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Terminates NAB amendments SC orders restoration of corruption cases against public office holders

Former president, former PMs, over 450 MPs, bureaucrats now to face NAB once again

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has annulled amendment to NAB laws declaring several of its clauses in conflict with law and constitution.

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, announced the reserved verdict on PTI chief's petition challenging the amendments to the law. It was the last day of CJP Bandial in office as he is retiring today. The bench announced the verdict by 2-1 majority with third member of the bench, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, writing a note of dissent.

SC has declared nine of 10 clauses of the NAB amendments null and void.

Following annulment of NAB amendment by SC corruption cases abolished against several politicians under amended law stand restored. Toshakhana reference has been restored against Asif Ali Zardari, Nawaz Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gillani.

LNG reference against former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was shifted from Accountability Court (AC). Rental power reference against speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf was returned which has now been restored. The cases against former PM Shehbaz Sharif, former PM Shaukat Aziz and former finance minister Ishaq Dar have been re-

opened now.

The beneficiaries of NAB amendment are Farzana Raja, Yousuf Raza Gillani, speaker Punjab Assembly Sabtain Khan, Anwar Majid, close aide to Asif Ali Zardari, son of Anwar Majid, former PM Shaukat Aziz, Zafar Gondal, Sadiq Imrani, Nawab Aslam Raesani, Lashkari Raesani, Asfand Yar Kakar, Arbab Akamgir, Asma Arbab Akamgir and Sher Azam Wazir.

In the perspective of this decision over 450 former parliamentarians, serving and retired officers and some private business men have come on the radar of NAB.

Almost 1800 references, investigations, in-

quiries and complaints have been reopened in the light of this decision.

Cases of 7 former Prime ministers, 14 chief ministers, 78 ministers, 176 MP and 114 officers have been reopened due to this decision.

SC has ordered to reopen thousands of corruption cases of Rs 7000 billion, investigation and inquiries.

This is to mention that SC like this had abolished former president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf NRO and reopened 8000 corruption cases.

The SC in its Friday decision has declared Chairman PTI petition maintain-

able. SC said that the petition is maintainable under article 25, 9, 14, 19, 24 of the constitution. The cases of all public office holders are restored.

SC held 53 hearing on Chairman PTI petition.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP Umar Ata Bandial had reserved judgment on September 5.

CJP Umar Ata Bandial had said that he would announce the decision of this important case before his retirement.

The other two judges of the bench are Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar addressing a Press conference after a meeting. Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki is also present

I don't believe in small or big fish, I believe in fish of law: PM

Announcing election date beyond caretaker govt's mandate; Says he will not support any unconstitutional step; Zero tolerance for those involved in the smuggling

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said he does not believe in small or big fish but he believes in the fish of law.

"Operation against hoarders and smugglers will continue indiscriminately. No pressure in this regard will be accepted. I am not a Mughal emperor that I will issue a decree of monarch that catch him and leave the other. Whatever is done will be done as per law. Why should we do an illegal work by announcing the date of election. This is mandate of Election Commission (EC). Relief will be extended to the consumers

using electricity upto 200 units soon. The installations of the electricity bills will be allowed. Price control committees are being reactivated to rein in inflation.

We are reviewing Supreme Court (SC) decision on annulment of NAB amendment. Caretaker government will take its decision following the arrival of opinion of ministry of law, he said this while addressing a press conference in PM House Friday.

PM held he has reviewed the operation against the hoarders, smugglers, power pilferers during the last one week. Provincial chief ministers, chief secretaries, IGs and other senior authorities have participated in it.

He stated we are working within our prescribed mandate. May be it PIA or any other institution what is our mandate with regard to its privatization is very clear.

We will do nothing if it does not fall in regulation. But all steps will be taken to remove the flaws.

He pointed out that operation is continuing against the power pilferers, hoarders, dollar mafia, sugar mafia and fertilizer mafia all over the country and it will continue.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad as Caretaker Federal Minister, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Circle being tightened around hoarders, smugglers: We are ever ready to tackle all challenges including artificial price-hike, vows CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the provincial government is not unaware of its constitutional responsibility and as such we are ever ready to steer the general public out of the storm of the artificial inflation.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the circle around the hoarders and smugglers is being tightened. He appreciated the role of all institutions including forces, divisional and district administration in prevention of the hoarding and smuggling in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar

PPP doubles down on demand for immediate announcement of poll date

LAHORE (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday doubled down on the demand for the immediate announcement of a date and schedule for the general elections, stressing that only polls could take the country out of economic and political crises.

Concerns on the poll timing have arisen from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ruling out elections this year. The electoral watchdog reasons its decision to push elections beyond November 9 on the basis of the notification of results of the new digital 2023 census and Section 17(2) of the Elections Act, which states: "The commission shall delimit

Mir Ali Mardan Domki stated so in a statement issued here on Friday. Referring the meeting chaired by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar held the other day, the Chief Minister said that certain important decisions were made for prevention of the inflation, hoarding and smuggling in the meeting.

He said that it is a good to take concrete measures with determination to resolve the issues being faced by people. He also said that the coordinated action is continued against those involved in the hoarding and smuggling on directives of the federal government.

Fawad takes oath as Caretaker Federal Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday administered oath of Caretaker Federal Minister to Fawad Hasan Fawad.

The president administered him the oath at a ceremony here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Torkham border opened for traffic and cargo vehicles after 9 days

KHYBER (Online): Torkham border has been reopened after 9 days with Afghanistan assurance that its territory will not be used against Pakistan.

According to sources, 2 vehicles have entered to Pakistan from Afghanistan. Traffic has also started. The opening of gates on both sides of Torkham border has caused a wave of happiness among people.

It is pertinent to say that Afghan Foreign Minister Maulvi Amir Khan Muttaqi has requested to open the border by assuring that Afghan territory would not be used against Pakistani authorities. In the backdrop of this assurance Pakistan considered reopening the border.

Trade activities were completely suspended due to closure of Torkham border for 9 days.

ATC grants bail to Pervaiz Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad granted bail to former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in Judicial Complex vandalism case.

The bail petition of Pervaiz Elahi came before Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain of ATC Islamabad Friday.

Babar Awan, Sardar Abdul Razaq, counsels for Pervaiz Elahi and prosecutor Raja Navid appeared in the court.

The prosecutor told the court the record will reach a bit late.

The judge remarked this is not the way. Court has started proceedings and record has not reached. Start the arguments.

Domki calls on PM Kakar: Caretaker PM assures GoB of every possible cooperation for equal dev. of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar has reiterated his resolve to extend every possible cooperation to the provincial government to resolve the issues being faced by people of Balochistan and provide equal opportunities of development to the province. He believed that the people of Balochistan would surely get benefits

of development. The caretaker Prime Minister was speaking to the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki whom he called on at the Prime Minister House on Friday.

