

Independent

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

Vol. XIII No. 265 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Tuesday September 12, 2023, Safar 25, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Election Commission to decide polls date

We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government, says PM Kakar

Action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said Election Commission would decide about the date for the upcoming elections. In an interview with a private television, he said Parliament had passed a law according to which Election Commission had the power to announce the date for new elections. Speculation regarding the elections should end as these would be held according to the prevalent law, he said adding, "We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government."

He said as a student of history of Pakistan, he would express gratitude to Quaid-e-Azam for protecting rights of the Muslim minority and saving it from

the domination of majority. After seeing the attitude of bigger states against the minorities, he said he could see that it would have been difficult to protect the religious and cultural identity of Muslims if Quaid had not secured an independent state for Muslims. He said he admired Quaid-e-Azam for his constitutionalism, all-inclusiveness and for protection of rights of minorities. The prime minister assured that action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established. "We are taking these actions so that the next government with its mandate can easily continue our work for public interest."

He said the apex committee of Special Invest-

ment Facilitation Council (SIFC) included current military leadership, thus making the council a strong constitutional and legal body which was taking firm actions and implementing decisions. The caretaker federal and provincial governments had good coordination which was helpful in implementing decisions, he noted. He said the SIFC was focusing on economic revival and on sectors of agriculture and mineral extraction. Work would be done on major plans of investment so that they could be at an advanced stage when the next government would take over, he told. He said Pakistan had multifaceted relations with Afghanistan and had regular discussions with it on

issues of trade, terrorism, security and regional connectivity. Both sides were talking with the realization that neighbors could not be changed, he added. To a question about rising incidents of terrorism in the country, he said the terrorists had now more latest weapons, night vision goggles and other equipment which had increased their capacity to fight. However, he made it clear that the terrorists could not take away an inch of territory of Pakistan and the security forces would respond and manage the situation. The state would show its firmness against terrorists as in no condition anyone would be allowed to resort to violence, he stressed. PM Kakar said

PM hails WB's role in dev. of backward areas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has recognized the role of the World Bank in playing a role for the development of the backward areas, especially the remote areas of Balochistan. This was stated by him while talking to Country Director of World Bank Najay Benhassaine who called on him in Islamabad on Monday. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that putting backward areas of the country on the path of development was the priority of the government.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Najay Benhassaine, Country Director World Bank during meeting held in Islamabad.

SC tested several times over constitutional matters in Feb 2023, says CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaking for the last time at a ceremony marking the commencement of the new judicial year on Monday, Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said that the court was tested several times in February 2023 with matters pertaining to the Constitution of Pakistan. He added that he did not want to repeat all that has happened but it is reflected in part in the decision for the audio leaks case. Commenting on his differences with incoming CJP Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Bandial maintained that the latter was an admirable man. The media is the eyes

and ears of society, said the CJP, but, he added, incorrect reports were published about him. He referred to the use of his phrases "good to see you" and "short and sweet" and said they were taken out of context. He doesn't hold this against the media, he added. The outgoing CJP said that this might be his last address as the chief justice, and mentioned that the ongoing political situation has also affected judicial performance. Commenting on the performance of the apex court, CJP Bandial said that the SC disposed of 23,000 cases in the past year, breaking a previous record of disposing of 18,000 cases in one year. He added

that he had wished to reduce the number of pending cases by 50,000 but managed to address only 2,000 cases from the backlog. Justice Bandial took office as CJP in February 2022 and is due to retire on September 16, 2023. The Supreme Court has been marred with controversies this year against the backdrop of a political crisis which has garnered the attention of international media and much uncertainty surrounding the next general elections. The top court has decisions pending in several political and constitutional cases as CJP Bandial begins his last week in office.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik as Caretaker Federal Minister during oath taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Responsible journalism need of the hour: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday appreciated the services of court reporters in providing awareness of legal matters and important court decisions to the masses. During a meeting with a delegation of the Press Association of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which met with him here, the minister said the main objective of the media was to convey correct information to the general public. He stressed that responsible journalism was need of the hour which could help the society move forward in the right direction. The role of court reporters in journalism, he

said, was very important. Court reporting was a technical field and like lawyers, journalists covering court proceedings should be well versed in law, he added. Covering the Supreme Court's proceedings was equally important and sensitive, and the court reporters were doing the job very efficiently, the minister remarked. Solangi said the caretaker government fully believed in freedom of press and it would solve the problems of journalists working in the field. The minister congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of the Press Association of the Supreme Court.

Pakistan will not allow Afghan Transit trade agreement to be misused: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan while expressing concern over Afghan authorities statement has said we wonder on giving such statement despite knowing the facts. "Construction of any structure within our territory is not acceptable. Construction of structure in our territory is against our sovereignty" this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baboch here Monday. She went on to say Afghan forces resorted to firing instead of peaceful resolution of the issue on September 06. Afghan forces not only damaged infrastructure but

they put at stake the lives of people. She held unprovoked firing has encouraged terrorist elements. We welcomed Afghan people openheartedly for several decades. She underlined that Afghan ministry of foreign affairs offered improper comments about Pakistan economy. Pakistan will not allow to misuse Afghan Transit trade agreement. Pakistan supports the resolution of matters between the two countries through dialogue, she remarked. We hope Afghan authorities will respect sovereignty of Pakistan, she underscored.

Ejaz Qureshi re-elected as President of Asian Ombudsman Association

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi was re-elected unopposed as President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) at Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan) on Monday. The elections to the various positions in the AOA Board of Directors were held in the 17th Meeting of the General Assembly. In addition to the election of Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi as AOA President, the General Assembly elected Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in Azerbaijan, Hong Kong and Iran as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association respectively. Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in China, Japan, Korea, Tatarstan and Turkey were elected as members of the Board of Directors, a press release issued by the Ombudsman Office here said. Following his election, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi thanked the General Assembly for expressing confidence and trust in Pakistan's contribution in promoting the cause of ombudsmanship.

ly. In addition to the election of Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi as AOA President, the General Assembly elected Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in Azerbaijan, Hong Kong and Iran as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association respectively. Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in China, Japan, Korea, Tatarstan and Turkey were elected as members of the Board of Directors, a press release issued by the Ombudsman Office here said. Following his election, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi thanked the General Assembly for expressing confidence and trust in Pakistan's contribution in promoting the cause of ombudsmanship.

Death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam observed

ISLAMABAD (Online): The 75th death anniversary of father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed with due solemnity Monday. In this connection, Quran Khawani and Fateha Khawani will be held at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi. President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated commitment to make Pakistan a modern Islamic welfare state in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In his message on the occasion of death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam, he said we will have to follow the golden principles of the founding father for the development of Pakistan. He said there is a need to work for the welfare of women, youth and weaker seg-

ments of the society. The President said attention must be focused on providing education and eradication poverty to make Pakistan a great country. In his message on death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said there is no better way to pay homage to the founder of Pakistan than to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said we have to eliminate all kinds of differences and work together day and night for development of Pakistan. He said Pakistan is currently going through a difficult period and we need to adhere to the principles of founder of the nation as much as ever.



