

Quick Read

**PK-30 by-election in Balakot
Army deployed
to ensure foolproof
security**

ABBOTTABAD: Pakistan Army troops have been arrived for their deployment at various polling stations in PK-30 Balakot to ensure fool proof security in by-election to be held on February 26.

Thirty-five polling stations of tehsil Balakot have been declared as sensitive. Army officers held meetings with Assistant Commissioner Balakot, representatives of Election Commission and other concerned authorities and discussed in detail the matters related to security arrangements.

The officers of Pakistan Army were briefed about various polling stations, their sensitivities and security measures taken in that regard. The Army jawans will assume their security responsibilities at sensitive polling stations following review of the constituency. A total of five candidates are in the run for PK-30. Tough contest is expected between the candidates of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). —APP

**DC inaugurates
anti-polio
campaign**

D.I KHAN: Deputy Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan, Barkat Ullah Marwat Saturday inaugurated anti-polio campaign scheduled.

Inauguration ceremony held in EPI warehouse here among other was attended by representatives of health department and World Health Organization.

Addressing the ceremony, the deputy commissioner said that eradication of polio is our national responsibility and every citizen support efforts of government to wipe out the disease from society. He also stressed polio teams to perform their duties with dedication and save the next generation from the crippling disease. —APP

**German
envoy meets
Commissioner**

BAHAWALPUR: German Ambassador to Pakistan Martin Kobler here on Monday called on Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Nayyar Iqbal at his office.

Commissioner apprised the visiting ambassador about Hakra civilization and rich history and culture of Bahawalpur.

He also talked about possibilities of development of agriculture sector and geographical importance of the area.

Mr Martin Kobler expressed interest in architecture of palaces and other buildings constructed in former Princely Bahawalpur State. Director Development Bahawalpur Nosheen Malik briefed about the development projects of the division. —APP

**Academic
programmes for
OPs at AIOU**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has introduced some academic programs for overseas Pakistanis, including those living in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Bahrain and USA.

The programmes include Allisan-ul-Arabi (Basic Arabic Course), Arabic Bol Chall, Secondary School Certificate (Matric), Higher Secondary School Certificate (FA, I.com), Bachelor Programs (BA General Group, B.Com, B.A Mass Communication and BA Library Science), B.Ed (1.5 years), MBA (Commonwealth of Learning), Dars-i-Nizami and Short Term Courses.

The interested Pakistanis have been asked to enroll themselves in the on-going admission (Spring, 2019), that will continue till March 5. —APP

**Cold, dry
weather forecast**

MULTAN: The local Met office Saturday forecast cold and dry weather for the city and its suburbs during the next 24 hours.

On Saturday, the maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded as 23 degrees centigrade and 8.5 degrees centigrade, respectively. Humidity was recorded 86 per cent at 8am and 37pc at 5pm. —APP



KARACHI: Fire fighting underway as blaze erupts in private bank at the I I Chundrigar Road.

**Mirwaiz demands protection
to Kashmiris in Jammu, India**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has called for protecting the people hailing from the Kashmiri Valley in Jammu and India states.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a statement issued in Srinagar expressed his distress over the reports of continued attacks on Kashmiris in Jammu and India.

"Deeply distressed by reports of continued attacks on Kashmiris in Jammu and other places let loose by communal goons. Those in charge are obliged to ensure the safety and security of Kashmiris is not compromised with at a time when anti-Kashmir rhetoric has been ratcheted

up," he said.

Demos, strike in Islamabad against attacks on Muslims in Jammu Amid shut-down, people staged forceful demonstrations in south Kashmir's Islamabad town on Saturday against the attacks on Kashmiris.

Shopkeepers in Lal Chowk and other old town areas downed their shutters to protest against the attacks.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), people took to the streets and staged forceful demonstrations against the assaults on the Kashmiris. Indian police and troops fired pellets to disperse the protesters in Lal Chowk, triggering clashes between the demonstrators and the forces' personnel.

Locals said that troops went berserk and beat up the pedestrians and also damaged several vehicles.

Meanwhile, the occupation authorities continued to impose curfew in Jammu city on the second consecutive day, following the widespread arson by Hindu fanatics, yesterday.

The members of Bharatiya Janata Party, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other extremist Hindu organizations set afire over 50 and damaged dozens other vehicles of Muslims in the city, yesterday during their protests against the killing of Indian troops in an explosion at Lethpora in Pulwama on Thursday.

GB DDWP approves 30 new development schemes

The Gilgit-Baltistan Departmental Development Working Party (DDWP) has approved 30 new development schemes worth Rs 3.90 billion.

The decision in that regard was taken in the Departmental Development Working Party meeting held in Gilgit-Baltistan with Chief Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha in the chair, Radio Pakistan reported on Saturday.

