

## Pakistan's Care-taker Prime Minister & Cabinet take office

August 18, 2023

*Note: Please see pages 3-5 for Editorial Comments, including an Assessment of Imran Khan as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.*

August 17-18, 2023: Islamabad, **Pakistan**: The caretaker **Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's cabinet** of 16 Federal Ministers was sworn in by **President Arif Alvi**. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by **Punjab** caretaker **Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi** and others. To all the Federal Ministers, portfolios were allocated on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Earlier, on August 14, 2023, **Anwaarul Haq Kakar**, was sworn in as the **8<sup>th</sup> Care-taker Prime Minister of Pakistan** by **President Arif Alvi** in a ceremony held at the **Aiwan-i-Sadr** (President's House) in Islamabad. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by the outgoing Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) **Asim Munir**, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief **Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum** and others.

Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar was welcomed at the Prime Minister's House by Mr. Shehbaz Sharif. He was presented with a guard of honour. Later the outgoing PM was also presented with a guard of honour before leaving the PM House.

In separate addresses to the nation by the outgoing PM Shehbaz Sharif, before he submitted his resignation to the President and after the National Assembly was dissolved and by the care-taker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar, after he had been sworn in, an assurance of continuity of policies was given. In addition, Mr. Shehbaz said that his government was able to bring Pakistan out of a difficult financial situation by finalizing an agreement with IMF and with the help of friendly countries, who supported Pakistan financially. He blamed Imran Khan for the economic crisis Pakistan was facing when he came to power. He asked the people to vote judiciously at the forthcoming elections.

ABOUT Mr. Anwaarul Haq Kakar: In 2018, Mr Kakar became a senator as an independent candidate. Soon thereafter, he founded the **Balochistan Awami Party (BAP)**.

Born to a middle-class **Pashtun family** on May 15, 1971 in Qila Saifullah, a district of Balochistan, bordering Afghanistan, he was awarded a **Masters degree in Sociology and Political Science** by the **University of Balochistan**.

**August 18, 2023:** In his address to newly sworn in caretaker federal cabinet, the care-taker PM Kakar said that the Pakistani state and society do not align and identify with the elements involved in attacks on the minority community. (He was referring to the attacks on the Christian community in Faisalabad's Jaranwala.)



*August 15, 2023: PM Kakar chairs a meeting on the state of economy and the next steps required to be taken*

Senator **Sarfraz Bugti** confirmed on X that he was assigned the portfolio of the **Interior Ministry**. **Shamshad Akhtar**, former Central Bank chief, was appointed as the Minister of Finance. **Jalil Abbas Jilani**, Pakistan's ex-ambassador to the United States, was named the Foreign Minister. **Dr. Umar Saif**, UNESCO Chair ICTD<sup>1</sup>; MIT TR35<sup>2</sup>; YGL<sup>3</sup>; Sitara-i-Imtiaz<sup>4</sup>; Former PITB, ITU<sup>5</sup>, was appointed as the Federal Minister of Information Technology & Telecom, and Science & Technology. **Murtaza Solangi**, a senior journalist, has been appointed as the Minister of Information



August 18, 2023: Islamabad: Terrorist **Yasin Malik's** wife **Mushaal Hussein Mullick** is appointed as a Special Advisor (equivalent to Minister of State) on **Human Rights and Women Empowerment** to the Care-taker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq-Kakar.

Yasin Malik is in an Indian jail after he was **sentenced to life imprisonment** on May 25, 2022 for a terror funding case. He has admitted, on TV, of killing some Indian Air Force Officers. But due to time delay in filing the case, the case has not moved forward.

Separately, in the evening of Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Justice (ret'd) **Maqbool Baqar** took the

oath as the **caretaker Chief Minister** (CM) of **Sindh**. The swearing-in ceremony was presided by Governor **Kamran Tessori**. The outgoing Chief Minister of Sindh **Murad Ali Shah** and opposition leader in the now-dissolved provincial assembly **Rana Ansar** jointly agreed on the name of the former Supreme Court judge **Maqbool Baqar** for becoming the care-taker CM.

----BACKGROUND: What is a Care-taker Prime Minister? ----

What is a CARE-TAKER PRIME MINISTER?: In Pakistan, General Elections are conducted under a care-taker government. A care-taker Prime Minister's name is finalized by a committee of the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Parliament. If the committee fails to finalize a name in three days, it would have been left to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to decide a name for the Care-taker's position.

On Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif and Mr. Raja Riaz jointly selected Senator Anwaarul Haq Kakar as the Care-taker PM, who will conduct the forthcoming General Election. On taking charge as the care-taker PM, Mr. Kakar has resigned both from the Senate and from BAP, so that he would be neutral while conducting the elections.

PROCESS of SELECTION of the CARE-TAKER PM: For a number of days, Mr. Sharif and Mr. Riaz could not agree on a common name for many days.

