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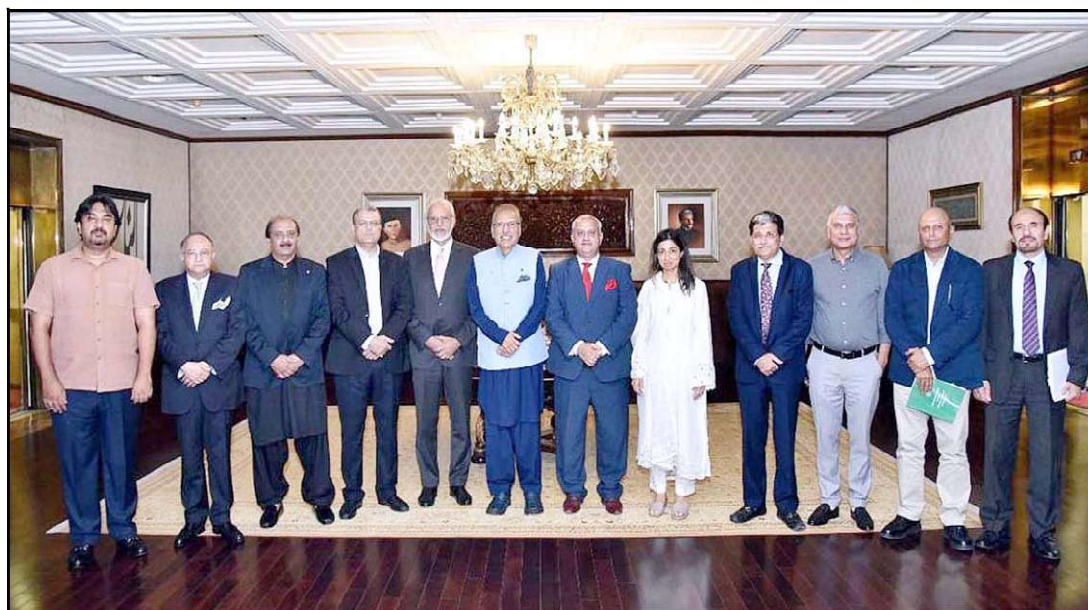
President assures support on PEMRA (Amend) Bill 2023

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

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

The delegation included Afzal Butt, Arshad Ansari, Naz Afsheen Saigol, Samad Ali, Shahab Zuberi, Shakeel Masud, Ijaz ul Haq, Kazim Khan, Ayaz Khan, and Azhar Abbas. Talking to the delegation, the president appreciated the collective efforts of the media community for introducing amendments to the PEMRA law, especially to protect the rights of media workers. He said that the linking of government advertisements with the payment of dues to electronic media employees would help address their issues.

The president discussed in detail various aspects of the bill with the visiting delegation. The amended bill had brought improvements to the existing media law, he said. He also asked the members of the delegation to volunteer to educate the youth about fake news and disinformation, and highlighted that teenagers were among the most vulnerable populations to the scourge of fake news, and needed to be educated and sensitized about its implications.



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



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

Caretaker PM vows to eliminate terrorism, promote peace

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the residence of Amir of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman to express condolences on the death of his party workers who were martyred during a terrorist attack on a party convention in Khar, Bajaur district.

The prime minister of the departed souls and prayed for the early recovery of the injured. He reiterated that terrorist elements could not deter the morale of Pakistani nation and assured taking of steps against terrorism and maintenance of law and order in the country on priority basis.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on the occasion, felicitated PM Kakar on assuming the office of the caretaker prime minister and extended his best wishes. Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori also accompanied the prime minister, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



Care taker PM decides to induct small cabinet

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

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

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

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

As per sources the name of Faisal Wawda, Maj (Retd) Khuram Hamid Rokhri, Shahid Afridi, Qari Sadaqat Ali, Ahmad Cheema, Mushtaq Sukhera, Muhammad Ali Durrani, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Absar Alam, Salim Safi, Hamid Mir, Hafiz Sheikh, Gohar Ejaz, Dr Shoaib Siddiq, Ahsan Bhoon, Sarfraz Bugti, Zulfiqar Cheema, Shamsad Akhtar, Raza Baqir, Ashtar Ausaf,

Maqbool Baqar appointed as Caretaker CM Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori Tuesday approved the summary for appointment of Justice Maqbool Baqar as Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh as Chief Minister and the leader of the opposition in provincial assembly unanimously agreed and recommended his name for the post.

