

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 248 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Wednesday August 23, 2023, Safar 05, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

## Extremism, religious hatred will not be allowed in country: PM Kakar

Federal cabinet directs to hold interfaith harmony conference next week; Interim government fixes Diyat amount at Rs 67,57,902 for FY24

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal cabinet has directed to hold interfaith harmony conference at national level in next week. Cabinet met under the care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar. The Ulema of international stature from different religions and school of thoughts will be invited in the conference. On the recommendation of finance ministry, federal cabinet has fixed the diyat amount which is equal to 30630 grams silver as Rs 6757902. The care taker PM while addressing the federal cabinet said extremism and religious hatred will

not be allowed in the country. It is foremost obligation of the state to protect minorities in Pakistan. He remarked that exemplary punishment will be awarded to those involved in Jaranwala incident. He indicated that care taker government has come for short period under the constitution. Our basic responsibility is to extend cooperation to election commission for fair and transparent election, he added. Upper house of parliament that is Senate is functioning but there can be no legislation. Our care taker government has come for short

period under law and constitution, he observed. We have to do legal and constitutional works within the period whatever we have. We cannot bring big changes in government system. National Assembly has been dissolved on completion of its constitutional term. We will take action on violation of rules and regulations, he remarked. We will keep about the agenda of next cabinet meeting on the basis of briefing. All ministers should get briefing from their respective ministries. The conference will prove to be an important milestone for the promotion of inter-faith harmony

in Pakistan. Earlier addressing the cabinet, the prime minister said the caretaker government's prime mandate was to assist and monitor the electoral process which was the constitutional requirement. He said keeping in mind the prime mandate, the caretaker government would monitor its day-to-day activities to the best of its abilities. "We are here as a constitutional continuation for a limited period of time and we are not here to design the government model or structure," the prime minister said while addressing the cabinet meeting here.

He maintained that a continuation of the previous government, the caretaker setup was generally supposed to carry on with the general policy until and unless there were any violations of rules or business. "The National Assembly has retired and we are waiting for the new elections," he said adding the second arm of the parliament the Upper House was still there but it could not do legislation alone till there was the Lower House. He asked the cabinet members to come up with a work plan by taking briefings from their respective ministries and the next cabinet meeting agenda would be based on that work plan.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Old Age Home, Aafiyat, Multan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President stresses special measures for welfare of elderly, poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed the government institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society to work together for the welfare of poor people and elderly in the society. Talking to a delegation of Old Age Home, Aafiyat Multan here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said Islam gave utmost importance to respect the senior citizens. He said the parents should arrange quality education and training for their children according to teachings of Islam. The president said fulfilling the basic rights of the parents must be among the top responsibilities of

their children. "Actions are needed to provide all the basic facilities and necessities of life to the homeless and the elderly", Alvi said. He urged the philanthropists, welfare organizations and other sections of the society to make special efforts to take care of the elderly. He said measures were also needed at the legal and social level for the well being of the senior citizens. He appreciated the role of 'Tare Zemin Par Trust' and 'Aafiyat' for taking care of the elderly. Later, the president also hosted a lunch for senior citizens.

## British, Iranian envoys call on Senate Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): British High Commissioner (BHC) Jane Marriott and Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amir Moghaddam on Tuesday held separate meetings with Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and exploration of avenues for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and the respective countries. During the meeting between the Senate chairman and British envoy, issues of paramount importance such as trade, investment, parliamentary cooperation, and public relations between the two nations came under discussion. The Senate chairman highlighted the need to am-

plify partnerships between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across various sectors, particularly in the realms of health, education, and technology. He emphasized on fostering collaboration through the mobilization of existing parliamentary friendship groups. Sanjrani underscored the abundant investment opportunities that Pakistan offers within a favourable economic environment. He highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to promote investment and extend incentives to potential investors. He underscored that Gwadar was being emerged as a burgeoning economic hub and encouraged British investors to explore investment prospects in the region.

## Pakistan summons Indian diplomat over LoC killing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Indian Charge d' Affaires Summoned to Register Pakistan's Strong Protest over Killing of a Civilian at the Line of Control (LoC). The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today, to register Pakistan's strong protest over the killing of a 60-year-old civilian, Ghias, resident of Oli village of Kotli district, as a result of firing by the Indian forces. The incident took place in the Nikial Sector of the Line of Control (LoC) on 21 August 2023. Emphasizing the need for maintaining peace and tranquillity at the LoC, it was underscored that such acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, reaffirmed in February 2021. It was stressed that utmost caution should be exercised by the Indian forces as targeting innocent civilians is contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws. The Indian side was urged to investigate the incident and respect the Ceasefire Understanding.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

## SC disposes of petition about Volume-X of JIT report in Panama case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday disposed of a petition pertaining to the Volume-X of Joint Investigation Team (JIT) report in the Panama Papers case, after the petitioner requested permission to withdraw it. The three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial heard the case filed by the Broadsheet Company seeking access to the Volume-X of the JIT report. Justice Athar Minallah remarked that the petitioner had prayed the court to open the Volume-X for an international mediation, but after its (mediation process) completion, the petition had become ineffective. The petitioner's lawyer Latif Khosa Advocate said that the case had not yet become ineffective. Why the said volume was kept secret and it was the right of public to know about it under Article 19 of the Constitution.



Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi met with the delegation of daily wage teachers in Islamabad

## Religious tolerance key to peace, stability: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that religious tolerance and Inter-Faith Harmony are key for global peace and stability. He expressed these views in his message on "International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief". The speaker in a statement, said that acts of violence based on religious belief and faith are condemnable. He also stressed the need for tolerance and forbearance as the prevalent norm in societies. The speaker has also condemned the incidents of Desecration of Holy Quran which are cause of deep concern and pain the Muslims in Pakistan and around the world. He also said that

Islamic teachings stress Ideology and the notion of Religious Tolerance and Inter-Faith Harmony. While highlighting the increasing incidents of hatred and animosity against Indian Muslims by the fascist Modi government, he said that global stakeholders need to take cognisance of the plight of Indian Muslims. He also said that the world should also take notice of severe violence against innocent Palestinians by Israeli forces. Furthermore, Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that Kashmiris have been facing the suppression and aggression of Indian state machinery in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. He said that acts of violence on the basis of religious belief are the real cause of instability in the world.