The chief secretary, on the occasion, directed for timely completion of the schemes saying that the government will not compromise the quality of work and ensuring transparency in the projects. —APP

**Minorities enjoying
religious freedom in
Pakistan: Augustine**

SIALKOT: Provincial Minister of Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine said on Saturday that minorities were enjoying complete religious freedom in Pakistan.

The government was making all out efforts to ensure the provision and protection of basic rights to minorities, he added.

Addressing a special ceremony of distribution of Christmas Grant here at Jinnah House, Paris Road, he said the PTI government was coming up to the expectations of people by fulfilling its all promises and commitments.

He said the PTI government was committed to provide equal opportunities to minorities.

The minister said the government was keen on evolving a policy for the construction of worship places of minorities.

He said that proposed Minority Empowerment package would open the door of prosperity for minorities in Punjab.

He said the PTI government's positive and effective economic policies were bearing the fruits and the desired results, besides bringing day by day betterment in national economic indicators.

MNA (Minorities) Shunila Ruth also spoke on the occasion.

Provincial Minister for Special Education Punjab Ch. Muhammad Ikhlqa, MPAs Syeda Farah Azami, Haroon Gill, President PTI Central Punjab Umer Dar, SVP PTI's Youth Wing (Minorities) Central Punjab Dr. John

Mehboob Piyara and Local Christian community were present in the ceremony.

Later, Provincial Minister of HR & MA Ijaz Alam Augustine distributed cheques worth Rs 173,5000 among 347 Christian families from all the four tehsils (Sialkot, Samirah, Daska and Pasrur) of Sialkot district.

AJK President chides India for misleading world over Pulwama incident

President, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan on Saturday admonished India for misleading international community over Pulwama incident by hurling false accusation on Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference along with Member of British Parliament Labour Party Naz Shah he said, "Pakistan has no link with Pulwama incident, India is totally confused and trying to deceive the world." Terming the Kashmiris' reaction natural, he said that Indian occupied forces had killed thousands of innocent Kashmiris and creating confusion to hide their brutalities in Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK).

He dispelled the impression that indigenous and peaceful freedom struggle has any link with terrorism. He asked India to initiate international inquiry of the incident, saying there is no justification in blaming Pakistan without any evidence. He recalled that Indian extremists' elements were involved in Samjhauta Express incident.

The president expressed the hope that Saudi Arabian Crown Prince will raise the Kashmir issue with the leadership of India during his visit to India.

He thanked Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) for extending politically, morally and diplomatically support to Kashmir.

He said, the Kashmiri children and students were the worst victims of state terrorism sponsored by India in Kashmir valley. "Atrocities of Indian occupied forces in IoK are unacceptable," he added.

The children have not only suffered direct injuries with bullets, pellet guns and with teargas shells but had been witnessing all the brutalities being carried out by Indian forces in last seven decades. The children of this lawless land are arrested and harassed to the level that it has traumatized their psyche," he deplored.

Naz Shah asked the British parliament for playing its due role in resolving Kashmir problem as the issue was created by the British. She said labour party has very clear stance on Kashmir issue and soon after coming in the power her party will resolve the Kashmir issue, she claimed.

She urged international community to intervene and resolve Kashmir issue as per the aspirations of Kashmiris.

She asked the Indian government to allow international community to visit Kashmir. —APP

**WWF asks workers to
submit applications
for Haj by 28th**

ISLAMABAD: The Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development, has asked the registered workers of capital based factories/establishments to submit their applications for inclusion in Hajj draw by February 28.

According to a WWF official, ten registered industrial workers from Islamabad would be chosen through balloting, whose hajj expenses would be borne by the Fund.

The minimum age of the applicants should be 40 years and must not be over 60 years. They should fulfill the criteria of a worker as defined by IRA-2017, and be registered with Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) or Employees Social Security Institutions (ESSI). They are required to submit an affidavit stating that they had not performed Hajj at least in last five year (from 2014-18). The applying worker must submit a certificate from his respective institution that the institution is situated and registered within the limits of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). In case of women worker all expenditure and other arrangement of her accompanying Mehram will be paid by herself.

WWF would pay the expenses as per the announced Hajj Policy 2019, complete applications should be sent to Assistant Director (Welfare) WWF. —APP



HYDERABAD: A railway worker cleans railway track as cleaning drive on the arrival of federal minister for Railway Shaikh Rashid.

**DC bans
construction
in Kehal**

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Afaq Ahmed on Saturday, under section 144 imposed ban on construction in Kehal due to the threat of land sliding.

According to DC office, ban has been imposed to save precious lives due to land sliding after the heavy down-pour in Abbottabad.

Two weeks back three persons of a family were killed after heavy rainfall when a heavy boulder fell on their house. —APP

**Illegal gas
pipeline
unearthed**

SIALKOT: A team of SNGPL Sialkot on Saturday unearthed an illegal gas pipeline being laid down in village Ranjhaj-Daska.

