

# Independent

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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.



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.

## President for further strengthening economic, cultural ties with Saudi Arabia

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.

He lauded the leadership of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the normalization of relations with Iran, saying that the leadership of the Saudi Crown Prince in the Muslim World was much appreciated.

The visiting Saudi minister said that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were very strong that needed to be further enhanced for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah said the Kingdom would continue to provide good facilities to the pilgrims for Hajj and Umrah.

## 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 Juamni, 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.



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.

## Newly appointed IGP Sindh calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): The newly appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Monday.

On the occasion, the overall situation of law and order in the province, strategy to control street crimes and other issues related to law and or-

der came under discussion.

The Governor hoped that the police would perform well under the leadership of the new Police chief.

He said that there was a dire need to overcome street crimes in the city.

The newly appointed IGP assured that all possible efforts would be made to improve the performance of the police force.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab along with others cuts ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of Gulistan-e-Johar under-bypass road, held in Karachi.

## Wahab inaugurated 'incomplete' Gulistan-e-Jauhar underpass

KARACHI (INP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday inaugurated the 'incomplete' Gulistan-e-Johar Underpass.

The underpass measures 1.1 kilometre in length and 18.5 meters in breadth. The ramp from Pehlwan Goth's side measures 848 meters in length.

The construction of the underpass began in March 2023 with a cost of Rs1 billion.

The administrators have also placed LED lights on and under the underpass to beautify it. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Murtaza Wahab thanked Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, former Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Nasir Shah

for their support. The Karachi mayor said the inauguration of the underpass was important for the repair of the service lane around the project. He also vowed to work for the betterment of the city without any discrimination.

Earlier in the month of March, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman and the then foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, inaugurated the Zia Moheyiddin at Johar Chowrangi to alleviate perennial traffic congestion in the area.

The flyover, with a length of 461 meters and a width of 18.2 meters, has double arm poles with LED lights installed on its 226-meter-long bridge. While the flyover has been completed, work on the underpass is still ongoing.



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.

## 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.

"Conducting transparent elections is our common responsibility," Murtaza Solangi said adding the federal and

provincial governments would perform this joint responsibility under the constitution.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming charge as the caretaker federal minister for information and broadcasting.

The minister said that soon he would visit Karachi.

Meanwhile Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Ret'd) 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.



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

## New Sindh Police chief stresses for IT based policing

KARACHI (APP): Newly appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar on Monday emphasized the need for information technologies-based policing to improve department response time to public service.

"It is an era of modern technology so over all affairs of all the departments/units of Sindh Police Department should be taken towards IT," he said while chairing an introductory meeting with the officers of the department at the Central Police Office (CPO)

here. Riffat Mukhtar said that successful and effective policing, long term and short-term planning must be done. He said as a force we have to deliver services to the people. He emphasized upon officers to avoid rigid behavior with the public.

The IGP Sindh said he wanted to introduce welfare measures on the style of Punjab Police for Sindh Police as well. The welfare of Sindh Police personnel should also be similar to that of the Punjab Police. Senior officers of CPO attended the meeting.

## Interim CM takes notice of missing girl from Ranipur Haveli

KARACHI (APP): The Interim Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Ret'd.) Maqbool Baqar while taking notice of a girl, who went missing from Ranipur Haveli, has directed the Commissioner Sukkur to recover her immediately.

The Interim CM said that it was being said that the girl was handed over to Pir Sohail Shah to take care of her temporarily.

He had also directed the Commissioner Sukkur to conduct an inquiry into matter and submit a report to him.

## Dr. Mohammed Fakhre Alam Irfan takes charges as Chief Secretary Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Dr. Mohammed Fakhre Alam Irfan, a (BS-22) officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, has taken the charge as the Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh here on Monday.

Secretary Services Ghulam Ali Birmani and Secretary General Administration Mohammed Ali Khoso gave briefing to the CS.

Previously, Dr. Mohammed Fakhre Alam Irfan was performing his duties as the Federal Secretary of Housing and Works Division. Dr. Alam has become 59<sup>th</sup> CS of Sindh.



