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PM Imran Khan announces Rs.10 reduction in petrol per litre

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News Desk

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday announced the slashing of petroleum products' price by Rs16 per litre and electricity tariff by Rs5 per unit as part of a series of measures to bring some relief to the masses.

The relief was announced by the premier as he addressed the nation about the country's economic situation, the government's performance over the last three-and-a-half years and the global challenge in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"I received a summary from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) and they recommended increasing the price of petrol and diesel by Rs10 due to the price hike in global markets," he said. "Today I want to tell you guys this good news that, instead of increasing it, we will decrease (petrol prices) by Rs10."

In the same way, he said that electricity was also being made from imported fuel which had

caused prices to soar. Regretting the fact that past governments did not invest in building dams, he said the PTI government was constructing 10 dams which would save the country from global price fluctuations.

"We have also decided to decrease electricity prices by Rs5 per unit. This means that there will be a 20-50 per cent decrease in your electricity bills."

He said that there would be no increase in petrol and electricity prices until the next budget. Talking about the cash handouts given to the people under the Ehsaas programme, the premier said that it had increased from Rs12,000 to Rs14,000. In addition, graduates would be given internships and freelancers had been exempted from paying taxes, adding that they would also not face any restrictions on foreign exchange. Further, IT startups would no longer have to pay capital gains tax, he said.

Talking about industries, the prime minister said that anyone wishing to set up an industry in Pakistan or invest in the sector would not be "asked any questions". He said that he would announce a complete package for this sector later.

Moreover, overseas Pakistanis who invest in industries or carry out a joint venture will get a five-year tax holiday, he said. Under the Kamyab Jawan programme, he said that the country's youth and farmers would be given interest-free loans while "low-income citizens would be given subsidised loans to build homes. Loans worth Rs407 billion will be disbursed during two years."

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the fact that banks had been persuaded to give loans to low-income citizens, noting that so far they had approved Rs150bn in loans.

Wrapping up his address, the premier said that he had informed the chief ministers of the provinces that health insurance was a big blessing for low-income families.



PPP, PTI flex muscles in marathon roadshows to 'expose' each other



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs 4th meeting of Board of Governors of Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA).

PPP, PTI flex muscles in marathon roadshows to 'expose' each other

Political rivals PPP and the PTI on Monday continued with their respective marches in Sindh to demonstrate their political muscle and "expose" each other's corruption and poor governance in the province and the centre respectively.

The PPP's march, led by party chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, began in Karachi on Sunday and will pass through 34 cities to reach Islamabad after 10 days on March 8, according to a plan shared by the party.

The PPP however, has not disclosed the final venue where the participants will gather after reaching the capital from all over the country. Sources in the party had earlier told Dawn that participants will gather at presently three places — D-Chowk, Aahpara Chowk and Fazlabad Intersection — were

under consideration of the party leadership for holding the final public meeting.

The march reached Hyderabad on Monday, where Bilawal addressed the participants and criticised Prime Minister Imran Khan over the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's policies.

"This march is against the inefficient, ineligible and selected prime minister, against his economic and political policies and his cruelty," he said, adding that the march was also organised to protest growing inflation, poverty and unemployment.

Bilawal said in order to end the "economic crisis" in the country, the prime minister would have to be removed and free and fair elections would have to be held. "So that the next government

has the people's mandates [...] and realises their problems, so that it makes people-friendly economic policies, not anti-people and anti-poor economic policies" devised by the PTI government.

Bilawal demanded that if PM Imran believed he could compete with the PPP, then in his address to the nation today, he should announce the dissolution of assemblies so that new elections were held. He further said the prime minister should step down himself, otherwise PPP jiyalas were reaching Islamabad to make a "democratic attack" on the government through a no-confidence motion. If the prime minister did not step down himself, masses would cast him, Bilawal said, reiterating that the premier should announce new elections today Web Desk.

Mekran tops Balochistan in literacy rate, ranked 8th on national level

Education Desk



Mekran division has topped Balochistan in literacy rate and ranked 8th on the national level as per the 2017 census. Overall the literacy rate as per the 2017 census stands at 43.58 percent. Out of 34 districts, 6 districts in Balochistan have made improvements in the literacy rate.

Police mobile attacked in Sibi, two personnel injured

From Our Correspondent

A police mobile was attacked in Balochistan's Sibi city on Monday evening. Police sources said two

police officers were injured in the attack. The incident happened in Haji Iqbal Baha area of Sibi. The injured policemen were shifted to district headquarters hospital Sibi for medical treatment. The attackers managed to escape unhurt from the spot.

Three killed 20 injured in Khanuzai Gawal traffic accident

From Our Correspondent

Three people were killed and 20 injured in a traffic accident in the Khanuzai Gawal area of Balochistan on Monday morning.

