



Qatar promises \$3bn bailout for Pakistan

Amount to be in cash deposit and investment

By Khabeeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday received an assurance from Qatar for a \$3 billion package consisting of a foreign currency deposit and "direct investments", according to the adviser to the prime minister on finance.

The announcement came over the social media site of Hafeez Shaikh, who is the adviser to the Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for announcing US \$3 billion in deposits and direct investments for Pakistan and for Qatar's affirmation to further develop relations between the two countries.

This is the fourth "friendly support" package of the sort for Pakistan and takes the combined bilateral loans during current fiscal year to more than \$12.7bn. Before Pakistan formally enters an IMF programme early next month for \$5bn financing, so far, Saudi Arabia, China and UAE have extended about \$9.7bn in loans and cash deposits to Islamabad since current government came to power in August last year.

Officials at the finance ministry said it was unclear

how much of the Qatari bail-out would include cash deposits and how much of it will be in the form of investment.

A senior official of the finance ministry said the Emir of Qatar concluded his 2-day visit to Islamabad only a day earlier and the concerned authorities were still deliberating in final details that will take some time before they are finalised. Simultaneously, it was also not clear when the Qatari inflows would arrive.

In addition, Saudi Arabia's \$3bn oil facility promised in

Qatari package to boost investment, create jobs, says Finance: Page 3

October last year is now set to begin in July this year at the rate of \$37m per month. Two federal ministers had earlier this month announced that the Asian Development Bank is also ready to provide \$3.4bn to Pakistan for budgetary support but the Manila-based lending agency distanced itself from the announcement the very next day.

Saudi Arabia agreed to a Pakistan request in October last year to provide a \$2bn bailout — \$1bn in safe deposit of the State Bank of Pakistan and \$1bn to oil supplies on credit. The \$1bn cash had been transferred to the SBP account in three equal monthly instalments,

but the oil facility has taken longer to be formally activated.

The United Arab Emirates also promised a similar support for Pakistan — \$3bn in cash deposit and \$3bn oil supplies on deferred payments. The UAE transferred \$2bn in cash deposit, but stopped back from the oil facility and the final tranche of \$1bn cash deposit.

Pakistan's oil imports are estimated at about \$25bn and the government is trying to arrange half of those requirements through credit facilities. The country's oil imports during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year stood at about \$11.5bn, an increase of 4pc over the same period last year.

Besides the support from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the government has arranged about \$551 million worth of oil and LNG (liquefied natural gas) supplies through the Islamic Trade Finance Corporation. Of this, about \$240m worth of letters of credit have recently been opened for import of LNG.

China also extended financial support worth about \$4.6bn to Pakistan during the ongoing fiscal year through commercial loans and safe deposits. China is charging about 5.5pc mark up on commercial loans and about 1pc on deposits while Saudi Arabia and UAE charge about 3.5pc interest.



JEDDAH: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz on Monday — AFP

Trump imposes sanctions against Iran supreme leader

Pompeo meets Saudi leaders to build a 'global coalition' against Tehran

WASHINGTON: The United States imposed sanctions on Monday on Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a string of military chiefs, tightening pressure on the country that President Donald Trump threatened with "obliteration" if it seeks war.

Trump signed the punitive financial measures against Iran in the Oval Office earlier this month. Social Media Pakistan 0345-6788217 retweeted this.

"Never can Iran have a nuclear weapon", Trump said it was now up to Tehran to negotiate. "We do not ask for conflict," he said, adding that depending on Iran's response the sanctions could end tomorrow — or it "can also be years from now".

Expanding on the new measures, the Treasury said the United States will block Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and about "billions" more in Iranian assets, with eight top commanders from Iran's Revolutionary Guards already added to the list.

Tensions are running high after Iran shot down a US spy drone last week and Trump considered, then announced, a retaliatory strike. Amid a flurry of diplomatic activity, the United States, Britain,

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates urged "diplomatic solutions" in the standoff, which is playing out in a region crucial to the global economy's oil supplies.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he would lead a meeting with Trump at the G20 summit in Japan to urge "a constructive solution with the aim of ensuring collective regional security". The Kremlin, which has longstanding links to Iran's government, earlier called Monday's sanctions "illegal".

At home, Trump has taken criticism for sending mixed messages to Iran. However, the US president insists he has a clear strategy that breaks firmly with past US policy

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Talks held with UK to boost defence ties

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Monday held military-to-military talks on geo-strategic environment and discussed ways to intensify defence cooperation.

Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who is currently on a visit to the UK, led the Pakistani delegation at the security talks with the British side headed by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Sir Nick Carter at the Ministry of Defence in London.

"COAS visited UK MoD, CDS UK Gen Sir Nick Carter received COAS. Session of delegation level strategic dialogue held to discuss geo-strategic environment and bilateral military cooperation," military's spokesperson Maj Gen Arif Ghoshie, who is accompanying the army chief on the trip, tweeted.

Gen Bajwa arrived in Britain on June 20 for meetings with senior British civilian and military leaders for talks on security matters. On Sunday, the general watched Pakistan's Cricket World Cup encounter with

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Head office not being shifted: PIA

Amid uncertainty over shifting of the Pakistan International Airlines head office to Islamabad, the national flag carrier comes up with a vague response to allay rising concerns. The PIA explains the airline is not transferring its headquarters, but it has plans to make the new Islamabad International Airport as the airline's hub.

Transfer of pilots, cabin crews, engineers and other staffs from Karachi to Islamabad has been going on since November 2016. Page 14

Imran forms body to ease business registration

Parliamentarians from ex-Fata areas raise federal excise duty issue with PM

By Syed Iftan Haq

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday approved the constitution of a steering committee on Pakistan Regulatory Modernisation Initiative (PRMI) to help devise a regulatory framework for simplifying the process of business registration.

The government said that the high-powered body will support the business community to start new ventures and attract investments by improving the ease of doing business ranking of the country.

Among 190 economies, Pakistan



A DELEGATION comprising MNAs Basir Khan, Mairuddin Ishaq, Sher Akbar and Sibtain Khan calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday — AFP

ranks at 136, according to the World Bank report on ease of doing business.

The steering committee will be jointly headed by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Establishment Shahbaz Arbab and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Raazq Dawood.

The decision was taken at a PRMI meeting, which was chaired by PM Khan. Besides the two advisers, special assistants to the premier Dr Firdous Aslam Arbab and Yasir Raiz Mirza as well as a chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Shabbir Zaidi attended the meeting.

Giving a detailed briefing on the initiative, Advisor Shahbaz Arbab informed the meeting that its basic objective was to ease registration of new ventures, issuance of permits and no-objection certificates.

Under the PRMI, the process of mapping, rationalisation, modernisation

and automation would be initiated, Mr Arbab said.

The prime minister was told that the business body would help reduce corruption and provide opportunity of automation to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

PM Khan said the SME sector had been affected adversely in the past due to the legal requirement of obtaining NOCs from different government departments and lack of automation. "Where conditions of NOCs and registrations from different departments have paved the way of corruption, foreign investment has also been affected," he added.

The meeting was told that the PRMI steering committee would be jointly headed by Mr Arbab and Mr Dawood, while the commerce secretary, FBR chairman, chairman of the Securities

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APPEAL

Mr. Imran Khan
Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan

Mr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh
Advisor to PM on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs

Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood
Advisor for Trade & Commerce

Mr. Omar Ayub Khan
Minister for Power and Energy

Mr. Shabbir Zaidi
Chairman FBR

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- UNLESS YOU END THE DISCRIMINATORY CROSS SUBSIDY OF GAS TARIFF AND PROVIDE GAS TO OUR GENERAL INDUSTRIES AT THE SAME DISCOUNTED RATE AS EXPORT INDUSTRIES, OUR GENERAL INDUSTRIES WILL NOT SURVIVE
- Did you know that Pakistan's General Industries are key players in increasing **Substitution of Imported Products** and our existence is the reason for the reduction in Trade Deficit?
- The Current Gas Rate is not feasible for local production, further increasing it will completely destroy Pakistan's General Industries and there will be no import substitution.
- Due to the Cross Subsidy in Gas Tariff we are Paying Rs 117 for every Mmbtu of Gas used by Export Industries.
- Please End the Discrimination in the Rate of Utilities among the Zero and Non Zero Rated Industrial Sectors of Pakistan to Enable us Further Increasing Exports and Reducing Imports.
- **Our Current Gas Rate is Rs. 780 / MMBTU + 17% GST**
- **Zero Rated Gas rate is Rs. 600 / MMBTU Without any GST**
- Why is the Government Giving Discounted Rate of Gas to so many Zero Rated Industries that are not even exporters and have only Local Sales?
- Any subsidy on exports should be tied with the \$ actually received and not based on industry classification. This will also help expand our export base beyond the traditional export industries.

We deserve the Same Treatment in Gas and Electricity Rates as Export Industries. We are the future of Pakistan. Please take urgent action to halt increases in gas rate treatment of Import Substitution Industries

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20pc of LWMC field staff found 'absent' from duty

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The city district administration claims to have found around 20 per cent of the Lahore Waste Management Company's field officials absent from duty at all points checked by its officers.

The administration has also sent a detailed report to the offices of the LWMC managing director, local government & community development department's secretary and the chief minister for information and necessary action.

"We have got several points, where the LWMC field officials / teams were assigned cleanliness related jobs, checked by our officers (additional deputy commissioners, revenue, assistant commissioners etc) from time to time early in the morning. But 20 per cent (on average) of the staff was not present on the duty," said Lahore DC Mr Salim Saheed in a press release on Monday.

She said the LWMC MD has been asked to take action against the absent staff and improve the cleanliness situation in the city.

LDA: Lahore Development Authority's governing body in a meeting on Monday accorded approval to appoint consultants for procurement, human resource and specialised legal services.

It also approved creation of chief financial officer (CFO) slot in the LDA and hiring of a professional for the job, according to a spokesman for the authority.

PML-N MPA moves ECP against Zartaj Gul

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: PML-N MPA Hira Perviz Butt has filed a reference with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to seek disqualification of Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul for misuse of authority of office by the latter to the benefit of her sister.

Mrs Gul had an minister written to the federal interior secretary recommending appointment of her sister Shabnaz Gul, an assistant professor in a women college in Lahore, as National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) director.

Ms Butt pleaded in the reference, sent through the office of the National Assembly speaker, that Ms Gul stood disqualification under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution for misusing her office to get her sister posted to a government post in violation of merit.

Notifications of VCs posting in two varsities issued

LAHORE: The Punjab Higher Education Department (HED) on Monday issued two notifications of appointment of vice chancellors (VCs) in two engineering universities of the province.

According to a notification, following the recommendations of the search committee, constituted in compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the governor/chancellor has appointed Prof Dr Syed Mansoor Sanaie, VC of Ghanshi University, Lahore, as VC, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, for a period of four years. Dr Sarwar has assumed the charge of the post on Monday.

Dr Sarwar earned his MS and PhD degrees in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA, in 1985 and 1988, respectively. He has 31 years of experience of teaching and research at institutions of higher education in USA, Kuwait and Pakistan.

The HED also had appointed regular VC of UET, Taxila, after a period of more than a year. According to the notification, Prof Dr Muhammad Inayatullah Khan of the Department of Electrical Engineering of the UET Peshawar was appointed as VC of UET Taxila for a period of four years.

He completed his PhD in Mobile Ad Hoc Networks from School of Engineering, George Washington University, USA in 2005. Mr Khan worked in School of Engineering, Stratford University, VA, USA as adjunct professor from 2003 to 2005 and as a research associate at SICAS, George Washington University, USA.

—Staff Reporter

Expat donates building to set up cardiac unit

TOBA TEK SINGH: A Canada-based Pakistani belonging to Kamalia has announced donating a commercial building for establishment of a coronary care unit, as a part of the Kamalia Tehsil Headquarters Hospital. Donor Tariq Chaudhry made the announcement during his meeting with PFI MPA Faiz Fatima on Sunday night at the parliamentarian's residence.

Fatima said she had invited to philanthropists to donate money so that modern medical equipment, beds etc could be purchased and installed in the building located on Highway Road, Kamalia. —Correspondent



LAHORE: A labourer drains out rainwater from the road dug up for reconstruction near the railway station—White Star

Party decisions being made by Nawaz, Shahbaz: Hamza

Rejects rumours about differences within family, party

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Sharif's consensus with their damage control measures to offset the (negative) impact created by Maryam Nawaz Sharif's press conference the other day in which she took a different line than what PML-N president and her uncle Shahbaz Sharif had taken vis-à-vis a national charter on economy.

"The PML-N belongs to both Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif and party decisions are made jointly by the duo," party's vice president Hamza Sharif said at a press conference here on Monday.

Rejecting the rumours of any differences within the family

and the party, he said attempts to create rifts among the two brothers had been made during the dictatorial regime of Gen Musharraf but all these bids remained abortive as the party remained united (then) and is united now.

Referring to Maryam Nawaz's stance that charter of economy would be in fact mockery of economy against Shahbaz Sharif's offer for such an agreement, he said the party president had made the offer soon after the PTI came into power while Maryam Nawaz has also explained her stance over the matter.

Indirectly supporting Maryam's stance, he said the incumbent rulers had made the charter of economy "a mere word." He said the economic and social media Pakistan 0045-66738217

Hamza also criticised the ongoing accountability process and termed it biased against the opposition. He recalled that a federal

minister recently stated that it was they (the PTI government) conducting the accountability and not the NAB (National Accountability Bureau).

Facing NAB investigations in assets beyond means and Ramzan Sugar Mills cases, he said private sector not a new thing for political workers as he had served his time in jail during the Musharraf regime.

Referring to the price hike that would follow after the government introduced higher tariffs on gas and power, he cautioned the government to be ready to face the wrath of the public.

He said textile millers were worried that their products were not finding markets abroad, farmers were also crying because of the PTI's policies on the economic figures released by state institutions show that investment had declined sharply during the last 10 months.

Inquiry blames driver, assistant for Hyderabad train crash

FGIR report notes 'defective operating planning' by PR's Karachi control office

By Khalid Hassan

LAHORE: A high-level inquiry team in its preliminary report has held the driver and his assistant responsible for the June 20 train crash near the Hyderabad railway station.

Since the driver and the assistant driver of Jinnah express and a guard had lost their lives in the accident, the initial probe was done on the basis of site visits, interviews with available witnesses, analysis of evidence, scrutiny of stations' record, motor testles, footplate inspections, analysis of automatic signaling system etc.

"The preliminary inquiry concludes that the collision of 38-Up Jinnah Express in rear of the goods

train between Kotri and Hyderabad stations was caused owing to overspeeding and non-observance of signals by the driver. Accordingly, Mr Muhammad Chaudhry, driver (late) and Mr Yasir Bashir, Assistant Driver (late) are held responsible for the subject collision," reads the report.

Besides loss of precious lives of the driver, assistant driver and spare assistant driver resulting in the Jinnah express's locomotive and serious injuries to the guard of the goods train, engine and some wagons of the ill-fated train also derailed and damaged badly, adds the report, which was compiled by the team headed by the Federal Government Inspector of Railways (FGIR). The report says that during the trial and footplate inspections, the signals were apparently found changing aspects as per order and no discrepancy was noticed except non-visibility of the status signs in some sighting distance boards for both Up and Down lines of Kotri and Hyderabad stations. For the

Hyderabad station, the Up outer signal is not visible to any driver of the Up train either from the last Up stop signal or SD board. Thus used to be a level crossing just short of Up SD board of Hyderabad station in the past that has been dismantled after construction of road over the bridge. "Overall, the examination and analysis of the signaling system between Kotri-Hyderabad were found not to have played any role in this collision. Hence, this cause is ruled out," it reads.

The team also checked the factors of a possible train activity used in the June 20 collision. "The available evidence and discussion with some of key witnesses suggests that this accident occurred owing to overspeeding, which should have not exceeded 15km per hour, and non-observance of any signals by the driver of Jinnah express."

The report also notes defective operating planning by the Karachi control office as one of the causes behind the accident.



LAHORE: A man is making wooden boxes for packing mangoes at the fruit market—White Star

Wrap-up budget speech highlights softer sides of fiscal policies

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Punjab government plans pursuing export-oriented growth and in this context, budget for the next fiscal 2019-20 will kick-start revival of the economy—routed by the previous government during the past one decade, said Finance Minister Hashim Jwanjwan Bakhsh while winding-up the budget debate in the Punjab Assembly on Monday.

The house also passed the health budget after the rejection of cut motions. "The finance minister said the Punjab government would establish industrial estates in all 36 districts, adding that each district's competitiveness would be considered to select industry for respective estates.

He said the government had plans to develop five cities as intermediate cities to lessen burden on Lahore. He said south Punjab had been given 35 per cent of the development budget and ringfenced it so that it could not be appropriated. He recalled that the previous government stole south Punjab's allocated Rs265 billion in the past seven years.

He said the government increased funding for agriculture by 300 per cent to enhance agriculture productivity. He said the government cut import bills by producing edible oil in the country, while reducing the wheat crop so that wheat should not go surplus and eventually wasted.

Explaining cutting of expenditure by the chief minister under austerity measures, the minister said the government would focus more on human development and invest heavily in the health, education and industry sectors.

Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said the PML-N government failed to meet Millennium Development Goals in terms of reducing mother and infant mortality rates by half by 2015 and cut a sorry figure

internationally. She said the previous government eventually signed Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to achieve these targets, Dr Rashid said, the present government would establish the University of Child and Paediatric Health.

Dr Rashid said the previous government had almost dismantled 25 district and 15 sub-district hospitals for re-amping and the present government allocated Rs3 billion to complete some of the hospitals. She also regretted that the PML-N government procured medical equipment worth Rs4 billion and stored in a rented warehouse.

She said the present government recruited 15,000 doctors and nurses and planned recruitment of 10,000 more medicals.

Referring to the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Center project, she said the previous government did not develop PC-1 of the project and put Rs1.5 billion to its credit without any legal process. Saying that the previous government's doctors' team could not conduct a single

liver transplant, she added the present government arranged doctors from the AIIBS Hospital and so far contacted three liver transplanters.

Identifying another anomaly, Dr Rashid said the previous government bought Fortec worth Rs200 million but did not use it. She said the previous government bought some 133 ventilators but none were being used. The PML-N government would now cost some Rs450 million. "The PTI government has allocated Rs2 billion for the PKLI," she said.

The health minister said the PML-N government allocated Rs750 million for the purchase of ventilators but re-appropriated to spend somewhere else. "Now, the present government had allocated the funds from its budget to procure the ventilators," she said.

Dr Rashid said that she was still swiftly busy to repair the damages being done by the previous government besides raising some US\$ subsidies that were having "ongoing status" since 2009.

The debate on cut motions on different departments will continue on today.

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IHC orders NAB to produce Zardari on hearing of petitions

Bureau requested court to exempt ex-president from personal appearance

By Malik Anad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to produce former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on the hearing of the petitions filed to sack him in the Park Lane and luxury vehicles case.

Mr Zardari filed the petitions before he was taken into custody by NAB in the fake accounts case.

The said NAB had since produced Mr Zardari before the accountability court adding that the former president, who is also a parliamentarian, had been attending sessions of the National Assembly after his detention order was issued by the speaker.

NAB's prosecutor Sardar Musaffar Akhbar argued that since Mr Zardari was in the bureau's custody, his personal attendance before the IHC was not mandatory.

Mr Zardari through Advocate Naek filed an application before the IHC, asking his production before the court during the hearing of the petitions.

In the application, Mr Zardari stated that "the petitioner is required to be produced before the court to ensure the decision of instant petition on merit. Well-being of the petitioner is a matter of concern during the investigation and this can be resolved by producing the petitioner in the court on the date of the hearing."

NAB, however, said the court that production of Mr Zardari "may require arrangement of high security and may cause inconvenience for other litigants."

During the process, "the investigation is under way and the petitioner is being interrogated. Medical facilities as per the standard operating procedure (SOP) and directions of the learned Accountability Court should be provided to the petitioner."

Fayaz's removal extended

Meanwhile, accountability court Judge Muhammad Arshad Malik on Monday extended the physical removal of Mr Zardari's sister Fayaz Talpur till July 8.

Ms Talpur is detained in her residence which has been declared as safe jail by NAB. During the process, the NAB's prosecution produced her before the accountability judge and requested to extend the removal for another 15 days.

During the process, Judge Malik inquired from Ms Talpur if NAB officials had taken her to a hospital.

She said that a medical team had visited her to conduct an examination. She told the court that she suffered from diabetes and hypertension.

The court directed NAB to produce Ms Talpur before the court on July 8 and adjourned the hearing till then.

ISLAMABAD: Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, said on Monday that Qatar would provide Pakistan \$3 billion in the form of direct investment and deposits.

She made the announcement while talking to the media after attending a meeting of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE).

The minister expressed hope the Qatar package would create business opportunities in the country and help the government in its efforts to attract foreign investment.

ISLAMABAD: Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Monday revealed that assistant train drivers were underutilised and to address the problem it was being considered to fill 30 per cent of vacancies by reappointing retired drivers.

During the Senate Standing Committee on Railways, he said, "Soon we will move a summary to Prime Minister Imran Khan seeking his approval for these appointments. The number of passengers has increased by six million in 30 months, trains have been introduced."

He said the prime minister will inaugurate Sir Speed Express on July 2.

"Passenger trains don't make profit anywhere in the world but we have reduced the losses by Rs3 to 4 billion. Our target is to reduce the losses to Rs1 billion. The annual performance report would be made public on August 24," he said.

The minister said that the fare was increased because of hike in fuel prices and claimed that Rs3.5bn was being spent on fuel.

"Minimum prices of spare parts have also increased because of jump in the dollar's value. Fuel prices are increased but we have saved 12 million litres of oil. Railways budget and amount from the Public Sector Development Programme for its purchase would not be affected," he said.

Sheikh Rashid said Railways was purchasing distribution valves which were not available in the country. Social-Media Pakistan

"We will become financially independent if we get a decision in the Gulf City court soon. We have started working on an automatic command and control system. Moreover not a single rupee has been spent on it."

While briefing the committee on the Shikhar accident, an official of the Railways ministry said that the train was going to Hyderabad and its speed at the station should have been 15km per hour but it was moving at 50km.

He said the details were that the train was going to Hyderabad and its speed at the station should have been 15km per hour but it was moving at 50km.

The meeting was informed that the responsibility has been fixed in the accident of goods train.

"On April 11, Bahaudin Zakariya Express derailed due to a mistake of its driver. On May 17, a goods train derailed because two bolts of its freighter were broken. On May 29, Julliar Express derailed because its left buffer had fallen. On June 1, Shah Hussain Express derailed because of rolling stock. On June 20, Mir Sadiq Express derailed because the rail track was loose. On June 6, Karakoram Express derailed because the track gauge got spread," the official said.

ISLAMABAD: Former Intelligence Agency (IA) chief Feroz Khan on Monday filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking contempt proceedings against the interior secretary for failing to comply with a High Court order.

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Railways planning to reappoint retired drivers

By Iqbal Ansari

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ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Asif Saeed Khosa presides over a meeting of the National Judicial Policy Making Committee on Monday.—AP

After criminal cases, model courts may try civil cases

Model Civil Appellate Courts may be introduced in all districts, CJP-led meeting informed

By Naim Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: After a successful initiative of establishing model courts for prompt trial of criminal cases, the National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) on Monday proposed establishing Model Civil Appellate Courts (MCACs) as well as Model Trial Courts (MTCs) for an early disposal of civil litigation.

Presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan and NJPMC chairman Asif Saeed Khosa, the meeting was also attended by the chief justice of all the high courts of Pakistan and Federal Shariat Court, Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) director general Hayat Ali Shah leading the meeting on the NJPMC's Justice Initiative-II (JI-II) regarding strategy for establishment of the Model Civil Appellate Courts (MCACs) and the Expedient Trial Courts (ETCs) in all districts.

On June 19, CJP Khosa, while speaking at the 57 new additional judges of Model Criminal Trial Courts of Pakistan (MCTCs), announced establishment of such courts for early disposal of pending trials before district courts in the country.

On Monday Hayat Shah informed the NJPMC that under JI-II, it was proposed that MCACs might be introduced in all districts of Pakistan for trial of civil cases and the judges to be nominated pending officers/additional district judges.

Initially, MCAC will be entrusted with appeals against orders, civil revisions, appeals in non-matrimonial cases whereas the nominated judicial officers would be entrusted with 100 old cases at a time.

The judges in such courts will conduct a preliminary hearing for settling all technical and legal issues whereas the courts will effect service through modern devices and the hearing conductance will be held on the day respondent appears.

No adjournment will be granted and miscellaneous application will be decided before the final decision except where the disposal merits in the final judgment. Likewise, the record in appeals against orders and revisions will not be repositonated and certified copies will be attached. Moreover, judgment will be announced on-line three days after conclusion.

Hayat Shah explained that under JI-II, MTCs were being proposed to be established in all districts and that MTCMs will consist of provincial magistrates who will conduct all pre-trial proceedings.

Old cases

The MTCMs will be provided by magistrate empowered under Section 30 CrPC in each district/sub division according to work load and MTCMs will be assigned 100 cases at a time and initially only old cases would be assigned although the district and sessions judge may allocate any category of cases.

Hayat Shah also sought approval of JI-II and JI-III initiatives which was unanimously granted and it was approved that the respective high court will nominate judicial officers with the view of giving effect to JI-II and JI-III.

Meanwhile, Lahore High Court Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Shauq Khan observed that a model court in the Federal Territory of Islamabad of the Punjab since 2017 whereas the Civil Appellate Model Courts were operating since 2018.

CJP Khosa, however, remarked that other provinces should also follow the model of Punjab.

When during the meeting Pakistan High Court Chief Justice Waqar Akbar Khan highlighted the need of appointing more judicial officers for the establishment of MCACs, CJP Khosa remarked that though recruitment of new judicial officers was the prerogative of the provincial governments, the respective high court could make administrative decisions for making MCACs operational for example in districts where there are one or two additional district judges, one of them could be allocated as MCAC in the district which has low number of judicial officers.

The meeting was also briefed on the proposal of the AJD regarding establishment of special courts for gender-based violence cases against women and children across the country.

The committee deliberated upon the issues and resolved that high courts would be asked to nominate a judge of the high court as focal person for the gender-based violence courts network. The high court may also be asked to nominate a district and sessions judge or additional and sessions judge from each district for training at FJA in collaboration with AJD.

Meanwhile, High Court Chief Justice Akmal Muneer pointed out that for the success of GVC courts, government's ownership was necessary in the shape of requisite infrastructure.

The NJPMC secretary also briefed the committee on the action plan about the establishment of the Juvenile Justice and Child Courts in Pakistan and informed it that the NJPMC is working on making it operational in Lahore and Peshawar.

The committee agreed in principle that the gender-based violence and child protection courts may be established in all districts of Pakistan, keeping in view the paucity of judicial officers, in the first instance, the child courts may be established in the provincial headquarters and Islamabad.

General Asif Ghauri addressing a press conference earlier on Feb 22 had announced that the military court of inquiry had found the ex-director general guilty of violating military secrecy, but actually he had been cleared of charges.

His pension and other benefits had already been stopped.

Gen Durraani in his petition has requested the IHC to initiate contempt proceedings against the interior secretary Adam Seleman for not complying with the court direction and order the interior ministry to decide the matter immediately.

Qatari package to boost investment, create jobs: Firdous

ISLAMABAD: Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, said on Monday that Qatar would provide Pakistan \$3 billion in the form of direct investment and deposits.

She made the announcement while talking to the media after attending a meeting of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE).

The minister expressed hope the Qatar package would create business opportunities in the country and help the government in its efforts to attract foreign investment.

Turning it the first step to boost Pak-Qatar relations, she said the amount would help Pakistan overcome its economic woes and create job opportunities for youth.

She recalled that Prime Minister Imran Khan had already announced a visa on arrival facility for Qatari citizens, expressing the hope the initiative would boost tourism in the country.

Mr Firdous termed a decision by Qatar to lift the ban on exports of Pakistan rice as a piece of good news not only for rice exporters but also for the economy.

Qatar had also promised to increase quota for Pakistani workers soon.

By Iqbal Ansari

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By Iqbal Ansari

Bilawal dubs debt commission 'unconstitutional, undemocratic'

Quoting excerpts from Rice's book in NA, Muzaf Saeed alleges Benazir approached US seeking an end to her cases

By Amir Waqar

ISLAMABAD: Duffing the recently formed Commission of Inquiry to probe the role of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the 1999-2002 period, the opposition leader on Monday categorically declared on the floor of the National Assembly that they would not subject themselves before this commission.

"Parliamentary decisions, including debt, are the sole domain of the National Assembly. We will not subject ourselves before any institution, let alone some debt commission. This is absolutely undemocratic and unconstitutional," said Mr Benazir while taking part in the debate on the federal budget amid dishing-thumping by the opposition members including his father Asif Ali Zardari.

"After undermining our political, human and democratic rights, they (governments) now want to undermine the sovereignty of the parliament," he said, questioning as it how could the collective wisdom of this House be questioned by National Accountability Bureau, Inland Revenue Authority of Military Intelligence?"

"These institutions are answerable to this House. This House is not answerable to any institution," he went on saying while referring to the inclusion of the officials of the intelligence agencies into the debt commission.

Mr Benazir Zardari also questioned the need for constituting a National Development Council (NDC) and inclusion of the army chief in it, though he did not voice his view. He said the armed forces of the country should be kept away from politics and economy.

He questioned the "legal basis" of the NDC in the presence of the constitutional forum of National Economic Council (NEC) to discuss economic issues.

Selected PM

The controversy over the use of the term "selected PM" by Prime Minister Imran Khan continued in the house as the opposition members not only criticised Deputy Speaker Qasim Saeed for

barbing them from using this word, but also continued to call Mr Khan the "selected PM" and used some alternative words like "handpicked" and "chosen" for him during their speeches.

The issue was first raised by Dr Nadeem Shah of the PPP who asked the deputy speaker to clarify if he had issued a ruling on the matter as reported by some newspapers. He said he had the view that if he had issued a ruling then it must be binding upon all. Secondly, he said, if the deputy speaker barred the use of the term "selected" then he would also have to bar the use of "handpicked" and "chosen" by the treasury members for the opposition leaders.

In response, the deputy speaker said he had requested the members to "let this beautiful democracy remain as it is because they all have been elected through democracy". He said he had requested the members not to use such words which brought disgrace to this house.

Mr Saeed said this was a domestic issue and all the members should respect the house by not uttering superlatives words.

Late Mr Benazir Zardari, who had coined this term in his first speech in the house in the presence of Prime Minister Imran Khan in August last year, argued that the deputy speaker in his

absence had espoused the word "selected" and banned it. Despite the fact that Mr Khan had topped the desk when he was called the "selected PM" the first time in this very parliament.

"If Imran Khan is not a selected prime minister then why committee for election rigging was formed?" he asked.

"This concerned Pakistan is unacceptable. An independent Pakistan is the solution not a conserved Pakistan," he said.

In her hard-hitting speech, PML-N's Maryam Aurangzeb used the term "handpicked" for the government whom she was asked by the deputy speaker not to use the term "selected". Former deputy speaker and PML-N leader Murtaza Javed Abbasi in his speech also called Mr Khan a "selected PM".

A number of speakers, including the PPP chairman, criticised Speaker Asad Qasim for issuing production orders of the two arrested MNAs, from Waziristan, Muzaf Saeed and Amir Waqar. Mr Benazir Zardari urged the speaker to issue production orders of the two MNAs as that all opposition members were asked to vote on the budget.

Waziristan. Otherwise, accusations will be made that this is nothing short of rigging the budget," he said.

Speaker Asad Qasim clarified that he had received the formal application for the issuance of the production order on June 22 and he would make the decision after getting a legal opinion from the law ministry.

Mr Benazir Zardari, however, said the speaker did not need any advice and he had the powers to issue the production orders.

The daylong proceedings were dominated by the fiery speeches of the opposition members.

Communications Minister Muzaf Saeed in his usual style responded to the PPP chairman's speech. The focus of his speech, however, was the alleged corruption committed by the two opposition parties in the past.

The communications minister asked the opposition members to get themselves cleared from courts if they are innocent.

Giving references from the book written by former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, he alleged that when PPP leader Benazir Bhutto had approached the US for seeking an end to her cases and for lifting a constitutional ban on her becoming prime

minister for a third time.

According to AFP, Mr Saeed recalled that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif claimed that he did not take any salary, but actually he had received \$3,327,000 in expenses and travel expenses were paid from the national exchequer in the year 2010.

An amount of Rs2,000 million of public money was spent by Nawaz Sharif on the security and fencing of his Jati Jara residence, while 2,700 policemen were deployed for the security of his residence and Rs2,000ms was spent for that account.

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Over 80,000 apply for 1,262 posts in police dept

By Munawar Azeem

ISLAMABAD: Over 80,000 candidates have applied for 1,262 posts of constables and assistant sub-inspectors advertised by the capital police last month, police officials told Dawn.

National Testing Service (NTS) has been awarded the contract to conduct physical and written tests in 14 cities across the country next week.

Last month, the capital police advertised 1,262 posts — 18 ASIs (BPS-11), 1,222 constables (BPS-7), three constables of Mounted Police (BPS-7), 19 constables of band staff (BPS-7).

The posts are being filled to meet manpower shortage in different divisions besides setting up law and order division that will be responsible for handling public demonstrations and protection of foreigners, particularly Chinese nationals.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Sarfaraz Ahmed Fakihi when contacted told Dawn that about 85,000 people had applied for 1,262 posts.

The testing service has examined the applications and declared 78,000 candidates eligible for the posts, he added.

He said the NTS would conduct physical and written test of the candidates in 14 cities in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. He said senior officers, including SSPs, SPs, and DSPs would monitor the recruitment process.

The DIG said the award to conduct the selection and recruitment process was given to NTS after bidding to make the process transparent.

Besides, the recruitment will be made on merit, he said, adding the police teams had been sent to the cities to monitor the recruitment process.

The testing service has charged Rs350 from each candidate. The DIG headquarters said, adding the government would also pay a similar amount to the testing service for each eligible candidate.



MOTORCYCLISTS take shelter under the metro bus track on Murree Road in Rawalpindi during rain on Monday. According to the Met Office, the first spell of pre-monsoon rains has commenced — AFP

Private schools supposed to collect fee on monthly basis, Senate body told

The committee also takes up point of public importance on problems being faced by expats in biometric verification in banks

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: A Senate functional committee was on Monday informed by Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) that Islamabad-based schools are supposed to collect fee on a monthly basis.

The special committee formed to provide a mechanism for implementation of the recommendations of committees of the upper house met at Parliament House with Senator Dilawar Khan in the chair.

The meeting was told by PEIRA in writing that private schools cannot charge summer fees together.

The meeting was held to take up an agenda item 'Point of public importance regarding charge of holidays fee by private educational institutions' raised by Senator Mansoor Ahmed Kakar in the Senate on April 26.

However, due to absence of the mover, the meeting did not discuss the agenda item.

A working paper submitted by PEIRA to the committee stated that there was no direction from the Supreme Court restraining the private schools from charging fees of summer holidays 2019 and onwards.

"However, keeping in view the economic position of parents, private schools have been directed by the authority to charge fee of entire academic session of 12 calendar months, including the summer holidays, on a monthly basis," read the paper.

"Notwithstanding the above, in case of any direction from the committee/Senate on account of relief to parents with regard to fees of summer holidays 2019, same shall be communicated to private schools of Islamabad accordingly for compliance," it added.

The committee did not discuss the working paper of PEIRA and decided that the matter would be taken up at its next meeting.

Earlier, the committee while discussing the issue of Bachelor in Eastern Medicine and Surgery said those who held this degree cannot be treated equivalent to the MBBS

degree holders. The holders of this degree are supposed to practice only TBM.

The committee was told that there was a degree of Bachelor in Eastern Medicine and Surgery (BEMS). However, in 2014 it was unofficially written as Bachelor in Eastern Medicine and Surgery. But a new notification has been issued which replaced the word 'surgery' with 'system'.

The committee also took up a point of public importance raised by Senator Sajjad Hussain Tari regarding problems being faced by expatriates due to the biometric system in banks.

The committee recommended that expatriate disabled persons and senior citizens should be given exemption from biometric verification of their bank accounts.

The committee decided that the matter would be taken up at its next meeting.

Teenager abducted, raped in Chakwal

By Our Correspondent

CHAKWAL: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by two persons, police sources said on Monday. The incident took place in Wazir village located in the jurisdiction of Heshah police station.

The girl who went to the police station along with her parents told police that she was sleeping at her home with her parents when someone knocked the gate of the house at 12 midnight. When she opened the gate, two men covered her mouth with a cloth and took her to nearby deserted place.

The girl managed to recognise the two suspects who also belonged to the same village.

The victim alleged that both men assaulted her and then left her near the house of one of the suspects. The father of the suspect then took the girl to her home.

Police got conducted a medical examination of the victim after registering a case against the two suspects and the father of one of them.

"We have arrested the father of one of the suspects and raids are being conducted to trace the two men who managed to escape from the village," SHO Anjad Bhatti told Dawn, adding that both suspects would be arrested soon.

Investigation Officer Khadija Parveen told Dawn that a medical examination report was yet to be issued by the Punjab Forensic Science Agency.

The victim's brother and father, while talking to Dawn, said they belonged to a poor family.

"We appeal to the chief minister and inspector general of police to provide us justice," they said.

Exams cancelled in UET Taxila after students protest

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Students of University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Taxila on Monday staged a sit-in outside the administration block against what they said as biased and unfriendly policies of the administration, leading to cancellation of annual examination.

Scores of students of various faculties of the university began their sit-in on Sunday night and continued their protest on Monday.

Carrying placards and banners inscribed with different slogans and demands, the students of civil, electrical, computer science, industrial engineering, software engineering and mechanical engineering departments took out protest rally from their hostels and staged the sit-in, forcing administration to respond by management service to pick up students from Taxila, Wab, Rawalpindi, Hassanabail and Islamabad. The protesting students told newsmen that students were facing a number of problems in the absence of a permanent vice chancellor.

Threats from registrar and unnecessary restrictions on hostel students have left them with no option but to stage the sit-in, they said.

She added "A large number of students in which one female student has lost her life while another is fighting for life have sent a

wave of sunset among students of the university, a student told Dawn on condition of anonymity.

He said the students had taken out a peaceful rally on Friday but the administration paid no heed to their demands and instead threatened them of dire consequences including expulsions.

