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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 the previous government has made with different forums," he said while talking to the cabinet members here during the first cabinet meeting of the caretaker government.

With respect to a new initiative-Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), launched by former government, the prime minister said the caretaker government would fully support it. He said SIFC was a dream

comes true project as Pakistan was an agriculture country and rich with mineral resources.

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."

During the meeting, he individually acknowledged the services of all the cabinet members saying "I am very proud that we have got one of the best team".



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



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

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).

Every citizen has the right to have transportation across country without any fear, he said.

Further he said no group is allowed to do violence in state and we have to serve the nation and country collectively.

Caretaker minister said corruption is not allowed in any circumstances.

Ban has been imposed on issuance of new arms license on the order of interior minister.

QUETTA: 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.

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.

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, 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. Similarly, he said, the success of the Afghan government was also essential that should play its role to eliminate terrorism.

Caretaker minister stresses unity for religious harmony, urges vigilance against discord

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Friday said the principles of Islam advocated no tolerance for tragic incidents such as the Jaranwala tragedy. Addressing the media, he emphasized that Islam was inherently a religion of peace, and the root causes of such unfortunate events often stemmed from a disconnect with religious teachings and a lack of education.

Speaking passionately about the need for collective action, he urged all segments of society to join forces in eradicating ignorance, religious animosity, and extremism. "Only through a united effort can we eliminate the factors that lead to such incidents," he added. The Jaranwala incident, which recently cast a shadow on Pakistan's global image, prompted Minister Aneeq Ahmed to emphasize the role of the state in safeguarding minority communities. "It is the solemn duty of the state to protect and nurture the well-being of all its citizens," he asserted, while also urging the public to remain vigilant and expose elements that seek to sow discord within their own communities.

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

tions 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 to notice is aimed at protecting public interest.

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 Ali 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 not been decided. Had Supreme Court Practice and Procedure act been decided then the matter would have been different.

Election will be held in time at every cost: Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that election will take place on time at every cost.

"Nawaz Sharif is my leader and I am his worker. If mandated then Nawaz Sharif will become PM, he said this in an inclusive talk to a private TV channel here Friday.

The big achievement for me as PM was that I saved the country from default, he added.

Efforts should be made to resolve the matters through dialogue instead of stubbornness in politics, he stressed.

I worked hard day in day out in 16 months so that I could do some thing for public welfare, he remarked.

Alliance with different parties is possible in election. I incurred all the expenses of PM house from my own pocket, he held.

Political cases were instituted against me and I tolerated all this, he said adding but dragging daughter and niece in courts and jails was intolerable. I like dall and chapati in my meal, he said adding I dont know cooking

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.

Interior Minister orders to release PTM activists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Friday ordered immediate release of the activists of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) detained in Lahore, Peshawar and other cities.

The minister, in a post on the social media platform X, also thanked the PTM leadership for cooperation with the caretaker government.

He wrote that after successful dialogue (with the government), the PTM leadership agreed to change the venue of their protest from in front of the Supreme Court to the Tarnol area.

PPP announces to hold high level meeting on delay in general election issue

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP has announced to hold high level meeting on the matter of delay in general election.

Sources said PPP looks unhappy over delay in general election. PPP senior leadership has started considering to evolve strategy in this regard. In this regard PPP has announced to convene a high level meeting.



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



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

Hassan Niazi handed over to military for investigation trial

LAHORE (Online): Hassan Niazi, detained nephew of PTI chairman has been handed over to military for investigation and trial.

Police have filed report in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Petition has been filed in LHC for recovery of Hassan Niazi. According to police report Hassan Niazi has been handed over to military for investigation and trial. Police have filed reply in LHC through additional advocate general.

Hassan Niazi is nominated in attack on Jinnah House case.

According to police report Hassan Niazi is among major accused in Jinnah House attack case.

A sibble bench of LHC led by Justice Tanvir Sultan took up for hearing the petition filed by Hafeez Ullah Niazi father of Hassan Niazi in connection with recovery of his son.

The court gave time to the state counsel for arranging meeting between father and son.

The court remarked tell us after asking from respective authority can there be meeting between father and son.

The counsel for the petitioner said Hassan Niazi was to be handed over to military through the court. The court should summon SHO and ask from him why did he take such illegal step. The court questioned from the counsel of petitioner you want to make what request before the court. Police handed over Hassan Niazi illegally to military soon after hearing.

The counsel for the petitioner prayed that court should declare this step illegal. Arrange the meeting between the father and son.

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**Raouf 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 also for 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 maniacal 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 Rangela

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 nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of 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 a naval 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): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret) Maqbool Baqar on Friday said that he would select a small cabinet for which he has started meetings and consultation, but the effort is to induct the cabinet at the earliest.