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

## President Alvi says Services of Secretary Waqar Ahmed 'no more required'

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi a 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 Secretariat 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."

"It has also been desired that Ms Humaira Ahmed, a BPS-22 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, may be posted as Secretary to the Presi-

dent," the statement added. 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".

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.

## Asif Zardari to visit Lahore this week

LAHORE (Online): Former president Asif Ali Zardari will reach Lahore this week. As per sources consultation will be made on dysfunctional and vacant party posts in Lahore and Punjab during his stay. Strategy will be evolved to launch mass contact campaign with reference to coming general election.

Party will field strong candidates in Punjab according to new constituencies.

Party sources said Asif Ali Zardari will meet different political personalities in Punjab.

Several political figures will announce to join PPP during Asif Zardari stay in Lahore. PPP co-chairman will review the political position of party in Punjab.



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



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### 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.

## 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 Barelvi 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 Barelvi 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. Indocinated 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 had been much taxed by the pleadings 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 than the empire of law turns Mordor-esque.

This caution is needed because when the judiciary starts to probe the reasons behind law-making, it sits as unelected officials over the will of the elected representatives of the people. Yes, our last parliament (National Assembly) was a truncated debating club where sexist remarks were easier to pass than meaningful legislation. Yes, our parliamentarians hardly represented the vast majority of the people, and yes, parliament also failed to prevent successive governments from wilfully disobeying constitutional and statutory mandates. However, does our social contract with the state allow an unelected body to step in? Who gets to rectify the failures of our institutions? Should that remedy be administered by the courts or by those stubbornly trying on the slippers of democracy till it fits right? These are questions that need to be answered.

The court has chosen to descend from the ivory tower in an attempt to answer them. It is certainly right in doing so; however, the answers should not be taken as the past and closed. For one, they form obiter dicta and the court did not need to overstep to a point as to include reports from the World Bank to showcase the demise of our parliament. These remarks are important, however, as part of a discourse of the nature of state institutions. If we are to stop Pakistan from becoming 'adhocistan' we must take note of these debates. On the other hand, the potential for misuse of these observations and the broadening of judicial review as a result remain a taxing thought at least for this writer. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Chinese company official terms Gwadar seaport CPEC's vital axis

LAHORE (APP): In a meeting with the business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday, Mr. YO BO, chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), highlighted the transformative progress of Gwadar under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, saying that the seaport had emerged as CPEC's vital axis.

He emphasised that Pakistan's economic circumstances were primarily responsible for only delays in CPEC

development. The gathering witnessed the convergence of top officials including LCCI President Kashif Anwar and Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, alongside Mr. Wang, Deputy Manager of COPHC, Atif Khan, Convener of the LCCI Standing Committee on Gwadar Coastal Tourism and the chamber's Executive Committee members.

The COPHC chairman underscored the significance of Gwadar within CPEC, hailing it as the project's pivotal axis.

The first stage of Gwadar's port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, has been completed, marking a substantial achievement. Chairman YO BO's testimony outlined that COPHC's decade-long stewardship had remarkably transformed Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology. Chairman YO BO highlighted China's substantial investments in Gwadar's growth, spanning construction, airport infrastructure, and healthcare facilities.



ISLAMABAD: Auditor General of Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Ajmal Gondal, presenting the Audit report for the year 2022-23 to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### CPEC pivotal for uplift of marginalised areas: PCJCCI

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said here on Monday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative was significant for Pakistan as it would lead to rapid economic growth of the country and also enhance regional security.

Chairing a meeting at the PCJCCI Secretariat here, he labeled CPEC as a

"model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity" promising high levels of industrial and agriculture cooperation. He talked about the significance of SEZs in enhancing B2B collaboration, while the government was working to ensure smooth transition towards second phase of CPEC which will lead to socioeconomic uplift of marginalised areas.