During the meeting, the matters about anti-smuggling, crackdown against hoarding, law and order as well as the ongoing development projects and other related matters were discussed.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioners of Pishin, Killa Abdullah and Chaman meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Economy showing signs of recovery: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance Dr. Shamshad Akhtar said on Friday the country's economy was showing signs of recovery owing to the efforts made by the interim government.

"If you view the macroeconomic indicators, you may find some betterment. There are some signs of economic recovery. Even if it is just starting," the minister said while addressing a press conference here.

While deliberating upon the indicators showing positive development, the finance minister said the Consumer Price Index (CPI) had shortly declined from over 38 per cent in May to 27.2 per cent now (in September), adding that this was an important indicator to show betterment.

Dr. Akhtar, who also holds the portfolio for Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatisation, stated,



LAHORE: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after Central Executive Committee meeting.

Solangi says Govt awaits SC's detailed verdict on NAB amendments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the caretaker government was waiting for the Supreme Court to issue a detailed judgment on a case related to the amendments in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws.

"Law Ministry and legal experts will review the detailed judgment and future course of action will be announced in the light of their opinion," the minister said while addressing a news conference along with Caretaker Ministers for Finance and Energy Dr. Shamshad Akhtar and Muhammad Ali.

To a query, Solangi reiterated the caretaker government's commitment to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding the general election in the country.

Gwadar Port fully operational: Chinese Charge d'Affaires

Jan Achakzai welcomes news of port's full operationalization and expresses his gratitude to the Chinese govt for its support

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Ms. Pang Chunxue, has stated that the progress of the Gwadar Port is satisfactory and that it is now fully operational. She made the remarks during a meeting with caretaker Information and Public Relations Minister of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai on Friday.

Ms. Pang said that the port is nearing full capacity, with work on the free zone in its initial stages. She added that the vocational training center has been handed over to the

cal community, and that the airport is scheduled to be ready by May 2024. The Gwadar hospital is set to be completed by the end of 2023, while the desalination plant is expected to be finished this year, she added. Mr. Achakzai welcomed the news of the port's full operationalization and expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government for its support. He said that the Gwadar Port will play a major role in the economic development of Balochistan and Pakistan, and that it will help to boost trade and investment in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai meeting with Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Ms. Pang Chunxue

Information Ministry of Balochistan to sign MoUs with five Radio Stations and PTV Bolan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Information Ministry of Balochistan will sign memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with five radio stations and PTV Bolan to highlight the government's positive activities through the federal ministry's media platforms.

This was agreed upon by caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations Balochistan, Jan Achakzai and caretaker Federal Information and Communication Minister, Murtaza Solangi, in Islamabad on Friday.

Mr. Solangi also agreed to train information officers of the Information Min-

istry of Balochistan by the Pakistan Information Service Academy.

He also promised new transportation for the PTV Quetta Centre. He agreed to repurpose part of buildings in Balochistan for computer and digital training centers in Balochistan, which will benefit digital media training centers by saving on rent.

He also informed that a federal digital hub is being established very soon and through this hub, Balochistan PTV producers and officers will be trained and given more exposure to digital skills.

He also promised to have a bulletin for the Hazaragi language to reflect the rich diversity of Balochistan.

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Monetary policy

Defying market expectations of a 100-300 bps hike in the interest rates, the State Bank has again left its key policy rate unchanged at 22pc.

In support of its decision, the bank cites a declining trend in inflation from its peak of 38pc in May to 27.4pc last month, despite the recent surge in global oil prices that are being passed on to consumers.

Therefore, it maintains that the "real interest rates continue to remain in positive territory on a forward-looking basis". The bank is also hopeful that "expected ease in supply constraints owing to improved agriculture output" and the pick-up in high-frequency indicators like the sale of petroleum products, cement and fertilisers, as well as recent administrative actions against speculative activity in the forex and commodity markets will support the outlook.

The SBP dispels concerns over the recent resurgence of the current account deficit of over \$800m in July, after posting a surplus for the previous four months, saying it is largely in line with the earlier full-year projection that took into account import growth. It underscores continued monitoring of the risks to the inflation outlook, and taking appropriate actions to achieve the objective of price stability if required.

At the same time, it urges the government to maintain a prudent fiscal stance to keep aggregate demand in check, "to bring inflation down on a sustainable basis and to attain the medium-term target of 5-7pc by end of fiscal 2025". Why is the rate to remain unchanged after it was increased in June to meet a key goal for securing IMF funds?

Any other central bank would have raised the interest rates in view of the consistently elevated inflation, continuous exchange rate depreciation, and falling forex reserves over huge debt payments and weakening capital inflows. But the bank's reluctance is understandable. Previous hikes in rates to a multi-decade high of 22pc haven't helped increase savings, or check consumer spending and inflation. The price rise is faster than rate hikes; the national savings rate is falling; and the government continues to accumulate debt to meet its inelastic expenditure. Monetary policy as an instrument to check the price hike has lost its effectiveness in the current economic structure and existing political uncertainty.

For the last several years, headline prices in Pakistan are being influenced primarily by cost-pushed administered adjustments of domestic fuel and power prices, with the demand pull coming from the government that remains the largest bank borrower.

Expecting a tighter monetary policy to tame soaring prices is useless without a drastic change in the reckless fiscal behaviour of the government.

Only fiscally responsible behaviour by the rulers can make it easier for the SBP to effectively apply monetary policy tools and check other inflation-producing factors for price stability.



Faisal Bari

Why do we put so much academic pressure on our children? Why can we not lighten up a bit? We have too many academic subjects that we teach our children right from grade one, and for each subject we have too many learning objectives in our curriculum for each year.

Too much pressure does not make for happy studying or for happy schooling. Children are always under pressure. Teachers and school systems resort to excessive testing and examinations to keep the pressure on and to make students "learn".

Children are always either preparing for or taking tests and examinations: pre-pre-mocks, pre-mocks, mocks, exams, weekly tests, monthly tests, term

tests, and finals. The result is a rather poor schooling system where there is just too much academic pressure and students employ rote learning and do not care about understanding the material or enjoying the experience of learning. So we end up defeating the purpose of education and do not even get good learning out of it.

You must have seen the heavy bags children lug around. They often weigh more than 10 kilograms. How does this make sense? How can students take so much and do justice to all of it?

Why do we have to teach more than English, Urdu and mathematics in the first two to three grades? This is what children need in the initial years. They need to learn numeracy and literacy: to read, speak, listen, and write. We should focus on that. ASER and other surveys and tests tell us that we are doing a poor job of imparting literacy and numeracy.

Should we not focus on that rather than adding other subjects like religious studies, general knowledge and so on? What should be

added, instead, are art, music, play and other social/interactive activities. These will result in a much better and more wholesome development of our children and their mental and physical faculties than by what we are doing right now.

And even in English, Urdu and mathematics, we should go slowly. How do children learn languages? They learn by listening (usually to parents in the initial years), speaking, reading and then writing. Our schooling system privileges writing far too much and far too early in the day. The first two to three grades should be far more oral than written than what they are currently.

