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No compromise on minorities' protection: PM Kakar assures Christian community

Premier reiterates the caretaker gov't's resolve to protect minorities; Extremism has nothing to do with any religion; Distributes cheques among families of affected Christian community in Jaranwala

JARANWALLA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday assured all the minority communities in the country that the government was committed to protect their lives and properties, and the perpetrators of heinous attacks against them would be brought to justice.

Addressing a gathering of the Christian community members, he said, "We are the followers of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and the Founder of the Nation, and it is also binding upon us under the Constitution, which encourages us to respond to such atrocities."

The prime minister said that they would never condone the persecutors of minorities, and stressed that if anyone caused harm to the minorities, the law of the country would take its course by ensuring that such like incidents should not happen in future.

The entire society and the government would not cower down before the dark forces but would stand shoulder to shoulder with the victim communities, he said, adding that they would become voice of the voiceless with the tangible and meaningful support. "Our actions will speak louder than our speeches," PM Kakar said. The prime minister arrived here to express solidarity with the victim families of Christian community, Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman and Caretaker Chief Minister Syed

Mohsin Naqvi, caretaker federal ministers, senior officials and members of the Christian community were present on the occasion.

PM Kakar further said that the minorities in Pakistan were struggling for the protection of the rights of their communities across the region adding that the people who had attacked the Christian community in the area were the enemies of humanity. He said that they were assuring them of the government's support not out of any compulsion, but due to their conviction.

The incident that occurred in the area alluded to a pervasive issue in the society which had been experiencing extremism, radicalism and aggressive behaviour, and manifested that such behaviour did not belong to any religion, sect or group rather indicated an innate human behaviour which spread like a cancerous disease, he opined.

The prime minister regretted the unfortunate incident that occurred after the caretaker government took oath.

Referring to Islamic history, he said that under the Quaid's vision, it was their utmost responsibility, to protect the minorities. It was the duty of Muslims to protect the honour, life and properties of the Christian community, he added.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar distributes cheques of 2 million rupees each to individuals from the Christian community whose residences were damaged due to mob violence in Tehsil Jaranwala.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi welcoming the Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, who along with his delegation, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for further strengthening economic, cultural ties with KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for further strengthening bilateral ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in diverse fields, particularly economy, investment, and culture.

The president, talking to Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, who along with a delegation called on him, said that Pakistan highly valued its relations with Saudi Arabia, which were based on common faith, shared history, and people-to-people ties.

Welcoming the delegation, the president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the existing economic partnership with the Kingdom for the mutual benefit of both the brotherly countries.

He underscored the need to expand bilateral trade as great opportunities

existed for investment in Pakistan in different sectors such as information technology (IT), renewable energy, industrial and infrastructure development, and the hospitality sectors.

President Alvi thanked the Saudi government for making excellent arrangements for the Hajj this year.

He expressed the hope that the Saudi government would expedite the purchase of Pakistan House inside Markaziah in Madina from the compensation amount of two Pakistan Houses demolished in Madina.

The president appreciated Saudi Arabia and its leadership for its steadfast support for important Muslim causes, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Palestine, and Afghanistan through the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and expressed the hope that it would continue to play its important role.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Adam Tugjo paid a courtesy call on Jamal Shah, Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Cultural Division.

NAB inquiry report declares Parvez Elahi guilty of corruption

LAHORE (INP): The inquiry report of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) issued on Monday declared Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Central President and former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi of alleged corruption in award of contracts.

The NAB report released here stated that the PTI leader approved 116 development schemes for Gujarat in collaboration with his close aides.

The former chief minister was also involved in misuse of the authority and office, the report

added. The NAB accused him of using his influence to award contracts of schemes to his favourite contractors. The report stated that Parvez Elahi awarded contracts through his frontmen and received bribe and kickbacks.

The report said the ex-chief minister issued funds in advance to receive kickbacks. He diverted funds allocated for other schemes to his approved plans.

He misused his position as the head of the province and received kickbacks, the report added.

Man martyred in unprovoked firing of Indian troops on LoC

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Indian Army on Monday resorted to unprovoked firing in Nikil Sector, targeting innocent civilians that resulted in the Shahadat of an old aged (60 years) individual named Ghias, a resident of Village Oil, District Kotli and traumatized three women while cutting grass in the fields.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said, "This blatant Indian aggression is a clear violation of existing Ceasefire Understandings. Pakistan desires peace and tranquility at its borders, however, all necessary measures will be taken to protect the life and property of our citizens."

Special court constituted in Islamabad to hear cases under official secret act

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Court has been constituted in Islamabad to hear the cases under official secret act.

Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain has been delegated the powers to hear the cases under official secret act.

The in-camera hearing of the cases under official secret act will be conducted. No irrelevant person including media will be given access to the court. Only one court has been set up in the country under this act.

Pakistan signs air services agreement with Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Monday signed the Air Services Agreement (ASA) to enhance cooperation in the aviation sector.

Director General Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan Khaqan Murtaza and President General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdul Aziz Al Dualej signed the agreement on behalf of Government of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia respectively to facilitate citizens of the two countries.

Caretaker gov't to fully support ECP, provinces in conducting free, fair elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that the caretaker federal government would provide full support to the Election Commission of Pakistan, commission and provinces in conducting transparent, free, and impartial general elections.

During a telephonic conversation with Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, he said that the caretaker set up would perform their duties according to the constitution and would not tolerate any discrimination against anyone.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming charge as the caretaker federal minister

SC be not embroiled in economic problems, it is already embroiled in myriad matters: Justice Athar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Athar, Minallah has remarked Supreme Court (SC) should not be embroiled in economic problems as it is already embroiled in so many matters.

He further observed federal government is proper forum to see matters regarding economy.

The case pertaining to loans obtained beyond constitutional limitation came up for hearing before 2-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial here Monday.

The counsel for petitioner took the plea in the court that he filed constitutional petition regarding acquisition of loans in 2020. The respondents Hafeez Sheikh and Raza Baqir ran away in the case.

The CJP inquired why case is Debt Limitation Act 2005 was not implemented. The counsel for petitioner took the plea the governments violated constitution by acquiring loans beyond limitations.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked one should go to high court for implementation of act. The country is facing dire economic hardships.

No one can be pushed behind the bars on mere apprehensions: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has set aside arrest orders of 4 office bearers of PTI Islamabad under MPO.

The court has ordered to release these 4 office bearers of PTI forthwith.