He added that according to the World

Bank's Global Economic Prospects report, the global economy probably shrank by 4.3 per cent in 2020 due to the pandemic of Covid-19 and financial crisis. The challenges for Pakistan are multiple as they struggle to eliminate poverty, bring economic growth due to hike in inflation rate. CPEC is now the principal vehicle for the pursuit of bilateral ties at renewed and heightened ebb of engagement.

### President emphasises use of IT to establish effective audit system

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday emphasised the need for utilizing information technology to enhance the effectiveness of the auditing system.

The President, talking to Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ajmal Gondal here, said it was the need of hour to adopt better internal controls, technology, automation and auditing as per international standards.

The Auditor General of Pakistan presented to the president the annual report of the institution for

fiscal year 2022-23. The president instructed the auditor general to take measures for further improvement in the audit system.

He said that the improvement of the audit process would help promote good governance, transparency, and accountability.

He asked the auditor general to set targets for enhancing the institution's effectiveness.

He said the institution should also assist the government in the promotion of good governance.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in unloading potatoes bags on the delivery track at vegetables market.

### ICCI, NICAT ink MoU to promote innovators, entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish collaboration to promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship programs.

The MoU was signed during a visit of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI along with a delegation to NICAT.

Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Convener, ICCI MoU Committee and Imran Jattala, Project Director NICAT signed it in a ceremony held at

NICAT, said a press release issued here on Monday.

As per MoU, NICAT will support ICCI for incubation and entrepreneurship programs and will collaborate with ICCI to engage Pakistan's youth in innovation and entrepreneurship programs to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

NICAT will display the ICCI logo on its promotional materials and websites as appropriate and subject to joint approval. Similarly, ICCI will work with NICAT in the incubation & entrepreneurship programs and startup challenges.



FAISALABAD: Chief Manager Corporate Banking Dilbar Hussain Chaudhary visiting the Group Chief CIBG Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary at NBP Corporate Center in City.

### Pakistan earns \$2,605m from IT services' export during FY 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$2,605.340 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the two months of the fiscal year 2022-23.

This shows a nominal decline of 0.53 percent as compared to US \$2,619.100 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding period of the fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During July-June

(2022-23), the export of computer services grew by 0.08 percent as it surged from US \$2,109.370 million last fiscal year to US \$2,110.990 million year under review.

Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed a decrease of 4.36 percent, from US \$795.464 million to US \$760.780 million, while the exports of hardware consultancy services however increased by 87.97 percent from, US \$2.918 million.

### PSX loses 770 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday shed 770.54 points, a negative change of 1.60 per cent, closing at 47,447.96 points against 48,218.50 points the previous trading day.

A total of 211,230,785 shares were traded during the day as compared to 254,814,045 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 7.076 billion against Rs 10.414 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 323 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 50 of them recorded gains and 253 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 20 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 51,424,053 shares at Rs 1.27 per share; K-Electric Ltd with 8,423,086 shares at Rs 2.23 per share and Oil and Gas Dev with 7,312,226 shares at Rs 96.44 per share. Mehmood Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 42.95 per share price, closing at Rs 734.95, whereas the runner-up was Sanofi-Aventis with an Rs 20.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 820.00.

### Indian water aggression dented South Punjab rural economy: Wattoo

LAHORE (INP): Vice President of Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Jahan Ara Wattoo strongly condemning the Indian water aggression towards Pakistan has said that it resulted in unprecedented floods in Sutlej River with a range of 278,000 cuses of water in our 35 years.

The Sutlej River has overflowing, Wattoo said adding Bahawalnagar, Okara, Lodhran, Kasur Bahawalpur, Vehari and Pakpatan will be the main victim districts from the Indian water aggression.

She condemned the India role and demanded that Pakistan foreign office should protest on it.

In Kasur only, two of the three villagers who drowned in the floodwater had been fished out while the rescue efforts were underway to find the third person. Jamshed of village Athar Singh and Aslam and Mola of village Verram Jhugian wanted to shift to a safer place on their own. They were holding hands due to floodwater but the gushing water swallowed them after separating them.