And we do not need the other subjects this early. We can use English and Urdu to tell stories and give values if needed. We can also use art, music and singing to open up new opportunities for our children. Children should love their school and their education. They should not be afraid of the material, teachers or the pressure they are put under.

As children move up to higher grades we can introduce other subjects, but

this still needs to be a selective process and what we teach in each subject should also be curated carefully. This tendency of just adding things because 'children should know all this' does not make for good education.

It does not matter whether it is 21st-century skills or computer science or even the translation of religious texts. If we need to add something, something else needs to be taken out and there has to be good reasons for addition and deletion, it should not be on the whim of a school or a curriculum council or even a prime minister. Sadly, every revision of the curriculum adds more subjects and more material.

A website of a schooling system in Pakistan mentions that for Grade 6 it teaches eight subjects: English, Urdu, mathematics, science, history, geography, computer science and religious translation. This seems to be quite a lot. There is no mention of arts, music or anything else. And there is no mention of extracurricular activities either. What do we want our grade 6 children to become?

The details of books within each subject mention five books for English, three books for Urdu, two for science and then one book for each of the other five subjects. This is just too much. No wonder students bags are so heavy and students prefer rote learning to understanding. Do students really need this much?

A number of education experts have written on this issue of too much and too fast, creating problems with learning and understanding. Teaching is not the same thing as learning or understanding. Teachers often complain that they cannot slow down teaching, help those who take a bit longer to learn, spend more time on topics that need repetition, etc, as they have a syllabus to cover and have lesson plans to stay abreast of. But this is exactly the issue. Is completion of the course and syllabus more important or student learning and understanding? The answer should be obvious. But it is, sadly, not. Finishing the curriculum takes precedence over learning in almost all schools and at all levels.

Universities admit students with three A-levels all over the world but we require students in Pakistan to also sit for examinations in Urdu, Islamiyat and Pakistan Studies. In intermediate, we require students to complete seven subjects (English, Urdu, Islamiyat, Pakistan Studies and three major subjects).

The same challenge of heavy content confronts us here too. There have been, numerous times, suggestions to add Quran and Seerat studies as additional compulsory subjects. Can these subjects not be taught as part of Islamiyat?

It must be kept in mind that the growing burden of subjects on our young people can hamper their development.

The situation reminds me of the Pink Floyd song:

"We don't need no education/ We don't need no thought control/ No dark sarcasm in the classroom/ Teacher leave them kids alone".

Elders, please lighten up and give our children a real chance at learning and enjoying the process of learning as well. -- Courtesy Dawn

The echoes getting closer and louder



Raouf Hasan

Some among us are sensitive to even the slightest deviation from the course of truth and justice while others show a penchant to gel with the way currents flow, irrespective of whether such a course would be beneficial to the larger good of the people and the country they inhabit.

For the two to try to find common ground to work together without an inhibiting level of consternation may spell the difficulty that continues to augment divisions within the societal framework. This, in turn, hands over the levers of power to the latter category who are always in a majority as they get down to making the most of the chances that come their way, be they right or wrong, legal or illegal, just or unjust.

After the August 11 groundbreaking address of

the Quaid from the floor of the constituent assembly, no genuine effort ever went into implementing his vision of the kind of Pakistan he had envisaged. In fact, with the passage of time, we drifted away from that cherished goal of a liberal, progressive, tolerant, and egalitarian Pakistan as our journey since has been marked by plunging deeper into the pit of regression and darkness with not a trace of light showing through now to guide us into the future.

As the gap between the vision and reality continues to grow wider, we seem to be lost in an endless retinue of polemics with each party trying to assert that they were in the right and the others in the wrong. Such filibustering is neither supported by any quantum of logic and reason nor can this modus operandi craft a credible and sustainable way of moving into the future with hope of harvesting healthier dividends.

Simultaneously, the desperation of the ordinary, impoverished mortals who have suffered the excesses of the state and those who have come to rule it from time to time, garbed in military and civilian apparels, increases as the prospects

of sustaining their lives, even on the margins, diminish.

But no one is showing even the slightest sensitivity to their sufferings as billions are doled out to outgoing legislators in the name of development funds which will fatten their coffers with some of the loot invested in winning the next elections to return to skin the state all over again. Further billions are invested each month to ensure that the beneficiary elite continues to enjoy their luxurious living standards at the cost of the state.

As the slide continues, we have been reduced to a skeleton of what we used to be when we were referred to as the rising star of Asia. Today, we go around with a trademark begging bowl asking for support to survive another day, and then another. Worst of all, we are completely denuded of even a shred of shame to look inward to evaluate why we have reached this low point and whether there is a way to extricate ourselves from the harrowing clutches of this sick mindset. The only substantive investment that shows through has been made in making the state more brutal and barbarous and driving the justice system out of the equation that

could still bring some good to the country.

Any residual self-respect of the people has been badly bagged through a display of open and blatant affront to the constitution and the laws that flow from it, be they about the freedom of expression, or the right to protest peacefully, or about independence of judiciary and other state institutions which are entrusted with the task of managing the affairs. Today, they operate at the whims of individuals rather than as per the articles contained in the statute book. Anyone who brooks disapproval is packed to the dungeons with the fate of some remaining unknown for prolonged periods of time.

In such a vitiated environment, what are the options one can exercise to carve a way forward without bringing down the state edifice which, through decades of merciless misuse and exploitation, has rusted and become wobbly. Only a slight push can bring the structure down with a bang, but no one to mourn its self-inflicted fate. It is as if we have been scripting such a denouement with malevolent determination. So, should one give up the chal-

lenge saying that an individual can do little when pitted against the collective will of the corrupt beneficiary elite which always manages to hold sway using its tried and tested tricks?

But the state is a mother to those millions whose fates have been sacrificed at the altar of the benefit of a few. It is their only asset, and their existence is dependent upon its survival and progress. While the bulk of the beneficiary elite have their palatial abodes elsewhere in the world built with the money they lauded from Pakistan, the impoverished millions have nowhere else to turn to. Their desperation is reflected in an ever-larger number of people deciding to leave the country even at the risk of their lives. They see no survival here and their children no hope or future. So, they are forfeiting motherly protection simply to earn their livelihood to survive the exigencies of life.

This is the paradox the country is caught up in with no easy solution in sight. The ones in control are inflexible to change their approach and those undergoing frequent trials and tribulations have few options to

exercise. Their homes and hearths, their families and businesses, their self-respect and honour — nothing is safe from the excesses being perpetrated upon them. In fact, this whole thing is conveniently falling into a standardized pattern to force people away from a political party. If at all, where will this come to rest?