The governor while exercising his powers conferred on him under Article 224 (1-A) of constitution, accorded approval for appointment of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Maqbool Baqar as Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh. Chief Minister Sayed Murad Ali Shah also moved a summary to the governor for the appointment of caretaker Chief Minister as required by the constitution.

PTI chairman's interim bail dismissed in three cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad rejected bail petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, who is incarcerated in Attock Jail, in three cases after he could not appear before court. ATC Judge Abul Hassan announced the reserved decision in three cases and rejected his bail petitions after former prime minister failed to show up before the court.

Earlier on Friday, the anti-terrorism court in Lahore dismissed interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief in seven cases over no-show.

ATC Judge Aijaz Butt heard the bail plea of PTI chairman in seven cases including Jinnah House attack case. At the outset of the hearing, Barrister Salman Safdar, former prime minister's lawyer, requested the court to grant a day exemption from court appearance to his client as he is currently in jail and cannot appear before the court for bail extension.

Safdar pleaded with the court not to reject the plea on the technical grounds on which the judge remarked that already your client has been given numerous chances. Later, the court dismissed the interim bail plea of former prime minister and PTI chairman in seven cases.

Interim PM Kakar says Continuity of economic policies will be ensured

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that the government would ensure continuity in the economic policies, besides further improving them. He said that further enhancement of foreign investment under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was among the top priorities of the caretaker setup.

The prime minister chaired a meeting in which he was given a detailed briefing over the economic situation, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that work on the public welfare projects would continue and the government would ensure provision of international quality facilities in the health and education sectors. He also directed for expediting ongoing reforms in the power sector and strict implementation of measures for increasing tax revenues.

Prime Minister Kakar said that the caretaker government would concentrate on deregulation and responsible autonomy for further improvement of the economy and expressed the resolve to focus their energies on economic reforms during their tenure.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including governor State Bank of Pakistan, secretaries Finance Division and Power and chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The meeting was briefed over the steps taken for bringing further improvement and stability in the economy.

A detailed briefing was also given over the reforms in the power sector. The caretaker prime minister directed for submission of detailed reports regarding ongoing reforms in all sectors.

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

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

The meeting was briefed in detail about the ongoing work on Pinjarra bridge on Quetta-Sukkur Highway and Sawar bridge on Quetta-Zhob Road.

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

A causeway was constructed after floods which restored the vehicular movement. The construction period of the new bridge with 15-meter height and 12-meter width, would take about nine months, it was further added.

The prime minister directed for reducing the stipulated time period for the completion of new bridge. The meeting was apprised that the reconstruction and rehabilitation work on 118-km long Quetta-Dhadar Road and 188-km Dhadar-Jacobabad Road would be undertaken anew which would not only help in fuel saving, but also reduce the vehicular pressure.

It was also informed about the repair work on Sawar bridge. The repair work on the 282-meter long bridge was in the final stages while during the work, the traffic could not be diverted due to lack of alternate route.

The reconstruction work on the bridge would commence soon and its completion would take about six months.

The caretaker PM observed that the National Highway Authority (NHA) was playing an efficient role in the maintenance and construction of roads. He emphasized upon completion of road infrastructure in the Balochistan province and directed the reconstruction of Karachi to Chaman highway.

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

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

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

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

The CJP remarked delimitation of constituencies is matter of public interest. The matter of delimitation of constituencies has come in SC several times. EC should conduct delimitation of constituencies in transparent manner. There is too much sensitivity on

delimitation of constituencies in Sindh. It is often complained by Sindh that delimitation of constituencies was not carried out correctly.

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

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

Later the SC returned the matter of delimitation of constituencies to EC. It may be mentioned that delimitation of provincial constituencies PS 7, 8 and 9 Shikar pur, Sindh were challenged in SC.

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

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

Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C.

Urooj Aftab is an internationally recognized Pakistani American vocalist, music composer and producer in the United States. She is the first Pakistani woman to ever win a GRAMMY award.