## All 8 passengers rescued successfully after day-long operation

Two wires of the motor-driven conveyor carrying school children snapped, leaving them stranded mid-air

BATTAGRAM (INP): All eight stranded persons, including schoolchildren and a teacher, were successfully rescued by Pakistan Army troops in hours-long operation after two wires of a cable car snapped in Battagram's Allai tehsil on Tuesday morning, leaving them stranded over 600 feet mid-air. Military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement that the GOC SSG himself supervised the operation. The Ministry of Interior said the rescued persons are identified as Irfan s/o Amrez, Niaz s/o Umarzeb, Rizwan s/o Abdul Qayyum, Gulfaraz s/o Hakeemdad, Sher Nawaz s/o Shah Nazar, Abrar s/o Abdul Ghani, Attaullah s/o

Kifayatullah and Usama s/o Muhammad Sharif. The students, stranded since 7am, were using the cable car to get to school in a mountainous area in Battagram, about 200 km (125 miles) north of Islamabad, officials said. A notice issued by the provincial authorities stated that the incident occurred at the GHS Batangi Pashto spot over the Jangri Khwar stream.



BATTAGRAM: Pakistan Army Special Service Group (SSG) Commandos take part in rescue operation after a cable car incident in Battagram.

## President approves appointment of Chief Justice PHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has approved appointment of Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan as the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court. The president accorded his approval to the appointment of CJ Peshawar High Court under Article 175 A (13) of the Constitution and on the advice of the prime minister, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Tuesday. Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, senior Puisne Judge, has been working as Acting CJ Peshawar High Court.

## Six soldiers martyred, 4 terrorists killed in SW encounter: ISPR

PESHAWAR (APP): Six troops were martyred and four terrorists killed during exchange of firing in South Waziristan tribal district on Tuesday. According to ISPR, fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District. "Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly four terrorists were sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat," the ISPR said. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Online adds: Funeral prayers of shuhada who embraced shahadat today while fighting valiantly against terrorists during intense exchange of fire between Army troops and terrorists in the general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District were offered at Wana. Shuhada will be laid to rest with full military honours in their respective hometowns. Corps Commander Peshawar and other senior serving officers attended the funeral prayers.



ISLAMABAD: Director General, FIA Mohsin Hassan Butt called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## ECP launches efficient Result Compilation System

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was informed on Tuesday that a Result Compilation System has been created to swiftly transmit provisional results from the presiding officer to the returning officer using a mobile app. During a session presided over by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, an ECP representative con-

veyed that the recently introduced Result Compilation System will empower Returning Officers to swiftly compile provisional results while ensuring accurate vote statistics. The system underwent a thorough Mock Exercise to ensure its functionality, leading to the Election Commission's full confidence in its performance.

## Pakistan Rangers apprehend six Indian nationals inside Pakistani territory

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan Rangers troops deployed along international border with India apprehended six Indian nationals inside Pakistani territory from July 29 to August 3, 2023. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release on Tuesday said these smugglers and criminals were trying to smuggle narcotics, weapons and ammunition into Pakistan. "It is surprising that these smugglers could cross the heavily fenced border under perpetual surveillance of BSF (Indian Border Security Force). It shows likely complicity of BSF troops in narco and

weapons smuggling. In addition, it is also surprising that Indian BSF troops have so far failed to report six missing citizens," the ISPR said. The four apprehended smugglers were identified as Gurmeej son of Guldeep Singh, Shinder Singh son of Bhora Singh, Jugender Singh son of Thakur Singh and Vishal son of Jagga belong to Ferozpur, Rattan Pal Singh son of Mahinder Singh belongs to Jalandhar and Garvender Singh son of Mukhtiar Singh belongs to Ludhiana. These Indian smugglers would be dealt as per law of the land for illegally entering into Pakistan and indulging in nefarious activities, it said.

## Wasi assumes charge of Chairman PTDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wasi Shah the recently appointed Minister of State for Tourism assumed the charge of Chairman Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) here on Tuesday. On his maiden visit to the PTDC Head Office, he was greeted by the Managing Director of PTDC. Aftab ur Rehman Rana gave a comprehensive briefing on the functions, operations, and role of the corporation as a national tourism organisation. The minister appreciated the efforts of the PTDC team for the promotion of tourism and developing effective coordination with provincial tourism departments and the private sector within their limited resources.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Wednesday August 23, 2023

### 'No' means 'yes'

With the caretakers settling in, one would have expected that the fever that has lately wracked Pakistani politics would finally start receding. Instead, it appears that we may be in for a fresh bout of febrile uncertainty, thanks to continuing power struggles at the highest levels of the state.

The president on Sunday caused a major scandal when he posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he had never assented to two controversial bills seeking to amend the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act. Just a day earlier, these amendments had been [announced][2] as having been enacted into law.

The president's startling disclosure triggered a furore, with analysts and commentators presenting vastly different views on its implications. As the interim government tried to deflect blame, the country faced international ridicule over the farcical manner in which it has been run as of late.

It is clear that something had been amiss at the presidency. This publication was repeatedly stonewalled by the Aiwan-i-Sadr in recent days whenever it attempted to get confirmation on which laws among the dozens passed by the 15<sup>th</sup> National Assembly in its last days had actually been given President Arif Alvi's assent. It is unclear who was seeking to withhold this information from the public; the president's own statement appears to suggest that he, too, was being kept in the dark.

However, it has also greatly confused many why President Alvi thought it necessary to apologise for the two laws as if their implementation was inevitable. Had he accepted them to be fait accompli? Why? Several legal experts have argued that the two bills can no longer be deemed to have been enacted, considering the president never gave them his assent. Why, then, did Mr Alvi take such an ambiguous position on the matter through his post?

There must be an independent inquiry into this matter. If any person or persons sought to ensure that these two bills were enacted regardless of what the president actually thought about them, they must be found and prosecuted. The latest is that the President's Secretariat has called for his secretary to be replaced. This is not enough. All responsible must face exemplary punishment for subverting the legislative process. If President Alvi truly believes he was deceived, he has a responsibility to restore the sanctity of his office.

Meanwhile, the legal status of the two laws continues to be debated. While the caretaker government and several PML-N leaders have rushed to defend their enactment, the ongoing controversy boils down to the question of how the Constitution is to be correctly interpreted on the matter. While this question is resolved, the two laws, in their amended form, must not be enforced till the judiciary has had the final say.



Arifa Noor

In this rollercoaster ride called life in Pakistan, each exhausting drop after the contraption slows down brings the hope that this nail-biting moment would be the last one.

