementation of comprehensive legislation targeting terrorism financing, it is also recommended to strengthen penalties and legal mechanisms to expedite prosecutions and address any legislative gaps or weaknesses identified through regular evaluations

It is important to note that short-term solutions should be implemented in parallel with long-term strategies to adnizations like the FATF, dress the root cause of terrorism financing. A ligence, and best practices comprehensive approach tems and surveillance to identify and dismantle that combines immediate actions with sustained efforts will help combat terrorism financing in Paki-

### A split world



For three long decades, the ing towards greater interconnectedness. Trade creased and pointed to-wards improved political stability. If emerging powers needed the consumer markets of existing superit suggested that neither integrated world now appears to be dissolving be-This time, the alarm

was sounded by IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva. She would know; not only does she have an inside view of sensitive to early signs of want. Georgieva, who is 70 now, grew up behind the iron curtain în Sofia, Bulgaria. While neither of her Communist Party, they were still caught up in the time under the shadow of after US President Biden on American investment in China in sectors that could be used for military

applications. While the strained ligence estimates, along

gest that Ukraine, whom fact is that the global the US and Nato have economy makes it nearly championed, is unlikely to recover all the territory that it had prior to the els of debt to make very Russian invasion. The many fact that this is true despite the billions of dollars in weaponry and training that the US has provided is likely to affect the future of American aid to the country. In the meantime, not only can Vladimir Putin declare this a victory, he is also unlikely to withdraw from the country until after the results of the US election of 2024 are companies. When Ameriknown. If former US president Donald Trump is the Republican Party's nominee (as it appears he will likely be), then Putin has a 50 per cent chance of a friend in the White House and an opportunity to not only keep whatever bits of Ukraine

to likely grab much more It is unlikely to happen but that result, while terrible for Ukraine, would suggest a less fragmented future for the world. The more likely outcome is pockets of the world finding themselves forced to choose loyalties between the US and China. This will be terrible for countries like Pakistan who would like good relations with both. Failure to listen and act on what Washington wants will expose it to the risk of losing access to funds that Pakistan and other developing economies need in order to func-

he has captured but also

At the end, this is a reminder of the adage that beggars cannot be choosers. A lot of political debate in Pakistan suggests that the choice of allies is a product of ideological allegiances. Many think the US suggests a greater commitment decolonisation and au-

with expert analysis, sug- tonomy. However, the impossible for struggling economies with high levindependent

> Aid makes countries like Pakistan dependent for as long as Western countries make it impossible for them to compete fairly in the global market. Independent decisions by struggling economies will only be possible if Western countries stop subsidising their industries to protect their own can wheat sells for less than Pakistani wheat because the American farmer is protected by subsidies and can sell below the market price, the premise that the world functions along the lines of free market capitalism is exposed as a lie.

The prospect of darker times to come seems almost unbearable in times that already appear dismal. And yet, that is just where the world appears to be headed. If the poor in US cities are taking to looting expensive stores and shoplifting complaints have risen exponentially, imagine the fate of the poor struggling Pakistani aghast at the insane rate of inflation in

the country.

The split world is materialising before our eyes and it threatens to tear up lives, countries and much more. The perilous economic condition in which Pakistan finds itself is going to make it even more dependent on international financial institutions like the IMF as the already squeezed populace suffers ever greater privations. The most dangerous people are those with nothing left to lose, and it appears that turning away from more and more that Pakistanis might end up in that category. -- Cour-

Mahir Ali

Late last week. Joe Biden hosted the leaders of South Korea and Japan at Camp David to nudge them towards increased economic and "security" cooperation, as part of the US administration's aggressive pushback against Chinese ambitions. Living memories of Japan's brutal rule in Korea have stood in the way of bonhomie between the two staunch American allies. The push for closer coordination coincides with a US-endorsed resurgence in Japanese militarism, which plagued the region in the early 20th century.

A similar impetus is behind a parallel ÚS push for a formal diplomatic deal between a repressive monarchy and a diminishing democracy in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia enjoys reasonably cordial relations with China. Its de facto ruler, Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), knows that this not least the Beijing-sponsored rapprochement between Riyadh and Tehran - irritates Washington,

and is leveraging it. The Saudis are not shy of implying they could shift their source of military imports to China, even Russia, if America falls short. The conditions for a deal with Israel reportedly include a mutual defence pact, a civilian nuclear plan involving the enrichment of uranium, and Israeli 'concessions' to Palestinians that would preserve the possibility — rather, the fiction — of a two-state

Many of Israel's traditional friends among the American commentariat have been critical of the regime's aggressive attempts to subjugate the judiciary, some even arguing that the US should curtail aid to Israel. A recent open letter from over 750 Israeli intellectuals to the American Jewish community urges it to stop supporting apartheid.

