

Suri opens NADRA Centre of Satellite Town in Quetta

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri Thursday said Prime Minister Imran Khan was paying special attention to Balochistan in order to remove backwardness of the people in the province.

He expressed these views while addressing inauguration ceremony of National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) Center here at Satellite Town area of Quetta where Director General of NADRA, senior officials and a large number of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s workers were present on the occasion.

He said the government was striving to provide all basic facilities to masses and addressing the basic public issues on priority. He said the steps were being taken for resolving the issue of unemployment from the country, the 'youth development program' and 'Kamyab Jawan' programs of the government would be proved helpful in this regard.

He said Kamyab Jawan program has been connected to NADRA in order to ensure transparency. He said with inauguration of the NADRA Satellite Town center the citizens from different areas including Pashtoonabad and Chousabad would be facilitated.

CDA starts drive against violations of building bylaws

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has triggered operation against violations of building and zoning regulations in approved housing societies situated in Zone II and V of the city.

During the last two days, sixteen (16) premises including commercial buildings, a residential house and a site office of contractor were sealed in Soan Garden Housing Society on account of violating Islamabad Building and Zoning regulations-2005, CDA spokesman on Thursday said.

The owners of the premises failed to compile the instructions of the authority regarding obtaining approval of building plan, completion of buildings or have not removed the other violations from their premises despite several warnings and ample time given by the Authority.

The operations were conducted by the Building Control Directorate-II with assistance of local administration, participated by Enforcement Directorate of the Authority, Islamabad Police and other concerned formations.

The operations were carried out in continuation of the steps of the authority towards ensuring implementation of building by-laws and curtail haphazard constructions in the outskirts of the city particularly in the housing societies falling in territorial limits of Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate in its anti encroachment drive in sector F-11/4 removed cemented polls erected on the acquired land while illegally established parking outside Medix Hospital in sector I-11/2 also removed. Several illegal fruit stalls from G-9 Markaz and road side encroachments from Municipal Road were also removed.

AC for recovery of agriculture income tax

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The Additional Commissioner-I Hyderabad, Syed Sajjad Haider Shah, has asked the revenue officers to ensure recovery of agriculture income tax in accordance to government policy.

The revenue officers should personally monitor the process of agriculture income tax recovery and bring all the owners of agriculture fields into agriculture income tax net, he said on Thursday while presiding over the meeting of the divisional committee formed by the Board of Revenue Sindh in respect of agriculture income tax recovery.

He also directed the revenue officers to submit report of agriculture income tax recovery along with detailed potential assessment with names to the office of the Board of Revenue through Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad on monthly basis. He asked the Additional Deputy Commissioners of all districts of Hyderabad division to ensure the implementation of Agriculture Income Tax Ordinance 2000 in letter and spirit and also suggest proposals and recommendations if they have for amendment in Rules 2001.

They should also hold regular meetings with Assistant Commissioners of their respective districts in respect of the recovery of agriculture income tax, he



RAWALPINDI: Commuters make their way on Rawal Road during heavy fog in morning.—Online

Mountaineering, tourism bring economic development: Zartaj

By Our Staff Correspondent



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul here Thursday said that Mountaineering and tourism can bring much awaited prosperity and economic development to the northern parts of the country. Addressing to the closing ceremony of the 9th Pakistan Mountain Festival, she said that the hardworking natives of the area are the custodians of this indigenous culture.

Pakistan is a land of wonderful landscapes with having unmatched high mountains, lakes and sufficient scenic beauty to lure the foreign tourists, she said. In a bid to promote tourism, she said that the government has relaxed its visa policy for the foreign tourists to enhance the tourism influx.

She said that it was need of the hour

to have a comprehensive plans to combat the challenge like climate change, poverty and natural disasters.

The State Minister appreciated the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) for consistently developing and strengthening the Pakistan Mountain Festival, a flagship annual thematic advocacy event that engages the stakeholders up and downstream.

PYHA National Secretary Ambassador (ret'd) Qazi Humayun said that the PYHA has thirteen hostels mostly in the mountains that could be used for engaging local youth and students from other parts in to different mountain conservation initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Devcom-Pakistan Director and the founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed said the main focus of festival

was to engaging youth, mountains communities up and downstream to create a synergy for raising voice for mountain conservation and development.

The Minister of State for Climate Change also distributed awards and souvenirs among the partners of the festival.

The first K2 climber Ashraf Aman, Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) Qazi Azmat Isa, National Secretary of the Pakistan Youth Hostels Association (PYHA) Ambassador (ret'd) Qazi Humayun, WaterAid Advocacy coordinator Zartasha Niazi, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme Manager Altaf Hussain Shah, and Country Coordinator of the Italian development organization Ev-K2-CNR Riazul Hassan were also present on the occasion.

AJK president condemns Indian firing on LoC

By Our Staff Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan condemned Indian firing on Line of Control (LoC) and paid rich tribute to two Pakistan Army soldiers martyred in Indian ceasefire violations along the LoC.

In a statement issued here Thursday, AJK President Sardar Masood Khan said the ceasefire violations by India on LoC was to divert world's attention from its internal situation where hundreds of thousand people are protesting against inhuman and draconian law enforced by Modi government.

The president said India was desperately targeting civilian population along LoC in an attempt to divert world attention from its internal disharmonious circumstances and was heavily damaging life and property of civilian population near the Line of Control.

He expressed condolence with the families of martyred soldiers and paid rich tribute to them for their sacrifice for the country and hoped that nation would courageously defeat Indian aggression.

RPO visits DRC, reviews performance: ABBOTTABAD: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Abbottabad, Dr. Mazhar-ul-Haq here on Thursday visited Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) and reviewed its performance.