This he said while talking to the media at Mazar-e-Quaid where he laid a wreath and offered Fateha.

Caretaker CM said that he was grateful to Almighty Allah who gave him an opportunity to serve the people of the province for a short time. "I am keen to play my part to contribute to the realization of the dream of

Q u a i d - e - A z a m 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 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 was 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 was 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 (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.

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Friday allowed caretaker prime minister's Advisor Ahad Khan Cheema to travel abroad.

Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani passed the orders while allowing an application, filed by Ahad Khan Cheema for the purpose.

Ahad Cheema, through the application, submitted that he wanted to go to Australia on a week-long visit and pleaded with the court to grant permission in this regard.

The National Accountability Bureau had filed two references, including Ashiana Iqbal Housing and assets beyond means, against Ahad Cheema.



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.

LAHORE: 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.



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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 Hafizullah Niazi for the recovery of his son.

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.

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 Expressway 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.

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

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LAHORE (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.

Two terrorists arrested from Gadap Town

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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 Baqar talking to media persons at Mazar-e-Quaid in Provincial Capital.

Bid to smuggle four leopard skins foiled, four poachers arrested

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

PESHAWAR (APP): 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 grounds.

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.

Chairman ATP urged the interim 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.

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

The party chief while chairing a meeting here at the party's central office on Friday said the

“No Leniency!”

President enhances penalty upon woman harasser

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 Harass-

ment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH) to “dismissal from service”.

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



ISLAMABAD: Care taker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan chaired introductory meeting of the Senior Officers of Ministry and all head of attach departments.

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 three-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.”



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmad Irfan Aslam was given a presentation by the Secretary Law on his arrival at the Ministry.

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 Ifkhar 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.

Basic wireless communication equipment repair course conducted

ISLAMABAD: A

collaboration between the Islamabad Capital Police and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) culminated in the successful completion of a three-week basic wireless communication equipment repair course, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the course was meticulously organized to elevate the skillset of the Islamabad Capital Police wireless personnel. The initiative aimed to enhance the proficiency of the Islamabad Capital Police wireless staff, bolstering departmental communication system capabilities.

Five people electrocuted in Nasirabad

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.

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.

Jamal Shah visits Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Friday visited Lok Virsa - National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage soon after assuming charge.

He was warmly welcomed by the senior officials.

Later, the minister also chaired a meeting which was attended by Secretary National Heritage and Culture Fareena Mazhar and other senior officials of the Division and Lok Virsa.

Detailed briefing was given to the Minister regarding Lok Virsa and its cultural activities.

Sami Saeed assumes charge as caretaker Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Sami Saeed, a retired seasoned bureaucrat, has assumed charge as the caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, marking a significant development in the country's economic landscape.

He has an extensive experience in Planning, Development & Economic affairs.

On arrival at the ministry, he was welcomed by the Secretary of Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah and senior officials.

Later, the minister chaired a meeting in which he was given a detailed briefing by the secretary about the functioning and responsibilities of the ministry and ongoing development and strategic initiatives of the ministry particularly the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), Annual Development Plan, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Special Investment Facilitation Center (SIFC).

While chairing the

meeting, Sami Saeed said that all officers of the ministry should work for the development of the country with full dedication and hard work.

The minister said that the implementation of public welfare projects should be ensured while special attention should be paid to the quality of the projects.

Highlighting the importance of education, he said that more attention should be given to increasing the quality of education in the country.

As per the profile, Muhammad Sami Saeed joined the Civil Service of Pakistan (District Management Group/Pakistan Administrative Service) in 1980 and held important positions in government and international organizations.

He remained Executive Director on the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Cabinet Secretary to the Government of Pakistan and Principal Staff Officer to the Prime Minister.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary/Chairman Railways is welcoming the Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Captain (R) Shahid Ashraf Tarar at Ministry of Railways.

Railways Minister vows to ensure passengers' safety

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Captain @ Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Friday vowed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the best facilities during train travels.

The Minister shared the remarks after taking charge of his office said. Officials of the Ministry of Railways were present on the occasion.

Federal Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah briefed the Minister on the administrative and operational functions of the Railways.

He directed the Ministry staff to take all possible measures for the convenience of the passengers.

Shahid Tarar instructed the department concerned to conduct an audit and assessment regarding the safety of passengers and submit a report within seven days.

The federal minister stated that Main Line-I is an important and strategic project for Pakistan that will revamp the railway sector and generate more revenue for the department.