The judiciary's future and the brutal occupation of Palestinian territories tend to be viewed as distinct issues. Mass mobilisations in Israel in defence of its discriminatory democracy have largely ignored the redoubled efforts towards ethnic 'cleansing'. Israeli courts may have acted to restrict government excesses, but they are a part and parcel of the oppression since the 1940s, when the horrific Shoah segued into the Nakba.

Both words mean the same: catastrophe. The first, among the biggest crimes against humanity, ended in 1945. The second is ongoing, and it is almost inconceivable that the present regime would agree to ameliorate it, given its commitment to annexation of the West Bank by subterfuge. That, anyhow, is not something the Saudis demand as part of the price

for a diplomatic deal. Most Arab leaders have never cared much about the fate of the Palestinians, despite leveraging the occupation for political purposes. The Palestinian Authority falls into the same category, serving as a puppet dispensation for an administration that ignores it. No wonder it has lost the allegiance of most Palestinians. Back when the Abraham Accords were announced, the UAE claimed they had forestalled the annexation of the West Bank by the Netanyahu regime; under the current variant of the same disease, the transgressions have only gath-

Made for each other

None of this likely to faze MBS, whose mission to turn the nation named after his family into a sporting superpower is going gangbusters, with golf in the bag and men's football almost in the net. Underlying patterns of repression remain intact despite dramatic superficial changes. Raves in the desert and concerts by scantily clad Western performers alongside the latest Holly-wood movies, professional wrestling tournaments and horse racing are no longer verboten. But even mild dissent on social media can earn you a decades-long prison term.

This week's horrific revelations from Human Rights Watch about Saudi massacres of hundreds, and quite possibly thousands, of Ethiopian refugees on the Yemeni border — children, women and men - help flesh out a more complete picture of the regime's nature. All too many European nations have a ruthlessly inhuman attitude towards would-be immigrants, including ignoring mass drownings in the Mediterranean. But none of them has thus far resorted to mass killings by gun-

On various other levels, the Saudis have been dealing with Israel for several years, although the collaboration has undoubtedly been stepped up in the past decade or so. And perhaps Benjamin Netanyahu missed an opportunity by failing to frame his judicial 'reforms' as a means of conforming with the Middle Eastern norm — after all, right across the region, judges tend to take their instructions from the powers

There are numerous hurdles to an Israeli-Saudi conjugal union. But if and when it occurs, it's less likely to be a shotgun wedding than a marriage made in heaven. -- Courtesy

#### Governor highlights sacrifices of tribal people, assures cooperation in addressing problems

PESHAWAR (APP): They also highlighted issues including the establishment of the ADRA Office in the area, wednesday highlighted the sacrifices of tribal people for country's sovereignty and said that peace is a prerequisite for the development and in Shagai area and including girls and added. PESHAM.
Governor K
Pakhtunkhwa,
Ali development

The delegation was led by a former member provincial assembly, Adnan Wazir and Chairman Tehsil Wana, Moulana Saleh.

The delegation apprised the KP Governor about their problems and needed basic amenities said that Shagai was given tehsil status in 2012 but proper notification has not been issued yet. They urged the governor to play his role and said that it the concerns of people living grassroots level.

He was talking to a
45-member delegation of tribal elders of Tehsil
Shagai, South Waziristan.

His shagai at a and completion of projects relating to water supply and sanitation. Speaking on the occasion, the governor assured his cooperation to resolve these problems and said that the development of tribal areas is among the topmost priorities of the government.

would be ensured to tribal people and added that funds would be released to local government representatives aiming for initiation would help address the developmental work at the

KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Senator Nisar Ahmed

Khuhro along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

chairlifts located within

entertainment venues. This

scrutiny aims to guarantee

strict adherence to safety

meticulous evaluation of

directive also encompasses

an evaluation of the design,

capacity, and safety features of all chairlifts

within the province. With

a paramount concern for

provincial government

importance of adhering to

standards, especially

during adverse weather

conditions such as storms

regulation of chairlift

operations, acquiring a No

Objection Certificate (NOC) from the district

administration has been

To ensure effective

safety

public safety,

underscores

established

and lightning.

made mandatory.