After this, we can finally get off and be allowed some rest. But each time, we are proven wrong — all of us, in this country we call home (if there is no second passport or a secret bank account abroad as a backup plan).

With this bit of illogical hope in mind, some of us thought the caretaker setup would give us a break and spare our nerves, even for a bit. But then, never do those who lord over us consider our feelings.

And so it was this past week when the efforts to collect brilliant minds for our caretaker cabinet coin-

ceded with an attack on a minority community, the death of a child who had been abused and mistreated, and more arrests.

In Punjab, our cruelty to the vulnerable is shameful, and the line the province draws is on the basis of religion. The terrible acts against the Ahmadi community continue unabated and in between, we also managed to destroy the lives of a Christian community. Their homes, their churches, nothing was spared.

Anyone reading this will take objection to the vague terms in which I refer to the perpetrators, blaming simply hate rather than the individuals who carried out these acts. But what else should one call it, for the hate is far more widespread than we realise.

We have incited it for decades in society, for generations, so much so that when such a crime takes place, the details reveal how many more are involved than we realise.

For one, the paralysis afflicting law-enforcement personnel who not just watch the crisis building up but also don't stop the rampaging crowds: how

much of it is due to fear and how much because those in uniform may agree with the attackers?

Or observe the aftermath of such incidents — only in the case of the right victims, the ones it is safe to sympathise with — when the leadership sent out to soothe the nerves is religious. Rarely ever does a mainstream politician turn up at such places. And it has been no different in Jaranwala. Ever wonder where the multiple politicians from Faisalabad are?

And why we don't even ask when they will show up? Because those who are aiming to win an election, rarely ever turn up to wipe the tears of vulnerable non-Muslim citizens, for it would cost them the votes of the majority which has been fed on hate and a version of religion we seem to cling to.

So occasionally, we will find images of our mainstream politicians with leaders who promote sectarianism but never with the victims of crimes such as Jaranwala. And no one has a clue how we can address this, regardless of

how many times we spout Jinnah's Aug 11 speech.

But then, if this be our only wound. For the week past also brought us the news of the death of a child working in a local influential's home, along with the video of her writhing in pain on the ground.

Rarely is it possible for a soundless film to communicate such horror, but this one did. But more was in store; the post-mortem revealed physical and sexual abuse.

And if anyone wants to console themselves by thinking this was simply the ugly feudal culture now restricted to the rural corners of Pakistan, the child who had had her bones broken while working in a judge's home is still undergoing treatment. Urban, rural, feudal, or professional, it seems there is little respect for those less fortunate or less privileged.

All these incidents show that violence continues to be the dominant way in which we manage society. The legal system is an alien one that has been imposed on this traditional one and continues

to function as an accessory after the fact. That it doesn't help provide justice is simply adding to its irrelevance.

Not just for the vulnerable ones but also for the more privileged among us.

Imaan Hazir and Ali Wazir were arrested in the dead of night. And while we know little about Wazir's arrest, Imaan and her mother live-tweeted the event, so to say.

Doors were broken down and Imaan dragged off in her night clothes, and we know this not just because of her mother's tweet but also because we saw the video of her court appearance the next day. No one has any doubts why she was arrested but the law has little to do with it and neither will her release, when it happens.

As I was writing this, news came that she had been handed over to CTD for three days. Few have been surprised by this or will wonder what she may have done to deserve this.

After all, if the law were enough, Khadija Shah and others would have been released by now; thanks to Pervez

Musharraf, women should have an automatic right to bail. But they haven't and for similar reasons, one can't have high hopes for the quick release of Ali Wazir. His incarceration, the last time around, also was a lengthy one. And the way the law was managed to ensure his continued captivity has since been used to hold on to so many others.

Others who earlier didn't protest for Ali Wazir are now finding out how easily such traps can be used for them also, for their privilege was also not as great as they thought it was.

Not as unprivileged as the minorities forced to live among us or the poverty-stricken as the children who work in homes, but unprivileged compared to the powerful ones. There is always a power relationship involved, and our law can provide no protection against the violence of the powerful.

And till this is addressed, I wonder if there is any reason or meaning to what we write or say. It just seems so pointless. -- Courtesy Dawn

## The SIFC wild card



Hassan Baig

Since Pakistan's economy is in deep trouble, the government has taken various steps to help improve it. But so far, most measures have proved to be a total waste except for one initiative: the decision to form the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) headed by the prime minister of Pakistan. The chief of army staff (COAS) is also a member and will support the initiative for the purposes of continuity and stability.

At present, a caretaker setup is in place as Pakistan prepares for elections. While there are speculations about the period of the caretaker government, the importance of the SIFC cannot be denied even under such a setup. The SIFC can be a game changer if it is managed rightly, and it can also go the other way if

not taken seriously. So by all means, it is a wild card in the hands of policymakers to help improve the economy by putting it on the sustainable path towards development and growth.

The SIFC seems to be an extension of the former National Development Council (NDC) announced four years back in June 2019, whereby the then army chief was made a member of the council to make it a success. But the NDC could not achieve much because of multiple reasons, including the non-seriousness shown by the then government. Now the outgoing government of former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif formed the SIFC to attract foreign investment, especially from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the fields of agriculture, mining, energy, IT and defence.

The SIFC's apex committee has already decided to set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) company to run its affairs on professional lines. The question is whether the much-hyped SIFC will be able to attract foreign direct investment or prove to be another hoax in

the making. It all depends on the government. One also wonders why setups like the NDC or the SIFC are formed in the presence of the Board of Investment (BoI) working under the prime minister.

Such an exercise leads to the duplication of institutions, which is common in Pakistan and has always been a cause of disturbance among institutional working. The SIFC has swiftly started working on its well-defined goals, attracting investments from the GCC countries, as we saw the Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC) acquiring berths of Karachi Port Terminals on a 25-year lease. The outsourcing of three priority airports of Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi is also under consideration. The SIFC has also recently identified the potential of the Diamer-Basha Dam to attract about \$14 billion in investment.

The Diamer-Basha Dam project has a lot of potential to attract investment, and work has already been started to bifurcate it into two components: water and power. There are chances of investment in the power component by the GCC countries, and work

is already underway to raise investment for this project under the SIFC.

This is also true for the corporate farming potential in the field of agriculture, which is being considered to attract investment from China under CPEC as well as from the GCC countries. The armed forces have already taken an initiative to go all-out for corporate farming by irrigating barren government lands. The SIFC would be interested in offering such an investment opportunity to potential investors in the field of agriculture.