### Gold rates up by Rs 3,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 3,100 and was sold at Rs 229,900 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 226,800 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,658 to Rs 197,102 from Rs 194,444 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 180,677 from Rs 178,240, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and 10 grams silver remained constant at Rs 2,800 and Rs 2,400.54 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$2 to \$1,891 from \$1,889, the Association reported.



## 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.

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): The spokesman of 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.

## 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.



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.

## 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 reserved the verdict, after hearing arguments of all parties.

## Naqvi seeks plan for quality medicines provision

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has sought a comprehensive plan for provision of quality medicines in hospitals.

According to official sources here on Monday, the CM had ordered for ensuring provision of quality medicines in hospitals besides evolving transparent mechanism for purchase of drugs. He said that swift and foolproof system should be made for storing and ensuring availability of medicines in hospitals. A recommendation to set up special committee for purchase of medicine was also under consideration.

## PML-N senior leader meets governor, discusses educational matter

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Ahmad Hasaan 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 Hasaan 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.



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

## 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

## FATA Tribunal re-starts hearing of cases

PESHAWAR (APP): On the order of the Peshawar High Court, the FATA Tribunal has started hearing cases after restoration, said an official document of the Home Department.

It said that Peshawar High Court referred back 11 pending cases to FATA Tribunal, including the cases against Dr. Shakeel Afridi. FATA Tribunal was abolished in 2019 on the merger of erstwhile FATA into KP followed by the abolishment of FCR. The document said that after the dissolution of the FATA Tribunal.

## 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 Buttair 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.



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

# International News

## South Korea will cooperate more with US, Japan if North's threats continue

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Monday trilateral cooperation with the United States and Japan will grow stronger if North Korea's threats increase.

## North Koreans targeted US-South drills: Seoul police

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: Suspected North Korean hackers have attempted an attack targeting a major joint military exercise between Seoul and Washington that starts on Monday, South Korean police said.

South Korea and the United States will kick off the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield drills on Monday through August 31 to counter growing threats from the nuclear-armed North. Pyongyang views such exercises as rehearsals for an invasion and has repeatedly warned it would take "overwhelming" action in response.

The hackers — believed to be linked to a North Korean group dubbed Kimsuky — carried out "continuous malicious email attacks" on South Korean contractors working at the allies' combined exercise war simulation centre, the Gyeonggi Nambu Pro-vinc-tial Police Agency said in a statement.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees a strategic cruise missile test aboard a navy warship this photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

## Thailand's Pheu Thai joins military rivals in bid to form government

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Thailand's Pheu Thai Party vowed on Monday to deliver on a raft of election promises and change the constitution, as it unveiled an 11-party alliance that includes some military-linked rivals that will try to form a coalition government this week.

Thailand's bicameral parliament has been deadlocked for weeks on forming a government, after the anti-establishment election winner Move Forward succumbed to conservative resistance in parliament, leaving second-placed Pheu Thai to take up the effort.

## AI unlikely to destroy most jobs, but clerical workers at risk, ILO says

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: Generative AI probably will not take over most people's jobs entirely but will instead automate a portion of their duties, freeing them up to do other tasks, a U.N. study said on Monday.

It warned, however, that clerical work would likely be the hardest hit, potentially hitting female employment harder, given women's over-representation in this sector, especially in wealthier countries.

An explosion of interest in generative AI and its chatbot applications has sparked fears over job destruction, similar to those that emerged when the moving assembly line was introduced in the early 1900s and after mainframe computers in the 1950s.



U.S. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden board a plane as they depart for Maui from Reno, Nevada, U.S.

## Russia, China look to advance agendas at BRICS summit of developing countries in South Africa

Monitoring Desk JOHANNESBURG: Russia and China will look to gain more political and economic ground in the developing world at a summit in South Africa this week, when an expected joint dose of anti-West grumbling from them may take on a sharper edge with a formal move to bring Saudi Arabia closer.