The mindset at work believes in keeping the powerless subjugated and allowing the ruling elite to continue plundering the stock. They have a surfeit of opportunities. They operate with abandon and with no fear and are cruelly unkindful of who is suffering as an aftermath of their abominable indulgences. They saunter merrily as if tomorrow shall not dawn, as if the poor don't exist who they are inflicting pain upon, as if there is no law enforcer to stop them from depriving others of their constitutionally guaranteed rights. It is a kind of illicit freedom with no bounds, and they have an insatiable appetite. They don't even forget to scratch the skeletons to scrape some meat off it. Their naked hunger defies description. -- Courtesy TheNews

'Desirable' Muslims



Nikhat Sattar

"I went to the West and saw Islam, but no Muslims; I got back to the East and saw Muslims, but not Islam." Thus said the great reformist Egyptian scholar, Muhammed Abduh, during the late 19th century.

This holds so true, more than 150 years later, even though Muslims possess innumerable mosques and madrassahs, all supposedly imparting religious education. Men wear skullcaps and sport long flowing beards, with above-the-ankle trousers and long shirts. Women, even girls while still toddlers, don long abayas, hijabs and burqas. Religion overwhelms every aspect of life, quotations from ahadith abound, charity, prayers, fasts, Umrah and Haj dominate Muslim lives. Religious processions are frequent. Shrines are thronged with devotees.

One would then expect religion to be manifest in their habits, attitudes, professional and social dealings, relationships and interactions with each other and the rest of the world. Unfortunately, dishonesty, lies, greed, financial corruption, violence and a lack of concern for God's creations pervades Muslim populations.

If Muslims strive to be close to God, what does God expect from Muslims?

A Muslim is honest and by the same virtue, truthful, even if the truth hurts them and their kin. Honesty with oneself means assessing one's mistakes truthfully and since the Muslim aspires to be loved by God, they strive to improve their character.

Honesty with others covers the whole gambit of financial dealings, giving evidence, never engaging in gossip or abusing others, accepting one's mistakes and abiding by the law.

A Muslim is trustworthy and reliable, keeping promises once made and ensuring all commitments are met in letter and spirit.

This ranges from being punctual for even the smallest of tasks, to meeting financial, social, legal and other obligations. With trust and reliability a characteristic of people, courts would dispense justice in time, transport systems would run punctually, national and international agreements would be implemented in their true spirit and a massive wastage of time and money prevented.

Muslims are merciful, kind, thoughtful of others' needs, and avoid harming anyone or anything. They seek peace and harmonious living with others and actively engage in resolving any conflicts that may arise. They possess empathy, good manners, never share another's secrets and never make false accusations. A violence-free, supportive environment would be ensured for all citizens; false cases and false witnesses would not exist, nor would any sort of road rage. People would be free to practise any religion, faith or belief without fear and there would be openness and freedom in society. Everyone would be educated and intellect, creativity and innovation would reign. Humans, animals and the environment would be protected as far as possible.

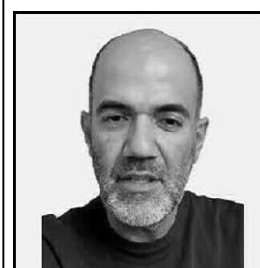
A Muslim is fair and just. They hone their God-given ability to distinguish right from wrong and choose the right path as much as they can. When endowed with power and governance, they provide succour to the wronged and dispense justice without consideration of anyone's status or social standing.

In such a society, if a person is oppressed, whether for their wealth, personal matters or in freedom of speech, the Muslim would always provide quick redress and atonement for any harm endured as well as punishment to the oppressor, even if the latter is the ruler.

A Muslim would make efforts towards enhancing their taqwa (piety). They are humble and always think the better of others. This humility creates a continuous urge to improve one's own spiritual self, avoiding the love of ostentation, show—manship, bragging and living a life of simplicity, al—w—a—ys trying to do good and repelling evil, in thought and deed. They both love and fear God; love because He is the Creator and fear lest they incur His displeasure. They strive to lead a life with guidance from God and keep a constant watch over their tongue, mind and body. There are over 200 places in the Quran that mention taqwa and its importance. A taqwa-oriented society fears no one but God and is free from display of wealth and pomp. Muslims keep their soul, body and environment clean, are chaste and shun any immoral behaviour. They are decent in attire, simple and soft-spoken and avoid the company of loud and aggressive people. They discourage immodesty and immorality. Sexual harassment would be minimum and dealt with immediately and harshly, and women and children would enjoy freedom of movement. Garbage produced would be recycled by such Muslims and towns, cities and villages would be clean. A Muslim would also be prompt and focused in prayers, fasting, giving alms, performing Umrah and Haj. Are we Muslims in any way, except the last?

-- Courtesy Dawn

For nationalisation



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

The 'caretaker' government (read: the security establishment and its lackeys) has embarked on yet another ideological offensive about the incredible benefits of privatisation under the guise of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. Foreign donors, the mainstream intelligentsia and bourgeois parties are faithfully toying the line.

This is happening even as the painful effects of power-sector privatisation play out in the homes of every working-class family. There are certainly other reasons for the astronomical electricity bills that triggered recent bill-burning protests, including the state's unwillingness to tax the rich. But our rulers' willingness to hand over wholesale power production to the so-called Independent Power Producers (IPPs) at the behest of the World Bank and IMF back in the 1990s is as big a cause of the current crisis as any other single factor.

In short, the state agreed to retain only the power to distribute electricity while allowing private companies — initially foreign and later domestic — to produce it, whilst also guaranteeing to pay these companies in dollars ad infinitum. There is now more power capacity in Pakistan than actual demand but loadshedding still takes place because the government cannot make payments to IPPs. It does not have enough dollars to pay them without becoming insolvent. Most IPPs run coal-fired thermal plants,

which not only contribute directly to our already serious climate crisis but also require inordinate amounts of imported oil. Who pays for this oil? Not the IPPs but the government, which conveniently passes on this burden to the masses. Where does this leave us? Intellectually and politically, it sho—uld compel us to once again imagine big structural policy changes.

Like nationalisation. It is a measure of the successes of neoliberal ideology in the world, and that of the Zia military junta in Pakistan especially, that the experience of nationalisation in the 1970s has become accepted as a disaster. The Bhutto-led PPP regime that enforced the nationalisation policy had many failures, and the takeover of numerous private industries by the postcolonial bureaucracy was not beneficial to the working class. But the story is too complex to be decided purely as an abomination that must never be repeated.

The Pakistani state invested more in manufacturing industry during the 1970s than at any other time. Yes, the Ayub dictatorship presided over industrialisation, but this was accompanied by enormous inequality, encapsulated by the regime's own chief economist, Mahabub ul Haq who said that 22 families controlled virtually all of Pakistan's wealth.

In contrast, the 1970s featured the Pakistan Steel Mills' establishment, as well as publicly owned heavy industrial complexes in a few locations across the country. Some experts point to stuttering economic growth rates through that period, attributing them to nationalisation and related policies. But they neglect to mention the enormous impact of the secession of East Pakistan, which was a major driver of economic growth in the 1960s.

