

Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 94, Safar 01, 1445 AH Saturday August 19, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Caretaker govt to assist ECP in holding free & fair elections: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that holding general elections was the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Federal Government would fulfill its duty to assist the watchdog in that regard.

Addressing his maiden press conference as information minister, he said the entire caretaker cabinet would try hard to fulfill responsibilities under the oath and in accordance with the law and Constitution.

The minister spoke with the media to inform them about the first meeting of the Federal Cabinet chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Murtaza Solangi said he had held a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Raja Sikandar Sultan

and apprised him about the commitment of the Federal Cabinet regarding assistance in holding free elections in the country and implementing the ECP recommendations for necessary transfer and posting of officials in that regard. He said the cabinet decided that on the election day, the first vote would be cast by the caretaker prime minister and then by the ministers.

The minister said the country would be ultimately run by the elected representatives of the people as was envisaged in the Constitution of Pakistan and the caretaker government would look after the affairs only till the elections. He said that the cabinet decided to reduce the government's spending in view of the prevailing economic conditions, and it was also the government's responsibility not to waste taxpayers' money.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi addresses press conference at PID media centre.

No one to be allowed to create chaos: Govt. to play wholehearted role for resolving Wadh dispute: Sarfraz Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Federal Interior Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that the government would play wholehearted role for resolving the dispute of Wadh.

He, however, said that both the groups should honour decision of the tribal Jirga.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti was speaking to the media persons on occasion of the oath taking of caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki here at the Governor House on Friday evening.

The caretaker Federal Minister said that he had come Quetta for participation in the oath taking of the caretaker Chief Minister.

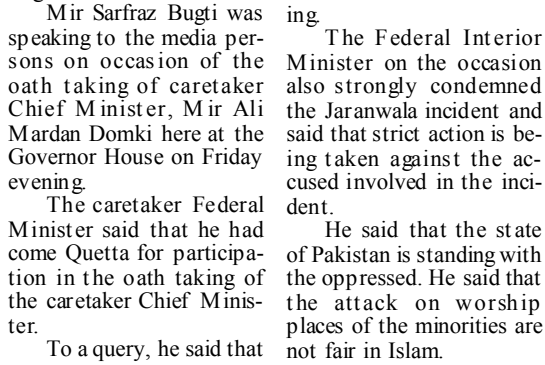
To a query, he said that

it is good if any dispute is resolved through negotiations. However, no one would be allowed to spread chaos at all, adding he asserted.

Regarding his meeting with PM L-N leadership, Sarfraz Bugti said that he had met its leadership. He said that we have been working together before, so there is not issue in meeting.

The Federal Interior Minister on the occasion also strongly condemned the Jaranwala incident and said that strict action is being taken against the accused involved in the incident.

He said that the state of Pakistan is standing with the oppressed. He said that the attack on worship places of the minorities are not fair in Islam.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights / Women Empowerment Khalil George is visiting Christian Colony Jaranwala

Jaranwala culprits to be punished according to law: caretaker federal minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Khalil George said on Friday that all culprits involved in the Jaranwala incident would be punished according to the law, while Christians' residences and churches, ransacked by mob, would be rehabilitated soon.

Talking to the media during his visit to Christian Colony (Issa Nagri) Jaranwala on Friday, he said the Jaranwala tragedy was a calculated move. The anti-Pakistan elements hatched a deep-rooted

conspiracy to spread anarchy and create rift in Christian-Muslim harmony. He advised the Christian community to show patience and forge unity among their ranks so that nefarious designs of the anti-state elements could be foiled.

He said that the police had registered five cases regarding the Jaranwala incident in addition to arresting 128 accused. Such incidents had also occurred in Gojra, Shanti Nagar and Joseph Nagar and their culprits had met their fate whereas the victims were compensated.



QUETTA: Ali Mardan Domki is administered the oath of Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister by Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Ali Mardan Domki takes oath as Balochistan's caretaker CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The tribal and political personality and former District Nazim Sibi, Mir Ali Mardan Domki was sworn in as the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan here on Friday night.

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar administered oath to Mir Ali Mardan Domki at the simple but impress oath taking ceremony held at the Governor House.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by the caretaker Federal Interior Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan, Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, senior administrative high ups, dignitaries, former members of

provincial assembly and ministers.

Soon after the oath taking Governor congratulated the caretaker Chief Minister. He also expressed best wishes for his new responsibilities.

Meanwhile, speaking to the media persons after his oath taking, the caretaker Chief Minister said that our first priority is to conduct free and fair elections in the province.

He said that effective steps would be taken for establishing law and order situation in the province.

About the Wadh issue, the caretaker Chief Minister said that he would speak to both groups to resolve the issue of Wadh amicably.

To a query about his cabinet, Ali Mardan Domki said that the cabinet would be formed in next two to

three days.

Earlier, the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali had sent recommendation summary to the Governor for formal approval of Ali Mardan Domki as the caretaker Chief Minister after the consensus developed by the parliamentary committee comprising members from government and Opposition sides.

The Governor approved the name of Ali Mardan Khan Domki as caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan. According to an official communique issued on Friday noon, the Governor gave the approval of name of Ali Mardan Domki as caretaker Chief Minister on the recommendation of parliamentary committee, which sent the name to Governor last night.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti chairing a briefing regarding the Ministry for Interior

PM meets delegations from Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday held meetings with delegations from different parts of Balochistan.

The delegations felicitated him on assuming the office of prime minister and expressed their best wishes for him.

The notables of the delegations expressed the view that the appointment of caretaker prime minister from Balochistan strengthened the people's belief in the political system and democracy. The delegations presented bouquets to the prime minister and some of the guests gave the gift of books according to his literary taste.

If there will be housing society of IB then who competes it: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked if there will be housing society of IB then who competes it.

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench of SC during hearing of Housing societies forensic audit case here Friday.

He further observed "we have reviewed FIA report. As per report loss of Rs 175 billions occurred. An overall estimate was given in the report but no explanation was sought from the housing societies.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked how can FIA use its name in private business. Is it not clash of interests.

He further remarked grave allegations of illegal occupation of land have

been leveled against FIA. IB too is apparently involved in illegal possession of land. The job of these institutions is serving people and not running housing societies.

The CJP remarked if there will be housing society of IB then who competes it. The matter of government institutions housing societies is not before us. Therefore, a suo moto notice can be taken on this matter separately. We see it either we have to take suo moto notice or otherwise.