Justice Tariq Jahangiri of IHC announced the decision on

for information and broadcasting.

Meanwhile Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir on Monday reiterated their determination to fully support the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in conducting the general elections in a transparent manner.

During a telephonic conversation Murtaza Solangi congratulated Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqir on taking charge as caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh. The minister also discussed with the Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh the case of slain journalist Jan Muhammad Maher.

Dr. Alvi removes presidential secretary over bills controversy

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvia day after denial of his signing Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan Army Act, said the services of Secretary Waqar Ahmed were "no more required".

The president in a statement posted on X on Monday said, "In view of the definite statement of yesterday, President's Secretary has written a letter to Principal Secretary to Prime Minister that the services of Mr Waqar Ahmed, Secretary to President, are no more required and are surrendered to the Establishment Division, immediately."

In a post on social media platform X, Alvi said: "As God is my witness, I did not sign Official Secrets

Amendment Bill, 2023 and Pakistan Army Amendment Bill, 2023 as I disagreed with these laws."

The president said he asked his 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 affected," the president said.

Earlier on Sunday, President Alvi created a stir by claiming that he had not signed the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill — a day after they became acts of parliament, as he "disagreed with these laws".



ISLAMABAD: Commandant FC Moazzam Jah Ansari called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Commandant FC, Chairman NACTA calls on Interim Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Commandant FC Moazzam Jah Ansari called on Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti here on Monday.

According to a news release, in a separate call on, National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Muhammad Tahir Rai also met Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti here.

Meanwhile Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that lawlessness would not be tolerated. He wrote in his tweet that he together with his fellow federal ministers, stood beside the Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar in showing collective backing for the Christian community.

Original signatures of president must for approval or disapproval of bill

ISLAMABAD (Online): No copied signatures of the president are pasted on any bill and original signatures of the president are must in connection with approval or disapproval of bill, say parliamentary sources.

Both the bills were sent to the president after completing all the phases of approval. The president was either to sign these bills within 10 days or was to raise objections.

National Assembly (NA), Senate secretariat sources said they have not

received any written objection from the president. Chairman Senate and speaker NA had sent both the bills to the president. The route through which the summary goes to Aiwan-e-Sadr after approval of the bill, it comes back from this route too. The staff of Aiwan-e-Sadr is not at fault in this entire matter. Legal branch knows every thing.

The president has to approve or return the bill within 10 days no matter it is passed in joint session or Senate or NA separately.

APNS felicitates Murtaza Solangi on his appointment as Information Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on Monday formally congratulated Murtaza Solangi on his appointment as Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

"On behalf of the office bearers and members of the executive committee of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, I would like to welcome and congratulate you on your appointment as caretaker Minister for Information," said APNS Secretary General Sarmad Ali in a letter.

The body expressed the hope that the issues faced by the print media would be resolved during Murtaza Solangi's tenure as

minister. It also believed that the minister would play his role in strengthening the caretaker government's relation with media.

"I would also like to note with pleasure that a prominent person of media fraternity has been appointed as caretaker Minister for Information and hope that under your stewardship the issues pertaining to the Print Media which are still lying unattended would be addressed," Sarmad Ali noted.

The APNS assured the minister of its full cooperation and expressed its desire to work with the minister in the interest of the media and the country.



ISLAMABAD: Director General of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan Khaqan Murtaza and President of General Authority on Civil Aviation (GACA) of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdul Aziz Al Dualej signing Air Services Agreement (ASA) between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Inner demons

The recent mob rampage targeting Christians in Faisalabad's Jaranwala area should serve as a critical opportunity for the nation to look inwards, honestly diagnose the disease, and remove the cancer of extremism from society.

This is not the first incident where raw religious passions have been exploited by vested interests, and unless there is a thorough reckoning, it won't be the last. Far too many Muslims and people of other faiths have faced the wrath of the mob in Pakistan based on spurious allegations of blasphemy. Many have not lived to tell the tale, while numerous incidents have been traced to personal vendettas or schemes to grab property. Illiterate and mentally challenged individuals have been accused of writing or forwarding blasphemous text, while unfounded rumours of disrespect to religion have been enough to spark bloody riots.

Yet the advance of religious fanaticism is not limited to Pakistan. Next door in India, the shock troops of Hindutva have also unleashed violence against Muslims and other minorities.

The Babri Masjid's destruction was a bellwether event; from that grim turning point to the present, Hindutva has morphed from a fringe movement to the official narrative in the Sangh Parivar's India.

Muslims have been lynched on suspicions of transporting or keeping beef, their houses have been bulldozed by bigoted state agencies, while dubious citizenship laws have questioned those whose roots as 'bona fide' Indians are well established.

Christians, too, have not been spared by the Sangh, as the current communal disturbances in Manipur illustrate, where nearly 200 have been killed, and hundreds of churches reportedly torched. Clearly, zealots on both sides of the border share the same DNA where terrorising minorities is concerned.

It appears that this particular variant of religious extremism is a South Asian peculiarity. While discrimination against minorities does occur in other Muslim states, Pakistan is in a league of its own.

One does not often hear of public lynchings and frenzied mobs rampaging to avenge alleged blasphemy in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, etc — countries that are no less Muslim than Pakistan. This may be because in these countries the state does not allow vigilante groups or self-professed guardians of faith to rile up crowds and let them loose on hapless victims. In Pakistan, things are different. For decades, the state encouraged and later tolerated religious fanatics, while poverty and low literacy levels have left ordinary folk susceptible to the emotional messaging of such malign actors. There may still be time for course correction. This can be done first by the state acknowledging the presence of the contagion of extremism and then by punishing those who have indulged in religious violence and who ideologically support such violence. Longer-term goals can focus on deradicalisation as envisaged under NAP and similar initiatives.



Maleeha Lodhi

General elections are expected to be held in the country sometime early next year. The months leading up to the polls will see political leaders and their parties engaged in fierce electoral competition to secure power. Winning public office will obviously be their goal. But the question is, what plan and policies will they offer voters about how they propose to address the country's myriad challenges? What public purpose will leaders bring to governance if elected?

Never before has Pakistan faced such a wide array of overlapping challenges, all of which need to be tackled with courage, imagination, and determination if they are to be surmounted. But politics in recent years has been focused more on power

struggles than on public issues. Political leaders have directed much of their energy to power tussles and efforts to subdue opponents rather than evolving and presenting any policy plans.