Levies sources said a passenger bus collided with a truck coming from the opposite side. As a result of the collision, three people died on the spot and 20 were injured. The injured were rushed to Quetta for medical treatment. An emergency was imposed in civil hospital Quetta to provide medical treatment to the injured of the accident. Levies personnel reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

The passenger bus and the truck were severely damaged in the collision. Road accidents have claimed thousands of precious human lives in Balochistan. Reckless driving and narrow roads are the main cause of the increasing number of traffic accidents on national highways linking Balochistan with the rest of the country.



HALA: Chairman Pakistan People Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the participant's of Long march.

European Union shuts airspace to Russian planes

Monitoring Desk

European Union (EU) has imposed a ban on Russian planes in its airspace after the Ukraine invasion. "We are shutting down EU airspace for Russian-owned, Russian-registered, or Russian-operated aircraft," the head of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen said. All such planes, including the private jets of oligarchs, will now be unable to land in, take off from or fly over any EU nation. Russian planes have also been banned from UK airspace.

Russia's biggest airline, Aeroflot, said it would cancel all flights to European destinations until further notice in a retaliatory move on Sunday. Ahead of the decision, European countries had been closing their airspace one by one. Germany said its ban would last three months. Departure boards at Moscow's Domodedovo and Sheremetyevo airports showed dozens of cancellations on Sunday, including flights to Paris, Vienna and Kaliningrad. Russia's S7 Airlines said on Facebook it would cancel flights to many of its European destinations until at least 17 March.

BHC admits BUJ petition for hearing about PECA Ordinance



Staff Reporter
Balochistan High Court (BHC) has admitted the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) petition about the Pakistan Electronic Crimes

Act (PECA) 2016. BUJ President Irfan Saeed, Secretary-General Manzoor Ahmed had submitted a constitutional petition challenging the PECA in the court. President Pakistan Federal

Justice Rozki Khan Bareaq admitted the petition for hearing. The bench directed the Attorney General of Pakistan to submit a report in this regard. Rahib Buledi, Advocate, of Balochistan Bar Council presented the BUJ in court. Talking to reporters in the premises of the high court, Mr. Buledi stated the Ordinance was illegal and unconstitutional in the presence of democratic institutions. "Journalists would continue their struggle against the PECA," Irfan Saeed, the President BUJ stated.

پولیو علاج ہے لیکن اس سے بچاؤ ممکن ہے۔

اپنے 5 سال تک کی عمر کے بچوں کو پولیو کی ویکسین پلائیں اور انہیں زندگی بھر کی معذوری سے بچائیں

پولیو سے متعلق 1166 برادری کریں

War producing economic carnage, societal turmoil: Business leader

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and former Shabir Rashed Butt on Monday said the international community should not allow the Russia-Ukraine conflict to escalate otherwise it could harm the global economy which is recovering slowly. The war can result in unforeseen consequences and it can inflict more harm to the global economy than the COVID-19 pandemic, in shape of economic carnage, societal turmoil, he said. Shabir Rashed Butt said that Russia is not an ordinary country therefore, caution should be observed while imposing economic sanctions

and other measures lest it hurt the world. He said that Pakistan Russia is at this critical juncture, as the country is heavily dependent on the help of IMF. Pakistan's current account deficit for the ongoing year has been estimated to be around forty billion dollars and such a deficit can only be tackled through an IMF loan that is under influence of the western powers. Therefore, he said, Pakistan should not anger the Western powers and formulate policies in line with the rapidly changing global scenario based on which the international community is aspirating and hopes.

Mr Butt said that it is a fact that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia is very little. Pakistan's majority of the trade is with the west and it is heavily dependent on the western countries and institutions. He said the price of oil in Pakistan is at the highest level which is likely to increase further due to the war which will increase the suffering of the people and weaken the economy. In addition, important crops are constantly failing and Pakistan has to import wheat from the west. A few years ago Pakistan imports millions of tons of wheat from Ukraine because its price is low.



RAWALPINDI: Honorary Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC), Head of the Church of England and His Excellency Doctor Christian Turner, British High Commissioner called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

Need of Trauma Management increased manifold in prevailing situation: Prof Al-fred

LAHORE: Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute & Ameer Ud Din Medical College (PGMIAMC), Prof Dr Sardar Muhammad Al-fred Zafar has said that due to increasing population, industrial development and heavy traffic, accidents have increased day by day due to which human lives are at risk and deaths are also increasing rapidly. He added that in this context the importance and need for Trauma Management has increased manifold for which young doctors should adopt modern requirements and latest techniques occurred in the medical field and save lives of citizens.