Leaders from the BRICS economic bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will hold three days of meetings in Johannesburg's financial district of Sandton, with Chinese premier Xi Jinping's attendance underlining the diplomatic capital his country has invested in the bloc over the last decade-and-a-bit as an avenue for its ambitions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will appear on a video link after his travel to South Africa was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against him over the war in Ukraine. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be at the summit alongside Xi.

The main summit on Wednesday — and sideline meetings Tuesday and Thursday — are expected to produce general calls for more cooperation among countries in the Global South amid their rising discontent over perceived Western dominance of global institutions. That's a sentiment that Russia and China are more than happy to lean into. Leaders or representatives of dozens more developing countries are set to attend the sideline meetings in Africa's wealthiest city to give Xi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

## Saudi border guards killed hundreds of Ethiopian migrants: HRW report

Monitoring Desk RIYAD: Saudi border guards fired "like rain" on Ethiopian migrants trying to cross into the Gulf kingdom from Yemen, killing hundreds since last year, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report on Monday.

The allegations, described as "unfounded" by a Saudi government source, point to a significant escalation of abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work.

One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia's Oromia region, interviewed by HRW, said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants they had just released from custody. "They fired on us like rain. When I remember, I cry," she said. "I saw a guy calling for help, he lost both his legs. He was screaming; he was saying, 'Are you leaving me here? Please don't leave me'."

## Trump says he won't take part in Republican debates

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump said he would skip the upcoming Republican primary debates, citing his large lead in opinion polls as evidence that he was already well-known and liked by voters ahead of the 2024 election. Trump has for months suggested he would likely pass on Wednesday night's debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, arguing that it did not make sense to give his Republican rivals a chance to attack him given his sizeable lead in national polls. On Sunday, a CBS poll showed he was the preferred candidate for 62% of Republican voters, with his closest rival Florida Governor Ron DeSantis at 16%. All other candidates in the primary race had less than 10% support.

"The public knows who I am & what a successful Presidency I had," Trump said on his social media app, Truth Social. "I will therefore not be doing the debates."

The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a question asking if the former president meant he won't be taking part in any of the Republican debates.



Britain's King Charles III inspects Balaklava Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, at the gates of Balmoral, Scotland.

## Storm Hilary to bring 'life-threatening flooding' to US

Monitoring Desk CABO LUCAS: States across the typically arid US southwest braced on Sunday for torrential rain and potentially life-threatening flooding, as Hurricane Hilary barreled up Mexico's coast, where authorities reported at least one fatality.

At its peak, Hilary reached Category 4 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale, but it was expected to weaken to a tropical storm before reaching southern California on Sunday afternoon, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

On Sunday morning it was a Category 1 hurricane packing sustained winds of around 80 miles (130 kilometres) per hour as it moved north just off Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, the NHC said.

"Catastrophic and life-threatening flooding likely over Baja California and portions of the south-western US through Monday," the US government agency warned. One person died in Mexico after a vehicle was swept away by a rising stream, Mexico's Civil Protection agency said in a statement on Saturday, while warning of landslides and road closures in Baja California. Hilary was expected to track inland and north over the next day or two, depositing up to 10 inches of rain on parts of Mexico.



## 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-object 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.



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.

## 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, "As a nation that has braved the brunt of terrorism, Pakistan deeply understands the pain and suffering of the

victims of terrorism around the world. For the last two decades, Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism planned, supported and sponsored from across our borders. During this period, it suffered more than 80,000 casualties and incurred over

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

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

## 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.



KARACHI: Resident of Orangi Town along with his children are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, held at Karachi press club.

## Commissioner inaugurates PCR Lab in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Muhammad Abbas Baloch on Monday inaugurated PCR Lab at the main Laboratory of Peoples Medical University Hospital in Nawabshah.

He was accompanied by the Vice Chancellor of Peoples Medical University for Women Prof Dr Gulshan Ali Memon.

Addressing the opening ceremony the commissioner said that the latest PCR Lab at Peoples Medical Hospital would provide additional facilities of medical treatment to citizens of the Shaheed Benazirabad Division and its surrounding districts for free diagnosis of different diseases and tests.

