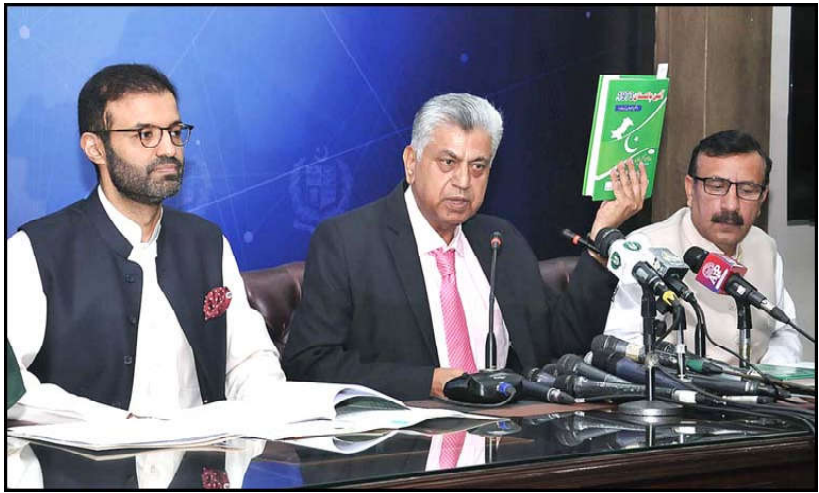


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ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Murtaza Solangi and Federal Law Minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam addressing an important press conference at PID Media Center.

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

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

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

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

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

He said that "The Pakistan Army (Amendment)

Bill 2023 was received by the presidency on August 2, while Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill reached there on August 8, after being passed by the two houses of the Parliament.

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

Ahmed Irfan Aslam said that the President has exercised these powers many times in the recent and distant past. The

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

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

The law minister said that these two bills have not been received back from the President Office despite Article 75 of the Constitution clearly provides a period of ten days in order to avoid any political ambiguity. If the President does not exercise the authority within this time period, the bill is considered to be approved and automatically becomes law as per the constitution, he said.

'God is my witness': President denies signing Official Secrets, Army Act amendment bills

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets Amendment Bill and the Army Act Amendment Bill. In a statement on social networking website X (Twitter), Arif Alvi said that God is witness, I have not signed the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and the Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 because I do not agree with these laws.

He wrote that I had asked my staff to return the bills without signature within the stipulated time to render them ineffective. Dr. Arif Alvi wrote, "I have confirmed with the staff several times whether they have been sent back (without signature) and I

have been assured that they have been sent back.

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

He further wrote that Allah knows all, He will forgive in sha Allah but I ask forgiveness from those who will be affected by it. The Ministry of Law and Justice has noted with grave concern President Dr. Arif Alvi's recent tweet.

The Ministry in a press release stated that as per Article 75 of the Constitution, when a Bill is sent for assent, the President has two options: either give assent, or refer the matter to the parliament with specific observations.

Article 75 does not provide for any third option.

In the instant matter, neither of the requirements was fulfilled. Instead, the President purposely delayed the assent.

Returning the bills without any observations or assent is not provided for in the Constitution. Such a course of action is against the letter and spirit of the constitution.

If the President had any observations, he could have returned the bills with his observations like he did in the recent and distant past. He could have also issued a press release to that effect.

It is a matter of con-

cern that the President has chosen to discredit his own officials. The President should take responsibility for his own actions.

Meanwhile PPP, PML-N call for President Alvi's resignation after he denies signing bills.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sunday demanded President Arif Alvi's resignation after the head of the state denied signing two crucial bills related to the army and secrets laws.

In a startling turn of events, President Alvi said he did not sign the bills amending the Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan

Army Act into law as he "disagreed with these laws".

Alvi, in a post on social media platform X formerly known as Twitter, said he had asked his office staff to return the bills unsigned within the stipulated time to make them "ineffective".

"I confirmed from them many times that whether they have been returned and was assured that they were. However, I have found out today that my staff undermined my will and command. As Allah knows all, He will forgive Insha'Allah. But I ask forgiveness from those who will be effected," the president said.

Govt to ensure security, create jobs: Caretaker PM

KAN MEHTARZAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar said on Sunday that efforts would be made to provide employment opportunities and maintain peace and security while expediting the development process in Kan Mehtarzai, Killa Saifullah and other areas of Balochistan.

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

the issues faced by local people.

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

A large number of people including leaders of various political parties, tribal elders, scholars, journalists, farmers, lawyers and students participated in the reception ceremony.



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

Shahid Ashraf Tarar visits NHA headquarters after assuming charge

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

Head of the Public Relations Department Sabtain Raza Lodhi, conveyed that a warm welcome was extended to Shahid Ashraf Tarar by various officials, including Federal Secretary of Communications and Postal Services, Captain @ Muhammad Khuram Agha, Zahir Shah, Member Admin, Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Member of the Board, Shakeel Anwar, General Manager of Estab-

lishment, Abdul Ghaffar Farooqui, Director of Establishment, Umair Saduzai, PRO to Chairman NHA, and others. They congratulated him on his new role, said a news release.