This has made political parties almost indistinguishable in terms of their position on issues of public concern. The usual platitudes and clichés have dominated the political discourse, with no new policy ideas generated about how to deal with the country's problems. At other times, vacuous rhetoric has substituted for policy proposals.

The most consequential challenge is, of course, the economy which remains precariously poised. Without sustainable economic recovery, the rest will be in vain. The stand-by agreement with the IMF has been projected as a major step towards economic stability. But it is only a temporary reprieve and, in any case, should be anchored in a comprehensive home-grown economic plan of structural reforms which can revive economic growth.

Official sights have

been set so low that averting a debt default has become the principal goal of economic policy, and is even celebrated as an achievement. Qualifying for a Fund programme is regarded as a great accomplishment even though it is a sign that the country is in dire and desperate economic straits.

Having a record 23 IMF programmes is a reflection of poor, not good economic management. Of course, financial bailouts are necessary to stay solvent but they cannot become the be-all and end-all of economic strategy. Hyper-borrowing both at home or abroad can hardly be touted as a gain for the country.

True that the outgoing coalition government announced an "economic revival plan" predicated on the creation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council to promote "fast track" investment by friendly GCC countries in ailing state-owned enterprises and "untapped sectors of the economy".

Announcements were made about the sale of public assets and state-owned businesses to Gulf states in a strategy to earn dollars by

privatising state assets. But hopes of investment in new sectors cannot be delinked from the country's ongoing macroeconomic crisis and unstable economic environment.

Moreover, foreign investment — whether from Gulf countries or beyond — requires consistency and predictability of policy as well as an atmosphere of political certainty and stability. It also needs a level playing field, transparency, and reliability of judicial enforcement to give confidence to investors.

As for economic revival, a serious plan has to rest on wide-ranging structural reforms that address the root causes of Pakistan's chronic external and internal financial imbalances — a narrow tax and export base, oversized state sector, insolvent power sector, and low savings rate.

The effectiveness of economic policy and reform in turn depends on the state of governance. The political context weighs heavily on the success or failure of economic policy. The best-conceived economic initiatives will go nowhere if there is weak or poor governance.

This has happened

because of two main reasons: one, postponed reforms, and two, politicisation of the civil service. Governance after independence required transforming colonial-era administrative structures to those in sync with the requirements of a developing country. But lack of reforms meant the administrative system was unable to keep pace with a changing society and the complex needs of modern governance.

The protracted politicisation of the bureaucratic and police system distorted its functioning and produced several deleterious consequences — the erosion of authority, the undermining of efficiency, the de-emphasis of merit, and the draining of morale.

For these reasons, the quality of the civil service has been in secular decline. Yet, achieving economic recovery and setting Pakistan on a path of growth and investment depends critically on strengthening institutional capacity that can efficiently mobilise resources, ensure proper service delivery and create a credible business-friendly environment. -- Courtesy Dawn

Leading without a plan



Dr Ayesha Razaque

Public universities are facing multiple challenges that we keep hearing about, ranging in nature from academic, administrative, managerial, financial, and political. Some of them may not be addressable by universities themselves but many certainly are. Some months ago, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) solicited applications for vice-chancellors (VCs) for three prominent universities in the federal capital — Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), and the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU).

In the past, applications typically comprised little more than filling out a profile, sending in a cover letter, a CV, a list of publications (why that is needed for a VC is still a mystery to

me), and all the political influence they could wield. In an effort to improve the selection process and assess the depth of thought applicants have for the position they are applying for, this time the MoFEPT added a new element to the application package.

Applicants were required to include an institutional plan, albeit limited to 300 words (about one page of text), for their tenure as VC. A detailed institutional plan could span pages, so the word limit is tight. All the more reason not to waste any of them and if one does that should go to show that the writer may not have anything worthwhile to say.

It is an opportunity to demonstrate one's priorities, awareness of the challenges of the universities one seeks to lead and whether one has paid any mind to tackling them. A plan has to be practical and actionable; what it cannot be is a list of vague platitudes disconnected from reality.

Whatever your personal opinion may be, all three universities — QAU, AIU, and IIU — are large public universities in the capital and are highly seen as amongst the cushiest to be appointed VC at. One

would assume that the competition for these openings must be fierce, self-selecting and attracting only the strongest applicants. Would it not be interesting to see how much thought applicants jockeying for the most influential leadership role at universities have given to the responsibilities of that job?

As luck would have it,

I had the opportunity to review the institutional plans submitted, around 200 of them. Before I get to their contents, let me share some broad observations: Almost all applicants are men and many of them are currently or have been in the past appointed VCs at other universities. Many submissions were poorly formatted documents that could not adhere to a consistent look for a single page which betrays the fact that original writing is a very occasional task for them. In the age of spell checkers and ChatGPT, a few were still riddled with grammatical mistakes, but I must appreciate them for their originality.

The most striking observation was that most 'institutional plans' people submitted were just rehashes of their CVs. This betrays one of two truths:

Either these applicants do not understand the meaning of the word 'plan' which goes to their lack of basic English comprehension, or they simply have not given a single thought to the responsibility they want to take on, having no motivation to fix anything, and have nothing more in mind than cash their pay cheque.

The ones that went beyond regurgitating their CVs for their plan rarely ventured beyond identifying institution-specific challenges. They just listed generic, anecdotal issues anyone can glean from a few newspaper reports, devoid of supporting facts or figures specific to the university they are applying to.

The ones that mentioned the name of the university they were applying to did not go beyond irrelevant facts that could be obtained from the university website or Wikipedia page — its organization, structure, location, and ranking. In any case, none of them constitutes a plan of any kind. Since many applicants are already working as VCs at other universities, you would expect them to have a track record of problem-solving, a concrete precedent in their past and that would

hardly anyone acknowledged its existence.

Also interesting is the fact that people applying for the job of VC are pointing to their publication record, such as it may be, as support for their applications when by this point it should be clear that the VCs job is no longer to publish but to fix the myriad of well-known problems on university campuses by (hopefully) offering some evidence for having solved such problems in the past. That lack of performance becomes particularly irritating when it is accompanied by obnoxious grand statements overestimating one's own caliber. Most critically, of the 'institutional plan' that did acknowledge any challenges, what none of them did was address the question of 'how? You are promising to create university-industry partnerships — how? A commitment to raising funds to augment public funds — how? A desire to create an endowment fund, profits from which will sustainably augment the university budget — how? Raise the standard of scholarship, build the capacity of staff and faculty, and improve governance — how? -- Courtesy TheNews

Who set fire to Jaranwala?