CJP remarked it will be better some application comes before us. We are cautious in taking suo moto notice because suo moto notice is aimed at protecting public interest.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

Pakistan's HC to UK meets Nawaz in London

LONDON (INP): The newly appointed Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK, Dr Muhammad Faisal called on former prime minister and PM L-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, reported on Friday.

Pakistan's high commissioner met Nawaz Sharif at his son Hassan Nawaz's office in Central London. The meeting lasted for more than half an hour.

Nawaz Sharif and Dr Faisal discussed matters of mutual interest including Pakistan. Dr Faisal assumed the responsibility of Pakistan's High Commissioner in the United Kingdom this month.

Five people electrocuted in Nasirabad, SDO, Line Superintendent suspended

QUETTA (APP): Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) on Friday said that five people electrocuted in an incident which took place inside the house last in area of Nasirabad district.

According to spokesman, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), QESCO, Engineer Abdul Karim Jamali took notice of the incident and ordered to start investigation into incident and immediately suspended the SDO and Line Superintendent of the area.

He also directed the Chief Engineer, Operation Director, along with the Safety Directorate, to reach at the scene soon and submit a report in that regard.

After which those responsible involved in the incident would be determined, he added.

Caretaker PM vows to implement former govt's commitments; ensure rule of law, financial discipline

Addresses first interim cabinet meeting, calls on nation to start envisioning Pakistani dream; Says there will no compromise on rule of law in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar vowed on Friday to comply with the commitments made by the previous government on national and international levels with different forums, besides ensuring rule of law and financial discipline during the interim period.

"We do not have perpetual mandate to serve the nation but during the given allocated time we will try to lay foundation where we have sense of continuation of national and international commitments that

He said in fact SIFC was not a new idea but it was an old national dream that was going to be materialized now.

"Day has arrived when with the support of all institutions including Pakistan military leadership, we support, facilitate, encourage, and realize this old national dream."

He said this initiatives was not held by any institution but it was collectively owned by around 250 million people of the country. "We all own it and we will contribute towards it."



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

Shakeel Qadir posted as new CS Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili has been transferred with immediate effect on Friday.

According to an official notification issued here on Friday, the Grade-21 officer of Pakistan Administrative Officer, serving as Additional Secretary Power Division, Shakeel Qadir Khan has been posted as the Chief Secretary Balochistan in place of Mr. Uqaili.

Caretaker CM announces two months remission in sentence of prisoners

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Mardan Ali Domki has announced two months remission in the sentence of prisoners.

The announcement was made by Ali Mardan Domki soon after his assuming the office of caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan on Friday night.

Needless to mention here is that it was the first initiative taken by the caretaker Chief Minister after he took oath of the office.

However, this relaxation would not be applied on the condemned criminals imprisoned in the cases of terrorism and other heinous crimes. Mir Ali Mardan Domki took oath of the office of caretaker Chief Minister the same evening. The Governor Balochistan administered oath to him.

Jalil Abbas Jilani assumes charge as Caretaker Foreign Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani took the charge of his office on Friday.

Foreign Minister Jilani, who had taken oath along with other cabinet members on Thursday, has an extensive expertise of foreign affairs. He served as foreign secretary in 2012-13, besides Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg and Australia.

Meanwhile, talking to APP, the minister said the main objective of the foreign policy was to serve the national interests. He said the caretaker cabinet would strive to serve the country's interest through national consensus and improve cordial ties with countries like China, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and South Asian states, among others. He said Pakistan should further strengthen its relationship with China being a strategic partner with great economic cooperation.

Justice Mansoor suggests full court to hear NAB amendments case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of Supreme Court (SC) has proposed to constitute full court to hear NAB amendment case. The NAB amendment case came up for hearing before SC Friday. Giving proposal for constitution of full court Justice Mansoor A I Shah remarked court should decide practice and procedure act case or constitute full court. The decision on the petitions filed against

SC practice and procedure act has yet to come.

Citing to note written by him in military trial case he remarked this case should be heard by full court. Today I request CJP that NAB amendment case should be heard by full court. The practice and procedure act case has yet not been decided. Had Supreme Court Practice and Procedure act been decided then the matter would have been different.

US asks Pakistan to respect Imran Khan's rights as prisoner

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States (US) has urged Pakistan to respect the human rights of prisoners including PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan's.

Addressing a news briefing in Washington on Thursday, US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel was responding when asked "Is the US at all concerned about the safety and security of Imran Khan in jail - has the US shown any concerns at all?"

Vedant Patel said "So our message continues to be clear to our partners in Pakistan that anybody held in detention should be [afforded] human rights consistent with international law and that continues to be the case here. I will let Pakistan speak about any other details as it relates to Imran Khan's case."



QUETTA: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) holding protest demonstration against the price hike of petroleum products in front of Quetta press club

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Saturday August 19, 2023

Afghan dilemma

Two years have lapsed since the Afghan Taliban took Kabul, and the Western-backed government melted away, bringing to a close a lengthy and expensive nation-building experiment. However, while the Taliban may be celebrating the occasion, the Afghan people have little to cheer about.

While it is true that the relentless violence Afghanistan has been witnessing since the Soviet invasion and later the American invasion has come down considerably, the Taliban continue to enforce their ultra-conservative version of religious rule upon the populace, while international isolation and a long-running drought have inflicted crushing poverty on the Afghan people. Women in particular have seen their limited freedoms snatched by the hard-line rulers of Kabul, especially the right to get an education and participate in society.

Unlike during the previous period of Taliban governance, when the Saudis, Emiratis and Pakistan recognised the militia as the legitimate Afghan rulers, today the Taliban find no country willing to extend recognition to them. Their dismal human rights record, and failure to act against all terrorist groups on their soil, are the key stumbling blocks standing in the way of international recognition.

The sooner the Taliban address these concerns, the better; yet the hard-line leadership in Kandahar appears to have a dominating veto on such matters over politicians and pragmatists in Kabul. The clerics in Kandahar seem intent on dragging Afghanistan back to the Middle Ages. Sadly, their intransigence is having a devastating effect on the Afghan people.

The Red Cross says 28.8m Afghans are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, while the UN has observed that 15.3m people in the country face acute food insecurity. The Taliban, therefore, need to reconsider their obstinate stance so that help can easily reach their devastated countrymen.

If Kabul's rulers were to improve the human rights situation — especially for women — and assure the comity of nations that their soil will not be used to host terrorists, global recognition could be forthcoming. However, as long as both these expectations remain unmet, few in the world will be willing to advocate for engaging the Taliban.

Pakistan, for example, has long called upon the world community to talk to the Taliban, yet its concerns about the TTP remain unaddressed. But regardless of political developments, the world cannot leave millions of Afghans to face starvation and death.