The SIFC with a full-fledged secretariat would be in a position to chalk out the detailed investment potential, especially in the fields of mining and minerals for which activation of institutions like the Pakistan Minerals Development Corporation is a must. Pakistan has the potential of at least \$500 billion investment in the mining sector.

Thousands of billions of dollars could be earned in revenue through such investments in this sector. This all depends on facilitation through one-window operations as envisaged by the SIFC to explore that potential in this important

sector of the economy. Projects like the Thar coal power project, Reko Diq gold project, Saindak gold project have the huge potential to offer and attract potential investors to invest in this vital sector to revive our ailing economy.

The energy and defence sectors also have potential for investment for the revival of the economy, as rightly identified by the SIFC. The energy sector has already saturated itself as far as power plants are concerned. Now, the need is to go all-out for renewable green energy options. The traditional hydel power by building more dams like Diamer-Basha can be a point of investment.

The next is solar and wind power; this area can also attract potential investors if the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) could rationalize tariffs in this regard. There is an immediate need to explore this potential as such energy options will be a welcome step in the right direction, given the fact that ours is a climate-hit country facing climate challenges that are destroying our economy.

The defence sector is

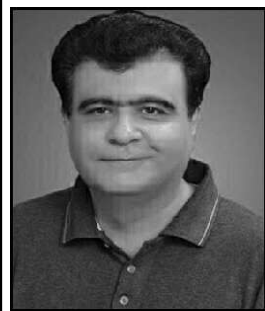
one of our prime sectors with a potential to attract investment. Defence expos have been a regular feature in this regard. Another thing to consider is the country's privatization plans. The privatization list includes heavy industry to attract investment.

It is equally important to help build the Pakistani people's trust in our political system. In case our political system cannot deliver and the existing social contract in the form of the constitution is not respected, all may go to waste.

The policy of disrespect and disruptions has to be shunned for the higher objective of making this nation great and proud. The confidence of the people of Pakistan and potential investors has to be restored at all cost. All investors should be provided fool-proof security not only of their life and liberty but also their investment by providing sovereign guarantees.

The one-window operation as suggested by the SIFC in its vision and mission statement is the ultimate solution to attracting investment. But that has to be implemented in letter and spirit. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Charter or barter?



Dr Niaz Murtaza

It is observed that the two parties that signed a compact for the Charter of Democracy in 2006 have seemingly now 'signed' one for the barter of democracy with unelected forces in order to regain power through controversial polls.

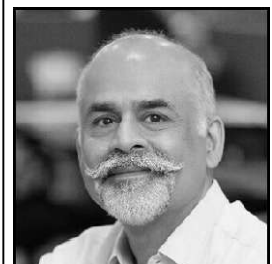
The PPP and PML-N have odd ties with democratic evolution. The harm they have done to it far exceeds the good. But, reflecting on our limited democratic gains, the good they did while in power in the 1970s and then from 2008 to 2018 far exceeds that by all other civilian and khaki regimes combined in 65 years. It includes the 1973 Constitution; the 2010 devolution; holding the only smooth transfer of power between two fairly elected regimes via our fairest polls; accommodation after polls in letting the PTI and BNP rule KP and Balochistan, even though with some dicey effort the PML-N may have ruled both; major electoral reforms in 2010 and 2017 empowering an interim caretaker system to thwart rigging by incumbents; more freedom of rights than under most of our other regimes, etc.

One can make a much longer list of their wrongs even in these eras. But that won't erase the pluses above or the fact that they are much more than those by all our other regimes, for example, the more limited pluses of PTI's KP local bodies and 2002 reserved assembly seats

signs. All our bases of power — economic, political, social, legal, informational and military — are monopolised by elite factions who compete for bigger pieces of state power. The most intense recent political struggles have been between elite groups: the military, the courts, traditional elitist parties and new populist parties representing new elites. Even worse, the biggest challenge to the status quo comes from TTP extremism followed by Baloch groups who have real complaints but unluckily use militant strategies instead of peaceful ones.

Beyond them, the wretched left challenge is still embryonic due to state repression and people's attraction to reactionary rather than rational the-mes. Democratic groups break the suffocating hold of elites on all six power bases by building strong social, informational and political power. The left still has a long way to go to capture even those power bases due to constant repression. Thus, we may be in for a long and ruinous era of k(h)akistocracy. It's unclear if we will return to elected rule soon. The PDM and ECP have wrongly delayed polls to draw new delimitations. The Constitution mandates those under new census results if they change provincial seats in the National Assembly, which the last census hasn't. Many are singing praises of the interim cabinet and egging on the establishment to prolong its influence to 'save Pakistan'. But teams deliver if they share a common vision and work history under a natural, strong leader. It is naïve to expect a disparate team of even top experts to deliver with no clear ideology or shared vision. Our destiny lies in quickly holding fair polls to return to elected rule despite all its flaws. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Truck face twins



Shahzad Sharjeel

They have the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, we have the Bhutto-Zardari clan. They had a foreign-origin first lady, we could have had one too, but she was hounded out. They have Rahul, we have Bilawal. Both are young compared to their septuagenarian competitors who have been variously and dismissively calling them pappu (prepubescent lad), baby, etc.

The higher judiciary in both countries plays a significant political role. Legislators in both places have an embarrassing number of criminal cases against them, ranging from goat theft to murder. The list of similarities is endless, but where we see a clear divergence emerging is how election campaigns and canvassing are done. The tech side of it has been somewhat replicated by the PTI, but where legwork is concerned, we clearly lag — rallies led from the cool environs of SUVs and biryani-fed sit-ins do not count.

Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra from one end of India to the other and his truck rides in Indian Punjab and Haryana and between Washington and New York cases in point. Both endeavours were at least partially aimed at dispelling criticism that the top party leadership is disconnected from the street and the reality of life for citizens at home and in the diaspora abroad.

Our political elites' outings are restricted to wading through ankle-deep rainwater in knee-high boots or staged showings at shelters for the home-

less and orphanages, where the epitome of their public empathy is, 'wo aam logon mein ghul mil gaye' (they mingled with the common folk). Imran Khan is in jail, but it is a matter of time before he is allowed to go abroad on health grounds. Neither the referees in robes nor the coaches in uniform would want him permanently 'out' as sparing partners are needed even for fixed matches.