More generally, investments in manufacturing industry such as those undertaken in the 1970s do not produce demonstrable effects in the very short term. Indeed, Zia's dictatorship benefited greatly from a number of policies introduced by the previous regime, including public investment in heavy industry and labour migration to the Gulf, which started in 1974 but only bore fruit in the form of remittances by the end of the decade.

The specific impact of nationalisation per se — mostly of rice, ghee and sugar mills — was mixed. The economic impact on growth was actually not very substantial and the most significant, long-lasting outcome was political; trader-merchant segments traded furiously, funding and peopling the Pakistan National Alliance's Nizam-i-Mustafa movement which led to Bhutto's overthrow by Gen Zia. Industrialist families like the Sharifs developed a visceral hatred for left and working-class politics, not to mention the Bhutto family. The result was a mandate for the Zia regime to not only denationalise, but also block land reform and crush left progressives, including trade and student unions.

The alliance between trader-merchants and the religious right under the military establishment's patronage was permanently inked. And the rest is history. Denationalisation was globally in vogue throughout the 1980s, led by Thatcher-Reagan with lieutenants like generals Zia and Pinochet in the Third World.

Today, countries like France are overturning neoliberal orthodoxy and nationalising commanding heights of the economy — most notably electricity. It is high time we stop treating the privatisation debate as a taboo that cannot be questioned. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor invites foreign businessmen to invest in KP, tap natural resources potential

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday invited foreign businessmen to invest in Pakistan and utilize its abundant natural resources that are still untapped due to lack of modern machinery.

He was talking to the famous businessman of the United Arab Emirates, Suhail Muhammad Alzaruni here at Governor House. He said that utilizing KP's potential for natural resources would not only benefit foreign investors but also generate new opportunities for locals.

He said that the lack of modern equipment and needed facilities are reasons behind the slow pace of

proper exploration and use of these hidden natural resources.

Governor and Alzaruni also discussed matters of mutual interests and bringing foreign investment into the country. Alzaruni also lauded the Governor for his keen interest in developing the province and inviting foreign investors.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Upper Dir elders led by Paimdand Khan called on Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and highlighted issues confronted by people in his area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor assured cooperation to the delegation and said that he is not oblivious to the problems of people living

in KP and steps have been taken to resolve them. He also urged the masses to collectively work for the development of their area and said that available resources would be utilized to address the problems of Upper Dir.

He stressed avoiding negative thinking and changing of mindset to counter the narrative being propagated by certain elements against the country.

A delegation of Bajaur led by former Senator Abdul Rasheed also met with KP Governor and apprised him problems of the people. A five-member delegation led by Sheikh ul Hadees, Moulana Ata-ur-Rehman also called on the Governor and discussed matters of mutual interest.



PESHAWAR: Businessman of UAE Sohail Muhammad Al-Zorani meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Tackling the issue of climate change is the need of hour: Governor

LAHORE: A delegation led by Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at the Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, other important issues including climate change were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that tackling the issue of climate change

is the need of the hour. He said that Pakistan had faced the worst flood last year due to climate change. Governor Punjab said that climate change is also having adverse impact on agriculture.

He said that as the chancellor, he has formed a consortium on environment. Governor Punjab while appreciating the United Nations Development Program's commitment to eradicating poverty and its role in climate change, said that the United Nations'

immediate assistance and services to the flood victims during the 2022 flood are commendable. Governor Punjab further said that there are many challenges in the field of education and health for which the government is working.

On this occasion, the Resident Representative of UNDP expressed interest in the possibility of collaboration with the Punjab Government in various projects to tackle the challenge of climate change.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Khalil George, distributing non food items to the Christian community in Jaranwala.

GB governor demands region's constitutional status, representation in parliament

LAHORE (APP): Gilgit-Baltistan Governor Mehdi Shah called for the region's constitutional status and representation in the National Assembly and Senate.

During a press conference outside Bilawal House here on Friday, the governor emphasized the historical significance of Gilgit-Baltistan's accession to Pakistan, underlining the need for equal representation in the country's legislative bodies akin to the four provinces. He expressed concerns that the region's citizens remain uncertain about their parliamentary seats, stressing the importance of representation.

Shah disclosed that the PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting had focused on conducting elections under the Constitution, with unanimous support for elections to be held within 90 days. He acknowledged the support

of PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and the progress made in Gilgit-Baltistan but highlighted the disparity in development compared to other provinces.

Recalling Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's efforts to conduct small-scale elections in the region, Mehdi Shah took pride in being the first Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. He expressed optimism that the Pakistan People's Party could lead the way in achieving constitutional province status. He also announced the PPP's intentions to participate in Punjab elections, recognizing Punjab's pivotal role in national politics and the formation of a caretaker government for the upcoming elections.

Despite challenges and external pressures, Shah reaffirmed his 45-year-long association with the PPP and unwavering commitment to maintaining strong ties with Pakistan.



LAHORE: Acting Consul General of China Mr. Cao Ke meeting with caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi

Dr Javed for ensuring health, well-being of children

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram emphasized the critical role parents play in ensuring the health and well-being of children in his significant address at the 8th PPA (Pakistan Pediatric Association) Punjab Annual Symposium as well as the 13th National Child Rights Conference where experts and professionals were gathered at a local hotel on Friday.

Highlighting the pressing issue of child development in Pakistan, Dr. Akram commended the organizers for tackling this vital topic. He extended a warm welcome to educators, colleagues, and guests, reflecting on his experiences serving humanity across five different countries. Notably, he projected Pakistan's trajectory as it inches towards becoming

the third most populous nation globally by 2048.

Dr. Akram expressed a visionary goal of conducting health screenings for every ninth-grade student in Punjab. He stressed the significance of nurturing the mental health of children and cited his extensive work and research during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences, aimed at eliminating prevalent diseases from society. The minister also called for a tangible reduction in cases of violence against children, citing recent steps taken to rehabilitate individuals like Rizwana and Ayman. The event concluded with the distribution of commemorative shields to esteemed guests.

Earlier, President PPA Punjab, Dr. Naeem Zafar, elucidated the symposium's aims.

Baby with heart out of chest dies

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The infant who was born last week with his heart out of his thorax died on Friday despite the provision of intensive care at the direction of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Vice-Chancellor Children Hospital Lahore, Dr. Masood Sadiq confirmed the death of the infant, Abdullah.

According to the VC, the child fell prey to the rare disease Ectopia cordis in which the baby's heart doesn't have the typical coverage of the breastbone.

He said it was not possible to operate the baby at such a beginning of age. The child was brought to the hospital and admitted to the ICU ward where he suffered from Sepsis disease which caused his death following the intensity of the infection.

D, Commissioner Sukkur reviews arrangements for Eid Milad SAW

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahehar on Friday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the celebrations of Jashn-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

The meeting was attended by scholars and religious leaders from various schools of thought who discussed the matters relevant to the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the scholars that every matter would be addressed and resolved. He emphasized that no effort would be spared to find solutions to their concerns. He directed the relevant authorities to ensure uninterrupted water supply, minimize gas load shedding, clean routes of Milad-un-Nabi processions and install streetlights on time.