Umair Javed

Incidents of anti-minority mob violence under the pretext of blasphemy allegations have risen steadily since the mid-2000s. As per the usual, formulaic response, last week's incident in Jaranwala was followed by a range of condemnations from the civil and military leadership and from the mainstream, high-profile clerics of all denominations.

The specificity with which places of worship were targeted by a large crowd is evidence of both the scale of the rot within society and the high level of local organisation required to make it possible. TLP, other Bareilvi extremists, and their backers have much to answer for.

A preliminary analysis of the Jaranwala tragedy shows that anti-minority mob violence has two aspects. The first of these is the law-and-order aspect, which is what state officials tend to focus on. The assumption is that in any society there will be instances where violence can become likely.

However, local authorities should be able to take administrative steps required to defuse any potential situation, such as a blasphemy allegation, that may result in violence. If law-and-order administration is effective and far-sighted enough, such an intervention would help mitigate the risk of a full-blown riot. In the Jaranwala case, it was not.

Failing to resolve a situation prior to its escalation, the law-and-order aspect of the response would then involve managing a mob to

limit its ability to carry out violence. Whether this is through riot control, detention, or other use of force, is immaterial. The aim should be to prevent any loss of life and property of a community at risk.

In the Jaranwala case, this too did not happen. In fact, if video evidence is anything to go by, local law enforcement remained passive, while administrators attempted to negotiate with the extremists from a position of weakness.

The third stage, having failed at the first two, involves punitive consequences for those involved in the violence. This would mean strong punishments that are sufficient to act as a deterrent. The idea being that while one unfortunate incident has happened, the consequences would be enough to prevent another one from taking place.

Worth pointing out that there were zero convictions from the 2013 Joseph Colony incident so there is no deterrence to speak of. A hundred houses were burnt and 115 accused persons were acquitted. It seems the houses set themselves on fire.

Beyond the law-and-order aspect, the second aspect of mob violence is social and political. Mobs are not instant creations. The ideas that rile them up do not appear out of nowhere. The methods they use for violence are not spontaneously learned. The resources they draw on do not magically descend from heaven (or, as would be more appropriate, ascend from hell). All of these things have definitive roots in society.

The sociopolitical aspect of violent incidents such as the one in Jaranwala is far harder to tackle because it is so wide-ranging. A toxic mix of extremist clerics, pandering politicians, conniving generals, status-seeking businessmen, and honour-seeking young men all feeds into it.

Over the past decade

and a half, Pakistani society has witnessed the Bareilvi far-right gain recognition, prestige, and massive followership by weaponising the issue of blasphemy and respect for the Prophet (PBUH).

A politician who makes unfathomable changes to marriage documents in a bid to publicise his pious credentials has also contributed to the issue. And an assembly that attempts to pass legislation widening the ambit of blasphemy and endangering an entire sect is adding explosive fuel to an already burning fire.

There are other contributions at play here as well. There is the local bureaucrat who doesn't want to ruffle any feathers. There's a businessman who wants to earn a bit of recognition in the community, so ends up sponsoring a few religious gatherings and donates to a local TLP chapter.

Maybe he does it under pressure, maybe he believes in what's being preached, or maybe he's just in it for the name on the banner or the plaque outside the mosque. The intentions are immaterial because the outcome is the same.

And then there is the actual mob itself. Young men, with little prospects of upward social and material mobility. Religious rhetoric provides them with a sense of community and of being a part of something bigger. Indoctrinated with notions of honour and masculinity that can only be validated by taking revenge from some vulnerable minority over an imagined crime they probably didn't even commit. Even in a state of heightened pessimism, one could see the possibility of a low-capacity state like Pakistan fixing the law and order aspect of mob violence to some degree. Addressing the toxic social and political aspect, however, seems far more difficult. -- Courtesy Dawn

Taxing thoughts



Muhammad Mohsin Masood

The famed jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes did not say 'The power to tax is the power to destroy'; his exact words were 'Power to tax is not the power to destroy while this court sits'. Just recently after sitting on it for months, the Islamabad High Court finally delivered the judgement on the challenge to Section 4C of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 — the super tax imposed in 2022. What a judgement it surely is! Laced with puns and mindful analogies to keep the reader engaged, the honourable judge delivered an eloquent and fantastic exposition of legal reasoning to conclude that the super tax is ultra vires the Constitution.

The judgement is not only well structured with an index, it also probes all the questions and complexities raised before the court during the hearings. With its crisp legal reasoning, it slices through the arguments of the revenue authorities. With its epigrammatic phraseology, it not only clarifies exactly why the super tax is ultra vires the Constitution, it also makes for a good read.

Indeed, it seems that one of the objectives achieved is to have the judgement read widely. Legally speaking, the court has read down Section 4C and explicitly shut the door on retrospective taxation, especially of past and closed transactions. This means that if you have closed

your account books before the tax applies and taken steps to cement that, you will not be asked to open them up again for tax deduction.

The court also afforded relief to segments of the economy for whom tax liability has crystallised in the past. Crucially, however, the court found Section 4C to be ultra vires the fundamental rights under Articles 18, 23 and 24, read with Article 4.

This is where the brilliance of the judgement cuts too far deep. On the face of it, the judge found the actions of the legislature inconsistent with the written words of the Constitution. The devil, however, is in the details. Within the exuberance of this judgement is a potent shot in the arm to judicial review. The honourable court has been much taxed by the pleaders and, resultantly, overstretched itself to sit in judgement over not only the actions but also the intentions of the legislature. The court tried to judge the imposition of a super tax on property on the anvil of Article 23 and noted that since economic rights do not provide a "formulaic prescription" for such a task, one must refer to the context and the raison d'être of such legislation.

This is dangerous territory. With the greatest respect to the honourable judge, who is amongst one of the best if not the very best in our superior courts, this is also territory where previous robed crusaders stampeded across clicking their heels at Article 184(3). The ground still remains a swamp of legal exigency with a few skeletons of political necessity sticking out. No sooner does Mount Doom heave into view

Sindh Govt decides to take action against dacoits, street criminals

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Cabinet in its maiden meeting on Monday decided to take strict measures for controlling law & order, particularly action against dacoits in the Katcha area and street criminals in Karachi.

Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presided over the cabinet's introductory meeting, which was attended by caretaker ministers Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz, Younus Dhaga, Mubeen Juami, Dr Saad khalid, Dr Junaid Shah, Mrs Rana Hussain, Ishwar Lal, Arshad Wali Muhammad, Omar Soomro and Khuda Bux Marri.

At the outset, the caretaker chief minister said he had an agenda for good governance and service to the people of Sindh, besides supporting the Election Commission

of Pakistan for carrying out its work. Justice Baqar said in the aftermath of the floods, poverty had increased manifold in the province and concrete measures were needed to tackle it.

He said the caretaker government was apolitical. "We are not here to raise fingers of accusation against others, but we will try to improve the governance to serve the people and support the Election Commission of Pakistan in their assignment," he added.

Justice Baqar said there was a need of promoting enter-faith harmony in the province. The people of different faiths and beliefs had lived together there, but anti-state elements were trying to create law and order by igniting religious hatred and "we must stop it".

As it was pointed out that the dacoits had

developed the sway in the Katcha area, the cabinet decided to launch an operation against the criminals. The home minister was directed to chalk out a plan in consultation with the police and other law enforcement agencies so that a well-coordinated clean-up operation against the dacoits could be launched.

The cabinet members observed that due to some ongoing development works in the city traffic jam issues cropped up during the peak hours, therefore the traffic police was directed to manage traffic flow properly.

The cabinet after a thorough discussion decided to expedite work on the ongoing development schemes, and to accelerate work on the foreign-funded projects so that they could be completed well in time.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presides over an introductory cabinet meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Judicial remand of Dr Yasmin, former Umar Cheema extended

LAHORE (Online): The judicial remand of PTI former minister Dr Yasmin Rashid and former governor Punjab Umar Sarfraz Cheema has been extended for 11 days each in Jinnah House attack case.

PTI leader and former provincial minister was presented in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore on expiry of judicial remand in the cases of torching PML-N office, attack on Askari tower and Shadman police station and other cases.

Ijaz Ahmad Butt of ATC heard the case.

The investigation officer took the plea before the court Dr Yasmin Rashid is facing the charges of attacking the PML-N office in Model Town, attack on Askari

tower and torching Police station Shadman.

The investigation officer requested the court to extend the judicial remand of Yasmin Rashid in four cases. The court while extending judicial remand of Yasmin Rashid for 11 days ordered her to appear before it on September 01. On the other hand Umar Sarfraz Cheema former governor Punjab arrested in attack on Jinnah house and arson cases was presented in the court.

Police presented him in the court on wheelchair being unwell and requested the court to extend his judicial remand.

The court extended his judicial remand for 11 days and ordered him to appear before it again on September 01.

SMBR, Lahore Bar discuss e-registration, legal collaboration

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed and Lahore Bar Association (LBA) delegation led by its President Rana Intizar Hussain discussed in details the matters pertaining to e-registration and legal collaboration, here on Monday.

Prominent figures from legal fraternity, Director General of Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA), Lahore's Deputy Commissioner and other relevant officers attended the meeting. PLRA Director General briefed the LBA delegation about the innovative e-registration initiative. The LBA President lauded this transformative project terming it a stride towards digitalization, which would modernize the legal landscape.

assured the LBA of addressing the concerns raised by legal community, and recognizing their pivotal role in society. He also constituted a committee to be headed by DG PLRA for addressing the lawyers' apprehensions. The meeting also delved into the extension of the manual registration deadline, deliberating on the matter with thoughtful consideration. Any final decision regarding the extension of the manual registration period would be taken after thorough consultation with the legal fraternity, he assured.

The SMBR also unveiled plans to enlist lawyers for public service through local commission. This innovative approach would involve recommendations from the Bar's President.



PESHAWAR: Bishop Of Humsafri Sarfaraz Peter along with Chief Khatib Maulana Tayyib Qureshi and religious leaders addressing the press conference.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses a congregation arranged in support of the Christian community members who were affected by mob violence in Tehsil Jaranwala.

CM chairs 7th meeting of standing committee on finance, development

LAHORE (APP): The 7th meeting of the cabinet standing committee on finance & development was convened under the chair of the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office on Monday.

The meeting decided in principle to give a special package to the heirs of employees, who had passed away during service. In addition, the CM ordered that financial aid to employees' families should be provided within 10 days positively.

The committee granted approval for rehabilitation and expansion of Gatwala Road, originating from the Nishat Abad overhead

bridge in Faisalabad. A decision was reached to collaborate with the French Development Agency (AFD) to enhance the efficiency of the Water and Sewerage Authorities (WASAs) in Lahore and Faisalabad.

A decision was made to incorporate the acquisition of snow blowers for the Murree roads into the annual development programme. Concurrently, the green light was given for comprehensive restoration of historically significant gates in Lahore, ensuring their return to their original condition. Moreover, funding was allocated for modernisation of the Lahore Zoo.

Funds were allocated to adorn the shrine of Baba Fariduddin Ganj Shakar, and the project was included in the Annual Development Programme. Under the aegis of the Prime Minister's National Programme, in-principle approval was granted for conversion of agricultural tube-wells to solar power in Punjab. The committee's consent was extended to include the Flood Protection Sector Project-III in the Annual Development Programme for fiscal year 2023-24. Re-issuance of funds was approved for small dams in Chakwal and other locations under the Public Sector Development Programme.

LHC dismisses Punjab govt appeal against bail to Elahi

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Monday dismissed an appeal, filed by the Punjab government, against a single bench order that stopped the authorities concerned from arresting former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in any undisclosed cases, besides granting him protective bail in two cases.

The division bench, headed by Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan announced the reserved verdict on the intra-court appeal of the Punjab

government and upheld the order of the single bench. Earlier, the bench had dismissed the verdict, after hearing arguments of all parties.

It is pertinent to mention here that an LHC single bench had stopped the authorities concerned from arresting Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in any undisclosed cases and also granted him protective bail in two cases registered at Anti-Corruption Establishment Gujrat and Ghalib Market Police Station, Lahore.

Rangers arrest three robbers

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence based operation arrested three alleged robbers from Orangi Town and recovered snatched mobile phones and a motorcycle from their possession.

According to a spokesman for Rangers on Monday arrested were identified as Ayaz, Abdul Saboor alias Saboor and Ehtisham alias Ahsan alias Shehroze.