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

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



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

Visits Jaranwala

PPP delegation expresses sympathy with Christian affectees

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

The delegation comprising of former Chairman Senate Nayan Hussain Bukhari, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, former federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Rana Farooq Saeed and Nadeem Afzal Chan went to Christian

Colony and condemned the riotous incident in Jaranwala.

They appreciated the government's efforts for rehabilitation of the affectees and demanded indiscriminate action against those responsible for this tragedy.

Speaking on the occasion, Sherry Rehman said that Pakistan People's Party strongly condemned Jaranwala incident and said that the minorities had equal rights in Pakistan and the whole nation was saddened due to Jaranwala tragedy.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed receiving Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya who arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit.

Ali Wazir, Imaan Mazari remanded for participating in PTM protest

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

The two were arrested in the wee hours of Sunday morning by Islamabad police two days after they participated in a protest organised by the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM). The authorities wanted both of them as part of an ongoing investigation. According to the first information report (FIR) the two were arrested for staging a sit-in, resistance and interference in state affairs.

Saudi Hajj Minister arrives in Pakistan on four-day visit

ISLAMABAD A (APP): Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya along with a delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit.

He was cordially welcomed by caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Sa'eed Al Malki at the airport.

During the visit, the Saudi delegation will discuss with Pakistani officials various issues related to the facilities being provided to the Pakistani Hajj and Umra pilgrims, Road to Mecca project.

Saudi Minister for Hajj will also meet with the President caretaker Prime

Minister and the Chief of Army Staff. The visiting Saudi delegation comprises heads of the Saudi civil aviation and airlines and other department.

Earlier Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed Sunday said that his visit is part of a series of international tours initiated in early 2022 and reflect the Kingdom's commitment to improving the quality of services provided to Umrah performers.

Replying a question, he hailed that Saudi Arabia had restored Pakistan's pre-coronavirus Hajj quota of 179,210 pilgrims and abolished the upper age limit of 65 years to perform the annual pilgrimage this year.

Asad Umar 'arrested' in cipher case

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

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

Shehbaz Sharif departs for London to meet Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (INP): Former Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif left for London on Sunday to meet the ex-premier Nawaz Sharif to discuss the political scenario, upcoming elections and likely return of the party supremo to Pakistan.

Former information minister and the Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader, Maryam Aurangzeb also took to the X (formerly known as Twitter) and said that Shehbaz Sharif would leave Lahore for London today. She mentioned that Shehbaz Sharif would also meet party leader Mian Nawaz Sharif in London.

ICP gives explanation on arrest of Ali Wazir, Iman

ISLAMABAD (Online): spokesperson of the Islamabad Capital Police said all actions will be carried out in accordance with the law in arresting Iman Mazari and Ali Wazir.

The Federal Police said both suspects wanted by the police for investigation.

They said the news released by the police public relations department should be accepted as correct. The spokesman said that no one is authorized to give a statement from the police station. It should be noted that Dr. Shereen Mazari had tweeted that the police women and people in plain clothes broke the door of my house and took my daughter. The arrest took place between Saturday and Sunday night.

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

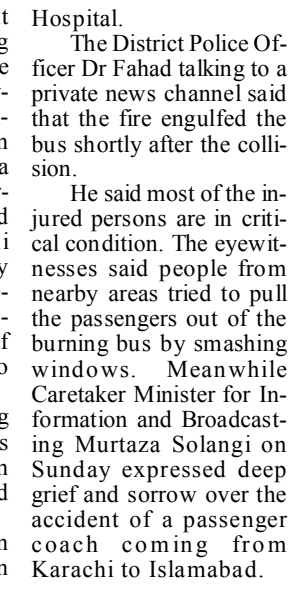
ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 20 people including women and children, were burnt to death while several others sustained injuries in a collision between a passenger bus and a pickup carrying diesel barrels on Faisalabad Motorway near Pindi Bhattian early Sunday morning. According to details, Rescue 1122 informed that the drivers of both vehicles were also killed in the crash.

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

The injured have been admitted to Pindi Bhattian Hospital.

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

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



SARGODHA: A view of burned bus after incident in which twenty people were killed and fifteen others injured when a passenger bus caught fire after being smashed into a pick-up carrying diesel drums at Motorway near Pindi Bhattian.

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

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

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

According to the hospital administration, the de-

ceased were identified as Mubtillah, Sahab Noor, Jannatullah, Asadullah Khan, Mir Wali Khan, Maqbool Khan, Sher Zahid, Syed Manwar, Mohd Ayaz, Muhammad Wali, Gul Hussain while the injured were I include Umar Zahid, Umar Ayaz.

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



ISLAMABAD: Members of Rah-e-Nijat Ministry Pakistan and members of civil society participated in a protest to condemn the attack on churches and houses in Jaranwala Town of Faisalabad front of press club.

Monday August 21, 2023

Catch-22

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

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

It may be recalled that, through the Practice and Procedure Act, the PDM government had sought to take suo motu powers and the prerogative to form benches away from the chief justice and hand them to a committee comprising the three senior-most judges of the apex court. Parts of the Practice and Procedure Act also made their way into the later Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act, which the SC struck down last week.