Lauding her achievement especially in bringing the people of Pakistan and US closer to each other with the power of music, Ambassador Masood Khan said that that diplomacy and interstate relations were all about perceptions and Urooj Aftab has helped changing the perceptions about Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference are shouting slogans during protest outside Foreign Office to commemorate Indian Independence Day as Black Day because of their oppressor attitude with the innocent citizens of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

NA speaker extends felicitations to Pakistan Civil Award nominees

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, on Tuesday, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the individuals nominated for the prestigious Pakistan Civil Awards in a gesture of appreciation and recognition.

These awards, which acknowledge remarkable contributions in diverse fields, including social, public, educational, scientific,

heroic, artistic, literary, cultural figure, Syed Qaim Ali Shah stands as the sole surviving member of the 1973 Constitutional Committee, having the distinct honor of signing the Constitution. Given his extensive political, social, constitutional, and public contributions, the conferment of the esteemed Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian award, is seen as a commendable acknowledgment," he maintained.

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

Independent Report

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

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

Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar — a lawmaker belonging to Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — has been selected as caretaker prime minister. The decision came after the second round of consultations between

the prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved NA Raja Riaz, and a summary to this effect had been approved by President Arif Alvi under Article 224 1A. In Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved provincial assembly Rana Ansar on Monday night reached a consensus on the appointment of Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar as the interim CM.

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

The ECP said that it was mandated with the constitutional duty to organise and conduct elections in terms of Article 218(3) of the Constitution and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the elections are conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with the law. "It has become imperative that the ECP shall take all necessary steps under the Constitution and prevalent law for the smooth conduct of general elections," it added.

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

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Wednesday August 16, 2023

Resurgent terrorism

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

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

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

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

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

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



Arifa Noor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shortly after came

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

eventuality.

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

Fighting disability with creativity



Dr Naazir Mahmood

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

Zahid is a master learner; he quickly adapted

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

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

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

Disability rights are not the only area he is working

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

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

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

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

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

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

Girls and women with disabilities face extraordi-

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

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

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

across many different parts of Lahore."

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

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

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

Let's adapt



Aisha Khan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

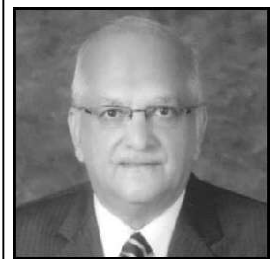
Investing in human capital with a focus on science and technology has been the foundational building block for developed countries to become resilient societies. We need to deliver quality education to all citizens to build a resource pool for functions needed by the state to optimise opportunities for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

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

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

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

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



Parvez Rahim

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

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

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

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

Workers' benefit

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

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

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

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

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

through a parliamentary majority. Doing so would be in the interest of all stakeholders. EOBI could then fix the same amount of contribution across the country.

Pensioners wouldn't have to wait for years for an increase in pensions; employers would have no cause to agitate. The authorities should realise that EOBI will not sustain the current ad hoc arrangement for long.

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

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

CM for boosting efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the 'Roshan Ghar' rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Raiwand on Tuesday, where he assessed the facilities provided for the recovery of individuals struggling with drug addiction.

He thoroughly inspected the various sections and wards dedicated to the drug addicts, engaging with them and encouraging them to overcome their addiction. During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi emphasised the need to enhance the rehabilitation and treatment services for drug addicts. He also issued directives for the establishment of new centers to cater to their rehabilitation. He assigned the task of building additional centers to the Secretary of Social Welfare

and the Secretary of Health, with a mandate to complete centers with a combined capacity of 400 beds across different areas of Lahore within a span of two weeks.

The CM also highlighted the importance of providing quality nutrition and regular supply of fruits to the addicts at 'Roshan Ghar'. He pledged to allocate all necessary resources for effective treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and he stressed the significance of digitising the records of these individuals.

While touring the facility, Mohsin Naqvi visited the computer lab and domestic tailoring lab that serve the drug addicts. He acknowledged the devastating impact of addiction on families and expressed his commitment to helping those affected find a path to recovery. As

part of the effort to combat drug trafficking, a comprehensive crackdown had been initiated across Punjab.

The chief minister received detailed briefings from the Secretary of Social Welfare regarding the rehabilitation process for drug addicts and from the Secretary of Health concerning the available treatment facilities.