He claimed that administrative and academic affairs including issuance of degrees, appointment of local and foreign supervisors for thesis and approval of local and foreign scholarships as well as financial matters had been suspended since June last year when the vice chancellor Dr Muhammad Abbas Chaudhry retired.

After his retirement Dr Niaz Ahmed Akhtar was made vice chancellor of the UET Taxila, he said, adding that in July last year Dr Niaz Akhtar was given permanent charge of the University of Punjab. Since then he has also been working as acting vice chancellor of the university.

Shabbano, a BSc engineering student told this reporter that last year in July, students took to the street to register their protest against the appointment of Dr Niaz Akhtar as VC of the University of Punjab. Though he holds the acting charge of the UET Taxila, he could not pay attention to the problems of the university as well as students, she said adding as a result many of the administrative



STUDENTS of UET Taxila protest outside the academic block on Monday — Dawn

and academic affairs of the university have come to a halt.

When contacted, registrar UET, Professor Mansoor Baloch said the government had appointed a permanent vice chancellor and he would soon assume charge.

He said a three-member committee headed by director students' affairs Professor Tahir Nadeem Malik had been constituted to investigate the death and

injury of students.

Responding to another question, he said that the university administration was holding negotiations with the protesting students and their just demands would be addressed accordingly. However, no one would be allowed to take the law in their hands. He said the protesting students were responsible for the delay in examination scheduled to commence from Monday.

Pakistan's score on Childhood Index improves: report

By Syeda Shehbaz Kazim

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's score on the Childhood Index has improved from 549 in 2009 to 626 in 2019, the Global Childhood Report 2019 says.

The report was launched by Save the Children at the concluding ceremony of 'Children's Action against Oppression and Neglect (CHAON)' project.

The IECA Foundation-funded project combined child protection systems, accelerated learning and a school health programme in Sindh and Punjab in collaboration with the provincial governments, reaching over 600,000 adults and over 800,000 children.

According to the report, at least 280 million children — or one child in eight — are dramatically better off today than at any time in the past two decades.

More children are healthy and surviving past their fifth birthday. More children have enough good food to eat, as their growth isn't stunted. More children are in school and learning. Former senator Farhatullah Bahar said while there had been global improvements, children had not been on the agenda of governments and political par-

ties in Pakistan.

"The space for INGOs has been shrinking for the past several years. The reason I came here was also to raise a voice for expanding the space for INGOs and NGOs which are doing child welfare work. I wish to advocate for the space for INGOs to work."

"Of course, there should be regulation and laws by the government. But it should be done through legislation, but through discussion and debate involving all political parties and all stakeholders," he said.

Komi Williams, Deputy Head DFPII, said: "The work of Save the Children around the world and in Pakistan is important and it is important because children and young people are often neglected, forgotten and marginalised."

"Yet as we have heard this morning, they are our future and they have to reach to offer. Pakistan has the potential for a demographic dividend if it can generate the jobs needed to bring more people, especially the most marginalised, into productive work."

She added "Pakistan is one of the youngest countries in the world; 54pc of the country's population is under the age of 25, more 30pc between the ages of 15

and 25. For at least the next three decades Pakistan will continue to be a very young country with a population projected to reach 352 million by 2100.

"So, with a burgeoning youth population there is a potential for a once in a lifetime dividend which could accelerate economic growth and set Pakistan on a trajectory out of poverty to become a high-income country by 2047."

Swedish Ambassador Ingrid Johansson commended the collaboration between Save the Children and IECA Foundation. "These types of collaborations should be expanded further, and the role of NGOs and INGOs in development could not be exaggerated," she said.

"This is true worldwide and also true in Pakistan. I truly appreciate the efforts made in the last eight years through the CHAON project to fight root causes of child labour and strengthen children's rights," she added.

According to the report, "In South Asia, trends for child labour among five to 14 years olds (exclusive of household chores) suggest India and Bangladesh have made very good gains for children (70pc and 66pc reduction, respectively). Pakistan has cut child labour for this age group by 29pc."



PARLIAMENTARY Secretary, National Health Services, Dr Naushan Hamid talks to Swedish Ambassador Ingrid Johansson during the ceremony in Islamabad on Monday — White Star

Probe into spending of NFC Award funds demanded

Debate continues on budget in Balochistan Assembly

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Former chief minister Jam Mahmood Jamali has called for a probe into spending of the funds received by Balochistan under the 7th NFC Award.

While taking part in the general debate on the provincial budget, Mr Jamali said Balochistan had been receiving its share from NFC Awards for many years, but it was not visible where this amount was spent.

He said Balochistan had been ignored in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor as one can see only billboards

of housing schemes in Gwadar. He said the senators from Balochistan should not support the amendment bill for increasing seats in national and provincial assemblies for those areas of aridible Fata that have been included in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Parliamentary leader of the Awami National Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai, however, did not agree with Mr Jamali and said the bill should be passed so that the people of tribal areas could get their rights.

He called for issuance of the production order for Pakistan Tahafuz Movement members of the National Assembly.

Home Minister Zia Langove, Mir Akhmed Nawaz Baloch of the Balochistan National Party-Maqbal, Mir Younis Aziz Zehri of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fat, Dr Habiba Baloch and Shahkila Nawab Durrani also spoke on the budget.

Deputy Speaker Babar Khan Mueen had presided over the assembly session.

Stranded mother, child stranded to return to UK from Pakistan

KARACHI: A Norwegian woman, who was refused a visa to return to London after travelling to Pakistan to adopt a baby, has been allowed to return home, according to The Guardian.

Nina Saleh, a Norwegian passport holder, has full UK residency rights after living in London for 20 years. She was refused the visa to return home with baby Sofia three times, despite going through a stringent and lengthy adoption process in the UK with British authorities' involvement, the publication said.

Ms Saleh had lived in the UK for 20 years, but was refused a visa with her child three times. Within 48 hours of various British publications carrying her story, Ms Saleh received news that the Home Office was overturning its decision and allowing her back home.

Ms Saleh had been waiting for her case to be resolved, Ms Saleh told The Guardian she had almost lost hope of ever getting home.

"The media pressure was instrumental in getting this overturned," Steve February, they [the Home Office] have stopped me from getting on with my life and I am left feeling still traumatised and highly vulnerable," she said.

The report stated that Ms Saleh was initially rejected a visa on the basis that adoption was not allowed from Pakistan to the UK as there was no intra-country adoption agreement.

However, couples or individuals coming from the UK use an established route of getting legal guardianship of the baby and then travelling back to Britain, where the authorities formalise the adoption process.—Monitoring Desk

Balochistan PSDP challenged in high court

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: A member of the provincial assembly on Monday filed a petition in the Balochistan High Court (BHC) challenging the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the next financial year.

Nasim Khan Koker of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fat (JUI-F) has claimed in his petition that the scrutiny team of the Planning and Development department had not approved the schemes included in the PSDP and it was a violation of the high court's order.

The court accepted the petition and issued notices to the provincial government and the opposition and fixed June 28 for its hearing.

Minister for Food Akhbar Mahmood Khan informed the Balochistan Assembly about filing of the petition.

JUI-F member Mir Younis Aziz Zehri informed the house that his party had not taken any decision to challenge the PSDP in court.



QUETTA: The Balochistan Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Sardar Mohammad Saib Shroter, Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Tariq Javed Mengal and others pictured during a cleanliness drive on Monday.—AFP

Deadlock on appointment of ECP members persists

Government, opposition representatives unable to reach consensus over members from Sindh, Balochistan

By Ihtshar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: A fresh deadlock ensued on Monday over the appointment of members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), with both the government and the opposition insisting on having a member of their choice from Sindh and giving the right to pick a member from Balochistan to the other.

The 12-member parliamentary committee on the appointment of ECP members met with Human Rights Minister Dr Sherin Muzart in the chair, but failed to reach a consensus following a previous meeting last week.

Though the Constitution is silent on the way forward in case of such a stalemate in a parliamentary committee with equal representation of the government and the opposition, both sides talked of the matter probably going to the Supreme Court (SC). Dr Muzart of the PTI, who heads the panel, and Mueen Ullah Khan, parliamentary leader of the PML-N, who is one of the four members of the committee drawn from the upper house, appeared somewhat confused about the members of voters' register.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Dr Mueen Ullah Khan said the government has a majority in the National Assembly and it is not a third majority. "We suggested a formula that was not accepted by the opposition,"

she said, explaining that now, the minutes of the meeting would go to the prime minister's office and it would be up to him to see whether the matter should proceed. She said that either fresh lists from the opposition would be sought, or the matter would be referred to the SC. "We will proceed in accordance with the law," she elaborated. In answer to a question, she said there was a judgement of the SC that in a situation where a consensus could not be reached, it can intervene. Asked to explain the 'formula' proposed by the government, she said that "He had asked for accepting our name for the members from Sindh and we would accept their name from Balochistan". She was of the view that it was not necessary for a party having dominance in a province to have an ECP member of its choice.

Mueen Ullah Khan of the PML-N said the constitutional way would be adopted. "Nobody could get the two-thirds vote required and the matter will not go to the SC," he remarked. When it was pointed out by a questioner that there was no mention in the Constitution of the parties going to the SC, he first asked as to what there was in the Constitution, and then said that whatever is written in it will be followed. He said the opposition had proposed that an ECP member be from Balochistan where the government party is ruling, and leave the position of the ECP member from Sindh to the opposition, but an agreement was not reached.

The ECP members from Sindh and Balochistan — Akhbar Ghaffar Soomro and Justice (retd) Shabbir Baloch retired in January and under the law others were to be appointed within 45 days. The government had initially proposed the names of Dr Salahuddin Mengal, Mahmood Raza Khan former additional advocate general for Balochistan and Rais Amir Akhbar Zehri as joint deputy prosecutors general of the National Accountability Bureau for appointment as the ECP member from Balochistan.

Qureshi, Nato chief review cooperation

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Nato secretary general Jens Stoltenberg at the headquarters of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in Brussels on Monday.

The two sides reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation, and exchanged views on the regional, political and security situation. The meeting was also attended by the Nato deputy secretary general Rose Gottemoeller.

Briefing on Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in South Asia, Mr Qureshi said Pakistan pursued a policy of peace with all its neighbours and seeks to resolve all outstanding issues, including the Kashmir dispute, through dialogue and engagement.

Secretary General Stoltenberg noted that the regular political and military engagements between Pakistan and Nato had contributed towards strengthening of collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

Trump imposes sanctions

Continued from Page 1

in the tinderbox Middle East. In a pair of tweets on Monday, Trump said US aims regarding Iran would not change. "No Nuclear Weapons and No Further Sponsorship of Terror".

On Sunday, Trump told an NBC television interview that if it came to war, Iran would experience "a different level like you've never seen before".

While some in Washington see the White House's ultimate goal as regime change in Tehran, Trump says he is open to negotiations with Iran's leaders.

He also insists that Washington's

sanctions are more than in the past because its own energy production from it of dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

This means the United States should no longer be seen as the sponsor of open sea lanes in the Gulf region, which saw two mysterious attacks in mid-June on two US tankers that Washington claims were carried out by Tehran. All of those countries should be protecting their own ships," Trump tweeted on Monday. "We don't even need to be there."

International diplomacy

In New York, the UN Security Council was to meet at the request of

the United States to discuss the tensions. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo travelled on Monday to meet with Saudi leaders to build what he called a "global coalition" to counter the Islamic militant group Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jordan and was later due to hold talks in the United Arab Emirates.

Qureshi, meanwhile, said reports that it had agreed as a back channel for the United States to Iran in the aftermath of last week's drone shoot-downs. "The foreign minister (Qureshi) called on Iran and the United States via Twitter 'to show self-control and to resolve the pending issues through dialogue'."—AFP

Talks held with UK

Continued from Page 1

South Africa at the Lords along with his delegation members. He had earlier spoken on 'Pak's Regional Security Perspective' at the Institute of Strategic Studies, a leading think tank on global security and military conflict.

"Pakistan is at the cusp of achieving sustainable, irreversible, enduring peace and stability. This can be accomplished through mutual partnership, support and will to take on regional challenges," Gen Bajwa had then said while encouraging the world to work with Pakistan.

"Improved security offers foreign investment in Pakistan, a prior to regional connectivity. However, future of enduring peace and stability in South Asia hinges on ability to resolve issues and long pending disputes within the region," the COAS further said.

Imran forms body to ease business

Continued from Page 1

and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI), president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), presidents of the chambers of commerce and industry of Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad and representatives of Pakistan Business Council (PBC) will be members of the steering committee.

Mr Khan said PRMI's formation was an important step in government's reform agenda.

"The basic idea behind improvement in the process of regulation and improve it on modern lines to provide ease of doing business to the business community of the country," he added.

Fata merger

In a separate meeting, parliamentarians representing the aridible Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) raised the issue of Federal Excise Duty (FED) with Prime Minister Khan.

They said the Federal Excise Duty (FED) was still imposed in the tribal areas even after their merger with the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister assured them that their representation would be addressed soon.

He highlighted the need for early fulfilment of all commitments made with the people of tribal areas.

They also discussed problems in the way of ongoing development activities in the tribal districts.

PM Khan said keeping in view of the need of the people of the tribal areas, the federal government had, for the first time, allocated Rs8.1 billion development budget for the aridible Fata.

He was of the opinion that people of the tribal areas had given countless

services. "The government is well aware of those sacrifices and will fulfil all promises made with them," he added.

Mr Khan called for involving people's representatives in development activities to address and addressing demands of the people areas.

Also, US-based leader of the ruling party Sajid Bari met the prime minister and discussed with him his (PM's) upcoming visit to the US.

Besides, the prime minister also met MNAs Babar Khan, Mehmood Shah, Sher Akbar and Sibtullah in his chamber in the parliament house.

OBTUARY

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Saeed & Saadia Motiwala,
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Shoab & Farheen Motiwala,
Zubeida & Saqib Malik,
and their children.

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As per the directives of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the last date to complete Biometric Verification of your bank account(s) is **30 June 2019**. In case of non-compliance, your banking services will be temporarily blocked. Therefore, all NBP account holders are requested to immediately visit any NBP branch or selected ATMs having facility of Biometric Verification of account(s) to avoid inconvenience or any service disruptions.

FCBS-4007

Internet services disrupted across country

ISLAMABAD: Internet services were impacted in different regions across Pakistan on Monday due to multiple cable cuts.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) said that it was working to restore the services across the country.

According to PTCL corporate communication general manager Farha Tahir Shah, internet services were impacted in different regions across Pakistan due to multiple cable cuts.

"We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our valued customers. PTCL has deployed all its technical resources to restore and stabilize the services as soon as possible," the company said in a press release issued on Monday.

It stated that internet services had been partially restored in many areas.

Ms Shah said that a high-level investigation committee had been constituted to determine the root cause of the outage.

Technical teams were working on restoring the network for business continuity and high availability, she added.—APP

Two Karachi picnickers drown at Gadani

By Abdul Wahid Shahwar

KHUZZAR: Three people have drowned in Gadani and Manhrabad towns of Balochistan, Levies officials said.

Two individuals from Karachi went for a picnic to Gadani beach with their family, where both drowned while swimming in the Arabian Sea. The high tides pushed them into deep waters.

The bodies were recovered by volunteers and moved to Karachi. They were identified as Ibrahim and Saeed.

Meanwhile, a man drowned while swimming in a canal in the Malghar Durg area in Manhrabad district.

Levies personnel rushed to the site and recovered the body and shifted it to the district hospital. His name remains unknown.

MoU signed for children's healthcare in Balochistan

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: The Balochistan health department and Child Life Foundation (CLF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure the provision of quality health services in the children's unit of the Sandman City Hospital.

The MoU was signed by Health Secretary Hafiz Abdul Majid and CLF CEO Dr Ahsan Raza Khan of the Chief Minister House on Monday. Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyari, Health Minister Mir Mansoorullah Khan and Food Minister Sardar Akhbar Rehman Khattani were also present at the occasion.

"CLF has been providing child healthcare in seven teaching hospitals of Karachi while our doctors are also serving in the interior of Sindh in order to ensure timely and quality health facilities for ailing children," Dr Rehman said while signing the Chief Minister and other officials.

According to the MoU, the Balochistan Government would impart a grant of Rs100 million to CLF while the organization would be responsible to ensure medicine, health equipment and diagnostic appointments in Civil Hospital's children's ward.

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راولپنڈی سے کراچی کے لیے 08:00

پاکستان ریلویز، حکومت پاکستان



REFLECTORS stolen from the Hayatabad Industrial Zone Road, Peshawar, invite attention of the authorities concerned.—Write Star

Opposition warns KP govt not to abolish teacher training institutes

Threatens agitation if denied uplift funds

By Mohammad Asif

PESHAWAR: Leader of the opposition in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Akram Khan Durani on Monday warned the government against doing away with the teacher training institutes and said if that happened, members of the opposition party along with teachers and students of government schools would begin street protests.

Speaking on a point of order, Mr Durani came down hard on the provincial government for what he claimed initiating the process of abolishing the regional institutes for teacher education functioning in all districts of the province.

"We can become the chief minister on the main gate of the KP Assembly if he allows the abolition of RTEs," he said before the start of the budget debate in the

house, which met with Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani in the chair.

The opposition leader claimed that for the abolition of RTEs, a summary had been sent by the elementary and secondary education department to the chief minister for approval. He urged the chief minister to not approve the summary.

The RTEs' mandate was to provide pre-service training to schoolteachers in their respective districts.

The education department has decided to do away with RTEs after ending the condition of pre-service training two years ago. Now, the education department is appointing fresh graduates as teachers before providing them with post-service training.

Responding to the opposition leader's warning of street protests, financial minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra said the government won't make any compromise on the quality of education and teacher training. He said the government had funded the current funding for teacher training in the next year.

Parliamentary leader of ANP MPA Sardar Hussain Babak wondered under which law the government had excluded the development projects reflected in the previous annual development programme for the constituencies of opposition lawmakers.

He said residents of the constituencies of treasury and opposition lawmakers paid equal taxes, so development projects should be distributed judiciously.

Mr Babak said the government had drastically cut development budget to Rs1 billion for the upcoming year, while Rs1 billion loan was given away to the Frontier Works Organisation, which was constructing the Swat Expressway.

He said the next budget was not for the entire province as development funds had been allocated for the constituencies of certain influential members of the treasury.

The ANP leader criticised the government over the proposed abolition of RTEs and accused who lobbied for the abolition. He also warned the government of protests if the opposition lawmakers were denied development funds.

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KKH reopens to traffic in Hunza

GLACIER: The traffic on Karakoram Highway at Hasanabad in Hunza district was resumed on Monday. The main artery was blocked after an artificially formed lake at Shepher's Point, washing away a portion of the road on Saturday night.

The heavy water flow had damaged agriculture land and protection walls on both sides of the stream.

GI Chief Minister Hafizur Rehman visited the area to view the situation. On the occasion, GI Disaster Management Authority and district administration officials briefed the CM about prevailing situation. The officials said the water flow from the glacial lake burst had reduced the risk of glacial flooding in the region.

All the water from the 900 meters long and 80 meters deep glacial lake formed at Shepher's Point has been released, they said.

The traffic on KKH was disrupted to Kargil valley in Nagai to avoid any life and property loss when the road was blocked. On the occasion, local community representatives and the CM that the water flow from the glacial lake into Hasanabad nullah had damaged water channels, agricultural land and protection walls of the stream.

They complained that there were no preventive measures taken, as a result, loss of families were forced to shift to safer places on their own.

"Protection walls built along the Hasanabad nullah are not sufficient," they said, adding funds provided for the purpose had not been utilised.

The chief minister directed the officials to ensure safety of local residents and prepare a report regarding damage caused to the agricultural land by the water flow. Mr Rehman said the GI government would take every possible measure to mitigate the suffering of the affected people of glacial lake outburst.—Correspondent

ANP protests silence of NAB over govt 'corruption'

PESHAWAR: Aamul National Party held a protest rally outside National Accountability Bureau here on Monday for not taking up cases of alleged corruption during the last six years.

According to a press release, ANP provincial president Aimal Wali Khan led the protest rally held in Hayat shed outside the NAB office. He said that high profile cases of corruption were taken up and inspection were held but NAB had not moved forward and show anything in those cases.

"It looks like there is a hidden hand behind it," said Mr Khan. He said that the prime minister, who chanted the slogan of accountability, was surrounded by the people facing NAB charges. He added that the case of misuse of helicopter by the prime minister was also not investigated so far.

The ANP leader said that billion tree project also needed to be probed as supplies from Punjab were bought at quiet expensive and the parliamentary committee also disclosed that the plants mentioned in the papers were different from the ones on the ground. He said that erigation of fire at 92 places could be an attempt to eliminate the evidence.



ANP provincial chief Aimal Wali addresses a sit-in outside NAB KP offices in Peshawar on Monday.—Write Star

Mr Khan also mentioned the Rapid Transit project and said that it should be investigated by NAB. He said that it was not completed within six months as claimed by the government and the delay escalated its expenditures.

The ANP leader said high profile cases should be investigated by NAB to protect the rights and lives of the people of the province. ANP general secretary Mian Hukhtar Hussain also spoke about the

corruption scandals. He said that instead of taking up such cases of corruption, NAB was acting as bodyguard of the government. He said that NAB should not become a tool in the hands of the government rather it should work for the interests of the country.

He said that ANP believed in impartiality and accountability and that everyone whether he was a prime minister or his family.—Bureau Report

Couple shot dead for honour in Haripur

By Our Correspondent

HARIPUR: A couple was shot dead in the name of honour by the family members of the woman in Sera-i-Saleh here on Monday.

One of the accused, however, was arrested along with the weapon used in the crime, police said.

Witnesses and police said a woman, resident of Lower Kohistan district, had married with a serving constable of Mansehra police a few months ago without the consent of her family.

The couple, leaving backlash from the family, had shifted to Dheri Ali Khan village, a suburban locality near Sera-i-Saleh town. On Monday evening, the woman was waiting for her husband on GT Road when her brother came there and opened fire, killing her on the spot.

The assailant's other brothers stopped a car at some distance from the place where the woman was shot dead and resorted to indiscriminate fire, killing her husband on the spot. Two other inmates of the car sustained injuries.

At Sera-i-Saleh police station Siddique Khan, who was on way back to the police station after attending a court hearing, seeing the man committing the murder caught hold of him after a chase through the Sera-i-Saleh Bazaar.

However, his other accomplices, who murdered the policemen, were still at large.

Meanwhile, a teenage girl committed suicide over unknown reasons in Basti Sher Khan, police said on Monday. The victim aged 16 had an altercation with her mother over some household chores, according to her father.

35 seminary students injured in roof collapse

By Our Correspondent

MAIDAN: Thirty-five girl students were injured when roof of a religious seminary in veranda collapsed in Dera Ismail Khan here on Monday.

Officials at religious seminary said the students were taking classes when roof of veranda collapsed.

Personal of Faislam-1122 rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the district headquarters hospital, Maidan.

The officials said most of the students belonged to poor families. After the incident, local residents demanded of the government to construct a proper building of the seminary.

People protest bad condition of Shandur road

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: Residents of Mastuj, Laspur and Yarkhoon valleys on Monday staged a sit-in in Mastuj for three hours against the government for not starting work on construction of Boori-Shandur Road.

The protesters said they would extend the duration of the sit-in by July 1 and would also stop transportation of horses, birds and other items for Shandur Festival scheduled to start from July 7.

The protesters said the road from Boori town to Mastuj and onward to Laspur and Yarkhoon was in bad shape, resulting in several fatal accidents.

They accused the communications and works department of committing massive corruption in the funds meant for constructing the road. They asked the people of Gilgit-Baltistan to boycott the Shandur Festival by expressing solidarity with the people of Mastuj, Laspur and Yarkhoon.

Advertisement for Pakistan Railways featuring a table with details and contact information for Fizza Parvez Afzaal, FA & CAO (Revenue).

Advertisement for Pakistan Railways featuring a table with details and contact information for Fizza Parvez Afzaal, FA & CAO (Revenue).

PHC begins hearing into Dr Shakil's plea against conviction

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: For the first time, the Peshawar High Court on Monday began hearing into the petition of former agency surgeon Dr Shakil Afridi against the upholding of his conviction by an appellate forum for links with banned militant outfits.

The petition like others proceeding with the tribunal was recently allowed to the high court by the government and the tribunal's abolition due to the merger of the tribunal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A bench consisting of Justice Abdul Shoukor and Justice Ijaz Atwar held preliminary hearing into the two revision petitions of Dr Shakil and administration of Khyber tribal district's administrator against the decision of the Frontier Crimes Regulation commissioner delivered on Mar 15, 2014.

It issued a notice to the provincial government on Dr Shakil's petition against upholding of his conviction for links with banned outfits. The bench also kept on notice the former agency surgeon over a petition of

the government against the conviction of his sentence by the FCR committee since, which was the appellate forum under the FCR, which stands repealed due to the Fata RP merger.

The petition remained pending with the tribunal for four years without noteworthy progress.

The FCR commissioner had upheld the conviction of Dr Shakil for being linked to a banned militant organisation of Bana tribal but military officials prima term slapped by the assistant political agent's court from 33 years to 23 years and the fine from Rs20,000 to Rs20,000.

Through the revision petition, Dr Shakil had challenged the commissioner's decision with the Fata tribunal, the third and final judicial forum under the FCR.

Similarly, the administration had also moved the tribunal seeking increase in the sentence of Dr Shakil. Lawyers Abdul Latif Afridi and Qasim Nadeem appeared for Dr Shakil in the court and accepted the notice issued to their client on the government's petition. The schedule of next hearing will be

announced later. Dr Shakil was taken into custody in May 2011 by intelligence agencies on the suspicion of arranging a fake vaccination campaign at the behest of American CIA in Abbottabad for training Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. However, he was not convicted by the trial court on that charge.

The assistant political agent, who was also the additional district magistrate of Bana tribal in Khyber agency, convicted him on May 23, 2002 for involvement in anti-state activities by supporting the Barabahal branch of Hiz, Lashkar-e-Islam, and sentenced him on different counts to a total of 33 years' imprisonment with fine of Rs20,000.

The court convicted him on four counts, including sedition, waging war against Pakistan, concealing design to wage war against Pakistan and condemnation of the creation of Pakistan. He was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on three counts and three years imprisonment on fourth count.

The trial court ruled that the sentences would run consecutively, so he had to undergo 33 years imprisonment. He was also fined Rs120,000 after the

Charter of economy

It might sound incongruous in these times of polarisation, but there is a growing need for the political parties to agree on a 'charter of economy' if Pakistan is to have any hope of breaking its cycle of eternal return to the IMF. The issue has come back to the surface of late, especially since Maryam Nawaz obligingly announced her opposition to making any 'deal' with the government, while Shahbaz Sharif and Asif Zardari have both supported the idea. The logic of refusing to deal with one's opponents because they have come to power "through the back door" is fine for political purposes, but the need and demand for a charter of economy is different, and predates the present. It is worth remembering that the idea had been floated in the past by the PML-N itself.

A charter of economy need not represent a 'deal' or a 'bargain' of any sort. It doesn't have to be a negotiation process where one side gives and the other takes. It is, in fact, a roundtable discussion for all parties to concur on a minimum economic agenda they think is desirable. There are some common things that all parties have done when in power. For example, they have all floated bonds in international markets and taken loans from the IMF and the World Bank. Then there are some things they have all struggled with when in power — for example, broadening the tax base and documenting the economy. There are some areas where they do not agree with each other — for example, what to do with state-owned enterprises. On each of these agenda items, there is a need for the parties to sit down together to discuss with each other what their position is, what actions they are willing to support, and where they draw the line. The PPP has opposed outright privatisation, for example, preferring a divestment of stakes instead, whereas the PML-N and the PTI both now seem in favour of privatisation (even though the latter party's manifesto does not propose privatisation as the solution to the growing burden of SOEs).

The parties need to have this dialogue with each other behind closed doors, and with the din of politics locked out. Those members of their parties who support such a path should discuss it with those among their colleagues who oppose it and persuade them to change their minds. Moreover, the process needs to be led by Prime Minister Imran Khan himself, otherwise it will lack the kind of credibility it needs. This is the time for Mr Khan to show that he is capable of providing the kind of leadership the country needs. The economic conversation has suffered as it has been held to political tides over the years. It is now time to sit together and agree on at least a minimum common agenda for the economy.

FBR-Nadra portal

HISTORICALLY, tax amnesty schemes haven't had significant success, with those who choose not to document their assets often not taking the bait. Clearly, the government is intent on making its scheme work where others have failed — by skipping the fishing line for a trawler net. In announcing the launch of an online tax-profiling portal with data collated by the FBR and Nadra only days before the June 30 assets declaration deadline, the government's message is clear: they have a detailed picture of citizens' assets, income, expenditures and lifestyles, information that can be used in the future to prosecute individuals who have so far evaded the law. However, and perhaps in large part because it took the public by surprise, many have expressed discomfort and anxiety with this rather drastic signalling. And not without reason.

The fact that the decision to upload the personal data of around 53m citizens online was taken without following a stakeholder process and parliamentary debate is quite concerning. The Constitution guarantees citizens' right to privacy, and though the data collected by Nadra, for example, was willingly submitted, it was without the understanding that this information would be put on an online portal as some future date. The fact that travel history is also included in this profile has been particularly jarring for many. In an age when even using a relatively benign app requires consenting to an exhaustive terms-and-conditions agreement, this betrays a lackadaisical attitude towards how Pakistanis' personal data is gathered, stored and used. And though FBR chairman Shahbaz Zairi has given assurances that the database is secure, the general lack of transparency prior to the portal's launch still raises serious questions about what precautions have been taken — or what recourse citizens have in the (however unlikely) event of a security breach. Pakistan still lacks a personal data protection law. A draft bill introduced by the IT ministry last year has several major shortcomings — the most pertinent in this case being that it does not extend to public bodies and government-held personal data, which includes biometric details. Following the June 30 deadline (after which the portal would have effectively served its purpose) it ought to be taken offline. However well-intentioned this initiative may be — and it is hoped that it is successful — security and privacy questions need to be answered before any similar actions are undertaken again.

Comeback win

PAKISTAN'S convincing 49-run win over South Africa on Sunday has once again rekindled hopes of them making it to the World Cup semi-finals, though realistically, it is a difficult target to achieve. It was a commendable performance, indeed, from a team that had appeared down and out after being defeated by India last Sunday, and that has been at the receiving end of scathing criticism from dejected fans. The South Africans, who have certainly not been at their best in this tournament, were determined to go out on a winning note, and wanted to take advantage of a demoralised Pakistani team. Instead, they encountered a buoyant outfit that had picked up the pieces. The openers provided a solid start, and the prolific Babar Azam was again among the runs. Thankfully, Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz, who had so far appeared off colour, performed well in the crucial contest, while Mohammad Amir continued with his lethal form. However, it was Man of the Match Harris Sohail who stole the show with his breathtaking, match-winning knock of 89. The affable left-hander, who had suffered in the dogfight for the last three games as his senior Shoaib Malik made a mess of things in the middle, grabbed the opportunity to hit out at the Proteas attack. More importantly, Sarfaraz Ahmed's captaincy was aggressive and imaginative, which checked any sort of fight-back by the other side in the run chase. In the two matches against Australia and India, Sarfaraz had been criticised for not being fully engaged and for being short on ideas. But on Sunday, under him, his charges executed the game plan to the letter.

Having said that, there is no margin for error; Pakistan has to win all their three matches to make any sort of case for playing the semi-finals. Despite the win against South Africa, they languish at a lowly seventh spot with an unimpressive scoring rate. The fielding, too, remains a major worry and may well be the deciding factor against a fiercely competitive rival like New Zealand that they face next. How far Pakistan can go in this tournament also depends on how teams like England, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka fare in their remaining games. But luck favours the brave, and if Pakistan maintain their renewed impetus, they can still pull off the unthinkable.

OPINION



BY ARIFA NOOR

What Maryam did next

Unlike Bilawal, Maryam's transgressions will be noted more.

HER press conference on Saturday changed the political conversation in a flash, with everyone focusing on what she had or had not said and what it meant or did not mean. For Maryam Nawaz is now acknowledged as the heir apparent, as well as the voice of her father.

No wonder then that her dismissal of the notion of a charter of economy has poured water over the idea. Not only did she pooh-pooh the suggestion, she also stated that her father didn't think it was a good idea either. It's hard to remember if she said this before or after she mentioned that all final decisions of the party are made by her father, even if Shahbaz Sharif and she herself do hold the views that are aired. But she said it; and as a result what she claimed was her personal opinion ended up being stamped as the party's view.

And thanks to these short sentences, Shahbaz Sharif's three-hour-long speech in parliament was consigned to the bin. Poor 88, his career trajectory is beginning to resemble that of Prince Charles.

And those of us who are used to interpreting the madman called politics in Pakistan will continue to examine Maryam's relationship with her uncle in the days to come.

The press conference began as one by a daughter. She spoke of her father's health and what she considers his mistreatment in prison. It appeared to be an effort to create pressure for his release on bail — now that Nawaz Sharif's bail petition has been rejected by the Islamabad High Court, his lawyers will perhaps appeal to the Supreme Court.

The daughter made her point in around half an hour.

Inevitably, the journalists present wanted to ask questions and they were less interested in medical matters and more in political issues. And the budding politician took over.

This is where the spoke of the charter of economy, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the military and other issues.

There is a likelihood that she didn't realise her words would create a storm in a teacup. This is her credence by the interview she gave shortly after the press conference. Exclusive interviews which span the entirety of the programme tend to not be conducted in a hurry to provide some clarity on the questions raised by the press conference — especially her relationship with her uncle who is also the president of the party.

But, it was not just family relations which hinted at her inability to evade tricky questions; she wasn't able to navigate the ones about the military either.

At the press conference where she tried to express her concern over efforts to make the institution controversial by including it in a politically motivated commission to explore debt, she wasn't able to hide her resentment over the ISI official who grilled her in the joint investigation team while the rest of the members stayed quiet. Similarly, by asking that the debt commission should look at the Musharraf years and at the Coalition Support Funds, she may have raised eyebrows in Peshawar and beyond.

It is hard to believe this is deliberate because the past few months have brought forth a very different Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who has done more than just kept quiet about the institutions she was seen to have launched verbal attacks against prior to the election. It seems once again a combination of inexperience of formal press interactions as well as being her cool, something which will grow but is not yet judged more harshly for any expression of emotion than men.

In addition, what was lost in the din over her uncle and civil-military relations was what appears to be her far-from-easy relationship with money of her father's second tier — they were missing from her benches as well as her press conference. For example, leaders such as Shahbaz Khagan Abbasi have been taking the mickey out of the idea, arguing that all Khan needed to do was look at the finance minis-

try documents to see what money has come in and where it has gone. But Maryam Nawaz seems to have taken the idea seriously by questioning its members and in the time period it will investigate.

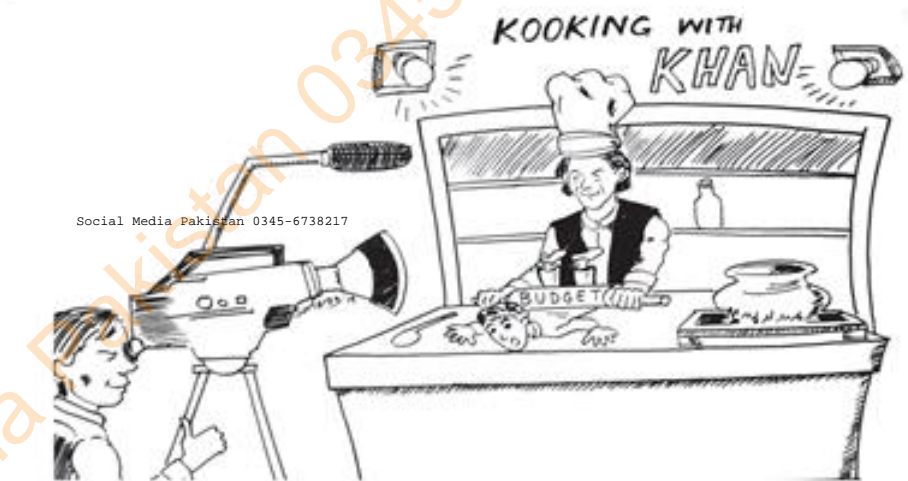
It can perhaps be ventured that these fault lines will continue to crop up again and again as she tries to play a more public role as an opposition leader. The friction between the two branches of the family was always a headline-making story but in the recent past it had seemed that the legal and political troubles had put it on the back burner, where it would stay till their troubles eased. Clearly this is not to be. There may not be a break but neither will the differences be allowed to be forgotten.

Similarly, the amasse between the heir and the senior party leadership will also not stay too far beneath the surface. For it is already apparent that she will create a new second tier for herself as did Benazir Bhutto; though it appears that Maryam has already begun the process.

And third, she will continue to be questioned about her views on the military, and her answers will make headlines. At the moment, Maryam is not too adept at the pragmatism she says Shahbaz Sharif possesses; she strays against diverting from the more confrontational path which will be hard to hide as she interacts with people and the press. And unlike Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, who simply enjoys the advantage of not being Asif Ali Zardari, her transgressions will be noted more.

As a result, her press interactions are bound to be fraught with controversy. It remains to be seen if this will compel her to avoid the media or learn to embrace it as did Imran Khan as an opposition leader. This along with her ability to handle the fruitless citizens' protest would determine if she will be able to make living in Islamabad an difficult for Imran Khan as he did for the PML-N. The learning curve is a steep one for her. ■

The writer is a journalist.



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BY JAWED NAQVI

The message from Istanbul

IT was an uplifting moment at the Trafalgar Square protest against Donald Trump's visit to London. The carnival of protesters reminded me of the way we used to hold demonstrations in India not long ago against practically everything that was wrong with the world, of which India was an increasingly worrying part.

The solidarity was instant and spontaneous. How the students wore black bands to protest Bhutto's execution by Zia or against the CIA-backed coup against Allende, and how many were beaten by police during protests against the US invasion of Iraq.

The tradition is not recent. I remember learning from family seniors and their friends the pronunciation of "Dien Bien Phu", the venue of a valiant patriotic battle the Vietnamese fought against the French occupiers before I was born. In London the other day, there was this group advocating their strong opposition to Brexit. Another wanted early elections. Some were asking the US to lay off Iran with placards held aloft by women, including those whose dress code could make it somewhat difficult for those to find entry into the country they supported.

Did it matter though? Evidently not. A Trump-led, India, replete with a make-believe security detail, starts looking men with their surprised, plugged-to-a-make-believe communication base come on a walk. He was wearing insignias. "Fake news, I'm the best, Evil Hillary." A huge plastic doll of Trump was the centrepiece. It had him sitting on the commode and speaking rubbish to everyone's amusement.