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

This would seem to suggest that the Practice and Procedure Act may meet a similar fate. However, the bench hearing the case seems caught in a Catch-22 situation, with a decision either for or against the law complicated by the apex court's internal divisions.

The Practice and Procedure Act may never have become an albatross around the SC's neck had the chief justice addressed the differences within his court early and in an amicable manner. He was asked repeatedly by his fellow judges to devise rules regulating suo motu and bench-fixing powers but refused to relinquish control over them.

When the PDM government moved to capitalise on these divisions for its own ends, he failed to rally support from within the institution behind him, to the judiciary's general detriment. However, it is never too late to learn from past mistakes. The chief justice still has a month till his retirement. He must spend it tying up loose ends. Much time has been lost and grass trampled on in this fight between elephants. He must put it to rest.



Muhammad Amir Rana

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

Following each tragic incident, state institutions condemn the act and vow to take strict action against those responsible. However, after brief confrontations, the administration often capitulates to religious extremists. While the superior courts tend to rule in favour of the victims in such cases, their interventions seldom bring about lasting change. Many are aware of the outcome of the one-man commission set up to enforce a landmark Supreme Court ruling on minority rights, and how its recommendations were dismissed by both the executive branch and religious factions. Following the recent tragedy, Islamabad police set up a religious minorities protection force. However, this move seemingly underscores the state's inability to safeguard its citizens of diverse faiths. Many are aware of the police's often indifferent attitude towards marginalised citizens. Deploying such a force might only exacerbate the hardships faced by Pakistanis belonging to minority faiths.

Power elites strengthen radical religious groups by arming them with legal tools against religious minorities and those that the majority refuses to accept. When questioned about the state's policy, institutions might produce numerous documents that have never been put into practice, with no display of genuine intent to do so. While they have drafted internal security policies, a National Action Plan (NAP), counter-violent extremism strategies, established CVE centres, and issued decrees like the state-endorsed fatwa Paigham-i-Pakistan, these efforts have consistently failed to manifest as effective state policy. They serve merely as a facade, masking the state's and society's more troubling aspects.

The PDM government tried to introduce another CVE measure through a bill. However, it was thwarted by a few brave parliamentarians who believed its motivations were politically driven. The government reviewed numerous documents in its last weeks, including the CVE policy. Ironically, the interior ministry and the so-called National Counter-Terrorism Authority refined a CVE policy that was never put into action. Similarly, Paigham-i-Pakistan has been unsuccessful in influencing the religious clergy.

The challenge of extremism is not as simple as imagined. A moderate image cannot be manufactured; it needs societal transformation, which in turn requires a humanisation process. The dehumanisation of others cultivates the tendencies of extremism, and state- or society-run strategic communications or counter-narratives slowly impact these tendencies. Equal citizenship rights can cultivate humanisation tendencies in society.

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

However, the state still believes religion can unite the nation and create a cohesive society. Religiously inspired actors often exploit this notion to promote their own goals and motives, largely embedded in their sectarian and religious ideologies. This is why such groups, including their political wings, have failed the state's ideological project and undermined the common good of society. The common good is the well-being of the entire community, including its weakest and most vulnerable members. It is essential for the sustainability of society. Religious groups undermine the common good by exploiting the state's ideological design. This is because they prioritise their interests over those of the wider community.

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

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

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

Intention needs action

Why Bob Dylan matters

Tamasha cannot be released for public viewing.

But since I am attempting to leave Pakistan behind for some time, let me share with you my sense of wonder about the influence of popular music and songs in this and other advanced countries.

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

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

There were six shows of Taylor Swift in Los Angeles, marking the end of the first leg of her North American tour. I got a low down on the importance of these grand music shows from my teenage granddaughter Mahnoor, a high school senior. "We grew up with her, as she grew up in her personal life and her music," she said. She elaborated on how Taylor Swift became a support system for her fans. "I'm in Los Angeles and I love concerts", she added.

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

What I have gathered from reading major publications is that Taylor Swift is recognized as a "prominent culture figure of [the] 21st century". She is the most successful pop star of our time, like the Beatles were in the sixties. The point I am making is that this kind of power has a bearing on ideas and values that are generated in a society.

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

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

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

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

Recalling her experience, Aliya tells me: "We were overcome by the power of one man and his music that got 70,000 people to gather almost like a community, from many different parts of the world, to sing along every line from the lyrics of his songs and just come together because they all love him. And they will do it again and again." I feel sorry that I have no space left to talk about Madonna, who turned 65



Ghazi Salahuddin

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

It does feel like a dream because of where I come from. After all, I live in a society where, say, the horror of Jaranwala is possible — again and again — and where a film like Zindigi

Are kids alright?



Muna Khan

I'm always impressed by the level of curiosity students bring to the classroom and this new academic year is no different. I enjoy discussing questions for which there are no right or wrong answers — what is objectivity, what is truth, who decides who is a journalist, etc. However, in the six years I have been teaching various iterations of this course, something is different: these students do not feel hopeful. About anything.

This was in response to me asking if the media reports too much bad news, and if so, how would they correct it. Over the years, students have always felt there's a lot of bad news, then disagreed on how it should be rectified and if it was a journalist's job to make audiences feel good, offer hope. This year though, this bright, inquisitive, thoughtful group of students didn't think there was anything to make them feel hopeful.