The scope of the

Special consideration

KP govt orders safety

checks of all chairlifts

PESHAWAR (Online): has been placed on the

Following a recent incident swift examination of

on Wednesday decided to will be given to chairlifts

ensure the safety of spanning over rivers and

chairlifts across the streams, necessitating a

in which the lives of people

including school children

were jeopardized due to

breakage of a chairlift wire

in Battagram, the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa government

incident where an open

cable car in Battagram was

left stranded due to a cable

snap, leaving 8 people including school children

suspended for over 15

hours, the government has

issued a comprehensive set

of guidelines to enhance

deputy commissioners

from all districts have been

instructed to conduct

thorough inspections of

chairlifts. This inspection

mandate covers chairlifts in

both commercial and

residential areas, as well as

those operating in

entertain ment

Particular emphasis

establishments.

Under the directive,

safety measures.

and in Shagai area and including girls and added completion of projects that students of merged districts were being provided scholarships to get higher education and to play a due role in the development of their areas.

Later, the KP Governor also chaired a meeting to decide matters about land demarcation between Agriculture University Peshawar and Úniversity Engineering Technology Mardan.

The meeting was also attended by the Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Professor Dr. Bakhat Jehan and Professor Dr. Imran Khan Haji Ghulam Ali said of Engineering University.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Maqbool Bagar called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

#### **Punjab Governor says:** Jaranwala incident is very painful and reprehensible

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation led by Bishop of Lahore, Nadeem Kamran met Punjab hurting Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. Bishop Nadeem Kamran thanked the government, Prime Minister,

and Governor Punjab for expressing solidarity with the Christian community. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Jaranwala incident is very

painful and reprehensible. He said that all minorities including the coexistence in a society. Christian community are On this occasion, the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Muhammad Azam Khan

has taken notice of the

suspension of free treatment facilities under

the Sehat Card scheme, and

directed the concerned

authorities to take steps on

a priority basis for the

restoration of free treatment facilities under

the scheme, said an official

Sehat Card

Caretaker CM takes

notice of suspension

of free treatment

handout issued here on company has directed all

that arrangements should be free treatment facilities

He further directed immediately resume the

empathy in society, adding that it is very important to inculcate positive thinking, tolerance, understanding other's point of view and high moral values among school children. He further said that tolerance and respect for

each other's point of view is very important for

payment of dues to the

implementing partner i.e.

Company for the purpose.

approached manager the Chief Minister, the

management of State Life

Insurance Company and

assured them that their

dues would be cleared

empanelled hospitals to

As a result, the

within a week.

On the directives of

equal citizens of Pakistan. Governor Punjab said that Governor Punjab said that the Constitution of Pakistan does not allow religious sentiments or harming anyone's life or property. He said that there is a need to promote tolerance and and defense

and the people stood by the Christian community is commendable.

he appreciates the Punjab government as some churches have been restored in a short time, and the rest of the churches will also be restored soon. The Governor of Punjab said that the role of the Christian community in the creation of Pakistan and after the creation of Pakistan, in every field including health, education, unforgettable.On this occasion, Bishop of Lahore, Nadeem Kamran, said that the way the state

#### Constable martyred; citizen injured in Tank firing PESHAWAR (APP): A

police constable was shot dead while a citizen sustained the injuries when armed men fired at them near a private bank in the city area of district Tank

on Wednesday.

Police said the incident occurred at the main gate of a bank, where armed men fired at a police constable identified as Riaz Uddin. The constable received fatal bullet wounds and died on the spot, while an unknown citizen was injured. The bodies of the constable and



LAHORE: Members of Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) are holding protest demonstration for demanding justice for 10-years old housemaid Fatima Fariro, at Lahore press club.

#### SCCI, Gomal Uniagreed to enhance industry, academia linkages

PESHAWAR (APP): In University DIKhan and order to build up industryacademia linkages, the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan here on Wednesday. According to details, the MoU was signed by SCCI's acting President Ijaz Khan Afridi and the Director Office of Research, Innovation and (ORIC), Gomal University DIKhan Dr Barkat Ali Khan during a ceremony

Commercialization

held here today at the chambers house.Abidur Rehman, Personal Secretary Gomal Chancellor

SCCI's Secretary General Sajjad Aziz were also present on the occasion.