Local SNGPL officials said that 160 feet long gas pipeline was being laid by two accused- Naseem Abbas and Mudassar Ahmed to pilfer gas from main line.

The police have registered a case against the accused under section 462-C PPC.

Further investigation was underway. —APP

**Performance of
works, services
dept flayed**

HYDERABAD: The Chairman Hyderabad SITE Association of Trade and Industry (HSATI) Muhammad Shahid Kaimkhani Saturday strongly criticized the performance of Sindh Works and Services Department for making Hyderabad-Tando Muhammad Khan road in shabby condition.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that construction of three feet drain nullah on road has destroyed the sewerage system in the area particularly SITE Hyderabad.

Resultantly the sewage water was accumulating and also entering in the industrial units of SITE Hyderabad causing great inconvenience to factory management, he added.

He appealed to the Sindh Government to take notice and ask the department concerned to resolve the issue at the earliest so that the industrialists and factory owners of SITE Hyderabad could take sigh of relief. —APP

**Gepco SE holds
open court**

SIALKOT: Gujranwala electric Power Company (Gepco) Superintending Engineer (SE) Sialkot Haji Muhammad Ashraf held an open court at Tehsil Pasrur on Saturday.

He listened people's complaints and issued orders for addressing them at the earliest. —APP

Twin cities traffic managers seek public help during Prince stay

ISLAMABAD: The traffic enforcement agencies of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad Saturday sought the public cooperation while commuting on the cities' major avenues and arteries during the Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman's stay in the country, rescheduled for February 17-18.

Talking to APP, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Farrukh Rashid said the high-powered delegation's visit was of significance to the county and "people are requested to exhibit patience to make it a complete success."

Rawalpindi City Traffic Police (CTP) have also urged the public to cooperate with the traffic wardens to en-

sure controlled flow of traffic within the city.

Moreover, both the cities traffic managers have also finalized a comprehensive traffic diversion plan to avoid public inconvenience in anticipation of high-level visit to the country.

Farrukh said law enforcement agencies were assigned to make arrangements for the city's security plan during stay of the dignitaries and the ITP was mandated to regulate the city's traffic during these couple of days.

The SSP said the inter provincial traffic coming from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was completely banned to enter Islamabad in presence of Saudi delegation in the federal capital.

Farrukh advised the citizens intend-

ing to commute within the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi during these days may use 9th avenue, connecting their inter-city mobility.

He recommended the dwellers moving for New Islamabad Airport to use Kashmir Highway and 9th Avenue adding the connecting minor roads to Kashmir Highway would remain open.

He said the commuters destined for Murree must follow ITP's traffic advisory released after every hour on ITP FM radio channel for the public to plan their hassle free tours.

According to traffic advisory issued by ITP, Heavy traffic coming from Lahore to Islamabad would be diverted from Rawat T-Cross from where they

may use Peshawar G T Road and Motorway after passing through Sawan Garden, Kutchery Chowk and Rawalpindi Saddar. The route for heavy traffic from Kak Bridge towards Koral Chowk or Islamabad Expressway would be closed while such traffic may use alternate routes of Kak Bridge to PWD Society, Sawan Garden, Kutchery Chowk and Rawalpindi Saddar to reach Peshawar Road or Motorway.

Similarly, heavy traffic coming from Peshawar G T Road and Motorway Islamabad would be diverted from Chungi No. 26 towards Rawalpindi Peshawar G T Road and Motorway. Traffic coming from Peshawar Road, IJP Road Katarian Pul, 9th Avenue would not be allowed to move ahead of Faiz-

abad.

Heavy traffic coming from Murree and Azad Kashmir would be diverted from 'Satra Meel' towards Murree Motorway as their entry would be closed towards Islamabad and Murree Road Rawalpindi.

For the general traffic, both sides from Koral Chowk to Islamabad Expressway would remain closed and the alternate route would be from Rawalpindi Saddar road, Rawal road, Murree road, Stadium road, 9th Avenue road, Kashmir Highway or IJP Road.

The road leading to Faizabad and Islamabad Expressway from Zero Point Under-Bridge would remain closed from both sides and traffic would be diverted to Faisal Avenue or Kashmir

Highway from Zero Point Loop from where 9th Avenue, Stadium Road, IJP Road, Saddar road and Sawan Garden road may be used to come on Lahore G T Road.

Red Zone from all sides would remain closed for any kind of traffic. Those coming to Islamabad from Marriott, Islamabad Hotel, Sector G-5 or G-6 or going to Rawalpindi may use Margallah Road, Faisal Avenue, Kashmir Highway through Zero Point Loop, 9th Avenue, Stadium Road, Faqir Api Road to IJP and Peshawar roads.

The residents of Nurpur Shahah (Bari Imam area) and Qaid-i-Azam University may use 3rd Avenue from Murree Road or Shahdra Road, Margallah Road (Trail-III). —APP