Man shoots dead wife over domestic dispute

HYDERABAD (APP): A man allegedly shot dead his wife at her father's residence in the Babbur Chowk area near Kotri SITE, Jamshoro district, on Friday. According to police, Sajid Solangi barged into the residence of his father-in-law and killed his 25-year-old wife Shabnum Solangi. Quoting her mother Noor Bano, the police said that Sajid used to beat his wife owing to which she often stayed with her parents.

PDWP approves seven developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), in its 16th meeting of the current financial year 2023-24, approved seven developmental schemes of Agriculture and Special Healthcare and Medical Education sector with an estimated cost of Rs 22026.816 million.

Planning and Development Board Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo chaired the meeting here on Friday. Secretary P&D Board Nadir Chattha were present.

Approved schemes are: Privatization of Agriculture Extension Services to enhance the service delivery at the cost of Rs 804.470 million; Program for strategic transformation/revamping of emergency department in tertiary hospitals in Bahawalpur and Sahiwal at

the cost of Rs 1197.407 million; Rehabilitation/renovation of hospitals under Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education (SH&ME) Department through health council traditional mode in Lahore and Faisalabad at the cost of Rs 5033.372 million; Program for strategic transformation/revamping of old blocks of ex-DHQs (Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Rawalpindi) at the cost of Rs 1264.132 million; Program for provision of missing facilities in newly upgraded colleges of nursing in Punjab at the cost of Rs 2716.824 million; Provision of missing specialties for upgradation of DHQ Hospital to Teaching Hospital, Sahiwal. (Revised) at the cost of Rs 9311.161 million.

Baqar takes notice of inoperative forensic software

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar on Friday took notice of inoperative forensic software of the forensic division.

The Caretaker Chief Minister had sought a report from IGP.

He asked how bullet shells could be tested if forensic software remained operational.

He further asked whose responsibility was to update the software of the forensic machine and whether the update of the forensic machine was reported to the government or not. Baqar directed the IGP Sindh to conduct a detailed inquiry to report the matter to him and take action against the officer's incompetence.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a cabinet meeting at CM Secretariat.

LHC dismisses plea for release of Mansha Bomb

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the arrest of a land grabber.

The court dismissed the petition after declaring it meritless. The court held that the arrest of Mansha Ali Khokhar alias Mansha Bomb by the police was legal whereas investigations could not be stifled at this stage.

Justice Ali Baqar Najafi announced the reserved verdict on a petition filed by Amir Mansha, son of Mansha Ali Khokhar. The court

had reserved the verdict after hearing detailed arguments of the parties earlier in the day.

In final arguments, the petitioner's counsel had pleaded with the court to order the release of Mansha Khokhar who was illegally arrested and confined by the police. He submitted that the accused was not required in any criminal case. However, the respondent, Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore, through a report, submitted that the accused was arrested on September 14.

Building collapse: One killed, two injured in D-ground

FAISALABAD (APP): A double-storey building collapsed due to rain in D-ground area which left a person dead and two others injured, here on Friday.

According to Rescue 1122, rescue team reached the spot and carried out a search operation, pulled out the people trapped under the debris and shifted them to the Civil Hospital. District Emergency Officer Engineer Ehtesham Wahla and Emergency Officer Faisal Munir also reached the spot. Rescue team said that the building collapsed due to inundation of rain water filled in under-construction basement adjacent to the building.

The dead was identified as Naveed son of Bashir Ahmad, 55, while Ayesha daughter of Naveed Ahmed, 25, and Ahsan son of Bashir Ahmad, 27, sustained injuries. They were resident of D-ground People's Colony No. 1.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyer Sheikh reached the spot immediately after the incident. Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashif Raza Awan, AC City Uzair Khan, Chief Officer Municipal Corporation.

Caretaker CM reviews anti-narcotics measures

LAHORE: In compliance with the direction of the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, an organized crackdown has been initiated against the drug peddlers to save the people from this menace.

The CM chaired a meeting about drug peddling and its eradication at his office in which it was agreed to collaborate with the NGOs for rehabilitating the addicts.

IG Police Usman Anwar briefed that 18 kilograms of ice, 180 kilograms of heroin and 7,100 kilograms of charas have been seized during the last three weeks, leading to the arrest of 310 key drug dealers and the clearing of 600 hotspots. The police

have arrested 7,500 individuals along with handlers of professional beggars.

The CM ordered to intensify the crackdown further and called for comprehensive planning to establish rehabilitation centers across Punjab. He expressed the desire to rehabilitate addicts as useful citizens of society, adding that the number of beds in these centers will also be increased.

Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, chief secretary, Addl IG (Special Branch), CCPO, commissioner, secretaries of health, information, HED & SED departments attended the meeting while RPO participated through video link.



LAHORE: Resident representative of United Nation Development Program (UNDP) Dr. Samuel Rizk meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

Federal Ombudsman Regional office ensures justice for government employees

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Abbottabad Friday resolved the pension issues of federal government employees of Pak Army and (National Engineering Services Pakistan) NESPAK who were facing administrative issues.

Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman Abdul Ghafoor Beg Abbottabad, played a vital role in ensuring compensation for retired army personnel.

According to the details Sohail Khan, a retired army employee, had lodged a complaint against the Military Pension Controller Lahore, citing delay in receiving his pension since September 2022.

Taking immediate action, a notice was issued to the Military Pension Controller Lahore, compelling the prompt release of Sohail Khan's pension. Subsequently, an amount of 329,470/- rupees was disbursed in favor of Sohail Khan,

bringing relief to the retired army officer. Expressing his gratitude, Sohail Khan commended the Federal Ombudsman's institution for its unwavering commitment to ensuring justice for ordinary citizens, an appreciation rarely witnessed.

In another case through the intervention and decisions of Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi, he facilitated the timely payment of salaries for employees of NESPAK. Faraz Mustafa, filed a complaint regarding unwarranted delays and suspensions in their salary payments by the department. Immediate action was taken by serving a notice to NESPAK, ensuring the immediate disbursement of salaries. Subsequently, NESPAK promptly released the due salaries to the complainants. In a gesture of appreciation, the affected employee expressed gratitude towards the Federal Ombudsman's office.

MoU signed to protect cultural heritage, promotion of arts

SUKKUR (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Arore University of Arts, Architecture, Design and Heritage Sukkur, here on Friday to protect cultural heritage, promote arts and crafts, provide business support, offer capacity building initiatives, and empower rural women artisans in the region.

SRSO Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohammad Dital Kalhoro and AUAADH Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand formalized the partnership during a ceremony held at SRSO Complex.