In his remarks during the meeting, Ijaz Afridi informed that the chamber has so far signed MoUs with more than 16 public and private universities throughout the province, aiming to build up industry and academia linkages.

He said the MoU

with Gomal University DIKhan was part of this series of agreements, which would help to strengthen collaboration between the institutions in future. Ijaz Afridi elaborated

that the MoU aims at Vice equipping graduates and



HYDERABAD: Residents of Badin are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police and influent people, at Hyderabad press club

#### 15 more dengue cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 15 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 116.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood. Wednesday said that, among the new cases, six patients had arrived from Chaklala Cantonment, five from Potohar town urban area, three from Municipal Corporation, and one from Rawalpindi Cantonment

He said 35 patients were admitted to City's allied hospitals, out of which 24 were confirmed cases while 77 were discharged after treatment.

Dr Sajjad informed district the administration registered 82 FIRs, issued tickets to 23, sealed 14 premises, and a fine of Rs 100,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

The health officer said that dengue cases were being reported across the district while the health authority along with allied departments was making efforts to control the spread of the disease.

### PM assures Sindh govt of centre's all-out support

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday met Interim Sindh Chief Minister him of the federal artists in Balochistan. government's all-out

In the meeting, the prime minister of the administrative affairs of the province and the issues being faced by the caretaker government.

They reiterated their resolve to cooperate with the Election Commission of Pakistan for holding free and fair elections.

(APP): Renowned Actor Zahir Caretaker Prime Minister Lehri on Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq here and apprised him of Maqbool Baqirand assured the problems faced by the

The prime minister support to run the assured the government's province's administrative full cooperation to the

chief minister apprised the congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office and expressed good wishes for him.

The prime minister thanked the actor for the

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi also attended the



LAHORE: A delegation led by Bishop of Lahore, Nadeem Kamran in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

#### Finance minister reviews construction of 2.1m houses for flood victims

KARACHI (APP): Sindh committed to the timely Caretaker Minister for construction of flood-Finance, Revenue, and Planning and Development Mohammad Younus Dagha, presided over a meeting to review the construction of 2.1 million houses for flood victims in the province.

The meeting was held at Sindh Secretariat Tughlaq House in the office of the Planning and Development department on Wednesday.

and Development Board Syed Hasan Naqvi, Chief Executive Officer Sindh People's Housing Scheme for Flood Affected People Khalid Mehmood Sheikh, and other officers briefed the minister.

Younus Dagha said that the directed that the report of construction of 2.1 million the construction work houses for the flood done in the period of six victims is a big project. The months of payment should Sindh government is be submitted step by step.

construction of floodaffected houses, he added.

He said that the verification process of 500,000 flood-affected houses has been completed and funds should be released immediately for their construction. The work of verification of the rest of the damaged houses should also be completed as soon as possible, he said.On this occasion, it was informed in the Chairman Planning briefing that Rs 3,00,000 will be given to the residents of each affected house and the process of payment for the affected houses should be completed within a fixed

period of six months. On this occasion, On this occasion, Muhammad Younus Dagha

#### **Ombudsman Punjab provides** relief of Rs. 1.09 mln to Ramzan bazar suppliers

order of the Ombudsman Suleman Khan, the outstanding dues outstanding dues amounting to Rs.1,090,950 have been paid to the suppliers of different outstanding dues to the articles for Ramzan bazar complainants, in that any of Sargodha district.

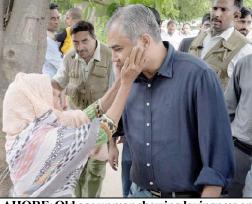
According to a spokesman of the office of Ombudsman, the complainant filed a complaint that he supplied sugar and oil for Ramzan

but even after the Ramzan,

LAHORE (APP): On the the former Assistant Commissioner Sargodha Punjab, Major (retd) Azam did not pay him a single penny against the goods supplied. The Ombudsman

> further delay. The outstanding

ce of dues amounting to Rs the 9,41,000 of similar kind of suppliers were also cleared by the district administration of Sargodha bazar of Sargodha district, on the directions of Ombudsman Punjab.



LAHORE: Old age woman showing lovingness and praying for caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi during his visit to Children Hospital.

#### IGP releases Rs. 2.4m funds for treatment of injured cops

Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has released funds worth Rs. 2.4 million.