----EDITORIAL COMMENTS----

*including an Assessment of Imran Khan as the Prime Minister of Pakistan*  
[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) learns from the media that the all-powerful **Army suggested Mr. Kakar's name and both Mr. Sharif and Mr. Riaz meekly agreed**. A democracy can work only if the ruling party and the opposition can work together on issues of national interest. A no-holds total war and a total lack of respect for each other brings the security establishment in every important decision. It is this attitude of the political parties, towards each other, that has not permitted the democratic system to acquire roots in Pakistan. It has led to the democratic system remaining only a façade, for the Army to pull the strings from behind curtains. Army's role cannot be reduced by the childish maneuvers of Imran Khan, considered by many to be the most popular leader of Pakistan today. In his understandable

*desire to become the PM of Pakistan, even though his party was third, after PML(N) and PPP, he allowed the Army to help him get many seats, which his party PTI might not otherwise have got. When all these efforts did not bring a majority in the Pakistan's National Assembly, he allowed the Army to help him get the support of some of the smaller parties and independent members of the National Assembly to cobble together a majority. As the Prime Minister, he pursued populist measures to become popular.*

*The assessment of [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) is that Imran Khan started thinking of his competence and his popularity so highly that he lost all sense of reality. In this frame of mind, he created unnecessary issues with other countries, which brought no advantage to Pakistan. Then he tried to create divisions among the top leaders of the Army so that the Prime Minister's office becomes the real decision-maker, as it should be. He failed in this enterprise of his, as he had failed in his international games. Both his efforts have left Pakistan in a worse state than it was before he became the Prime Minister on August 18, 2018.*

*The system of a care-taker PM for conduct of elections, so that the elections can be conducted fairly, is required only because the institutions like the Election Commission have not become strong and because the major political parties have shown no respect for one another. [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) hopes that the system will not be required in due course of time and the constitution would then be amended to get rid of it. But as long as the system exists, [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) calls on the political parties to desist from involving the Army in the process of selection of the Care-taker PM, as has been unfortunately done for the selection of Mr. Kakar as the care-taker PM.*

*The APPOINTMENT of a TERRORIST'S WIFE as a MINISTER of STATE in the Care-Taker CABINET: The appointment of Yasin Malik's wife indicates that the Army of Pakistan has decided to promote terrorism in J&K and other parts of India more intensively. It also indicates that the statements of the previous Army Chief, during the last few months of his tenure, about the desirability of promoting trade between India and Pakistan have no validity now.*

India and the world should be ready to have a period of more State-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan and more tensions between India and Pakistan. [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) and the world can only hope that innocent people's blood will not be spilled, as happens during every act of terrorism and that this intensified terrorism would not lead to a war.

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<sup>1</sup>UNESCO **ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT-CFT)** is a tool that is intended to inform educational policy makers, teacher-educators, providers of professional learning and working teachers on the role of ICT in educational reform. It is also designed to assist Member States in developing national ICT competency standards for teachers with an ICT in Education Master Plan approach. The framework emphasizes that it is not enough for teachers to have ICT skills and be able to teach them to their students. **Teachers need to be able to help the students become collaborative, problem-solving, creative learners through using ICT** so they will be effective citizens and members of the workforce. (Reference: <https://en.unesco.org/icted/content/unesco-ict-competency-framework-teachers>)

<sup>2</sup>MIT TR35 (Technology Review 35) is an annual award and listicle published by **MIT Technology Review** magazine, naming the world's top 35 innovators under the age of 35. The purpose of the award is to honor "Exceptionally talented young innovators whose work has the greatest potential to transform the world". (Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innovators\\_Under\\_35](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innovators_Under_35))

<sup>3</sup>**Forum of Young Global Leaders**, or Young Global Leaders (YGL), was created by **Klaus Schwab**, founder of the **World Economic Forum**. The YGL, a non-profit organization managed from Geneva, Switzerland, is under the supervision of the Swiss government. It is run by the World Economic Forum. (Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young\\_Global\\_Leaders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Global_Leaders))

<sup>4</sup>**Sitara-i-Imtiaz** is the third-highest honour and civilian award in the State of Pakistan. It recognizes individuals who have made an "especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of Pakistan, world peace, cultural or other significant public endeavours." The four Awards of Pakistan, given for **Imtiaz (Excellence)**, are: **Nishan-e-Imtiaz** (Order of Excellence), **Hilal-e-Imtiaz** (Crescent of Excellence), **Sitara-e-Imtiaz** (Star of Excellence), **Tamgha-e-Imtiaz** (Medal of Excellence)

<sup>5</sup>PITB stands for **Punjab Information Technology Board** which is responsible for the development and implementation of information technology projects and policy in the province of Punjab, Pakistan.

ITU stands for **Information Technology University** which is a university in **Lahore**, Punjab, Pakistan. It was established with the aim of equipping students with the skills needed to solve real-world problems and putting them through a rigorous, cross-disciplinary curriculum rooted in the applied sciences and entrepreneurship