Support must continue to the Afghan people to help them survive tough times. In this regard, billions of dollars belonging to the Afghan central bank — being blocked by the US — must be released so that food, medicine and other essential needs of the Afghan population can be met. Afghanistan's people deserve a chance at rebuilding their country, not more isolation imposed on them due to the short-sighted policies of their rulers.



Faisal Bari

We have seen some tough times in Pakistan. Numerous martial laws, two wars, the trauma of the war in East Pakistan, severe tensions with India, repeated post-nuclear tests sanctions, the terror campaigns of various groups, and economic crises that seem to keep getting worse provide a disturbing yet incomplete list.

But, and this might just be the effect of being in the moment, I do not think that I have ever seen and felt people to be as despondent as they are right now. Economic conditions are tough but we have seen tougher times before. Dollars are expensive and hard to get but the State Bank has not taken over dollar accounts as it did in the past. We

still do not have rationing of food and clothing as we had up to the 1970s. Imports have been restricted but not as much as in the past. So, where is the despondency coming from?

People seem to have lost hope in the future of the country and it is largely the last couple of years that have been responsible for this loss of hope. Many people, especially in the middle class and amongst the younger people, had a lot of hopes pinned on Imran Khan and his anticipated performance. Some got disillusioned by the poor performance of the government and the rest lost hope when his government lost the establishment's support and was eventually done away with. The PDM's poor performance has also been a factor but a more important one seems to have been the coalition's active support for the 'hybrid' system. The way that PDM supported anti-people and anti-freedom legislation, through parliament, will be talked about for some time to come.

The way the estab-

lishment has taken back power has made many lose hope about the future of the country. Contracting space for freedom of speech, lack of tolerance, religious repression, suppression of freedom of press, abduction of journalists, making people disappear, abducting people for a few hours to a few days as a way of putting pressure on them, disrupting jobs and businesses of opposition members, and the use of the law to register many cases against a person so that he/she gets entangled in just dealing with courts and prison are but some examples.

Nothing erodes hope like injustice. And what has happened and is happening since the excesses of May 9 has been nothing short of injustice. Where a few hundred or a few thousand people might have been involved in the actual vandalism on May 9, arrests were made at a much broader and deeper level. If people happened to be on the streets that day, or were protesting the arrest of Imran Khan peacefully, they

were still picked up. Party workers have been picked up irrespective of whether or not they were involved in the vandalism. Some who were supporting the party on social media have also been picked up or harassed. Others, who just happened to be in the vicinity of the installations that were vandalised, have become victims of the 'net' that the state has cast. In cases where the prime suspect could not be apprehended, family members have been arrested or harassed.

The way the PTI has been put under pressure also shows this high-handedness and injustice. People were forced to leave the party. They were arrested and kept in jail till they held a press conference to denounce their party affiliation. They were then let out. Family members were arrested, threatened or harassed to make people leave. Nothing erodes hope like injustice!

A friend's cook was picked up as his number was identified as a result

of geo-fencing. But the gentleman lives in the area, so how could his number not have come up? He stayed in jail for 45 days or so before being bailed out. The family had to spend a fair bit in engaging a lawyer and paying off the police station and jail staff to ensure access to some basic comforts for the gentleman and he still has to fight a case. The gentleman was a PML-N voter/supporter. Now he and his family are livid and want nothing to do with Pakistani politics.

Another gentleman, a doctor, was picked up because he was a relative of someone the police wanted to put pressure on. He had his connections so he stayed in the thana for only two days. But he is now planning to move abroad along with his family. He has absolutely no trust left in any local institution.

We have recently heard about the 10-year-old who was kept in the thana for 22 hours or so. His 'crime' was that he was walking around with a PTI flag. How many videos have we seen of

police harassing or beating PTI flag carriers on the streets?

We have also heard about the 13-14-year-old boy who was arrested for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incident. He was allegedly framed. But this child stayed in jail for more than a month. His sisters have also been, again allegedly, harassed by the police. His father died after their home was raided by the police to rearrest the child after he had just returned on bail. The police are denying any wrongdoing, of course. But, unless there is a credible inquiry, what should we believe? Do we not know our police? Nothing erodes hope like injustice!

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Remember this quote from Martin Luther King Jr as we move forward. These are dark times and if it is thought that repression will lighten the darkness, it is not going to happen. If only the establishment would understand. -- Courtesy Dawn

Caretakers — but not quite caretaking



Raof Hasan

After much uncertainty and speculation, a caretaker prime minister has taken oath of office understandably to steer the country towards holding general elections within the stipulated period of ninety days. Is that what is likely to happen, or are there tricks in the bag to hold on to power and put off the elections for another day?

When the ECP representative was recently asked by the Supreme Court whether a date had been fixed for the holding of elections, he simply shrugged his shoulders expressing his ignorance in the matter. That fits in well with the alleged script that we are in for a long night of the caretakers who would get busy with fixing one thing or the other, ostensibly to get the environment 'right' for the holding of elections.

Now, what kind of environment is envisaged that would ultimately allow people a visit to the hustings to elect representatives of their choice?

Let's move to Attock Fort for a while where Imran Khan is incarcerated in a dark and dingy cell, categorised as class 'C', with an open toilet and hardly enough space for a mattress to be placed on ground. Khan continues to be denied the basic facilities which are his entitled right as guaranteed by the constitution and the prison rules.

He is not being allowed to meet his lawyers and the party people. He is being refused access to his doctor. While there is credible danger of him being slowly poisoned, he is not permitted to have food from home. He is virtually being kept in solitary confinement as no one is allowed to visit him, or even go near his cell. He is even being denied provision of a copy of the Holy Quran with English translation.

Simultaneously, Khan's party, the PTI, is bearing the brunt of the worst form of brutality at the hands of the state machinery. Workers in the

thousands are being kept in jails while homes and businesses of members and sympathizers are under midnight assaults. Massive damage is caused to properties with most businesses closed and recourse to justice completely blocked. Families of leaders who have gone underground are hounded and hunted at ungodly hours with several of them taken in by the police. People are afraid of sleeping in their homes for fear of being arrested in the dark of the night. Even minors, women and the elderly are not spared the brutality of the invading parties.

Does that give out the contours of the plan which is being scripted to gradually pave the way to the elections? It does and it does not: the former for this being the ostensible strategy which has been chalked out, and the latter for it all being so grotesque in its imagination, structuring and possible implementation as to be the damage that it will most certainly cause to the state and its intrinsic interests.