I'm rarely at a loss for words but hearing this broke my heart that morning. They deserve better. In an attempt to create some optimism, I said I felt hopeful after reading about PPP giving land rights to 5,000 families in Larkana affected by the floods. Last month, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari distributed the title deeds — in women's names, which in itself is huge. It can have a ripple effect, I said.

Not many of my students knew about this. It hadn't created waves like the contenders for interim prime minister or anything to do with the former can't-be-named prime minister. They all knew about the Intercept story but no one had read the whole piece. It's not surprising to hear that none of them read a physical copy of the newspaper. They are, after all, digital natives.

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

This isn't unique to Pakistan. According to a study by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 38 per cent of people it polled in the US said they "sometimes or often avoid news". The number of those who had replied "very" or "extremely interested in the news" has shrunk over the years.

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

A lot of young people in Pakistan connect with leaders like Saad Rizvi, Manzoor Pashteen, Mohsin Dawar as well as a host of folks on social media offering alternative viewpoints to history. There is a dearth of young people in newsrooms assisting in making decisions about how, what to cover for younger audiences concerned about things like the high fees of education, the city's infrastructure, discrimination and policymaking. They should not be treated as indifferent to the problems but as participants who may offer solutions to issues that impact them the most.

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



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

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

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

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

The youth are also wanted to move abroad for better salaries and access to modern medical technologies. Sameera Rabbani, who graduated from a medical school in Lahore and now lives in Australia, observed that doctors are underpaid, overworked and underappreciated in Paki-

Stan as opposed to the West where they are paid adequately, with a contribution to the retirement fund.

Some professionals like Maheen Ahmad, who teaches at a premier institution in Islamabad, wish to go abroad only to improve educational qualifications. She recognises, though, the growing financial difficulties of salaried professionals and limited job growth prospects in Pakistan.

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

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

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

Young physicians also want to move abroad for better salaries and access to modern medical technologies. Sameera Rabbani, who graduated from a medical school in Lahore and now lives in Australia, observed that doctors are underpaid, overworked and underappreciated in Paki-

stan as opposed to the West where they are paid adequately, with a contribution to the retirement fund.

Some professionals like Maheen Ahmad, who teaches at a premier institution in Islamabad, wish to go abroad only to improve educational qualifications. She recognises, though, the growing financial difficulties of salaried professionals and limited job growth prospects in Pakistan.

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

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

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

CM Punjab says: Rs2m approved for each affected family of Jaranwala

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Rs2 million was approved as compensation for each Christian family affected by riots in Jaranwala three days ago.
Addressing a meeting at ACE Church Isa Nagri Jaranwala here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan was a motherland for every Pakistani including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus and the government would support and help every oppressed person.
He said that he along with his cabinet members had come here to express solidarity with the Christian community as the Jaranwala incident was a major tragedy for all.
"My team had been working for the last three days for early rehabilitation of affected families. In this connection, it had a number of meetings with the Christian community and the government promised

to provide justice to the affected at every cost", he added. He said that the Secretary Communication and Works along with his team had started work for the rehabilitation of the churches yesterday and two churches had so far been fully restored while restoration work of the rest of the churches was in full swing.
He announced that he would not take rest until all the churches were completely restored although he had to visit Jaranwala repeatedly for the purpose. He said that the government had promised to restore all churches affected in the Jaranwala incident to their original condition and this work would definitely be completed on a war-footing according to the will and aspiration of Christian people. "Complete rehabilitation of Christian affectees and provision of justice to them was not just a statement but it would be seen obviously as a real action," he assured.

He said that Islam had taught us to protect the rights of non-Muslims. "The letter of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace & blessings of Allah be upon him) which he wrote to the Christian community was a beacon for us."
"In this letter, the Muslims were instructed to take care of the rights of the Christian community and this order remained in force till the Day of Judgment. Therefore, it was our religious obligation to follow the commandment given to us by our beloved Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) because it was the greatest commandment for us," he added.
On this occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister urgently called a meeting of his cabinet inside the church and the cabinet secretary presented its one-point agenda for financial assistance to compensate the affectees of the Jaranwala tragedy.



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Strongly condemning the heart-wrenching incident in North Waziristan, Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Muhammad Azam Khan on Sunday expressed his deep sorrow and unequivocal condemnation for the explosion that claimed the lives of 11 laborers in the Shawal area.
The CM denounced the heinous act of violence that resulted in the loss of innocent lives and disrupted the peace of the region.
In this time of grief and shock, Azam Khan

extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims.
He assured them that the government stood by them and would provide all necessary support during this difficult period.
He said, "Our prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones." "We share in their pain and are committed to assisting them in any way," he added. CM prayed for the departed souls and the early recovery of the injured and urged patience and strength for the bereaved families.

CM unhappy with Kahna hospital facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi expressed strong dissatisfaction after observing poor conditions at Government Indus Hospital Kahna during a surprise visit on Sunday.
He criticized the staff for providing false information and noted issues like non-functioning air-conditioners, cleanliness problems, and blood stains on bed-sheets. The patients expressed concerns about staff behaviour and delays in medical check-ups. Naqvi inspected various departments, contacted the health secretary and expressed disappointment at the hospital's state. The Commissioner Lahore division and Deputy Commissioner Lahore were also present.