The briefing revealed that 'Roshan Ghar' currently houses up to 100 beds. Present on this occasion were Provincial Minister of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Dr. Javed Akram, along with the secretaries of Health, Industry and Excise, Commissioner of Lahore, Director General of Social Welfare, Deputy Commissioner, Principal of Allama Iqbal Medical College and other relevant officers.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Tuesday handed over former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on physical remand till August 21 in a case of receiving kickbacks in development projects.

Earlier, the NAB team produced the PTI president before Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani amid strict security. Advocate Amjad Pervaiz requested the court to grant him 5 minutes to talk to his client before submitting arguments,

which was granted by the court.

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

He further alleged that after settling the matter of

the kickbacks, the amounts for the projects were released even before the commencement of the work. He submitted that the step was also a violation of the law and the bureau had strong evidence in this regard.

At this stage, Parvez Elahi's counsel Advocate Amjad Parvaiz submitted that the cases were pending at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court against the arrest of his client. Therefore, the court should give the physical remand of Parvez Elahi till Monday, so that the decision of the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court would also come by then, he added.



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

LWMC, Motorway Police sign MoU for licensing of drivers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company and National Highway and Motorway Police on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical training and licensing of drivers of operational vehicles.

More than 3,000 LWMC drivers will be assisted in technical training and licensing.

Under the MoU, LWMC's drivers and other staff will be eligible for international licence, on completion of technical training. Further, the Education Wing of Motorway Police will provide awareness about road safety and rules.

According to LWMC spokesman Umar Chaudhary, Motorway Police Sector Commander Shahbaz Alam and Deputy CEO LWMC Fahad Mehmood signed the

MoU. LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, DIG Motorway Police Ahmed Nasir Aziz Wark, and a large number of LWMC officers including a licensing and education team from Motorway Police participated in the event.

Addressing the event, LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din said that the department is taking all possible steps to train and guide workers.

"Trained staff is the strong pillar of the organization. Our workers are our valuable asset who perform the duties of cleaning Lahore with full honesty and hard work on every occasion and festival," he added.

He thanked IG Motorway Police Ahmed Nasir Aziz for supporting this great initiative and requested the cooperation of citizens to support the LWMC staff.

Restoration of Lahore's historical gates approved

LAHORE (Online): Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has approved the plan to restore four historical gates to their original condition out of 11 historical gates and one Mori.

It has been reported that the summary sent by the Walled City Authority has also been approved, according to which the project will cost seven and a half crore rupees.

The historic gates to be restored are Shiranwala Gate, Lohari Gate, Kashmiri Gate and Roshnai Gate, instructions have been issued to remove all encroachments from outside.

Five injured as lightning strike hits Attock Kurd police station

ATTOCK (APP): The Attock Kurd Police station turned into rubble as a Police spokesman attributed it to lightning which hit the building in the early hours of Tuesday. Five policemen were also injured in the incident, among them one critical.

According to a police spokesman, the lightning hit a portion of the police station where the mall khana was established which results in a blast subsequently the whole building was damaged. The spokesman has said that five police officials including assistant sub-inspector Imtiaz, Wireless operator Bilawal Siddiqui, constable Sajjad, Faizan, and Touqeer.

One of the injured was shifted to Rawalpindi due to his critical injuries. Soon after the incident, rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and carried out rescue services. The fire tenders have extinguished the fire.

Minister inaugurates new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore

LAHORE (APP): In a bid to boost tourism, the Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism Amir Mir on Tuesday inaugurated four new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore.

Through a collaboration of Punjab Tourism Department and Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), these newly introduced single-deck buses would now run on the roads of the city.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the minister said the new buses would also be utilized for tours to Wagah Border and Gurdwara Kartarpur. Currently, these buses would operate within Lahore. TDCP's Sales and Tour Promotion Wing would also utilize these

buses for various tour packages, he informed.

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

Police arrest six for possessing illegal weapons

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

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

MULTAN (APP): In a bold move to counter the looming threats of climate change and offer a verdant sanctuary for students, the Department of School Education South Punjab has unveiled plans to cultivate Miyawaki forests in 258 government schools.

The pioneering endeavor, designed to tackle tree scarcity and forge a resilient ecosystem, enters its second phase with 258 selected schools slated to embrace the transformation.