It is clear that no elections will be held in the country unless the orchestrators have eliminated the

Khan factor and they are certain that he does not pose a challenge to the planting of their favourites in a government of puppets who would swing on the strings which are pulled from elsewhere.

The plan is that, like the past 15 months, we shall have a government which neither has the ability nor the freedom to operate of its own will and which shall only take dictation and frequently submit certificates that the orders given have been dutifully implemented. But the nagging question that raises its head is whether, notwithstanding the exhaustive planning, fully aided and abetted by the brutal state apparatus, such a plan will have any potential of succeeding? And given the manicured infatuation to make it work, what may be the possible consequences if it does not?

When the eliminate Khan project was initiated, it was expected that he, too, would walk the road earlier taken by his predecessors — that of leaving the country and waiting his time out to be recalled for another stint. In thinking so, the planners forgot to take stock

of the reality that not all humans are alike and that there would be a Khan who would both refuse to oblige or submit despite being subjected to unmitigated torture, humiliation, and suffering.

They forgot that Khan would remain committed to altering the decrepit ways of a past and emblazon new paths to attain genuine freedom. They forgot that Khan would refuse to submit to a brazenly degrading treatment and remain a proud persona driven by deep-set belief and faith in the righteousness of his cause. They forgot that people would espouse Khan with unprecedented zeal, passion and commitment and would refuse to desert him even under the most daunting circumstances.

They forgot that Khan would remain steadfast in the fulfilment of his ideal of a welfare state that would be devoted to the amelioration of the sufferings of the poor and the enfeebled. They forgot that Khan would stand up to the powers and speak with a voice that would resonate through the hearts and minds of his devoted followers to give

them a cause to struggle for. They forgot that they would be faced with a Khan who would not break.

So, instead of eliminating the Khan factor, the planners have only cemented it further as his support base continues to surge with the passage of time. A free man, or kept hostage behind the walls of the prison, he rules the people across all hues and shades. He is like a masterful leader guiding his charges to the victory line with relentless consistency, verve, and energy.

But, at the end of the day, it is not the victory of an individual that will matter. It is the victory of the people and the space they inhabit that is far more important. It is Pakistan that will matter. And it is for Pakistan that the project to eliminate Khan should be abandoned and a way found to initiate a dialogue to carve a way out of this sickening hellhole we have dug for ourselves. Like I have always said, it is time to banish the demons of hate and prejudice. It is time to let sanity walk in and take over the discourse. -- Courtesy TheNews

Public service



Amin Valliani

There is a famous saying attributed to the second rightly guided Caliph Hazrat Umar which says that if a dog dies hungry on the banks of the Euphrates, Umar would be responsible for dereliction of duty.

The above saying indicates the sense of responsibility of the head of state. Indeed, the safety, security and protection of all citizens is the prime responsibility of the state. Besides, the state is also supposed to do everything possible for the well-being of citizens living under its protection. This is done with the help of state employees (public servants). The state can be effective if public servants, also known as the bureaucracy, perform to the best of their ability.

Unfortunately, the historical record of Muslim lands presents a very gloomy picture in this connection. With the exception of a few, the majority of public servants, including the rulers, have remained callous and insensitive to their responsibilities towards the people. For example, Muslims ruled the Indian subcontinent for nearly 1,000 years. They built many palaces and fortresses all over their jurisdiction and patronised art and culture but mostly ignored their primary responsibility — public welfare. They spent lavishly on their self-aggrandizement and rarely paid attention to public welfare.

An example of such self-aggrandizement pertains to Mughal Emperor Mohammad Shah Rangaela

who ruled for about 29 years from 1719 to 1748. During his reign, the Iranian commander Nader Shah invaded India but the emperor seemed least concerned about public security. His advisers kept him updated but he did not bat an eyelid while the Iranian army was fast approaching. As the anecdote goes, he used to say 'hanooz Dilli dur ast' (Delhi is still far away). His army and bureaucracy were in complete disarray. As a result, Nader Shah's invasion was followed by the looting and plunder of Delhi. Nader Shah took away immense riches, including the Koh-i-Noor and the Peacock Throne.

The episode underlines the importance of public servants ascertaining problems in a timely fashion and making the right policies accordingly. We need to learn from history which provides many learning points.

The public servants who are employed by the state to run day-to-day affairs of government carry heavy responsibilities. Their job is a sacred trust, which does not allow them to be careless. Being custodians of the state, they are socially, morally and religiously duty-bound to ensure public safety and welfare. Sometimes, they have to work under acute pressure in a charged and polarised political environment but have to maintain professional discipline, integrity, sincerity and independence while discharging their official duties.

Pakistan is an Islamic republic and serving Pakistan is akin to fulfilling the Divine trust (amanat). Allah says "O you who believe! Betray not Allah and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly your trusts (8:27)". In Islam, every individual is answerable to Allah, therefore public servants need to keep this admonition in mind.

Pakistan has inherited the erstwhile British sys-

tem of civil service. Though periodic changes have been made in the system, it needs total restructuring to meet the demands of public service. In 2006, the government constituted a National Commission on Government Reforms, tasked with producing an analysis and recommendations on how the government, its institutions and infrastructure could become more effective to meet the social, economic and political challenges that Pakistan faces. The report, produced after lengthy deliberations, is comprehensive and covers many aspects such as the restructuring of government at the federal and provincial levels, strengthening of district governments, re-organisation of civil services, revamping of human resource management policies and practices, etc.

The government should ensure merit in recruitment, training, postings, promotions and transfers. Over the last few decades, new knowledge regarding office automation, e-filing and other best practices has come to light and new ways of service delivery have been introduced. In order to serve the people better, public servants have to update their knowledge, evaluate their work and refresh their zeal and commitment periodically to improve governance and service delivery.

Many believe that the bureaucracy in Pakistan is bloated, corrupt and inefficient.

These inadequacies need to be addressed. Bureaucrats should be equipped with tools to resist temptation in an environment where political loyalty is privileged over competence. They are expected to do the right thing — even when it's not easy. They should uphold the highest professional and ethical standards and understand the high expectations the public has from them. -- Courtesy Dawn

August in history



Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

Being a student of history, whenever I get some free time in my daily socio-political activities, I try to study various important events that have played a key role in changing the course of human history. One of the major events of the previous century is the Second World War. The massive casualties, huge destruction and other horrific losses have not yet been accurately estimated. However, the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th of August, 1945 resulted in lowering the morale of the Japanese leadership, and then on August 15, the Japanese emperor officially announced the surrender.

As soon as Japan accepted defeat, major changes in world history began to take place. Several new countries began to emerge on the world map, and independence movements gained momentum in various colonial countries including British India.