There were gay rights groups hand in hand with those who wanted Palestine freed. Jews for Labour was another actively involved lot that wanted to see the back of Trump. Jeremy Corbyn delivered a powerful speech against the visit. When Home Secretary Sajid Javid was talking with Prime Minister Theresa May over his exclusion from the guest list for the Queen's banquet, a move some thought to be part of Trump's profiling of him, Corbyn had loudly and clearly turned down his own invitation to the high table. Not all is lost across the world for democracy and humanity it seems.

In an echo from Trafalgar Square, the people's

verdict in the globally watched mayoral contest in Istanbul should be putting the autocratic Erdogan government on notice, and it ought to give heart to people fighting rights-awakening in their own country. Obviously, it has a message for the debilitated opponents of Prime Minister Modi's communal rule in India. But unless the scattered and self-absorbed opposition joins the battle there's little chance of anyone returning the country to its lofty democratic ideals any time soon.

That Modi's India is adamant in staying its destructive course was evident from the external affairs ministry's laughable but not entirely unexpected rejection of the US State Department's report on basic religious freedoms that have been curtailed by India's right-wing Hindu government. Things were much more different, say, in 1992 when J.N. Dixit was foreign secretary. The Babri

It seems that not all is lost across the world for democracy and humanity.

Mandir was razed in Ayodhya, and Indian embassies everywhere were in a state with embassies. They sought guidance from New Delhi about how to explain the outrage to the world.

Dixit was a clear-headed and secular diplomat. His advice to his embassies was to be uniform: "Tell them that we have a bunch of cowdies who are bent on harming our secular constitution. We regret the outrage in Ayodhya and will have no stone unturned to restore to the minorities their confidence and equal stake in India's democracy." That's what he told me he said to his colleagues.

India's incredible response to the US report was published on Sunday by *The Hindu*. It quoted the external affairs ministry's spokesperson as saying that foreign governments did not have the right to criticise India's "inherent democracy and dedication to rule of law".

Effectively rejecting the annual report on religious freedom to the US Congress, the Indian spokes-

man was quoted as saying that the US had no business to give the analysis. "We see no locus standi for a foreign government to pronounce on the state of our citizens' constitutional protected rights."

The comments were as absurd as the ones made by an Indian representative to the UN recently about India's democracy leaving no space for tourists to exist.

The US report was released on the eve of the visit of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to New Delhi on Tuesday. Mr Pompeo himself released it and he referred to the issue of religious freedom as a "deeply personal" priority.

The State Department's 2019 Report on International Religious Freedom referred to multiple instances where the Modi government at the centre and various state governments of the Bharatiya Janata Party took steps that hurt the Muslim and Christian communities.

The official spokesperson, however, was saying that "it is widely acknowledged that India is a vibrant democracy where the constitution provides protection of religious freedom, and where democratic governance and rule of law further promote and protect the fundamental rights". Of course, Dixit could have said those same words and moved on, but he didn't. That's the difference in them and today.

Apart from the murders and lynching by cow vigilante groups, the US report pointed out that there were several attempts to undermine minority institutions and change names of cities that reminded one of the pluralist nature of India. In this regard, the report highlighted the change of the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj.

That the report was prepared by an utterly right-wing US administration was ironic, not any less so than a defeated Erdogan greeting his opponent on a verdict that he never knew was coming. *Kasthur* be his mother's asshole! *Kashur* roko roko hai naam, wari an old Hindi movie song, inspired by a Urdu verse. The night is dark, but it is only a night. That's the message from Istanbul. ■

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OPINION

BY AQDAS AFZAL



Technology's role

THE latest budget is primarily aimed at putting Pakistan's finances in order. The government has set a massive target for the Federal Board of Revenue — 35 per cent more than last year. The government is also planning to protect austerity. This budget is ambitious, if it works it may bring down the budget deficit.

This fiscal consolidation, however, will significantly check the economic growth rate. Official estimates put economic growth at only 2.4pc next year. Economic growth is the most important factor for job creation. According to the UN, given demographic trends, Pakistan needs 1.3 million new jobs every year.

Given the urgency to increase economic growth to create jobs, policy options in the budget appear limited, since a major chunk of expenditure will go towards debt interest payments for the next several years. In these dire times, the most important question can be asking about economic growth? The answer lies in focusing on technological innovation.

The economy's fundamental problem is its technologically backward exports — food commodities comprise 25pc of exports. The demand for the latter does not increase as economies and incomes grow in our trading partners. Consumption of these raw materials is limited by biophysical constraints after all. However, as the economy and income grow in Pakistan, people purchase more and more imported goods like iPhones and vehicles, especially as new models appear every couple of years. This imbalance in sales and purchases is what widens the trade deficit. These weak 'terms of trade' are the real reason behind the perennial trade deficits in Pakistan to knock on the IMF's door regularly.

The nature of exports can be transformed through sustained technological innovation. Instead of food commodities, Pakistan can export high-tech commodities. Adoption of smart yards, it can export locally developed branded apparel, earning a lot more foreign exchange, even for the same quantity of exports, thereby reducing the trade deficit and the need to borrow from the IMF.

The critical role of technological innovation in increasing economic growth is not disputed. It is a key explanation for the exponential economic growth during the Industrial Revolution in the West.

The real puzzle is why technological innovation takes root in some societies, while others are not able to make such headway. Recently, at the Economic Festival in Texas, India, two economists offered solutions to the technological innovation puzzle. Joel Mokyr identified two variables that mitigate against technological innovation, stalling economic growth. He underlined corrup-

tion and political risk as significant hurdles that work against upping the rate of technological innovation. Simply, in the presence of a kleptocracy, innovators can never be sure if they can keep all the profits from their innovations. This lack of incentive makes them reluctant. At the same time, the spectre of political risk — when economic policies affect business profitability — creates disincentives for local and foreign businesses as far as investment in new technologies is concerned, thus stalling economic growth.

Daron Acemoglu, author of *Why Nations Fail*, argued that technological innovation and economic growth only come about if societies gain more liberty against the governing institutions that rule them. And, societies can gain more liberty by instituting robust checks and balances that keep corrupt rulers at bay — for nations that have effective checks and balances, the likelihood of economic growth is much higher.

Given the urgency to focus on technological innovation and economic growth, there are two major lessons for Pakistan's policymakers. First, technological innovation and economic growth will not take root unless local and foreign investors' keep the gates from their innovations and investments. To do so, robust checks and balances and accountability mechanisms are needed.

Pakistan needs 1.3 million new jobs every year.

The second lesson is perhaps more important and deals with political risk — when economic policy changes or a dictator. Technological innovation will not take root if investors do not have confidence in the permanence of economic policies. And, given that most infrastructure projects like the Chinese train set, have completion timelines extending beyond five years, there must be economic policy permanence and overlap across different governments.

The latest budget merely attempts balancing the books, job creation and economic growth must be the real objectives. Policy options for increasing economic growth have all but disappeared. Focusing on technological innovation does, however, offer a way out. What is truly needed right now is a 'quarter of economic' through which political leaders can rise above their differences and reach consensus over the permanence of economic policies for the next decade at least.

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BY NEDA MUJLI



Linguistic challenge

ANYONE who has grown up in Pakistan in the 60s and 70s would have heard school-going children 'playing' *Orange and Lemon* and *London Bridge is Falling Down*. They would have also noticed how the lyrics got distorted in multiple ways. Children growing up in a postcolonial society use words in a way that makes sense to them. Sociocultural theory of communication describes this as an appropriation of a language through meaning assigned to words based on personal experiences. If the experiences are far removed from the language of communication, we suffer the double-layered task of understanding the content as well as the language in which it is expressed.

In our classrooms where the medium of instruction is English, this decontextualisation struggle continues to this day. Teachers are faced with multilingual children whose intelligence is perhaps filtered by their ability to find appropriate words to express meaning and understanding. Language continually intervenes in the process of learning, making it twice as hard for those who have struggled with content over the English language. The problem is compounded by the teachers' own linguistic limitations in decoding meanings which often become a barrier to dialogue between students and teachers.

Whether we should have English as the medium of instruction in classrooms has been a debate for long, and the fact that English remains a language with immense social power globally implies that it is here to stay. Downplaying its importance is not going to solve our class equity issues, nor will instruction in Urdu raise the standard of our education to meet international benchmarks. In fact, the global power of the English language perhaps makes it necessary for us to equip our children for their digital future by learning to use it intelligently.

As a society, we need to look for ways to subvert the challenges of English-medium instruction primarily because it becomes a struggle at different levels and teachers often fall prey to mistaking problems of explanation for lack of comprehension or intelligence. This is a bridge that still needs to be crossed in our curriculum delivery, and ways to overcome it might provide the means for more engaged, rigorous instruction. Children are not good at English for the first time in schools and have little to no exposure to it at home may need visual representations to start them off.

Teachers often tend to rely on translation and paraphrasing which has never been useful for meaningful learning. Extensive research on STEM subjects shows that visual representation has the advantage of bypassing the language barrier.

teachers encounter students who can grasp very difficult concepts but are unable to express their understanding through the written word. Their expertise can be seen in demonstrations in the lab, hands-on projects, sharing ideas verbally or expressing them selves through artwork. Alexander Graham Bell, for example, first relayed his idea of a telephone through artwork. Most experienced teachers know the value of visuals in helping students in problem-solving methods. In fact, visual representation and problem-solving have been age-old partners in the integral engineering design process.

Strategies can be successfully implemented to help learn without classroom engagement is hindered by linguistic limitations. Classrooms that employ an Integrated STEM Literacy system find that students progress rapidly when a link is established between text and visuals. The strategy is further supported by the concept of 'tool learners', which is not a new one.

Students are divided into mixed-ability groups where those who are quick to learn a concept, use visuals to bring their peers up to speed. In this way, classes become more student centred and learner autonomy is encouraged, taking the pressure off a teacher who no more has the sole responsibility of sharing/teaching all students at once.

What emerges in such a classroom is participative teamwork which helps develop linguistic skills by learning from each other, with visuals for support. A teacher does not need to be an artist to illustrate simple concepts, symbols, images and even emojis can be powerful tools to tell a story. In fact, story-telling combined with graphics has been the foundation of knowledge-sharing since time immemorial.

The acquisition of language skills requires a connection with the learner's personal experiences. Language is not an 'accumulation' of ideas; rather, linguistic development occurs in an environment that moves beyond the stringent focus on grammar, vocabulary and spelling. 'Orange is a lemon (lol)', will for a person (lol) heard in a children's playground might sound idiosyncratic, but it is a powerful representation of the learner's ability to accommodate it in their personal lives and make it a part of their experiences.

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FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1969 | Fifty years ago

Pakistan Democratic Party

DACA (Four parties—the National Democratic Front, pro-PTM Awami League, Niwasa-Islam and Justice Party) today [June 24] announced their merger into one political party to be called the Pakistan Democratic Party. With the formation of the new party, the four merging parties ceased to exist.

The sponsors of the merger claimed national character for their new party saying it was not a regional party and that it would try to solve all national problems in a spirit of amity and friendship. The merger of four parties into one was inaugurated democratic party on national basis" was announced in a joint communiqué at the residence of the NDP leader, Mr. Nasir Amin, Mr. Nasir Amin of the NTW, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan of pro-PTM Awami League, Chaudhry Mahabubul Alam of the Niwasa-Islam party and Air Marshal Anwar Khan signed the communiqué on behalf of their respective parties. Meanwhile, the manifesto committee, set up earlier, would meet in All Pakistan to work out the manifesto.

All the leaders who signed the joint communiqué were present at the Press conference and answered questions. ... Mr. Nasir Amin said the new party had not taken any decision on the question of general elections [but] stressed they wanted elections as early as possible and without further delay. — Correspondent

1944 | Seventy-five years ago

Quit quibbling

REDAVILL "I have neither the authority nor the wish to withdraw the Resolution." It is the Moving Finger of the Congress writing on July 15, 1944, and having written Mr. Gandhi has refused to move on. There is not half a line cancelled in all his carefully considered broadsheets when it is not only possible that he would willingly let the August Resolution die. Lord Wavell has unspooled his mental handkerchief at last, but if he is prevented from loosening the deadlock, it is not the Mahatma who is sitting tight on the status quo. It is not only possible that he would willingly let the August Resolution die. Lord Wavell has unspooled his mental handkerchief at last, but if he is prevented from loosening the deadlock, it is not the Mahatma who is sitting tight on the status quo. It is not only possible that he would willingly let the August Resolution die. 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BUSINESS

Senate seeks abolishment of amnesty scheme, minimum wage at Rs30,000

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday adopted all of the 63 recommendations of its standing committee on Finance and Revenue, seeking the National Assembly to delete the much-talked Asset Declaration Scheme, the Stamp Act of 1899 and West Pakistan Motor Vehicles Taxation Act 1958 from the Finance Bill 2019-20.

The upper house praised the committee headed by Dr Farooq H. Naeq for completing its task within a tight schedule and making comprehensive recommendations.

The committee had specifically suggested deleting from the finance bill a new clause 5A in Section 175 of the Income Tax Ordinance that empowered tax commissioners to raise any premises over information of undeclared gold, heavier security or foreign currency and composite items.

In addition, the senate also adopted the recommendation that sought "25 business class open return air tickets from the airport to his nearest constituency in Islamabad on a quarterly basis" in addition to travellers for the same purpose to members of the parliament.

The Senate also recommended reduction in imprisonment from 10 to five years and capping the maximum penalty at Rs100,000 from the money laundering act and the deletion of clause seeking forfeiture of property involved in money laundering or property of corresponding value from the Anti Money Laundering Act 2018.

It also proposed to the National Assembly that the government should endeavour to abolish R/Bs at the earliest, replace to least 30 per cent of all new

government debts with Shariah-compliant mode and funds of the ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony related to Hajj, Zakat and Ushar should be replaced or invested under Shariah compliant mode.

The Senate also adopted a consensus resolution of the finance committee that "totally rejected the increase in tax and prices of commodities which are bordering and adversely affecting the common man".

It said the fertilizer dealers may be provided facility of exemption certificate through electronic system on their sale to the prescribed persons.

Furthermore, the Senate also recommended that Section 58 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, be omitted in order to protect the tax payers of private companies and the proposed increase of 4.5pc tax in the Finance

Bill, 2019, for ship breakers on the impact of ships should be brought at par with the steel millers and other steel manufacturers.

The Senate proposed that instead of giving state deductions selectively to the charitable organisations, amendment should be made in the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, to give state deductions to all the registered charitable organisations across the board.

The senate also recommended risk management system under Customs Act should be implemented through a risk management committee headed by BPS12 officer of customs under the rules to review functioning and supervise implementation of the risk management system and comprise as many BPS13-20 officers of customs as may be justified by the board.

Also, it suggested that the sales tax should be increased to 6pc and 12pc

for those retailers who were not connected to the Federal Board of Revenue in order to bring them into the tax net and sales tax should not be imposed on textile sector and their pending refund claims be cleared at the earliest and steps should be taken to stop issue of fake invoices.

The Senate recommended three year exemption of sales tax to the brick kilns falling in PCT code 6993-1000 who were upgrading the production to the 5/2 type environment-friendly systems.

Another recommendation demanded that all ad hoc relief allowances should be merged in the existing basic pay and 15pc increase should be made in the pay and pension of all the federal government employees while minimum wage for workers be increased up to Rs10,000 per month.

Also, the exemptable income tax slabs for government employees and armed forces should be fixed at Rs1 million instead of Rs600,000 and their medical allowance and conveyance allowances should be granted on the current market value.

The Senate recommended that the taxpayers of district Faisal, Qilahi Saeedullah and Qilahi Abdullah of Balochistan should be excluded from the provisions of withholding deduction u/s 153(1)(a) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. It also recommended that a simplified and a fixed rate of tax should be introduced on the turnover in order to promote economic activities and to facilitate the traders.

The upper house recommended that agricultural loans granted to the poor farmers since land owners of Balochistan be waived off up to Rs200,000.

FBR restores advance duty on tobacco

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has restored the advance Federal Excise Duty (FED) for Green Leaves Turkish Cigarettes (GLTCs) at Rs45.

FBR Chairman Iyad Shabbir Zaidi on Monday informed the National Assembly's Special Committee on Agriculture Products that the board proposed to increase the duty to Rs100 from the current rate of Rs45 on the very committee's recommendation the move had been shelved.

The government had imposed the FED in a bid to track, trace and document the tobacco sector, however, the move failed to achieve the desired results.

However, the committee previously argued that the increase in FED has effectively crippled the manufacturers and farmers as they had to shut down their businesses and large quantity of tobacco remained unused.

The net impact of the levy was relatively nil on the cigarette manufacturers since the FED was adjustable but had affected growers.

It is pertinent to mention that in the amended Finance Act 2018, the government had increased the FED from Rs30 to Rs100 per kg.

Levying FED at GLT stage had precluded the tobacco dealers, middlemen and manufacturers to effectively engage in tobacco trade and had shrank farmers' harvest in return.

The meeting also discussed the matter related to the minimum support price for cotton, allocations for agricultural research, promotion of olive cultivation, duties on fertilizers and poultry.

In line with the recommendations of the special committee, State Minister for Revenue Hamood Arhar agreed to allocate

Rs1 billion for agriculture research in the budget for the next fiscal year and the members stressed that N/A's resolution and special committee's recommendations regarding the imposition of regulatory import duty and minimum support price for certain crops should be taken into account to enable the farmers to receive international parity price.

Syed Fakhar Iqbal argued that given the lack of meaningful incentives, particularly the income tax relief on the sale of Pakistan's cotton production and land under cultivation should be continued to create space to regional competitors.

Iqbal said that cotton was Pakistan's strategic crop with immense potential for competitive advantage however local growers never fetched a fair price for their toil.

He said that lack of regulatory duty on cotton imports is tantamount to benefiting Indian and central Asian farmers and exploiting the local growers.

Advisor to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Durrani said the decision to fix minimum support price for cotton and the restoration of regulatory import duty would have negative repercussions for the entire value chain of the textile industry.

He further stated that the main reason for farmers to lose out on international parity price was the quality of seeds, excessive use of pesticides, contamination and artificially maintained high sugarcane prices.

Hamood Arhar also said the support price mechanism would not be effective in the market and affect the entire value chain of the textile industry and may jeopardize the foreign exchange earnings.

Pakistan Kisan Hitbah President Khalid Khokhar urged the government to take an adjustment based on the value and tariff for electricity on agriculture value which should be abolished.



KUALA LUMPUR: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (L) speaks as Governor of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) during a press conference on Monday.—AFP

Trade tensions will benefit none, says Lagarde

KUALA LUMPUR: Trade tensions between the United States and China will not benefit any party over the long term, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde said on Monday.

Speaking at a press conference in the Borneo Convention Centre, Malaysia's Muzium and Art Gallery here, Lagarde said the climate of trade tensions was not conducive to global trade, and countries like Malaysia, which were deeply involved in the supply chain, could see sluggish growth.

"We don't take a political view, but what we observe and have been observing is that trade tensions, trade wars are beneficial to none," she said.

Specifically on the Malaysian economy, Lagarde said the IMF had forecast a growth of 4.5 per cent, lower than the predictions of the Malaysian authorities and this was attributed to the trade tensions.

Lagarde said the IMF was concerned that trade tensions would slow the global economy next year, pointing to the 25pc tariffs on certain Chinese goods by the United States.

"We are concerned that trade tensions could actually have a significant impact on global growth and the work that we want done at the IMF indicates that we could face a reduction of 0.5pc of global growth in 2020" as a result of the tariffs, she said.

She added that short-term diversions of the supply chain to other countries may seem to present opportunities, but these would not necessarily develop into a longer-term development contributing to job creation and foreign direct investment to contribute to the real development of those affected. "No nobody chooses a trade war," she said.—AFP

Deputy head of India's central bank quits, adding to independence concerns

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has resigned six months before the scheduled end of his term in office citing personal reasons, the central bank said on Monday, adding to concerns about the independence of the central bank.

Acharya's departure is not surprising as he had previously clashed with Modi's government over an erosion of the central bank's independence.

His resignation is likely to make the RBI more dovish over monetary policy and more willing to cut interest rates, economists said. Acharya, who is in charge of departments that look at monetary policy and exchange rate matters, had been regarded as one of an inflation hawk.

Acharya submitted his resignation letter a few weeks ago saying he was unable to continue his term beyond July 23 due to unavoidable personal circumstances, the RBI said in a release.

He will return to the New York University Stern School of Business in August instead of February next year, the Business Standard newspaper said.

His resignation has been talked about as a possibility ever since former governor Urjit Patel suddenly

resigned in early December.

Acharya blew the lid off the tensions between Modi's government and the RBI in a scathing speech last October.

Staunchly defending the need for central bank independence, Acharya made public disputes with the government over issues ranging from lending curbs, more cash availability to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), and who controls the RBI's reserves.

In a separate development, a panel deciding how much of the central bank's so-called "excess funds" should go to the government further delayed submitting its report as a senior government official, who is on the panel, disagreed with its proposal, sources said on Monday.

Inflation, fiscal concerns

Acharya was the third key senior central bank official under the Modi government to resign, following the departures of former RBI governors Raghuram Rajan in 2016 and Urjit Patel in December 2018.

Economists said that while the economy's current weakness does warrant monetary and fiscal stimulus, lack of an inflation-fighting focus on the central bank's monetary policy committee could be a concern going ahead.

"The risks of undermining the central bank's independence are potentially catastrophic," Acharya had said in his October speech, adding that such moves could trigger a "crisis of confidence in capital markets".

The minutes of the RBI's June monetary policy committee meeting released last week showed a clear change in focus towards faltering growth amid largely muted inflation.

With Acharya gone from the committee, analysts now suggest there will likely be no voice of dissent against further interest rate cuts.

"His resignation means the MPC is likely to take an even more dovish tilt. Over the next terms, that probably seals the deal on another rate cut in August, while further cuts beyond this are a growing possibility," Shilpa Shetty, a senior India economist at Capital Economics, said in a note.

After the third straight 25 basis points cut in interest rates in June, the RBI was expected to keep rates on hold at least until the end of next year, a Reuters poll in late May had predicted.

These expectations are however set to change following the change in the central bank's stance on accommodative earlier in June.—Reuters

Steel industry slams budgetary measures

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The steel industry on Monday expressed concerns over the measures proposed in the federal budget 2019-20 terming it disastrous for the sector.

The Federation of Associated Steel Producers (FASPP) in a letter to the Assembly Committee, constituted by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), said that in the recent past large quantity of re-rollable steel found its way into the country due to faulty import duty structure.

The association urged the government to increase customs and regulatory duties on re-rollable scrap under the PCT Codes 7204-9110. It deplored that the government has further reduced duties on this intermediary good that is a substitute of the billets.

The letter added that certain measures introduced in the budget 2019-20 would further add woes of the industry.

Instead of facilitating and compensating the industry through remedial measures, the government has introduced steps which would lead to revenue losses to government and ultimately cause closure of steel units in the settled areas of the country.

The FASPP claimed that in the last six months or so the local steel industry has faced severe crisis and many units were closed, adding that some leading players, which were showing record performance and profits, one year back were currently cutting production.

The letter highlighted that a recent group of steel units were planning to make huge investments for expansions and striving for exports of steel products. Unless the government takes concrete measures to rescue the local industry, this situation will result in rapid de-industrialisation and loss of the local country, the body claimed.

The FASPP also said that the government needed to remove customs, additional customs duties as well as regulatory duty on the raw material.

It added that the relief provided by the government with the removal of 1 per cent customs duty was too insignificant and it is not going to provide any meaningful relief to the local steel industry. The most pressing issue for the industry is government's measure of allowing duty free raw material scrap for the industrial units located in Fata and Pata, it claimed.

FASPP has said that this is going to result in closure of steel units in the settled areas and will result in huge revenue loss for the government.

G20 summit

BEIJING: China said on Monday it would seek backing for free trade and multilateralism at the G20 summit this week as it denounced protectionism while it fights a tariff war with the United States.

A meeting between Xi Jinping's aides and his Donald Trump on the sidelines of the gathering in Osaka, Japan has fuelled hopes for a truce in the increasingly damaging trade war.

But the upward momentum could not be sustained as the market went into panic selling with red splashed all across the board with the index hitting intraday low by 757 points.

Cement sector was the leading loser of 106 points as distributors protested and demanded the reversal of a budgetary measure particular to the industry. As a result, investors in the sector dumped stocks as the new budgetary measure requires the presentation of CNX for purchase of

Cement stocks lead 653-point decline on PSX

By Our Equities Correspondent

KARACHI: Bloodbath was witnessed at the stock market on first trading day of the week as the KSE-100 index plunged 653.30 points (1.86 per cent) to close at 2-month low of 34,471.95.

The market took off to a positive start and crawled to intraday high by 96 points. But the upward momentum could not be sustained as the market went into panic selling with red splashed all across the board with the index hitting intraday low by 757 points.

Cement sector was the leading loser of 106 points as distributors protested and demanded the reversal of a budgetary measure particular to the industry. As a result, investors in the sector dumped stocks as the new budgetary measure requires the presentation of CNX for purchase of

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

| THE TOP FIVE | | | ACTIVITY | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| GAINERS | LOSERS | LEADERS* | Total Invest | 550 |
| Philip Morris Pak. 169.53 | Man Petroleum 34.74 | K-Electric Ltd 6 | Active | 337 |
| Nestle Pakistan 69.60 | Abbott Labs 23.27 | FFD Pak Ltd 5 | Gainers | 46 |
| Sagipine Tax 67.30 | Lucky Cement 20.38 | FFD Cement 4 | Losers | 273 |
| Sagipine Flour 34.30 | Milaf Tractors XD 17.59 | Maple Leaf 4 | PARTICIPANTS | |
| Wyngh Pak LIQD 24.00 | Attock Petroleum 14.76 | Unity Foods Ltd 3 | Foreign | \$ 30.6m |
| *Only for indices of listed stocks | | | Companies | \$ 93.35m |
| | | | Banks | \$ 1.26m |
| | | | Mutual Funds | \$ 1.86m |
| | | | Individuals | \$ 1.79m |
| INDICATORS | | | | |
| | Monday | Previous | Change | |
| KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points) | 34,471.95 | 35,125.25 | ▼ 653.30 | |
| KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points) | 18,287.45 | 18,821.77 | ▼ 534.32 | |
| MARKET CAPITAL (in billions) | 8,897,171 | 7,083,578 | ▼ 96,408 | |
| TRADING VOLUME (in millions) | 2,894 | 4,222 | ▼ 1,328 | |

Fears were exacerbated by the concerns over surging inflation, lack of market momentum and a sharp decline in oil prices. The 5.8m investment from Qatar failed to calm the market. Key pharma stocks like Meezan Bank, Labortechnics, AGP Ltd, Seacel Cement and Abbott Pakistan closed at their lower levels as prices of 250 drugs have been reduced by around 15pc as per market reports. Exportation and production also dragged the index down despite the extended gains in oil prices in the international market. Scripwise, Lucky Cement hit the lower low; Engro fell 1.75pc; Engro Fertilizer 1.75pc; Fajr Fertilizer 1.24pc; Fajr Cement 0.54pc; DG Khan Cement 2.55pc; Pakistan Petroleum 2.19pc; OJ and Gas development 0.2pc; Feroz Development 0.2pc; Pakistan Steel 0.2pc; and Mari Petroleum 1.2pc.

COMMODITIES

Cautious trading on cotton market

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Cotton prices remained under pressure on Monday as both buyers and sellers moved to the sidelines. The Karachi Cotton Association however kept its spot rate unchanged at Rs8,700.

Experts said that cotton prices during last two weeks fell by Rs4,000 which is an alarming situation for all stakeholders. Major reasons behind the deteriorating situation include the government's announcement to impose General Sales Tax on raw cotton and the increase in interest rates.

Growers are avoiding using their bank loans to make the payments because of increased interest rate which is totally discouraging for the farming community, experts said.

Meanwhile, there are also reports of port attacks on cotton crop in districts Bahawal, Vehar, Bahawalnagar and Khanewal.

Cotton exporters said that if the current situation continued to prevail, farmers will lose their interest in the crop and government's target of 150 million bales would not be achieved.

On Sunday, a meeting of the executive body of Pakistan Cotton Growers Association (PCGA) was held in Bahawalpur. However no announcement has made about the meetings outcome.

Growers said that there were differences among Sindh and Punjab growers over the proposed strike against the government's decision of imposing GST on raw cotton.

One of the growers group was of the view that instead of closing factories, the ready exporter should wait for the decisions of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association. The growers also suggested that farmers' representation should also be invited in next meeting to devise any strategy.

The following deals were reported to have changed hands on the ready export market since September 2008:

USDA official spot rates for long staple (2018-19) best dealings in Pak rupee for base grade 3 staple length 1-11/16 micronaire value between 3.8 to 4.9 NCL.

Rate by Ex-Gin Price Upcountry Expenses Spot rate Ex-Karachi

37,324kg 8,700 180 8,860

Equivalent 40kg 9,324 171 9,495

Gold climbs

LONDON: Gold climbed on Monday towards the near six-year high reached in the previous session, driven by dollar signals from global central banks and increased tensions between the United States and Iran.

Spot gold was up 0.5 per cent at \$1,405 an ounce by 12:40 GMT, heading for a fifth straight session of gains. Gold futures hit \$1,418.78 on Friday, their highest since September 4, 2013.

US gold futures rose 0.7pc to \$1,449 an ounce. Holdings of the world's largest gold-backed ETF, SPDR Gold Trust, rose 4.6pc on Friday from a day earlier, its largest one-day increase since September 2008.

Gold prices have risen nearly 9pc so far this month, and more than \$70 just over the past week.

Hedge funds and money managers boosted their bullish stance in COMEX gold in the week to June 18 and speculators switched to net long silver for the first time in 10 months, the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission said on Friday.

Gold trading above the psychologically important \$1,400 level is a positive signal for consolidation ahead and analysts expect a pullback to \$1,350, said Carlos Alberto De Coss, chief analyst at ActiTrade.

Silver edged 0.3pc lower to \$15.31 per ounce and platinum was up 0.5pc at \$813.68.

Palladium rose 1.2pc to \$1,517.23 an ounce. —Reuters

Palm oil falls

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian palm oil futures slid for a third consecutive session on Monday, tracking weak talk of poorer export demand.

The benchmark palm oil contract on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange was down 1.2 per cent at 1,997 ringgit (9482.60) per tonne at the close, the largest intraday drop since June 12.

The most active Chicago Board of Trade soybean futures were 0.3pc lower, while China's Hellen soybean oil prices were down 0.9pc.

Palm oil prices were neutral in a range of 2,000-2,040 ringgit per tonne, and an escape would suggest a direction, according to Wang Tao, a Reuters analyst for commodities technicals.—Reuters

Tax offices open till midnight

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Monday issued instructions to all the customs field offices to remain open and observe extended working hours till 10:00pm on June 25 and till 12:00pm on June 30 for collection of duty and taxes, said a press release issued by FBR.

The chief collector of customs has been instructed to liaise with the State Bank of Pakistan and scheduled commercial banks in their respective jurisdictions to ensure transfer of the duties/taxes collected the same day.—AFP

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

| Close-End Mutual Fund | High | Low | Change | Volume | High | Low | Change | Volume |
|-----------------------|------|-----|--------|--------|------|-----|--------|--------|
| Golden Eye | 700 | 670 | 678 | 10,000 | 200 | 190 | 195 | 100 |
| MODARABAS | | | | | | | | |
| Wahid | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-2 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-3 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-4 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-5 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-6 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-7 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-8 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-9 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-10 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-11 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-12 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-13 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-14 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-15 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-16 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-17 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-18 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-19 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-20 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-21 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-22 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-23 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-24 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-25 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-26 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-27 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-28 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-29 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-30 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-31 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-32 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-33 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-34 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-35 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-36 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-37 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-38 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-39 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-40 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-41 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-42 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-43 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-44 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-45 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-46 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-47 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-48 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-49 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-50 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-51 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-52 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-53 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-54 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-55 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-56 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-57 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-58 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-59 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-60 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-61 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-62 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-63 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-64 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-65 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-66 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-67 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-68 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-69 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-70 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-71 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-72 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-73 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-74 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-75 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-76 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-77 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-78 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-79 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-80 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-81 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-82 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-83 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-84 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-85 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-86 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-87 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-88 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-89 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-90 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-91 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-92 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-93 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-94 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-95 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-96 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-97 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-98 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-99 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |
| Wahid-100 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 | 100 | 95 | 98 | 500 |

INSURANCE

| Rate by Ex-Gin Price Upcountry Expenses Spot rate Ex-Karachi |
|--|
| 37,324kg 8,700 180 8,860 |
| Equivalent 40kg 9,324 171 9,495 |

TEXTILE SPINNING

| Rate by Ex-Gin Price Upcountry Expenses Spot rate Ex-Karachi |
|--|
| 37,324kg 8,700 180 8,860 |
| Equivalent 40kg 9,324 171 9,495 |

TEXTILE COMPOSITE

| Rate by Ex-Gin Price Upcountry Expenses Spot rate Ex-Karachi |
|--|
| 37,324kg 8,700 180 8,860 |
| Equivalent 40kg 9,324 171 9,495 |

SYNTHETIC & RAYON

| Rate by Ex-Gin Price Upcountry Expenses Spot rate Ex-Karachi |
|--|
| 37,324kg 8,700 180 8,860 |
| Equivalent 40kg 9,324 171 9,495 |

SUGAR & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

| Rate by Ex-Gin Price Upcountry Expenses Spot rate Ex-Karachi |
|--|
| 37,324kg 8,700 180 8,860 |
| Equivalent 40kg 9,324 171 9,495 |

Hunt calls Johnson a 'coward' for avoiding Brexit debate

LONDON: Jeremy Hunt, one of the two candidates vying to replace British Prime Minister Theresa May, said on Monday that rival Boris Johnson was a coward for avoiding public head-to-head debates on what to do about Brexit.

"On the question of debates, he is being a coward," Foreign Secretary Hunt said. "It is cowardice not to appear in head-to-head debates." Hunt, 52, said it was disrespectful for Johnson to have turned down the opportunity for a head-to-head debate on Sky television. Sky has cancelled the debate as Johnson declined to take part.

"People need to know what you're going to do and you need to answer those questions," Hunt said. "I promise Boris Johnson the fight of his life and he's going to have that and he's going to lose."

Johnson, 55, is the favourite to win a vote of 160,000 Conservative Party members in a leadership election in the next few weeks. Betting markets give him a 79 percent implied probability of winning the top job, down from 92 percent last week.

He has cast himself as the only candidate who can deliver Brexit on Oct 31 — with or without a deal — while fighting off the electoral threats of Nigel Farage's Brexit Party and socialist Jeremy Corbyn's Labour.

Early on Friday, police were called to Johnson's home after neighbours heard a loud altercation between him and his girlfriend. Police said there was no cause for police action.

The Guardian newspaper, which first reported the story, said an unidentified neighbour had heard Johnson's girlfriend, Carrie Symonds, screaming followed by "slamming and banging". At one point Symonds could be heard telling Johnson to "get off me" and "get out of my flat".

Johnson declined to answer questions about the incident at a hearings event in Birmingham on Saturday. A spokesman for May declined to comment on the row.

A survey of 100 Conservative voters showed Johnson's lead over Hunt had halved from 27 percentage points to just 11 since news of the altercation broke.

Hunt said the personal life of Johnson was irrelevant but that the candidates should explain their Brexit positions — and specifically what would a new leader do if lawmakers tried to sink a new government heading towards a no-deal Brexit.

"If parliament takes no-deal off the table before Oct 31, will Boris call a general election?" Hunt said. "I think a general election would be catastrophic." Hunt said he would seek a better deal from the EU to leave on Oct 31 and would, if absolutely necessary, leave without a deal. If parliament took a no-deal Brexit off the table, he estimated there would have to be a delay.

"In that situation, you would have to carry on negotiating," Hunt said. "I want to leave by Oct. 31 but if parliament stops it the prime minister has to obey the law." Johnson repeated on Monday that he would lead the United Kingdom out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal.

"We are going to come out of the EU on October 31," he wrote in the Daily Telegraph. "This time we are not going to baffle it." Like Hunt, Johnson promised lower taxes if he wins the top job.

When asked the naughtiest thing he had ever done, Hunt said: "When I was backpacking through India, I once had a Bhag Laxi — which is a kind of cannabis leaf — that's the naughtiest thing I am prepared to confess to on this programme." —Reuters



PARIS: Youngsters cool themselves down in a pond at Trocadero esplanade as temperatures soared to 33 degrees Celsius.—AFP

Searing heat across Europe sparks scramble for shade

PARIS: Fans flew off store shelves and water fountains offered relief from the heat as temperatures soared in Europe on Monday, with officials urging vigilance ahead of even hotter conditions forecast later in the week.

Meteorologists blamed a blast of torrid air from the Sahara for the unusually early summer heatwave, which could send temperatures up to 40 degrees Celsius across large swathes of the continent, with France experiencing particularly hot temperatures.

Authorities have issued warnings against dehydration and heatstroke, in particular for children and the elderly, and hospitals have been placed on high alert.

"I'm worried about people who are developing this, who are continuing to exercise as usual or stay out in the sun," French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said.

"This affects all of us, nobody is a superman when it comes to dealing with the extreme heat we're going to see on Thursday and Friday," she told a press conference.

In a highly unusual move, French Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer announced a delay to national school exams to protect pupils during the heatwave.

The Brevet national diploma exam — a key test for children aged around 14 that was set for Thursday and Friday — would be delayed until Monday and Tuesday next week, he said.

France will remember the heatwave of August 2003 which was blamed for the deaths of 15,000 people and led to a surge of criticism over how authorities cared for those most vulnerable at the height of the summer holidays.

However, those extreme hot temperatures lasted for two weeks, whereas the worst of the heat is expected to be over by early next week.

"It's unprecedented because it's hitting so early in June, we haven't seen this since 1947," said Emmanuel Demeau, a forecaster at the Météo-France weather agency.

He expects records will be set in the month, "and in some places records for all months combined."

In Paris, officials pledged to open "cool rooms" inside public buildings, set up temporary water fountains, and leave the city's parks unlocked at night.

City workers also plan to distribute water to the homeless and install fans in schools and nurseries.