The inaugural planting of the Miyawaki forests is set to unfurl on August 16 (Wednesday) in a gala event at the Government High School Jamia Uloom New Multan. Notable dignitaries including the Secretary of School Education South Punjab, Rana Salim Ahmad Khan, and Secretary of Forests South Punjab, Sarfraz Ahmed, are poised to inaugurate the ambitious campaign.

The concerted effort will usher in the growth of Miyawaki forests

alongside the monsoon planting season, said official source.

The innovative Miyawaki technique promises to usher in forests with a swiftness and density as it is 10 times faster and 30 times thicker, compared to natural forests. Secretary Rana Salim Ahmad Khan underscored the urgency of the initiative, revealing Pakistan's fifth-ranking status among nations bearing the brunt of climate change ramifications. Tackling this dilemma becomes the cornerstone of preserving both the present and the posterity.

Secretary Khan further emphasized that metropolises and densely populated zones, often marred by pollution and a dearth of greenery, would get immense benefits from the Miyawaki Forests. Planting Miyawaki forest is a good idea. It will make cities better and give us cleaner air to breathe. The new forests give us hope for better future, he maintained.



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

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

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

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of 36 officers of under training Pakistan Administrative Service at a delegation of 36 officers of under training Pakistan Administrative Service at the Civil Service Academy who called at his office here on Tuesday.

Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary Services South Punjab Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen and Deputy Director Civil Service Academy Rehmat Wali Khan were also

present in the meeting.

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

ACS said that South Punjab plays a key role in the agricultural production of the country.

IGP orders to launch crackdown to eradicate drug menace in GB

GILGIT (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mahmood Butt on Tuesday issued orders to start crackdown against traffickers and drug addicts to stop the use and sale of drugs in Gilgit-Baltistan.

According to a press release issued from the spokesman of Gilgit-Baltistan police office, IGP Gilgit-Baltistan has given strict instructions to the DIGs of all ranges and the SSPs of all districts

including the DIG Special Branch to prevent drug dealers and traffickers.

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



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

TMA Hangu unveils app for easy access to municipal services

PESHAWAR (APP): National Governance Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Hangu launched an E-TMA app to make access to municipal services easy.

The launching ceremony of the app was held at the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office, Hangu on Tuesday.

TMA Hangu has developed the app in collaboration with FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)—Funded Sub-

National Governance (SNG) Programme. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hangu, Fazal Akbar highlighted the role of the app in establishing a transparent and efficient governance system tailored to meet the needs of the people. This pioneering digital solution, developed in partnership with the Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development (LGERD) KP.

SMBR reviews state land management system

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed reviewed the state land management system under the Directorate of Land Records (DLR) here Tuesday.

Officers from Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Directorate of Land Records (DLR) and other relevant departments attended the meeting. During the meeting, the SMBR issued directives to streamline processes and ensure transparency.

The foremost among these directives was to address the issue of groups unlawfully occupying government land.

Nabil Javed emphasized the zero-

tolerance policy towards corruption and nepotism in the land acquisition system. He stated that any instance of bribery and nepotism would be met with immediate disciplinary action. In a bid to enhance efficiency, he mandated the swift dissemination of all rules and regulations related to land acquisition management to all deputy commissioners (DCs).

He also stressed the need for timely registration of areas which were yet to complete their online registration.

He directed the PLRA to expedite the creation of a comprehensive dashboard as this was in line with the commitment to ensure that government projects did not suffer unnecessary delays.

According to a police spokesman, the lightning hit a portion of the police station where the mall khana was established which results in a blast subsequently the whole building was damaged. The spokesman has said that five police officials including assistant sub-inspector Imtiaz, Wireless operator Bilawal Siddiqui, constable Sajjad, Faizan, and Touqeer.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Anti-Corruption Department and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to provide details of the cases registered against former MNA Mehboob Shah and MPA Humayun.

The bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Qazi Subhan asked the anti-corruption watchdogs to provide details of all the cases and inquiries against the petitioners.

Earlier, the legal

counsel of the petitioner's Advocate Malik Ajmal Advocate said that as soon as the petitioners are released from jail, they are arrested in another case.