He instructed hospital administration to provide more and more test facilities to patients through this PCR

Lab while patients under treatment and admitted to the hospital and visiting patients shall also be helped.

Briefing the commissioner Haematologist of PMC Hospital Dr Irfan Bhatti said that Sindh Government had accorded the PCR Lab for this hospital through which the tests of Malaria, Hepatitis B and C, Corona, TB and other diseases would be conducted free of cost for which patients were charged thousands of rupees by private labs.

He said that Sindh Government has provided five PCR Labs to different hospitals of Sindh for free tests of diseases and this is the first PCR Lab installed at PMC Hospital today.

Later the commissioner visited Benazir Institute of Urology and Transplant BIUT and inspected the arrangements.



LARKANA: Residents of Barani Mugheri village are holding protest demonstration against the Kanga Police Station and Sepco authorities, at their village in Larkana.

## Newly appointed CS calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Newly appointed Chief Secretary (CS) of Sindh Dr Mohammed Fakhr Alam Irfan called on Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Monday.

The Governor congratulated the CS on taking charge of the CS office and hoped that the bureaucracy of the province would perform well and facilitate the people of the province in his leadership.

The CS said that the resolution to the problems of the people was one of his priorities.

## 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.

## Lawlessness to not be tolerated: Sarfraz Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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.

"We will not condone any acts of lawlessness" the interior minister said.

He said that their steadfast pledge was safety and right of the minorities.

## 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.

Accused Ayaz on July 25 this year, along with his other accomplice committed a robbery on an old age citizen in Orangi Town.

## PTI's Raja Azhar 'arrested'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Sindh Assembly MPA Raja Azhar has been 'arrested' from Karachi, party's spokesperson said on Monday.

PTI spokesperson claimed Raja Azhar was taken into custody from Karachi's Saddar area and had been shifted to an unknown place.

Last week, the Special Anti-Terrorism Court cancelled the interim bails of former assembly members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Arslan Taj and Raja Azhar in the May 9 cases and issued their non-bailable arrest warrants.

The hearing of the May 9 cases was held before the special anti-terrorism court in Karachi.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders Arslan Taj and Raja Azhar did not appear before the court.

## Caretaker PM lauds Saudi interest in investment opportunities in Pakistan

Thanks KSA leadership for facilitating Pakistani pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar on Monday thanked the Saudi leadership for making excellent arrangements for Hujjaj 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.

The caretaker prime minister also thanked Saudi Arabia for its serious interest in investment opportunities in Pakistan under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The Saudi minister thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation.



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.

## Chairman SHEC inaugurates digital research lab at KU DPA

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Sindh Higher Education Commission Professor Dr S. M. Tariq Rafi inaugurated Asma Basher Digital Research Lab at the department of public administration of the University of Karachi on Monday.

The digital research lab has been established with the collaboration of a Chase Up departmental store to provide dedicated facilities to the students enrolled in MPhil, MS, and PhD programmes in the KU DPA.

Chairman SHEC Professor Dr Tariq Rafi while addressing the lab's inaugu-

ral ceremony informed the audience that the provincial HEC was providing full support so that the international ranking of our universities could be improved globally.

He shared that the provincial government had increased the allocated budget of the SHEC to Rs24 billion per annum to facilitate varieties of Sindh.

He believed the governments should not interfere in the matters of the universities and should give more autonomous status and power to the higher education institutes of the province.

## Rs.3 billion released to Gorakh Hill Development Authority: Rafiq Jamali

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Gorakh Hills Development Authority (GHDA) Rafiq Ahmed Jamali, on Monday, said that various development works have been carried out at Gorakh Hills to provide the best facilities to tourists and for their safety.

Rafiq Ahmed Jamali, in a statement issued here, informed that Rs.3 billion has been released to GHDA during the last nine years for the construction of roads, rest house, family resort, tourist hostel, restaurants, mosques, dispensaries, and other recreational facilities.