The electric grid was in short supply after weather reports prompted a rush on stores over the weekend, and France's electric grid operator RTE is expecting a surge in demand as air-conditioning is turned up to maximum.

French retailer Boulanger said sales of "air treatment" equipment had jumped 400 percent from normal levels in recent days.

"I wanted to buy a fan but after selecting the model there were none left," said Paris resident Anne Sophie Viole, 36, who works in insurance. "It is the night I am especially afraid of."

Spain's AEMET weather agency warned of an "extreme risk" of forest fires in areas including Aragon, Navarre and Extremadura, with temperatures that could exceed 42 degrees in the Ebro valley in the southeast.

In Germany, forecasters said the June record of 38.2 degrees for Frankfurt in 1947 was likely to come under threat, with little prospect of storms to cool things down.—AFP

Italian mafia boss Morabito flees Uruguayan prison

MONTEVIDEO: Italian mafia boss Rocco Morabito has fled prison in the Uruguayan capital Montevideo, where he was awaiting extradition to Italy, the interior ministry announced on Monday.

Morabito and three other inmates "escaped through a hole in the roof of the building" late on Sunday and robbed the occupants of a nearby farmhouse, the ministry said in a statement.

The statement said the 52-year-old Morabito — a top 'Ndrangheta figure arrested in Uruguay in 2017 after two decades on the run — was awaiting extradition for "international drug trafficking".

Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini reacted angrily to the "disconcerting and serious" news.

"I make two commitments, first to shed full light on how he escaped, asking for an immediate explanation from the Montevideo government. Then we will continue the hunt for Morabito, wherever he is. Long-time fugitive Morabito — dubbed 'the king of cocaine' — was one of Italy's most wanted men when he was arrested in a downtown Montevideo hotel.

His lawyer told reporters at the time he was staying there while looking for a new apartment after getting from his wife.

Registering for new accommodation would have helped expose Morabito, who had been on the run for 23 years.

He had been living since 2004 in Punta del Este, a play town for South America's rich about 50 minutes drive northwest of Montevideo.

He eventually settled in a country estate with a Tuscan-style farmhouse some 40 kilometers from Punta del Este.

Officials said at the time that he had acquired Uruguayan citizenship after entering the country with a false Brazilian passport in the name of Francisco Caporaso.

Morabito, a capo with the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta, Italy's most feared organized crime gang, was originally arrested on charges of falsifying identity papers, but has been awaiting extradition on the more serious charges since September 2013.

The three other men who escaped with Morabito were awaiting extradition to Brazil and Argentina, including one on charges of homicide.

Morabito arrived in trendy Milan from his hometown of Africo in Italy's poor southern region of Calabria at the age of 23, and quickly carved out a reputation as the city's "king of cocaine." Nicknamed 'U Tamara' in reference to a German military vehicle, the Dkw Munga, the young Morabito became a charismatic figure in Milan who frequented bars and parties, according to Italian press reports.

He quickly came to the attention of Italian anti-Mafia investigators and they regularly tracked him delivering suitcase filled with millions of lira to Colombian drug traffickers in a Milan prison.

Police finally moved in on his birthday as he made what would be his last delivery, in October 1994, but the capo managed to escape.

The following year he was sentenced in absentia to 26 years' imprisonment for mafia association and drug trafficking. Later the sentence was extended to 30 years.—AFP



ROCCO Morabito

Ethiopia's regional coup mastermind killed, others arrested

ADDIS ABABA: The man accused of trying to seize control of Ethiopia's northern Amhara region was shot dead on Monday, a senior government official said, and a number of other plotters have been arrested.

The government accused General Assanem Tsige of masterminding gun attacks on Saturday night that killed five people including the regional army's chief of staff and Amhara's state president.

Assanem was shot on Monday near Amhara's capital Bahir Dar, the prime minister's press secretary, Negesse Tadesse, said. He declined to give any other details.

The reasons behind the attempted coup in the state remain unclear, although it may have been a reaction from Assanem to a plan by state officials to rein him in after they were alarmed by reports of his military rhetoric and recruitment of militias.

Saturday's violence unfolded in two separate attacks.

Army chief of staff Seare Mekonnen and a retired general were shot by Seare's bodyguard at his residence in the national capital Addis Ababa.

Amhara state president Amehaw Mekonnen and an adviser were killed in the region's main city Bahir Dar. Amhara's attorney general was also shot, and died of his wounds on Monday, state media reported.

Access to the internet appeared to be blocked across Ethiopia, users reported. The names of Addis Ababa appeared to be blocked on Monday.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has pushed through sweeping changes since coming to power in April last year, making peace with Eritrea, reinstituting the security services, releasing political prisoners and lifting bans on some outlawed opposition groups.

The reforms in Africa's second most populous country have won him widespread international praise.

But the premier's shake-up of the military and intelligence services has earned him powerful enemies at home, while his government is struggling to contain powerful figures in Ethiopia's myriad ethnic groups fighting the federal government and each other for greater influence and resources.

The shooting in Bahir Dar at the weekend occurred when the state president — an ally of Abiy — was holding a meeting to decide how to stop Assanem's open recruitment of ethnic Amhara militias, an Addis-based official said.

Assanem had told the Amhara people to arm themselves and prepare for fighting against other groups, in a video posted on Facebook a week earlier. Amhara is home to Ethiopia's second largest ethnic group and gives its name to the state language, Amharic.

Assanem himself was released from prison last year after receiving an amnesty for a similar coup attempt.

William Derison, an Ethiopia analyst at global think-tank Crisis Group, said more information was needed on the attack on Seare.

"It doesn't appear to have been a concerted national coup attempt. It's not obvious what the motivations were for anyone to assassinate the chief of staff, or whether he had any connections to the violence in Bahir Dar," he said. "More detail is needed on that aspect." Long-simmering ethnic tensions in Amhara and other areas has surged since Abiy's reforms. At least 2.4 million people have fled fighting, according to the United Nations.

Ethiopia observed a day of national mourning on Monday, parliament speaker Tadesse Chale said on state television.

Ethiopia is due to hold parliamentary elections next year, although the electoral board warned earlier this month that they were behind schedule and that instability could cause a problem for polling.—Reuters



BORDEAUX (France): A woman walks past the MECA building, a newly-built regional hub for cultural activities, before its inauguration on June 28. The building, designed by Danish architect Bjarke Ingels, will host several cultural institutions: an agency to promote art, a centre for cinema, theatre and audiovisual activities, and a public collection of contemporary art.—AFP



CAMMIN (Germany): Animal keepers are on their way to pick him (young storks in their nest) on a tree.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS



SINGAPORE: Participants and bird owners wait for the start of a bird ringing competition at the Kebun Baru Birdringing Club on Monday.—Reuters

Cooing doves an attraction in Singapore's birdsong contest

SINGAPORE: Just after dawn in Singapore, about 550 black-and-white striped zebra doves were loosed in their cages on to tall poles in a large field for a singing competition.

The contest, popular among retirees in the spring city-state and Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, is fiercely competitive and top performers can be worth thousands of dollars. But the prizes are more about trophies and bragging rights.

Jason Tan, 56, a Singapore resident born in Thailand who has won the competition dozens of times, said he finds the cooing of the birds, domestically known as 'morba', relaxing.

"It's not easy to come by a beautiful bird that can perform," Tan said, introducing his entrant, a relative novice at 17 months old.

"His tone is like a human singer, beautiful and sweet, and so hearty." Sunday's competition, which lasted four hours in the middle of a nondescript housing block in a central Singapore neighbourhood, is one of several held each year.

The doves are divided into three categories depending on the pitch of their songs, and three judges decide the winners.

Jerry Lye, a Malaysian who has been judging birdsong since the '80s, said the birds sing best at a crescendo. "You have to listen out for the birdsong that has more texture, that is sweeter, that has a long ending, the middle has to be short, and slow. It's like that, then they will be at the top, so that it considered a good bird." Tan, whose bird finished third, left a little disappointed but optimistic for the dove's singing career.—Reuters



ST PETERSBURG (Russia): People watch fireworks and a big with scarlet sails floating on the Neva River during festivities on Monday to mark school graduation. Graduation ceremonies and celebrations are being held all over Russia this week as students of elementary and high schools finish their education.—AFP



CIUTADELLA (Spain): A rider gallops with a spear during the 'Caragol dee Bom', a mass gathering of horses and people swilling to music during a traditional festival on Monday.—AFP

UN rights chief urges states to repatriate families of IS fighters

GENEVA: The UN rights chief called on Monday for countries to repatriate family members of suspected foreign fighters in Syria, including thousands of foreign children of jihadists of the militant Islamic State group.

The call from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachetel, came as world leaders face divisive decisions over the families of foreign jihadists captured or killed in Syria and Iraq.

Australia on Monday confirmed that eight jihadists of Australian IS fighters had been spirited out of a camp in Syria and were now under the government's care.

"The more marked a U.S. or France Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who had previously indicated his government would only help citizens if they approached an embassy or consulate.

Morrison said Australia's decision to assume care of the eight children — believed to be aged between two and 12 — was not "made lightly". But ultimately he concluded "children should not be punished for the crimes of their parents."

Following the collapse of IS's self-proclaimed caliphate, foreigners from nearly 50 countries have been detained in Syria and Iraq, and more than 11,000 of their family members are being held in difficult conditions in Syria's al-Hol camp.

In a speech to the opening session of the UN Human Rights Council, Bachetel sought to provide clarity to governments uncertain how to handle the families — and especially children — of jihadist fighters from their country.

"Foreign family members should be repatriated, unless they are to be prosecuted for crimes in accordance with international standards," she said.

"Children, in particular, have suffered grievous violations of their rights, including those who may have been indoctrinated or recruited by ISIL, to perpetrate violent acts," she said, using another acronym for IS.

"The primary consideration must be their rehabilitation, protection and best interests." The UN rights chief pointed to UN estimates that there are some 29,000 children of foreign fighters in IS — 20,000 of them from Iraq — and most of them under 12.

"The primary concern must be their rehabilitation, protection and best interests." The UN rights chief pointed to UN estimates that there are some 29,000 children of foreign fighters in IS — 20,000 of them from Iraq — and most of them under 12.

Paris has said it is studying the files of all its citizens held in northeastern Syria on a case-by-case basis.

"The issue of the children who were in Syria, and some governments have refused to grant them their parent's nationality."

"Despite the complexity of these challenges, rendering people stateless is never an acceptable option," Bachetel said.

"Thousands of young children have been born to foreign families during the years of conflict, and states should provide the same access to nationality for children born to their nationals in conflict zones as is otherwise applicable," she said.

"To inflict statelessness on children who have already suffered so much is an act of irresponsible cruelty," she insisted.

Bachetel also stressed that countries remained responsible for their citizens facing prosecution for being foreign fighters in Syria, as well as in Iraq, where more than 150 have been sentenced to death under anti-terrorism laws.

"States have important responsibilities for their own nationals," including ensuring they receive fair trials, she said.—AFP

Jailed daughter of late Uzbek leader returns \$1bn to state

TASHKENT: The jailed daughter of Uzbekistan's former leader has begged his successor to release her after claiming she gave more than one billion dollars to the state while an anti-fraud judge in her former home of Switzerland deepened her troubles.

Gulnora Karimova, the 46-year-old daughter of the late strongman Islam Karimov, was sentenced to a decade behind bars by an Uzbek court in 2017 on fraud and money-laundering charges. In a statement via Instagram on Sunday she stepped short of acknowledging guilt but apologized to the people of the Central Asian nation for "mismanagement that I might have brought".

The former diplomat and popstar said she had given more than \$1.2 billion (one billion euros) of her "personal assets" to the state "in the interest of the republic's budget".

The Russian-language state shared on her daughter Inna Karimova's Instagram page also said Karimova and her legal team had refuted

charges claiming to \$600 million kept in foreign banks. "It's authentic," Karimova's Swiss lawyer Gregory Mangat told this newspaper's Uzbekistan post on Monday, while declining to comment on its contents. Karimova's apparent appeal came on the eve of an announcement by the Swiss attorney general on Monday that Switzerland had sent 130 million Swiss francs (\$133 million) to Uzbekistan formerly held by bank accounts in the European country.

The move follows a first conviction in an anti-corruption investigation in Switzerland in which Karimova is believed to have been a central figure.

The Swiss attorney general said the return of funds followed a Swiss court's conviction of an unnamed "relative of Gulnora Karimova".

The state relative was accused of moving money around bank accounts "to prevent the origin and actual destination of the funds from being identified," the attorney general said in a statement.—AFP



HEBRON: Palestinian men sit around a makeshift table with the words, "No to the deal of the century", during a protest on Monday against a US-led meeting in Bahrain.—AFP

US pushes Palestinian economic plan amid doubts, hostility

MANAMA: Despite withering criticism, charges of hypocrisy and outright rejection from the intended beneficiaries, the Trump administration is pushing ahead with a \$50 billion economic proposal to aid the Palestinians and hopes it will drive a much anticipated but unmet Middle East peace plan.

The United States has attracted only lukewarm support from its traditional partners in Middle East peace making and is convening the "Peace to Prosperity" workshop this week in the tiny Gulf kingdom of Bahrain under the shadow of rising tensions with Iran that could ignite regional conflict.

The three-day conference that began Tuesday in Manama has drawn governmental and private sector participants from dozens of countries, but lacks official Israeli or Palestinian delegations.

The event includes presentations from President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and the heads of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. But the seven-page programme for the workshop contains no discussion of how to resolve the political dispute at the core of the long-running conflict.

"The administration acknowledges that its ambitious economic proposals are contingent on acceptance of a political plan, which will not be signed until the fall."

"How anything could come out of that agenda is hard to know," said Shibley Telhami, a Middle East scholar and the Amos Sauter professor for peace and development at the University of Maryland.

The programme does not mention Israel or Palestine and refers to

Palestinians by name only four times. One of those references is in the description of the side Palestinian participation with a speaking role at the upcoming a West Bank business man who works with Israeli settlers and is viewed with deep suspicion by his many fellow Palestinians.

The administration has refused to endorse a "two-state solution," a goal long viewed by many as the only viable way to secure lasting peace, and the 40-page proposal and its longer-term do not use the phrase. Nor do the documents offer any hint as to who will pay for the programmes, which include health, education and public works projects in the West Bank, Gaza and for Palestinian communities in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

Lebanon is boycotting the conference, Egypt and Jordan, the only two Arab nations with peace treaties with Israel, are sending only subdued officials. Their acceptance of invitations to Bahrain, similar to those of other Arab states, include the caveat that they will not accept any deal that does not address their own political and economic issues, which will always be the pre-condition for Israel.

"We will hear the American proposition, hear it fairly and with openness, and I cannot understand how the Palestinians before they even heard the plan reject it outright. That's not the way to proceed. We believe that peace is coupled and dependent on security," he said.

Many former US officials who participated in earlier rounds of failed diplomacy have criticised the proposal on similar grounds. Without any insight into the administration's plans on specific security and territorial matters, they say the economic proposal is unrealistic.

David Hadden, a former mission director for the West Bank and Gaza for the US Agency for International Development, noted that the types of projects listed in the plan have sounded for years.

"I don't think that they're being realistic about how hard it is," he said. "Even if you have the money, implementation can be an immense challenge." Hadden said a road project in the West Bank and a 250-year water line near the Gaza border took years to win Israeli approval. Defenders of the plan say it should be given a chance.—AP

Israeli journalists to set precedent at Bahrain conference

JERUSALEM: A handful of Israeli journalists were making their way to Bahrain on Monday after getting special permission to attend a US-led economic conference on Israeli-Palestinian peace, hosted by the Gulf kingdom.

Their apparently unprecedented visit is facilitated by the involvement of the United States, an ally of both countries, which do not have diplomatic relations.

Israelis are normally barred from most Arab countries, except when they enter on second passports.

"I've been travelling the world to cover events for 13 years, but this one is the most exciting," tweeted Barak Raviv, correspondent for Israel's Channel 13 private TV.

"This is the first time Israeli journalists have been allowed to cover Bahrain," he wrote in a post that included a selfie of himself on a plane he said was heading from Jordan to the Gulf kingdom.

"Not a small flight route for an Israeli journalist... Poised to enter with an Israeli passport," journalist Ariel Kalman from the Israel Hayom daily tweeted

when he arrived in Bahrain. Diplomatic correspondents from six Israeli media outlets — the newspapers Haaretz, The Jerusalem Post and Israel Hayom, Channel 12 and Channel 13 and the website The Times of Israel — were invited.

However, Channel 12 said it would not send a correspondent after the US refused to credit its journalist Itana Weiss, for reporting on the Israel-Hamas clash after the Seine for not much more than the cost of a metro ticket.

After two deaths and scores of injuries, residents have become increasingly vocal against the scooters, which are expected to number up to 40,000 by the end of this year.

From July 1, a spot fine of 35 euros (\$40) will be levied on bad parking, while those caught on the sidewalk will be hit with a 135-euro penalty. A speed limit of 20 km/h has been imposed across the capital. Even before the legislation kicks in, police have been stepping up their efforts.

More than 1,000 tickets have been issued and about 600 scooters impounded, authorities said, and a new surveillance force has been set up.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo has described the scooters as "anarchic", while transport minister Elisabeth Borne told Le Parisien the city was experiencing "the law of the jungle".

To regulate the number of scooters, City Hall has introduced a fee of 50 euros per scooter for the first 499 units, rising to 60 euros for companies operating more than 1,000. The biggest



AHLBACH (Germany): An aerial view shows a crater on a barley field. Experts assume that an air bomb dropped during WWII probably exploded at a depth of several metres after the triggering of a chemical device.—AFP

Suspected WWII bomb blasts crater in German field

BERLIN: A bomb likely dating to World War II exploded in a field in western Germany leaving a huge crater but no injuries, police said on Monday.

The explosion left a 10-metre (33 feet) wide and four-metre deep hole after residents in Limburg heard a loud noise and felt the earth shake on Sunday morning.

"The crater was examined on Monday by an explosive clearance clearance service to find possible fragments," a police spokesman said.

"The area was used for target practice during the Second World War," he added.

A bomb disposal service spokesman said it was "highly possible" WWII ordnance was involved. A local government spokesman in the nearby city of Darmstadt told German daily Bild it believed the bomb had a chemical-based delayed timer which could have finally exploded.

Nearly 75 years after the end of war, Germany remains littered with unexploded ordnance, a legacy of the Allied bombing campaign against Nazi Germany.

Earlier this month, a 100-kilo (220-pound) US bomb from the war, discovered during building work near a shopping complex, was defused in central Berlin after the evacuation of around 3,000 people.

According to experts, 10 percent of the millions of bombs dropped on Germany during the conflict did not explode.—AFP

Qatar mega-library defies boycott and woos youth

DOHA: The Gulf's largest book collection, Qatar's National Library, has enhanced ties with libraries outside the region and second waves of readers in its first year, as an anti-Doha boycott drags on.

Score of children waded in and out of the banked rows of shelves or sat on beanbag chairs clutching books at the foot of the vast columns that support architect Rem Koolhaas' 45,000-square-metre mega-structure.

Every single book in the children's library was borrowed in the first six months as the QNL has sought to avoid the stuffiness of some world-class libraries and attract young readers.

It has marketed itself as a "noisy" library and features a 120-seat auditorium and a special events area at the heart of the naturally lit space that is reminiscent of a modern airport.

"All of the books you see in this place can be borrowed by the users," said the library's deputy executive director Stuart James Hamilton.

"Unlike many of the national libraries, we have a public library function that goes alongside the national and research library functions." With over one million books and 500,000 digital e-books, the library, located in Doha's Education City, is the largest in the Middle East.

But the United Arab Emirates is shooting to outdo Qatar with its Dubai-based Mohammed bin Rashid Library, hoping to house 1.5 million volumes when it opens. Tensions between the UAE and Qatar erupted in June 2017 when the Emirates joined a Saudi-led alliance that imposed an economic and diplomatic boycott on Doha, accusing it of supporting Iran and Islamist movements — charges Qatar denies.—AFP



PARIS: This March 27 file photo shows a man riding an electric scooter on the sidewalk.—Reuters

Paris clamps down on electric scooters as law of jungle rules

PARIS: If you're spending time in Paris this summer and decide to check out one of the 20,000 electric scooters buzzing along its boulevards, you may want to be careful how you ride and where you end up parking.

Over the past year the city has become awash with the zippy two-wheelers, with 12 startups offering the chance to download an app and dash across the Seine for not much more than the cost of a metro ticket.

But the scooters' popularity, and the relative lack of rules around their use, has prompted City Hall to impose one after another restrictions, with fines for driving them on the pavement or parking them in doorways, crosswalks and other busy places.

After two deaths and scores of injuries, residents have become increasingly vocal against the scooters, which are expected to number up to 40,000 by the end of this year.

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To regulate the number of scooters, City Hall has introduced a fee of 50 euros per scooter for the first 499 units, rising to 60 euros for companies operating more than 1,000. The biggest

operators include Lime, Bird and Jump, operated by Ubeo.

Yet despite the efforts to put the squeeze on wild scooter riding, police cannot catch people, but we don't have enough police officers and security guards to fine them, so it will only be a small portion." Karin Conibely, a 22-year-old employee with Lime said he thought the new laws would not limit the use of electric scooters, but that it was a good thing they are being moved off sidewalks and on to roads.

A representative of Bird said the company had introduced designated parking zones and had not seen a "significant" number of vehicles impounded.—Reuters

SPORT

Mane-less Senegal start African Cup with win

CAIRO: Senegal reinforced their status as one of the favourites to win the African Cup of Nations by starting their campaign in Egypt with a 2-0 win over Tanzania on Sunday.

Senegal didn't miss forward Kalidou Koulibaly, who was suspended for the game, as they opened with a solid display in Cairo.

Playing just his second competitive game for his country, Keppie Diatta powered in a shot from outside the penalty area to make it 2-0 midway through the second half.

Ketta Balde got the first goal in the 28th minute after finishing off an intricate attack which involved one side of the field to the other by driving his shot into the bottom corner.

Also in Group C, Rwanda secured a second goal as Algeria began their campaign with a 2-0 win over Kenya, who qualified for the first time since 2004.

Senegal's Kalidou Koulibaly started a penalty for Algeria after Aissa Mandi cut into the area from the right flank and was sliced down. Mandi added the second before halftime. His first-time shot from a cross near heading for the bottom right corner of the Kenyan net, deflected off a defender, and ended up in the bottom left.

Morocco got lucky and escaped with a 1-0 victory over Namibia in Group D's opener. Moroccan forward Mehdi Benatia scored an own goal in the 98th minute.

"The first game is always difficult," Morocco's Mehdi Benatia said. "We are happy to win, even by a slim margin."

Another Morocco win at the second end of the field and trying to clear a free kick from Hakim Ziyech. Apparently uncertain whether to kick or head the ball, all he did was divert it into his own net with a minute to go. Heavily disappointed, Namibia's players slumped to the ground at the end of the match, as they were asked by members of their coaching staff.—AP

Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo awarded 2026 Winter Games

LAUSANNE: Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo on Monday were awarded the 2026 Winter Olympic Games after a vote by the International Olympic Committee membership.

Milan beat Stockholm for the right to host the Games in seven years' time.

The two were the only candidates left after four other cities — Swiss city St. Moritz, Japan's Sapporo, Austria's Graz and 1988's Calgary in Canada — had dropped out of the race with concerns over the size and cost of the event.—Reuters



PORTO ALEGRE: Argentina's Nicolas Tagliafico (L) and Qatar's Pedro Correira vie for the ball during their Copa America match at Arena do Gremio.—AP

Argentina beat Qatar to escape elimination

PORTO ALEGRE: Lionel Messi avoided another disappointment with the national team as Argentina escaped elimination in the group stage of the Copa America.

Lustarez Martinez and Sergio Agüero scored a goal in each half as Argentina defeated goal team Qatar 2-0 to secure a spot in the quarter-finals of the South American competition.

Argentina finished second in Group F behind Colombia, who beat Argentina 1-0 in the other group match on Sunday.

Colombia finished with nine points, Argentina four, Paraguay two and Qatar one. The top two teams in each of the three groups advance, along with the two best third-place finishers.

"We needed a victory to give us confidence and tranquility," Messi said. "What I liked the most was the team's attitude, its desire to win the game."

The Argentine struggled to improve their game against the Asian champions. Messi again was far from his best, unable to spark his team into a dominant performance.

Argentina will face Venezuela in the quarter-finals at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Martinez opened the scoring only four minutes into the match after a mistake by Qatar defender Bassem Al Harbi while trying to pass to a teammate in front of his area. Martinez intercepted the pass and found the net to open the scoring at the Arena Cornejo.

Qatar stayed in contention during most of the match but Agüero sealed Argentina's win with a run

and a couple of defenders in the 82nd.

Colombia beat Paraguay with a second-string team to stay perfect at the Copa with three wins and without conceding any goals.

The only goal of the match at the Arena Cornejo was scored in the 31st minute by midfielder Gustavo Cuellar. Cuellar received the ball on the right, ran past a defender and shot between the legs of goalkeeper Carlos Fernandez.

"If you have a dream and you want to be champion, you need to have a group of players that are ready to play," said Colombia coach Carlos Quintero. "The first Copa America begins now."—AP

COLOMBIA STAY PERFECT

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France, England reach quarters

VALENCIENNES: Hosts France went through to the quarter-finals of the women's World Cup on Sunday as England's extra time strike secured a tense victory over Brazil to meet their progress alongside England, who defeated Cameroon in a hard-fought affair.

France edged out Brazil 2-1 after extra time in their last match in Le Havre, thanks to a pinpoint penalty, who returned in Anne-Marie's freekick in the 106th minute at the Stade Océane. France had been denied a first-half opener when Valerie Garrin's headed effort was disallowed following a VAR review for a foul on Brazil's goalkeeper.

However, the last 10 the will be best remembered for the Cameroon players' furious response to several refereeing decisions, which included them apparently threatening to walk off the pitch at one point.

However, Brazil hit back and a Cristiano Ronaldo was named on the list before their final 1-1 just past the hour mark, but strike eventually being given having originally been disallowed for an offside against Debiana.

The French could not end up facing England in the last four, with Phil Neville's team coming through to the quarter-finals thanks to a 3-0 win over Cameroon in Valenciennes.

Goalkeepers Stephen Henderson, Ellen White — her fourth of the tournament — and Alex Greenwood at the Stade du Hainaut took England through to the next round, where they will play Norway.

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LE HAVRE: Brazil's Beatriz heads the ball as France's Elise Bussaglia looks on during the Women's World Cup round-of-16 match at the Stade Océane.—Reuters

Houghton's strike came from an indirect freekick awarded in the box when goalkeeper Annette Ngo Nkono picked up a ball that was adjudged to have been a backpass.

Their anger reached boiling point when White's goal to make it 2-0 in first-half stoppage time was initially disallowed for offside before being awarded after Chinese referee Qin Liang consulted with the Video Assistant Referee.

It was the correct decision, but their players on the ground the referee, pointing to the big screen replay of the goal and seemingly threatening to walk off.—AFP

Khokhar appears before FIH committee on Pro League today

LAHORE: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) president retired Brig Khalid Sajjad Khokhar on Monday left for Lusarnne, Switzerland to appear before the FIH disciplinary committee on the FIH Pro League which Pakistan failed to participate in earlier this year.

Brig Khokhar will explain his position on Pakistan's failure to send its national team to Argentina to feature in the FIH Pro League, the development resulted in breach of the FIH rules.

Pakistan were scheduled to travel to Argentina in January this year to face the host in the first leg of the league, which was

introduced for the first time by the FIH in place of the Champions Trophy. From Argentina, Pakistan had to go to Australia and New Zealand too.

For the entire tour, the PHF needed funds to the tune of \$2-30 million which the vandy stripped federation failed to generate. The federal government, meanwhile, remained reluctant to issue any special grant to the federation for the said trip.

Just a week before the second leg to launch for Argentina, the PHF announced its decision of withdrawing the team from the event. The FIH in its first response, decided to keep Pakistan out of the

league which is also a qualifier for next year's Tokyo Olympics. Later, the FIH also excluded Pakistan from the regular Olympic qualifying round for the Tokyo 2020. The game's world governing referred Pakistan's case to its disciplinary committee for further action.

The disciplinary committee will be holding the hearing of the matter on Tuesday. Though PHF's case looks very weak as president Khokhar made the commitment some two years ago about Pakistan's participation in the league. However, the PHF chief failed to make proper planning to generate the required funds for the same.—Sports Reporter

Abid tames Irfanullah

ISLAMABAD: Top seed Mohammad Abid comfortably tamed his opponent Irfanullah Khan on the opening day of the NCTF.

All Pakistan Ranking Tennis Championship.

Abid defeated Irfanullah in straight sets 6-1, 6-1 in the first round of the men's singles category held on Sunday night. The tournament is being played under artificial lights which were recently installed at the PTY Tennis Complex.

Abid's opponent Irfanullah Khan is the 16th in the world. Irfanullah Khan is the 16th in the world. Irfanullah Khan is the 16th in the world. Irfanullah Khan is the 16th in the world.

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NEWS BRIEF

Figure skating camp held in Islamabad
ISLAMABAD: The Writer Sports Federation of Pakistan (WSFP) organised a five-day figure skating training camp at Bahawal Mall, Islamabad the other day.

According to a statement issued by the Pakistan Air Force on Monday, Mafiz Farisat, a UAE-based Pakistani sensation, alongside her mother and mentor Neesam Saikawa, have specially arrived in Pakistan on the invitation of WSFP.

The talented duo imparted training to young figure skating enthusiasts seeking to excel in this exhilarating sport during the camp that started on Friday and concluded on Sunday. Around 70 aspirants of various age categories availed the free-of-charge training.

A similar camp will be held in Karachi during the next week of this month to harness the potential of youngsters. The statement said that the WSFP under the auspices of PAF was earnestly striving to promote winter sports across Pakistan.

Regular participation of the youth of our country in this healthy and exciting activity is a sign of huge potential in winter sports. The WSFP also plans to open a full-scale indoor arena in Karachi to facilitate the winter sport lovers from Southern Punjab to avail the PAF statement.

It added that in order to promote ice hockey, ice skating and figure skating in Pakistan's snowy regions, the WSFP has also planned to develop ice skating rinks in the winter season over various frozen lakes, scattered around Gilgit, Skardu and KP region.—Sports Reporter

Young skaters pose for a photo during the training camp.—Courtesy WSFP

Bounce Club, Omega in final of Commissioner Cup
KARACHI: Defending Champion Bounce Club and Omega Club defeated their respective opponents in the semifinals to reach the final of the ongoing 3rd Commissioner Cup Basketball Tournament being organised by KISSA in collaboration with the Pakistan Sports Welfare Association at Arambagh basketball courts on Sunday night.

In the first semi-final, Bounce Club overcame Karachi Basketball Club 54-38. Saifullah Noshwan and Zia Anwar 18 points each were the main scorers for the victorious team, which received full support from Mubashir who scored 18 valuable points.

For the losing side, most scorers were Asad Imam 16 points and Jahanzeb Abbasi 10 points.

In the second semi-final, Omega Club beat Mumbai Squad 50-47. Usman Parfaran and Usman Khan both scored 18 points each, but were unable to succeed while Anas Anwar was also in good form and scored 18 valuable points.

For the losing side, Nazeem Awan scored 13 points. Basketball coach Zaid Malik was the chief guest at the first semi-final while KISSA treasurer Agha Muhammad was chief guest at the second semi-final. KISSA president Ghulam Muhammad Khan, Mr. Abdul Nasir, Muhammad Yaqoob and others were also present.

NCA's U-19 regional academies set up
LAHORE: Fourteen U-19 academies in different regions were set up on Monday under the supervision of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

A total of 220 teen-aged cricketers, 20 from each of the 16 regions, are taking part in the programme — to continue for the next two weeks — that has been designed keeping in mind future pathways and better career opportunities, including job offers in the selections in the national and first-class tournaments, as well as the 2020 ICC U-19 World Cup. The regional cricketers were selected earlier this year and the 20-player groups also comprise players from all the districts who had been invited for open trials.

Muzamil Khan acts as an assistant coaching cricketers from Lahore and Dara Muzaf Jamil, respectively, other regions hosting the academies include Abbottabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisalabad, Fata, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sialkot.—Sports Reporter

Jarsher backs juniors to shine in upcoming events
ISLAMABAD: Former world squash champion Jarsher Khan is hopeful his Pakistani junior players will demonstrate good performances in the upcoming Asian Junior and World Junior individual squash championships.

The 28th Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship is set to start in Macao on Wednesday. U-19 players will represent the country in U-19, U-17, U-15 and U-13 age groups. The World Junior will be held in August.

"I am not Pakistani player has been able to win the world junior squash championship. By virtue of winning efforts and huge spending of money by the Pakistan Squash and Federation and the way players are getting top training in Egypt for almost couple of months it is hoped that such hard work of coaches and players will prove quite productive to win both events," Jarsher said in a statement on Monday.—Sports Reporter

Pakistan Blank Shutan
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan outclassed Shutan 3-0 in the first leg of the Sixth Asian Cup qualifying event of ITF Asia 12 & Under Team Competition being held in Dhaka.

According to a statement issued by the Pakistan Tennis Federation on Monday, the Pakistani players outplayed their opponents by defeating them in straight sets. Anshuman Humayun gave Pakistan junior players an advantage by easily overwhelming Jigar Park 6-1, 6-0 before Haidar Ali Nurwan crushed Yeover Dori Wangchuk 6-0, 6-1 and the doubles pair of Haidar and Hussain Ali completed the win by beating Jigar Park and Tutsi Wuu Taher 6-2, 6-0. Pakistan have been placed alongside Bangladesh, Shutan and India in the group for the regional qualifying event.—Sports Reporter

POA celebrates Olympic Day
LAHORE: The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) celebrated the Olympic Day at its headquarters on Sunday.

Secretary POA Khaliq Mahmood said several hockey Olympians, elite athletes, presidents and secretaries of various national sports federations also participated in the ceremony. The POA secretary said the participants were given a presentation on how precisely NOC Pakistan was focusing on the Olympic Agenda.—Sports Reporter

Right Approach gallops to Summer Cup glory at Lahore races

By Ansh Gilani

LAHORE: Thoughtful mare Right Approach was a very comfortable winner of the Summer Cup, which featured a card of six events, during the day's night Lahore Summer Meeting at the rain-soaked Boostfit Racecourse here on Sunday evening.

The city received heavy showers at noon which, however, had no adverse effect on the all-weather racing facility and

hosted game a fresh look to the wet green turf to start races on scheduled time.

The 5.13 short Right Approach was given a perfect ride by riding boy Anjum to beat by half a neck the second favourite, a card of six events, during the day's night Lahore Summer Meeting at the rain-soaked Boostfit Racecourse here on Sunday evening.

The city received heavy showers at noon which, however, had no adverse effect on the all-weather racing facility and

introduced for the first time by the FIH in place of the Champions Trophy. From Argentina, Pakistan had to go to Australia and New Zealand too.

For the entire tour, the PHF needed funds to the tune of \$2-30 million which the vandy stripped federation failed to generate. The federal government, meanwhile, remained reluctant to issue any special grant to the federation for the said trip.

Just a week before the second leg to launch for Argentina, the PHF announced its decision of withdrawing the team from the event. The FIH in its first response, decided to keep Pakistan out of the

league which is also a qualifier for next year's Tokyo Olympics. Later, the FIH also excluded Pakistan from the regular Olympic qualifying round for the Tokyo 2020. The game's world governing referred Pakistan's case to its disciplinary committee for further action.

The disciplinary committee will be holding the hearing of the matter on Tuesday. Though PHF's case looks very weak as president Khokhar made the commitment some two years ago about Pakistan's participation in the league. However, the PHF chief failed to make proper planning to generate the required funds for the same.—Sports Reporter

gave away the cup to the winning owner Mohammad

Adam Khan. Rank outsider boy Filly

Class VII Indian I and II, to

Three-year-old Madhavi Dicit beat outsider mare Camille by half lengths.

The combination of owner Miss Mohammad Faruq Latif, trainer Mohammad Asim and rider Mazir Hussain all had the distinction of sharing a lower level of advantage winning through boy Filly Gatti and Filly Secret Lady in the third and fourth events, respectively.

Madhavi Dicit led the supporting owner, the Atia Plate

Class VII Indian I and II, to



Morgan won't tell fans how to treat Smith, Warner

LONDON England captain Eoin Morgan insists it is not his job to tell supporters how to react to shamed Australia stars. David Warner and Steve Smith when the arch-rivals meet in the crucial World Cup clash on Thursday.

Morgan and Smith have found themselves booed by some fans in England after returning to international cricket following year-long bans for ball tampering.

Australia coach Justin Langer has called for the tourists to stop, with India captain Virat Kohli

and Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed telling their supporters to lay off the duo.

But, although the Australia clash is being played at Lord's — the 'home of cricket' where crowds are traditionally polite — Morgan refused to issue a plea to respect Warner and Smith.

"I'm not expecting anything. I think fans and supporters up and down the country will have different reactions, as they will around the world. So we'll see," Morgan said reporters at Lord's on Monday. "Supporters pay a lot of money, they do. And sport is

beautiful in many ways, because it attracts people from far and wide. And you often see crowds offering support to both sides of players in the grounds."

Morgan added: "You don't know how sports fans will react. Just because two guys have been punished, served their punishment and returned to play, it doesn't mean they will be accepted back into the cricket community straight away. It will take time."

England batsman Jonny Bairstow accused Australia of double standards in asking fans

to go easy on Warner and Smith because former coach Darren Lehmann had previously urged supporters to verbally abuse England quick Stuart Broad during an Ashes series "Down Under".

Asked for his opinion of Bairstow's comments, Morgan said: "I don't have a view on it. I think every instance is different, every team is different, I believe that's a long time ago under a different regime. I don't know."

Australia captain Aaron Finch said he was resigned to the tourists continuing but claimed they had

not hurt Warner and Smith in any case.

"Whether someone comes out and says do or don't, it's going to happen regardless anyway," said Finch at his pre-match press conference. "It hasn't affected our boys one bit. I can honestly say that. If anything it's given them a bit more motivation."

"As a player you don't need to hear a hell of a lot of stuff from the fans. I'm more than the last thing from Steve or David's mind when they walk out to bat, if a handful of people or a whole stadium are booing." — AFP

Players to watch



RATED the batsman for England, Ben Stokes offers much as a top-class all-round cricketer. Following his 2016 World T20 final nightmare (he lost four consecutive wickets when Carlton Brathwaite snatched the title for the West Indies and the British club brawl, Stokes has put those episodes behind him. His catch of South Africa's Anel de Kock is already one of the defining moments of this World Cup.