These views were expressed by him while addressing the participants of a 6th Trauma Workshop on "Early Management of Trauma" organized by the Department of General Surgery, Unit of Lahore General Hospital in which more than 100 young doctors from hospitals across the province participated. Prof Dr Sardar Muhammad Al-fred Zafar further said that there is only a few moments between the life and death of the injured ones in the accident and the patient has very less time in critical condition. He stressed that the doctors and nurses on duty should provide medical aid to the patient with professional

dedication as per the requirement through which many precious lives can be saved by following the relevant SOPs. However, there is a need to raise awareness among the public as well as provide necessary information and training on trauma to the medical professional. He further said that young doctors can provide better care and treatment to patients in case of emergency. Principal PGMIAMC appreciated the professionalism and services of Prof Dr Ferooz Afzal, professor of Surgery in this regard and said that he has been continuously improving Trauma Management and emergency treatment facilities and training of doctors and other staff for many years. Therefore, he is always keen to facilitate the patients which are of great benefit for the young doctors as they have been able to handle the patients better in their practical life. INP

Naseer a protector of Gwadar deserves high for outstanding work: Report

ISLAMABAD: Naseer Ahmed a protector of Gwadar deserves high for his outstanding work, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. The report says, years after working alone far away from his home in Gwadar, Naseer Ahmed was finally able to return to the land that he missed day and night. This time, he would experience something new and make a difference. Naseer Ahmed still remembers the 100th day since he joined his current company. On that day, he was probably one of the most hectic yet proud individuals in Gwadar as he was welcoming dignitaries from Pakistan and China as well as exhibitors from around the world to visit and seek opportunities in this emerging zone. "It was like a dream. I couldn't imagine my hometown coming under the spotlight, and I was one of those who made it happen", Naseer's surreal smile partly due to fatigue from preparing for the Gwadar Expo 2019 and partly due to the impact of the overwhelming inflow of global visitors didn't hide his pride, but his humid, refreshing breeze from the Arabian Sea washed his face and pacified his mind. Back then, Gwadar Free Zone was only a grand,

vega concept for many. Even Naseer, a Senior Supervisor of the Zone, could not picture what Gwadar would look like in three, five or ten years, even though he knew since that something huge was on the way. In the next following three years, the answers to his queries unfolded at an impressive pace before his eyes. Every morning, he walks through the premises and starts his day as the supervisor of the general work and the security team of the China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), which is responsible for the development and management of Gwadar Port and amid the pandemic, a paramount duty of his is to ensure health and safety protocols are in place to maintain masks, hand sanitizers, and social distance have become terms etched in his mind. "Thanks to the early and strict anti-epidemic measures taken at the start of 2020, Gwadar construction has been making big progress. I feel protected by our Chinese brothers" in July 2021, Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Monday prepared the groundbreaking of the much larger Phase 2, covering an area of over 2,000 acres, 35 times bigger than phase 1. INP

waste treatment, drainage systems in operation and with over 50 registered enterprises from various sectors including banks, manufacturing, trade and logistics. Naseer is not only a career for the workers, but also a career for the project. Whenever there is heavy wind or rain, you can always find me on ground zero. To ensure that every task is completed on time and every problem is identified and solved promptly can be a stressful job. But Naseer finds strength from his company. Last month, Gwadar witnessed heavy precipitation which resulted in a "flood-like situation". Together with the Chinese embassy in Pakistan and other Chinese enterprises in Gwadar, COPHC took immediate actions by collecting and distributing food items to local families. "Arid the torrential rain, we went from door to door, even in the far-flung areas of the districts. While I'm the protector of the project, I feel protected by our Chinese brothers" in July 2021, Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Monday prepared the groundbreaking of the much larger Phase 2, covering an area of over 2,000 acres, 35 times bigger than phase 1. INP

Governor Sindh urges Kyrgyz businessmen to exploit ample investment opportunities

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has urged the Kyrgyz businessmen to take advantage of ample investment opportunities in different sectors across Pakistan. He was talking to a 3-member Foreign Investor Delegation from Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic headed by Kanat Kopbayev which called on him at Governor's House on Monday. The visit was aimed at establishing bilateral trade and investment opportunities. The Kyrgyz side provided detailed information on the economic activities of the Kyrgyz Republic, opportunities for

establishing bilateral trade, investment in garment, textile, energy, agricultural, agro-food processing and tourism industries. Imran Ismail urged the Kyrgyz businessmen and investors to take advantage of the ample investment opportunities in various sectors across Pakistan, which include construction, energy, healthcare etc. He observed that Pakistan is an emerging market and business companies from around the world are showing interest in investment in Pakistan. He stressed that the government is committed to promote economic policies of the government. "Pakistan's improved rating in terms of ease

of doing business at international level depicts full confidence of the international community in the economic growth of the government", he maintained. During the meeting, Governor Sindh expressed his desire to help find common ground for building mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and creating an effective format for interaction between business circles of the Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan. The delegation appreciated the economic policies of the government and its efforts in encouraging investment, and to take steps to facilitate foreign investors. INP