He said that a 35 km

road from Wahi Pandhi town was constructed with a cost of Rs.1000 million to make travel safe for tourists and roads were also constructed to connect different viewpoints while tracks were also developed in the area. Giving details of residential facilities he stated that 6 furnished duplex family resorts, a tourist hostel with 8 rooms, a PD rest house, a fiberglass rest house, and huts were built at different spots in the hill station with allied facilities like Masjid, an event area, restaurant, tuck shop, cricket ground and children's play area.



KHAIROPUR: Ume Rubab Chandio is offering condolences to the heirs of 10-years old Fatima Furro, who was murdered a few days ago, in Khairpur.

## Famous research journal honors Pakistani scientist

KARACHI (APP): The famous research journal, "Frontiers in Pharmacology" has published its recent volume entitled, "Emergence of Natural Products for Drug Discovery" in honor of the prominent Pakistani scientist, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Director of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi.

ICCBS Spokesman said on Monday that Prof. Iqbal Choudhary was given this honor in recognition of his pioneering contribution in the field of Bioorganic, Synthetic, and Natural Product Chemistry.

It is worth mentioning here that the Frontiers, founded in Switzerland, is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most-cited and 6<sup>th</sup> largest research publisher with a mission to accelerate scientific discovery by making science open.

Under the umbrella of the ICCBS, University of Karachi, Prof. Iqbal Choudhary heads the two leading research institutions in the country, namely the Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) and the H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry. It is pertinent to mention here that Prof. Choudhary is also serving COMSTEC as the Coordinator General.

## 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 your 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.

The CJP remarked there is weight in the point raised by you. Why so much loan was obtained for the country. See website of state bank that how much loans were obtained annually since 1947 to date.

CJP remarked country is facing worse economic situation. This is not better time that the court should hear such like petition.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked you should give proposals to federal government what you have to give. Don't entangle SC in economic problems. It is already entangled in several matters. Federal government is proper forum to see matters related to economy.

The CJP remarked ask the petitioner to give awareness to people by writing on economic matters in the news paper.

The court while directing the counsel to obtain instructions from the petitioner adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.



HYDERABAD: Students of Government School are holding protest demonstration against non-availability of free courses, at their school premises in Hyderabad.

## River flows, reservoirs level

KARACHI (APP): The position of the river inflows and outflows was recorded on Monday at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels and the barrages.

Rivers: Indus at Tarbela: Inflows 208400 cusecs and Outflows 222100 cusecs, Kabul at Nowshera: Inflows 33900 cusecs and Outflows 33900 cusecs, Khairabad Bridge: Inflows 257900 cusecs and Outflow 257900, Jhelum at Mangla: Inflows 22500 cusecs and Outflows 22500 cusecs, Chenab at Marala: Inflows 61100 cusecs and Outflows 32900 cusecs, a communeque said.

Barrages: Jinnah: Inflows 222700 cusecs and Outflows 214700 cusecs, Chashma: Inflows: 245100 cusecs and Outflows 223900 cusecs, Taunsa: Inflows 227700 cusecs and Outflows 208700 cusecs, Guddu: Inflows 257600 cusecs and Outflows 225200 cusecs Sukkur: Inflows 216000 cusecs and Outflows 161100 cusecs Kotri: Inflows

162100 cusecs and Outflows 121800 cusecs Trimmu: Inflows 66900 cusecs and Outflow 56300 cusecs Panjnad: Inflows 70900 cusecs and Outflows 54700 cusecs.

Reservoirs (Level and Storage): Tarbela: Minimum operating level 1402 feet, present level 1549.10 feet, maximum conservation level 1550 feet, live storage today 5.757 MAF.

Mangla: Minimum operating level 1050 feet, present level 1242.00 feet, maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage today 7.356 MAF. Chashma: Minimum operating level 638.15 feet, present level 649.00 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet, live storage today 0.278 MAF.

The inflows and outflows of River Indus at Tarbela, Jinnah and Chashma, River Kabul at Nowshera and River Jhelum at Mangla have been reflected as mean flows of 24 hours, whereas the other flows have been gauged at 6.00 a.m.