THERE is no doubt Australia sorely missed David Warner when the opener was serving the ban for his role in the infamous ball-tampering scandal during the Cape Town Test in 2018. But a year later, the left-handed opener returns in a rush to make up for redemptive himself. The aggro for big runs has returned with two centuries already under his belt in the ongoing World Cup, with more to come.

England brace for big Australia test today

LONDON Are England just a touch of "hot track stuff"? That's the uncomfortable question facing Eoin Morgan's side as they look to get their World Cup campaign back on track against arch-rivals Australia.

Tuesday's match at Lord's was always going to be a shapely occasion, but it has been given added spice by England's 20-run loss to Sri Lanka and the continued absence of explosive opener Jason Roy who is still recovering from a hamstring injury.

Faced with a relatively modest target of 231 on a tricky Headingley pitch,

England's rise to the top of the One-day International rankings since their woeful first round exit at the 2015 World Cup has been based on aggressive batting.

They have twice posted a world record score at this level in the intervening four years, including the current mark of 481-6 against Australia at Trent Bridge just over 12 months ago.

Doubts, however, persist about England's ability to bat in less than ideal conditions for that making.

Their problems were summed up against Sri Lanka when Moeen Ali marked his 100th ODI by being the only batsman to repeat the shot not ball and hole out to leave England 170-4.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan was unimpressed, writing in the Daily Telegraph: "He [Moeen] was there to win the game but it was dumb cricket taking on the shot at long off having just hit the ball for six."

England's problems have been compounded by the absence of Jason Roy from their past two matches, with a top batsman struggling to stabilize the in-form opener from the



LONDON: Australia's David Warner (C) stretches during a training session at Lord's on Monday — AFP

England have played on since losing to Pakistan in the 2017 semi-final of the Champions Trophy on a slow Cardiff surface, they have lost five.

By contrast, on the 11 best pitches for batting they have played on since then, Morgan's men have won nine.

England's problems have been compounded by the absence of Jason Roy from their past two matches, with a top batsman struggling to stabilize the in-form opener from the

and trying to put pressure back on the bowlers," he said.

By contrast, Australia have been boosted by the productive opening partnership between captain Aaron Finch and Warner and are second in the table after five wins from six matches.

Mitchell Starc is the pace-leader, having taken 15 wickets at the World Cup — his tally of 55 putting him level with fellow pacemen Jofa Archer (England) and Mohammad Amir

(Pakistan) — but Australia's bowling in support of the left-stamer has looked vulnerable.

Allan Border, Australia's captain when they beat England in the 1982 World Cup final in Kolkata, believes it will be the bowlers who are decisive.

"The game will be won and lost in the bowling," he wrote in an ICC column. "If Australia can hold their ground against the onslaught and put pressure back on England, that'll be key." — AFP

Match starts at 2.30pm (PST)

England slumped to 212 all out.

Despite their second defeat of the phase following an earlier loss to Pakistan, the tournament hosts remained in the top four and an course for a semi-final.

But England, bidding to win the World Cup for the first time, cannot afford many more slips in their remaining pool. Batting

'Sarfaraz's fine captaincy led Pakistan to victory'

KARACHI "Pakistan regrouped superbly and skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed led brilliantly to earn a fantastic win over South Africa in the crucial World Cup game on Sunday." This was stated by former chief selector Salaluddin Ahmed Ballo on Monday here.

Ballo, who had suggested the name of Harris Sohail a day before the match as a replacement for the struggling Shoaib Malik against Proteas, gave full credit to Sarfaraz for his commanding leadership victory. "AB Ballo (Sarfaraz's) decisions proved fruitful in Sunday's game," said Ballo while speaking to the media. "Batting first at Lord's, selecting Harris in place of Shoaib Malik, taking the review against Hashim Amla and showing bowling changes were fabulous moves by Sarfaraz which paid off handsomely."

"It clearly appeared in the Proteas match that Sarfaraz was his own man and was not under anyone's pressure. The team performed as a unit and, despite the six dropped catches, stuck to its guns and won the contest convincingly," said the former Test player.

Ballo, however, added that Pakistan will have a lot to do to win the World Cup to envisage an outside chance of making the semi-finals. "We have to remain focused and concentrate to get the better of New Zealand, which is at the top of the table, and against Bangladesh which is playing very well in this tournament," observed Ballo.

He further said that whatever the outcome of Pakistan's campaign, it was imperative for them to get rid of the under-performing coaches such as bowling coach Ashar Mahmood, head coach Mickey Arthur and batting coach Grant Bradburn. "These coaches have proved in a big way and must be taken to task as they have just not been able to prepare or groom the team for this competitive World Cup in the year and a half that they were supposed to," he lamented.

"The lack of discipline as another area that needs to be examined," he said. "How could the players lounge around at the 'breakers cafe' on late in the night or break the hotel curfew at will? This clearly shows that the team manager is a weak person who has failed to control things." — Agencies



LONDON: England's Jason Roy bats during a nets session on Monday — Reuters

Russell ruled out with injury

MANCHESTER West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell will play no further part at the World Cup after being withdrawn from the squad due to a knee injury, the International Cricket Council said on Monday.

Russell made five appearances in the competition, but was not involved in the dramatic five-run defeat by New Zealand in Manchester on Saturday.

Top-order batsman Sunil

Ambre, who impressed with a sparkling 148 off 126 balls in an ODI over Ireland last month, has been drafted as a replacement in the 15-man squad.

West Indies, who currently sit eighth in the standings, need three wins from their final three matches to remain in contention for a semi-final spot.

Jason Holder's side next face India at Old Trafford on Thursday. — Reuters

Poor form, low confidence to blame for SA's failure

CAPE TOWN South Africa captain Faf du Plessis spoke previously of how his team were entering the Cricket World Cup "under the radar" as an outsider for the title, but leave the tournament with barely a hiccup after an abject display in England.

Just a single win over seven matches has left them with an embarrassing early elimination that will likely have repercussions for many in the team.

The poor fortunes on the tournament will now begin with South Africa having two games still to play, with question-marks over team selection, tactics and a lack of intensity that contradicts their spin ethos of bringing Proteas fire to the pitch.

There has not been one singular area to point a finger of blame, the truth is the side have struggled badly with the bat, been inconsistent with the ball and too sloppy in the field, missing chances at crucial junctures.

"It really has been difficult to watch. I try and consider the plans and thoughts but I'm baffled," former captain Gieseke Smith commented.

It almost certainly means the end of Ogie Gibson's stay as coach of the side after he had been mandated by Cricket South Africa to lead the team.

Marginal failure might have been accepted, but there will now be public pressure to make changes.

South Africa entered the tournament ranked No. 1 in the world in One-day Internationals, having won their last five series in the 50-over format.

But these statistics need deeper analysis.

Victory in Sri Lanka 12 months ago was the highlight of that run, and was followed by home wins over desperately poor Zimbabwe, inconsistent Pakistan and the Sri Lankaans again, this time a crushing 5-0 success.

There was also a 2-1 away win in Australia, but that came against an under-strength home team still reeling from the fall of the sandpaper gate controversy.

"We need to be focused, when the team left South Africa it was with only a bit of hope of winning the tournament," former South Africa batsman and 2011 World Cup-winning coach Gary Kirsten told reporters. "I had a sense that the batting was a bit inconsistent, I think the pitches back home can play a role, they've been very up and down and that could have an effect on the consistency of the batsmen."

"We were always a bit light on the batting front and AB de Villiers would have made a big difference at that."

The decision to take spinner Hashim Amla, 26, had been the subject of much debate before the tournament and he will likely carry some of the blame. But the fact is that no batsman has scored more than 65 in a tournament played on good tracks, which is an indictment on the whole team.

"There's a lot of guys low on runs," de Plessis conceded. "You need at least three out of your five guys firing in a tournament like this to be successful, and at the moment that's not happening."

South Africa had pinned their pre-tournament hopes on their bowling attack, with de Plessis suggesting an onerous occur-

sions there was a confidence they could boot any side out or below the target set by their batsmen.

The loss of experienced seamer Dale Steyn to injury was a blow, but 40-year-old leg-spinner Imran Tahir and, none of the others have been able to fire consistently.

De Plessis also blamed a poor start to the tournament where the side lost their opening three games, including a surprise wicket by Bangladesh, as a major factor.

"The frustrating thing for us at the moment is we have got more people going through lows than highs right now, and therefore, the team confidence is low," he said.

Meanwhile, South Africa great Jacques Kallis has urged the Proteas to learn lessons from England's ODI revival.

Kallis, the outstanding all-rounder of his generation, said South Africa should take heart from the way England recovered after suffering an equally woeful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup. Eoin Morgan's side have since risen to the top of the ODI rankings and are among the leading contenders to lift the trophy this year.

"England used the disappointment of their performance in 2015 to rebuild their team and totally change their mentality and approach to one-day cricket," wrote Kallis in an ICC column. "England now play with heart and aren't afraid to make mistakes. For me, South Africa have approached theirs too defensively at this tournament and they need to attack each match with much more positivity going for world." — Agencies

England way behind in past battles against old enemy

KARACHI The oldest cricketing rivalry has virtually been a one-horse race with the reigning champions Australia enjoying an overwhelming 5-2 win ratio against England in the overall history of the World Cup.

Tuesday's million encounter at Lord's will be the first time in 98 in 36-2 events, Australia's run in the semi-finals each other on the English soil since the days of white-clothing mega event edition. Just imagine what it was like way back in June 1979.

The evening's fixture was far from being a contest because England were taking on an Australian side which was benefit of top players like the Chappell brothers — Ian and Greg — Doug Walters, Rodney Marsh, Dennis Lillee, Max Walker, Gary Gilmour and Jeff Thomson.

In overall conditions, the lowly batting line-up at Kim Hain's disposal struggled to 159-0 in 60 overs — with as many as four batsmen getting run out — despite being 95-3 at one point after Mike Brearley chose to bowl first. England rode on a century stand between Brearley (44) and Graham Gough (51) to seal victory in 42-3 overs.

But four years earlier in the semi-final of the inaugural World Cup, England were at the receiving end of a memorable spell of swing bowling from Gilmour. After being put into bat by Ian Chappell with dark clouds hovering over Headingley, England were blown off their feet by the 23-year-old left-arm bowler, leading wicketmaker from the Football World End, Gilmour reduced the hosts to 36-6 before finishing with 6-14 in 12 overs.

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In



All-round Shakib keeps BD in hunt for semis



SOUTHAMPTON: Afghanistan batsman Mohammad Nabi is cleaned up by Bangladesh spinner Shakib Al Hasan during their match at the Rose Bowl on Monday. (R) Shakib wheels off in celebration following a dismissal — Reuters/AFP

SOUTHAMPTON: Bangladesh boosted their bid to reach the World Cup semi-finals as Shakib Al Hasan's superb all-round display inspired a 62-run win over Afghanistan on Monday.

STANDINGS

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|-------|
| England | 33 | 11 | 41.26 |
| Australia | 31 | 9 | 40.89 |
| India | 29 | 11 | 39.89 |
| South Africa | 29 | 11 | 39.89 |
| West Indies | 23 | 11 | 32.27 |
| Pakistan | 23 | 11 | 32.27 |
| New Zealand | 23 | 11 | 32.27 |
| Bangladesh | 23 | 11 | 32.27 |

Shakib is only the second player in World Cup history to take five wickets and hit a 50 in the same match after India's Yuvraj Singh against Ireland in 2011.

Bangladesh, winners against South Africa and the West Indies earlier in the tournament, are up to fifth place in the 10-team group stage.

They all one point behind fourth-placed England, who face Australia on Tuesday, in the race to seal a semi-final berth via a top-four finish.

Mahmudullah's side play India and Pakistan in their final two group matches.

Afghanistan became the first team to be eliminated after an agonising 11-run loss against India on Saturday, when Mohammed Shah's final-over hat-trick dented their hopes.

Gulbadin Naib's team have lost all seven of their matches, leaving just two games to avoid finishing the tournament without a single point.

Rahmat Shah and Gulbadin put on 49 for the first wicket, giving Afghanistan hope of a surprise win.

But Shakib's introduction brought the breakthrough as a flatter delivery to Tamim Iqbal at mid-on and departed for 24.

Just 10 runs came from the next five overs and Hashimullah Shahki punished when he tried to accelerate, stamped by Shakib.

Rahim off Mousleh Hossain for 11.

Bangladesh had victory in their sights after Shakib took two wickets in the space of four balls.

Gulbadin was removed for 47 after driving low to Litton Das at short extra cover before Mohammed Nabi was bowled through the gate for a duck.

Shakib became the first Bangladesh player to take five wickets in the World Cup when he had Najibullah Zadran at stumps.

Earlier, Shakib became the leading run scorer in this year's World Cup as far as his side posted a solid score after being put into bat.

Shakib's 51 took him to 476 runs in the tournament, while Mushfiqur took scored with 81 from 87 balls.

Liton was promoted ahead of Soumya Sarkar to open along with Tamim for Bangladesh, with the pair managing a brisk 23 from the first four overs.

The leading run-scorer in this year's World Cup.

The 32-year-old then appeared through the Afghan batting line-up with his career-best ODI figures of 5-29 from 10 overs.

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Stile Emporium and Design Studio
Launching 3 New Outlets in Hyderabad, Faisalabad & Lahore
Nationwide Flat 20% Sale on Wall & Floor Tiles

| Scoreboard | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-------|--|--|
| BANGLADESH | 23 | 11 | 32.27 | | |
| AFGHANISTAN | 23 | 11 | 32.27 | | |

It's amazing what a difference a week makes: Arthur

LONDON: Seemingly by their humiliating defeat to India in their last match and by the backlash from their fans back home, Pakistan came out buzzing on Sunday as they kept alive their World Cup hopes with a morale-boosting 49-run win over South Africa.

South Africa's team faced a difficult build-up to the game at Lord's as they steadily could not escape the nightmare of being beaten by India last Sunday, taking their win-loss record to 0-7 against their arch rivals in the World Cup.

The loss led to the Pakistan Cricket Board launching a 'review' of recent performances while an image of Sarfaraz Khan's batting prowess during the India defeat went viral on social media — with fans suggesting it warranted up to the team's backlist, approach to the tournament as they had won only one of their previous five matches before Sunday.

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur hoped the win against his native country would spark a revival considering the 1992 debacle, one "will almost certainly have to win their remaining matches against New Zealand, Bangladesh and

disciplines together we are as good as any team in this competition.

"I have boys... they try 100 percent every time we go down to a training. They are incredibly passionate about the country they represent, and they are incredibly passionate about their cricket."

"That was why it hurt so much this last week... because every time they go out and represent Pakistan, they are incredibly proud about it."

"Yes, we are looking on other teams doing us a favour. It probably is — but we've got to win three games."

Arthur said Pakistan, who started England earlier in the tournament, can beat any team if they play to their potential.

South Africa.

Pakistan still need to improve their sloppy bowling, dropping as many

as five catches against South Africa — three of them by Mohammed Azeem.

"Our problem is we haven't got three disciplines together yet in any game," said Arthur.

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KARACHI

Sunset 07:26 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:44 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 29°C
Maximum 34°C
Outlook Hazy

METRO
South

All-round Shakib keeps BD in hunt for semis

Pg 22 SPORT



RESIDENTS of Lyari block Maulipur Road on Monday in protest against prolonged loadshedding and water shortage in their area.—PTI

Three 'IS militants' gunned down in encounter on city's outskirts

Police say the suspects were involved in targeted killing of 35 security personnel

By Irtiza Ali

KARACHI: Police on Monday claimed to have killed three suspects, said to be associated with the militant Islamic State group and allegedly involved in killing 35 security personnel in Sindh and Balochistan, on the outskirts of

the metropolis. Major SSP Irfan Bakshar said that the police and an intelligence agency carried out a joint operation in the early hours of Monday morning in Kinohi Bux Bendi Goth near Northern Bypass within the remit of the Sindh Superhighway Industrial Area police station. The suspects opened fire on the raiding team and during an exchange of gunfire, three suspects were killed, he said, adding that their two accomplices managed to escape. He said that the police found two sub-machine guns, one pistol, four hand grenades and one "air-

side vest" in their custody. The bodies were shifted to Social Abassi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities. The SSP identified the deceased as Shahid, Usman and Talat. "They were previously affiliated with Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and later joined IS led by Umar al-Khalbi," he said. Umar Khalbi is said to be involved in the 2015 Safeway Goth bus carnage case in which dozens of members of the Shia Zaimati community, including women, were killed. About the killed militants, offi-

cials said that they were involved in an Islamabad in Korangi. Usman along with his accomplices was also involved in targeted killings of a policeman in Zia Colony, four personnel of Rangers in Orangi Town and two army personnel in Saddar in the recent past. Suspect Talat's name was also included in the Red Book, a compilation of militants' details maintained by the Counter-Terrorism Department, Sindh. He was the chief of AQIS in Karachi before joining IS and was abducting in several terrorist cases. He originally hailed from Hyderabad.

Roadmap ready to boost education in Sindh, PA told

PTI, MQM-P and GDA stage a walkout in protest over the mysterious disappearance of opposition leader's notes

By Hassan Mansoor

KARACHI: Education Minister Sarfaraz Shah on Monday told the Sindh Assembly that his department had evolved a 'roadmap' by meeting all segments of society for radical improvement in the current year profile of

the education sector in Sindh that would soon be presented before the cabinet for approval. "We have engaged everyone related to the education sector in preparing the roadmap, which will soon be presented in the cabinet meeting," he said while speaking on the sixth day of the budget debate in the house. He said the roadmap promised various reforms at schools and colleges in the province, which included improving schools with a greater focus on the underprivileged areas, ensuring qualified teachers who had the urge to turn their students into successful and better citizens and revising the recruitment policy guaranteeing that a teacher of grade 17 could not be transferred

from a particular district till one's promotion to the next pay scale. He conceded that Sindh had a fair share in 23 million children who were out of schools with more than half in Punjab. He added he was offering no excuse to justify the issue, but his ministry was making plans to improve the number of children enrolled. "This is a huge challenge for us," the minister said, adding that the national task force established by the federal government on education should have been formed by evoking a consensus among provinces since education was a provincial subject after the 18th Amendment. He said his ministry had no concrete data about real facts regarding educational insti-

tutions that warranted it to launch a survey with the third-party help to profile schools. Mr Shah said poor indicators about education had roots in problems that went back decades. He said there were just 3,800 secondary schools against a whopping 39,000 primary schools, denying students access to secondary education in many regions. "All this is not rationalised and we are trying to change this by allocating Rs 600m on non-formal sector and by bringing more children to school and raising the ratio of dropping out," he said. He said 78 per cent of the ministry's

Continued on Page 16

VCs discuss how to build peace on campuses

'If the unions were taken away, there should have been alternatives'

By Shazia Hassan

KARACHI: The vice chancellors and academics from various public and private universities of the country put their heads together to discuss the "best practices for peace building at university campuses" here on Monday.

The event was organised by the Students' Advisory Office at the University of Karachi and the Inter-University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan at the KU Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat. The question of how to bring peace and tolerance to the campuses also led to the question of how to strengthen student foundations. Dr Tariq Raif, VC of Jinnah Sindh Medical University, pointed towards the fact that Karachi's dynamics were different than other cities of the country. "And the university campuses here reflect society. Since the students are not yet fully mature, they may also react more violently. And this unrest seen in them is also because of deficiency in government funds because without funding the development pro-

jects at universities cannot take off, resulting in frustrated students," he said. "One also needs to keep an open

mind to accept other people's views. You also need good teachers for good facilities but the culture of visiting faculties at universities these days is

also depriving students of individual attention. There is a need to create an enabling environment for creating peace and harmony on campuses."

Dr Akhtar Baloch, the VC of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University, Egar, lamented the end of student unions. "It is the products of student unions who are sitting in our assembly room. They were groomed at university. "Silly, martial law and the agenda of the leaders of that time did away with student unions. Militarisation at universities along with the violent component that put restrictions on student unions. But if the unions were taken away, there should have been alternatives," he said. Dr Muhammad Mubtahir, rector of Durrani University, said our universities also needed to understand their own worth and the worth and capabilities of our students. "If by do we look up to American universities? They owe their high ratings to their students. Why don't we look at Malaysian universities? Their education system produces opportunities for their students. There are so many successful entrepreneurs coming out from their universities," he said. Dr Fatah Muhammad Barfar, the VC of Sindh University, said that was a positive fact that despite the unrest and violence at rural universities, the students had much respect for their teachers. "But what are the teachers doing for the students?" he asked. He also said that all over the world university funds are increased but

here in Pakistan they are being cut. "Public universities don't have high fees. They depend on government funding," he added. Dr Zakir Ali Poonji, director of Uman Institute of Technology, said that there was also an element of jealousy that led to unrest among students and that in turn hurt the environment at universities. "When you see your neighbour getting ahead and you are unable to achieve no matter how hard you try, you are bound to feel wronged. Then comes the anger, which if not controlled, turns to violence. Therefore, it is important to make societies, create sports activities, etc. to help students channel their anger," he said. Dr Shafiq ul-Hassan, VC of Hamdard University, said that as the students respected their teachers, the teachers should also treat them with respect and respect their views. "The teachers, university staff and society too plays a role in the development of the educated human beings who respect their peers as well," he said. The chief guest, VC of Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr Muhammad Ali Shah, said that faculty must back the administration and give full support to their vice chancellors as they have to perform a very stressful job and do not have much support from elsewhere. He said that liberal education in the

Continued on Page 16



HEADS of various academic institutions discuss the issue at the KU Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat on Monday.—White Star

PRAYER

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 4.11 |
| Zuhr | 12.33 |
| Asr | 6.22 |
| Maghrib | 7.27 |
| Isha | 8.56 |

REFLECTIONS

CC THE WORST FORM OF FOLLIES IS TO WASTE OPPORTUNITIES OF THIS LIFE AS WELL AS TO LOSE SALVATION. 5:5
— HAZRAT ALI (R.A.)

MEMO EVENTS

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

To mark the birthday of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, a foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Academic Block of the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chair, University of Karachi, organised by the SAMBIC, NU, at 12 noon.

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of contemporary works by Shaikat Ali opens at the Kool art gallery at 5pm. The show titled 'July 5' will remain open till Saturday.

ICCBS, Chinese varsity sign agreements

KARACHI: The University of Karachi's International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, China recently. The centre has signed various agreements with the leading Chinese research and academic institutions linked with Hunan University of Chinese Medicine. An ICCBS official said these institutions included Guangzhou Eighth People's Hospital, College of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, Institute of Materia Medica, and Academician Professor Attar-Rahaman (Dr Reh) Qureshi Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Centre. Prof. Attar-Rahaman, chairman of Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology, ICCBS director Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary, and Chinese officials signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions in a meeting held at the Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD), University of Karachi recently.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Choudhary said that ICBS and leading Chinese institutions intended to work together for their mutual benefits in the field of biological and chemical sciences. The signing of this agreement aimed to promote scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

As per MoU, it was agreed that exchange of research staff and facilities will take place between both institutions. The areas of cooperation include joint supervision of graduate students, including Masters and PhD students and researchers in the areas of chemistry, biology, bio-physics, molecular medicine, pharmacology, and natural and life sciences.—PTI

LITERARY NOTES

Najmul Ghani Rampuri, *Bahr-ul-Fasaahat* and Rampur's Raza Library

By Rauf Parakh

NAJMUL Ghani Rampur's *Bahr-ul-Fasaahat* (1885) is one of the most authentic and most comprehensive books written in Urdu on prosody, rhetoric and poetics. This all-important book has recently been published by Majlis-Tarajji-Adab, Lahore—yet again!

Though Najmul Ghani Rampur penned over 30 books and some of them became quite popular, no other work of his could surpass *Bahr-ul-Fasaahat*. The book covers some basic issues related to literature and some of the topics are poetry and its origin, poetry's definition and kinds, prosody, meters, rhythms, grammatical terms, figures of speech, metaphor, autonomy, simile, semantic and lexical techniques used in poetry, prose and its kinds and the flaws that must be avoided.

Bahr-ul-Fasaahat was first published in 1303 Hijri (1885 AD) by Manshi Naval Kishor, Lucknow, and it consisted of just 238 pages. Najmul Ghani Rampur revised and expanded the first edition, which appeared in 1355 Hijri (1917) and had over 3,100 pages. The third edition, published in 1365 Hijri (1927), spread over 3,200 pages. This last edition was reprinted in India in 1957 with introduction by Ameer Hasan Noorani. Lahore's Majlis-Tarajji-

Adab began printing a new version of the third edition in six parts. Edited and annotated by Syed Qasim Nagri, the first part appeared in 1999. Surprisingly, this new edition, too, became quite popular and it had to be reprinted within a short span of time. Now it has been reprinted recently, once again.

In an era when poetry and literary arts are on the wane, the popularity of *Bahr-ul-Fasaahat* proves that there still are serious-minded readers and though poetry may have declined in the West, in this part of the world there are readers who love poetry and buy books even on the art and craft of poetry and its techniques.

An edited version of *Bahr-ul-Fasaahat* was published from India, too, and this 2006, one-volume edition, bulky tome, was annotated by Kamal Ahmed Siddiqi. Though Siddiqi, too, has done a commendable job, some errors, possibly typos, have crept into the preface and some of the dates mentioned therein are incorrect. Qasim Nagri's preface in his edited version, published by Majlis-Tarajji-Adab, offers more biographical and bibliographical details.

Hakim Muhammad Najmul Ghani Khan Rampuri was born in Rampur on October 7, 1859. His father Abdur Ghani Khan was a scholar from Rampur and, having settled in Udaipur, Rajasthan,

had written *Koosmaat-i-Rajasthan*, a book on the history of Rajputs and Rajasthan. When Najmul Ghani's early education finished in Udaipur, he was sent to Rampur's Madrasah-i-Khalifa from where he passed his Dars-i-Nizami. Later, Najmul Ghani learnt *hikmah*, or the science of Eastern medicine, and became a hakim, or a physician. But Udaipur State offered him the post of head teacher of Arabic at Udaipur High School and he accepted it.

As Udaipur, he began writing books and penned some invaluable books on history, literature and religion. The State of Rampur had approved a monthly stipend of Rs50 for Najmul Ghani and when he came back to Rampur after a few years, the stipend was doubled. Such stipends from former princely states had freed numerous scholars from financial worries and they worked wonders in the realms of literature and scholarly domains. This stipend had enabled Najmul Ghani to devote his time entirely to research and writing.

Raza Ali Khan, the Nawab of Rampur, was the inspirer of Rampur's Raza Library, a post he held till his death. Established in the last quarter of the 18th century by Rampur's ruler Nawab Faruq Khan with his personal collection of rare Arabic and Persian manuscripts, miniature paintings, rare specimens of



Islamic calligraphy and books in many languages, today Raza Library is managed by the government of India and preserves books in Urdu, Turkish, Tamil and Sanskrit languages, not to mention Urdu and Hindi. Successive nawabs, some of them writers and poets themselves, continued to add to these treasures and today the library is among the few libraries of the subcontinent known for their rare manuscripts.

along with Khuda Baksh Public Library, Patna, and some others. Najmul Ghani benefited much from this library's treasure.

When Najmul Ghani sent his book *Al-Bihar-us-Sana'id* to Allama Iqbal in 1918, Iqbal praised it much and opined that the roots of Parthian coin (which he traced back to Jerusalem), as Najmul Ghani had written, and many Parthian words had their origin in Hebrew. According to Kamal Ahmed Siddiqi, when Nizam of Deccan visited Rampur's Raza Library, Najmul Ghani was asked to stay away as the nizam was unhappy with him since Najmul Ghani had criticised the State of Hyderabad for not supporting Tipu Sultan against the British. He was also critical of Hyderabad State for siding with the British during the 1857 freedom war.

Some of Najmul Ghani Rampuri's other books include *Ushak-i-Adab*, *Ravahat-i-Rajasthan*, *Mansab-i-Qasaid*, *Nahy-ul-Adab*, *Mansab-i-Idara*, *Tarkib-us-Salok*, *Khurasani-ul-Hayat* and *Qasaid*. His book *Ushak-i-Adab* and *Abdul-Akashbar* drew the ire of the British Muslims and his beliefs were later expurgated, too. Some of his works remained unpublished.

Hakim Muhammad Najmul Ghani Khan Rampuri died on July 1, 1932.

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Rs1bn endowment fund approved for persons affected by HIV/AIDS

Health minister to head six-member body set up to manage the fund

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Feroz Khattar has approved a Rs1 billion endowment fund for the welfare of persons infected with HIV/AIDS in the province. The fund, allocated in the budget 2019-20 on the advice of PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, would be managed by a six-member committee headed by the health minister.

The chief minister, who with the PPP chairman, had visited the Rashidun school hospital, where a large number of HIV/AIDS cases have been diagnosed, said that it was an unfortunate situation, especially for children who would have a lifelong disease that required proper continuous treatment and occupational rehabilitation.

He said that his government was committed to rehabilitating the affected persons, particularly the children, and to stop it from further spread had decided to establish this fund.

The members of the managing committee would be a

local MP/MLNA of Larkana division (to be nominated by the chief minister), a representative of the finance department having experience of investment management, an expert of infectious diseases, a public health social worker (operating in that area) and the additional secretary (technical) of the health department.

The terms of reference of the committee shall be as follows:

- To lay initiatives and schemes for the welfare of HIV/AIDS infected persons;
- To roll out different measures for the rehabilitation, long-term welfare and financial well-being of the HIV/AIDS infected persons and their families;
- Measures for improving awareness of this contagious disease in general and particularly among high-risk groups;
- To subsidise any measures that are useful in prevention of this disease like subsidising the cost of disposable syringes, contraceptive products and any measure of direct prevention;
- It is not in the mandate of the committee to procure/distribute medicines for the cure of this disease to those who are not eligible to receive them under the preventive Social Media (Pakistanist 0345-6738217);
- To gradually invest the funds until these are utilised. The committee shall also be responsible for the formulation of an investment policy of the funds and keep record of the policy as well as of the investments and expenditures made.

and expenditures made.

- The profits earned by the endowment fund shall be utilised or reinvested until utilised in accordance with the objectives. Within a period of a particular year, or accumulated profits of previous years that can be utilised in endowment fund, shall be utilised in a single year.
- The committee will work in close coordination with the Rehabilitation Committee for HIV/AIDS patients in Larkana division already notified by the government.
- The committee may co-opt any person in order to seek guidance and strengthen the activities of the endowment fund.
- Any other responsibility as may be given to the committee by the chief minister.

The endowment fund is to be named Investment Fund for Rehabilitation and Welfare of HIV/AIDS infected persons in Sindh. The chief minister has delegated the management of investment of the fund to the finance department, where officials of the finance department shall exercise signing authority in respect of management of such investment. However, expenditure from this fund that be made only under the authorisation of the committee for which the office of health secretary will have a separate bank account in which the finance department will remit the funds, as per requisition of the health department.

Roadmap ready to boost education

Continued from Page 15

budget got drained by salaries. "The introduction of one-class school system in rural districts during General Musharraf's regime gravely contributed to degrading education in Sindh. No school could be established in a single room and they established 17,000 such schools. It was a politically motivated plan in which dozens of schools were set up in a single village to offer free education to the children of teachers. One such village had 65 one-room schools."

He said such schools had been scrapped and the ministry was endeavouring to make them viable.

Mr Shah said while girls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa formed 50pc of out-of-school children, the drop-out ratio of girls in Sindh is 70pc because of little availability of secondary schools in many regions. "We are upgrading girls' primary schools to elementary and then high schools to stem this trend and every school will have at least six rooms."

He said the government would initially build a science museum each in Karachi and Larkana for school students and such museums could be built in other districts as well.

He said the government would arrange for transport for girls especially in "hard regions", besides, Rs600m had been added to the earlier Rs1.2 billion for paying a stipend to girl students.

He said some 850 teachers for early childhood education programme had been recruited and 21 English medium schools were being built.

He said since Finland was the most advanced country in imparting education, the Sindh government had got assistance from the University of

Belgium to train newly recruited teachers.

He said Sindh had one teacher for 47 students, but the lack of rationalisation had created the problem as many teachers wanted to be posted in Karachi and Hyderabad at the expense of other districts.

He said plans were being made to ensure no teacher got transferred at least for a year from a school.

He termed various unions of teachers "mafias" which could not allow the department to improve the education profile of Sindh. He asked the opposition lawmakers to support him in his plans to make all teachers appearing in a test to prove their capability of teaching.

"On this issue, I request the opposition members not to support those mafia-like unions as some of your benches did when we tried to improve standard of teaching," he said.

Mr Shah said the department was allowing for high schools only in the area where colleges were not available. He said still there were 29 talukas in Sindh without colleges and the government had allocated money for a scheme to build colleges in 17 such talukas.

Sindh govt asked to return municipal debts

Muttabaha Qasmi, Movement-Pakistan's Khawaja Ishaqul Hasan demanded that the provincial government return all those institutions which had historically been run by municipalities.

He claimed a large number of jobs had been given to those having fake domiciles.

Khawaja Ishaq said the system of commissioners and deputy commis-

sioners had failed in Sindh.

He criticised the provincial government for facing routine strikes in schools, which had provided employment to more than 120,000 people. He said the finance bill featured several taxes, which would affect common man.

He said the provincial government was paying indirect taxes. He said income tax was an "oppressive system" and demanded that the prime minister end this system.

Public Accounts Committee chairman Ghulam Qadir Chaudhri said despite federal government's "irregularity", the Sindh government had offered a "balanced budget".

Grand Democratic Alliance's Nand Kumar said the provincial government's insistence that it was a tax-free budget was farcical.

Jam Maqbool Ali said it was the PPP's government that provided water to desert areas.

CM House allocation doubled

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Haseem Ali Sheikh said allocations for CM House had been doubled in the next fiscal year's budget.

He said during the PPP's 11-year rule in Sindh, it presented combined budgets of Rs2,264bn.

He claimed that Rs975bn had been misappropriated and Rs910bn had lapsed since then.

MQP's Kanwar Naweed Jameel said water was a serious issue for Karachi, yet, the provincial government had done nothing to resolve this issue.

He claimed: "There are reports that blame Local Government Minister Saad Khan for stopping water in the areas of political opponents."

'Stakeholders to be taken on board for Empress Market's restoration'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: City Mayor Wasim Akhtar said on Monday that any improvement to the iconic Empress Market would be made with the consultation of all stakeholders after the budget for next fiscal year.

While talking to a delegation of shopkeepers of Empress Market, the mayor said that the historical building of the iconic market added to the beauty of the city, therefore its restoration required care.

The shopkeepers' delegation, headed by Sirajuddin Qureshi, met the mayor at his office. The delegation apprised the mayor about the issues they were facing inside the building and the market.

Deputy Mayor Syed Arshad Hasan and other officers of the estate department were also present on the occasion.

The mayor said that work was in progress for the restoration of Empress Market to its original shape.

He said that a park was also being developed around Empress Market to provide some recreation to the visitors in Sindh.

Mr Akhtar said that the business community had an important role in the restoration and improvement plan for the Sindh area adding "we all have to work together for betterment of our city."

He said that the rights of the tenants of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation would be secured. "However the original allottees would be given preference and those who sold the property would be dealt with in accordance [with] the law," he said.

Similarly, the mayor said, any decision for those who were defaulters and did not pay the rent would be made after completing all legal formalities.

Opposition stages walkout

In the closing moments of the day's proceedings, PTI's Khawar Sher Zaman asked Speaker Agha Nizaj Durrani that assembly's recording section should be used to know about the papers that had "disappeared" from his desk.

He said those were notes prepared by Leader of the Opposition Firdous Shamim Nagri for his speech, demanding the session be adjourned for a while to check it from the recording section.

The chair said such checking could be conducted after the day's proceedings since it would affect the recording of the proceedings of the day.

The chair allowed Minister Saad Khan to speak at which lawmakers of the PML, MQM-P and GDA walked out, saying it was an incident that had no precedent in the past.

Mr Ghani said that the federal government had promised to keep Rs100bn for Karachi and give just Rs10bn in the budget. He said that the Sindh government had kept around Rs70bn for Karachi in various schemes.

He said the Sindh government would launch a wide-ranging development programme for Karachi with the assistance of the World Bank. The programme would cost Rs235bn for five years. "The opposition tells lies and some of its members had read the budget document," he claimed.

Peace on campuses

Continued from Page 15

need of the hour and having peace on campuses is the core responsibility of teachers, students, staff and administration. Hence there should be participatory management.

He said that the teachers must teach students about the negative impact of the internet and social media. He also stressed the need for an economic advisory section, an academic advisory section and an alumni association. "We all move towards creating an inclusive environment at universities," he said.

KUCV Prof Dr Khalid Inqas said that universities' basic role is that they are responsible for academic development. "And without academic development peace is not possible at all."

He said: "We need funds to implement academic development at grass-root level and if it is compromised due to lack of funding then we would fail to establish peace on campus. We have to engage positive activities at campuses to keep peace and have to give due representation to its students as without their involvement peace can't be established."

He said that students are the main elements of peace building and administration must have dialogue with all stakeholders of the universities which include teachers, students and non-teaching staff.

Experts call for wider acceptance of deceased organ donation

Two-day international conference opens at SIUT

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Medical experts at a two-day international conference which opened at the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) on Monday, called for maximising efforts to make the "ethical deceased organ donation practice" more acceptable in society at large.

They were taking part in a debate held on the opening day of the confer-

ence titled "Ethical deceased organ and tissue donor programme" organised by SIUT's Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture (CBEC).

The conference was informed that in Pakistan alone over 50,000 died every year due to end-stage organ failure and these lives could be saved if the programmes of deceased organ donation got wide support.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jose Nunes, advisor to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on transplantation, briefed the audience on the guidelines of ethical transplantation practised in the WHO-member countries.

He said procedures of transplantation were moving ahead globally as they

were a reliable source of treatment.

He emphasised the need for a larger acceptance of deceased organ donation in society, particularly in the developing countries, by creating mass awareness and establishing ethically sound infrastructures.

Dr Alicia Perez Blanco of the Spanish National Transplantation Organisation spoke on the factors contributing to Spain's phenomenal success in establishing a deceased donor programme.

Dr Valerie Loyckx from the Institute of Human Genetics and Human Medicine, University of Zurich, highlighted the role of WHO Collaborating Centre in efforts to promote ethical

practices in organ transplantation.

Earlier, CBEC chairperson Dr Farhat Moazzam informed the audience about the activities of the centre in promoting ethical health care systems.