He was accompanied by District Police Officer (DPO), Javid Iqbal Qazir, concerned police officials and members of DRC. During the visit,

he was informed that DRC Abbottabad disposed of 222 case in 2014, in the year of its inception. He was informed that DRC resolved 177 cases in 2015, 330 cases in 2016, 813 cases in 2017 and 879 cases in 2018 while 870 cases have been resolved in 2019 so far. DRC also amicably settled 3278 cases of litigation since start of its functioning.

Speaking on the occasion, RPO said appreciated the working of DRC and the commitment of its members. He also urged members to continue their efforts and help out masses according to their satisfaction and expectations.

RPO also assured his cooperation to DRC members and said that a separate official would be deputed in every police station for correspondence. He also announced motorcycles for the staff DRC workers and also approved provision of needed staff. He also visited Police Driving School Abbottabad.

Sixty suspects among two POs arrested

KOHAT: Launching search and strike operation against anti social elements, the district police here Thursday claimed to have arrested sixty suspects including two proclaimed offenders and recovered weapons and narcotics from their possession.

In a press release, the operation was conducted on the directives of DPO Kohat Mansoor Aman under the SP Operations. The police contingent rushed to the targeted area of three Afghan refugee camps situated in Ghamkole area of Kohat and conducted house-to-house search.

PDWP approves 21 projects worth Rs5590.066 million

By Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: A meeting of the Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) Additional Chief Secretary P&D Department Shakil Qadar Khan in the chair Thursday approved 21 Projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 5590.066 million. The meeting cleared one project and recommended to the Federal Government for consideration of CDWP/ECNEC while four projects were deferred and were returned to their respective departments for rectification.

The meeting was attended by members of PDWP and concerned departments. The forum considered 26 projects

pertaining to different sectors including Water, Health, Roads & Bridges, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Urban Development, Multi-sectoral Development, Relief & Rehabilitation, Transport, Science & Technology and Industries sectors for the uplift of the province.

Afghan Consulate officials visit Baacha Khan Markaz: PESHAWAR, Dec 26 (APP): A three-member delegation of Afghan Consulate Peshawar led by Visa Incharge, Faridoun Haideri Thursday visited Baacha Khan Markaz Peshawar and met with leadership of Awami National Party (ANP). The leaders of Awami National Party including Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Sardar Hussain

Babak and Arbab Tahir welcomed the delegation. They congratulated the delegation on re-election of newly elected Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and hoped that the new government would play a more energetic and positive role in success of peace process. Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary ANP, Mian Iftikhar Hussain said that both Afghanistan and Pakistan were victims of terrorism and good relations of the neighboring countries were of utmost importance for peace. Peaceful Pakistan and Afghanistan are integral for strong relations among the culturally linked Pashuns living on both sides are need of the hour, he added.



KARACHI: People suppress their disable children in clay at the Beach of Sea during a solar eclipse as partial solar eclipse is seen in provincial capital, the last solar eclipse of 2019 was witnessed in Pakistan along with several other countries.—Online

Senate body seeks briefing from IRSA on water system

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources on Thursday directed Indus River System Authority (IRSA) and all provincial irrigation departments to give an extensive briefing about specific particulars of water distribution mechanism, in its next meeting.

The Senate body also directed the officials to provide all rules and systems in place for this purpose. The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Senator Shamim Afridi at the Parliament House, was also attended among others by Senators Muhammad Usman Kakar, Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Sassui Palijo, John Kenneth Williams,

Syed Sabir Shah, Waleed Iqbal, Secretary Water Resources, representatives from WAPDA, and irrigation departments. The committee discussed the matter of the land, lost due to sea intrusion on different coastal district of Sindh and the construction of Sindh Barrage and its impact on reduction of sea intrusion. It decided to move the privilege motion against Chairman WAPDA for not attending the meetings.

Regarding the present status and way forward on Dasu Hydropower Project, the committee was told that the project was 74 km downstream from Diamer-Bhasha Dam on the Karakoram Highway (KKH).

It was informed that some portion of the exist-

ing KKH will submerge in the dam and the portion was being constructed on an alternative route close by. It was a run-of-the-river project that will produce 4320 MW of power and the dam height was 242 m. The body was informed that the cost had escalated from Rs 486 billion to 511 billion due to the land acquisition issues and the revised completion date was February 2025. It was informed that preparatory work contracts of Rs 50 billion had been signed and work was in progress. For the main work, two contracts had been awarded and ground work was in progress while for electro-mechanical works contract had been signed. Land acquisition will also be completed in 2020. Discussing present status of Phase-II of the Greater

Thal Canal Project, the Committee was told that Asian Development Bank had been approached for financing the project and the project would change the living conditions of the people and will bring prosperity by a better canal system in the area.

The Committee was also given briefing on construction of five small dams in Balochistan, Sharan Dam in Sherani, Zama Khulgi Dam, Baratkhel Cheena Dam, Urgus Dam and Kum Khurasan Dam in Killa Saifullah. The Committee decided to write to provincial governments and also directed the federal ministry to do the same to expedite the process of sending PC-1 of the projects to the federal government for approval.

Week-long exhibition to pay tribute to Quaid kicks off at PNCA: A week-long exhibition to pay tribute to father of the nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah started here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts the PNCA.

The portraits of Quaid-i-Azam that were collected from different organizations of Pakistan were displayed in this exhibition.

On the Occasion, former principal National College of Arts Professor Saeed Athar said that Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was no doubt a great leader of the modern age, who not only led his people to independence, but founded a separate homeland for Muslims where they could live independently.