Lord Mountbatten, the last viceroy of the British Empire, who also served as anaval officer in the World War, was appointed with a one-

point agenda to divide India.

However, according to some historians, he was interested in making the Second World War victory more memorable by announcing to divide India on August 15. The consequences of this decision of the viceroy had to be borne by millions of innocent people on both sides of the border on the occasion of Partition.

The question is sometimes raised: when both countries achieved independence together at the same time, why is it that Pakistan celebrates its Independence Day on August 14 and India on August 15? In this regard, BBC Urdu, in its investigative reports, disclosed that no one was confused about Pakistan's Independence Day in the first year of independence.

Similarly, I remember that on August 18, 2008, former president Pervez Musharraf announced his resignation.

There is no doubt that Musharraf was one of the most powerful rulers of Pakistan, but the political will, wisdom and courage demonstrated by the PPP is indeed a golden chapter of the tireless struggle to strengthen democracy in the country and empower the people as the source of power.

Two years ago, in the month of August, a major change in our region took place in the form of the return of the Taliban to Kabul. Undoubtedly, the United States and the Western

allies spent billions of dollars in Afghanistan in twenty years, with a hope that the trained Afghan security agencies will counter the advancement of the Taliban. However, by the start of August 2021, the Taliban had taken control of the rural districts, and finally on August 15th, they reached the capital Kabul without any resistance.

This year, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced a public holiday on the 15th of August to mark the second anniversary of its return to power. On the completion of two years, the white flags of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan were hoisted all over the country. In my view, when the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in the nineties, the western border of Pakistan became secure. Unfortunately, today the situation is quite different and complicated.

In our national history, the 17th of the month of August is also important in the sense that on this day in 1988, the death of president Gen Ziaul Haq and the then US ambassador to Pakistan in a mysterious air accident is still an unsolved mystery.

The effects of the social changes that took place at the state level in our society during his era can still be felt today. In this regard, the courageous role of legendary leader Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is worth writing in golden words in our national political history. -- Courtesy TheNews

Justice Maqbool says: Caretaker cabinet to be selected soon

KARACHI (APP): Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah," he said. To a question, the caretaker chief minister said that he has started meetings to select his cabinet. "In the first phase a few names [for caretaker ministers] would be selected and then the process would be completed in the second," he said and added he was trying to select well-reputed people for his caretaker cabinet. Replying to a question, Justice Baqar said that rule of law, conviction, and commitment were prerequisites for the improvement of the

governance and the government system. How it would be achieved is the question to which he replied 'by following the constitution'. To a question about delaying the general election, Justice Baqar said that we should avoid being sceptical. "It is premature to develop such an argument let the process start," he said and added it was the responsibility of the election commission to determine to hold the general election, and the caretaker government was bound to facilitate them, but he assured that he would not be a part of any unconstitutional arrangement.



LAHORE: A delegation led by Ms. Jingmin Huang, Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office of Asian Development Bank in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

'If any police officer found involved in water theft, he will face action'; Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that he is in touch with the higher authorities of the police and if any police officer is found involved in water theft and action will be taken against him. He expressed these views while addressing the event organized under the auspices of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, People's Party Parliamentary Leader in the City Council Najmi Alam, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, District Central General Secretary Dil Muhammad, Chairman of the various UCs, CEO, MD Water Board Syed Salahuddin, Chief Operating Officer Asadullah Khan and other officers were also present on the occasion. The water board has come up with a solution that they will produce

manhole covers, manhole rings and slabs. A manhole cover which weighs 10 to 12 kilograms was available for Rs 3500 in the market, the same cover will be ready in the factory for Rs 2700 and its weight will be 35 kg. He said that 150 manhole covers will be given to every UC without discrimination and this process will be started from Monday. He said that all parties should work together to make this city better and everyone should work together, he said that the people of Karachi do not want their water to be stolen, so tough decisions have to be made. In response to a question, Mayor Karachi said that the black sheep in the water board will not be able to work with him. He said that we will take action again in Janjal Goth, and he will stand with the officials, so far more than 30 FIRs have been registered against the water thieves and we are working and fighting with the mafia.

Speakers stress for long term strategies, projects to counter extremism in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers at an international conference here Friday called for chalking out and implementing long term strategies and projects to counter extremism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The day-long conference was organized by the KP Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism. Secretary Higher Education Anila Mahfouz Durrani, former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, former DIG CTD and Executive Director of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund from Geneva Khalid Kausar attended the conference as key speakers. On this occasion, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Geneva-based Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and the Centre.

The agreement was aimed to increase the efficiency of the Center and prevention of extremism in the light of international experiences. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Higher Education Anila Durrani said that the KP Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism is the first center of excellence of its kind in South Asia and would act as a think tank in the fight against extremism. PPP leader and former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi said that KP is currently facing critical issues including extremism and climate change. He said Pakistan has to reconsider its foreign policy towards Afghanistan for peace in the region, adding that such interactions should be held regularly to combat extremism and promote tolerance in society.



KARACHI: Pakistani Christians hold a demonstration condemning the recent attack on a Christian area by an angry Muslim mob in Provincial Capital.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the Pakistan Red Crescent society merged District (PRCS MDs) performance review meeting in Governor House.

Governor KP chairs Pakistan Red Crescent Merged area meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): The meeting of Pakistan Red Crescent merged districts under the Chairmanship of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali were held here at Governor House on Friday. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Red Crescent for the erstwhile tribal districts, Imran Khan, members of the managing committee, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Mazhar Irshad and others.

In the meeting, a detailed briefing was presented regarding the overall performance, aims and objectives, community services of Red Crescent District Branch.

The meeting also approved the nomination of 11 members for the managing committee of Pakistan Red Crescent.

Pakistan Red Crescent is a great name

and position in humanitarian services, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

He said the services of the Red Crescent for suffering humanity were commendable.

The Red Crescent should involve the local community in humanitarian services, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

The Red Crescent should establish strong links with benefactors at the local level, Haji Ghulam Ali further added.

At the local level, philanthropists and local communities are helpful for services and cooperation in natural disasters, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said.

The governor urged the Red Crescent to prepare a list of volunteers at the Tehsil and District level in all the merged districts so that each and every work.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ex-Service Persons Society Lieutenant General (R) Abdul Qayyum addressing press conference along with others at Press Club in Provincial Capital.

Free-of-cost treatment for dengue patients being ensured: Dr Jamal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr Jamal Nasir Friday said that special counters were being established at all the district and tehsil headquarter hospitals for providing free of cost treatment facilities to dengue patients.