SACM Hassan thanks PSI organizers, foreign players, welcomes Australian squad

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab Hassan Khawar has said that successful completion of Pakistan Super League (PSL) is a practical manifestation of the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision and commitment towards revival of country's soft image through sports. In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that Punjab government made exemplary arrangements and measures during PSL, thereby providing excellent entertainment facilities to the citizens. Hassan Khawar further said that all the concerned agencies have fully cooperated with each other regarding law and order and other issues during the matches. He thanked all the security personnel by saying that the security agencies have worked beyond their capabilities and capacity for which they deserve due recognition and appraisal. The SACM thanked foreign players for participating in PSL. He also welcomed the Australian cricket team to Pakistan and expressed his best wishes for the upcoming Pak-Australia cricket series in the next few days. INP

Vital to ensure quality education, skills, knowledge to students: PU VC

LAHORE: Punjab University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Fazl Ahmed has stressed the need to ensure quality education (relevant knowledge of the industry and equip student with relevant skills) so that they could contribute to the development of the country, industry and society. For this purpose, our curriculum and standards must be as per the requirements of the market, he added. This was stated by him on Monday while addressing the progress review meeting & training of 7th group consisting of heads & officers of Quality Enhancement Cells of various degree awarding institutions of Punjab region organized by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan's Quality Assurance Agency in collaboration with Punjab University. The event was presided by Dr. Shah, Director Quality Assurance Agency, HEC. Dr. Saadia Siddiqui, Director Punjab University Quality Enhancement Cell and heads and officers of Quality Enhancement Cells of various universities in Punjab, addressing the ceremony. Dr. Niaz Ahmed said that for the first time in Pakistan he is realizing the importance of Quality Institute of Quality and Technology Management in 2001 at PU and in view of its importance, the Higher Education Commission also introduced the system of Quality INP



ISLAMABAD: Spanish Ambassador Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico called upon Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Shibli Faraz.

Country will become a desert if water is not saved: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said wastage of water continues unabated which can make the country a desert. All the rivers should be saved from drying otherwise the country will become a desert in which there will be no agriculture and the industry will also collapse. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan ranks 80th out of 122 countries in terms of quality of drinking water. In a part of the most part of the country are forced to drink contaminated water. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that now the Ravi River, the most important river for

Punjab, has been included in the list of the most polluted rivers in the world in a study. The arrangement that was made by a UK university in which 258 rivers located in 104 countries were categorized according to increasing pollution in Ravi has increased the risks to the health of the country which must be noted as numerous pharmaceutical and other companies are dumping waste in this river while human and agricultural waste and toxic chemicals are also being dumped in this river. The water of the Ravi River falls into the Indus River and this tributary is adding poison to it which is a great threat to the agriculture. This situation is not limited to Ravi but the condition of other rivers, streams, springs and lakes is also continuously deteriorating as attention has not been paid. Mian Zahid

Hussain further said that floods and droughts would clear rivers every year which was a natural arrangement that would result in better yields and improved water table. The farmers must welcome floods but engineers would try to stop floods by constructing dams, barrages etc. Floods were stopped through a host of measures that affected yields and declined groundwater levels led to increased dependence on pumps and unnecessarily increase the price of agricultural commodities. Many countries around the world protect rivers from human, industrial and agricultural waste and take various measures to raise groundwater levels so that the rivers are maintained but in Pakistan, only talks are held in this regard, he regretted. INP

Over 20 million people watch HBL PSL 7 final on Daraz App

ISLAMABAD: Over 20 million people watched the final of HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 7th edition on Daraz Live App, as Lahore Qalandars defeated Multan Sultans, according to a report. Daraz, a leading e-commerce platform of the country, provided free live streaming of all PSL 7 matches free of cost. The final between Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans was viewed by 20,252,566 people on Daraz Live App. The second eliminator between Lahore Qalandars and Islamabad United was watched by more than 12.8 million people on Friday night on Daraz App. On December 24, 2021, Daraz submitted the highest bid, pursuant to a public tender process, to become HBL PSL 2022 and 2023 in Pakistan, which sees a whopping increase of 175 per cent from the value for the last two years. Daraz provided its users with free access to live streaming, which plays a crucial role in the growth and promotion of sports besides Daraz. Tik Tok, the Chinese video-sharing social network App, also played a key role in the promotion of HBL PSL 7. Tik Tok has signed an agreement with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to become the official Entertainment Partner of PCB for the seventh and eighth editions of PSL. INP