The aim of this partnership was to have a positive impact on the cultural and economic development of the communities whose poverty they are working to alleviate. Speaking at the event, SRSO CEO, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro

said that his organization has been working for two decades to promote the products made by rural artisan women of Sindh to highlight and sell through which all the proceeds go directly to the skilled women, today not only in Pakistan but all over the world the sale of their handmade items is increasing and the demand continues to grow, he added. He said that the expert team of Arore University and SRSO will together take this work forward in a more modern way as per the requirements of modern times. On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of Arore University Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand said in his address that the students associated with Arore University will be given internships in this field and in a regular and organized manner, arts and design will be further expanded in collaboration with SRSO. SRSO's Chief Financial Officer.



SUKKUR: SRSO Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Dital Kalhoro and AUAADH Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand formalized a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Arore University of Arts Architecture, Design and Heritage Sukkur.

AJK cabinet decides to reinforce accountability law in true spirit

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) cabinet has decided to amend the ineffective accountability law to resume across the board free, fair and strict accountability of the public office holders aimed to curb the rising menace of corruption by the government functionaries, said Minister.

Senior Minister Col (retid) Waqar Noor accompanied with two other ministers Abdul Majid Khan and Ch. Abdul Rasheed announced the decisions of the cabinet taken last night at a press conference here on Friday. The Minister without portfolio Abdul Majid Khan while initiating the press conference said that a cabinet committee was constituted under the chairmanship of senior minister Col Waqar Noor to propose amendments in the accountability law in order to enable the accountability Bureau to proceed against corruption in an effective manner.

The accountability process was made ineffec-

tive by amendments in the accountability act during the last Pakistan Muslim League (N) government headed by former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan leaving the accountability body to exist but with limited powers to proceed against corruption. Majid Khan claimed that his government was committed towards fairness and accountability process and would reinstate the teeth of accountability watchdog that had been pulled out by the previous government in order to initiate across-the-board free, fair and strict accountability. Khan said that Prime Minister Anwar Ul Haq had earlier also activated the defunct anti-corruption department which shows his determination towards fairness and corruption-free governance in the region besides austerity measures taken to overcome the wastage of public money.

The cabinet also lifted the ban on transfer postings besides extending the upper age limit for government

jobs up to 40 years for a further 3 years, the minister added saying the ban on contract and ad hoc appointments was also lifted and rules for appointments on discretionary posts were also approved in the meeting.

He said that the cabinet also approved to withdrawal of the electricity hike in the bills of July which was earlier suspended by the prime Minister and decided not to charge a late payment surcharge (LPS) on July bills while the cabinet disapproved the amendments in Mangla uprising agreement enacted in 2021 and the issue will be raised with the central government and WAPDA. Senior Minister Col Waqar Noor said that the government was working with WAPDA to overcome the environmental effects due to the diversion of the Neelum River in Muzaffarabad and currently 20 comic feet of water was flowing in the river which will not be reduced till the construction of water bodies.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Federal Minister for Communication and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar during meeting of Cabinet Sub-Committee on ECL.

Domki condemns attack on security forces: Breach in peace intolerable at all; elements involved in terrorism to be taken to task: Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has categorically stated that the breach in peace is not tolerable at all and the elements involved in terrorism would be taken to task.

This, he stated in a condemnation statement issued here on Friday. The caretaker Chief Minister condemned the attack on security forces in the Wali

Tangi area of Balochistan. He said that the security forces foiled the attack of terrorists bravely. Ali Mardan Domki said that the sacrifices of security forces for restoration of peace in Balochistan are great and we pay rich tributes to them.

The Chief Minister asserted that the endeavours being made by the security forces for restoration of peace can't be

breached. He said that the breach in the peace is just intolerable and as such adding he directed to take those involved in it must be taken to task.

He said that the moral of institutions deputed for restoration of peace is high, and the people of Balochistan are standing by their forces.

Meanwhile the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan

Achakzai has strongly condemned the attack of terrorists on security forces at Wali Tangi.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the caretaker Minister Information mentioned that three terrorists were killed due to the timely retaliation by the security forces.

Jan Achakzai said that there are great sacrifices of the security forces for establishing peace in the province.

He reiterated the government's resolve to bring the elements involved in terrorism incident to justice.

The Minister Information also said that the moral of security forces are high and the people are standing with them.

He also asserted that no one would be allowed to spoil peaceful environment of the province.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Muttahida Mahaz are holding rally to expressing their solidarity with Pakistan Armed Forces, at Quetta press club.

Top court's ruling on NAB amendments draws mixed reactions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The major Supreme Court verdict on Friday on the amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) laws created a stir in political circles as it restored the corruption cases against political bigwigs. A three-member bench — headed by outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ijazul Ahsan — in a majority 2-1 verdict approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's petition challenging the passage of NAB amendments by the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government.

While reacting to the development, former inter-

ior minister Rana Sanaulah said that he hasn't read the SC's written verdict yet. "The Supreme Court's controversial bench gave a controversial verdict," he said, adding that the chief justice who is about to retire has caused the most harm to the institution of judiciary. Sanaulah said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders have faced the inquiries in their respective cases. "Nearly 13 cases are registered against the PTI chairman. He should face the inquiries and have a taste of it. Let's see how he [Imran Khan] gets scores of bails," he added. The politician said that he was of the view that the "unkind" law of NAB should not be abolished because PML-N leaders have borne the brunt of it.

Gas supply suspended as pipeline explodes near Kandhkot

SUI (INP): The gas supply to various cities including Karachi was suspended due to an explosion in the pipeline near Kandhkot.

The explosion took place in the pipeline from Sui to Karachi, said the officials.

The police said that the explosion was reported in the Ghulam Rasool village of Kandhkot.

An investigation has been started as police and other law enforcement agencies reached the spot soon after the explosion.

The preliminary investigation showed that the explosion took place due to the gas pressure in the pipeline. Further investigation is also underway by the police and other law enforcement agencies.

Crush plants to be shifted to far away from Urban area of Quetta city

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Quetta district administration has decided to shift the crush plants to far away from the urban area of Quetta city.

The decision has been made in light of the judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan during a meeting held here on Friday. Chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Muhammad Riaz, the meeting was attended by the officers of different concerned departments besides Assistant Commissioner Kuchlak, Assistant Commissioner Sariab and Assistant Commissioner Quetta city.

The Assistant Commissioners presented report about sealed crush plants in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner said that all the crush plants would be sealed.

He said that the Ziarat cross and Digari have been spotted for shifting of the crush plants in due course of time.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Abdul Karim Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Dr. Kamalan says Emergency Services, Accident & Emergency Dept launches at BMCH

QUETTA (APP)-Emergency Services, Accident and Emergency Department at Bolan Medical Complex Hospital (BMCH) was started by the efforts of Principal Bolan Medical College Quetta Prof. Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar and MS, BMC Dr. Kamalan Gachki. MS, BMC Dr. Kamalan Gachki said that in the first phase post graduate students of medicine and surgery department, medical officers and house officers started working in emergency services, accident and emergency department. He said that soon post graduate students of other departments, medical officers will start working in emergency services, accident and emergency department.