Some people may come to Bilawal's defence, citing the history of violence against his family and continuing security threats as reasons behind his lack of street credentials. But the argument doesn't hold as Rahul's grandmother and father lost their lives to assassins' bullets and a suicide bomb; the former while in office, the latter as former prime minister. His last speech in parliament and subsequent statements may have sounded rebellious, but Bilawal should know that one cannot ditch the baggage without renouncing the fortune.

Any politician who can connect with even 10 per cent of the electorate is a force to reckon with, believes Sanjaya Baru, veteran journalist and author of *Accidental Prime Minister*. Mr Baru, who has witnessed power politics firsthand as media adviser to then prime minister Manmohan Singh, feels that Bharat Jodo Yatra will play an important part in Congress's resurgence and Rahul's coming into his own as party leader.

Like Pakistan, the present dispensation in India is trying to knock the opposition leader out of the fray. Rahul has managed to hang on to his Lok Sabha seat through the supreme court's suspension of a lower court order to unseat him on libel charges for making false accusations against PM Modi.

Among the plethora of charges against him, Imran Khan can face mul-

tiple cases for breaching the Official Secrets Act. Legislation in this regard was passed with undue haste by parliament. Many see the legislation as PTI-specific.

Not that Imran has not been cavalier in his handling of classified information, ranging from the cipher concerning a purported US conspiracy for regime change in Pakistan to an alleged statement by a former army chief regarding the fuel gauges of tanks. The PDM alliance's unseemly haste in pushing through a slew of legislation has hurt the cause of democratic norms as much as PTI's gleeful de-cla-r-a-tions did of being on the same page with the establishment.

Jawaharlal Nehru, during his premiership, told Acharya Kripalani, the Congress president at the time, that if he wanted to know what went on behind closed doors in government meetings, he could join his cabinet as a minister without portfolio, as the Official Secrets Act prevented him from sharing classified information with anyone outside the cabinet. It is difficult to say how much Prime Minister Modi shares with the RSS but his frequent huddles with it along with BJP officeholders are well known.

The Indians have had their accidental prime ministers like Manmohan Singh and Rajiv Gandhi. We have had our share of accidental and dental presidents. Let us hope that the Pakistani voters are allowed to elect their next prime minister and do so carefully, and that there is nothing accidental about it before and after. It is, however, unrealistic to hope that the next dispensation will have no truck with tanks. Bilawal's belligerent albeit accurate depiction of Modi could make him an early applicant to be the next same 'pageboy'. -- Courtesy Dawn

## All possible resources to be used to address Karachi issues: PM

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday assured that the government would utilise all possible resources to address the issues faced by the Karachi city.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with a delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement which called on him during his daylong visit here.

The delegation members congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office and expressed good wishes for him.

In the meeting, they discussed the country's overall situation, including economy, interfaith harmony as well as other matters.

The MQM delegation

drawn the prime minister's attention towards the issues of delimitation in Karachi as well as the shortage of water.

The delegation comprised Dr Farooq Sattar, Syed Aminul Haq and Khawaja Izharul Hassan.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori also attended the meeting. On the occasion, the prime minister was accompanied by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqir and the members of his cabinet.

It was the maiden visit of the caretaker prime minister to Karachi after assuming his office.

The prime minister said that he along with his few cabinet members came

here to pay homage to Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and reaffirm to work for the progress and prosperity of the country by highlighting the social contract under which a separate state came into being.

Referring to an address of the Founder of the Nation on August 11, 1947 before the Constituent Assembly, he said it focused on the rights of the minorities and equality among individuals.

Prime Minister Kakar expressed the optimism that the people of the country would excel in different fields on the basis of their talents and it was the future of the country.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laying floral wreath at the Mausoleum of Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in Karachi.

## CM Naqvi expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at HFH

**Independent Report**  
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday directed the administration of the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) to improve the management of the hospital within a week else strict action would be taken against them.

During a visit to HFH, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found bloody bed sheets in wards, long queues at reception, shortage of ventilators, while air conditioners were also shut down in several wards. He interacted with

the patients and their attendants and inquired about the medical facilities provided to them.

On the occasion, the patients complained to the CM that medicines were not available in the hospital and they were forced to buy medicines and carry out medical tests from outside the hospital.

The attendants of patients also complained that security guards asked for bribes for entry into the hospital while medical staff delayed the patient's treatment.

Naqvi inspected the Emergency, children and Dengue wards of the

hospital and also visited the shelter home and reviewed the accommodation and food facilities. He directed the hospital's management to improve the efficiency of the available resources as quality and timely treatment was the right of the patients.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir, Information Minister Amir Mir, Vice-Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Muhammad Umer and Medical Superintendent Dr Ejaz Butt were present on the occasion.

## KP governor orders for emergency measures to rescue children

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Tuesday directed the Chief Secretary and Commissioner Hazara Division for taking emergency measures for the rescue of the children trapped in a chairlift at Batagram.

The governor in his directive said all available resources should be used for the safe evacuation of the children.

Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also telephoned the governor

and inquired about the health of trapped children, besides rescue efforts.

The governor said all the relevant organizations and district administration were jointly taking part in the rescue operation. A helicopter was also being used for the purpose.

The elders of Batagram thanked the governor for promptly initiating of the rescue operation.

The governor expressed the hope that the rescue operation would be completed soon.

## No negligence to be tolerated in dengue surveillance: DC

FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abullah Nayar Sheikh has directed dengue surveillance teams to perform their duties honestly and dedication as no negligence will be tolerated in the surveillance of dengue larvae.

Presiding over a meeting of the District Emergency Response Committee here on Tuesday, he said that dengue was a chronic issue which required permanent and thorough surveillance.

## One-window operation being launched for complaints of overseas: Ombudsman

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Tuesday said that one-window operation was being launched to redress complaints of overseas Pakistanis speedily whereas a comprehensive policy would be evolved soon to take action against online apps fraud.

Talking to the media at the Circle House here, he said the federal ombudsman had powers to hear and redress public complaints against 180 departments. It was resolving 60,000 complaints per annum but now this number was being increased and this year it was expected to redress about 200,000 complaints.

He said that earlier the ombudsman had initiated "Informal Resolution of Dispute" programme which had provided tangible results in resolving public grievances speedily. Now, one-window operation was being launched under which all departments would be bound to resolve

complaints of overseas Pakistanis, including their immigration issues, he added.

He said that a wing of ombudsman secretariat was working at international airports already to redress custom related issues whereas other wings were working to resolve complaints relating to the issued of minor children, education, etc.