Chairing a meeting to review the dengue situation here, he said that people can get a slip for a free checkup by showing their national identity card.

The minister said that after checking the patient's pulse, fever and blood pressure at such counter, a blood sample will be taken and a CBC blood test would be done.

In case of a positive blood test report and the presence of symptoms, the dengue patient would be admitted to the hospital for further treatment.

Dr Jamal said that qualified and trained doctor presence was also being ensured for dengue patients at the health facilities.

He said that preventive measures were being taken to control the spread of dengue in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan, adding the surveillance for tracing larvae had been intensified across Punjab and the relevant deputy commissioners had been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the anti-dengue activities.



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

Police submits a report regarding Hassan in LHC

LAHORE (Online): On the petition filed in the Lahore High Court for the recovery of Hassan Niazi, the nephew of the former prime minister, the police has submitted a report related to Hassan Niazi on the court's order.

The court disposed of the recovery application filed in the light of the police report Justice Sultan Tanveer of Lahore High Court heard the application filed by Hassan Niazi's father Hafeezullah Niazi for the recovery of his son. Additional Advocate General Punjab Ghulam Sarwar on Friday.

Additional Advocate General Punjab Ghulam Sarwar Nihang has submitted a one-page written report on behalf of the Punjab Police.

In the report, it is said that Hassan Niazi has been named in the Jinnah House attack case. Hassan Niazi is among the main accused in the Jinnah House attack case. The accused was handed over to the military for trial. Hassan Niazi's trial will be held in military courts. Petitioner was of the view that Hassan Niazi is being held at an unknown location in illegal confinement 'Habs Beja.

Punjab Governor says: Govt values cooperation of Asian Development Bank Punjab in dev. projects

LAHORE (Online): A delegation led by Ms. Jingmin Huang, Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office of Asian Development Bank met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, ongoing projects in Punjab with the support of Asian Development Bank were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government values the cooperation of Asian Development Bank Punjab in various development projects.

He said that the cooperation of Asian

Development Bank in various projects of urban facilities is commendable. Governor Punjab said that the Asian Development Bank's support in upgrading the Bahawalpur Solid Waste Management Company and the project to generate electricity from solid waste is a good project. He further said that Punjab government is willing to initiate sustainable infrastructure development program through structural reforms to achieve economic growth and social prosperity in the country with the support of Asian Development Bank.

He emphasized that the Asian Development Bank should assist the local government institutions in

the form of grants for capacity building so that the projects can be successfully implemented.

Governor Punjab said that he wants cooperation and collaboration from Asian Development Bank for development projects in flood affected areas, health, water management and urban development sectors.

On this occasion, Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office of Asian Development Bank Jingmin Huang (Ms. Jingmin Huang) said that Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to continue supporting Pakistan's economic recovery and development projects.

Two terrorists arrested from Gadap Town

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Police in a joint intelligence based operation have arrested two allegedly most wanted terrorists affiliated with a proscribed organization Daesh from Gadap Town area of the megalopolis.

According to spokesman for Rangers on Friday, the arrested were identified as Farmanullah alias Ehtsham and Dawood alias Ameer Sahib. The agencies recovered hand grenades, arms and ammunition from the possession of the accused. Accused Farmanullah was a very active member of ISIS who was wanted for his involvement in several terrorist activities in KP.

RPSC seeks inquiry report over refusing of FIR registration by female

PESHAWAR (APP): The Right to Public Services Commission (RPSC) here on Friday ordered the Bajaur Police to submit an inquiry report within 14 days for refusing registration of an FIR by a female.

"Timely access to all basic services is the constitutional right of every citizen in the province and negligence of the government officials will not be tolerated in that regard," said Judge Muhammad Asim Imam.

The Right to Public Services Commission heard the complaint of two citizens. Commissioner RPSC Judge Muhammad Asim Imam heard the

complaints of two citizens. A female citizen from Bajaur had applied to the commission that the police were not registering her FIR.

The woman was heard online through a video call. Judge Muhammad Asim Imam issued orders to the police to complete the inquiry within 14 days and a report of the matter should be submitted to the commission. Similarly, a citizen from Swabi had applied to the commission against the police regarding the property, on which Judge Muhammad Asim Imam advised the citizen to approach the civil court while hearing the case.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir talking to media persons at Mazar-e-Quaid in Provincial Capital.

Bid to smuggle four leopard skins foiled, four poachers arrested

PESHAWAR (APP): The Wildlife Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has foiled a bid to smuggle four skins of rare snow leopard and arrested four poachers on Hazara Express way on Friday.

"The seizure and arrest came in the wake of prior information about smuggling of skins to Islamabad from Hazara," informs Sardar Nawaz SDFO Wildlife Department Abbotabad. On receiving information, checking was started on Hazara Havelian road during which the four smugglers were arrested along with preserved skins of snow leopards.

The recovered skins included one large and three small, apparently of a mother and three of her cubs, adds Sardar Nawaz. Initial investigation revealed that the smugglers were bringing these skins from Ghizer district of Gilgit Baltistan for taking it to Islamabad. SDFO told media men. The seized skins were purchased by smugglers at a price of Rs 3 million and had to sell it in Islamabad.

Chairman ATP urges Interim govt to take pragmatic measures for removing public miseries

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP), Muhammad Faiq Shah has urged the caretaker government to take pragmatic measures to remove the public's miseries and to refrain from endorsing policies of the previous governments.

Apart from conducting elections in a free, fair and transparent manner, Shah said the interim government should focus on the people's issues.

He stressed that timely elections are vital to flourish democracy in the country and delay in this regard will be proved detrimental.

He said all resources should be utilized to make the next general elections fair so that no one will raise questions on the impartiality of the electoral exercise.

Faiq held the previous coalition government responsible for elevating the public's problems.

The party chief while chairing a meeting here on Friday said the

caretaker government should also focus on maintenance of peace and stability in the country.

He said peace is vital for economic prosperity and development. He said all requirements of justice and law should be fulfilled to make the society a cradle of peace and eliminate ethnic and linguistic groups.

Chairman ATP said special incentives should be announced for traders and industries to improve the country's ailing economy, trade and export. Shah said economic policies should be framed with consultation with the business community.

He reminded that his party was carrying out a vigorous campaign for public rights and justice, vowing that the struggle will be contained till provision of unprecedented authorities and powers to people.

The party leader said political, social and economic justice and public authority is our manifesto and agenda.



LAHORE: Chairman Majlis-e-Ulema Pakistan Maulana Abdul Khubair Azad, Arch Bishop Sebastian Francis Shaw, religious scholars and representative of other religion rises hand to show solidarity with each other's and condemn the desecration of the worships place of all religion after joint press conference at Press Club in Provincial Capital.