He said that the Head of Departments Medicine, Surgery, Young Doctors Association and Paramedical Staff played an important role in starting Emergency Services, Accident and Emergency Department. MS, BMC Dr. Kamalan Gachki said that the doctors working in emergency services, accident and emergency department will perform their duties according to the duty roster. Post graduate students working in Emergency Services, Accident and Emergency Department, Medical Officers will perform their duties under rotation, he said. He said that with the start of emergency services in BMC hospital, immediate health facilities will be available to the patients.

Smart classrooms initiated under CPEC growing in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Smart Classrooms project was initiated under CPEC in September 2021 and is now grooming in the country.

Around 100 smart classrooms are being built in 50 universities across Pakistan. Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Meanwhile, a smart classroom was inaugurated at Karakoram International University (KIU) in Gilgit-Baltistan, aiming to empower teachers with the essential skills needed to effectively utilize technology in the classroom.

This initiative seeks to enhance the learning experience for students through comprehensive training programs.

Vice-Chancellor of KIU, Engineer Professor Dr. Attaullah Shah, inaugurated the smart classroom in the presence of senior administrative and teaching staff of the university.

Traders observe shutter down against attack on Hafiz Hamdullah

QUETTA (INP): A shutter-down strike was observed in Quetta on Friday against the Mastung blast which left Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader Hafiz Hamdullah and several others with critical injuries.

Commercial centres were closed due to the shutter-down strike against the bomb blast. Anjuman-e-Tajir and Awami National Party (ANP) had supported the strike.

It is to be noted here that Hafiz Hamdullah was injured in a bomb blast in the Mastung district of Balochistan on Thursday.

The bomb explosion targeted the vehicle in which Hamdullah was travelling. He was travelling to Mangochar town when he was targeted.

Eyewitnesses said that the vehicle of Hafiz Hamdullah slowed at a speed-breaker when a motorcycle rider attempted to attach a bomb to it.

They added that the bomb could not be attached to the vehicle of Hafiz Hamdullah and exploded.

"Had it been attached to the vehicle, it would have caused greater damage," they stated.

Later, in his video message from the hospital, Hafiz Hamdullah said that the blasts and attack could not shatter his resolve.

"The savior is more powerful than the slayer," the JUI leader had said while talking to media.

"Life and death are in the hands of Allah. The one who saves is more powerful than the one who slays," he had added.

"The blast was so powerful that the vehicle was severely damaged. There were four companions in the car and all are safe," he had stated.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Minister for Energy Mr. Muhammad Ali held a meeting with a team representing Asian Development Bank at Power Division. The bilateral cooperation, energy efficiency and resource management for reforms in the power sector were discussed.

Good to see you all my friends: CJP Umar Ata

ISLAMABAD (Online): "Good to see you all my friends". This was said by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial while talking to the lawyers in his last case in Supreme Court (SC).

The lawyer Mian Bilal said to the CJP When you heard your first case in high court then it was I who appeared before you. Today there is last case of yours in SC and I am appearing before you here too.

The CJP said to the counsel your case has become in-fructuous. But if you give arguments then "dil ko khush rakhe ka laye Ghalib ye khial acha ha".

The lawyer Mian Bilal said you heard us with patience always.

The CJP Umar Ata Bandial remarked it is our

Pak-Japanese delegations discuss multi lateral issues

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistanis and Japanese delegations discussed a wide range of bilateral issues at the outset of the 9th Round of Pakistan-Japan Security Dialogue held in Tokyo on Friday.

The delegation of Pakistan was led by Mr. Ameer Khurram Rathore, Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia-Pacific) while the Japanese side was led by Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Director General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department.

The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual interest.

The cordial Pakistan-Japan ties and the potential for greater cooperation in the field of defence were underscored.

During the exchange of views on regional situation, the Additional Foreign Secretary briefed the Japanese delegation on Pakistan's policy of peaceful neighbourhood including Afghanistan, India and the gross violations of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).



QUETTA: Cantonment Executive Officer Muhammad Hayat Baloch meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan Mandokhail

PPP is voice of four provinces: Ali Hassan

QUETTA (APP): President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) district Hub, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the opponents of PPP are getting confused due to the increasing popularity of the party among the people.

In his statement issued here on Friday, he said that the reception of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto proves that the people consider the People's Party as the saviour to get rid of the problems and difficulties of this country.

He said that the PPP is the voice of the people's hearts and under the leadership of Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and senior colleagues Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would be the next Prime Minister by the votes of

the people. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the solution to the critical juncture the country is currently passing through and the economic situation of the country lies with the Pakistan People's Party alone.

He said that, in the past, especially during the PTI regime, due to the wrong policies, the people have gone below the poverty line and the common people do not even have the money to eat poison, the inflation has broken the back of the people.

The caretaker government should take all possible measures to solve problems of the people and take measures on an emergency basis to control inflation, he said.

Custom House Quetta solarized; 50 KV solar system installed

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Customs House Quetta was solarized with installation of 50 KV solar system on Friday.

The Chief Collector Customs Balochistan, Abdul Qadir Memon formally inaugurated the solar system at the Customs House.

Also present on the occasion were the Collector Appraisalment Quetta, Agha Saeed, Collector Enforcement, Irfanur Rehman Khan, Additional Collector, Shahzad Khan, Imran Atzal and other officers and solar engineers.

The basic objective behind installation of the solar energy system is to save energy and long electricity break down. As the Quetta remain connected all the time with FBR and other concerned departments, and the routine work is affected due to the disconnection of electricity.

However, there would be no issue with installation of solar system at the Customs House, it was informed on the occasion.

Attock jail authorities refuse to arrange telephonic talks b/w Imran and his sons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Attock Jail Authorities have refused to arrange telephonic conversation between PTI chairman Imran Khan and his sons.

Attock jail superintendent has filed reply to contempt of court plea in special court Islamabad established under official secret

act. Attock jail superintendent has said in his reply jail laws don't allow. Telephonic talk cannot be arranged. Jail superintendent said telephonic facility is not available to the those accused in secret act. The court's order regarding telephone has not been violated.

Role of BRSP in development of rural areas equally important along with govt.: Ejaz Jaffar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has stated that there is a basic role of Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in development of rural areas and provision of basic amenities of life there is along with the government.

He noted with pleasure that the head of BRSP is a very hard working and honest, who would continue to play his wholehearted role in development of the rural areas and welfare of people by demonstrating his best capabilities.

The caretaker Provincial Minister was speaking to the Chief Executive of BRSP, Tahir Rasheed, who called on him here at his office on Friday.

The BRSP chief congratulated Sardar Ejaz Jaffar on assuming the office of Minister. The Minister PHE and Population Welfare on the occasion applauded the role of BRSP in development of the rural areas of province.

During the course of meeting, different related matters were also discussed.



QUETTA: Affected students of MDCAT holding a protest