H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner called on Minister for Defence Lt General Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi.

Australian envoy lauds Pak efforts for regional security & Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australian High Commissioner, Neil Hawkins called on Minister for Defence Lieutenant General Anwar Ali Hyder at the Ministry of Defence and appreciated Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and security, especially in the Afghanistan peace process. The Defence Minister emphasized that Pakistan was committed to supporting the initiatives

on peace, whereas both the dignitaries discussed peace and security in regional and global contexts, a news release said. Bilateral cooperation avenues in fields of counter-terrorism and economics, also came under discussion. Pointing out enormous scope for strengthening and further cementing bilateral defence ties, both sides assured of taking specific practical steps in this regard.

Dr Kausar Malik sworn in as interim federal minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik, a noted agricultural scientist and educationist on Monday took oath for the office of the caretaker federal minister. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Dr Kausar at a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier on September 9, the president appointed Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the federal minister in the caretaker federal cabinet. He had made the appointment on the advice of the caretaker prime minister under Article 224 (1a) of the Constitution.

Gohar takes no salary, bears all official expenses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz has announced that he will not accept any remuneration for his services. "In an extraordinary act of selflessness and dedication, the minister has forgone his salary and bears all expenses related to his official duties, including travel, meals and office hi-tea sessions," said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Monday. Upon assuming the office, Dr Ejaz also donated one year of income from his personal business for the nation's improvement, a press release added.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi was re-elected unopposed as President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) at Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan) on Monday.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Communication and Chairman NHA Captain (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan to review the ongoing development projects and progress of flood-affected road infrastructure restoration work



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmad Irfan Aslam chairing a meeting regarding the restoration of Kachi Canal, in Islamabad.

Deputy Chairman NAB resigns

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy chairman NAB Zahir Shah has resigned from his office. After chairman NAB Aftab Sultan, Prosecutor General Asghar Haider, Deputy chairman NAB too has resigned. Deputy chairman NAB has filed his resignation with chairman NAB. It has been said in the resignation that he does not want to continue his job due to personal reasons. Therefore, his resignation was accepted.

One soldier martyred in IED attack on forces in Warsak

RAWALPINDI (Online): On 11 September 23, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded on a vehicle of Security Forces in general area Warsak, Peshawar District. Consequently, Lance Naik Abdur Rehman, 29 years, resident of District Bannu embraced Shahadat, while three soldiers got injured.

Energy Minister says: New electricity tariff to be introduced before Oct 31

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali announced on Monday that the revised electricity tariff would be introduced before October 31. While addressing a press conference alongside Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali said the government is taking indiscriminate action against the electricity and gas thieves. "We are making efforts to control everything. We will try to control the electricity tariff and provide low-cost power to industries from October 31. The inflated bills were received due to electricity theft, whereas, the tariff was hiked due to the increase in USD price." The energy minister said that it is impossible to amend the previous agreements, however, the government would find a solution without violating the terms. He vowed that low-cost electricity would be provided to the industries in the winter season.

Khurram Agha directs Work on Pinjra Bridge to be completed within stipulated time

Independent Report QUETTA: Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan in order to inspect and review the progress of various ongoing development projects and the restoration works on flood-affected road infrastructure. Acting on directions of the Hon'ble Caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwar ul Haq Kakar, Secretary Communications along with Member West Zone Mr. Shahid Ihsanullah and his team, made a comprehensive visit to various sites in Balochistan. Secretary Communica-

tions reviewed the developments on already issued instructions regarding expeditious progress on PSDP projects and maintenance schemes including Pinjra Bridge (N-65), Quetta Western Bypass (N-25), Khuzdar-Kuchlak Dualization (N-25), and Zhob-Kuchlak Dualization projects (N-50). During his visit to Quetta Western Bypass, he acknowledged the efforts of the contractor and NHA's workforce for the quality and efficiency of work. Similarly, he pointed that restoration work on Pinjra Bridge N-65 shall be completed within the stipulated time of four months.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday September 12, 2023

Vulnerable Chitral

The Chitral region of KP has been in the headlines of late due to the Sept 6 deadly cross-border incursion in which a large band of TTP militants reportedly crossed over and attacked Pakistani positions before being pushed back into Afghanistan.

Though the authorities have not given any numbers, the raiders were reported to be in the 'hundreds'. The interim foreign minister insists this was an "isolated incident" and that the Afghan Taliban rulers did not sanction the attack, while the Foreign Office has repeated the mantra that Pakistan's concerns have been communicated to the relevant quarters in Kabul. State functionaries may be giving the impression that all is well in the region, but more information is needed on the exact details of the attack, while the local people need to be reassured that their lives and properties will be protected by the state. Chitral lies in a strategically sensitive area, bordering Afghanistan and with only the Wakhan Corridor separating it from Tajikistan. China's Xinjiang region is also in the vicinity.

This makes it an attractive location for transnational jihadists looking to expand their operations, even though Chitral itself has largely been shielded from terrorist activity.

Moreover, the region is culturally, linguistically and ethnically distinct from the rest of KP. While Swat and erstwhile Fata suffered the most during earlier waves of terrorism, Chitral managed to weather the storm. The area where the incursion took place is close to the traditional lands of the Kalash people, and Chitral also has a significant Ismaili population.

Therefore, the state needs to beef up security in the area, as the banned TTP and sectarian militants thrive on targeting minority communities. While there have been reports of small-scale infiltration from Afghanistan, the last major incursion occurred in 2011 when reportedly a very large number of terrorists staged attacks, leading to several fatalities among security men.

Simply expecting the Afghan Taliban to 'do more' may not be enough, especially when there is speculation that some Taliban factions may actually be encouraging attacks within Pakistan.

The best option is for the military to provide iron-clad security to all vulnerable border regions, and ensure that no groups are again able to violate Pakistan's territory.

A jirga in Chitral has asked the army chief to visit the area, and called upon the authorities to fence the border with Afghanistan. Reports indicate that the Afghan Taliban had started relocating TTP fighters from the border area; the process must be sped up so that this ever-present threat on the country's frontiers is neutralised. The terrorist threat on the borders must be handled proactively. In the past, the country has suffered immensely by allowing malevolent actors to establish fiefdoms on Pakistani territory. This mistake must never be repeated.



Malecha Lodhi

Are 'middle powers' more important today in geopolitics? Which countries are middle powers and why do they have rising clout in the present era? How do we define them and assess their influence on the international stage? Is soft power also a factor in their global standing?

The notion of middle powers has long been around. But it has acquired new relevance in the current geopolitical context whose defining features are increasing multipolarity and the US-China competition. There is no consensus in the growing literature about how to define middle powers. However, there is general agreement that these countries are neither among the world's superpowers nor are they small powers as

they have the ability to influence geopolitics.