The applications received from various districts including Lahore were reviewed in detail by the Welfare Branch's Compensation Award Committee, after which 16 police officers and officials of various districts were approved for financial assistance of medical treatment.

On recommendations of the committee, IG Puniab Dr. Usman Anwar

funds of Rs. 2.4 million. According to details, constables Rafiq Hussain and Mohammad Javed were approved to give Rs.3

issued orders for release of

Likewise, constables Asif Ali, Safdar Ali, Waheed Anwar and Muhammad Usman were given 2 lac each. Whereas, Mureed Hussain, Falak, Muhammad Safdar and Shaukat Ali, Muhammad Siddique, Nasr Javed, Muhammad Afzal, Abdul Rasheed and Mubarak Hussain were approved to give Rs. 1 lakh each.

#### provision of nourishing meals to school students GILGIT (APP): "The Secretary said. Gilgit-Baltistan Government is actively ensuring the provision of nourishing meals to primary school students across Gilgit Baltistan as Program Policy Officer, part of its School Khana met with me. He said it is Program, said Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Muhiudeen Wani in an official statement to media here Wednesday. He said

GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan

Assembly Sadia Danish and Minister Finance

Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Ismail giving away

flower bouquet to the newly elected member of GB

Assembly Jamil Ahmad at Assembly Secretariat.

CS GB says:

GB govt actively ensuring

this initiative aims to offer highly nutritious, costeffective, and locally sourced food to all individuals. "Currently, the program has been extended to 75 schools, resulting in a remarkable 25 percent increase in enrollment, a rise in attendance from 60 percent to 95 percent and significant enhancements in students' BMI" the Chief

He added, today, a delegation from the World

Food Program (WFP), led by Joyce Owigar, Head SO 2 and Yasir Ithasham. with great pleasure that we announce the World Food Program's recognition of the diligent efforts made by the GB Government under its flagship project, the "School Khana Program."

said He recognition has led to a collaborative agreement between the World Food Program and the Government of Gilgit Baltistan to further expand and enhance this commendable initiative

#### rise in Sutlej, **PDMA** issues threat alert LAHORE

Water level may

Disastér Provincial Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab on Wednesday issued another flood warning, possibility of further increase in water level in River Sutlej due to rains occurred in upper catchments during last 24 hours.

In a threat alert issued by the PDMA, Director General PDMA Imran Qureshi instructed to the administration of the districts adjacent to the Sutlej to remain alert. It has also been instructed to deploy sufficient staff round-the-clock effective coordination and response, and collect and share latest information in line with national and provincial authorities.

#### 10 dead, 1182 injured in Punjab road accidents LAHORE (APP): At least

10 people were killed and 1182 injured in 1159 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Of whom, 567 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 615 people with minor injuries were treated on the spot by rescue medical teams. Analysis show that 582 drivers, 50 underage drivers, 149 pedestrians, and 461 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics show that 269 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 283 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 87 in Faisalabad with 81 victims

#### Bid to smuggle arms foiled; two accused held

and at third Multan with 83

road accidents and 83

PESHAWAR (APP): The Gulberg police here on Wednesday foiled a bid to smuggle a huge quantity of arms to different districts of the province and arrested two-member of a gang of inter-district smugglers. According to police, DSP Cantt Haroon Jadoon and SHO Gulberg police Tariq Khan acting on a tip-off conducted a raid on Bara road and arrested two suspects riding in a car. During the checking of the vehicle, the police recovered unregistered 45

The police arrested the accused from the spot and took the vehicle and arms into custody and started investigation.

pistols of different bores.

#### Jaranwala tragedy: Religious scholars, political leaders unite in Islamabad Declaration to promote harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): The religious scholars representing various schools of thought and political leaders on Wednesday announced the 'Islamabad Declaration' to foster both interfaith and intra-faith harmony in response to the recent Jaranwala trag-

The joint conference took place at the 'Our Lady of Fatima Church' in the federal capital, where leaders from different backgrounds unequivocally condemned the appalling inci-

dent that occurred in Jaranwala and called for Punjab governments, the ances of the affected indiswift trials and exemplary punishment for those allegedly responsible for this inhumane act, underscoring their commitment to jus-

The collective leader-ship also issued a demand for the government to conduct an impartial and thorough investigation into the incident emphasizing to make its findings public, and to ensure transparency and accountability.