SIUT director Prof Abdul Hasan Rizvi shared details of ethical transplantation being carried at his institute for the past many decades.

The afternoon session of the conference focused on the challenges in establishing deceased organ donor programmes, as experienced in different countries.

Dr Saad Khan shared his views regarding India in a Skype talk, followed by Dr Dilshad Khan from Saudi Arabia, Dr Khatyoon Najafzadeh from

Iran and Dr Anwar Nagri from the SIUT. All four speakers provided country perspectives on deceased organ donation and highlighted ethical challenges in developing systems.

They also discussed perceptions about brain death in healthcare facilities in their countries and the reasons why some people donated and others did not.

They also stressed the importance of transplant coordinators in the structure of transplantation and existing training programmes.

Later, Dr Fareena Hanif and Dr Arif Khan of the SIUT discussed the ethical aspects of brain death and donation of organs from deceased donors.

Swarms of locusts land on fields in Sindh after wreaking havoc in Balochistan

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Swarms of locusts are landing on vast fields of cotton and other standing crops in fertile parts of lower Sindh after wreaking havoc in Balochistan as no aerial and ground spray has been carried out yet to exterminate the large insects.

Reports about the locust attack have started coming from Sanghar, Matiari, Jamshoro and Renalrabad. Photos and video clips received from different areas show the insects in fields. "We have seen the insects in delta of Hala taluka and seen their swarms flying to Sanghar that is continuous with Matiari," said additional director of agriculture extension Matiari Rafiq Rahu while sharing photos of locust attack on fields.

Locusts first landed in Khairpur's desert area of Nara after flying there from Balochistan. The federal government then identified 30 spots in the areas where locusts were still present. According to agriculture extension officials, the insect has not invaded the bare ground crop in at harvesting stage. "We are trying to quell them at nymph stage through sprays," said Mushtaq Soomro, Sindh's additional director of agriculture extension.

He said that locusts had invaded the district's desert area after having plagued

Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Iran in a row before ending up in Balochistan.

Aerial spray was done by the department of plant protection in Khairpur. Spots which were identified stretched over 20km areas where around 2,500 hectares land was brought under cotton cultivation this year.

Jamshoro's additional director of agriculture Saleem Sohag said that he and Ghulam Qadir Lohani of the department of plant protection visited the area but did not find locusts in Mughland and Jhangara Beldara.

Sindh's agriculture department sent a communication to the department of plant protection on Monday, requesting the federal department to form teams for survey and spray of areas.

Locusts invaded cotton fields in Matiari and agriculture officials visited fields after getting reports where they found the insects in the fields and on trees. Banana is also growing in the district.

A cotton grower from Matiari Nadeem Shah said that locusts moved towards Shabulpur taluka of Sanghar district after locusts hit bananas to disperse the insects.

Sindh's lower region has vast orchards of bananas, mangoes, dates etc and fields of cotton and sugarcane. Agriculture officials fear if the attack was not contained it would destroy cotton, sugar and damage banana and sugarcane crop.

Sindh Abudger Board (SAB) and South Chamber of



A SWARM of locusts moves about a field in Dadu.—Dawn

Agriculture (SCAs) have drawn federal and Sindh government's attention to various thousand from locust attack and feared massive damage to crops from the insect.

SAB vice president Mahmood Nawaz Shah contended that it appeared that locust could not be controlled in Khairpur because its first generation had

not been exterminated in Balochistan. "Attack seems to be spreading while cotton crop is fast maturing," he said and added now the

insect's second generation had landed in Khairpur, Thatta, Nawabshah, Matiari and Sanghar districts. "I spoke to director general of

the plant protection department and he told me that if measures were not taken by Sindh and federal governments it would lead to serious losses."

Protest against digging of illegal watercourse

SUKKUR: Residents belonging to the Khoso community took out a rally and held a sit-in outside the press club in Jacobabad on Monday in protest against taking supply of irrigation water through an "illegal" watercourse from their land by a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) member of provincial assembly (MPA).

Pakistan Peoples Party leader Chagor Khoso, Khadori Khan Khoso, Rahmatullah Khoso and others, who led the protest, said PTI MPA Aftab Abo had purchased about 30 acres agricultural land adjacent to their agricultural lands in Bahadurpur.

There was no way that water could reach his land. So the influential MPA was forcibly carrying out digging work for their land for the new watercourse-minor canal, which they termed unjustified.

They demanded of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and IGP to take notice of their protest and get stopped the digging work, otherwise the SSP and MPA Abo would be responsible for it.—Correspondent

PTI leader files application with ECP for Faryal Talpur's disqualification

By Habb Khan Ghori

KARACHI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh chapter has filed an application with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for disqualification of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faryal Talpur.

The application, filed under Article 62 of the Constitution of Pakistan, was on Monday with the provincial election commissioner by PTI parliamentary leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh, and MPAs Arifan Taj and Rabia Arfar. It was maintained that Ms Talpur was not a citizen of Pakistan as she had not declared her full assets and had not disclosed her properties in Lakhs in social media. She was also involved in fake bank accounts case, money laundering and corruption cases, it was alleged. She was not qualified to become a member of the Sindh Assembly, they said.

Talking to reporters outside the office of the provincial election commissioner, Haleem Adil Sheikh said that after disclosures about the hidden properties of Faryal Talpur, they had filed the application. PTI MPA Taj said Faryal Talpur made and hid assets beyond her declared sources of income. An application was also filed with the PA speaker for her disqualification, he said, adding that it was a tale of corruption of the PPP during the past 11 years. If the speaker showed bias, the ECP might disqualify Ms Talpur in 30 days.

NA-205 in polls

NA-205 in polls. The NA-205 constituency, which had fallen vacant after the death of federal minister Sardar Ali Mohammad Mahar, is held according to schedule on July 18 without required changes as per the census department in the constituency, would disenfranchise hundreds of voters. They would be deprived of their right to franchise in the

light of the voider of Sept 18 by which the census bloc of Mosa Bazar, Jhangana, Garhi Chakar, Jela Boudar, Baloch Khan and Peri were declared as rural areas. These areas were ordered to be taken out of the jurisdiction of the Municipal Committee Mirpur Mathelo.

These apprehensions were expressed by sources close to a former election commissioner of district Ghotki, who has now been transferred to Karachi. They said that when the election commissioner was posted in Ghotki, he had received an application pointing out that rural population was shown in the census of Mirpur Mathelo Municipal Committee despite the fact that by a judicial decision of Sept 18, 2015 those localities were taken out from the NA-205 constituency and made part of another constituency of Ghotki.

The sources said that if the elections of NA-205 were held as per constituency of general elections 2018, the election could be challenged as illegal. However, the disenfranchisement process continues as per election schedule for July 18 polls.

Heavy rain continues to batter Khirthar range, Thar

Dawn Report

DADU: Continuous heavy rain in different parts of Khirthar range of mountains, Gorrak Hill and Kachhe hills, reach the level of natural rain drain Nai Gaj to 20 feet, cutting off about 100 villages from Jothi town on Monday and causing flood shortages in the settlements.

Villagers of union council Pat Gai Muhammad, Surro, Tando Rabon Khan and Wahi Pasandi who were the worst affected said that the rainwater had completely flooded road between Sawara and Chhina at different places, cutting off the residents of 100 villages in the five union councils from Jothi town.

They said that it had caused food and medicine shortages but



CHILDREN fill their utensils with water from a pond replenished after recent rains in desert region of Thar.—Dawn

no service officers from Dada administration had visited the area to assess the situation or help the stranded population.

But Ashfaq Memon, adviser to chief minister on irrigation, painted a rosy picture of the situation and said that arrangements had been made to monitor flow of rainwater into Nai Gaj. The situation was under control and water level was receding, he said. Gorrak Hill Development Authority chairman PPP MNA Rafiq Ahmed Jamali said that tourists were safe at the hill station where it was raining heavily. They had been provided all facilities to enjoy the rain, he added.

Rain continues to soak Thar

MITIH: Moderate to heavy rain battered Chhachhar and Dabbi

terris and adjoining villages late on Sunday night and again on Monday afternoon, filling up depressions and dried-up ponds with rainwater.

The area people said that the stored water in ponds would cater to their needs for next two weeks. Some villagers had already started weeding out their fields in preparation for cultivating traditional crops if it continued to rain for next couple of weeks, they said.

They said that their cattle would also have some fresh grass after a few days.

It was still raining in some villages of Islamabad taluka and Thar coalfield area, which turned the weather pleasant and the area people came out of houses to celebrate showers in the wake of severe heatwave gripping the desert for past many weeks.

NICVD establishes first chest pain unit in Ghotki

KARACHI: The executive director of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) on Monday announced to establish chest pain units (CPUs) in every district of Sindh and link them with the already functioning eight satellite centres of the NICVD in different cities of the province.

Prof Nadeem Qamar said at the inauguration of the first CPU of the NICVD in Ghotki district that the Sindh health department should cooperate with them in taking over cardiology units at civil and district hospitals in several cities of Sindh.

"We have decided to establish our chest pain units in each and every district of Sindh, which would be connected with our satellite centres that are already functioning in eight cities of the province. I would urge the Sindh government and the provincial health department to cooperate with us in taking over cardiology units of district hospitals in the province to transform them into CPUs."

The NICVD is already running eight CPUs in Karachi that would refer to a person in case of heart attack and shifts them to the main cardiac facility in a life-saving ambulance for further intervention, especially for primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or angioplasty in emergency. The CPU established at Ghotki is the first such unit outside Karachi.

Accompanied by eminent cardiologist Prof Javed Akbar Sidd and Sukkur NICVD in-charge Dr Mohammad Hashim, Prof Nadeem Qamar also inspected the non-functional cardiology unit at the Taluka Hospital Ghotki and announced that they would request the Sindh government to hand it over to the NICVD so that state-of-the-art cardiac care facilities could be provided to the residents of Ghotki and its adjoining areas.

He said the decision to establish the first chest pain unit outside Ghotki was taken after learning that on an average five to six patients were daily being brought to the Taluka Hospital Ghotki due to heart attacks. A chest unit, which would work round the clock and would be connected to the NICVD Sukkur, would be helpful in saving hundreds of lives in the remote district, he added.

This CPU in Ghotki would be connected with the NICVD Sukkur through a state-of-the-art ambulance and after provision of first aid by a trained cardiologist, the patients would be shifted to Sukkur for the primary PCI or any other procedure required to save life, he said.

Talking to reporters, Prof Qamar announced that they would establish chest pain units in all districts of the province during the current fiscal year and urged the Sindh government

and the health department to cooperate with them in taking over cardiology units of districts hospitals so that they could be transformed into mini-cardiac care units.

Deploring that young bread earners were dying due to cardiovascular diseases, especially heart attacks in Pakistan, he said satellite centres and chest pain units established by the NICVD were saving thousands of lives annually by providing best-possible cardiac treatment to the people and added that they were now launching a preventive cardiology programme to prevent cardiac ailments in the country.

"We have hired one of the best cardiologists of the country to run our preventive cardiology programme and we hope that we would be able to reduce the ratio of cardiac ailments in our population by promoting preventive measures. He said and urged the print and electronic media to promote healthy lifestyle so that people could be prevented from having heart attacks and cardiac failures at early ages," he said.

Taluka Hospital Ghotki Medical Superintendent Dr Fakir Hussain Shah praised the NICVD administration for establishing their chest pain unit at their health facility and urged the institute to take over the cardiac unit, which is lying vacant for the past several years due to lack of trained and qualified staff.—PPF

SOYEM



Mrs. Naheed Zia
(1949 – 2019)

Wife of Mr. Zia-ul-Qadir

Fara & Afzaal Shaikh,
Nazia & Faiz Khan,
Amal & Reza Yusuf
(Daughters & Son-in-Laws)

Grandchildren Hassan, Layla, Zahra & Zade

Today 25th, June 2019, between Asr and Maghrib at 93 Khayaban-e-Badar, DHA Phase V, Karachi. Contact: +923008222777 / +923077775662

METRO

North

ISLAMABAD

Dusheel 87:25pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:56am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 25°C
Maximum 37°C
Outlook Hot and Dry



All-round Shakib keeps BD in hunt for semis

Pg 22 SPORT



MOTORCYCLISTS take shelter under the metro bus track on Murree Road in Rawalpindi during rain on Monday. According to the Met Office, the first spell of pre-monsoon rains has commenced. — APP

Private schools supposed to collect fee on monthly basis, Senate body told

The committee also takes up point of public importance on problems being faced by expats in biometric verification in banks

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: A Senate functional committee was on Monday informed by Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (Peira) that Islamabad-based schools are supposed to collect fee on a monthly basis.

The special committee formed to provide

a mechanism for implementation of the recommendations of committees of the upper house met at Parliament House with Senator Dilawar Khan in the chair.

The meeting was told by Peira in writing that private schools cannot charge summer fees together.

The meeting was held to take up an agenda item "Point of public importance regarding charge of holidays fee by private educational institutions" raised by Senator Mansoor Ahmed Kakar in the Senate on April 26.

However, due to absence of the mover, the meeting did not discuss the agenda item.

A working paper submitted by Peira to the committee stated that there was no direction from the Supreme Court restraining the private schools from charging fees of summer holidays 2019 and onwards.

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

"However, keeping in view the economic position of parents, private schools have been directed by the authority to charge fee of entire academic session of 12 calendar months, including the summer holidays, on a monthly basis," read the paper.

"Notwithstanding the above, in case of any direction from the committee/Senate on account of failure of parents with regard to fees of summer holidays 2019, same shall be communicated to private schools of Islamabad accordingly for compliance," it added.

The committee did not discuss the working paper of Peira and decided that the matter would be taken up at its next meeting.

Earlier, the committee while discussing the issue of Bachelor in Eastern Medicine and Systems said those who hold this degree cannot be treated equivalent to the MBBS

degree holders. The holders of this degree are supposed to practice only Fih.

The committee was told that there was a degree of Bachelor in Eastern Medicine and System (BEMS). However, in 2014 it was unofficially written as Bachelor in Eastern Medicine and Surgery. But a new notification has been issued which replaced the word 'surgery' with system.

The committee also took up a point of public importance raised by Senator Sajjad Hussain Tari regarding problems being faced by expatriates due to the biometric system in banks.

The committee recommended that expatriate disabled persons and senior citizens should be given exemption from biometric verification of their bank accounts. The committee decided that the matter would be taken up at its next meeting.



WITH everything readymade now from quilts to pillows, the work of cotton fluffers has reduced considerably. One rarely sees them, but there are several families who still prefer the old method of fluffing cotton. These cotton fluffers visit homes after every few months and refill mattresses, quilts and pillow and that too at a much lesser cost. In the picture, two cotton flufflers leave a house in F-7 after doing their day's work. — Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

CDA unlikely to meet deadline to dualise Ataturk Avenue

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is likely to miss another deadline to complete the dualisation of Ataturk Avenue.

Under the revised deadline, the project was supposed to be ready before July 30 this year but sources said around 40 per cent work was yet to be completed. "I don't think we will complete the work within the revised deadline, which is July 30," said an official who requested not to be named.

The civic agency has been attributing the slow pace of work to its ongoing issue with less-over shifting of electricity cables.

Both the CDA and Iesco have gone to court on the removal of cables.

The civic agency claims that Iesco should remove the cables

from the site free of cost as it had laid them decades ago without getting permission from the CDA.

But less is in the view that the CDA would have to bear the expenses.

A local court a few months ago decided the matter in favour of the CDA but the sessions court overruled it.

Later, the CDA filed an appeal in Islamabad High Court (IHC).

"The IHC gave a chance to both the parties to decide the matter through negotiations. We held talks with Iesco but to no avail. Now we are waiting for the next hearing of the case to plead that Iesco should be directed to remove the cables," said CDA spokesperson Syed Saifur Rahman.

An Iesco spokesman had earlier told Dawn that it was the responsibility of the CDA to

Continued on Page 17

Over 80,000 apply for 1,262 posts in police dept

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Over 80,000 candidates have applied for 1,262 posts of constables and assistant sub-inspectors advertised by the capital police last month, police officials told Dawn.

National Testing Service (NTS) has been awarded the contract to conduct physical and written tests in 14 cities across the country next week.

Last month, the capital police advertised 1,262 posts - 18 Aftis (BPS-11), 1,222 constables (BPS-7), three constables of Mounted Police (BPS-7), 19 constables of band staff (BPS-7).

The posts are being filled to meet manpower shortage in different divisions besides setting up law and order division that will be responsible for handling public demonstrations and protection of foreigners, particularly Chinese nationals.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Sarfaraz Ahmed Faki when contacted told Dawn that about 89,000 people had applied for 1,262 posts.

The testing service has examined the applications and declared 78,500 candidates eligible for the posts, he added.

He said the NTS would conduct physical and written test of the candidates in 14 cities in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said senior officers, including SSPs, SAs, and DSPs, would monitor the recruitment process.

The DGP said the award to conduct the selection and recruitment process was given to NTS after bidding to make the process transparent.

Besides, the recruitment will be made on merit, he said, adding the police teams had been sent to the cities to monitor the recruitment process.

The testing service has charged Rs350 from each candidate, the DGP headquarters said, adding the government would also pay a similar amount to the testing service for each eligible candidate.

Teenager abducted, raped in Chakwal

CHAKWAL: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by two persons, police sources said on Monday.

The incident took place in Waryal village located in the jurisdiction of Neshan police station.

The girl who went to the police station along with her parents told police that she was sleeping at her home with her parents when someone knocked the gate of the house at 12 midnight. When she opened the gate, two men covered her mouth with a cloth and took her to nearby deserted place.

The girl managed to recognise the two suspects who also belonged to the same village. The victim someone said both men assaulted her and then left her near the house of one of the suspects. The father of the suspect then took the girl to her home.

Police got conducted a medical examination of the victim after registering a case against the two suspects and the father of one of them.

"We have arrested the father of one of the suspects and raids are being conducted to trace the two men who managed to escape from the village," SHO Anjad Bhatti told Dawn. He added that both suspects would be arrested soon.

Investigation Officer Khalida Parveen is told Dawn that a medical examination report was yet to be issued by the Punjab Forensic Science Agency.

The victim's brother and father, while talking to Dawn, said they belonged to a poor family. "We appeal to the chief minister and inspector general of police to provide us justice," they said. — Correspondent

Ulema taken into confidence to maintain peace in Islamabad

Capital administration seeks religious leaders' help in getting eight rooms on premises of Lal Masjid vacated

By Munawer Azam

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held at the Ashgaura police station between officials of the capital administration and Ulema to discuss ways to ensure peace in the capital.

"Some issues were discussed with the Ulema and they were asked for assistance to maintain law and order and avoid participating in any

protest," said officials of the capital administration and police.

They said there was a need to address some issues which may create law and order situation, including the recent murder of blogger Bilal Khan, protests planned by religious groups and political parties and entry of the former administration and students of Jamia Hafsa to Lal Masjid.

On the request of Deputy Commissioner Hamza Nisar, Ulema from different schools of thought attended the meeting.

The DC sought help from the Ulema to resolve issues, especially the one at Lal Masjid after the return of the former administration of Jamia Hafsa, including Maulana Abdul Aziz's wife Ummeh Hassan along with 80 students.

There are eight rooms on the premises of the mosque adjacent to the weekly bazaar which the students and the seminary administration have occupied and started educational activities, said the officials.

The DC requested the Ulema to play their role in getting the rooms vacated peacefully, the officials added.

Besides, the Ulema were also requested not to call or participate in any protest announced by any religious group or political party against any issue.

Meanwhile, a portion of G-6 housing Lal Masjid and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) regional office has partially been sealed since June 10.

One lane of Masjid Road adjacent to Lal Masjid is sealed while its opposite lane is open

from Shaheed-I-Millat Road side.

Municipal Road has also been blocked in front of Lal Masjid gate to Saddar Road while four streets leading towards Municipal Road in the area are also sealed.

The step was taken on June 10 shortly after the arrest of former president Asif Ali Zardari who was detained at the NAB regional office in G-6.

But it is not clear if the area was sealed to protect the NAB office or due to the issue related to Lal Masjid.

Former Lal Masjid Khateeb Maslana Abdul Aziz and his wife Ummeh Hassan lived in the area but they have now moved to Jamia Samiah, said the officials.

But according to a Special Branch report, there are at least 80 female students residing in

the rooms along with Ummeh Hassan.

When contacted, Ehtasham Ahmed, a close aide of the former Lal Masjid and Jamia Hafsa administration, confirmed to Dawn that the group of girls of police to provide in Lal Masjid and attending educational activities.

"The capital administration had assured us that the issue relating to the cancellation of a girl admitted to us at 16:11 would be resolved soon after Ramadan. But so far no steps have been taken by the capital administration in this regard and we are staying here."

He said police and capital administration had sealed the area on the request of the current Khateeb of Lal Masjid.

The former Lal Masjid Khateeb and his wife are staying at Jamia Samiah, he added.

PRAYER

Fajr 03.58
Zuhar 12.14
Asr 05.34
Maghrib 07.25
Isha 09.09

Starting from Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

THE WORST FORM OF FOLLIES IS TO WASTE OPPORTUNITIES OF THIS LIFE AS WELL AS TO LOSE SALVATION. — HADRAI ALI (A.S.)

TSAN427

METRO EVENTS

Literary session

Pakistan Academy of Letters' The Writer's Café is organising the 40th session of its literary programme 'Meet A Writer Over A Cup of Tea' with prominent intellectual, poet and columnist Prof Dr Maqsood Jaffery on Thursday, June 27 at PAF, H-8/1, at 4:30pm.

Discussion

Jinnah Institute is organising a roundtable discussion on 'Rise in Budget: Assessing the Impact on Development and Pro-Poor Growth' on Thursday, June 27 at H. No. 4, SE-36, F-4/2, from 3-5pm.



A SKATER gets training in figure skating at a camp arranged by the Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan in Islamabad on Monday. — White Star

Steps taken to go after tax evaders with Nadra's help: ministry official

ISLAMABAD: Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Dr Khagan Najib on Monday outlined the measures taken by the government to go after tax evaders with the help of Nadra.

Addressing a public seminar titled 'SDPI Post Budget (2019-20) Analysis' organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Dr Khagan, who is also the official spokesperson, said the Benami Bill 2017 was now effective in the country and it will be implemented from July 1.

"The government has details of \$2,000 exports, foreign assets data and bank accounts, 14,000 unopened e-mails and data of transactions of domestic accounts," Dr Najib said, adding that "now the time has come to go after tax evaders and the category of non-filer is being abolished."

He also added that the expense on the civil and defence side under the IMF programme is not sustainable and ambitious tax revenue target of Rs5,555 billion shows the direction of the budget, which indicates the government's objective to enhance its revenue collection through austerity measures and direct taxation.

At the same time, he added that the budget 2019-20 was highly subsidised, where Ahsan programme was raised to Rs479 billion from around Rs220 billion and electricity subsidy from Rs168 billion to Rs217 billion. There has been allocation for Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme and Kamyab Jawan Programme to help protect the low strata of the society, he added.

Analysing the budget, SDPI

Executive Director Dr Abid Qayyum Saderi said the first federal budget of PET was more or less the same as previous five budgets under the IMF programme.

"However, this time the federal government, after paying the provincial share under the National Finance Commission Award (NFCA), would be left with only Rs3,462 billion which will be spent on paying debt payments," he said.

"But all the expenditure under the Public Sector Development Programme, defence expenditure and day-to-day expenses need to be financed by borrowing from external sources," he added.

Dr Saderi emphasised the need for synchronising Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) data with the

help of technology as determining factor to help reach tax evaders to achieve the ambitious target of Rs5,555 billion revenue collection.

He said the government should make the asset declarations scheme successful to get rid of indirect taxes, and meet the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) conditions. Besides the government should evolve a regulatory mechanism to document gold and real estate market where a substantial amount of assets and money is parked, he added.

FBI, MNA Roshni Khurshid Alam said the economy should not be politicised as the country could not go successfully without a strong economy, adding that there was no authority and regulatory mechanism in place to keep a check on such inflations. — Staff Reporter

AJK govt launches tourism police

The police were given a week's training by the tourism department

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: The Asad Jinnah and Kashmir (AJK) government on Monday formally launched 'tourism police' to facilitate and look after nature lovers visiting the region from Pakistan and abroad.

The tourism police personnel - 120 in the initial phase - have been drawn from the district and reserve police in a project that has been jointly executed by the tourism department and police.

They were given one-week training by the tourism department, with instructors hired from the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab.

A ceremony was held at the entrance of the tourism police, who were wearing specially designed sea-green uniforms, was held at the entrance of the prime minister's secretariat and heavy downpour, with Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider as the chief guest.

The prime minister cut the ribbon and handed over keys of some of the six distinctively marked cars and 80 heavy duty motorcycles to the tourism police officials.

The ceremony was attended by minister for tourism and information Masud Ahmad Mirshah, chief secretary Masud Niaz Raza, secretary tourism and information Mirhat Shahzad, Inspector General of Police Salahuddin Mahmood, director general tourism Pirzada Erhad Ahmed, director general information Raja Arbab Iqbal and other officials.

In a briefing, the prime minister was told that a communication network had been established under the project to help tourists directly access the tourism police in the event of any emergency by dialling 1422.

In the initial stage, tourism police personnel would be deployed at Kohala, Barawal and Aazad Pattan, the three points linking Muzaffarabad and Poonch division with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab and recording maximum tourist traffic.

The police personnel would patrol from the entry points to the tourist spots, IGP Mahmood said, adding, they had been specially directed to ensure they behaved in a composed, respectful and polite manner with the tourists and guided, facilitated and looked after them as and where required.

At the occasion, prime minister Haider said he had found that Kashmir and its inhabitants carried the distinction of being serene, crime free, hospitable and friendly.

Mr Haider asserted that his government had initiated a number of steps to exploit AJK's rich potential in its cultural and religious, and adventure (sports) tourism and 2019 had been declared an 'tourism year' with the same objectives at the back of mind.

Mr Haider also paid tributes to the federal government for taking several steps to give a boost to tourism industry in Pakistan, including smashing a restriction on foreigners to obtain a no objection certificate before travelling to AJK.

Exams cancelled in UET Taxila after students protest

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Students of University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Taxila on Monday staged a sit-in outside the administration block against what they said as hasty and unfriendly policies of the administration, leading to cancellation of annual examination.

Scores of students of various faculties of the university began their sit-in on Tuesday night and continued their protest on Monday.

Carrying placards and banners inscribed with different slogans and demands, the students of civil, electrical, computer science, industrial engineering, software engineering and mechanical engineering departments took out protest rally from their hostels and staged the sit-in, forcing administration to suspend bus transport service to pick up students from Taxila, Wahi, Rawalpindi, Hassanabad and Islamabad. The protesting students told news that they were facing a number of problems in the absence of a permanent vice chancellor.

Two recent tragic incidents in which one female student has lost her life while another is fighting for life have sent a wave of unrest among students of the university, a student told Dawn on condition of anonymity.

He said the students had taken out a peaceful rally on Friday but the administration paid no heed to their demands and instead threatened them of dire consequences including expulsion.

He claimed that administrative and academic affairs including issuance of degrees, appointment of local and foreign supervisors for thesis and approval of local and foreign scholars (except as well as financial matters) had been suspended since June last year when the vice chancellor Dr Muhammad Abbas Chaudhry retired.

After his retirement Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar was made vice chancellor of the UET Taxila, he said, adding but in July last year Dr Niaz Akhtar was given permanent charge of the university.

Two recent tragic incidents in which one female student has lost her life while another is fighting for life have sent a wave of unrest among students of the university, a student told Dawn on condition of anonymity.

He said the students had taken out a peaceful rally on Friday but the administration



STUDENTS OF UET Taxila protest outside the academic block on Monday. — Dawn

the acting charge of the UET Taxila, he could not pay attention to the problems of the university as well as students, he said adding as a result many of the administrative and academic affairs of the university have come to a halt.

When contacted, registrar UET, Professor Manzoor Baloch said the government had appointed a permanent vice chancellor and he would soon assume charge.

He said a three-member committee headed by director student affairs Professor Tabir Nadeem Malik had been constituted to investigate the death and injury of its students.

Responding to another question, he said that the university administration was holding negotiations with the protesting students and their just demands would be addressed accordingly.

However, no one would be allowed to take the bus in their hostels. He said the protesting students were responsible for the delay in examination scheduled to commence from Monday.

Shabbane, a BSc engineering student told this reporter that last year in July, students took to streets to register their protest against the appointment of Dr Niaz Akhtar as VC of the University of Punjab. Though he holds

Two doctors found guilty in snakebite victim's death

Inquiry committee recommends legal action against doctors for their negligence

By Nabeel Anwar Dhakku

CHAKWAL: An inquiry committee has declared two doctors of the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Chakwal guilty in the death of an eight-year-old boy from snakebite after being ignored by the doctors for six hours.

The committee, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Qudus Ahmad Bajwa with its two members, Additional Principal Medical Officer Dr Mubshar Ahmed and District Health Officer Dr Mubshar Hussain, recommended strict legal action against Dr Taimur Azam and Dr Maqsood Zahra.

According to the report of the committee (a copy available with Dawn), Muhammad Nabi was brought to the hospital at 2:15am on June 12 after he was bitten by a venomous snake.

"His attendants categorically told the staff on duty that a snake has bitten the boy. The hospital staff, including Dr Azam, suggested some lab tests and also documented the snakebite in the patient record."

The condition of the patient remained in between stable and unstable in the hospital. Dr Azam was also repeated but it showed no evidence of snake venom.

"At this point, Dr Azam, the medical officer, was supposed to consult his senior/consultants because the snakebite was evident by history, physical signs and symptoms. He was also required to administer anti-snake venom, vaccine which was available in the hospital. Dr Azam neither consulted his seniors nor administered anti-snake venom."

The report noted that Dr Azam consulted Dr Zahra, the women medical officer on duty, but she did not advise him to administer the anti-snake venom to the patient.

The committee observed that no professional ethics were made to manage the case as there was no documentation regarding the condition of the patient, finding of examination/remarks and state of vital signs during the stay of the patient at the hospital.

It was also observed that Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) were not followed for the management of the case.

Both the doctors failed to provide appropriate treatment of snakebite as per SOPs, the committee concluded.

"The patient record was poorly maintained. It does not reflect any proper documentation regarding the condition of the patient, finding of examination/remarks and state of vital signs. This is blatant violation of minimum service delivery standards."

The committee noted that Dr Azam misinterpreted the facts when he handed over the case to Dr Usman who joined in the morning shift. The committee found that the boy died due to snakebite.

Dr Azam and Dr Zahra have been found guilty of gross negligence. They may be proceeded against under PEEDA Act 2006," the committee said.

It also issued a warning letter to Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Javed Jhal who remained unaware of the case.

1. The contractor will have to follow the detailed instructions of the concerned engineer to carry out the work at site and any changes can be carried in the letter to be signed by the engineer. Any other work will have to be recorded for stoppage of work due to any reason.

2. All Material and Provisional Sums, which have been kept in time shall be recovered from the contractor's bill as per government policy.

3. The payment will be subjected to availability of funds.

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HEC striving for universities' autonomy: Banuri

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) is striving for strengthening autonomy of universities with fairness and accountability.

This was stated by the HEC Chairman Dr Tariq Banuri while talking to a delegation of the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUSA) which called on him at the Commission Secretariat on Monday.

The delegation of FAPUSA was led by their President Dr Nadeem Yousaf.

FAPUSA representatives presented their concerns regarding victimisation of faculty by universities' management. They lamented that people are being fired and deprived of their right to freedom of speech.

They requested HEC to set up a grievance council, which would adjudicate on such matters through a transparent judicial process. Dr Banuri said that HEC strongly supported a timely, fair resolution to the issues of faculty as well as all other academic community members.

He promised to examine the pros and cons of a Grievance Council from the legal as well as practical perspective, and consult with other stakeholders, especially the Vice-Chancellors' Council too.

He drew attention of the association to building a consensus over a formal "Charter of Rights" of faculty members, especially with regard to the need to protect intellectual freedom on campuses.

In response to a number of comments regarding harassment and ill treatment of faculty members, the HEC chairman suggested that all stakeholders, including FAPUSA, the VC's committee, and HEC should develop a code of conduct for academics.

On other matters, all participants agreed that government funding for higher education should be enhanced rather than slashed.

Dr Banuri said nobody in the Government disagreed with this proposition. Yet, the funding for higher education continued to be low, and had recently been slashed even further.

In response to a question regarding research funding, Dr Banuri assured the participants that no HEC programme had been stopped, and that the allocation for research and research-related expenses was being enhanced significantly.

The delegation was informed that HEC is also launching two major new initiatives, namely the National Challenge Fund (NCF) and the Local Challenge Fund (LCF), which would support consortiums of universities to contribute to addressing national and local challenges.

He said that universities would be encouraged to spend at least five per cent of their budgets on research related expenditures.

In response to demands by faculty members, Dr Banuri said HEC supported enhanced benefits to faculty members, including tax rebate and higher retirement age.

He said the demands of the TFS/BPS Committee had been received and was being examined internally at HEC.

He assured the FAPUSA delegates that HEC would seek to provide relief, as much as possible, to all groups of faculty members.

IGP concerned over reports of drug, gambling dens

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPIND: The provincial police chief has expressed concern over reports that gambling, drug peddling and prostitution dens are running in some areas in conformance with the local police.

According to sources, Inspector General of Police (IGP) retired Capt. Arif Nawaz Khan said there were complaints about gambling, narcotics peddling and prostitution dens in some areas and in certain cases these immoral activities were taking place in conformance with the local police. However, he didn't point out the specific areas.

The IGP expressed these concerns during a meeting with regional police officers, district police officers, city police officers and the additional inspector general of police of Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

The IGP directed the RPOs and CPOs across the province to check such illegal activities and take action against the culprits.

He also directed the divisional police chiefs to have zero tolerance against any police official involved in such illegal activities.

According to the sources, intelligence agencies had already informed the authorities concerned about the increase in sale of narcotics, prostitution and gambling dens in different parts of Rawalpindi district.

The areas where drug use is on the rise are: Pirwahal, Garimand, Waris Khan, Sadlar Barooni, New Town and Sadqabad.

Recently, the station house officer (SHO) of Pirwahal was suspended on corruption charges and for failing to control drug use in the area.

However, the police claimed that they had been taking action against drug peddlers and other illegal activities.

In line with the IGP's directives, the monitoring of police officials at all levels, including SHO's, has already been started. Rawalpindi and surrounding areas would face suspension and departmental inquiries.

Pakistan's score on Childhood Index improves: report

By Syeda Shehbaz Kazim

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's score on the Childhood Index has improved from 540 in 2000 to 626 in 2019, the Global Childhood Report 2019 says.

The report was launched by Save the Children at the concluding ceremony of 'Children's Action against Oppression and Neglect' (CHAON) project.

The IEKA Foundation-funded project aimed to improve child protection systems, accelerated learning and a school health programme in Sindh and Punjab in collaboration with the provincial governments, reaching over 600,000 adults and over 600,000 children.

According to the report, at least 200 million children — or one child in eight — are dramatically better off today than at any time in the past two decades.

More children are healthy and surviving past their fifth birthday. More children have enough good food to eat, so their growth isn't stunted. More children are in school and learning.

Former minister Farooq Anjum Bahar said while there had been global improvements, children had not been on the agenda of governments and political par-

ties in Pakistan.

"The space for NGOs has been shrinking for the past several years. The reason I come here is to raise a voice for expanding the space for NGOs and NGOs which are doing child welfare work. I wish to advocate for the space for NGOs to work."

"Of course, there should be regulation and laws by the government. But it should be done through legislation, but through discussion and debate involving all political parties and all stakeholders," he said.

Kemi Williams, Deputy Head DFID, said: "The work of Save the Children around the world and in Pakistan is important and it is important because children and young people are often neglected, forgotten and marginalised."

"Yet as we have heard this morning, they are our future and they have so much to offer. Pakistan has the potential for a demographic dividend if it can generate the jobs needed to bring more people, especially the most marginalised, into productive work."

Former minister Farooq Anjum Bahar said while there had been global improvements, children had not been on the agenda of governments and political par-



An anti-drug car rally passes through Faisal Avenue in Islamabad on Monday. The rally, which was organised by the Ministry of Narcotics Control, aimed at creating awareness of the hazards of drug use. — White Star

Approval of Arbitration Council compulsory for second marriage: IHC

Justice Minalah upholds sentence awarded to man who married again without first wife's consent

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Contrary to the popular belief that the consent of first wife is the only requirement for second marriage, Islamabad High Court (IHC) has declared that approval of Arbitration Council is even more compulsory for tying the knot with second wife.

IHC Justice Arshad Minalah, while upholding an appeal filed by Dilshad Bibi, said that approval of Arbitration Council is even more compulsory for tying the knot with second wife. IHC Justice Arshad Minalah, while upholding an appeal filed by Dilshad Bibi, said that approval of Arbitration Council is even more compulsory for tying the knot with second wife. IHC Justice Arshad Minalah, while upholding an appeal filed by Dilshad Bibi, said that approval of Arbitration Council is even more compulsory for tying the knot with second wife.

For some time the couple lived in Islamabad and later moved to Muzaffargarh, Anand Janama and Kashmir. Due to differences, the petitioner returned to Islamabad on January 8, 2011. Mir contracted a second marriage with out the consent of the petitioner, which led to filing of a complaint by the latter seeking initiation of proceedings under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Ordinance of 1961.

The complaint was considered by the Arbitration Council and the latter referred to the competent forum contemplated under Rule 21 of the West Pakistan Rules under the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961.

It was alleged by the petitioner that the respondent Mir had contracted another marriage with her in contravention of the Ordinance of 1961. The magistrate, vide order dated April 15, 2016, framed the charge to which the respondent did not plead guilty. Three witnesses entered the witness box on behalf of the petitioner.

The magistrate, after recording evidence and affording an opportunity of hearing to the parties, sentenced Mir to

imprisonment for a term of one month and imposed a fine of Rs5,000.

Mir filed an appeal which was dismissed by the learned appellate court vide judgement, dated June 29, 2016.

He then filed a review before IHC and the case was remanded to the additional district and sessions judge of Islamabad who set aside the conviction on the sole ground that since Mir was a resident of Anand Kashmir, therefore, the provisions of the Ordinance of 1961 were not applicable in his case.

Dilshad Bibi on the other hand challenged the order before IHC. IHC Justice Minalah, after hearing the arguments and perusing the relevant record as well as the legal provisions, observed that "a plain reading of the Ordinance of 1961 read with the Rules of 1961 unambiguously shows that it extends to the whole of Pakistan and applies to all Muslim citizens of Pakistan".