He said that anti-corruption bodies had not provided details of the cases and inquiries against them. The court has asked NAB, Anti-Corruption and FIA to respond on the next hearing. Meanwhile, in another case, against former MNA Anwer Taj, the court adjourned the hearing till August 21 due to the unavailability of the legal counsel of the petitioner.

Dr. Yasmeen post arrest bail plea, lawyers' arguments

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorist Court (ATC) heard post arrest bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr. Yasmeen Rashid in four different cases of May 09 incident.

Judge Ijaz Ahmed of ATC heard case.

Court summoned lawyers for arguments.

Case number 23/1271 and 23/1280 in Gulburg Police Station are filed against accused.

Case number 23/36 in Model Town Police Station and case number 23/108 in Server Road police station are also registered against accused Yasmin Rashid.

Anti-polio drive begins in Khyber

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

Commissioner visits DHQ to inspect facilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatha on Tuesday visited the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients there.

He interacted with the patients and their attendants and inquired about the

treatment facilities provided to them at the hospital.

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



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

Kashmiris observe India's Independence Day as black day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris living in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday observed India's Independence Day as a black day to mark protest against long forced and illegal occupation of a large part of Jammu and Kashmir State by India.

According to the report, in district Mirpur, a protest rally was staged to observe the black day, through a unanimously passed resolution warning India to abstain from launching any aggression against Pakistan or Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

"Every individual of AJK is fully prepared to make a defense of inch after inch of the motherland — shoulder to shoulder with valiant armed forces of Pakistan if India dares to launch any attack against Pakistan or AJK", the rally declared.

The rally thanked and paid rich tributes to the

people of Pakistan for their unequivocal full support of Kashmiri's struggle for right self-determination.

The Indian independence day was marked with mass anti-India protest rallies and demonstrations in all small and major towns in the liberated territory including the capital city of Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimbher, Rawalakot, Bagh, Palandri, Neelam Valley, Jhelum valley, Haveli and other towns and villages.

People from diverse segments of civil society including social, political, and other public representative organization attended the rallies holding black flags and wearing black bands around their arms to mark Indian Independence Day as black day. In Mirpur, elders of the city representing all segments of life including social and political workers, employees of private and public sector

organizations besides senior officials led the rally which marched through major city streets including Quid e Azam Chowk, Mian Muhammad Road, Allama Iqbal Road, and central Shaheed chowk raising zindabad slogans for Pakistan and the valiant armed forces of the country. The rally expressed grave concern over the fast-deteriorating conditions of the people in strife-torn and fully-locked indefinite curfew-riddled Indian held Jammu and Kashmir for the past 10 days. India, it said, has later turned the occupied J&K state into the world's largest jail and garrison. The rally, through another resolution, called upon the international community especially the United Nations to immediately move for getting the special status of the disputed Jammu & Kashmir state restored — for onward early peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in line with the UN resolutions.



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

British-Pakistani journalist 'wins right' to sue CNN

ISLAMABAD (INP): British-Pakistani journalist Saima Mohsin has won the right to sue Cable News Network (CNN) for racial discrimination and unfair dismissal in UK Employment Tribunal, the journalist said on Tuesday.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Mohsin wrote: "I won! I won the hearing against CNN."

She also said the employment tribunal will hear her case on unfair dismissal, disability, discrimination and equal pay in London. "Thank you for all your support. Truly it has helped me get through this," she added.

According to Deadline, Judge Klimov ruled in Mohsin's favour following a preliminary hearing last month, meaning that her case can proceed to a full tribunal at the London Central Employment Tribunal.

A date for the hearing is yet to be determined. Mohsin had filed a lawsuit against the news agency for racial discrimi-

nation and unfair dismissal after she was severely injured while on assignment in Israel.

The reporter was left disabled following an accident when she was reporting from Jerusalem on the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Guardian had reported.

She has been struggling to sit, stand, walk, or return to work full time-time after the incident in 2014 — wherein her cameraman ran over her foot in a car, resulting in severe tissue damage.

Following the upsetting event, she urged to media organisation to switch her to a physically less demanding role and support for rehabilitation, but CNN flat-out refused.

"She also alleges that she asked CNN if she could switch to a presenting role in order to reduce the amount of time spent travelling but was told 'You don't have the look we are looking for,'" the Guardian reported.