Madad Ali assumes charge as Caretaker Edu. Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned writer, poet and journalist, Madad Ali Sindhvi Friday assumed charge as the caretaker federal minister for the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. The officials of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training welcomed the newly appointed Federal Minister.

The Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Madad Ali Sindhvi was formally introduced to the officials by

the Secretary Education Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry. Madad Ali Sindhvi was given a comprehensive briefing about the important functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

He said that he wanted to understand the problems of the education sector and solve them accordingly.

He continued that he intended to improve the education sector even in the short period of this interim setup.

Female police officers deployed at high security zone checkpoints

ISLAMABAD: In a strategic move aimed at bolstering security measures within the high-security zone, the Islamabad Capital

Police has deployed women police officers at key security checkpoints, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding law and order in the federal capital. In line with these directions, the deployment of women police officers at security checkpoints has been undertaken, marking a significant step towards ensuring a safer and more inclusive environment.



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This collaboration is not only pivotal in maintaining security but also in promoting a sense of community and shared responsibility. “Embracing diversity and gender equality is emblematic of a civilized society,” the SSP stated.

Recognizing the indispensable role women play in upholding law and order, their presence at these security checkpoints is deemed crucial.

Muslim Council of Elders denounces attacks on Churches in Jaranwala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the guidance of the esteemed Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, the Muslim Council of Elders on Friday vehemently denounced the recent assault on religious harmony in the wake of the Jaranwala incident.

According to a statement received here, extremists who defiled copies of the Holy Quran and initiated an unfortunate series of events have drawn sharp condemnation from the Council. The subsequent retaliatory strikes on multiple churches in Jaranwala, Pakistan, executed by yet another faction of extremists, have further intensified concerns.

Muslim Council of Elders Secretary-General,

Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, expressed strong dissent against such reprehensible actions.

He affirmed that these criminal deeds stand in stark contradiction to the values upheld by divine religions, laws, and human ethics. “The core principles of mutual respect and refraining from targeting places of worship are shared across these teachings. The Holy Quran's teachings are unambiguous in their emphasis on safeguarding places of worship and abstaining from any form of aggression directed towards them,” he added.

In an urgent appeal, the Muslim Council of Elders called upon leaders on both sides to promptly address the discord that has arisen.

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

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 Facilitation Centers at different districts of the province.

Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL and Roshan Ali Sheikh Senior Member, Board of Revenue Balochistan signed the agreement at a special ceremony of “Balochistan E-Stamping Project (Energized by PTCL Smart Cloud) and Revenue Sahooleyat Center Quetta (Board of Revenue Balochistan); recently held at Quetta Club, Quetta Cantt Balochistan, Bank of Punjab as a



collection agent partner and Systems Limited as Technology Partner were also present at the ceremony.

While addressing to the ceremony Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, said “Today is an important day for the people of Balochistan. PTCL is proud to be the important pillar of this

digital transformation and Modern technology adaptation by providing Smart Cloud solution in PTCL's Tier III Data Center facility and fastest Internet and data connectivity through its Fiber Optic network in Gwadar, Quetta and Farflung areas across the province. He further added that this project will be the largest database of Balochistan.

AIOU to disseminate video clips of Seerat books on social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): The annual meeting of the Board of Management and Review and Publishing Committee for Seerat-un-Nabi Chair was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). The meeting was presided over by the Head Seerat chair, Prof Dr Sahibzada Sajid Ur Rahman. The meeting presented the review report of the activities organized last year, books and manuscripts for publication and

monographs and projects regarding Seerat un-Nabi was also presented.

The board also discussed the issues related to the holding of the National Seerat Conference for Rabi-ul-Awwal. Speaking as a chief guest Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that keeping in view the popularity of social media there is a need to record short clips of Seerat books and disseminate them on social media to connect.

Safe City conducts evaluation of 1600 private cameras

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Technical Team of the Safe City Islamabad Command and Control Center surveyed 1600 private security cameras installed in various areas of Islamabad.

The technical team surveyed 1600 private security cameras installed at Koral Chowk, Khanna Pul, Express Highway, Aabpara, Melody, Poly Clinic, G-9 Center, F-10 Center, I-10 Green Belt near Sabzi Mandi, I-16 Center, and G-13 Road in Islamabad, a police source said.

The survey aims to ensure access to Islamabad Police in urban as well as rural areas in order and enable effective handling and

monitoring of incidents or events.

Moreover, private security camera owners had been also asked to ensure the proper functioning of their cameras at all times and provide timely CCTV footage to the police when required in order to assist in crime prevention and investigation.

Police have urged citizens to collaborate in eradicating criminal elements and provide strong support to the force.

Police sources said that it has been also decided to enhance the effectiveness of drone cameras and refine their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).