Expressing apprecia

the victims' families whose homes were demolished and the allocation of funds for the rehabilitation of religious sites belonging to the Christian community in the

affected region. Commending these steps, the leaders urged the relevant authorities to expedite the entire process to provide a sigh of relief to the affected community.

leaders acknowledged the viduals would contribute to compensation provided to the collective healing pro-

> The religious and political leaders extended their gratitude to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Kakar and nominated Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa for their visit to the site of the incident, along with Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir's statement expressing deep concern over the disgraceful events



JARANWALA: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmad, chairing a meeting Christian community and Muslim Ulama at AC Office on his visit to Jaranwala.

### Infrastructure Projects play crucial role in improving connectivity: Sami Saeed

SLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister Muhammad Sami Saeed convened performance review meetings on the functions of infrastructure development and Monitoring & Evaluation Wings.

In the meeting, Mr. Waqas Anwar, Member Infrastructure delivered a detailed overview of projects spanning diverse sectors in transportation and commu-

The Minister stressed that Infrastructure Projects play key role in improving connectivity and in meeting the challenges posed by Climate change and Water scarcity. He added that building resilient and weather resistant Infrastructure to embrace the climate induced calamities is the need of the hour. In another subsequent

meeting that reviewed the

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Karim Jamali, CEO OESCO.

Quetta calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad

Governor Balochistan assures:

Steps to be taken to make

procedure of financial aid

for poor people: Governor

satisfaction for us that the financial assistance is pro-

vided to the poor people

BISP's basic objective is to

improve standard of living

of the marginalized groups

and especially those living

below the poverty line.

said that the concerned in-

stitutions would be ap

proached for providing

benefits of the programme

to the people living in

scattered areas of the prov-

ery possible cooperation

would remain with the

BISP, adding he assured.

In this regard, our ev-

He said that the

He on the occasion

under BISP.

Sadia Sanirani at Parliament House.

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar has stated

that steps would be taken

for making the procedure of

getting financial assistance

for poor people easier un-der the Benazir Income

Support Programme

speaking to the Director

General BISP, Abdul Jabbar

who called on him here at

the Governor House on

Wednesday.
The Governor ap-

plauded the untiring efforts

of DG BISP for providing

financial assistance to the

poor and deserving seg-

ments of the society. He

for him, at Quetta Press Club.

**Independent Report** 

planting a tree is a sadqa-e-

lenges of climate change can

plantation.

The Governor was

progress evaluation of the Progress and Development warrants harnessing and Monitoring and Evaluation optimal utilization of re-Wing, Dr. Zahir Shah, the respective Member, and sources with an entrenched Project Director M & E, Monitoring and Evaluation presented a thorough mechanism in place. briefing on real-time project monitoring and ated that Monitoring and Evaluation wing of the Ministry of Planning and

The presentation also underscored the Intelligent Project Automation System and outlined forthcoming action plans. It was highlighted that with the integration of technology, impact analysis of development projects has become mandatory under directions issued by the Central Development Working Party for comprehensive project assessment.

Caretaker Federal Minister Muhammad Sami Saeed expressed his resolve and commitment to continue the development endeavors. stated that

timeliness in Monitoring and Evaluation He added that in a resource constraint environment, robust Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism is indispensable in improving the effectiveness of Development expenditure. The Minister also emphasized to accelerate the pace of implementation and en-

The Minister appreci-

Development function is

commendable as it laid the

groundwork to employ In-

formation Technology that

will improve the quality and

#### PPP delegation calls on PM

sure the quality of execu-

KARACHI (APP): A delegation comprising the leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here. The members of the delegation apprised the prime minister of the problems confronting Sindh particularly Karachi.

The delegation consisted of Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Qaim Ali Shah, Syed Murad Ali Shah

#### Aneeq says: Govt to fully protect minorities' rights FAISALABAD (APP): Jaranwala incident and

Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad said on Wednesday the government would fully protect the rights of minorities by penalizing the culprits involved in Jaranwala

Talking to the media during his visit to Jaranwala, he said that minorities were an integral part of Pakistan as the national flag reflected existence of minorities, whereas the Constitution of Pakistan also provided guarantee to protect their rights. He condemned the

quoted reference of different Quranic verses and Ahadis

in which the Muslims were emphasized to defend rights of the minorities. He said that Jaranwala tragedy was a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched to create rift among the Muslimand the Christians. However, the government and other law enforcing agencies took immediate action and foiled nefarious designs of miscre-

ants, he added. He said that Islam is a religion of peace and it always promoted tranquility and brotherhood.