26 dengue case reported in various Lahore areas

LAHORE (APP): Twenty-six new cases of dengue were reported in Lahore on Sunday while the anti-dengue squad destroyed larvae at 968 places in the province during ongoing surveillance.
According to Health Department sources, besides the dengue virus cases, 968 larvae cases were reported in the last 24 hours, with many patients under treatment in different hospitals of the city. Various squads conducted surveillance at indoor and outdoor places to detect dengue larvae.
The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department sources told APP that 26 new cases of dengue were reported in Lahore on Sunday including eight cases from Aziz Bhatti Town, six from

Allama Iqbal Town, two each from Shalimar, Wahga, Ravi, Data Ganj Bakhs Towns and four from other areas of the city.
Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore Rafia Haider is continuously paying surprise visits to check the performance of dengue teams after a fear of rise in dengue cases after rains. She reviewed the performance of dengue teams working in various areas and ordered strict action against ghost workers. Checking of more than 5,000 places will be ensured on a daily basis, she directed.
In a statement, she announced that the number of dengue surveillance could be increased, keeping in mind the rain alerts of the meteorological department.

72,330 citizens provided licensing services: CTO

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan Sunday said that traffic police provided licensing services to some 72,330 citizens during the last month while breaking all records in providing licensing services to the masses.
The number of driving testing centers in the district have also been increased from 3 to 7 to facilitate the citizens, the CTO said.
He said that the mobile service vans were providing door-to-door licensing services to citizens.



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



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah reached Governor House Peshawar on his visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.
Matters of mutual interest and other important issues were discussed in the meeting.
In the meeting, the two governors discussed the promotion of tourism activities between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan and for the development of the

tourism sector.
It was also agreed to take joint measures to provide the best facilities. On this occasion, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that Gilgit-Baltistan is an area rich in tourism and natural resources. The promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and the northern regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will benefit the country's economy.
He said Babu Sar top to Gilgit-Baltistan and all these areas are very attractive for tourists, there is a need to develop the tourism sector in Khyber-

Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Ghulam Ali said.
On this occasion Governor GB Syed Mehdi Shah thanked for the hospitality and said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are peaceful people and the crime rate here is also negligible.
Gilgit and Skardu are very attractive places for domestic and foreign tourists. Providing facilities to tourists from Naran, Kaghan, Babusar Top to Gilgit-Baltistan will not only develop the tourism sector.

Punjab Ombudsman intervenes to provide relief to widow

LAHORE (APP): In compliance with the orders of Punjab Ombudsman Maj @ Azam Suleman Khan, the PHA Gujranwala had not taken action to address the financial obligations owed to her following her husband's death.
The applicant also added that she and all other dependents were unemployed. Seeking equitable resolution, she turned to the ombudsman's office, seeking outstanding dues that belonged to her late spouse.

Dera police arrested 13 outlaws

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police arrested 13 outlaws and recovered weapons and stolen goats from them in the limits of Shaheed Nawab police station on Sunday.
According to the details, on the direction of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SHO Shaheed Nawab Police Station Khanzada Khan carried out operations against the criminal elements and arrested two accused Alam Sher son of Behram Khan resident of Wanda Budh and Gul Niaz son of Dil Muhammad.



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

Lahore Police ensures foolproof security at churches

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana said that Lahore Police made the best arrangements for the security of Christian community coming to worship in the churches of the provincial capital here on Sunday.
He said that all possible resources were being used to protect the life and property of the Christians. The Lahore Police was providing full security for the places of worship as well as the

Man caught with 2.73kg ice-drug at BKIA

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

Governor visits riverside areas to monitor flood situation

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur-Rehman visited the riverside area of Mari Qasim Shah and Mochiwala to monitor the flood situation, here Sunday.
Commissioner of Bahawalpur Division Dr Ehtesham Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Zaheer Anwar Jappa, and officers of relevant departments were also present.
Governor Punjab said that all departments should take precautionary measures to protect the people from floods.
He said, "The district administration has been working to avoid floods since the first water flow of Sutlej."
He said that all possible measures should

be taken to maintain the strength of 30 levee dams in the region.
All government institutions should perform their duties to protect the life and property of the people from floods, he added.
"Divisional and district administrations have made plans to deal with possible floods."
Dr Ehtesham Anwar said, "Rescue and relief camps have been established in the riverside areas." "People living in the river area are being shifted to safe areas," he told.
He said, "The survey of the livestock and the people living in riverside areas has been completed." "Around 76,000 people have been shifted from the flood area to safe localities," Dr Ehtesham Anwar added.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club

LG KP releases half of grant for annual development projects

PESHAWAR (APP): After a long struggle, the Local Government Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has released half the grant for annual development projects.
According to the details issued by the finance department, "The Finance Department has issued a grant of 19,55.88 to 27 TMEs of the Local Government Department as 11 million out of 26 million has been released for the purchase of bucket vehicles to Bannu and Swabi Municipalities Department. The grants

were also given for Tehsil offices in Abbottabad, Swat, Bannu, Dera and Kohat, and many other districts." "The notification says, "At least 5% of the fixed grant has been released for parks in Haripur, Kohat, Dir Lower, Mardan, Chitral, and Dir Upper, Municipalities Department. Out of 166 million rupees, 60 million rupees have been released for the purchase of sanitation vehicles in various districts, according to the Local Government Department."