This is due to their economic strength, military muscle or other attributes, including demographic characteristics, regional weight, soft power, diplomatic conduct and activism. This gives them significant leverage in global affairs and ability to build multiple relationships.

They include countries from the developed world and Global South, such as Germany, Japan, Canada, Brazil, India, South Africa, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Indonesia. They are a heterogeneous group of countries with varying governance systems as well as political and strategic interests. Pakistan is in some respects a middle power but its economic weakness has significantly limited and diminished its global influence.

The global debate about the role of middle powers has intensified as a consequence of the US-China stand-off. This hasn't mimicked the Cold War in terms of dividing the world into a 'tight' bipolarity. But, as several analysts have noted, it has, instead, offered opportunities and lee-

way to countries to increase their leverage by playing off that rivalry and pursuing an 'independent' path.

Moreover, structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system—the very currency of power also having changed—has created an enabling environment for middle power activism and for them to wield influence. As Alec Russell recently wrote in a thoughtful Financial Times op-ed, "The age of the Western set menu is over. And the new menu, while heavily influenced by two lead chefs, is still being written"—a reference to middle powers who now seek a seat at the table.

Last month's BRICS summit in South Africa renewed focus on middle powers and their aspiration to reconfigure the global order and rewrite the rules of the game. Expansion of the group by addition of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Argentina, UAE and Ethiopia, with China working for enlargement, underlined how these emerging economies were seeking a bigger role by using the bloc as a countervailing force to US-led Western groupings, such as G7.

They also advocate reform of the international financial system and Bretton Woods institutions. As widely acknowledged, this expansion has increased the weight of BRICS, which represents over a quarter of the global economy and accounts for a major share of the world's oil resources.

Among decisions to emerge from the Johannesburg summit was for finance ministers of member countries to explore how to reduce dependence on the US dollar. As Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's president put it, "BRICS has embarked on a new chapter to build a world that is fair" and "inclusive". Whether or not that ambition is realised, the bloc has become an important platform for middle powers to make their global presence felt.

While many middle powers are capitalising on the US-China competition to strengthen their bargaining position they also seek to enhance relations with both global powers. They want to avoid getting in the crosshairs of that confrontation but to also reap advantages from it. This has urged both the US and China

to pay more attention to middle powers to ensure they don't get entrenched in their rival's camp.

Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia has pursued initiatives that have set a new foreign policy direction and raised its diplomatic game. Riyadh loosened its traditionally close ties with the US to significantly boost its economic ties with China. Its rapprochement with long-time regional rival Iran, brokered by China, greatly increased its leverage with Washington.

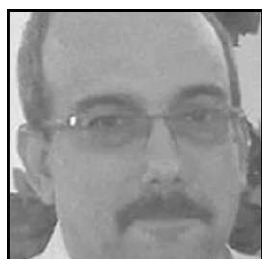
This development so alarmed the Biden administration that it urged Washington to hasten plans to pursue a 'grand bargain' in the Middle East. This involves Saudi Arabia normalising relations with Israel in return for a mutual security pact with the US and Riyadh committing to scale back ties with China. In fact, Riyadh is driving a tough bargain by making several demands—a defence pact with Washington, a civilian nuclear deal, missile defence system/other high-tech weapons and substantial Israeli concessions for the Palestinians.

Turkey is another

country adept at the middle power diplomatic game, which has been widely commented on. A member of Nato, Turkey under Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has followed an assertive foreign policy in the region and beyond, maintaining ties with both the US and Russia. Ankara has played off the Ukraine conflict to further project its power and increase its leverage. It sought to mediate between Russia and Ukraine and (with the UN) brokered the Black Sea Grain Deal between them in July 2022. This allowed safe passage for shipment of grain from Ukraine, a big exporter, through the Black Sea, whose maritime routes are controlled by Turkey. Ankara also used its leverage over the issue of Nato's expansion to secure concessions from the US and EU.

Other middle powers including India have derived similar benefits from their activist diplomacy in a multipolar world. Indeed, their growing role in shaping geopolitics has led some analysts to describe this as the 'new normal' at a time when the world is in a state of flux. -- Courtesy Dawn

Dealing with the Taliban



Dr Naazir Mahmood

The 1990s saw the emergence of the Taliban and in the 2000s the TTP appeared to be distinct from the Taliban in Afghanistan. In this story we have had to shift our focus from our eastern borders to the western and vice versa; then you see the emergence of some patterns. You put on boots purportedly made to protect your feet but in actuality they may be erasing your footprints. All is fair in love and war, or is it? Then the chief threat starts coming from your own creations, and you end up losing hundreds of thousands of your own people. In over seven decades, nearly all voices of sanity have disappeared—or rather have been made to disappear.

By way of habitat loss, any potential species in society that could stand

up to extremism whether the TTP's or TLP's has either migrated or keeps silent. The insanity of extremism is not new, neither is it spontaneous; it is home-grown and self-nurtured. The Taliban and many other outfits operating now with impunity have been able to adapt and evolve in the past couple of decades. They have been receiving shots of homemade energizers, which promise good performance in time of need. But now the time of need is not controllable and the outfits themselves decide when and where to strike.

From the mujahideen to the Taliban these outfits can claim many achievements, including the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the defeat of the US. The creators of these outfits may also feel elated at the strategy their successive leaders have been following. But at what cost? Look at the plight of the Afghans—and of course Pakistanis themselves. The sky looks overcast for all of them from Kabul and Kalash to Karachi. Just peer down the main thoroughfare leading to the international arena of economic and human develop-

ment, and you don't see us anywhere.

What we see is streets in Afghanistan and Pakistan where stooped men and women beg for a bowl of rice. People in their 70s and 80s are left without care but fed with songs of nationalism and patriotism. What our children get in colleges and schools is not good quality education but an overdose of tales about past victories, which perhaps we never scored. Afghanistan and Pakistan are now tottering across a bridge leading to despotism and destitution. Afghanistan has already reached there and we are on our way; the Taliban and their creators have a lot to do with it.

The dynamic society that we could have had once is now strangled and hollowed out. Afghanistan's path after the Taliban victory two years ago, foreshadows what's coming in Pakistan. The Pyrrhic victory that former prime minister Imran Khan and his facilitators eulogized and welcomed in no uncertain terms has changed the fabric of society in ways both obvious and subtle. The hard-scrabble neighbourhood has sprung up in the past two years

during the Taliban boom, with aging infrastructure and declining economy. The system is strained and the increasing insularity of the Taliban is rubbing off on the youth of Pakistan.

It is a daunting list of failures that has led Pakistan to its sorry state now. No amount of sugar-coating or whitewashing can hide the stark contrast between what is on the ground and what the state wants us to believe. Had there been an incremental pace of reform in defence and foreign policies, Pakistan could also have witnessed corresponding economic and fiscal improvements. The state has scrunched all possibilities of activities and communication in society, other than the ones it approves. Those who have moved out of the country are calling for their kin, and the caretaker prime minister says "so what?" with a sombre demeanour.