NEPRA notifies Rs5.94 increase in power tariff

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Monday notified a Rs5.94 increase in the electricity tariff. The hike in the power tariff is an account of fuel charges adjustment (FCA), said a notification by NEPRA. The Rs5.94 increase will put a burden of Rs65 billion on consumers. However, the decision will not cost the k-electric and lifeline members. NEPRA officials said that it faced Rs7.74 billion additional burden in January due to low LNG, which actually put 92 paise per unit burden on consumers. NEPRA officials said that the additional burden could have been much less if solar and wind licensed plants remained operational. NEPRA officials said that coal LNG prices were increased recently and said power tariffs were increased due to increase in fuel prices. NEPRA officials said that the additional burden could have been much less if solar and wind licensed plants remained operational. INP

Subsidy on tax boosts tractor sales in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Thanks to the government's Agriculture Fiscal Package, the production of tractors has grown about 59.09% in 11 months of the first half of 2020-21 compared to the same period of the previous year, Wafiq-ur-Rehman reported. Under the package, the government approved sales tax subsidy of Rs1.5 billion on locally-manufactured tractors to the industry come out of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The government is also ensuring motivation of the agriculturists sector under the subsidy initiative, the government

withdrew 5% sales tax on locally-manufactured tractors for one year. The production of tractors in the first half of FY 2020-21 compared to 590 tractors in the first half of the previous year. Pakistan produces tractors in technical collaboration with foreign manufacturers, including New Holland Tractors and Case IH. According to the provisional quantum indices of Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for May 2021, the number of locally-manufactured tractors for the period of 11 months July-May 2020-21 was 4,412 units as compared to

28,568 units of the same period of previous year. Taking into consideration the month-on-month situation, the registered local production of tractors was about 410 units in May 2021 as compared to 350 units in May 2020, according to the data the global market of agricultural tractors was valued at \$60.4 billion in 2020 and is expected to reach \$81.9 billion by 2025, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2% over the five-year period (2021-2026). The local tractor industry is playing an important role in promoting the agricul-

ture sector and strengthening the national economy. More than 250,000 people are involved in the tractor industry. Pakistan mainly exports tractors to eastern European countries and Africa. The main reasons behind the increasing sales of tractors are the revival of the crop sector and the government's support in the huge infrastructure development under the Agriculture Fiscal Package. The recovery of the crop sector has contributed almost 70% to the revival in sales, and the remaining came from infrastructure. INP



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected office bearers of IMC/F6/2 post for group Daraz, with chief guest Director Colleges, Hala Ahmad Aftab and Principal Prof. Aliya Durrani in oath taking ceremony held at College.

Govt needs to focus on marble industry to promote its growth, exports: President ICCI

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Muhammad Shaker Muneer has called upon the government to focus on marble industry for its better growth as this sector has the potential to transform Pakistan into a fast growing economy. He said that Pakistan has huge reserves of marble and granite in all regions of the country and the government should cooperate in introducing mechanized mining in this sector by reducing duties on import of marble machinery and technology. These views were expressed by him while talking to Amin Noorani and Nasir Ahmed, Dubai-based prominent businessmen of the marble sector during a visit to Islamabad. Saleem Mughal, former Chairman, All Pakistan Marble Industry Association was also present at the occasion. Muhammad Shaker Muneer said that many countries including China, Italy, Turkey, Spain and Brazil have exploited their marble reserves effectively for economic development, but in Pakistan this sector has not been given due attention despite its tremendous potential to promote exports and improve the economy. He said that outdated technology was still in use in the quarrying and processing of marble products, due to which the ratio of wastage was quite high. He urged that the government should cooperate in introducing the latest machinery in the marble sector for

promoting mechanized mining in order to produce value-added marble & granite products and increase exports. The ICCI President stressed that the government should address all key issues of the marble sector to unleash its real potential for economic development of the country. He assured the delegation that ICCI would fully cooperate with them for enhancing import of marble and granite products from Pakistan or the UAE. Speaking at the occasion, Amin Noorani and Nasir Ahmed, Dubai-based prominent businessmen of the marble sector said that a lot of construction projects were going on in Dubai and UAE, so Pakistan has great potential to increase its exports of marble products by their value addition. Saleem Mughal, former Chairman, All Pakistan Marble Industry Association, said that the government's support was needed for infrastructure development, technological upgrade, access to finance, human resource development and marketing to facilitate the better growth of the marble sector. He said that the government should ensure low cost financing schemes for the marble industry for its better development. He said that lack of access roads to mines, connecting roads network, utilities and industrial zones were the key factors behind the slow growth and poor growth of this sector and stressed that the government should address these issues on priority basis. INP



LAHORE: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Ayub Afridi visited various housing schemes of OPF to evaluate the development progress and resolve grievances of Overseas diaspora.