President enhances penalty upon woman harasser

"No Leniency!"

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has enhanced the penalty for workplace harassment, imposed upon the Director for Human Resource Management (HRM) in NEPRA, to "dismissal from service".

He held that sending text messages to a female colleague, asking her to stay in the office beyond office hours with an ulterior motive, making unwanted advances, and intimidating her to face dire consequences in case of her refusal to assent to his unethical demands constituted harassment, and warranted no leniency.

While deciding upon a workplace harassment case, the president in his decision wrote that statements of the complainant, witnesses, CCTV footage, WhatsApp messages, and the email fully established the factum of harassment, President House media wing said in a press release on Friday.

He said that the accused himself had also admitted his guilt by implication and his only grievance before the President was regarding the severity of punishment. "The principle of reasonableness and proportionality demands that the penalty is modified

to dismissal as it is commensurate with the gravity of the offence", he added.

The president rejected the representation filed by Ahmad Nadeem (the accused), Director HRM in National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and changed the minor penalty of "withholding two increments" imposed by the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH) to "dismissal from service".

Earlier, a female Office Assistant (the complainant), had filed workplace harassment in NEPRA al-

leging that the accused used to call her into his office, discussed personal matters, passed comments on her looks, tried to physically approach her, invited her to have lunch and dinner, and used to send unnecessary and inappropriate text messages.

The Internal Harassment Committee (IHC) of NEPRA conducted a detailed inquiry and concluded that the allegations of harassment stood established against the accused and recommended imposing the major penalty of "reduction to a lower post" from Director to Deputy Director.

Parliament to continue its role in making Pakistan disaster resilient: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday said the Parliament of Pakistan would continue its role in making the country disaster resilient and climate adaptive for a sustainable and healthy future for the coming generations. The Speaker National Assembly was addressing to the concluding ceremony of the third-day first ever Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 (PEDRR-23). Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in his keynote address congratulated the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Disaster Risk

Management Fund (NDRMF) for organising the important forum of PEDRR-23. He also appreciated the experts, speakers and others for their valuable contributions shared at different seminars, and dialogues held during the Expo.

He said the NDMA had rightly placed global focus on putting capacity building of vulnerable countries like Pakistan. "The country being among the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate change despite less than one percent of carbon emissions was similar to face the outcome of what that it had not done," he added.

The Speaker underscored that the monster monsoon floods of 2022 badly disrupted life in Pakistan whereas the international community was forthcoming in supporting the country. He added that the already ailing economy of Pakistan could not sustain another disaster with inadequate capacity. The National Assembly Speaker said the country realised that national preparedness was more economic than financing post-disaster initiatives. He said, "We must improve technical archiving and knowledge-based decision making for effective disaster management."

Sarfraz Bugti says: Citizens' protection is state responsibility

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker interior minister Sarfraz Bugti said Protection is state's first responsibility. Jaranwala incident was shameful and against the teachings of Holy Prophet (S.A.W), he added.

Sarfraz Bugti said no group is allowed to do violence and corruption will not be tolerated in any situation. According to details federal caretaker minister Sarfraz Bugti arrived in interior ministry and officially took over the charge. Interior secretary Syed Ali Murtaza and others paid

reception to newly appointed caretaker interior minister.

Sarfraz Bugti is 47 interior minister of Pakistan. Ministry offered him salute on his arrival into the ministry. Caretaker minister held introductory meeting with senior officers and received briefing on sub-institutes of ministry. On that occasion caretaker interior minister Sarfraz Bugti said on that occasion that Jaranwala incident was shameful and against the teaching of Holy Prophet (S.A.W).



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki talking with Caretaker Interior Minister Mir Sarfaraz Khan Bugti, former Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan, Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqail and others at Quetta Airport addressing reaching from Islamabad

Khilji says: PML-N to remove Balochistan's sense of deprivation

QUETTA (APP): Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Balochistan, Nawab Suleman Khilji Friday said the time has come to remove the sense of deprivation in Balochistan.

"Soon, steps will be taken to strengthen the organizational structure of the party," he said while talking to a delegation of the party which called on him here.

The delegation included Shabbir Rajput, Muhammad Zaman Lehri, Naeem Sikandar Khokhar, Mohammad Hasan Rajput, Hazrat Umar Khilji, Shama Shehzad, Saghran Bibi and Shehla Javed.

Nawab Sulaiman Khilji said that efforts are being made to unite and organize the PML-N in Balochistan.

Assets case: SC fixes plea seeking revocation of Maryam bail for hearing on Aug 22

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition seeking revocation of bail of PML-N senior vice president Maryam Nawaz has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC).

A two members bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial will hear the case on August 22. Justice Athar Minallah is also part of the bench.

Maryam Nawaz is charged with accumulation of assets beyond known sources of income in Shamim Sugar Mills case.

Naeem greets Caretaker PM, interim federal ministers

QUETTA (APP): The central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Chaudhry Naeem Karim on Friday congratulated the Caretaker the Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq and interim federal ministers.

He said that PML-N would form its government after winning with a two-thirds majority general election in the country.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of workers called on him here.

Chaudhry Naeem Karim said that the former federal government of Muslim League-N worked honestly to get Pakistan out of crises by taking the most difficult decisions in 16 months.

Meanwhile, the party's central president Mian Shehbaz Sharif's priority was only Pakistan and thanks to his struggle, Pakistan has not only been saved from default but has once again been on the path of development and prosperity.

Caretaker Health Minister receives briefing on national programmes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Friday took charge of office and received a briefing on various national health programmes.

On reaching the ministry, Federal Health Secretary Ifthikhar Ali Shallwani and other officials welcomed the minister.

Dr. Nadeem Jan held an introductory meeting with Ministry of Health's officials and heads of various departments.

On the occasion, the minister said, "We will make efforts to meet the challenges in the health sector. We have to work round the clock for the welfare of the people of this country."

"Health sector is our first priority and improving the health sector is my mission," Dr. Nadeem Jan added.

He assured that he would try his level best to resolve the problems of the people in a short period of time on priority basis.

He expressed his resolve to serve the country and the nation. Public welfare projects would have to be completed on fast track, Dr. Nadeem Jan said.

"We will ensure effective measures to protect people from diseases and epidemics," he said.

He asked the ministry officials to work with full dedication to come up to expectations of the people.