Trainee DSPs from Sindh police called on IGP Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) under training from Sindh Police met IG Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar here at the Central Police Office on Sunday.
Senior police officers and DSPs under training briefed IG Punjab about their training and field attachments.
IG Punjab visited the modern police Station Mozang Lahore. Under training officers observed practical workings of various sections, including Front Desk, Police Station Record Management, Operations, and Investigation Divisions.
The trainees presented traditional caps and cultural turbans to IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Additional IG Establishment Raja Rafat Mukhtar, and DIG Headquarters Humayun Bashir Tarar.
IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar provided guidance to DSPs under training for a successful professional career. He mentioned that the presentations given by young officers reflect deep insights and challenges of field duties.

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HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui talking to media persons after offering feteiha for the departed soul of brother of Kanwar Naved Jamil Deputy Convener MQM during condolence meeting held in Hyderabad

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Where literacy rate is detrimental in bringing socio-economic uplift in a country and putting it on the path to development and prosperity, it also indicates the priorities of a particular government it set for the well-being of the masses.
In a country like Pakistan where the population has crossed the psychological barrier of 240 million in May this year, and where there are an estimated 22.8 million out-of-school children, the education sector was in dire need of having more attention and resources by

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

population explosion.
The highest percentage of 77 percent was reported in Palas Kolai district followed by 70 percent in Upper Kohistan, 69 percent in Lower Kohistan, 61 in Torgbar, 55 in Shangla, 53 in Lakki Marwat and 51 percent each in Tank and Batagram districts.
In erstwhile Fata, around 66 percent of children were out-of-school in North Waziristan, 63 percent in Bajaur, 61 in South Waziristan, 51 each in Mohmand and Khyber, and 47 percent each in Kurram and Orakzai.

"I left education in childhood after the untimely death of my father due to blood cancer. After enormous financial problems, I started labour work to support my six sisters and an ailing mother," said Faizur Rehman (18), a resident of Pabbi Nowshera while tears rolling down over his cheeks.
"My father wanted to see me as an engineer but the fortune overturned and I was left with no option but to enter the painstaking construction labour work to support my family," he added.
Besides poverty and

socioeconomic imbalances especially in rural areas, he said most of poor students left education due to the expensive cost of books and other education expenses.
Muhammad Shahab Khan, Chief Planning Officer, Education Department KP told APP that bringing out of school children under education net was a big challenge.
For bringing 300,000 children to schools in KP in the next three years billions of rupees were required including Rs2.10 billion for the provision of free uniforms, stationary and bags.

FAFEN urges electoral fairness through delimitation exercise

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) on Sunday called upon the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to prioritize the principle of population equality in electoral constituencies during the upcoming delimitation exercise.

It said the 7th Population and Housing Census-2023, necessitates adjustments to constituency boundaries to ensure fair representation for all citizens, said a press release.

FAFEN said in light of recent amendments to the Elections Act, 2017, including the addition of a new proviso to Section 20 (3), the ECP was no longer bound to strictly adhere to existing district boundaries. This change was implemented to prevent population disparities in constituencies from exceeding 10 per cent, it added.

It emphasized that such measures were essential to uphold the fairness of the electoral process, as stipulated under Article 218 (3) of the Constitution.

FAFEN highlighted that the unequal size of constituencies not only violated citizens' constitutional right to equality (Ar-

icle 25) but also undermined the spirit of fair representation. The insertion of the new proviso in Section 20 (3) effectively neutralized the requirement that previously compelled the ECP to consider existing administrative unit boundaries during delimitation, it added.

It said the previous delimitation of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies in 2022 resulted in 82 National Assembly (NA) and 88 Provincial Assemblies' (PA) constituencies having population variations exceeding 10 per cent from the respective seat quotas such as, NA-39 Bannu, the largest constituency, was nearly three times larger in population compared to the smallest, NA-42 Tank. FAFEN estimated that if district boundaries were followed, constituencies from two-thirds of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts, half of Sindh districts, one-third of Punjab districts, and all Balochistan districts may experience population variance exceeding 10 per cent.

It recommended the ECP consider amending its rules for delimitation to align with the new proviso in Section 20 (3). Specific-

ally, FAFEN suggested changing Rules 10 (4) and 10 (5) to limit population variance within a province to a maximum of 10 per cent, instead of five per cent within a district. Additionally, it called for the inclusion of an updated population column in Form-7 (Final List of Constituencies) after addressing representations filed on the draft list.

FAFEN also advocated for greater transparency by urging the ECP to make it mandatory for Delimitation Committees to provide detailed explanations for cases where variance exceeds 10 per cent. The organization emphasized the need for clear definitions of factors to be considered during delimitation and recommends amendments to Rules 12 and 13 to streamline the representation process.