The youth are indignant and panicked; they feel abandoned and have no education and skills that can underpin their future. But the state is more interested in the housing societies and authorities that dot the outskirts of many of the larger cities in Paki-

stan; while a vast majority of Pakistani people cannot even afford mud constructions of their own, let alone a concrete structure. Just look at the millions that the floods affected not long ago, and ask yourself what gateway the state is providing them. Some of the abandonment of traditional state responsibilities may simply be a function of changing state priorities.

You prioritize backward groups over active citizenry and you get a conservative society devoid of initiative. Our communities have become more communal than inclusive; they suffocate individuality the way the Taliban have been doing in Afghanistan.

The Talibanization of society presents a particular challenge that requires a drastic change in state priorities in policies from education and defence to foreign affairs. Just by reviving the memories of past sacrifices and victories—both real and imaginary—we are not heading anywhere. The state has already lost its grip on public imagination and now it is a formidable task to restore it. Cross-border infiltration by militants is in-

creasing by the day and tensions on the borders are a disturbing reality. Just by fighting on the security front, the situation will not change. The state of Pakistan believed that bilateral ties would improve after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Independent observers including this writer had no such hope and kept writing about a possible upsurge in militant activities if the Taliban captured Kabul. Now we see that AfPak relations have become more dysfunctional than they were during the past two decades under the Hamid Karzai and Ashraf-Ghani governments.

The ruling structure in Pakistan has consistently miscalculated its ambitions and the balance is even now out of place. Those who cautioned against nurturing the mujahideen and the Taliban did not get a sympathetic ear from the state as it wanted a favourable dispensation in Afghanistan. Now those expectations have fallen flat and the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has worsened the situation which some still refuse to acknowledge. -- Courtesy TheNews

Undoing exclusion



Arooj Waheed Dar

Lack of equal opportunities and innovation has suffocated the growth capacity of Pakistan, limiting investment to buying and selling of real estate and dollars by the elite. Inequality of opportunity (IOP) evident across provinces, gender, religion, and the rural-urban spectrum presents itself as a major impediment to growth in Pakistan. This IOP largely stems from poor governance and exclusive institutions that have over time perpetuated the culture of elite capture. It is an endemic situation that mars society by curtailing social mobility, thereby killing all incentive for development.

IOP across gender keeps women at the sidelines, excluding them from work and education prospects. Statistics from the World Bank show that of the 22 million out-of-school children in Pakistan, 12m are girls. Of those going to school, learning outcomes remain poorer for girls compared to boys due to lack of focus. Access to work opportunities also remains disproportionate for women.

The Labour Force Survey [LFS] 2021 shows that female labour force participation stands at a depressing 21.4pc; of this, around 94pc women are employed in the informal sector. Owing to cultural norms, female workforce participation goes down as household unpaid care responsibilities mount. Using the Pakistan Social And Living Standards Measurement Survey 2014-15, we can see that

on average, the number of weekly hours worked by women goes down by approximately 4.5 hours once they become mothers. This translates into widening pay gaps over the years, simultaneously isolating women from leadership positions.

IOP is also blatant across provinces; statistics from ASER 2021 show that learning outcomes remain poorest for Sindh, closely followed by Balochistan. This finding is mirrored in LFS 2021 which shows that 56pc people in Balochistan, and 46pc people in Sindh cannot read a simple sentence in any language with understanding. According to Unicef, 52pc of the poorest children in Sindh (58pc girls) are out of school; meanwhile in Balochistan, 78pc girls are out of school. Within provinces, an urban premium exists that favours those living in urban areas.

The recent cable car incident at Battagram highlights the hypocrisy of living in a country where on the one hand, inadequate infrastructure in poorer districts puts lives of school-going children at great risk; in contrast, you have cities like Lahore where multi-projected have been aimed at reducing commute time to the motorway. This bifurcation has increased the incidence of rural-urban migration, thereby resulting in a concentration of population in major cities. Using LFS 2021, we can see that around 58pc of all migrants have moved to Punjab in search of better health, education, and employment opportunities.

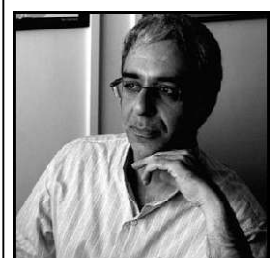
Favouring certain groups based on circumstances that are beyond one's control is an impediment to growth. It disincentivises individuals from investing in entrepreneurship and human capital formation. In a country where around 31pc of uni-

versity graduates are unemployed, lack of opportunities becomes a major cause of brain drain.

The goal should be to 'enable' marginalised groups, rather than to aid them unsustainably. This includes policies such as incentivising work-from-home models by providing tax breaks to busi-nesses that facilitate it. This will make empl-oy-ment opportunities accessible to women and to persons living in indigenous regions. Remote learning opportunities also need to be created so that equitable education levels can be ensured for all. The biggest challenge in this regard will be to over-come the great digital divide which can be achieved through public-private partnership. Over-cro-ming the digital divide is also crucial to allow us to fully reap the benefits of artificial intel-lige-n-cc, such as for education and health endeavours.

Additionally, financial inclusion needs to be ensured by creating incentives for women to open bank accounts and by making credit facilities readily available for marginalised groups. For this, it is vital to formalise the undocumented sector; however, it should not be done under the purview of raising taxes, but rather to support entrepreneurship by facilitating, counselling, and encouraging new business ventures. Instead of directing tax breaks and subsidies towards the same old cronies, subsidies should be given as a reward for innovation to new and emerging businesses. In conjunction, an impartial mechanism for registration of trademarks and copyrights should be ensured. Lastly, social programmes need to be expanded to ensure decent basic standards of living. In short, inclusivity is key to achieving SDGs by 2030. -- Courtesy Dawn

Unfriendly fats



Zarrar Khuhro

I'm one of those people who scoff at health trends, especially when a new dietary villain is found every other day. That's because I remember when butter was bad for you and the magic bullet solution was touted to be margarine. Then they flipped on that without so much as an 'oops' and then we were told that margarine was the devil's spread and to be avoided. Then it was eggs that humans have eaten for millennia but which were now the devil's droppings and a surefire way to give yourself a heart attack. From full-fat milk to desi ghee, everything that received the alarmist treatment ended up being endorsed as actually good for you, considering the alternatives.

So, when my wife, who devours such news with the same gusto as I devour nihari, sent me an article about the dangers of trans-fatty acids (or trans-fats as they're usually called) my first instinct was to dismiss this as yet more of that 'West-centric wellness eat clean live love pray hippy-dippy' grift that's so virally popular these days.

But, to my infinite regret and a few dozen 'see I told you so's', it turns out that not only are trans-fats as dangerous as they're made out to be, they are also very much a desi problem, and not an upper-class elite desi problem but one that affects the masses more than it does others.