Board of Revenue Balochistan selects PTCL Smart Cloud for E-Stamping Project

Independent Report
QUETTA: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Board of Revenue Balochistan have signed an agreement for provisioning of IaaS Smart Cloud Services at PTCL's Tier-III Data Center for Land Record Management System (LRMS) and Fiber Optic Connectivity at Fa-

Roshan Ali Sheikh Senior Member, Board of Revenues Balochistan signed the agreement at a special ceremony of "Balochistan E-Stamping Project (Energized by PTCL Smart Cloud) and Revenue Sahooliyat at Center Quetta (Board of Revenue Balochistan); recently held at Quetta Club, Quetta



citation Centers at different districts of the province. Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL and

Cantt Balochistan, Bank of Punjab as a collection agent partner and Systems Limited as Technology Partner were also present at the ceremony.

Chief Collector Custom inaugurates Laboratory in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Chief Collector Customs Balochistan Abdul Qadir Memon on Friday said that Pakistan Customs has established the first Laboratory in Quetta NLC according to World Customs Organization (W.C.O) standard. He expressed these views while inaugurating the laboratory. Collector Appraisal Quetta Agha Saeed and other customs officers along with laboratory staff were also present on the occasion. Chief Collector Customs Balochistan Abdul Qadir Memon said that inspection of all types of chemicals and other items necessary to facilitate customs value could now be done easily in Quetta.

It should be noted that before this, the business community of Balochistan used to benefit from the laboratories of other provinces of the country which takes a lot of time. On the occasion of the inauguration of the laboratory, prominent businessman Haji Fojan Bareaah was also present. Prominent businessman Haji Fojan Bareaah thanked Chief Collector Customs Balochistan Abdul Qadir Memon, Collector Appraisal Quetta Agha Saeed and the lab administration for establishing laboratory.



QUETTA: Interim Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti talking to media after oath taking ceremony of Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister.

Caretaker FM says Pakistan desirous of cordial relations with entire Int'l community

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani has said that Pakistan is desirous of having cordial relations with entire international community including China, the United States, European Union, Turkey and Arab countries.

In an exclusive talk with Radio Pakistan, he said we want to strengthen our economic relations with these countries as well.

Replying to a question about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Minister said he is proud of being a signatory of the CPEC in May 2013 during the Chinese Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan.

He said CPEC is a

major flagship programme of the economic development of the country, and we have completed many development projects under the CPEC during the past ten years.

The Caretaker Foreign Minister said we need to further improve our economic policy with focus on improving economic ties with all the countries including regional, and other major important countries.

He said we will also try our level best to further cement our economic ties with the United States, China and the European Union, which are the major trading partners of Pakistan.



QUETTA: Balochistan Civil Secretariat Officer Welfare Association President, Abdul Malik addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Jaranwala incident against Islamic teachings; Senator Samina Zehri

Independent Report
QUETTA: Senator Samina Zehri said on Friday termed intolerance and extremism the most dangerous process in the deterioration of our society. "Muslim society in strong terms condemn the burning of homes of the Christian community and their holy church", she said in a statement issued here.

Senator Samina said that Pakistan was an Islamic and democratic country where every religion enjoyed complete freedom.

"Jaranwala incident is very sad and highly condemnable," she said, adding that the incident should be investigated with complete impartiality and whoever is found involved in this heinous act should be severely

punished so that such incidents do not happen in future.

As far as scholars and religious figures are concerned, the most responsibility is imposed on them because it is their duty to promote the religion of Islam and to convey the teachings of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (SAW). To get rid of the scourge of extremism and intolerance, we all have to play our own role, she said.

She underlined the need for creating harmony among people of various religions and said, if we want to save our children from intolerance, we have to include subjects on this subject in the curriculum.

PM grieved over death of MQM leader Kanwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday expressed grief over the death of Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Kanwar Naveed Jameel.

The prime minister prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity.

Solangi meets Marriyum, discusses matters related to Information Ministry

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday met with former information minister and Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb.

During a visit to the residence of former Member National Assembly Tahira Aurangzeb in Rawalpindi, the caretaker information minister discussed with the former information minister the overall situation of the country and the issues related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Marriyum Aurangzeb congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming charge as caretaker information minister.

She prayed for him to successfully perform national responsibility as caretaker information minister. The caretaker information minister Murtaza Solangi also met with the children and family members of Marriyum Aurangzeb.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan chaired high level meeting regarding Polio in National Emergency Polio Centre.

ANF foils major smuggling bid

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan foiled a major attempt of smuggling of huge quantity of different narcotics when it conducted a raid in a house in Turbat area on Friday.

According to the spokesman of ANF, the ANF team raided a house located in Basholi area of Turbat in wee hours and recovered around 2.5 tons of narcotics.

The narcotics seized are included: 2080 kilogram charas, 290 kilogram heroin and 150 kilogram Ice drug.

The spokesman of ANF told that the recovered narcotics were to be smuggled to abroad from Turbat.

Volume 10 of JIT report SC to hear Broadsheet company petition in connection with release

ISLAMABAD (Online): The petition filed by Broadsheet company seeking release of volume 10 of the report compiled by Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to investigate into Sharif family's off shore assets has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC).

A two members bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial will hear on August 22 the petition filed by Broadsheet company in connection with issuance of PANAMA JIT volume-10.

21st century is century of information technology: Asghar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP), Asghar Khan Achakzai has stated that 21st century is the century of information technology and as such we have to ensure imparting of quality education to our children for meeting the requirements of new modern era.

He said that we did everything possible to provide opportunities of jobs to our people as well as provision of better education, health and civic facilities to them, and would continue to do so in future as well.

Asghar Khan Achakzai was addressing the ceremony held in connection with the inauguration of digital library, college Hall and other works in the Shaheed Aimal Khan Advocate Boys Degree College, Chaman on Friday.

The ceremony was also meant to honour the graduates of the college. Speaking on the occasion, the ANP leader said that we preferred collective nature projects instead of individual ones in order to

facilitate maximum people. He said that people of Chaman and other Pashtoon districts are also witness to our works executed in their areas during last five years.

He also said that whether we are in government or opposition, be in the parliament or outside, we would continue to play our efficient role to resolve the issues being faced by our people.

He recalled that we had faced unusual circumstances in 2018, however, we combated them and made our utmost efforts to provide relief to the masses.

He said that we took steps on priority basis for bringing improvement in law and order, health, education and other sectors.

He said that Chaman was ignored under pre-planned conspiracy in the past, and its people were deprived of the basic facilities.

Asghar Khan Achakzai on the occasion also referred to certain initiatives taken by him for improvement in the overall situation in Chaman.



QUETTA: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against attack on churches in Jaranwala, at Quetta Press Club.