#### Sanjrani, CEO Qesco discuss issues relating efficient power supply to Balochistan

ISLAMABAD Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Quetta Electric Power Supply (Qesco) Abdul Karim Jamali on Wednesday held a productive meeting with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani to address critical matters concerning the efficient power supply to Balochistan. Comprehensive discussion on the pressing issues pertaining to the uninterrupted and reliable supply of electricity to the province was held in between the two. Qesco chief presented their strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the power disBalochistan to cater to the growing energy demands of the region. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the significance of a stable power supply for the socio-economic development of Balochistan. He lauded Qesco's efforts to improve their services and infrastructure, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts between governmental bodies and power utilities to ensure the well-being and progress of the province's residents. The meeting emphasized the importance of aligning strategiesto overcome challenges and achieve the common goal of delivering consistent electricity



QUETTA: Former Provincial Ministers Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani, Mir Zahoor Buledi and Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Kha Domki

#### role for dev. of country: Ghazala

seats lined.

They expressed these views while talking to a delegation of women called on

Both leaders said that the PPP was the party of martyrs and ghazis, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari bring employment to the people.

#### Security forces kill active terrorist in Ladha fire exchange

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces have killed an active terrorist during an exchange of fire exchange in the wee hours of Wednesday in the general area Ladha of South Waziristan District.

#### **Secretary Information says** Access to information is basic element of any democratic society

**Independent Report** OUETTA: The Secretary

Information Department, Hamza Shafqaat has stated that the Right to Information Balochistan Act 2021 has been prepared and the establishment of Information Commission is in its final stages.

The Secretary Information was speaking at the closing ceremony of twoday awareness workshop for the public information officers organized by AID Balochistan in collaboration with Information Department here on Wednes-

He said that access to information is the basic element of any democratic society. He said that under the RTI Act, any citizen of the province has the right to acquire information from any department or institu-

While the provincial departments and institutions would be bound to mation to the applicants

mation appreciated the efforts of AID Balochistan for

maintained.

under the relevant law, he

The Secretary Inforcreating awareness among the general public about RTI law and imparting training to the public information officers.

Meanwhile, he distributed certificates among participants of the work-

Earlier, the master trainer of workshop, Mir Behram Lehri, Mir Behram Baloch, Muhammad Asif, Syed Raza Ali, Rana Ahsan and Horain talking about different aspects of the RTI Balochistan Act.

The Executive Director Adil Jahangir praised the efforts of Secretary Information for formation of the Information Commission in the province.

It may be mentioned here that public information officers and other concerned staff of 13 departprovide the required informents participated in the



OUETTA: Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat giving away certificate to master trainer Mir Behram Lehri after conclusion of RTI workshop

They were of the view

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Kha Domki being briefed about affairs of department of Home and Tribal Affairs. Caretaker Home Minister and Chief Secretary are also present

#### For free, fair elections in Balochistan CM directs concerned high ups to provide peaceful environment

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan

Domki has stated that it is main job of the caretaker government to provide peaceful environment for the free and fair elections in

He directed the concerned authorities to take practical steps for providing base to conduct free and fair elections in peaceful environment. These directives were

issued by the caretaker Chief Minister while chairing a high level meeting held about the overall functioning of Home and Tribal Affairs Department, here on Wednesday.

The Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief partment to perform better,

Muhammad Nasar, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khalique Sheikh and other concerned senior officials were present in the meet-

The meeting was briefed about departmental affairs of the Home and Tribal Affairs department besides coordination of the department with other departments and their func-

The meeting was also briefed about the performance of police force and

its special units. Speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that it is job of the interim government to provide peaceful environment for conducting the elections in transparent

For the purpose, it is necessary for the Home de-

#### Secretary Home, Saleh adding he stressed. 1t Pakistan-KSA Joint **Special Forces Exercise AL BATTAR-I begins**

The First Pakistan-KSA 'Joint Special Forces Exercise AL BATTAR-I' be- maximum benefits from gan on Wednesday with opening ceremony at

Cherat. The special forces of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are participating in the twoweek long exercise, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release

The exercise is aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations between the two countries, including nurturing of joint employment

RAWALPINDI (APP): eas of mutual interest for future military collaboration, with a view to accrue each other's experience in employment against terror-

> The national anthems of both countries were played at the start of the ceremony. Senior officials from the two armed forces were present on the occa-

Such joint military exercises between armies of the two brotherly countries were aimed at enhancing existing bilateral relations and benefiting from each other's experience, ISPR



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing on the seminar regarding breast feeding.