BAP leader Agha Habib Shah killed in Hub blast

From Our Correspondent

A local leader of the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Agha Habib Shah was killed in a bomb explosion in the city of Balochistan on Sunday night. Four other people were also injured in the blast, which rocked the city.

The explosion occurred on the Quetta-Karachi highway in the industrial city of Balochistan, Ayub Achakzai, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) said. Mr. Achakzai informed that the terrorists had planted the bomb

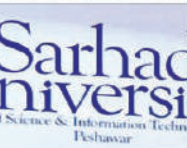


Below the vehicle of the BAP leader, which caused a huge blast. An image of the SUV targeted in the attack shows the passenger cabin of the vehicle jumbled up after the blast, with the driver's side door and the windshield missing.

ing. The injured of the blast were rushed to Hub hospital for medical treatment. Police cordoned off the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. Langove strongly condemns the attack. Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove strongly condemned the blast and expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Agha Habib Shah. In a statement issued after the blast, Mr. Langove vowed that the perpetrators of the blast would be brought to justice. "The terrorists would not be spared", the Minister warned.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 14th convocation of the Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology Peshawar.



Bid to smuggle 8.5kg of ice crystals foiled at Gwadar

GWADAR: Pakistan Customs personnel on Gwadar on Sunday night foiled a bid to smuggle 8.5 kilograms of ice crystals within the country on Monday.

The Customs officials told media that the ice, which was recovered from hidden parts of a car in Tarnak area, was valued at over Rs200 million.

However, the officials said that the smugglers, taking advantage of the darkness, managed to disappear.

Collector Customs Gwadar Chaudhry Javed said that a hunt had been launched after the registration of an FIR against the unidentified persons and it was hoped that soon they would be in the custody of law-enforcement agencies (LEAs).

He said that the car was searched since there were reports that drugs were hidden inside it.

Collector Customs further said that the department would continue its operations in order to eliminate smuggling from Gwadar and other parts of Balochistan.

He went on to say that only in the ongoing month, the Customs personnel had seized narcotics worth Rs750 million in two major operations in Gwadar.

CTD arrests target killer associated with Sunni Tehreek in Karachi

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Monday claimed to have rounded up an alleged target killer associated with Sunni Tehreek (ST) in Karachi.

CTD in charge Chaudhry Saifdar said that the shooter named Fazlur Rahman alias Fazlu was arrested in an action in New Karachi. The shooter confessed the killing of police and other political workers in the initial investigation, the CTD in charge said.

Chaudhry Saifdar further said that the arrested shooter remained in Lines Area Unit Area of ST and was also involved in the 2011 bloodshed.

In 2011, Fazlu shot dead a shopkeeper for not paying the ransom and in 2012 he shot dead Mutianna Qumli Movement (MQM) member Salahuddin in the same year he also killed a councillor associated with MQM.

The shooter also admitted killing ASI Moin Ali Naqvi in 2012 and attacking over Brigade police station.

Separately, after an exchange of fire with the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) officials in Karachi, an alleged target killer of MQM-L, Azam alias Ganja was killed in the Bigh Korangi area.

The CTD's raiding team killed the MQM-L target killer in an encounter in Karachi's Bigh Korangi area, whereas, his accomplice managed to flee from the location. Azam Ganja was allegedly a close aide of notorious criminal Junaid aka Bulldog and a key member of the target killers' team of the political party's Korangi sector, according to CTD spokespersons.

Accountability court adjourns indictment against Murad Ali Shah

ISLAMABAD: The Accountability Court in Islamabad Monday adjourned the indictment of the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in the Noorabad Power Plant corruption reference.

The co-accused Shazia Jaffer submitted the acquittal plea in the court. The court read out the acquittal verdict of the former reference against the former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf-Sindh CM and other co-accused appeared before the accountability court. AC Court Judge Syed Ashgar heard the case. The NAB lawyer presented details of the 45 banks and as per report the accused got no bank account. The defense counsel said that the lawyer of (Murad Ali) Sheikh was not able to appear before the court. Lawyer Arshad Tabriz said that the accused had submitted an acquittal plea in which they have challenged the reference against them. As per reports, Noorabad power plant reference alleged that Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah issued funds for power projects in Sindh in violation of rules and that billions of rupees were embezzled in the Noorabad Power Company and the Sindh Transmission INP.

Opposition mulls bringing no-trust move in first week of March

ISLAMABAD: PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and his Chief Minister Fazlur Rahman have decided to intensify the anti-government campaign as the opposition has proposed a strategy to table the no-confidence motion in the National Assembly.

Sources divulged on Monday that the opposition wanted to move a no-trust motion against the government and for this purpose, it would ask Speaker Asad Qaiser to requisite assembly session immediately. The opposition will submit the requisition in the first week of March.