Three years later, CNN fired her.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula along with Principal, Ms. Sobia Abid distributing shields to student in connection with 77th Independence Day Celebration at Roots International Schools & Colleges, H-8.

Martyred cop laid to rest, son granted to join police dept

ISLAMABAD (APP): The funeral prayer of the valiant martyr and Head Constable of Islamabad Capital Police, Rashid, was held on Tuesday at the police lines headquarters with utmost respect and honor.

The ceremony was attended by a multitude of police personnel, including Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and senior police officers.

The sacrifice of Rashid, who lost his life in the line of duty, was commemorated with somber reverence. A vast gathering of police officers and employees, along with ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, offered their final respects in a touching funeral prayer. The attendees expressed their deep condolences and offered Fateha for the elevation of the martyr's rank.

Honoring the supreme sacrifice made by Head Constable Rashid, his son was announced to be granted a position within

the police department, a fitting tribute to his father's legacy. Additionally, his name will be submitted for consideration for the prestigious 'Tamgha-e-Shujaat' by the ICCPO, recognizing his bravery and dedication.

Head Constable Rashid's journey of valor began on the night of January 17, 2022, when he, along with his fellow policemen headed by ASI Arshad Mehmood, confronted armed terrorists riding on a motorcycle during snap checking at Naka Chaman Road Jilania Chowk in G-8 area of Karachi Company police station.

The attackers, armed with Kalashnikovs and pistols, unleashed a hail of gunfire, resulting in the martyrdom of Head Constable Rashid and Constable Rooh Amin. Despite their best efforts, the injuries proved fatal for Rashid who was struggling for life at the hospital.

SC dismisses contempt of court plea against Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed contempt of court plea against former federal minister Ahsan Iqbal.

Ahsan Iqbal had said he has also respect like a military officer or judge.

The case came up for hearing before CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday.

The CJP remarked Ahsan Iqbal had said he has too respect like any army officer or judge. This sentence is not enough to run a case further.

The CJP remarked this is upto us to decide if the contempt of court has taken place or otherwise. The petitioner Mehmood Akhtar Naqvi Sahb, you informed, thanks.

JIT grills Bushra Bibi for 20 minutes in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Bushra Bibi, who is the former first lady and wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, Tuesday appeared before a joint investigation team (JIT) in connection with the Toshakhana case.

The former first lady reached the DIG Office in Islamabad accompanied by the PTI's legal team where she was interrogated by the investigation team probing the Toshakhana case.

The development comes after Bushra Bibi met Imran Khan in Attock jail earlier today, the sources said, adding that their meeting lasted for about two hours. She had left for the DIG office after her meeting with Khan, the sources added. The session court had directed Bushra Bibi to join the investigation team.

Speaking to media persons after the appearance before the JIT, PTI legal team's Quratul Ain said that Bushra Bibi underwent interrogation for about 20 minutes. The JIT asked 20 questions from the former first lady and she answered all of the questions, Quratul Ain said.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in building a boundary wall on Islamabad Expressway.

Nawaz summons top PML-N leaders to London

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid and former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif has summoned top party leader to London to discuss plans for his return to Pakistan. The leaders who were directed to reach London included former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Khawaja Asif, Rana Sanaullah, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Saiful Malook Khokhar, Ahsan Iqbal and Marriyum Aurangzeb.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani said on Tuesday that despite passage of six days after dissolution of National Assembly, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has not yet announced about elections.

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

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

IHC directs police to produce Afridi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to produce arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) leader Sheharyar Khan Afridi before it on Wednesday and also summoned the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in personal capacity.

Justice Babar Sattar, hearing the case, observed that it was necessary to cite reasons for keeping anyone in custody. He issued show-cause notices to the ICT Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations as to why not contempt of court proceedings should be initiated against them.

NDMRF to kick off country's first ever 3-day DRR Expo today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) is going to inaugurate the country's first-ever three-day disaster risk reduction expo at the Pak-China Friendship Center that will continue from August 16-18 with a vibrant gathering of local and international experts on the subject matter. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the NDRMF is organizing a national-level Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR-23) under the title Making Resilient Pakistan.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of NDRMF, Bilal Anwar in a video message shared on the official Twitter handle of the Fund informed the masses regarding PEDRR-23. During PEDRR-23, a large number of high-level dignitaries, representatives from the international community, government officials, humanitarian organizations, academia, media, and members of the private sector would attend the event.