The arrested were involved in robberies, snatching and tempering of mobile phones. A motorcycle and snatched mobile phones from the possession of the arrested.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of district Banno led by former caretaker provincial minister Hamid Shah meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

ANF seizes 620 kg drugs, 1193 kg prohibited chemical in 23 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 23 operations across the country managed to recover 620 kg drugs and 1193 kg prohibited chemical besides netting 30 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 620 kg drugs including 575 kg hashish, 38 kg opium, 5.5 kg Ice drug and 2 kg heroin were recovered during the operations.

The spokesman further informed that in an operation conducted near Mandi Mor Pirwadhai,

Rawalpindi, two accused residents of Peshawar were arrested with 36 kg opium, 32.4 kg hashish and 2 kg heroin. In another raid, 36 kg hashish was recovered from bus intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. During the operation, two accused residents of Quetta and Shangla were arrested.

In third operation, over 2.5 kg Ice drug was recovered from the possession of a Saudi Arabia-bound passenger resident of Toba Tek Singh, going on flight number FZ-332, netted at Jinnah International Airport.

Three killed in traffic accident

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three persons were killed while 17 others sustained injuries in a road accident that occurred in Shangla district due to passenger van brake failure here on Monday.

According to details, the incident unfolded when the driver lost control due to brake failure.

Rescue and emergency teams were immediately reached the incident place and shifted the bodies and injured to nearby hospital. Further probe was underway.

Alhama executive director removed

LAHORE (APP): On the orders of Caretaker Minister for Information and Culture Amir Mir, Saleem Sagar, the executive director of Alhama Arts Council Lahore, has been removed from his position, and instructed to report to the Service and General Administration Department. Saleem Sagar, who had assumed the position few months ago, was facing allegations of ineffectiveness and corruption, according to the Punjab government h a n d o u t. The responsibilities of the executive director Alhama Arts Council.

PML-N senior leader meets governor, discusses educational matter

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Ahmad Hassaan called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor's House here on Monday and discussed matters pertaining to education sector. The governor said that institutions were built through supremacy of merit, adding that he was committed to ensuring merit in the education sector. He said character building of the young generation was very important in educational institutions. He added that the purpose of educational institutions was to impart students various skills and also to train them morally.

Balighur Rehman said as the chancellor, he had also created a consortium on character building. He said the country could be

put on the path to development only by inculcating positive thinking and high moral values among the youth.

Khawaja Hassaan said Aitchison College was a historical educational institution, adding that he would play his role for its development and improvement. He said the steps taken by the Punjab governor for supremacy of merit and improvement in administrative affairs in the institutions, run by the board of governors, were commendable. He hailed various steps taken by the governor as the chancellor to improve quality of education in the universities of Punjab, including appointment of pro-vice chancellors, adding that that had greatly improved the administrative affairs of the universities.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori exchanges views with Newly-appointed Inspector General (IG) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

Mayor Mardan condemns Jaranwala Incident, stresses minority rights protection

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Mardan Hamayattullah Mayor on Monday condemned the recent incident in Jaranwala and demanded action against those involved, aiming to mitigate the losses suffered by affected minorities.

He expressed these views during his address to the City Local Council, where elected members, government officials, and media representatives were present.

He emphasized the country's laws and constitution guaranteed the rights of all citizens, and neither the law nor Islamic teachings permit the

discrimination and violation of rights of minorities.

He highlighted Islam's message of peace and brotherhood, emphasizing the protection of minority rights.

He said that Inflation was affecting the common people and called for the establishment of a consultative team and a modern traffic management system in the city.

During the council meeting, Ashok Kumar thanked the mayor for addressing the concerns of minorities and expressed that many of their issues had been resolved through the system of jirgas.

PFA unearths fake beverages unit, disposes of 18,800 litre spurious drinks

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Monday unearthed a fake beverages unit producing carbonated drinks of different popular brands in Jameel Town.

PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said that the raiding team disposed of 18,800 litre spurious drinks; 1,250kg sugar and 130kg prohibited ingredients besides confiscating 17 cylinders, filling machines, compressors, stove, empty bottles, lids and fake labelling.

Meanwhile, PFA also lodged a first information

report (FIR) against the adulteration mafia on account of adulteration and forgery in the nearest police station while handing an accused over to police during the raid.

He said that fabricated fizzy drinks were being prepared with hazardous chemicals, loose non-food grade colours, artificial sweeteners, unclean tap water, and other harmful ingredients while it was preserved in prohibited drums. Non-food-grade plastic bottles and fake labelling were also being used for packing purpose, he added.



LAHORE: Senior leader of PML (N) and former Coordinator of Prime Minister Khawaja Ahmed Hasaan meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

88 vehicles fined over no parking

RAWALPINDI (APP): The City Traffic Police (CTP) on Monday issued 88 challan tickets to vehicles and motorcycles for violating no parking in the garrison city.

The tickets were issued following the directions of the Chief Traffic Officer to ensure a smooth flow of traffic in the city. According to the CTP spokesperson, the grand operation against encroachments was launched on various thoroughfares in the city including Raja Bazaar

under the supervision of the CTO.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimur Khan has issued orders to take strict action against the encroachment mafia, violators of no parking, and those obstructing the flow of traffic in Rawalpindi district. He said the encroachments and no parking violations cause traffic jams and affect the beauty of the city.

During the operation, different thoroughfares were cleared from the encroachment mafia.

Active info system directed to evacuate people from flooded areas

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Irrigation South Punjab, Ejaz Khaliq Razaqi visited Sulemanki Headworks to review the flood situation in the Sutlej as a result of India's water aggression on Monday.

He reviewed the water situation at the headworks and inspected the flood fighting arrangements and breaching section.

Chief Engineers of the Bahawalpur and Sahiwal

Irrigation Departments also accompanied him.

Speaking on the occasion, Razaqi said that Sutlej was facing a high level of flood.

He directed authorities to establish an active information system with district administration for an early evacuation of people from the flood-affected area. The secretary instructed the officers and staff of the Irrigation department.

ECP urges caretaker govts to refrain from indulging in political activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday again cautioned the federal and provincial governments against getting involved in any political activities that might undermine the smooth conduct of elections.

The ECP, in a notification, affirmed that caretaker governments must refrain from any actions aimed at exerting influence on the elections or engaging in any activities that could, in any way, impact or compromise the integrity of free and fair elections. It said, "The caretaker governments, as apolitical bodies, are authorized to make decisions or take steps pertaining to ongoing bilateral or multilateral agreements, as well as projects that have been previously initiated under the Public Private Partnership Authority Act 2017." The ECP cautioned the caretaker administrations to confine themselves to the authority granted to them by the Elections Act, 2017. The Commission cited an instance, in which it intervened to curtail the

caretaker government in Punjab from exceeding its prescribed powers. "A letter was penned by the Election Commission addressed to the caretaker Chief Minister (CM) and Chief Secretary of Punjab. The letter conveyed that the caretaker administration is restricted from making significant decisions, and its authority is limited to overseeing routine operations," it added.