Trans-fats are found in just about everything we like to eat, from deep-fried

street food like samosas to breakfast cereals, bakery goods, cookies, chocolates and processed foods. The main culprit seems to be partially hydrogenated oils like Vanaspati ghee and other refined oils, along with margarine and bakery shortenings, all used in food preparation in Pakistan. In fact, in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region, Pakistan accounts for the second highest consumption of trans-fats, amounting to six per cent of our daily energy intake, while the recommended 'safe' level is meant to be less than 1pc.

The consequences are deadly and can be seen all around us. Pakistan has one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, with an estimated 27pc of adults suffering from this disease. Then there's heart disease, which is already a top killer in Pakistan, along with obesity and a variety of cancers—all of which are also on the rise across the country, with many going undiagnosed until it's too late.

There's more: take a look at the wall-chalkings in any town or city in Pakistan and you'll see advertisements of treatments for increasing male potency (or 'strength' as the Urdu euphemism puts it) plastered everywhere. It's no surprise then that excessive consumption of saturated fat is also linked to erectile dysfunction and trans-fats in particular are closely linked to male infertility. If that doesn't get your attention, I don't know what will.

The cost isn't just to our health—every incidence of disease means yet more financial burden on those afflicted—this is especially worrisome considering how overburdened our healthcare system is and how stretched household finances are. The medicines required to treat these illnesses are increasing in price and many are already beyond the reach of most people.

Take diabetes alone: if we continue as we are, the number of diabetics in Pakistan will likely reach 62 million by 2045. That would mean a staggering burden on those suffering; note that the International Diabetes Federation estimated that in 2021, the cost of treating diabetes in Pakistan was \$2,640m.

So, what can be done? One approach is of course to spread awareness in the hope of inducing behavioural change, but this can't be the main thrust as most people will continue the way they always have, and consume what they are already consuming, simply out of a lack of access to alternatives.

That leaves legislation and enforcement, and some progress has been made on this front: in 2020 the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority imposed a limit of 5pc on trans-fatty acids in Vanaspati ghee, and then three years later set a limit of 2pc in Vanaspati ghee, margarine, bakery wares, biscuits and rusks etc. However, as always, enforcement is an issue and the industry has also successfully approached the courts to buy time. Moreover, this only covers the organised sector and cannot thus include the vast majority of the sources of trans-fats, such as street food and so on.

I realise that flagging a concern like this at a time of severe and deepening national crisis may seem a bit odd, but this is a literal time bomb that the whole nation is sitting on and, with so many issues, it is a crisis that disproportionately affects those in a lower socioeconomic stratum. The well-to-do not only have access to more information, but also have the fiscal ability to use alternatives. The poor, as usual, are on their own. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor directs GIT to furnish detail report regarding varsities

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has directed the Chairman, Governor Inspection Team (GIT) for furnishing a detailed report regarding the academic programme, financial resources, staff, and number of students in the public sector universities and to present it to him.

During the meeting, they also discussed matters relating to surplus staff and less number of students in the universities.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that offices are sacred trust of the county and nation, saying performing duties with honesty should be the mission of all of us.

He said that the prevailing financial problems of the universities are a matter of concern and that the situation of the public universities is hurting him.



ABBOTTABAD: People standing near an accidental vehicle, on sherman road as several people sustained serious injuries during the accident due to the over speeding.

Advisor stresses for best project design, durability within limited resources

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Irrigation, Planning, Development, Communication and Works, Dr Syed Sarfaraz Ali while referring to the engineers and technical staff on Monday said the best design and durability of a project within less possible funds should be the prime objective during executing of a project of people welfare.

He said the newly inducted engineers would be provided the necessary training to make their work praiseworthy.

Talking to newly inducted SDOs at a five-day training workshop at the Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PAR), he said the engineers who have been imparted training should work as the servants of the people.

He said engineers for the posts were selected through merit as all the newly inducted SDOs have passed their competitive examinations. The capacity of the Irrigation Department would be further boosted with the induction of these successful engineers.

The engineers at the five-day training workshop were imparted training on technical sanctions, procurement, general financial rules, provincial rules of business, office management, official letter writing, central public account rules, vision of the Irrigation Department and project management.

IG Islamabad neither appeared in LHC nor filed reply despite court's orders

LAHORE (Online): IG police Islamabad neither appeared in Lahore High Court (LHC) nor filed reply despite court's orders in contempt of court case against not safely escorting former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi back to his residence.

The contempt of court petition filed by Qaisara Elahi wife of Pervaiz Elahi came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Chaudhry Waqas Rauf.

DIG Investigation and DIG Operation Lahore appeared in the court.

The police officers filed replies to the contempt of court show cause notices in the court.

IG Islamabad did not appear in the court despite being summoned.

The court remarked it did not deem proper to us that we should summon IG Islamabad through some other way.

The court remarked you should check how IG Islamabad would come.

IG Punjab filed report after getting the matter investigated under court's orders.

The state counsel told the court SP Imran Aslam investigated the matter. As per report police arrested Pervaiz Elahi as per law. The officers had upheld LHC order fully.

The state counsel requested the court to give time to see the report and replies filed by the two officers.

LHC adjourned the hearing of the case till September 18.

Qaisara Elahi has taken the plea in her petition that LHC accepted bail of Pervaiz Elahi in all cases. Pervaiz Elahi was got released after recovering him from NAB custody.

The court summoned DIG operation and DIG Investigation and gave them written order. The court ordered these police officers to safely escort Pervaiz Elahi back to his residence.

It was further said in the petition that Pervaiz Elahi was lifted in the presence of both of the police officers.



KARACHI: A large number of workers, heirs of the martyrs, political and social workers and civil society activists gather during condolence ceremony in connection of the 11th anniversary of Baldia factory fire tragedy arranged by National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) held in Karachi.



MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the 25th session of Punjab cabinet South Punjab Secretariat Multan.

Caretaker Punjab cabinet decides free journeying for students, senior citizens

Independent Report
MULTAN: Caretaker Punjab cabinet in its first-ever meeting in the history of the city on Monday extended a big relief to freeing metro and orange line train services for students, senior citizens and differently-abled people.

The notification of the decision was also issued soon after the meeting.

Chaired by Punjab caretaker Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, the meeting among others was attended by ministers, advisors, chief secretary, IGP, ACS South Punjab and secretaries.

The cabinet also approved Rs 32,000 as minimum wages for labourers and sanctioned recommendations of a committee on admission policy to public medical and dental colleges 2023-24.

It gave the go-ahead to constitute a cabinet committee to devise a policy to tackle smog.

The CM ordered to initiate of effective steps to implement the policy on smog.

The cabinet decided to set up an endowment fund with Rs one billion for journalists and their families.

For the School Adoption Programme, it decided to extend the school landscape in the province besides extension in contractual employees of Violence Against Women Centres (VAWC) in Multan.

The appointment of the Chairman and members for the LDA commission was also approved in addition to handing over Haji Abdul Qayyum teaching hospital Sahiwal control from SHC&ME to the P&SHC department.

It also approved names for presidential and Qaid-i-Azam Police medals.