The court ruled that "the factors required to be taken into consideration by the Arbitration Council in granting permission for contracting a subsequent marriage have been prescribed in sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) of section 6 of the Ordinance of 1961.

The Arbitration Council cannot act mechanically while granting permission because the statute has declared that before doing so it has to be satisfied that such permission would be just and necessary. A husband who contracts another marriage during the subsistence of an earlier one in contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance of 1961 definitely exposes himself to the risk of being imprisoned or fined or to both.

The court order read: "In the facts and circumstances of the case in hand, it is an admitted position that the respondent, regardless of his place of residence, holds a National Identity Card issued to him by the authority under the Ordinance of 2000. As long as the National Identity Card remains valid and subsisting, the respondent cannot claim to be a person who is not a citizen of Pakistan. The marriage was contracted between the parties and duly registered in Islamabad and, therefore, to the extent of the petitioner's cause of action in the context of section 6 of the Ordinance of 1961 has arisen in Islamabad.

The court, however, remanded the case back to the trial court for a rehearing with the direction for an early decision of 1961.

Recipients of UK Alumni Awards announced

ISLAMABAD: British Council has announced the recipients of the Study UK Alumni Awards 2018-19 in Pakistan at an award ceremony held recently.

In total, these UK alumni in Pakistan were recognized for their outstanding achievements as business professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders, and for their important contribution to strengthening collaborative ties between the UK and Pakistan.

According to British Council, the prestigious international award celebrates UK higher education and the achievements of UK alumni all over the world.

New in its fifth year, the award received more than 1,000 applications from international UK alumni in a record 120 countries, representing more than 140 UK higher education institutions across the UK.

A statement issued by British

Council on Monday said that following in-depth interviews with a judging panel, recipients were selected for the three award categories: Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurial, and Social Impact.

It said the Professional Achievement Award was presented to Shahzad Ali.

Shahzad is currently working with one of the largest banks of Pakistan as a lead on process-digitalisation in the innovation and financial inclusion departments. He attributes his successful and rewarding career to the University of Manchester for forming his ambition to excel professionally, whilst instilling the need to share his learning within his community.

The Social Impact Award was presented to Salima Begum, a graduate of Institute of Education, University of London. Salima has been working for Aga Khan University Professional

Development Centre North, as a teacher educator. The Entrepreneurial Award was presented to Imman Hussain, a graduate of the University of Oxford.

Oman is the CEO of Mivik Pakistan (MIMA Mobile), a subsidiary of RIMA, the world's largest digital and mobile technology enhanced micro-insurance and tele-health company.

Country Director at the British Council in Pakistan Rosemary Hillsford said: "The remarkable individuals we celebrated today at the Study UK Alumni Awards in Pakistan have all taken their UK education as a starting point to excel in their chosen careers and shape the world around them. This year's awards ceremony is testimony not only to the diversity of UK alumni and their endeavours, but also to the transformative impact of a UK education."

— Staff Reporter

CDA unlikely to meet deadline

Continued From Page 15

pay for removal of the cables. The dualisation of Ataruck Avenue, also known as Embassy Road, was started in 2017 but work remained suspended for around a year after objections raised by the Environment Protection Agency following chopping of over 100 trees by the CDA.

When the environment agency gave the go-ahead to the CDA early last year, the civic agency was supposed to complete the project by November but it ran into the dispute with Iscon.

An engineer of the CDA said almost all structure work had been completed.

"Once our issue is settled with Iscon, we can complete the project in two to three months," he said.

A few months ago, he added, after an objection from the Ministry of Climate Change the CDA decided to dualise Ataruck Avenue only up to Iqbal Avenue instead of all the way to Ayub Chowk on Aga Khan Road.

He said as per the original plan for dualisation of the 1.7 km road from Serena Hotel to Ayub Chowk, the project was to cost Rs230 million.

But if the work is curtailed up to D-Chowk, the cost of the project will reduce to Rs140 million.

He said the civic agency on the direction of the climate change ministry had decided to execute the project up to D-Chowk.

"Still we are trying to convince the ministry to give us the go-ahead to dualise the road up to Ayub Chowk as only 45 more trees will be cut down," said the engineer.



Parliamentary Secretary, National Health Services, Dr Naushan Hamid talks to Swedish Ambassador Ingrid Johansson during the ceremony in Islamabad on Monday. — White Star



All-round Shakib keeps BD in hunt for semis

Page 22 SPORT

LAHORE
 Sunset 07:14 pm
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:27 am
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 24.0°C
 Maximum 34.0°C
 Outlook Partly Cloudy

METRO

Central



A LABOURER drains out rainwater from the road dug up for reconstruction near the railway station. — White Star

Party decisions being made by Nawaz, Shahbaz, says Hamza

Rejects rumours about differences within family, party

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Sharifs continue with their damage control measures to limit the (negative) impact created by Maryam Nawaz Sharif's press conference the other day in which she took a different line than when PML-N president and her uncle Shahbaz Sharif had taken views in a national charter on economy.

Repeating the rumours of any differences within the family and the party, he said attempts to create rifts among the two brothers had been made during the dictatorial regime of Gen Musharraf but all these bids remained abortive as the party remained united (then) and is united now.

He said the PTI government did not fulfil even a single promise it made with the masses and said had it showed performance even half to that of the PML-N regime, people would have accepted Imran Khan as a leader.

He said Pakistan rapper had shot his value even against the Nepalese currency as the US dollar touched its highest worth in media Pakistan 0045-6738217

He said Imran Khan has been tagged as the selected one and the tag could not be removed now.

He said textile millers were worried that their products were not finding markets abroad, farmers were also crying because of the PTA's policies as the economic figures released by state institutions show that investment ratio declined sharply during the last 10 months.



A MAN is making wooden boxes for packing mangoes at the fruit market. — White Star

Inquiry blames driver, assistant for Hyderabad train crash

FGIR report notes 'defective operating planning' by PR's Karachi control office

By Khalid Hassan

LAHORE: A high-level inquiry team in its preliminary report has held the driver and his assistant responsible for the June 20 train crash near the Hyderabad railway station.

Since the driver and the assistant driver of Jinnah express and a guard had lost their lives in the accident, the initial probe was done on the basis of site witness, analysis of evidence, scrutiny of stations' record, motor trolley, footplate inspections, analysis of automatic signaling system etc.

The preliminary inquiry concludes that the collision of 31-Up Jinnah Express in rear of the goods train between Kotri and Hyderabad stations was caused owing to overlapping and non-observance of signals by the driver. Accordingly, Mr. Muhammad Chaudhry, driver (date) and Mr. Yaqub Bashir, Assistant Driver (Late) are held responsible for the subject collision," reads the report.

Wrap-up budget speech highlights softer sides of fiscal policies

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Punjab government plans pursuing export-oriented growth and in this context, budget for the next fiscal 2019-20 will kick-start revival of the economy - roused by the previous government during the past one decade, said Finance Minister Hashim Javed Bhatti while winding-up the budget debate in the Punjab Assembly on Monday.

He said the government increased funding for agriculture by 100 per cent to enhance agriculture productivity. He said the government cut import bills by producing edible oil in the country, while reducing the wheat crop so that wheat should not go surplus and eventually stored.

He said the government would establish industrial estates in all 36 districts, adding that each district's competitiveness would be considered to select industry for respective estates.

He said the previous government had almost closed-down 25 districts and 15 health hospitals for reorganizing and the present government allocated Rs3 billion to complete work of the hospitals. She also mentioned that the PML-N government pro-

20pc of LWMC field staff found 'absent' from duty

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The city district administration claims to have found around 20 per cent of the Lahore Waste Management Company's field officials absent from duty at all points checked by its officers.

The administration has also sent a detailed report to the office of the LWMC managing director, local government & community development department's secretary and the chief minister for information and necessary action.

"We have got several points, where the LWMC field officials / teams were assigned cleanliness related jobs, checked by our officers (additional deputy commissioner, revenue, assistant commissioners etc) from time to time early in the morning. But 20 per cent (on average) of the staff was not present on the duty," said Lahore DC Ms Saleha Saaved in a press release on Monday.

She said the LWMC MD has been asked to take action against the absent staff and improve the cleanliness situation in the city.

FEDERAL: As many as 105 leaders of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) tripped because of heavy rain in city on Monday.

However, the Lesco teams envisaged the tripped feeders gradually, according to a spokesperson.

LDA: Lahore Development Authority's governing body in a meeting on Monday accorded approval to appoint consultants for procurement, human resource and specialised legal services.

It also approved creation of chief financial officer (CFO) slot in the LDA and hiring of a professional for the job, according to a spokesman for the authority.

PML-N MPA moves ECP against Zartaj Gul

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: PML-N MPA Hina Perwaiz Butt has filed a reference with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to seek disqualification of Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul for misuse of authority of office by the latter to the benefit of her sister.

Miss Gul had an minister written to the federal interior secretary recommending appointment of her sister Shabana Gul, an assistant professor in a women college in Lahore, as National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) director.

Ms Butt pleaded in the reference, sent through the office of the National Assembly speaker, that Ms Gul stood disqualified under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution for misusing her office to get her sister posted to a government post in violation of merit.

Policeman commits suicide

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A police constable allegedly committed suicide after consuming poisonous pills in Chuhar on Monday.

Waqar Younis, 28, was posted as guard to of the senior officer where he consumed poisonous pills and fell unconscious.

He was taken to the Jinnah Hospital where he was declared dead after some hours of treatment.

The police shifted the body to morgue to complete legal formalities. However, the investigating officer said that the constable was dejected as the woman he was having an affair with, committed suicide three days ago.

He said the constable wanted to contract marriage with her but her family was not willing to do the knot.

He said they would also further investigate into the issue.

ACCIDENT: A teenage boy was killed in an accident in Kahna on Monday evening.

The police said Zohab, 15, of Kahna Kachha was riding a motorcycle when a truck knocked him down. He died from head injuries.

The police shifted the body to morgue for legal formalities, confiscated the truck and also arrested the driver.

Continued on Page 16

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| PRAYER | |
| Fajr | 3.19 |
| Zuhr | 1.00 |
| Asr | 5.03 |
| Maghrib | 7.14 |
| Isha | 8.51 |
| *Praying time in Lahore | |

REFLECTIONS

THE WORST FORM OF POLLUTION IS TO WASTE OPPORTUNITIES OF THIS LIFE AS WELL AS TO LOSE SALVATION 55

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.) (78AH422)

Inquiry blames driver, assistant for Hyderabad...

Continued from Page 15

station in the past that has been dismantled after construction of road over the bridge. "Overall, the examination and analysis of the signalling system between Kori-Hyderabad were found not to have played any role in this collision. Hence, this case is ruled out," it reads.

The team also checked the factor of a possible error in the signal in the June 20 collision. "The available evidence and discussion with some of key witnesses suggests that this accident occurred owing to over speeding, which should have not exceeded 15km per hour, and non-observance of auto signals by the driver of Jinnah Express."

The report also notes defective operating planning by the Karachi control office as one of the causes behind the accident.

Wrap-up budget speech highlights softer sides...

Continued from Page 15

processed Cyclotron machine, without which the PETScan could not be operated. She said the Cyclotron would now cost some Rs450 million. "The PTI government has allocated Rs2 billion for the PKLI," she said.

The health minister said the PML-N government allocated Rs780 million for the purchase of ventilators but over-appropriated to spend somewhere else. "Now, the present government had allocated the funds from its budget to procure the ventilators," she said.

Dr Habib said that she was still awfully busy to repair the damages being done by the previous government. Instead, ensuring some ECI schemes that were having "sagging status" since 2009.

The debate on cut motions on different departments will continue on today.

Cop injured as robbers strike seven times in district

By Our Correspondent

KANUR: A policeman was shot at and injured during a robbery attempt near Galban by-pass in the limits of Allahabad Police Station as robbers struck seven times in various parts of the district.

Head Constable Muhammad Pervez was going home after performing duty at a local court on his motorcycle. Four armed robbers who were on two motorcycles, intercepted him near the by-pass. When he did not stop his motorcycle, one of the robbers opened fire at Pervez who suffered injuries and fell from his motorcycle. The robbers took away Rs25,000 cash and a mobile phone from him. The injured Pervez was shifted to the Christian Hospital, Headquarters.

In another incident, robbers snatched a motorcycle, cash and a mobile phone from Muhammad Fanoor of the Mass village.

In the third incident, robbers deprived a man of Rs45,000 and mobile phone at gaspota near village Bagina Kalan of Phodmagar area.

In the fourth incident, a gang of six robbers deprived a farmer, Muhammad Yasin, of Rs43,000 and a mobile phone on Changa Manga canal road in the limits of Changa Manga police.

In the fifth incident, robbers snatched Rs7,900 and a mobile phone from Muhammad Arshad at Bahika Chowk.

In the sixth incident, robbers deprived Muhammad Mushtaq of Rs20,000 and mobile phone near Kachhi Chowk of Patoki.

In the seventh incident, two robbers took away cash and a mobile phone from Muhammad Fanoor of the Mass village.

Expat donates building to set up cardiac unit

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: A Canada-based Pakistani belonging to Kamalia has announced donating a commercial building for establishment of a coronary care unit, as a part of the Kamalia Tehsil Headquarters Hospital.

The donor, Tariq Chaudhry, made the announcement during his meeting with the Pakistan



Two sisters injured in roof collapse

By Our Correspondent

TIKRA GHIAZI KHAN: Two teenage sisters were injured when the roof of their room caved in due to rain in Abdullah Town of the city on Sunday night.

The sisters, identified as Ahsan and Saba, were feared under the collapsed roof of their small house. Rescuers shifted them to the teaching hospital of Ghazi Khan Medical College where condition of both the sisters was stated to be stable.

The heavy downpour disrupted the routine life as the rainwater inundated the roads and streets of the city.



WMSA workers stand alert on Circular Road near Shal Gate with the gadget meant for rain measurement. — White Star

Notifications of VCs posting in two varsities issued

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Higher Education Department (HED) on Monday issued two notifications of appointment of vice-chancellors (VCs) in two engineering universities of the province.

According to a notification, following the recommendations of the search committee, constituted in compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the governor/chancellor has appointed Prof. Dr Saad Mansoor Sarwar, VC of Qurtbi University, Lahore, as VC University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, for a period of four years. Dr Sarwar has assumed the charge of the post on Monday.

Dr Sarwar earned his MS and PhD degrees in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA, in 1985 and 1988, respectively. He has 31

Case against protesters

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: The Malakwal police in Mandi Bahaudin district on Monday booked at least two dozen people, including a local journalist, for attacking a police picket as well as staging a demonstration against the Malakwal police DSP for allegedly implicating the journalist.

Scores of the locals as well as the journalists blocked the approach road of motorway in front of the Malakwal press club in protest against the alleged high-handedness of a senior police officer who, they said, had implicated journalist Sajid Hussain Mughal for abetting some suspects involved in an attack on a local political worker.

They said the case was "an outcome of a gross misuse reporting of facts against a senior police officer in the past."

The protesters who demanded quashing of the case dispersed peacefully after which the police booked another case against the same journalist and at least 15 nominated and six unidentified people who participated in the protest.

The case is registered under sections 341, 427, 506, 148, 149 and 186 of Pakistan Penal Code and Section 26 of Maintenance of Public Order 2006 on the request of ASI Riksanfar Hayat Gondal.

Meanwhile, the journalists fraternity of Mandi Bahaudin district has condemned the registration of cases and announced to stage a protest demonstration against the police in front of the office of the Mandi Bahaudin district police officer on Tuesday.

They urged the Punjab chief minister and IGP to ensure justice.

Two doctors found guilty in snakebite victim's death

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

CHAKRALA: An inquiry committee has declared two doctors of the DHO Hospital Chakrala guilty in the death of an eight-year-old boy from snakebite after being ignored by doctors for six hours.

The committee headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Qasim Ahmed Bajwa with six members, Additional Principal Medical Officer Dr Makhtar Ahmed and DHO Dr Mohshar Hussain, recommended strict legal action against Dr Taimur Azam and Dr Maghoolia Zahra.

According to the committee report (a copy available with Dawn), Mohammad Nabi was brought to the hospital on June 12 after he was bitten by a snake.

"The attendants categorically add the staff on duty that a snake has bitten the boy. The hospital staff, including Dr Azam, suggested some lab tests and documented the snakebite in the patient record." The condition of the patient remained in between stable and unstable. The lab test was also repeated but it showed no evidence of snake venom.

"At this point, Dr Azam, the medical officer, was supposed to consult his seniors/consultants but since the snakebite was evident by history, physical signs and symptoms. He was also required to administer anti-snake venom vaccine which was available in the hospital. Dr Azam neither consulted his seniors nor administered anti-snake venom."

The report noted that Dr Azam consulted Dr Zahra, the senior medical officer on duty, but she did not advise him to administer the anti-snake venom to the patient. The committee observed that no professional efforts were made to manage the case as there was no documentation regarding the condition of the patient, finding of examination/remarks and state of vital signs during the stay of the patient at the hospital. It was also observed that SOPs were not followed for the management of the case.

Both the doctors failed to provide appropriate treatment of snakebite as per SOPs, the committee concluded.

"The patient record was poorly maintained. It does not reflect any proper documentation regarding the condition of the patient, finding of examination/remarks and state of vital signs. This is blatant violation of minimum service delivery standards." The committee noted that Dr Azam misstated the facts when he handed over the case to Dr Hussain who joined in the morning shift. It found that the boy died due to snakebite. "Dr Azam and Dr Zahra have been found guilty of gross negligence. They may be proceeded against under PIEDA Act 2006," it said.

It also issued a warning letter to DHO Dr Jawaidhigul. — **NURJIZ ANWAR/FREKAT**

Alhamra hosts painting workshop for children

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A five-day painting workshop organized by the Lahore Arts Council at Alhamra Art Gallery kicked off on Monday.

Miss Haroon, assistant director of fine arts at Alhamra Art Centre, said visual arts played an important role in developing aesthetics. The argument for inclusion of the arts in academic syllabi is that such an activity fosters transferable skills and boosts overall academic achievements. Workshop opportunities enhance well-being of a student in visual arts, she added.

Lahore Arts Council Executive Director Athar Ali Khan said that one of the most enlightening aspects of Alhamra was the provision of a rich cultural environment to "our young and amateur artists and students who have just begun learning arts professionally". As far as this workshop is concerned emotional and mental development was very much important for children. Alhamra, through acting and painting workshops, engaged children in different activities so they could be polished in visual arts, he added.

The workshop will continue till June 28 and certificates given to the students at the end.



Ensure Precautions For a Safer Monsoon

Take Precautionary Measures to Safeguard Precious Lives and Properties in Rainy Season

- Vacate dilapidated residences before rainy season or get them repaired properly.
- Don't touch soaked electrical instruments or broken wires lying on ground.
- Don't enter or lodge in under construction buildings.
- Residents of low-lying areas should shift valuables to safer places.
- Keep roofs clean, get them repaired and ensure proper drainage.
- Follow necessary precautions to avoid waterborne diseases.
- Don't swim or bathe in rivers or flood drains in rainy season.
- Stay informed about weather updates.
- Don't throw garbage in flood drains or sewers.
- Keep children away from electrical wires and poles.

In case of emergency, contact your Respective DC Office or Call PDMA's Helpline

1129

Striving to Safeguard Your Lives & Properties



Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Government of the Punjab

Whopping surge in flour price riles commoners

By Our Correspondent

SIALKOT: Wheat flour has almost gone out of the reach of commoners following a whopping increase in its price by the millers and dealers after the recent budget.

The shopkeepers and dealers are selling a 20 kilo flour bag at the rate of Rs22 against the fixed official price of Rs150 per bag in open markets in Sialkot, Daska, Sambrial, Panni and Zafarwal towns.

On the other hand, flour grinders (Aar Chakri) are selling 20kg for Rs1,000. Local hotels and some shop owners are selling 500 grams weight bread at the rate of Rs20 per piece against the fixed official price of Rs10. Bakers are selling 120 grams mean at the rate of Rs14 whereas the official rate stands at Rs12.

The district administration seems to be least interested in monitoring the prices.

Social circles had expressed concern at the high price of the bread and criticised the [alleged] poor performance of the price control committee.

They said the commit-

tees had become ineffective due to lack of monitoring by the administration. They have urged Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, Commissioner Wasim Ali Mahmood and Sialkot Deputy Commissioner Dr. Syed Bilal Akbar to take notice of the situation in the larger public interest.

FLOOD WARNING: The district administration has put all the concerned departments on high alert following the low-level flood warning in the River Chenab at Head Marala on Monday.

According to Sialkot Deputy Commissioner Dr. Syed Bilal Akbar, all the departments concerned were monitoring the flood situation round the clock at the Head Marala.

The local irrigation department officials said on Monday the water level was 37,344 cusecs in the River Chenab, 3,607 cusecs in the River Tari and 1,294 cusecs in the River Jinnah at the Head Marala.

They said 18,000 cusecs water was being released in Marala Haveli Link Canal and 12,523 cusecs in Upper Chenab Canal. Both the main canals originate from River Chenab at Head Marala.



LAHORE: A traffic mess on Canal Road near Dhasapura. — White Star

'No forex earning in agriculture due to lack of value addition'

By Our Staff Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Pakistan is not attracting foreign exchange due to lack of value addition and not following modern trends and international standards, said University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice-Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Ashraf.

Talking to a delegation of Xinjiang Agriculture University (XAU) China led by its Dean Prof. Dr. Shi Shubing on Monday, Dr. Ashraf said Pakistan-China agricultural ties would help combat deserting issues such as low productivity, post-harvest losses, value addition and farm machinery to ensure food security and alleviate poverty.

He said the UAF and XAU were working jointly on a project of heat tolerant cotton and wheat varieties to identify the genes for climate-resistant varieties. China has adopted a model of small-scale implements for small farmers. He said the UAF had taken up the chal-

lenge of developing small implements, as more than 90 per cent of farming community consisted of small farmers.

Dr. Ashraf stressed the need for learning from the Chinese experience in farm machinery value addition and need.

He said Pakistan was producing abundant and good quality agricultural products, but could not earn foreign exchange.

Dr. Shubing said they would help the UAF collaborate with Chinese seed companies and farm machinery to excel in the agriculture sector. Under the Confucius Institute, they were imparting education of Chinese language in Pakistan that would increase people-to-people contact and trade from each other's countries.

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Woman dies in lightning bolt strike

By Our Correspondent

SHIKHUPURA: A woman died while her minor daughter suffered serious burn injuries when lightning struck them near Warburton barn on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Nooran, was present outside the house during rain along her daughter when the deadly bolt of lightning struck them.

They were shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors pronounced Nooran dead. Her daughter was also in serious condition.

MIRFEE: A tractor driver was shot dead while his colleague sustained serious bullet injuries by two people in village Tariani here on Monday.

Shahbaz and his colleague were riding the tractor in the village street with the blaring sound of music.

Wearing the village mosque, Farooq and Bilal berbed them from playing the music. This led to a scuffle between the two sides.

They killed tractor driver Shahbaz at the scene and injured his friend Munshaz.

The Faisalabad police started investigation against Farooq and Bilal.

DBA demands divisional status for Sialkot

By Our Correspondent

SIALKOT: The district bar association has demanded through a unanimous resolution that Sialkot should be elevated to division given its industrial significance and geographical importance.

President Chaudhry Muhammad Raza Titor addressing a meeting at the district bar on Monday said the lawyers and bar residents of the district had been demanding divisional headquarters status for Sialkot since long.

Stressing the city's significance, he said that Sialkot had an international airport, a dry port and the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

He added the city's status as the country's second largest export hub after Karachi, while it had one of the oldest customs zones as well. He said Sialkot had been earning foreign exchange to the tune of \$2.5 billion annually, besides playing a pivotal role in strengthening the economy.

Mr. Titor said that granting divisional status to Sialkot would also help resolve long-standing issues of the local law firms.

The bar urged Prime Minister Imran Khan, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar and Chief Minister Usman Buzdar to declare Sialkot a division comprising Sialkot, Narwal and Gajrat districts.

12 of family pass out after toxic meal

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: Twelve people of a family passed out late on Sunday after eating toxic meal in village Kakkaika.

The family of Tajamal Hassan left their painful pain soon after eating the dinner and started vomiting. Soon, they passed out.

The locals shifted them to Narawal District Headquarters Hospital.

Those passed out included Tajamal, Musawwar Hussain, Muhammad Saif, Muhammad Rafiq, Abida Bibi, Narwan Bibi, Laila, Ayesha and others. Three of them were referred to Lahore for further treatment.

Doctor at Emergency Ward, Dr. Muhammad Bilal said the condition of the toxic family members was not serious and if they all would be stable in next two days.

Tajamal said they ate rice after which they all affected.

SNAKE: Rescue 1122 captured a toxic snake from the residential colony of District Police Station Hospital of Narawal.

The reptile was spotted in the house of driver Jehangir.

First, locally tried to capture it, but in vain. A Rescue 1122 team captured the snake after two hours.

They said the species was invasive.

Businessman injured during Rs2m robbery

By Our Correspondent

OKARA: A businessman was injured for resistance to the robbers who took away Rs2m from him on Okara-Faisalabad road on Monday.

Mushtaq drew Rs2m from a bank and was going back to his village Jandirka, some 35km south of city, in a car along with driver, Usaf.

On the Okara-Faisalabad road, three armed robbers intercepted him and snatched the amount from him. When Mushtaq resisted, the robbers opened fire on

him, injuring him seriously before making an escape in a car. Rescue 1122 arrested Mushtaq in the District Headquarters Hospital.

SP investigation Bilal Qayyum inquired after the driver Mushtaq who was stated to be in a stable condition.

ROOKIED: The Chauraha Miss Khori Police Station registered a case against 50 canal water thieves of village Tibba Sudda Singh on report of canal irrigation sub-divisional officer.

Those booked included Fayyaz, Aamran and Yar Muhammad.



LAHORE: People enjoy boating at the Greater Iqbal Park on a pleasant day. — Online

UoG won't offer transport facility to new students

Admin says decision taken after cut in HEC budget for public varieties

By Wasoorn Anwar Butt

GUJRAT: The University of Gujrat (UoG) has announced an end to the pick-and-drop facility for its students belonging to various towns of Gujrat as well as some neighbouring districts seeking admissions to the next semester.

However, the students who were already availing the transport facility would not be affected.

The UoG was the only public sector university in Punjab that offered pick-and-drop facility to its students belonging to Gujranwala, Sialkot, Mandi Bahauddin, Jhelum and Bhimber district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir as well as

Kharan, Lalamusa, Dera, Konjoh and Sarai Alamgir towns of Gujrat district since the establishment of its Iqbal Hayer campus in 2006.

The UoG administration claimed that the decision had been taken in the wake of an unprecedented reduction in the Higher Education Commission's 2019-20 budget for public sector universities.

Students, faculty members, parents and civil society representatives have lodged a strong protest against the decision for which they blamed vested interests. They alleged that the sub-companies of some private universities as well as of the UoG in the surrounding districts had persuaded the variety administration to take this decision through bribe.

They were of the view that the decision would adversely affect the ratio of new applications, and the acting vice-chancellor could not take such a major policy decision without approval from the syndicate. The appointment of a regular VC was just a few days away.

Official sources in UoG said that the transport facility was one of main income-generating sources for the university. The campuses and sub-companies of both public and private universities in the surrounding districts had not been able to increase their enrolment rates due to the UoG's transport.

UoG Registrar Dr. Tahir Agha said that the administration had taken a difficult decision foregoing the financial circumstances they will likely face after the slash in the HEC budget. The Punjab government had also reduced Rs150 million for the expenditures of Nawaz Sharif Medical College - a constituent college of the UoG - which would also pose to be a challenge for the variety.

However, he said, the students who had got admissions in the Fall 2018 semester and before would continue to avail the transport services for almost three years, while the variety would

also launch a shuttle service for students up to the existing points of the service in the city. This service would be available to all students, including those who got admitted to the new semester.

He published involvement in the decision of any vested interests backed by the owners of private and public varieties in the neighbouring districts of Gujrat. He added that as per rule 14 (1) of the UoG Act, the vice-chancellor could take such a decision without approval of the syndicate since the bus service was also launched without the body's approval.

Chief Traffic Officer Aul Siddiqui told the newsmen on Monday that a number of motorcyclists had lost their lives because of head injuries, which prompted the police to launch the campaign to wear helmets.

The motorcycles were given June 20 as the deadline after which the police started issuing them tickets.

SNGPL former GM's bail application rejected

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULHAN: A special court of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Monday rejected a bail application filed by Sai Northern Gas Pipeline (SNGPL) former general manager Mir Bahadur Khan Bagti, an accused in Rs55m corruption scam.

The FIA had arrested Mr. Bagti on Sept 28, 2018.

Falgun Ali, a Multan-based industrialist, in his complaint had alleged that Mr. Bagti had received Rs5m as bribe from him by threatening to suspend gas supply to his nine units.

An FIR was lodged with the FIA Police Station against Mr. Bagti.

12,000 issued tickets for not wearing helmets

By Our Correspondent

GUJRANWALA: The traffic police issued tickets to more than 12,000 motorcyclists in the last four days for not wearing helmets.

Chief Traffic Officer Aul Siddiqui told the newsmen on Monday that a number of motorcyclists had lost their lives because of head injuries, which prompted the police to launch the campaign to wear helmets.

The motorcycles were given June 20 as the deadline after which the police started issuing them tickets.



— Dawn

Head office not being shifted to Islamabad: PIA

By Azfar-ul-Ashfaq

KARACHI: In what appears to be a vague attempt to allay concerns about the likelihood of shifting the head office of the national flag carrier from Karachi, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said on Monday that the transfer of its employees to Islamabad did not "by any means" mean transferring the airline's head office.

Pilots, cabin crew, engineers and dozens of other staff working at the PIA head office and settled in the provincial metropolis for decades have been transferring to Islamabad ever since Air Marshal Arshad Malik took control of the national carrier as its chief executive.

The arbitrary transfers generated a rumour that the management wanted to shift the airline's head office from Karachi to Islamabad.

On May 13, the Senate had adopted a resolution with a majority vote opposing the alleged relocation of the PIA head office from Karachi to Islamabad. Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan, however, opposed the resolution, fueling speculation that the government wanted to shift the head office in the near future.

Amid an air of uncertainty, the PIA management finally came up with a response on Monday and clarified that the national carrier was not "transferring" its headquarters, but it had plans to make the new Islamabad International Airport as the "airline's hub".

"The PIA is not shifting its head office but moving it to Islamabad to expand and achieve economic viability as envisaged in the airline's business plan," said a PIA spokesman.

The management is reorganising its human resources to be deployed more efficiently and effectively. In doing so, it is re-positioning its employees to different stations throughout Pakistan. The repositioning is in the process of transferring its employees to Islamabad and other stations wherever required to cope up with the workload, demand potential and future prospects," the spokesman added.

While the spokesman said that the PIA operates 23 flights per week to European destinations from Islamabad as compared

to two from Karachi, he did not mention the reasons as to why the national carrier chose to operate more flights from a much smaller city and neglected the fact that many foreign airlines are still operating more flights from Karachi.

Also, senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader Senator Sherry Rehman had told the Senate on May 13 that air traffic in Islamabad had not increased to the extent that it had in Karachi. "The government is crippling Pakistan's commercial hub because it lacks political control there. It is taking Karachi's flights and re-routing them to Islamabad. It is trying to strip Karachi of its commercial base, of its roots, of its power to hold PIA in a commercial centre," she had said.

In what appeared to be an attempt to build their case in favour of Islamabad, the spokesman said "The New Islamabad airport, which is now the largest airport of the country, is a great opportunity for PIA to further enhance its network as majority of the international flights operate from the north region."

"There exists more potential to be explored and revenue generated by making Islamabad Airport as the airline's hub than the previous route via Muscat and which was incurring high costs."

He said that the PIA planned to increase flight frequencies on profitable routes and planning new destinations purely on commercial viability.

"The airline is trying all-out efforts to start non-stop flights to the United States making it a viable business route rather than the previous route via Muscat and which was incurring high costs."

"[The view of] the recent initiative of the Saudi government to have direct immigration access at the Islamabad Airport from the neighbouring Hajj season, more personnel will be required at Islamabad airport. To strengthen the flight operation from Islamabad it is being equipped with required manpower," he added.

However, the management evaded the grievances of employees if any with genuine reasons, "the spokesman concluded.

Civil society leaders stand trial in Turkey

SILVRE: Sixteen leading Turkish civil society leaders appeared in court on Monday, accused of seeking to overthrow the government during the "Gezi Park" protests of 2013, in a trial dubbed an absurd sham by critics.

The group includes renowned businessman and philanthropist Osman Kavala, whose detention since November 2017 has made him a symbol of what his supporters say is a crackdown on civil society.

Kavala rejected the "irrefutable claims which lack evidence" in his opening statement, shortly after the trial began under high security in the prison and court complex of Silivri on the outskirts of Istanbul. He is accused of orchestrating and financing the protests which began over government plans to build over Gezi Park, one of the green spaces left in Istanbul.

The rallies unseated into a nationwide movement against the then-president Erdogan's brand of Islamic conservatism and grassroots development projects.

The 657-page indictment seeks to paint the protests as a foreign-directed conspiracy with links to the Turkish Special Forces, which, it claims, the Turkish government supported.

"None of these actions were constitutional — they were supported from the outside as an operation to bring the Turkish Republic to its knees," the indictment says.

Amnesty International's Andrew Gardner said the trial "speaks volumes about the deeply flawed judiciary that has been established in Turkey since the 1970s."

The report was filed following an



SILVRI (Turkey): Soldiers stand outside a court in a prison complex where the trial of civil society leaders began as people arrive to attend the proceedings on Monday.—AP

Chapter on constitutional rights included in Punjab textbooks

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board (PCTB) on Monday said the Lahore High Court that a chapter on fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution had been incorporated in newly-printed textbooks of Pakistan Studies for grades IX to XII.

A report submitted by the board stated that Chapter 1 of Pakistan's Constitution of 1973 — which deals with fundamental rights, the Islamic concept of human rights, and the UN declaration of human rights — had been incorporated in the books of Pak Studies.

The report was filed following an

order issued by the court on a contempt petition seeking action against the authorities for not implementing a 2015 order about inclusion of a chapter on fundamental rights in school syllabus/curriculum.

It asked the court to dispose of the petition as the grievance of the petitioner stood addressed after promulgation of New Scheme of Studies 2017 and the same were being taught to students in different grades. It said the syllabus of higher studies did not fall within the jurisdiction of PCTB.

Justice Ayesha A. Malik disposed of the petition after the petitioner's counsel expressed satisfaction over the board's reply.

Advocate Shera Zaka had represented the petitioner and stated that

the court had in 2015 directed the chairman of PCTB to hear the point of view of the petitioner and other stakeholders to decide on the prayer made in the petition within one month.

The counsel had argued that the education about fundamental rights was critical for the youth to know their rights protected by the Constitution, including right of life, right of fair trial and right of equal treatment. He said all over the world the students at school level were taught about fundamental rights provided in the constitutions of their respective country.

However, in Pakistan, he said a student did not get any knowledge of his basic rights unless he studied law.

BJP dampens Hurriyat talks hopes

By Jameel Naqvi

NEW DELHI: Putting its foot down against a formal proposal for talks between the Indian government and leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said on Monday the move would be regressive and hurt recent anti-terror measures.

APHC chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was quoted on Saturday as saying that "there will be a positive response" if "meaningful" talks are initiated by New Delhi.

"The Joint Resistance Leadership [including the Hurriyat] should publicly acknowledge the indestructible status of Jammu and Kashmir and it being an integral part of India. They should also comment their loyalty to Constitution of India and seek talks only under its aegis," BJP spokesperson Anil Gupta said in a statement.

The Express quoted him as saying that any talks with the JRL of Hurriyat at this stage without them publicly accepting these "preconditions" will be "counter-productive and a retrograde step."

The reaction from the storm party came after Mr Farooq called for a truce talk between the Kashmiri leadership, New Delhi and Islamabad for resolution of all issues, including Kashmir. "At the most affected party with daily killings of our young men, we need to start with a peaceful resolution of the issue," he had said, representing a formula that India has rejected in the past.

On Saturday, Jammu and Kashmir

Governor Satya Pal Malik said that the Hurriyat had softened its stand and were ready for talks after he took charge of the state last August.

"The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) of Hurriyat does not represent the majority of Kashmiris. They are responsible for the senseless killings of Kashmiris by the Kashmiris at the behest of Pakistan. None of the Hurriyat leaders has signalled any change in their stance and continue to promote separatism," Mr Gupta said.

"The JRL speaks on behalf of the 'Kashmiri power brokers who claim to be mainstream, but serve as the latent support of the Jammu and Kashmir (JFK) and the main backbone of the separatists and the Hurriyat," the BJP leader pointed out. "More appeals for talks with the Centre's no indication of any change in the mindset," he added.

The Express quoted Mr Gupta as spinning a different story on current state of affairs.

"The demonization of radicalised leadership sees allegiance to the Jammu and Kashmir (JFK) (AM-e-Hadees). They are also the mouthpiece of Pakistan and are dictated by ISI," Mr Gupta said.

Mr Gupta also accused Hurriyat as the "perpetrator of most of the problems in Kashmir," saying "with the influx of 'harrala' money controlled, they are not strapped of cash and thus asking for talks".

Fresh US-Taliban negotiation aims for pullout of foreign forces

KARACHI: Upcoming peace talks between the United States and the Taliban will focus on working out a timeline for the withdrawal of US-led troops from Afghanistan and on a Taliban guarantee militants won't plot attacks from Afghan soil, sources said on Monday.

A seventh round of talks between the warring sides begins on Saturday in Qatar's capital of Doha, where US and Taliban negotiators have been trying to hammer out a deal to end to the 15-year long war since October.

"Once the timetable for foreign force withdrawal is announced, then talks will automatically enter the next stage," said Sadiq Shaban, a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Doha. "We don't need to wait for the completion of the withdrawal, both withdrawal and talks can move forward simultaneously."

The focus of the talks has been a Taliban demand for the withdrawal of US and other foreign forces and a US

demand the Taliban guarantee that Afghanistan will not be used as a base for militant attacks on the world.

Two other main issues in the process are a ceasefire and talks between the rival Afghan sides — the insurgents and the Western-backed government.