The ECP expressed concern over the issuance of no-objection certificates (NOCs) to housing societies in green belt areas by deputy commissioners, and cautioned the caretaker governments against making decisions that fall outside their purview and should instead be made by elected governments.

The ECP additionally enacted a prohibition on any kind of hiring in federal, provincial, and local government ministries, divisions, departments, or institutions. The sole exemption to this rule is when cases receive prior approval from the Commission.

The Commission further directed the interim

administrations to refrain from announcing or commencing any fresh development initiatives on both the federal and provincial fronts. This directive applies except for projects already underway or approved before the notification was issued.

Commencing with the announcement of the election schedule, the allocation of development funds for new projects within local government institutions across provinces and cantonment boards nationwide will be suspended. This suspension will persist until the declaration of the general election results, stated the notification.

The election oversight body affirmed its constitutional duty to ensure the fair and honest organization and conduct of elections, in accordance with the provisions of Article 218(3) of the Constitution.

The ECP additionally directed the interim administrations at both the national and provincial levels to cooperate in facilitating elections within legal parameters.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi conducted a surprise visit to Islamabad Model School F-6/3.

UNICEF Country head calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Abdullah Fadi called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Monday and discussed issues related to the health sector.

During the meeting, the UNICEF Country Chief congratulated the Minister for Health on assuming this important responsibility. Dr. Nadeem Jan appreciated UNICEF's services in the health sector.

UNICEF has supported Pakistan in every difficult time, said Dr. Nadeem Jan.

"We will endeavour to bring effective and exemplary improvements in a short span of time," he said.

The minister said, "We are determined to eradicate polio from the country and will work on an emergency basis for the eradication of polio for the prestige of our country in the comity of nations."

He appreciated the role of UNICEF in the health sector especially in nutrition. "We are also working under an integrated strategy to control malnutrition," he said.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said all necessary measures will be taken to keep people safe from diseases.

UNICEF will continue to provide all possible support to the Ministry of National Health Services under the leadership of the new Minister for the improvement of the health sector, UNICEF Country Chief said.

It was informed by the Health Minister that a high-level seminar on nutrition control will be held in the UK in November this year in which Pakistan will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with international organizations.

"We are taking effective measures to promote breastfeeding.



ISLAMABAD: UNICEF Country head Abdullah Fadi calls on Federal caretaker Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

NUST honors its recipients of Pakistan Civil Awards 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Monday paid glowing tributes to its distinguished faculty and staff upon conferment of the prestigious Civil Awards 2023 by President, Dr Arif Alvi.

The Investiture ceremony will take place on Pakistan Day, March 23, 2024.

Registrar NUST, Engr Brig Muhammad Ashfaq Mailla has been conferred Sitara-e-Imtiaz (M), in recognition of his meritorious services during his illustrious career.

Dr Faisal Shafait from NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) and Dr Umar Shahbaz from NUST College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CoEME) have been conferred the coveted Pride of Performance, while Dr M Usman Akram from CoEME, Dr Salman Raza Naqvi from NUST School of Chemical and Materials

Engineering (SCME), Dr. Haider Abbas from NUST Military College of Signals (MCS) and Ms. Arooba Gillani from NUST Placement Office (NPO) have been conferred Tamgha-e-Imtiaz.

The awards have been bestowed in recognition of their exceptional contributions to higher education, research and public service.

On behalf of NUST, Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, extended the heartiest felicitations to the excellent faculty and staff members and expressed deep gratitude for their outstanding services to NUST and the nation at large.

Describing the award recipients as role models for present and future generations of scholars, scientists and change makers, he underscored that NUST's esteemed reputation is largely built upon the continuous efforts of its committed human resources, whom he termed the university's greatest asset.

Toshkhana Case SC to hear PTI chief's appeal on Aug 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-member bench of the Supreme Court would hear the appeal of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman on August 23, in Toshkhana criminal case.

The bench would be headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising of Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail. It may be mentioned here that the former prime minister had challenged the verdict of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) dated August 3, before the top court. The IHC bench had remanded back the matter pertaining maintainability of the criminal case to the additional session court.

IHC declares arrest of Afridi's brother as illegal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday declared the arrest of Rafi Afridi, the brother of former minister Shehryar Afridi, under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) as illegal.

IHC's Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case against the arrest of Rafi Afridi, Syed Ghani and Akseer Ahmed. Petitioners' lawyer Dr Baber Awan argued that his clients had been arrested on the orders of district magistrate under MPO and prayed the court to declare their arrest as illegal. During hearing, the court remarked that one could not be arrested on the basis of just risks. The court, subsequently, declared their arrest as null and void.

Registrar office returns PTI chief's plea with objections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Registrar Office of the Supreme Court on Monday returned the petition seeking to stop the arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman in other cases with objections.

The registrar office objected that the petitioner had not fulfilled the requirements of Article 184/3 and that he had filed the case for his personal interest.

It further said that the petitioner had also not approached the relevant forum prior to filing the case before the SC. Moreover, the petitioner also could not explain that which of his basic rights had been affected.

Indian troops martyr two Kashmiri youth in Pulwama

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism, martyred two Kashmiri youth in Pulwama district in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the Indian army and paramilitary forces martyred the two youths during a cordon and search.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah H.E. Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Pakistan pays tribute to victims of terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, Pakistan Monday joined the international community in honouring the lives lost and the survivors of terrorist attacks.

The Foreign Office spokesperson in a statement said, "On this day, our thoughts are with the survivors and the families of the victims. We honour the memory of our heroes who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism."

She said, "These challenges did not deter us, Pakistan remained resolute in its resolve to combat terrorism. With national commitment, matchless sacrifice and unparalleled sacrifices of the people, Pakistan has managed to turn the situation and score victories against terrorism."

The Spokesperson said, "As we remember and pay tribute to victims worldwide, we must also remember the victims of state terrorism including in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). Since the 1990s Indian troops have martyred over 100,000 Kashmiris, widowed over 22,000 women, orphaned 108,000 children and raped over 11,000 women in IOJK. The international community must stand with victims of state terrorism in IOJK as well."