In conclusion, FAFEN underscored that enhancing the delimitation process was pivotal to ensuring electoral fairness and preventing imbalances in population representation. The organization stressed that delimitation was a crucial mechanism for allocating political power and must be carried out justly, fairly, and transparently.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Arbab Umar Kasi calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

SAPM EU Ambassador join efforts to strengthen Pak-EU ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik, met with EU Ambassador Dr. Rina Kionka to discuss improving Pak-EU economic ties, regional security, GSP+ benefits for sustainable development and aiding Overseas Pakistanis in the European Union.

In a tweet, Malik expressed joy in welcoming EU Ambassador Dr. Rina Kionka at his house. Malik mentioned, having an amicable conversation about various matters, encompassing economic relations between Pakistan and the EU, we shared aspirations for regional security and stability cooperation.

He stated that Pakistan receives a distinct incentive through the EU's GSP+ program to encourage sustainable development and good governance. A committed effort is underway to formulate a sturdy and lasting solution to tackle the challenges faced by Overseas Pakistanis in the EU.

Jawad Sohrab, has been designated as the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Overseas Pakistanis in the interim cabinet led by Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar.

Using his charitable arm, the Sohrab Foundation, Jawad Malik assists the most vulnerable parts of society. He was honored by the Pakistan Army for his relief contributions, earning national recognition.

Since the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition took control after Imran Khan's vote of no-confidence, Jawad Sohrab has worked alongside PM Sharif's cabinet on various assignments.

'Tahafuz Programme' Around 4,781 requests for health financing approved

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety has approved 4,781 requests for health financing under the 'Tahafuz programme' from May 2022-March 2023. A total of 15,729 requests of the deserving patients have been approved for health financing since the inception of the programme. The initiative is aimed at catering to the catastrophic health expenditures of deserving patients through fourteen impaneled hospitals based in

Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), irrespective of geographical limitations and domicile. Tahafuz is a Public Sector Development Program (FY-2021-2024) demand-driven initiative designed to protect the extremely poor from catastrophic health expenditures. The program is also providing healthcare assistance to the poor who fall under the pre-defined eligibility criteria primarily based on BISP or National Socio-Economic Registry Poverty.

Jamal expresses grief over loss of lives in Pindi Bhattian accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of 18 people in a collision between a passenger bus and a pickup on Faisalabad Motorway near Pindi Bhattian early Sunday morning.

Comiserating with the bereaved families, the minister prayed for the recovery of those who injured in the accident. Jamal Shah said that our sympathies are with the lamenting families who lost their loved ones.



LAHORE: Activists of Sunni Tehreek (PST) are holding protest demonstration against inflation, unemployment and price hike of petroleum and other products, at Lahore press club.

Sherry says: Attack on Jaranwala christian community is attack on Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): A delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), led by Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman, visited Jaranwala to extend heartfelt sympathies and support to the Christian community following the tragic events that unfolded on August 16th.

The delegation included Secretary General PPP Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Information Secretary Faisal Kareem Kundi, Nadeem Afzal Chan, and Malaika Raza. Senator Sherry Rehman, while addressing the unfortunate turn of events, expressed profound concern and disappointment. "What transpired in Jaranwala on August 16th

has not only saddened Pakistanis but has also left Muslims across the globe in a state of deep regret. The scenes we witnessed are heart-wrenching. Today, on behalf of the People's Party leadership and its workers, I stand here to extend our unwavering support and solidarity to the citizens of Jaranwala," she stated. Senator Sherry Rehman remarked, "We marked National Minorities Day on 11th August as a reminder of the rights and contributions of minorities to our nation's progress. Regrettably, the events of August 16th have cast a shadow over this celebration. We demand strict penalties for those involved and justice for the victims."

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

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

Addressing a press conference, Sirajul Haq said that even to date the Election Commission has not announced the date of the elections and this act of the Commission is a violation of the constitution. Siraj also demanded the Election Commission to conduct transparent elections alleging that the previous governments used the

Election Commission only for their own interests. Sirajul Haq alleged that PDM and PPP conspired to postpone the election adding the Election Commission should reconsider its decision and announce immediate elections, the caretaker government should conduct transparent elections instead of jumping around. Talking about inflation, Sirajul Haq said that according to a research, electricity prices have increased by 72 per cent in a few months, now the solution to all these problems lies only with the people.



ISLAMABAD: People are reading a newspaper displayed for sale by a shopkeeper at Abpara Market.

PAF pays tribute to Minhas on his 52nd martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Directorate General Public Relations has released a short documentary to pay homage to the country's valiant son and the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed on his 52nd martyrdom anniversary. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed was born on February 17, 1951. Hav-

ing a dream of defending the aerial frontiers of the motherland, he got a commission on March 14, 1971, in the 51st GD (P) course. He was later posted to No 2 Squadron stationed at Masroor for an Operational Conversion Course, where he was destined for sublime heights by Almighty Allah, a PAF news release said. On August 20, 1971, an unforgettable saga of

bravery was crafted with his ultimate sacrifice. On this fateful day, Rashid vanquished the iniquitous intentions of his instructor pilot Flight Lieutenant Mati-ur-Rahman, who tried to hijack his training jet T-33 towards India. Rashid battled to take back the aircraft's controls and finally preferred to crash the plane before it could cross the border.