He said, "PEDRR-23 will comprise of multiple activities including seminars, panel discussions, green talks, student competitions, and academic paper presentations.

Samsam Bukhari quits PTI

LAHORE (INP): Former Punjab minister Samsam Bukhari on Tuesday announced to part ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after condemning May 9 violence.

Samsam Bukhari made this announcement after meeting Istekham-e-Pakistan Party chairman Jahangir Khan Tareen in Lahore.

The meeting was also attended by senior leaders of the party including Aun Chaudhry, Noman Langrial and others.

The former provincial minister is likely to join IPP in the coming days.

Maryam chairs party meeting to interview candidates for in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): An organisational meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Youth Wing was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz to interview candidates for the posts of Youth Coordinators in seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Interviews of candidates from Bannu, Hazara, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand and Kohat divisions were conducted.

The Youth Organising Committees will work under the supervision of the Provincial Youth Organising Committee.

Earlier, the Youth Organising Committee of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was formed. PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif was appointed as the chairperson while Bilal Azhar Kayani as the secretary of the committee.

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ISLAMABAD (INP): An organisational meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Youth Wing was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz to interview candidates for the posts of Youth Coordinators in seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Interviews of candidates from Bannu, Hazara, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand and Kohat divisions were conducted.

Fawad Ch files new written apology in contempt of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has filed new written apology in Election Commission (EC) in contempt of EC case.

The contempt of EC case came up for hearing before 5 members bench of EC presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Tuesday.

Fawad Chaudhry and his counsel Faisal Chaudhry appeared in the court.

Fawad Chaudhry took the plea during the hearing of the case that "you said in order my language was not correct. I am filing my written apology again after correcting my language."

He filed new written apology in the EC.

The CEC while adjourning the hearing of the case till August 24 remarked we order on next hearing.

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

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the hopes and aspirations of the 13-party opposition alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), were dashed to the ground after the appointment of a caretaker prime minister.

In a message on social media, Rashid said that the PDM parties were ashamed of each other and did not even have the courage to congratulate each other on the appointment of the caretaker PM. He said that the PDM parties were asking each other what had happened and how it had happened.

Rashid also criticized the way the 16-month-old PDM government de-

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

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

The leaders said that India was taking their lands, houses, business centers to make Kashmiri Muslims strangers in their own homeland.

APHC leader from Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmir Social Peace Forum, Advocate Devinder Singh Bahl in a statement said that Kashmiri people celebrate India's Independence Day as a black day every year, and every national day of India as a black day. He said that on August 5, 2019, the fascist Modi government violated the rights of the Kashmiri people to turn the Muslim majority of the occupied territory into a minority. Hurriyat leaders Muhammad Yasin Attai, Maulana Musab Nadvi and Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Pir Panjal Freedom Movement and Jammu and Kashmir People.

IPP decides to expose PDM, PTI failed policies

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Istekham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) on Tuesday decided to expose previous rainbow coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on their failed policies.

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

Sources divulged that IPP patron-in-chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and party chairman Abdul Aleem Khan hosted the luncheon to discuss matters related to the general elections.

IPP supreme also instructed the party workers to start campaigning in their respective constituencies.

During the meeting, it was decided to focus on the prices of the petroleum (POL) products and power. The huddle also decided to highlight the issue of the inflated electricity bills.

On this occasion, Mr Tareen vowed to move his party forward for the sake of the national interest. The IPP was gearing up and working hard for the general elections, he added.

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

The IPP patron-in-chief felicitated the nominated divisional presidents of the party.

NHMP foils effort to smuggle ice worth millions of rupees

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police on Tuesday foiled an attempt to smuggle huge quantity of ice worth millions of rupees on Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway.

According to the details, the contraband was recovered near Rishkai Service Area, when patrolling Sector Commander M-1 Shafiqur Rahman signaled to stop a suspicious vehicle. The driver fled from the spot and the Sector Commander M1 issued an instruction to stop the suspicious vehicle and chased it himself. Seeing the Motorway Police from behind, the accused pulled the vehicle off the road and left

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