The cabinet in its 25th meeting decided to establish Mental Health Authority under the Punjab Mental Health Amended Act 2014. Earlier, the CM was briefed about the development and road network projects of South Punjab while he directed the department concerned to accomplish these at the earliest.



KARACHI: Caretaker CM Sindh Maqbool Baqar talking to media persons after laying floral wreath at the mausoleum of the founder of Nation Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to mark his death anniversary as The 75th death anniversary of Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed throughout the country with reverence and solemnity.

CM for quality treatment to poor kid with heart outside chest

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Muzaaffargarh DHQ Hospital witnessed the birth of a child having a heart outside of the chest and Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi ordered quality treatment for the infant.

The infant, whose heart astonishingly protruded from its tiny chest naturally, left the medical staff utterly bewildered. Muhammad Qasim, the father of the kid, found himself in a deeply distressing situation, lacking the resources required to ensure the critical medical care needed for his newborn. In a desperate bid to save his beloved child, Muhammad Qasim was urgently referred to a hospital in Multan, seeking emergency medical attention.

KPCM condemns blast on FC vehicle

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam on Monday strongly condemned the explosion near the vehicle of the FC force on Warsak Road and termed it a cowardly attack by anti-state elements. In his message, the Chief Minister expressed his best wishes for the recovery of the blast victims and directed the hospital.

NATCO bus plunges into ravine in Kohistan kills one, injures 43

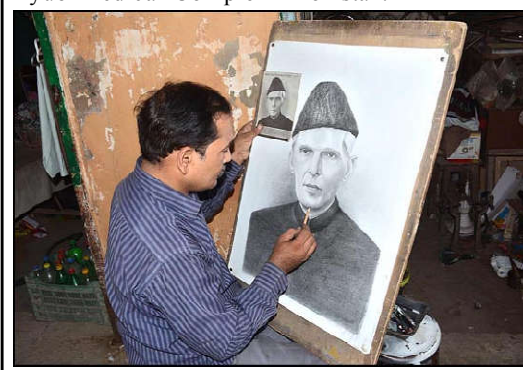
KOHISTAN (APP): At least one passenger died and 43 others were injured when a tragic bus accident occurred at Shorghah Lower Kohistan as a Northern Areas Transport Company (NATCO) bus fell into a deep gorge due to certain reasons.

Rescue 1122 Lower Kohistan and local law enforcement agencies swiftly provided medical assistance to all injured individuals at the accident site. Subsequently, they were transferred to the Basham Hospital for further treatment and later most of the injured passengers were shifted to Ayub Medical Complex (AMC) Abbottabad.

The ill-fated bus was en route from Gilgit to Islamabad when the accident occurred. Authorities are working diligently to manage the situation and provide necessary support to the victims and their families.

Due to the substantial number of injured, Rescue 1122 requested additional ambulance services in Lower Kohistan to ensure prompt medical attention for all those affected.

Initial reports indicate that the accident has resulted in injuries to approximately 40 to 43 individuals in Lower Kohistan.



FAISALABAD: A painter giving final touch to portrait of Qaid-e-Azam in connection with death anniversary of Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

PDMA relief activities underway in flood-hit areas

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Imran Qureshi said on Monday that relief measures were going on in the flood affected areas of the province.

In a statement, he said more than 595 villages were affected by the flood in Sutlej River, out of which routine life was completely restored in 145 villages.

He informed that more than 1,000 rescue personnel participated in round-the-clock relief operations, adding that people were transferred to safer places by 236 boats in the affected districts.

The DG elaborated that 106 medical camps were set up to provide medical facilities to the affected. Around 16 ambulances were alerted in the affected areas for emergency response, he added and said that more than 55,000 patients were provided treatment facilities in the medical camps. Apart from medical, 179 relief camps were also established in the affected districts, he maintained.

A total of 300,000 people were evacuated to safe places on an emergency basis while cooked food was provided to more than 150,000 people in the flood-affected districts in Sutlej River. More than 300,000 cattle were moved to safe places and around 90,000 cattle were given medical facilities in the flood-hit areas. The DG said that relief activities would continue until the issue of flood was resolved completely.

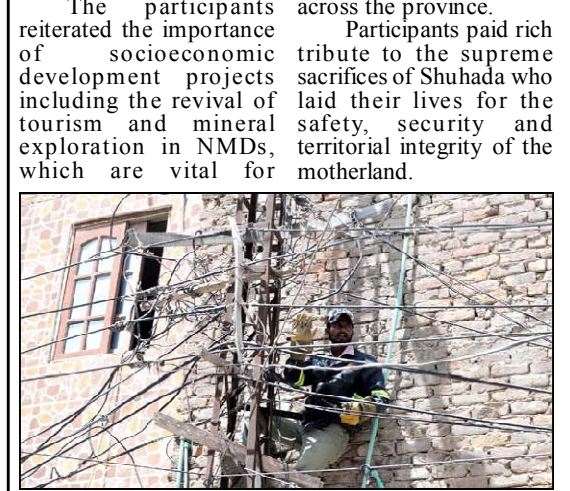
Caretaker CM KP visits Corps HQ Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan along with members of the provincial cabinet visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Monday. The dignitaries were briefed about overall security situation, ongoing development projects in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and capacity building of police. Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat and other senior civil and military officials attended the meeting.

The participants reiterated the importance of socioeconomic development projects including the revival of tourism and mineral exploration in NMDs, which are vital for sustainable peace and growth in the area.

The meeting also reviewed the mechanisms of border management including measures to curtail and curb the smuggling of goods and put forward a comprehensive approach to address the issues. Participants underscored the importance of the capacity building of KP Police including Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and expressed satisfaction on the recent achievements of police in thwarting terrorist attacks across the province.

Participants paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada who laid their lives for the safety, security and territorial integrity of the motherland.



HYDERABAD: HESCO workers busy in disconnection of illegal connections in Latifabad.

CM Baqar says: Govt promotes tech improvements, upgradation to improve agriculture sector

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has said that his priority is centered on promoting continuous technological improvements and upgradation to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture sector, including the sugar industry.

He said that the Government of Pakistan recently established a high-powered 'Special Investment Facilitation Council' to attract investments from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the

fields of Defence, Agriculture, Minerals, IT, and Energy.

The caretaker CM said that as a member of SIFC's Apex Committee, he was determined to focus on channeling investments to boost the productivity and competitiveness of Sindh's agriculture sector, including the sugar industry. He is also a firm believer in fostering cross-sectoral collaborations for improving the lives of our population which has been struggling with soaring inflation in a stagnant economy.

This he said while speaking at the Inauguration Session of the 55th Annual Convention of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists organized at a local hotel. The CM was welcomed by Mr. Zahid Mahmood Qureshi President of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists (PSST) Mr. Zahid Qureshi, sugar industry and professional experts.

He said that the PSST was founded for the overarching purpose of sharing and disseminating knowledge among sugar technologists. He appreciated the Society for conducting workshops.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and workers of HDA Labor Union (CBA) hold a sit in protest after suspend water supply from the filter plants at Jamshoro road filter plant against non-payment of their salaries and pensions as water supply is suspended in Qasimabad and Latifabad area of the City.