Sources said that the opposition will submit the requisition to the assembly session by the mostly taken by a 9-member committee of the opposition. However, the central leadership will decide when the requisition will be submitted to the speaker.

The opposition would also take into consideration the preparations to be the final and the environment. NAB speaker for holding the OIC foreign ministers meeting.

However, the sources said that the opposition was of the view that since an international conference was held at the Assembly Hall a short while ago, there was no need for more preparations.

As per opposition strategy, in case the Assembly Hall would not be available, then the assembly session could be held at Convention Centre, both halls were not available, then the session could be held at Convention Centre.

Opposition sources said that after the submission of requisition, the speaker is bound to summon the assembly session. They said as soon as the assembly would be in session, the opposition would move a no-confidence motion.

In the backdrop of the opposition's ongoing anti-government efforts, PML-N President Shehbaz and JUI-F Chief Minister Murtaza Bhutto-Bhambhani contact on Monday INP.

Recruited 50,000 teachers across Sindh recently on merit via IBA: Minister

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Education and Culture Syed Sardar Ali Shah said that he has recently recruited 50,000 teachers across the province through IBA.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of the book "Historical Interviews" authored by Amir Aro Arts Council of Balochistan Karachi on Monday. President Arts Council Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah was also present.

Sardar Ali Shah said that we are not closing any school, we are closing the vendors' room and the buffalo enclosure. Eleven thousand schools are lying idle in Sindh. We are reducing the number of primary schools and increasing the number of secondary schools.

The provincial minister further stated that it is our responsibility to provide furniture and buildings to the teachers in the schools.

Karachi: Two children allegedly set on fire over rent dispute

KARACHI: In a shocking incident, two children were allegedly set on fire by the house owner over a rent dispute in Karachi on Monday. A person identified as the landlord took place in Sobrah Goth's Janat Gul Town area, where a widow alleged that her house owner set her two children on fire over failure to pay rent. The woman said she was asked to vacate the premises last month and was taken to visit another house and when she was visiting another house, she was taken to visit another house and when she was visiting another house, she was taken to visit another house.

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LARKANA: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar talking to people in Ratodero District Larkana during Sindh Huqooq March.

President Alvi emphasizes need of imparting technical education to youth

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has emphasized upon the need of imparting technical education to the youth of the country for getting a respectable job in the country of nations.

He was addressing the 14th Convocation of Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology, Peshawar held at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad on Monday. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Kamran Khan, Provincial Minister, Mr. Kamran Bhangash said that Private Universities are equally sharing the burden of Public Sector Universities in providing higher education facility to the youth of Province. He said that the present government is taking all measures to improve the standards of education from primary to higher education level.

Chairman NAB appreciates excellent performance of all regional bureaus of nab

ISLAMABAD: Chairman NAB Justice Javed Iqbal chaired a meeting to review overall performance of NAB at NAB Headquarters on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Zahir Shah, Deputy Chairman NAB, Syed Asghar Haider, Provincial General Accountability (PGA), Masood Aam Khan, DG Operations and other senior officers of NAB.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Learned Accountability Court Balochistan passed judgment in reference No 03/2019 whereby the accused Muhammad Anwar Qambrani was convicted/sentenced for 11 months of rigorous imprisonment along with fine of Rs 8.95 million.

During the meeting, it was informed that respected Accountability Court Karachi passed judgment in reference No 40/2005 whereby the accused Habib Ahmed Khan was convicted/sentenced for 04 years of rigorous imprisonment along with fine of Rs 10.0 million.

During the meeting, it was informed that respected Accountability Court Lahore passed judgment in reference No 04/2017 whereby the accused Abdul Rehman was convicted/sentenced for 05 year of rigorous imprisonment along with fine of Rs 88,457 million.

During the meeting, it was informed that respected Accountability Court Quetta passed judgment in reference No 03/2014 whereby the accused Amir Bakhsht Khoso was convicted/sentenced for 05 years of rigorous imprisonment with fine amount of Rs 10.0 million.

During the meeting, it was informed that respected Accountability Court Sukkur passed judgment in reference No 14/2019 whereby the accused Dr. Ghulam Mustafa (Dr. DHO Sanghar) was convicted/sentenced for 07 year of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 107.55 million.

During the meeting, it was informed that respected Accountability Court Islamabad dismissed the petition for Post Arrest Bail of co-accused person namely Qasim Ali Mandhara in reference No 20/2019. Subsequently the accused person was taken into custody by NAB team as per law.