She said, "It is imperative for the international community to adopt a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism and address its root causes."

US\$ 150 billion in losses to the economy."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker minister for Maritime Affairs, Communication & Railway Shahid Ashraf Tarar chaired a comprehensive briefing session at Ministry Maritime Affairs.

Minister hails govt for swift action against Jaranwala incident perpetrators

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Minister for Human Rights Khalid George on Monday lauded the government for taking swift action against perpetrators of the Jaranwala incident.

There is a dire need to dismantle the mindset of May 9-type mayhem, he said while talking to PTV. Some anti-state elements are trying to promote extremism in the country, he said.

He stressed collective efforts to flush out such disgruntled persons from this country. George hoped that people belonging to all segments of society will continue to work for the promotion of inter-faith harmony. Regretting the Jaranwala incident, he said

that we are living together for decades and played a vital role in the prosperity of Pakistan.

Appreciating the Punjab government's prompt action against the criminals of Jaranwala mayhem, he said that we are united to crush any form of extremism and terrorism from this healthy society.

Meanwhile, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khair Azad said it is the responsibility of every person to pay respect to all kinds of religious places.

He said that the interim government should award punishment to those who are responsible for Jaranwala tragic incident.

Police gets three day custody of Imaan, Wazir

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Monday granted the police three-day physical remand of Imaan Mazari Advocate and former MNA Ali Wazir in a case pertaining to a controversial speech.

The two accused were produced before ATC Judge Abul Hassnat Zulkernain by the police.

At the outset of the hearing, Imaan Mazari's lawyer Zainab Janjua argued that the police had registered two cases against one incident. She said that the mobile phone and laptop of her client had already been taken into police custody.

The lawyer said that Imaan Mazari was a lawyer and she would continue appearing before the investigators. She said that the police couldn't find anything against her client during the last two days, adding that there was no need for physical remand of the accused.

PM lauds Saudi interest in investment opportunities in Pakistan

Thanks KSA leadership for facilitating Pakistani pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday thanked the Saudi leadership for making excellent arrangements for Hajj pilgrims from all over the world during the Hajj season, particularly for the Pakistani pilgrims.

He expressed the hope that the Pakistani Hajj and Umrah pilgrims would continue to receive special treatment from the Saudi side.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Minister of Hajj & Umrah of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al Rabiah who called on him,

the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Kakar expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations with the Kingdom and lauded the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, adding that Pakistan would always remain a trusted partner of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Minister is leading a high-level delegation with members from the Saudi ministries of foreign affairs, interior, civil aviation authority, communication, tourism, etc.

The visit is the first by a Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah to Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: National Coordinator, NACTA, Muhammad Tahir Rai called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Masood urges solidarity among diaspora for better Pak-US relations

WASHINGTON (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistani-American community is a catalyst for moving Pakistan and US closer

through people to people exchanges. He stated this while addressing a huge gathering of Pakistani diaspora at annual Pakistan Day Parade in New Jersey.

The NJ Pakistan Day Parade is an annual event since 2015. The annual parade features colorful floats, music, dance, cultural exhibitions, and Pakistani arts and cuisine.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan has passed through much turbulence and faced many challenges and it has survived, and people will see it as one of the most successful nations in the comity of nations.

He urged Pakistani

Americans to demonstrate unity so they could emerge stronger in the United States and their role in Pakistan would also grow.

Masood Khan, on the occasion, also strongly condemned attacks on churches in Pakistan. He said that the entire nation has condemned the heinous act and expressed solidarity with the victims. He said this was a conspiracy against the society and nation of Pakistan and we will not countenance it under any circumstances.

Masood Khan also paid a glowing tribute to the founder of the Parade, late Ahrar (Sam) Khan. He also acknowledged and appreciated the achievements of Assemblywoman Shama Haider for being the first Pakistani American woman to have been elected for New Jersey state assembly.



ISLAMABAD: Co-founder and CEO of Connect Hear Azima Dhanjee and Corporate Director HR AND OD and Dr Mojin Uddin signing the MOU during ceremony at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Jamal for facilitating children with local literature, storytelling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Monday stressed the importance of facilitating children with local literature and storytelling to arise their interest in reading to enhance their intellectual caliber as juvenile literature played crucial part in education providing both knowledge and entertainment.

The Minister made these remarks during his visit to National Library of Pakistan (NLP) and Department of Museum and Archeology (DOAM) to review the working and performance of the attached departments of the division.

Later, the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presided over a meeting to review the progress on various projects of DOAM.

On the occasion, Director General NLP Asif Iqbal Khan gave a detailed overview of history, functioning, performance and future plans of the NLP.

Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah underscored that proper ramps should be established for the facilitation of differently-abled person at National Library. He said that his division would adopt all measures to equip the library with modern facilities.

Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presided over a meeting to review the progress on various projects of DOAM.

HEC sends off 141 students to study in Hungary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan on Monday hosted a send-off ceremony for the 141 students awarded under the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme for the academic year 2023-2024.

The event was attended by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, Dr. Peter Dely, Charge d'Affaires here at the Embassy of Hungary in Islamabad, Dr. Shaista Sohai, Executive Director

HEC and Mrs. Ayesha Ikram, DG (Scholarships) HEC. This group of scholars forms the 8th cohort of the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme, which was launched in Pakistan in 2015. Since its inception, a total of 1029 Pakistani students have been granted fully funded scholarships for Bachelor's, Master's, One-Tier Master's, and PhD studies across disciplines including Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

Cipher case: Court approves 4 days physical remand of Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (Online): The special case has approved 4 days physical remand of Shah Mehmood Qureshi, vice chairman of PTI in cipher case under official secret act. Shah Mehmood Qureshi was presented by FIA in the court set up under official secret act Islamabad on Monday.

He is arrested in alleged misplaced cipher case. The FIA requested for 13 days physical remand. The subordinate court of Islamabad had approved physical remand of Shah Mehmood Qureshi a day before and handed him over to FIA. The FIA presented him in the court again on completion of his remand.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain held in camera hearing of the case.

PMD forecasts rains with occasional gaps from Aug 23-27

ISLAMABAD (APP): For the heat-stricken people bearing hot and humid weather conditions for the last few days, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Monday given a good news of more monsoon rains in various parts of the country from August 23-27 with occasional gaps.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the over loaded husk truck at service road along the Express Way, which needs the attention of concern authority.