#### Samina calls on American **Political & Economic Chief Shelly Saxon**

QUETTA (APP): Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and American Political and Economic Chief Shelly Saxon held a vital meeting at the American Consulate on

Wednesday. During a meeting, both leaders discussed various topics, especially women's representation in political parties and being the women's representative of Balochistan Awami Party, elections, Balochistan politics.

There was a lively discussion about the role of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and the party as an emerging political force.

Earlier, American Political and Economic Chief Shelly Saxon welcomed Samina Mumtaz Zehri on

her arrival at the American

While discussing on this occasion, Shelly Saxon appreciated the political and social services of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri Senator Samina

Mumtaz Zehri informed to US Political and Economic Chief Shelley Saxon about the role of women in Balochistan politics and the role of women in the BAP as an emerging political

She said that many women have been appointed to high positions in including Balochistan in the past and have performed their duties

She said that BAP believed in democratic values and the focus of our politics is the welfare of the people and equal rapid de-

#### launches dialogue drive ahead of **SDG** summit ISLAMABAD (APP):

UN Pak

Ahead of the International Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York next month, the United Nations in Pakistan on Wednesday launched a dialogue campaign with stakeholders across the country. The UN office in Islamabad will engage more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities outside of the federal and provincial capitals to discuss development priorities across the country.

In total, more than 1.000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges they face, and how they impede eco-nomic and social progress in their districts, a press release on Wednesday said.

The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks.

'These dialogues will United Nations ager cies better understand which development issues local leaders see as their priorities outside of the federal and provincial capitals.' said Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan.

#### **PML-N forms** 7-member delegation for **ECP consultation**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) has constituted a seven-member team to engage in discussions with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding consultations on electoral procedures.

In a statement Marriyum Aurangzeb, the party's Secretary of Information, said the Election Commission Secretary has officially invited the Pakistan Muslim League (N) for discussions on electoral procedures, which are scheduled for August 25 at

Comprising seven members, the delegation includes Ahsan Iqbal, the Secretary General of PML-N, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Zahid Hamid, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Rana Sanaullah Khan, Engineer Amir Maqam (Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Presidents respectively) and Attaullah Tarar, Deputy Secretary General will visit ECP on Friday for consultations.

#### Four killed, 3 injured over financial dispute in Lakki Marwat

MARWAT LAKKI (Online): As many as 4 people died as a result of clash between two groups over money dispute in Lakki Marwat.

According to policemen, two groups exchanged fire in a fair in Lakki Marwat as a result of which 4 people lost their lives and 3 people were also injured in the firing.

Policemen said that firing took place over a dispute over money transactions. Dead bodies and injured were shifted to hospital

Policemen started

raids to arrest the suspects.

over the province. He directed to the con-QUETTA: The caretaker

Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurated the Monsoon tree plantation campaign in the among general public about plantation campaign in the province on Wednesday. He planted the sapling of Quetta pine in the Chief Minister's secretariat marking launch of the campaign all over the province.

Domki opens monsoon tree

plantation campaign by

planting Quetta Pine sapling

Earlier, the caretaker Also present were the Secretary Forests Department, Noor Muhammad Pirkani and other concerned high ups. Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that aria. He said that the chaltariat the same morning. Also present on the

be coped with through tree He stressed that we have to ensure protection Babar Khan besides others

and increase of forests ll

cerned high ups to create taking part in the tree plantation campaign. He also said that it is necessary to look after and care the plants after their plantation.

Chief Minister was informed that some 400,000 trees would be planted on Wednesday all over the province. Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan also planted a sapling in the civil secre-

occasion were the Secretary Forests, Noor Muhammad Pirkani, Secretary S&GAD,

## **PPP** playing

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan Women's Wing President Ghazala Gola and General Secretary Zarina Zehri on Wednesday said that the PPP was playing due role to put the country on track of development.

PPP's workers should prepare for the general elections in order to win the upcoming election with majority Balochistan, they under-

QUETTA: Activists of National Party (NP) are holding protest demonstration against attack on Mir Douran Khan Khosa and demanding justice

activities in the area, it said.

The army troops effectively engaged the terrorists and resultantly one of them was sent to hell, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. Weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in various terrorist