Responding to a question, a comprehensive policy was also being evolved to take action against those elements who were looting people through online apps, he said.

He said the federal ombudsman had established its 19 regional offices across the country and now necessary steps were being taken to raise awareness among the general public so that maximum people could approach the regional office of ombudsman secretariat for redressal of their complaints.



FAISALABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi talking with the transgender community at Circuit House.

## Younsa Dagher says: E-registration system should be introduced for convenience of citizens

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Minister of Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development Muhammad Younis Dagher on Tuesday directed officials concerned that e-registration system should be introduced to facilitate the masses.

Younis Dagher said this while presiding over the meeting held at the office of the Sindh Board of Revenue here.

He directed the concerned officers to remove the defects from the record of Board of Revenue and also improve services. For this purpose an e-registration system should be introduced to

facilitate the citizens, he added. Younis Dagher advised the officers that providing the best services to the citizens should be their priority and all efforts should be made for this purpose.

In the meeting, the officers of the Sindh Revenue department gave a detailed briefing to the minister about their respective fields.

Senior Member Board of Revenue Baquillah Unar, Member RS&EP Waseem Shamsahad, Secretary Land Revenue, Member Gothabad Scheme, IG Registration and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## CM Sindh takes notice of missing girl from mansion

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar on Tuesday took notice of a 20-year-old girl, Sana from Qambar, who was sent to the mansion of a Pir of Ranipur, reportedly gone missing.

Chief Minister Sindh has directed the Divisional Commissioner and DIG Sukkur to investigate the incident and ensure safe recovery of the missing girl.

Earlier, Deedar Gurhmani, resident of Qambar, while talking to the media, said one and a half years ago, he had sent his 20-year-old daughter Sana to the mansion (haveli) of Pir of Ranipur Syed Sohail Ahmed Shah in Khaipur for the trust and protection until his problems were resolved.

However, he said, about a month ago, Syed Sohail Ahmed Shah phoned him, informing his daughter had gone missing from the mansion. He said he travelled to Ranipur to inquire from the Pir Sohail as to how his daughter went missing from the mansion.

## President tweet: Hamza urges transparent investigation

LAHORE (Online): PML-N President and Former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Hamza Shehbaz Sharif said that a tweet of President of Pakistan has created crisis. Transparent investigation should be conducted regarding this matter. He said in a statement that letter of President Secretary has also come out.

Comprehensive and transparent investigation should be conducted by considering the seriousness of the matter. Hamza Shehbaz said that the problem is not of a party but of the orders issued by the office of President of Pakistan.



KARACHI: Interim Sindh Health Minister, Dr. Saad Niaz presiding over the meeting to discuss scope of support in the province Sindh through the Sindh Health Departments collaboration with PPHI, held in Karachi.

## PDMA Punjab DG visits Atari, reviews flood situation in Sutlej River

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Imran Qureshi, along with Sahiwal Division Commissioner Shoab Iqbal Syed, visited Atari and reviewed the flood situation in the Sutlej River. RPO Mehboob Rasheed, Deputy Commissioner Okara Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif, District Police Officer Captain Retd Mansoor Aman and District Emergency Officer Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal were also present on this occasion. Director General

Imran Qureshi visited the flood relief camp established at Atari, and checked the medicine stock available at the health counter, livestock counter and rescue counter.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif while giving a detailed briefing about the rescue operation and flood relief camp said that there are more than 2000 flood victims men, women and children in the flood relief camp Atari where all the facilities are being provided to them with respect and dignity.

## Peshawar, KP plain areas in grip of severe heat

PESHAWAR (APP): As earlier predicted by the provincial meteorological center, the plain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the provincial metropolis Peshawar have been in the grip of severe hot and humid weather.

The dense humidity and sun heat has badly affected daily routine life, forcing people to remain indoors to remain safe from heat stroke.

The Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts were among the hottest places in the province as the other day the highest temperature of 43 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bannu followed by Dera Ismail Khan with 42 degree Celsius. Humidity remained at 69 percent in Bannu. However, the real feel of temperature in both districts was 50 degree Celsius and the situation remained miserable for the locals. In Peshawar, the temperature remained at 38 degree Celsius while the humidity ratio was 75 percent but the real feel of the temperature was about 48 degree Celsius. Coupled with humidity the severe hot weather seemed unbearable for the Peshawarites. For the last many days, Peshawar has been in the grip of severe heat while on Tuesday too.

## LHC stops ECP from taking final decision in contempt case against Imran

LAHORE (Online): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday stopped the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from taking a final decision in a contempt case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

However, the court allowed the commission to continue its proceedings in the matter.

Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan passed the orders while hearing a petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan challenging contempt proceedings initiated by the ECP against him. The court also issued notices to the ECP and other respondents for the next

date of hearing, besides directing to fix the matter before a full bench. The court observed that identical petitions were being heard by the full bench, therefore, the petition should also be fixed before the bench.

The PTI chairman, through the petition, had assailed constitutional vires of Section 10 of the Election Act 2017, which grant the chief election commissioner (CEC) the authority to punish any person for contempt of the ECP. He pleaded with the court to strike down the section as it was in contradiction to the Constitution and also quash proceedings initiated against him.

## Karachi Police chief, others meet IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar on Tuesday said the Special Branch should further strengthen the coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

Addressing a meeting with Additional IGP Karachi Javed Alam Odho, Additional IGP Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rindh and Additional IGP - Training Abdul Qadir Qayyum, the Sindh Police chief said the mechanism should be strengthened against

elements hostile to the country/society. Talking about training centers, he said the training centers were the first school of professional life of the police.

He asked the Additional IGP - Training to promote positive attitude and thinking among the personnel under training from the overall training.

On the occasion, Additional IGP - Karachi Javed Alam Odho gave a briefing on the law and order situation in the city.



LAHORE: Girls student visiting stall during an event "A day with Pakistan Navy" organized by Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore.

## Students spend day with Pak Navy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC) Lahore organised an event titled "A day with Pakistan Navy" for the students of various colleges of Lahore to enlighten them on functioning of Pakistan Navy, its organisation and defence capabilities.