During the meeting, it was informed that the respected Accountability Court passed judgment whereby the accused persons Habib ar Rehman, Arif Farooq & Mahmood ul Hassan were convicted/sentenced for 07 year of rigorous imprisonment along with fine of Rs 5 million, Rs 2.2 million and Rs 4 million respectively. During the meeting, it was further informed that respected Accountability Court Lahore passed judgment in reference No 07/2017 whereby the accused Toufoq Ahmed was convicted/sentenced for 05 year of rigorous imprisonment along with fine of Rs 12 million.

Chairman NAB while appreciating the excellent performance of all regional bureaus of NAB said that the performance of NAB is being reviewed on a regular basis on the basis of the state of art monitoring and evaluation system (MES). He said that NAB strongly believes in 100% development and Zero corruption INP.

Why Shehbaz is running away from court if his case is so weak, asks Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Khan on Monday asked why Shehbaz is running away from court if his case is so weak, asks Fawad.

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Polio eradication campaign kicks off nationwide

ISLAMABAD: More than 30 million children under the age of five will be administered polio drops during the five-day drive across the country.

In Punjab, the government has a target of vaccinating 22 million children and has deployed more than 150,000 survey workers.

Sindh aims to vaccinate over 10 million children in thirty districts. Seventy-thousand health workers and 10,000 survey workers have participated in the campaign.

Meanwhile, in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, approximately nine million children will be administered polio drops.

More than thirty-thousand teams have been formed to administer anti-polio drops to the children during the door-to-door campaign.

Earlier, Special Assistant to the PM Dr. Faisal Sultan said, "Pakistan aims to be polio-free by 2023".

On his first-ever visit to Pakistan, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, too, expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's "inspiring" efforts for polio eradication.

He appreciated the government's efforts in a tweet. "I'm encouraged by the country's commitment to eradication and an optimistic belief if everyone remains vigilant, we can end polio."

Gates added that it has been over a year since wild polio paralyzed a child in Pakistan, presenting an incredible opportunity to stop this disease for good. "I traveled to Pakistan to see the children of our polio program leaders. INP"

Economy on right track as trade deficit shrinks 30% in Jan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's trade deficit has dropped by a big margin, positively impacting on the country's external sector. Experts are rising exponentially compared to imports, which climbed in January compared to December. WealthIPK reported.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), trade deficit shrank 30% month-on-month, to \$3.52 billion in January 2022 against \$4.816 billion in the previous month (December 2021).

Furthermore, exports fell by 7.89% in January to \$2.546 billion from \$2.764 billion in December 2021. However, trade deficit widened by 26.49% year-on-year to \$3.562 billion in January 2022, up from \$2.658 billion in January 2021. This was because imports registered an increase of 23.01% on a year-on-year basis and jumped from \$4.803 billion to \$5.908 billion. Exports witnessed an increase of 18.69% to \$2.545 billion in January 2022 from \$2.145 billion in January 2021.

The SHC has directed immediate action against illegal constructions on Plot No. 31/5 in North Nazimabad. It also directed the DG Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) for immediate action against the builder INP.

ties to the students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general and those of the other parts of the country in general. He also lauded the Distance Education Program of the University which is equally benefiting the students of far flung areas of the country to earn education without leaving their location. Minister, Mr. Kamran Bhangash said that Private Universities are equally sharing the burden of Public Sector Universities in providing higher education facility to the youth of Province. He said that the present government is taking all measures to improve the standards of education from primary to higher education level.

While presenting a report on the University performance, the Vice-Chancellor said that Sarhad University has made remarkable progress in short span of twenty years and has established six faculties, four institutes and fifteen departments to offer degrees in more than eighty disciplines INP.

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Hybrid wheat expected to bring revolution in Pakistani agriculture

BEIJING: Hybrid wheat expected to bring a revolution in Pakistani agriculture, says a report published by Gwadar Post on Monday.

The report said that the hybrid wheat varieties to Pakistan's government for approval. Once we gain approval, we will start production of hybrid wheat in collaboration with Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences (BAAFS).

We hope that like hybrid rice, hybrid wheat will also bring a revolution in our agriculture sector in Pakistan, said Mr. Malik Ali, CEO of Guard Group, an agricultural giant in Pakistan.

Up to now, five research stations have been established and field work has been carried out on high yielding varieties that are tolerant to heat, drought, and salinity.

We have finalized four hybrid wheat varieties. In the next 2-3 years, we will bring about a revolution in wheat crop. Wheat is a staple food that has an important bearing on national food security. INP

On hybrid agricultural varieties, Guard Group has a successful model of its own to follow. Pakistani agri-ty is the largest producer of hybrid rice in Pakistan.

Since 2002, it has been working together with Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd., a Chinese seed group named after the renowned hybrid wheat researcher in collaboration with Yuan Longping, for research, production and commercialization of hybrid rice in Pakistan. Now, the hybrid rice seeds have been able to reach the international market.