Minor girl drowns in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl drowned in Gugera Branch Canal in the area of Jaranwala Sadar police station.

Rescue-1122 spokesman said here on Monday that three-year-old Sonia Yousuf fell into the Gugera Branch Canal near Punj Pulla on Nankana Road and drowned.

Receiving information, divers of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and fished out the corpse from the canal which was later handed over to her relatives for burial after completing necessary formalities, he added.

ANF recovers 70 kg drugs; nets 11 accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 70 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that over 600 grams ice drug concealed in two water coolers was recovered from a parcel reached at a private cargo office in Jhelum. The parcel was sent from Peshawar.

2.2 kg hashish was recovered from a local resident netted from Haq Bahu Hotel in Bhakkar.

The spokesman further informed that over 2.5 kg ice drug was recovered from a passenger's trolley bag at Sialkot Airport.

The accused, a resident of Jhelum, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-769.

Three suspects were rounded up from a passenger bus near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and drugs were recovered from their possession.

Several Karachi SHOs blacklisted

KARACHI (INP): In the wake of significant changes within the Sindh Police, the authorities decided to blacklist over 65 Station House officers (SHOs) from different police stations across Karachi.

According to the details, lists have been prepared at the Karachi Police Headquarters where the performance of all officers and personnel in each district has been reviewed.

After the review of the performance report, the higher authorities decided to blacklist over 65 police station chiefs across all three zones in Karachi.

Provision of interest free loan to judges: LHC directs petitioner to file petition again with attested documents

LAHORE (Online): Petitioner filed against approval of interest free loan of Rs 360 million for 11 judges of high court came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday.

The court directed the petitioner to file the petition again after removing the objections.

Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza heard the petition filed by Mashkoor Hussain.

Chief secretary, secretary finance and others have been made respondents.

Nadeem Sarwar counsel for petitioner took the plea providing interest free loan to judges is illegal. Judges are already enjoying too much facilities and privileges. The caretaker government cannot utilize tax money of people mercilessly.

The counsel requested the court to nullify the loans approved by caretaker government for judges. The court should declare the step for providing interest free loan to judges illegal. Provision of interest free loan to judges be suspended till the final decision of this petition.

Minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan: Caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that all minorities enjoyed equal rights in Pakistan and assured them of complete protection of their rights and security.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Christian community that called on him. Caretaker Minister for Human Rights Khalil George and other relevant authorities were also present during the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Kakar said that those responsible for the Jaranwala incident would be made an example so that such incidents would not occur in future.

He also asked the minorities to give proposals for the resolution of their issues and problems to the government so that the same could be solved.

The caretaker prime minister said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal social, religious and political rights to all citizens without any racial, caste, creed and ethnic discrimination, adding with due respect to each others' faith, a peaceful and prosperous society could be formed.

He also called upon all the segments of society to play their role in the elimination of extremism.

The delegation welcomed the appointment of Khalil George as Caretaker Minister for Human Rights.

They also thanked the prime minister for visiting and taking immediate measures in the wake of Jaranwala incident.

The delegation included Ijaz Augustin, a former provincial minister, Asia Ansar, a former Member of the National Assembly, bishops and pastors.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with a delegation of Christian Community during meeting held in Islamabad.

Jamal inaugurates exhibition "Portraits of Quaid" at PNCA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Monday inaugurated a solo exhibition of paintings titled "Portraits of Quaid" to commemorate the 75th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The exhibition was organized by Ali Azmat, a renowned artist in collaboration with ForArtSake curated by Amna I Pataudi and Dr. Rahat Naveed Masood here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Jamal Shah paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his vision, untiring hard work, and charismatic leadership to win a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

The minister said that Ali Azmat has thematically tried to capture what Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah envisioned for Pakistan.

Jamal Shah said "Ali Azmat adds color, aesthetics, and takes up the responsibility to bring clarity and awareness to the larger political landscape of the country. He has accomplished this feat remarkably well in his works. As you walk from one painting to another, you can see how brilliantly Azmat Ali captures the changing expressions of the Quaid's visage".

He said that the exhibition is a fantastic amalgamation of hyperrealistic paintings and drawings of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The minister said, today, there was a need for the nation to emulate the Father of Pakistan's everlasting principles of faith, unity, and discipline to face the current challenges.

Jamal Shah said that the National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached departments would organize more cultural activities including theatre, music, film festivals, and China Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Caravan.

He praised curator Amna I Pataudi, artist Ali Azmat, and ForArtSake and said "The art can transform you like nothing else".

Amna I Pataudi said that for the first time, an artist has become the Federal Minister for Culture and added that Jamal Shah being an artist can better understand the issues of the artist's community.

She said the repertoire of expressions is as rich as the colorful strokes of the artist. His works reflect his love for nature, history, and spirituality, as well as his social commentary on contemporary issues. He uses various mediums and techniques, such as oil, watercolor, acrylic, collage, and mixed media, to create his unique style.

The exhibition will remain open for the public till 18th September at the National Art Gallery, PNCA.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in the portraits of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during exhibition at Pakistan National Council of Arts to mark the 75th death anniversary of Founder of the Nation with reverence and solemnity.

Posters appear in IIOJK urging G20 heads to ask Modi to stop Kashmiris' massacre

ISLAMABAD (APP): Posters have appeared in Srinagar, urging the G20 heads to ask Modi to stop the slow-motion massacre of people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and resolve the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations (UN) resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), the posters, displayed by pro-freedom organizations, including Resistance Youth Forum J&K, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Jammu Kashmir Youth Forum J&K, Jammu Kashmir Justice and Peace Initiative and Nawjawan-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, urged the World Body to take notice of the violation of Kashmiris' right to self-determination recognized by the UN Security Council through its resolution passed on January 5, 1949.



ISLAMABAD: Students are taking lessons at open sir "Pehli Kiran School" at Golra area, which is back by NGO, to fulfill the Needs of Underprivileged Children in Pakistan For A Promising Future.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Ahmed Irfan Aslam, Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

G20 heads urged to put pressure on India to resolve Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pro-freedom organizations through the posters pasted in Srinagar and other areas of the Kashmir Valley have appealed to the G20 countries to put pressure on the Modi-led Indian government to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters, displayed by pro-freedom organizations, including Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Resistance Youth Forum J&K, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Movement and Jammu Kashmir Youth Movement, urged the World Body to implement its Kashmir-related resolutions and settle the dispute forever.

The posters read, "Play role in release of all Kashmiri political detainees." "India is using this international forum to legalize its brutal repression in Indian occupied Kashmir and paddle falsehoods of normalcy", "Jammu and Kashmir is under Indian military and police siege since August 2019".

The posters ask G20, "Do you know India is the worst violator of freedoms of expression and opinion and do you believe in human rights and peace, if so, why you, G20 countries, are guests of the worst violator, India".