A total of 200 students from Government College University, Fazaia Degree College, Garrison College for Boys and Bahria College Lahore along with faculty members

attended the event, said a Pakistan Navy media release on Tuesday. Commander Central Punjab Rear Admiral Javid Iqbal interacted with students and faculty members and apprised them that Pakistan Navy has all the capabilities to protect maritime frontiers of the country. He also highlighted the importance of maritime sector for developing countries and how stronger Naval Forces could facilitate economic development of their nation.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against attacked on churches in Jaranwala incident and demanding for Justice, held at Karachi press club.

## People's evacuation in progress as water level increases in River Sutlej

VEHARI (APP): Amidst the rising water levels at Head Islam in River Sutlej, the local administration is actively involved in relocating people from the low-lying areas of Vehari to safer places.

The operational teams of Rescue-1122, Police and some other department are working to transport people of flood prone areas to secure places.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Aasif Hussain Shah has established 20 flood relief camps, along with setting up three tent settlements. So far, rescue teams have successfully evacuated people from various areas including Bhattayan, Jamlira, Farooqabad, Qutbpur, Mehraabad, Lekha, 39 K Bajangalat, Baqi Shah, Basti Gazar, Mauza Murad Ali.

## Caretaker govt to ensure transparent, impartial election process: PM Kakar

Caretaker govt to fulfill constitutional requirement of assisting electoral process

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that the interim government would ensure holding of the upcoming general elections in the most transparent and impartial manner, accepted to all.

Talking to media after visiting the Mazar-e-Quaid to pay tribute and offer Fateha, the prime minister said that the caretaker government would function in the limited time-frame only to ensure the election process.

They would play their part in that regard by holding transparent and impartial polls, so that Pakistan could move through its constitutional transitional period, he added. On the occasion, the prime minister was accompanied by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqir and the members of his cabinet. It was the maiden visit of the caretaker prime minister to Karachi after assuming his office.

The prime minister

said that he along with his few cabinet members came here to pay homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and reaffirm to work for the progress and prosperity of the country by highlighting the social contract under which a separate state came into being.

Referring to an address of the Founder of the Nation on August 11, 1947 before the Constituent Assembly, he said it focused on the rights of the minorities and equality among individuals.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talking to media after visiting Mazar-e-Quaid

## Federal Minister announces to organize National level literary conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah has said that National level literary conference on linguistics and folk literature would be organized soon, aiming to promote literature and folk literary heritage.

Talking to APP, Federal Minister Syed Jamal Shah said that the conference would offer a platform for regional literary academies from across the country and academicians to present and discuss the languages, cultures, and literature.

The minister said that he has issued directions to the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) to initiate work on organizing national-level literary conferences.

Syed Jamal Shah emphasized the need of educating children with local literature and storytelling to arise their interest in reading to enhance their intellectual caliber as juvenile literature played a crucial part in education providing both

knowledge and entertainment.

Talking about cultural narrative, he said that the cultural narrative should be based on our rich cultural heritage, adding that the country's valuable heritage should be our identity.

Jamal Shah stressed for educating youth about folk heritage, culture, and art, adding that Pakistan's culture, art, and society are heavily influenced by its diverse historical background, starting from the ancient Mohenj-o-Daro to the more recent Mughal era.



Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review progress on CPEC Projects in Islamabad

## India using brute force to suppress Kashmiris' voice for freedom

ISLAMABAD (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and parties have denounced the persistent use of military and police force to suppress the people's genuine voice for their inalienable right to self-determination.

APHC leader Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Jammu Kashmir National Front, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement Chairman Jameel Ahmad, Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement Chairman Altaf Ahmed Butt and Jammu and Kashmir Pirpanchal

Movement in their separate statements deplored that nearly one million Indian occupation forces were patrolling the roads and streets of IIOJK had utterly failed to block the legitimate right to self-determination demand a peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute as guaranteed by the United Nations resolutions.

The statements, while expressing deep concern over the military and police siege in Kashmir, said that the overwhelming public support for the genuine demand for plebiscite and freedom deplete the deprivation of their fundamental rights had frustrated one million.

## CDA bans illegal marketing of housing scheme by falsely using its name

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has introduced a stringent rule against the unauthorized marketing and promotion of housing schemes using its name, aiming to prevent the misleading implication that these schemes are located in Islamabad.

"The authority has observed that housing schemes are using the name of CDA in their advertising campaigns giving the impression that the schemes are situated in Islamabad

Capital Territory and approved by CDA, even though they are located outside the territorial limits of the federal capital," an official said. The sponsors of these housing schemes are trying to deceive and mislead the public at large by using the name of the federal capital as these schemes fall outside the limits of ICT, the official added. The general public, accordingly, through the public notice, is cautioned and warned in their own interest to be careful.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan being briefed by CEO DRP.

## Pink Ribbon, HEC honour universities leading breast cancer awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pink Ribbon Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) at Higher Education Commission (HEC), hosted an Awards Ceremony at the HEC Headquarters on Tuesday to honour universities leading breast cancer awareness.

The event was aimed to announce the winners of the PINKtober Youth Awareness Programme for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

It also celebrated the achievement of two million youth ambassadors from across Pakistan who have been educated on breast cancer awareness and prevention.

A total of 63 awards were presented to universities and colleges in recognition of their exceptional participation in the annual PINKtober campaign.

Pink Ribbon Pakistan organizes this campaign every October to raise Breast Cancer Awareness. Over 200 educational institutions have contributed through fundraisers, seminars, walks, competitions, and panel discussions under this initiative.

First position awards for the years 2019 to 2022 were conferred upon Kinnaird College for Women University, Government Graduate College for Women Baghbanpura, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, The University of Lahore, Government College University Faisalabad, and Government Graduate College for Women Shadbagh.

Government College University Lahore, Institute of Business Administration Sukkur, Government Degree College for Women Kot Khwaja Saeed, WAH Medical College, Pa-

## UKSHA team calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) Chief Executive Officer Professor Dame Jenny Harries along with her team called on the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Ifikhar Ali Shallwani, Additional Secretary Kamran Rehman and DG Health.

The focus of the partnership between the M/o NHR&C and UKSHA is to promote efficient choices, especially in the light of the lessons learned from COVID-19 were discussed.

Mutual learning and capacity-building of the healthcare workforce in Pakistan through sharing and implementation of systems with the support of UKSHA is a priority.

## China Cultural Counselor calls on Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cultural Counselor, China Embassy, Zhang Heqing Tuesday called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah here at Heritage and Culture Division. The counselor felicitated Jamal Shah on assuming charge as Federal Minister. During the meeting, they discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural exchange programs.