Sutlej witnesses 'worst flooding in three decades'

KASUR (INP): The Sutlej River surged to extremely high levels at Ganda Singh Wala Barrage resulting in the evacuation of hundreds of families from 72 villages in Kasur and Chunanj, while three people drowned in floodwater in Kasur while trying to find higher ground. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reported that a high-level flooding situation was underway in the Sutlej River and the situation would depend on water flow at Harike Headworks and Ferozpur Headworks. The water level had risen to 23 feet, with a flow of 269,000 cusecs at the Ganda Singh Wala Barrage. In Sulemanki, there was a moderate level of flooding with a flow of 83,072 cusecs. There is a looming threat of extremely high-level flooding at Head Sulemanki in the next 24 hours. The water flow had reached 30,142 cusecs at Head Islam. The risk of ex-

treme flooding in Head Islam is expected to commence from August 22. However, the water flow in Sindh, Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi remained normal. The administrative authorities of the districts adjacent to the Sutlej River were put on high alert and measures had been implemented to restrict the movement of people in areas near Sutlej. Relevant deputy commissioners have been directed to reinforce the dykes along the Sutlej River. In Kasur, two of the three villagers who drowned in the floodwater had been fished out while the rescue efforts were underway to find the third person. According to Rescue officials, Jamshed of village Athat Singh and Aslam and Mola of village Verram Jhugian wanted to shift to a safer place on their own. They were holding hands due to floodwater but the gushing water swallowed them after separating them.

Court grants one day physical remand of Iman in terrorism case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Regional court of Islamabad granted one day physical remand of Iman Mazari in terrorism case and one day judicial remand on interference in government work and holding unauthorised public meeting. According to details former human rights minister Shireen Mazari's daughter and human rights activist Iman Mazari and former Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir were arrested in case of intervention in government work after participation in (Pashtun Tahafuz Movement) PTM public rally.

ICP continues its campaign to check traffic rules violations

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city. The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving. Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer

(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike ride. Police teams remain present on all important roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules. FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety.



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying Sunday Holiday at Japanese Children Park in Federal Capital.

FGRF first Pakistani NGO to respond to quake-hit Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF), a welfare initiative of the Dawati-Islami Foundation during the shocking earthquake of Turkiye was the first Pakistani non-governmental organization that approached the quake-hit region and provided rescue and relief services. The Foundation also ensured the provision of rations, cooked food, medicines, and funeral services in disaster-hit areas where ever it got the opportunity to serve. The FGRF showcased its achievements in welfare, rehabilitation and relief efforts during the monster Monsoon Floods 2022 at the Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction-2023 (PEDRR-23).

convened experts, and partners from international and national organisations working in the field of disaster management and relief for a brainstorming session to learn from shared experiences and lessons learnt in different natural calamities. Nouman Attari from FGRF told APP that the Fund had organised the largest relief effort of the country with the participation of over 500,000 participant who took part in the FGRF activities in all the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) affected due to unprecedented floods in 2022. The Foundation, he said had also provided more than 5,000 meals per day distribution for food distribution at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) tent city for flood-displaced people.

34,211 tenants, 342 house servants data registered through online system

ISLAMABAD: The capital Police had introduced an online registration system for tenants and house servants following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan in order to control criminal activities in the federal capital. ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan said that, the system has been very effective for identifying the

employees involved in crimes and bringing them to justice. He further said that registration of tenants and domestic workers not only keeps a close eye on the miscreants but also prevents the elements involved in any kind of dubious activity. He urged the house owners to verify the backgrounds of people before giving them employment and get them registered with the nearest police station, Police Khidmat Markazs.



ISLAMABAD: A worker fixing safety road metal beam for traffic at 7th avenue bridge in Federal Capital.

Ahsan meets CPC leader Ma Xingrui

URUMQI (China) (APP): Former federal minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Sunday called on Ma Xingrui, Member of the Polit Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC [Communist Party of China] Xinjiang Uyghurs Autonomous Regional Committee. He was accompanied by Senator Mahmood-ul-Hassan and other officials of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, a news release said. The Chinese side also included Erkin Tuniyas, Governor of Xinjiang, Chen Weijun, Executive Vice-Chairman of the People's Government of Xinjiang, Kaysar Abdurkin, Vice Chairman of the People's Government of Xinjiang and other high-ranking officials from Xinjiang. Warmly welcoming the Pakistani side, Party Secretary Ma Xingrui remarked that both countries have withstood the vicissitudes of times, despite the global political landscape.

He conveyed President Xi Jinping's strong commitment to further solidify Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnerships in diverse fields. Party Secretary Ma lauded the statesmanship, professionalism and educational background of Prof Ahsan Iqbal which enabled valuable contribution towards the development and success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He called him a seasoned and accomplished politician to make more contributions toward the success of CPEC in the future. He remarked that President Xi Jinping desired to make CPEC an "exemplary" Project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with Xinjiang playing a central role in regional and economic development. The Party Secretary reaffirmed his Government's strong commitment to fully realize the potential of the Khunjrab-Sost-Kashgar border market.