But the Taliban have long refused to talk to the Afghan government, denouncing it as a foreign "puppet", and fighting has seen no let-up.

Two other sources with knowledge of the talks said the sixth round in May ended with sessions on both sides, but since then informal meeting had taken place to work out what can be agreed.

The US special envoy for peace in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, has also held informal meetings with the Taliban leadership in Doha. "Based on my recent visits to Afghanistan and Qatar, I believe all sides want rapid progress," Khalilzad said on Twitter.

About 20,000 foreign troops, most of them American, are in Afghanistan as part of a US-led Nato mission to train, assist and advise Afghan forces. Some US forces carry out counter-terrorism operations.

In March, a draft agreement was reached on the withdrawal of foreign forces in exchange for a commitment by the Taliban to cut ties with militant groups such as al Qaeda.

A Taliban source said both sides were expecting some delay, and results on the peace issues in the new round talks.

"A ceasefire and intra-Afghan talks will not be discussed during the seventh round," said the Taliban source, who declined to be identified.

Some Afghan government officials said the United States and the Taliban will strike a deal on the withdrawal of foreign forces, enabling the United States to get out of an unpopular war but leaving government forces to battle on alone.—Reuters

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All-round Shakib keeps BD in hunt for semis

Pg 22 SPORT



REFLECTORS stolen from the Hayatabad Industrial Zone Road, Peshawar, invite attention of the authorities concerned. — White Star

Opposition warns govt not to abolish teacher training institutes

Threatens agitation if denied uplift funds

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: Leader of the opposition in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Akram Khan Durrani on Monday warned the government against doing away with the teacher training institutes and said if that happened, members of the opposition parties along with teachers and students of government schools would begin street protests.

Speaking on a point of order, Mr Durrani came down hard on the provincial government for what he claimed initiating the process of abolishing the regional institutes for teacher education functioning in all districts of the province.

"We can bring the chief minister on the main stage of the KP Assembly if he allows the abolition of RITEs," he said before the start of the budget debate in the house, which met with Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani in the chair.

The opposition leader claimed that for the abolition of RITEs, a summary had been sent by the elementary and secondary education department to the chief minister for approval. He urged the chief minister to not approve the summary.

The RITEs' mandate was to provide pre-service training to schoolteachers in their respective districts. The education department had decided to do away with RITEs after ending the condition of pre-service training two years ago. Now, the education department is appointing fresh graduates as teachers before providing them with good service. The RITEs were established in 1973 to provide pre-service training to teachers.

Responding to the opposition leader's warning of street protests, financial minister Taimur Saleem Jangra said the government won't make any compromise on the quality of education and teacher training. He said the government had doubled the current funding for teacher training in the next year.

PHC begins hearing into Dr Shakil's plea against conviction

Issues notices on petitions of ex-agency surgeon, govt about sentence

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: For the first time, the Peshawar High Court on Monday began hearing into the petition of former agency surgeon Dr Shakil Afridi against the upholding of his conviction by an appellate forum for links with banned militant outfits.

The petition like others pending with the Fata tribunal was recently shifted to the high court for proceedings after the tribunal's abolition due to the merger of the tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A bench consisting of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Ijaz Ahmad held preliminary hearing into the two revision petitions of Dr Shakil and administration of Khyber tribal district's administration against the decision of the Frontier Crimes Regulation commission dated on May 15, 2014.

It issued a notice to the provincial government on Dr Shakil's petition against upholding of his conviction for links with banned outfits.

The bench also put on notice the former agency surgeon over a petition of the government against the reduction of his sentence by the FCR commissioner, which was the appellate forum under the FCR, which stands repealed due to the Fata-KP merger.

The petition remained pending with the tribunal for four years without noteworthy progress.

The FCR commissioner had upheld the conviction of Dr Shakil for being linked to a banned militant organization of Bara部落 but reduced his prison term slapped by the assistant political agent's court from 33 years to 23 years and the fine from Rs20,000 to Rs22,000.

Through the revision petition, Dr Shakil had challenged the commissioner's decision with the Fata tribunal, the third and final judicial forum under the FCR.

Similarly, the administration had also moved the tribunal seeking increase in the sentence of Dr Shakil.

Lawyers Abdul Latif Afridi and Qamar

ANP protests silence of NAB over govt 'corruption'

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party held a protest rally against here on Monday for not taking up cases of alleged corruption during the last six years.

According to a press release, ANP provincial president Ahsan Wali Khan led the protest rally held in Hayatabad outside the NAB office. He said that high-profile cases of corruption were taken up and inquiries were held but NAB had not moved forward and done anything in those cases.

"It looks like there is a hidden hand behind it," said Mr Khan. He said that the prime minister, who chaired the slogan of accountability, was surrounded by the people facing NAB charges. He added that the case of minister of health by the prime minister was also not investigated so far.

The ANP leader said that billion tree project also needed to be probed as saplings from Punjab were bought quite expensive and the parliamentary committee also disclosed that the plants mentioned in the papers were different from the ones on

the ground. He said that suspicion of fire at 92 places could be an attempt to eliminate the evidence.

Mr Khan also mentioned Bus Rapid Transit project and said that it should be investigated by NAB. He said that it was not completed within six months as claimed by the government and the delay escalated its expenditures.

The ANP leader said high-profile cases should be investigated by NAB to protect the rights and lives of the people of the province. ANP general secretary Mian Iftikhar Hussain also spoke about the corruption scandals. He said that instead of taking up such cases of corruption, NAB was acting as bodyguard of the government. He said that NAB should not become a tool in the hands of the government rather it should work for the interests of the country.

He said that ANP believed in impartial accountability that should be for everyone whether he was a prime minister or his family. — Bureau Report



ANP provincial chief Ahsan Wali addresses a sit-in outside NAB KP offices in Peshawar on Monday. — White Star

Nadeem appeared for Dr Shakil in the court and accepted the notice issued to their client on the government's petition.

The schedule of next hearing will be announced later. Dr Shakil was taken into custody in May 2011 by intelligence agencies on the suspicion of arranging a fake vaccination campaign at the behest of American CIA in Abbottabad for tracing Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. However, he was not convicted by the trial court on that charge.

The assistant political agent, who was also the additional district magistrate of Bara部落 in Khyber agency, convicted him on May 23, 2012 for involvement in anti-state activities by supporting the Bara部落 banned outfit, Lashkari-e-Islam, and sentenced him on different counts to a total of 33 years' imprisonment with fine of Rs20,000.

The court convicted him on four counts, including sedition, waging war against Pakistan, concealing design to wage war against Pakistan and condemnation of the eruption of Pakistan. He was sentenced to 33 years imprisonment on fourth count.

The trial court ruled that the sentences

would run consecutively, so he had to undergo 33 years imprisonment. He was also fined Rs20,000 altogether.

Initially, an appeal was filed before the FCR's commissioner, which on Aug 29, 2013, disposed of the appeal with the observation that such a serious nature case should have been tried by the political agent himself under proper law and shall so as to ensure absence of iota of any shadow regarding merit and transparency.

The said order of the commissioner was challenged before the Fata tribunal, which on Dec 18, 2013, remanded the case back to the FCR commissioner with the direction to pronounce a clear order regarding his trial by the political agent on charges of having links with a militant organization.

The FCR commissioner again heard his appeal on Mar 15, 2014, and upheld his conviction. He, however, set aside the conviction under Section 123-A (condemnation of creation of state of Pakistan) of Pakistan Penal Code, ruling that the provision in question was not in the schedule of offences under the FCR.

The sentence was reduced to 23 years imprisonment with a fine of Rs22,000.

Couple shot dead for honour in Haripur

By Our Correspondent

HARIPUR: A couple was shot dead in the name of honour by the family members of the woman in Sera-i-Saleh here on Monday.

One of the accused, however, was arrested along with the weapon used in the crime, police said.

Witnesses and police said a woman, resident of Lower Kohistan district, had married with a serving constable of Manshehs police a few months ago without the consent of her family.

The couple, facing backlash from the family, had shifted to Dheri Ash Khan village, a suburban locality near Sera-i-Saleh town. On Monday evening, the woman was waiting for her husband on GT Road when her brother came there and opened fire, killing her on the spot. The assailant's other brothers stopped a car at some distance from the place where the woman was shot dead and resorted to indiscriminate fire, killing her husband on the spot. Two other inmates of the car sustained injuries.

Asi Sera-i-Saleh police station Siddique Khan, who was on way back to the police station after attending a court hearing, seeing the man committing the murder caught hold of him after a chase through the Sera-i-Saleh Bazaar. However, his other accomplices, who numbered the policeman, were still at large. Meanwhile, a teenage girl committed suicide over unknown reasons in Basti Sher Khan, police said on Monday.

The victim aged 16 had an altercation with her mother over some household chores, according to her father.

35 seminary students injured in roof collapse

By Our Correspondent

MARDAN: Thirty-five girl students were injured when roof of a religious seminary's veranda collapsed in Dubai Adda area here on Monday.

Officials at religious seminary said the students were taking classes when roof of veranda collapsed.

Personnel of Rescue-1122 rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the district headquarters hospital, Mardan.

The officials said most of the students belonged to poor families.

After the incident, local residents demanded of the government to construct a proper building of the seminary.

People protest bad condition of Shandur road

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: Residents of Mastuj, Lasapur and Yarkhoon valleys on Monday staged a sit-in in Mastuj for three hours against the government for not starting work on construction of Bloori-Shandur Road.

The protesters said they would extend the duration of the sit-in by July 1 and would also stop transportation of horses, tents and other items for Shandur Festival scheduled to start from July 7.

The protesters said the road from Bloori town to Mastuj and onward to Lasapur and Yarkhoon was in bad shape, resulting in several fatal accidents.

They accused the communications and works department of committing massive corruption in the funds meant for constructing the road. They asked the people of Gilgit-Baltistan to boycott the Shandur Festival by expressing solidarity with the people of Mastuj, Lasapur and Yarkhoon.

Man arrested for assaulting girl

PESHAWAR: The city police on Monday arrested a man for assaulting a nine-year-old girl.

A police official said the incident took place in the limits of Faqirabad police station. Police identified the accused as Niaz Ali, a resident of Saeed Atad locality. The official said the accused was the husband of the victim's aunt.

He said the three hours against the government for not starting work on construction of Bloori-Shandur Road.

The police have sent the child to hospital for medical checkup. — Bureau Report

PRAYER

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| Zuhar | 12.19 |
| Asr | 05.18 |
| Maghrib | 07.30 |
| Isha | 09.14 |

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7/6/4/17

Fazl's brother elected JUI-F provincial chief

PESHAWAR: Maulana Fazlur Rehman's youngest brother, Maulana Atiqur Rehman, was elected provincial chief of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl here on the other day.

Maulana Atiqur Rehman came unopposed after outgoing provincial chief of the party Maulana Gul Nasseem Khan withdrew his candidature. Maulana Atiqur Rehman was elected general secretary of the party provincial chapter after defeating Maulana Shujaat Malik, who secured only 436 votes.

The intra-party elections were held at JUI-F provincial secretariat and of the total 1,476 members, 1,366 cast their vote. Maulana Atiqur Rehman, who had served as federal minister for tourism, was elected provincial president of the party for five years. According to the party constitution, other members of the provincial cabinet would be selected. — Bureau



A VENDOR sells inflatable toys along Sher Shah Suri Road, Peshawar. — AFP

PPP to protest price hike, new taxes on 28th

Humayun says different segments of society rejected budget

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Peoples Party here on Monday announced to hold rallies and demonstrations on June 28 across the province against the government policies, price hike, imposition of new taxes, unemployment and arrest of politicians.

The announcement was made by PPP provincial president Muhammad Humayun Khan during a news conference in Peshawar Press Club.

Flanked by other PPP leaders including Anam Afridi, Syed Ayub Shah, Zulfikar Agha and Khawja

Yusuf Naseer, he said there was no relief for the poor in the federal and provincial budgets. He said that the PPP would raise voice against imposition of new taxes.

Mr Khan said that government was attempting to hide its weaknesses by arresting the leaders of opposition parties. He said that the arrest of Asif Ali Zardari and Fayaz Talpur would not benefit the government as there was no concrete evidence against them.

The PPP leader said that the budget was rejected by people belonging to different segments of the society including government employees, farmers and business community mainly owing to imposition of massive taxes. In the prevailing disappointing situation, he said, people were expecting of the opposition parties to block passage

of the budget.

He said the assemblies had so far not approved the budgets but price of various items had been increased manifold. "The negative impact of the budget will be felt everywhere as government is unable to control depreciation of the currency, price hike and joblessness," he added.

Mr Khan asked the government to revise the proposed measures both in the federal and provincial budgets so that the poverty-hit people could get relief in the prevailing financial crisis. He said that PTI had claimed to create a new Pakistan but it instead pushed the country towards economic suicide.

He said the federal budget was dictated by International Monetary Fund. If the new taxes

were not withdrawn forthwith, PPP would launch a protest movement and its responsibility would rest with the government, he said.

The PPP leader said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was affected by government but government did not pay any attention to its development and progress.

He alleged that government arrested one of its party's candidates Imran Waiz in South Waziristan and started releasing funds for development schemes to ensure success of the PTI candidate in the upcoming polls for provincial assembly. He demanded early release of Imran Waiz.

Mr Khan said that PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhatto Zardari would visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in July to address workers' conventions. — Bureau Report

Over 270 plastic bag production units, wholesale outlets closed

Crackdown also planned on plastic bottles, CM told in meeting

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has closed down 270 polythene bag manufacturing and wholesale units across the province and seized more than 70,000 polythene bags, said an official statement.

In addition, Rs1.25 million fine has been imposed on the 150 violators in various districts, said the statement issued after Chief Minister Masroor Khan chaired a meeting of the representatives of district administrations called here to review implementation of the government's directives.

The chief minister was briefed about the ongoing campaign against polythene bags and was told that a system of the province will be launched on plastic bottles, a major source of pollution.

The CM directed district administrations to finalize lists of illegal units and try to highlight missing facilities as well as issues regarding the performance of district administrations during the last four months.

Officials told Dawn that during the last four months, 943.35 kants of land value Rs1.4 billion was retrieved from illegal occupants in the province, including 192 kants in Khyber district, 136.5 kants in Dirai, 100 kants in Khan district and 98 kants in Hangu district.

Villagers threaten protest against suspension of water supply

MANSHERA: The residents of Safada and neighbouring villages have warned that they will take to the streets and block the Manshera-Abbottabad indefinitely if the supply of drinking water doesn't resume without delay.

Residents of the Safada village council Bahawar Ali Swati told reporters on Monday that the public health engineering department had suspended water supply to the area for many weeks to the misery of residents.

He said the people of many other villages were also distressed by water shortage.

The main said the public health engineering department blamed the problem on low voltage insulating machines at almost all water schemes in rural parts of the district but had been operational for many weeks.

He said if the public health engineering department and Peshawar Electricity Supply Company didn't sort out the problem without delay, the residents would hold street protests and block the main artery, Manshera-Abbottabad Road, indefinitely.

LAWKAR CYCLISTS: A team of Sri Lankan cyclists along with Pakistanis officials reached Kaghan valley on the way to Gilgit-Baltistan here on Monday.

The six-member team, which is to take part in an international cycle race in Gilgit-Baltistan this month, was received here by district police officer Zubayr Khan.

The visitors later had lunch at the Police Circuit House before visiting the picturesque Kaghan valley, which they called paradise on earth.

They later left for Gilgit-Baltistan amid tight security.

TWO DEATHS: A woman committed suicide, while a man was killed by rivals here on Monday.

Mohammad Naseer's wife jumped into the Kumbhar River when the couple was going to the Mahandri Bazaar on foot.

An search for body by divers remained unsuccessful until evening, the reason for the woman's suicide wasn't known.

Also in the day, two rival groups traded fire killing Muhammad Naveed and injuring five others.

The incident occurred over a fight among children.

The police registered an FIR and began investigation.

Also in the day, seven members of a tourist family, including women and children, were injured when the vehicle they travelled in was hit by a speeding truck in Chaterpalli area here. — Correspondent

OFFICE OF THE XEN IRR. & HYDLE POWER, SOUTH WAZ: TRIBAL DISTRICT, TANK INVITING TENDER NOTICE

TENDER No. 16 (2018-19)

Interested firms interested by the following works as per schedule terms & conditions from the registered/eligible contractors of Works & Services Department Tribal District, (C&S Department), who have renewed their registration for the year 2018-19 and also registered with Pakistan Engineering Council since 2018-19, welcome to bid.

| Sr | Detail of Sub Works | Estimate Cost (in rupees) | Earliest Month (in rupees) | Tenders / Bids submission Date & Time | Opening of tenders Date & Time |
|----|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
| 2 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Akbar Khan Wazir Khan | 15000000 | 240000 | | |
| 3 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
| 4 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
| 5 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
| 6 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
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| 28 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
| 29 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |
| 30 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |

1st Date: 16.07.2019 02.30 PM
2nd Date: 16.07.2019 02.30 PM

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| 30 | Construction of Canal Irrigation Channel Khawaja Wazir Khan | 4000000 | 120000 | | |

Notes & Conditions

- Tender must be accompanied with 20% of the eligible contract up to 10th July 2019 in submission of APPLICATION must be accompanied with Earnest Money in Cash/ "Deposit of Cash" in the name of Engineer, Irrigation & Hydr Power South Waziristan Tribal District JUI certified from the concerned Bank that the call deposit has been issued from the Firm. Company account after-wards to be retained. Photocopies of certificate/ remittance, CMC, Invoice to Certificate are submitted to all agencies, which will be retained and opened at the office of undersigned on the Date & Time in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives.
- Contractors/ Bidders who quote their rates ABOVE BIDDING SYSTEM system both as bid in call non-AEPC items.
- The Contractors/ Bidders who quote their Bids Rates more than 10% of the Engineer's estimate shall stand an additional security in the form of bid deposit equal to 5% of the estimated cost in case the bidder quotes bid and is not accompanied by the additional security the bid shall be considered as non-responsive and the bid becomes void and so on will be considered accordingly in case the bid becomes void. The award of contract shall be decided through a committee.
- Any falsification/ overwriting/ manipulation and incomplete conditions or telegraphic tenders shall not be acceptable. First two (02) digits after decimal will be considered for evaluation.
- The contractor will have to follow the drawings/ instructions of the concerned engineer to carry out the work at site and any changes can be occurred in the scheme as per requirements. Also the contractor will have to provide for stoppage of work due to any reason.
- All Federal and Provincial Taxes/ Duties levied from time to time shall be recovered from the contractor's bill at cost government policy.
- The payment will be subjected to availability of funds.
- The contractor authority reserves the right to Accept or Reject any or all tender / bids as per PWD/MS/RS/4/17.
- No tender fees will be issued on opening date of tender.
- If the tender for the work could not be awarded due to any reason as result of 1st time then the same will be held for 2nd time as per date mentioned in the bill.
- For AEPC/ MS/ 1011 in order to invite technical and financial proposals along stage two envelope system from the pre-qualified firm for irrigation schemes, notified vide 1011, Sanctioning notification No. P/5/136-1/10a, dated 05-02-2019-44-87 dated 14-12-2017 for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the solar based pumping machines systems to be executed in irrigation schemes.

NOTE: Any further information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office time

Executive Engineer
Irrigation & Hydel Power Division South Waziristan Tribal Distt. Tank

Filling stations fined for overcharging

By Our Correspondent

KOHAT: The district administration fined operators of several filling stations for charging the consumers from Rs1 to Rs4 extra for petrol and diesel against the rates fixed by OGRA in the areas outside the Orakzai tribal district on Monday.

Deputy commissioner Matullah Khan, taking notice of the violation of the official fuel prices on the basis of reports, directed additional assistant commissioner Tabir Ali to raid filling stations in Kacha Pakha, Mitha Khan, Marai and Sher Kot on Hangu Road.

The filling station owners were warned that they would be sent to jail if they resorted to overcharging in future.

MEDICAL STORES SEALED: The additional assistant commissioner and drug inspector Hangu sealed medical stores and issued show cause notices to clinical laboratories on Monday.

AAC Atullah Jan and drug inspector Zoolhan Khan inspected 15 medical stores and two medical labs.

They sealed two shops and issued show cause notices to clinical laboratories besides taking samples of several drugs for testing.

Atullah Jan made it clear to the shopkeepers that the government had zero tolerance for substandard medicines and laboratory tests.

Zip line new tourist attraction in Malam Jabba

Ski resort now offers adventurous facility to visitors

By Our Correspondent

MINGORA: A large number of tourists flocked to Swat to experience the country's biggest zip line at 9,200 feet high Malam Jabba ski resort.

The newly installed zip line is about 1,000 feet high and about 2,000 feet long and its speed can reach to 80 kilometers per hour.

The tourists in Malam Jabba, queuing to experience the adventure of the newly installed zip line, said that they were excited to have an opportunity of sliding down the wire for the first time in life.

"I have seen zip lining on TV and on internet which always fascinated me. When I learnt that a zip line was installed in Malam Jabba, I decided at once to visit it and experience the thrilling ride. Today my dream is coming true to and I am excited," said Jamil Ahmad, a tourist from Peshawar, who was waiting for his turn.

Sera Yousof, a tourist from Lahore, who visited Malam Jabba with her family, said that she was excited to experience adventurous activities.

"We all are excited to have this adventurous trip and experience wild climbing and zip lining in Malam Jabba. I



TOURISTS enjoy the zip line ride in Malam Jabba, Swat. — Dawn

want to experience zip lining because I have never done it before," he told Dawn.

The tourists who whizzed down the wire said that it was a true adventure and a unique experience for them.

"I must ask everyone, who loves adventure and challenges, to come and have a ride in the zip line here because it is an once-in-a-lifetime experience for adventure lovers. For me, it was a thrilling and soul-burning activity," said Biser Khan, a tourist from Islamabad.

Some tourists said that at first they were worried to experience the ride of the zip line but felt better once they started sliding down the rope.

"At first I had mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety but once I started flying down, I became better and I made video and even took selfie," said Faisal Khan, another tourist.

Malakand Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud, who inaugurated the newly installed zip line, said that he was happy to a facility of international standard for tourists.

"Swat valley is a paradise for tourists. About one million tourists visited during Eidul Fitr. We made special arrangements to facilitate them. The opening of zip line facility is a unique adventure for tourists and will help to boost tourism in this area," he said.

The commissioner said that promotion of tourism was top priority of government.

Swabi university postpones exams over parents' protest

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: The Women University Swabi (WUS) on Monday postponed the BA/BSc examinations, sources in the varsity told Dawn here on Monday.

They said the examinations were postponed because the parents had warned that they won't allow their daughters to travel long distances from Yar Hussain to take examinations at the examination centre established at the varsity.

The examinations were scheduled to commence on Monday and all the arrangements had been made for the girl candidates of all the affiliated colleges of the varsity.

When contacted, an official said, "Yes, this (refusal of some of the parents) was the reason behind examination postponement."

Another official said the controller was forced by the circumstances to insist on a cancellation about postponement of the examinations on Monday as this could not be done on Sunday being the holiday.

The notification was addressed to the principals of all affiliated colleges.

The officials said that the fresh schedule for the examinations would be notified later.

FACTORY GUTTED: A major portion of a factory in Gadoun Amnari Industrial Estate was gutted in a fire caused by electricity short-circuit, officials said.

The fire raged for over three hours, but not before the blaze had gutted the main section of the factory.

BODIES RECOVERED: The police on Monday recovered the body of a teenage boy from the Peshawar High Level Canal three days after he had jumped into the water to commit suicide.

The relatives and police said the boy clashed with his father over some domestic issue and had left home. He belonged to Mazarakhel Mohallah of Swabi city.

Monday, his father took the body of his son to the city police station officials that the body of his son had been recovered from the canal. Later, the body was handed over to the family.

Meanwhile, the Chota Lohar police recovered the body of a student from the fields in the vicinity of the city.

The victim was killed by unknown persons and the body was dumped in the fields near Islamabad Peshawar Motorway. The police registered a case and started investigations.

Upgradation of shelter homes demanded

PESHAWAR: Participants of a consultation held on Monday demanded the upgradation of shelter homes through the involvement of private and government-run shelter homes.

The Aurat Foundation and UN Women jointly organised the event to assess the shelter homes at private and government-run shelter homes for women and consult stakeholders on the relevant issues and their solutions.

Members of the civil society and relevant government officials attended the consultation in large numbers.

The Aurat Foundation said the government should provide the women, who were destitute or in crisis, shelter and food at Darul Aman and help them to socially rehabilitate them.

"A woman has been living in a shelter home for nine years, while another has spent three years there along with four daughters," she said.

The woman activist said women needed more than food and shelter.

"The government should have a plan to economically empower the women of the city and help them restart their lives once they leave the shelter," she said.

Ms Saima said those living in shelter homes were the most vulnerable women due to domestic violence, forced marriages or marriage of their own choice to preserve family's honor.

"The premier's housing scheme should accommodate such women," she said.

Some participants said the shelter homes were supposed to provide them with safety and support but they often turned out to be jails.

They said there should be uniform standard operating procedure, trained staff and adequate funds for shelter homes, while the government should help women want to take legal action over domestic violence.

Qamar Niswan said the shelter homes often looked like jails, so they should have trained staff members to help rehabilitate women living there.

Sheena Gul, a coordinator at the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, said he had visited a private shelter home and seven runs by the state. He had no plan to socially rehabilitate them.

He said those shelter homes also lacked financial resources.

"There is a need for trained staff and implementation of SOPs to manage affairs of shelter homes effectively. It is a good case to provide shelter to women in crisis but legal aid and other facilities are also needed to rehabilitate them," he said.

The participants called for an effective referral system, self-free helpline and tent camps for women in need of shelter and support. — Human Report

Mr Ali said Shingla people had lost hundreds of loved ones in the coal mine blasts in different incidents due to lack of safety measures at the workplace, but now

the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, for the first time, was going to protect the rights of mineworkers through legislation.

"We have made several amendments in the mines law, including provision of safety measures for workers at workplaces, increasing the incentive from Rs500,000 to Rs900,000 for martyred workers and from Rs100,000 to Rs300,000 for the injured," he said.

Mr Ali said the legislation would bind the coal mine owners to provide safety to workers on a priority basis. He said if any coalmine owner did not follow the rules his mine would be sealed.

The coal mine workers welfare association (CMWFA) thanked the minister for upholding the rights of coal mine workers.



A MECHANIC repairs a power generator at a workshop in Peshawar. — AFP

District officers want more powers for polio eradication

Say their inability to hold UN staff accountable and stereotype security measures were main causes of failure to uproot the disease

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The commissioners and deputy commissioners have said that their inability to hold the UN staff accountable, stereotype security arrangements and bad communication strategies are the main causes of failure to eradicate polio virus.

They said that district and sub-district commissioners against the UN staff for bad performance but no action was taken against them.

During a briefing to Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Monday to discuss outbreaks of polio in the province, they said that two letters were written by Peshawar deputy commissioner against the UN staff for bad performance but no action was taken against them.

According to a handbook, the chief minister also ordered suspension of district health officers in Lakki Mawath and Banora for bad performance. He issued directives to make vaccination more effective, especially in the tribal districts. The briefing was also attended by the prime minister's focal person on polio-eradication, Rafeeq Ahsan.

Sources said that commissioners and deputy commissioners said that they were blamed for weaknesses in vaccination but they were bereft of powers to take action against the staff deployed by WHO and UNICEF because most of the operations were performed by those two agencies.

They said that there should be a mechanism of vertical and horizontal accountability, applicable to government and UN staff alike, to achieve the desired goals of making the province polio-free.

"There are more than 10,000 staffers recruited by UN, to support the province's efforts for eradication of polio, but they don't come under the district administration. Given the control of UN agencies in administration will reassert the government's role in the campaign," the meeting was told.

The officials described polio vaccination as a sensitive matter owing to security situation that could snowball into major public health issue like the happening in Mashokhel village on April 25. They stressed the need for increased security deployment of police to guard vaccinators during campaign rather than deploying them everywhere.

"Communication is responsibility of UNICEF, which failed to counter the anti-vaccination message by successful deployment of police in Mashokhel during which 45,000 children checked into the city's hospitals and people remained in state of fear," they said.

They said that better communication was needed to create demand for vaccination as well as thwart the rumours aiming to cause harm to vaccination programme.

The meeting was told that district police officers (DPOs) didn't attend security-related meetings prior to anti-polio campaign despite threats. The programme lacked political ownership and it was strongly recommended to take on board all people through a community-based approach to show results.

The officials recalled that virus in Peshawar was eradicated in 2018 but it re-emerged in June due to virus circulation in merged districts where deputy commissioners were frequently transferred that left the polio programme without leaders.

"When commissioners, deputy commissioners and coordinator of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Emergency Operations Centre are accountable, their should be an exemption for UN people engaged in the programme," they said.

They said that the administration should be empowered to recommend action against district health officers, TMOs and employees of other line departments involved in vaccination in their respective departments.

They also pointed out that they had been applying Section 16 of Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance and Section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure but it was no solution. They said that better communication work could do away with 85 per cent of refusals reported from Pashto-speaking population of the country.

The chief minister and prime minister's focal person endorsed the reservations expressed by officials of the district administration and agreed to discuss the issues at national level to ensure speedy sailing of the polio-eradication, which was a national cause.

BAR MEMBERS TAKE DATE: The district courts took oath of office from the newly-elected cabinet of the Pawan tehsil bar the other day.

On the occasion, the nation announced constitution of a hall for the tehsil bar and assured the lawyers that their core issues would be resolved soon.

HEAVY RAIN: Heavy rain coupled with thunderstorms lashed Bannu city, Alporai, Perva, Chakwas, Karra, Shingar, Lehmani and other parts of the district, turning the weather pleasant.

The rain also caused landslides, which blocked Bannu-Swar Road at various points. However, the road was later reopened to traffic. — Correspondent

Govt legislating to protect rights of miners: minister

SHINGLA: Provincial minister for mines and mineral development Anjad Ali has said the cabinet has approved the Excise Duty and Mines Safety Bill which would be passed from the assembly in next session to help secure rights of the mineworkers at the workplaces.

The minister expressed these views while speaking to coal mine workers' rights activists after conferring condolences with information minister Shaukat Yousof on the death of his mother in Bisham on Monday.

Mr Ali said Shingla people had lost hundreds of loved ones in the coal mine blasts in different incidents due to lack of safety measures at the workplace, but now

the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, for the first time, was going to protect the rights of mineworkers through legislation.

"We have made several amendments in the mines law, including provision of safety measures for workers at workplaces, increasing the incentive from Rs500,000 to Rs900,000 for martyred workers and from Rs100,000 to Rs300,000 for the injured," he said.

Mr Ali said the legislation would bind the coal mine owners to provide safety to workers on a priority basis. He said if any coalmine owner did not follow the rules his mine would be sealed.

The coal mine workers welfare association (CMWFA) thanked the minister for upholding the rights of coal mine workers.

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Man killed, two injured in Lakki incidents

LAKKI MARWAT: A man was killed and two others were injured in separate incidents in the district, police said on Monday.

They said that Jaleel Khan and his nephew Mohammad Younas, going on a motorcycle, stopped at a tubewell near the village to drink water when Noor Ali Shah fired at Younas and killed him on the spot.

Police said police that they had no enquiry with the attacker who escaped after escaping the crime.

Separately, a man was injured when two armed motorcycles attacked him in Kotka Atlas village near Nurpur town. The injured Mohammad Noman was hurried to a hospital in the same town where he was managed to escape.

In another incident, two armed men shot and injured Basain Ahmad and snatched a motorcycle from him in the limits of Lakki police station.

Meanwhile, a boy was allegedly assaulted in remote Muzina Nizami village of the district.

Police said the boy was returning home after grazing cattle in the mountains when a villager forcibly took him to a guestroom and assaulted him at gunpoint.

DRIVE: The district administration has removed permanent structure along the Indus Highway during an anti-encroachment drive here on Monday.

Assistant Commissioner Ead Nawaz Shrivani supervised the operation. The workers of tehsil municipal administration with the help of heavy machinery rased sheds, shops and other permanent structures along the highway near Kurram Bridge.

On the occasion, Mr Shrivani said that land grabbers had occupied the roadsides to run their businesses. He said that the encroachers were repeatedly directed through notices to leave the government roads but they refused to do so. He said that removal of encroachments would help to ease traffic on Indus Highway, which connected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with other three provinces. — Correspondent

Brother-sister duo gains widespread popularity in folk music

Janan and Sheena Gul want to contribute to Pashto music despite odds

By Sher Alam Shrivani

PESHAWAR: A brother-sister duo of Pashto folk singers hailing from a musical musician family in Nowshera district became a social media sensation due to their decent performances and quality stuff.

The young Pashto folk singers — Ahmad Ali Jan aka Janan and Sheena Gul — while defying a long social taboo made a singing pair few years ago that garnered widespread appreciation for quality expression and carrying on their family music legacy.

The brother-sister duo toured to UAE, Qatar and Afghanistan many a time for live performance and wanted to contribute to traditional Pashto music despite odds.

The family of the duo has produced several folk singers and music composers. The brother-sister pair claimed to be the first in the recent history of Pashto folk music.

Quite contrary to the social traditions, of 32 siblings, they had in their early childhood set a target before themselves to launch singing career together and their parents left no stone unturned in fulfilling their cherished dreams.

A day came when the teenage duo performed in a family gathering and it proved to be a launching pad for the young promising artists.

Mr Janan recalled that he being the second among his siblings had a strong passion for singing and his father Sulaiman Ustad, also a harmonium player, imparted the basics training to him and later on also became tutor of his younger sister Sheena Gul, a 9th grader under a private tutor.

"My father launched me as a child singer when I was 13-year-old and most fans would call me Janan Masboon. Growing up, I

thought why not make a duo of brother and sister, the idea was clicked with my parents and Sheena Gul also learnt harmonium and could play harmonium but singing was her forte and picked up quality poetic pieces. She said that her flair for singing matched her brother and their duo soon came to be as long as their fans wanted them to be.

"Being an extended family, we are in need of financial support because my father is now old and sick. Janan and I together attend only decent events. We are five brothers and seven sisters. Our passion is music and we want to contribute to our Pashtun community through ways and means that correspond to our norms," said Ms Gul.

She said that they had no music front room as yet.

"We need security and a humble monetary assistance with which we could feed and serve



AHMAD ALI JAN AND SHEENA GUL PRACTICE AT THEIR RESIDENCE IN NOWSHERA. — DAWN

our large family, especially all the parents. Sheena Gul and I love our art and would continue carrying it ahead. We depend on our simple traditional orchestra comprising artists namely Ghafar Ullah harmonium player, Jan tabla player, Zafar keyboard player and myself piano player," said Janan.

Biodegradable shopping bags' outlet opens in Lower Dir

TIMEPGLARA: A biodegradable shopping bags' outlet was opened in Timepglara city on Monday to help promote the use of environment-friendly shopping bags in the district.

Lower Dir assistant commissioner Shah Jamil Khan inaugurated the outlet at a function.

Assistant commissioner, Timepglara, Shah Jamil Khan distributed cloth and paper-made shopping bags among the people, including shopkeepers, on the occasion.

Talking to journalists, deputy commissioner Shaukat Ali Yousof said the establishment of biodegradable shopping bags' shop was aimed to introduce environment-friendly shopping bags made of biodegradable materials like cloth and paper.

Also, the deputy commissioner imposed section 144 on motorcycle riding without helmet. He also banned sale of petrol to the riders without helmets.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT: The Lower Dir fisheries department released 50,000 fish into the Panjshir River on Monday in order to increase its production and promote fisheries in the district.

District officer Mohammad Rasool Khan, additional deputy commissioner Ashfaq Ahmad, district director fisheries Muhammad Inayat and district director agriculture Murad Ali were present on the occasion.

Talking to journalists, the district officer said his government had allocated Rs1 million for breeding rare fish in local rivers. He said the fresh release would increase fish production in the area. The district director fisheries said the use of generators and electricity ends for fishing in the district would strictly be checked to protect rare fish. He said the fisheries department would release about 80,000 more fish into the river to increase its breeding. — Correspondent

اگر آپ سوشل میڈیا پاکستان گروپ میں ایڈ ہونا

اور مندرجہ ذیل مواد حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں

- ۱۔ تمام پاکستانی اخبارات
- ۲۔ نوکریوں کی اشتہارات
- ۳۔ ہر گھنٹے کی خبریں
- ۴۔ تعلیمی اور معلوماتی کتابیں
- ۵۔ انگلش اور سنڈے میگزین
- ۶۔ کرکٹ ایڈٹس
- ۷۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی شوز،
- ۸۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۹۔ پاکستانی نیوز چینلز ماک شوز
- ۱۰۔ پاکستانی گیم شوز،
- ۱۱۔ انڈین ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۱۲۔ تعلیمی نوٹس اور گیس پیپرز
- ۱۳۔ پاکستانی فلمیں
- ۱۴۔ انڈین فلمیں
- ۱۵۔ انگلش فلمیں
- ۱۶۔ ترکی کے تمام سیریز ڈراموں کی روزانہ 05 اقساط اپلوڈ کی جائیں گی۔

ابھی گروپ میں ایڈ ہونے کی ماہانہ فیس صرف 50 روپے جمع کروا کر ایڈ ہو سکتے ہیں۔
جو ہر مہینے جمع کرنا لازماً ہوگا۔

فیس جمع کروانے کا طریقہ

کسی بھی جاز مو بی کیش یا ایزی پیسہ شاپ پر جا کر مندرجہ ذیل نمبرز پر فیس ادا کریں
جاز کیش کے ذریعے فیس اس نمبر پر ادا کریں
0300-5373305
ایزی پیسہ کے ذریعے فیس اس نمبر پر ادا کریں
0345-6738217

نوٹ: جاز کیش اور ایزی پیسہ کے علاوہ ایزی لوڈ بھیجنے والا میمبر گروپ میں ایڈ نہیں کیا جائے گا

نوٹ

- ۱۔ نقالوں سے ہوشیار رہیں اور پردیے گئے نمبرز کے علاوہ کسی دوسرے نمبر پر فیس ادا نہ کریں
- ۲۔ اگر کوئی میمبر سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کے نام پر گروپ بنا کر فیس لے رہا ہے ایسے کسی فرد سے سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کا کوئی تعلق نہیں۔
- ۳۔ ایسا میمبر گروپ سے بنا کسی وارننگ کے ریوو کر دیا جائے گا
- ۴۔ آئیے واٹس ایپ کے سب سے بڑے گروپ کا حصہ بنیں

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