Zhang extended a special invitation to the minister for attending ongoing Gandhara exhibition being held in China. The minister assured to attend the exhibition during his visit to China. The counselor also congratulated renowned artist Jamal Shah on releasing his first ever Pak China joint feature film Ba'tie Girl. The minister said that the two countries should collaborate in all fields of art as there lie huge scope, adding that it would further strengthen people to people ties between the two friendly nations.

## SC moved for stopping implementation of army act, official secret amendment bills

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has been moved for stopping implementation of army act and official secret amendment bills.

A petition has been filed by advocate Zulfiqar Bhutta in SC.

The petitioner while making the president Arif Alvi statement his plea has prayed the court to stop implementation of army act and official secret amendment bills.

The petitioner has taken the plea that president says he has not approved both amendment bills. Following this statement by the president a crisis

like situation has been created in the country.

It is said in the petition proceedings will not sustain under amended bills. There is likelihood that all the accused under these bills will be acquitted. The suspicious legislation runs contrary to article 4 of the constitution.

The petitioner has prayed the court to direct federal government to seek guidance from SC within 10 days besides suspending the implementation of army act and official secret amendment bills till the decision of the court.

It is pertinent to mention here President Arif Alvi while contradicting the report of signing of official secret amendment bill and Pakistan army amendment bill by him had said on Sunday "I have differences with these laws. I had asked the staff to return the bills but they did not comply with it."

A day before President Arif Alvi had written a letter to Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah principal secretary to Prime Minister demanding that his principal secretary Waqar Ahmad be removed and Humaira Ahmad be made his principal secretary.



ISLAMABAD: Christians hold the holy cross and a banner reading 'Justice should be given to the Christian community victims of Jaranwala tragedy' during a protest to condemn the attack on churches.

## DC's team targets price hike, begging, encroachments

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a determined drive to uphold civic order and combat social issues, Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday spearheaded a sweeping initiative to control price hike, encroachments and begging.

Under the guidance of DC, Assistant Commissioners have started operation to curb price hike, remove encroachments and tackle the persistent issue of professional beggary within their areas.

In a resolute display of authority, ACs have meticulously conducted an extensive investigation across (124) locations to combat the surging tide of price hikes. This unrelenting pursuit of fairness resulted in the imposition of fines totaling (14000) for cases of unjustifiable price inflation, accompanied by the conse-

quential sealing of one shop and the apprehension of two individuals.

Similarly, the dedicated efforts yielded the apprehension of (54) professional beggars, promptly escorted to police custody, and further encompassed the clamping down on illegal clinics and illicit shisha cafes.

Furthermore, a crackdown on encroachments has been orchestrated with unwavering commitment. This comprehensive operation led to the apprehension of five individuals found in violation of encroachment regulations.

Notably, this pursuit also saw the confiscation of more than (8) kg of environmentally hazardous polythene bags, firmly underscoring the commitment to preserving the local ecosystem.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich holding National Flags posing for a photo graph along with Pakistani Children at National Monument in order to commemorate National Flag Day of Russia.

## Minister says: Govt working tirelessly to upgrade facilities for Hujjaj, maximum relief in fee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said that the government is committed to providing all possible facilities to Pakistani pilgrims and to giving maximum concession to make the pilgrimage an exemplary one this time.

Pakistan authorities will discuss an increase in the country's quota for the Hajj pilgrimage during the Saudi Hajj Minister Dr Tawfiq Al-Rabiah's four-day visit, he said while talking to a Private news channel.

Minister said the visit of Saudi minister is historic and was of great importance for Pakistan, adding, multiple issues related to facilities for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims and expansion of the Route to Makkah project

to other Pakistani cities will be discussed.

"We will also discuss the increase in Hajj quota according to the population of Pakistan under the new census and if they (the Saudi delegation) agree, then our Hajj quota will be the highest in the world based on the new census," he added.

Replying to a question, the minister said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will also be signed during the visit to enhance future Hajj arrangements.

About the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia bilateral relations, he said Road to Makkah means the immigration of the Hujjaj which will be done from Pakistan.

And they will face no difficulties upon their arrival in Saudi Arabia, he added.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori exchanging views with Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

## ATC issues call up notices to Imran on different dates in 5 cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has issued call up notice to chairman PTI on different dates in 5 cases.

Call up notice in two cases registered in police station Ramna has been issued on September 25. In cases registered in police station CTD and Sangyani call up notice has been issued on October 12 and in the case registered in police station Golra Sharif, call up notice has been issued on October 5.

Five cases registered under terrorism act against

chairman PTI came up for hearing before ATC Tuesday.

The counsels for chairman PTI including Jan Muhammad, Sardar Masroof and Naem Panjtoha appeared in the court.

The defence counsel Jan Muhammad said it is not easy to bring chairman PTI from jail daily.

Judge Abul Hasnat remarked "I know it bringing him from jail daily is not appropriate too. The attendance of the co-accused in cases has to be marked.

## IHC dismisses ICA against release of Afridi & Shandana

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday maintained the objections of Registrar Office on an intra court appeal (ICA) seeking to dismiss the verdict against the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict in the ICA filed by the District Magistrate Islamabad challenging the verdict of single member bench.

The chief justice, in

the order, noted that the Registrar Office had raised the objection that the single member bench had not issued its detailed order so far.

The single-member bench, in its interim order, had also directed to release Shehryar Afridi with some conditions.

The court asked whether the accused after his release had convened any political procession or harmed law and order situation.

The Advocate General of Islamabad read out the verdict of the single bench and said that it had given complete relief to the petitioners.



ISLAMABAD: The Cultural Counselor, Embassy of China, Mr. Zhang Heqing called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah at Heritage and Culture Division.

## I-8 Markaz commercial cameras to integrate with Safe City Islamabad Project

ISLAMABAD (INP): The cameras of I-8 Markaz would be integrated with Safe City Islamabad project to maintain high vigilance in the area by ensuring continuous access to surveillance feeds from shops, streets, and other key locations within the centre.

According to official reports, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, has issued specific directives for this endeavour. As part of this process, the CPO Safe City/Traffic has extended an invitation

to the business community in I-8 Markaz in a meeting to join hands with the Safe City Islamabad project.

The primary objective of this meeting was to facilitate the integration of privately-installed cameras within I-8 Markaz with the Safe City Command and Control Center.

This integration would empower the Islamabad Capital Police with continuous access to surveillance feeds from shops, streets, and other key locations within the centre, utilizing private camera systems.