The posters called upon the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian troops in the occupied territory.

The posters appealed to G20 members that they should realize that India's ulterior motives behind holding the groupings meeting in IIOJK is nothing but to hide its anti-Kashmir agenda and demand of the UN resolutions by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Interim President Alvi can't announce election date: Attaullah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Attaullah Tarar has said that Interim President Arif Alvi cannot announce the election date as his tenure had expired on September 9.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, he said that the Article 58 had become ineffective after September 9. "Under the Election Act, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) can announce the election date," he said.

He said that the president wants to destabilize Pakistan.

In a statement, PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said that President Arif Alvi should give the date to vacate the presidency after the completion of his term.

She said that the puppet of those brought destruction to the country is hell-bent on bringing another constitutional crisis in the country.

"Enemies of people's development and livelihood are responsible for today's situation. Conspirators attack the country and people as soon as they get the opportunity. This is another nefarious attempt to create chaos, conflict and dirt in the country."

Imran files contempt of court plea against Superintendent Jail Attock

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Imran Khan has filed contempt of court petition against Superintendent Jail Attock.

It has been said in the petition filed by Imran Khan telephonic conversation between chairman PTI and his children was not arranged despite court's orders. The contempt of court plea against Superintendent jail Attock has been filed through advocate Shiraz Ranjha.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing a seminar regarding Climate Resilient Health Systems.

Director PTA urges parents to play active role in safeguarding children online

ISLAMABAD (INP): Director of the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA), Muhammad Farooq has said that in a world increasingly shaped by the digital realm, parents have a key role in educating children about the potential risks of the internet usage and guiding them on safe online practices.

In an article titled "Safe Spaces for Children in the Digital Age: The Vital Role of Parents," he expressed deep concerns about the risks children face online, such as child exploitation.

Muhammad Farooq said that parents should play a pivotal role in their children's lives, encompassing their physical, psychological, social, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional wellbeing. He emphasized that prioritizing quality time spent with children, both offline and online, had become more crucial than ever.

He said that parents should recognize that the internet could never replace their role and that its risks often outweighed its benefits, potentially causing harm in the real world. He also highlighted the disturbing increase in children falling victim to online dangers and engaging in unlawful activities.

He stressed the urgent need to educate parents about these issues and provide comprehensive guidance on addressing this problem. Encouraging open communication and fostering a friendly atmosphere at home was crucial, he said adding this environment enabled children to freely discuss negative internet experiences, allowing parents to educate them on handling such issues wisely and promptly. The Director PTA said that to strike the right balance, parents can utilize tools like parental control software/applications. These tools provide an appropriate level of control over their child's online activities while allowing them to harness the internet for educational and recreational purposes.

Torkham border closure prolongs as authorities fail to sort out clash

KHYBER (INP): Torkham border could not be opened for the general public and business activities on the sixth consecutive day on Sunday as Pakistani and Afghan border security officials could not sort out the solution.

Sources said both sides met after an exchange of fire on Wednesday last which led to closure of the border.

Khyber Rifles Commandant Asim Kiyani, Lt Col Ahmad Mujtaba of Chitral Scouts, Lt Col Zainul Abideen and Maj Shahabuddin led Pakistan and Hafiz Asmatullah Yaqoobi from Gumrak (Customs), Qari Meraj of the border security forces, and Mulavi Takal represented Afghanistan in the meeting.

Both sides discussed the border security situation and the Afghan officials alleged that Pakistani border forces started firing on Sept 6 while the establishment of new security post and old one was underway. The Afghan side dispelled the charges that they had started the firing.

Following agreements signed by both sides, the Afghanistan was bound to update Pakistan regarding establishment of new structure within a range of one hundred metres of the border.

IUI president calls on Education Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IUI) H.E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, Monday, called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi and congratulated him on his appointment.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interests including initiatives for promotion of quality education and role of universities in discouraging extremism were discussed. The meeting was also attended by Vice President Administration and Finance Dr. N.B. Jumani.

Honorable Minister, while appreciating the role of IUI in society building and services, assured of maximum support to IUI. He opined that universities can play vital role in curbing the extremism. He desired that the IUI being the best platform should hold a conference on the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The IUI President said that university will be soon scheduling this conference in cooperation with the ministry. He also appreciated that the university will hold another conference on Shariah that will be attended by Imam e Kaaba. He added that another conference of the league of Islamic universities to be organized by IUI is in the pipeline that will be attended Muslim World League chief.



ISLAMABAD: President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi meeting with Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi.

FPCCI says: Pak deeply values relations with Korea

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of the capital office & Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President of FPCCI visited the Embassy of the Republic of South Korea in Islamabad and met the H.E Park Ki jun to present him with a flower bouquet on assuming the Charge as Ambassador in Pakistan on the digital system, and the introduction of Korean high-tech inventions into the trading system were discussed for further development of trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. New ways of cooperation to increase the volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan & Republic of Korea were



behalf of the President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. During the meeting, they underscored the need for further expanding and promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries for mutual benefit. During the meeting, the issues of e-commerce, the transition to

Pakistan ripe for investment: Ambassador Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has termed Pakistan as ripe for investment as the country is inviting investments from the United States and the Gulf region.

He made these remarks while addressing Pakistan America Business Forum Annual Award Banquet 2023 in Dallas area of Texas State in the United States.

He said China is already making investment through CPEC projects and the Pakistan has invited Gulf region to participate in extractive industries and they are partnering with many European and North American firms. He said this is creating a huge opportunity for more investment in Pakistan. Since the infrastructure is there, so step into that market.

The Ambassador thanked Chairman PABF Waqar Khan, President Anwar Azam and other PABF members for providing him with the opportunity to highlight business potential of the country.

He also acknowledged Texas State Repre Salman Bhojani, Mayor Richardson Mayor Bob Dooley, Mr. Shamsul Arifeen, Abdul Khair and others for their presence in the event.

Meanwhile, addressing leading businessmen and entrepreneurs, Masood Khan said with the presence of 80 US enterprises, there are already exists a vast infrastructure in Pakistan for investment. He said there are ample opportunities available in Pakistan. To streamline business activities and investment, the Ambassador suggested establishment of a forum, either in Dallas, Houston or any other part of the United State, to address specific issues related to regulatory regime in Pakistan, ease of doing business in the country, repatriation of profits and other issues that are confronted by the business community and potential investors.

The Ambassador highlighted mining sector, agriculture, education, health, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, biotechnology which were opening up to the world and offering huge dividends to investors and business community.

Highlighting decades long partnership between Pakistan and the United States, the Ambassador observed that Pakistan chose the United States over others as its friend.

He observed that as Pakistani-American continue to come to the United States, they enrich the landscape of Pakistan and they



continue to build bridges between Pakistan and the United States," He said that Pakistan is a country of a great potential and we would be amongst the top ten economies and the strongest countries in the world. He told the audience to dismiss all negative chatter about the country and invited them to personally visit the country and witness its potential.