

2 security men martyred in Pasni

PASNI: Two security personnel including a Captain embraced martyrdom when terrorists targeted the security forces using an improvised explosive device in Khuda Bux Bazar near Pasni — Army's ISPR said Thursday. The martyred personnel were identified as Captain Affan Masood and Sepoy Babar Zaman. According to the ISPR, search operation is in progress in the area to apprehend the perpetrators. The ISPR in its statement said that such cowardly acts by inimical elements, backed by hostile intelligence agencies cannot sabotage the hard earned peace and prosperity in Balochistan. —DNA

The Business

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47 succumb to COVID-19, 2,545 tested positive during 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Before Eid-ul-Azha, the number of corona cases are on rise in the country again as 2545 positive cases of Corona virus were reported during the last 24 hours. According to data issued by National Command and Operations Center (NCO) , in last 24 hours, 48,910 tests were carried out in the country of which 2,545 were confirmed to be positive. The number of confirmed positive cases of corona in the country has reached 981,392 from which 916,373 have been cured. —Online

PLRA earns Rs 22 billion record income

The Business Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) has earned a record income in the last financial year as per the vision of the Punjab Government. In addition to its fixed 246 centres, the Authority in collaboration with the satellite centres and other organisations, it has been providing facilities at more than 5,000 centres in the province.

With the ever-growing its network, the Authority during the last financial year provided facilities to more than four million people, including 1.2 million intical seekers. It is 30 percent more than the last year target, providing over Rs 12 billion revenue to the national exchequer. In this way the department earned a record income of Rs 22 billion, which is over 37 percent more than the previous year earning.

Dasu probe confirms traces of explosives: Fawad

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said that Initial investigations into Dasu incident have now confirmed traces of explosives.

In a statement on twitter he said that terrorism cannot be ruled out in Dasu incident adding that Prime Minister Imran Khan was personally supervising all developments.

Minister said out government is in close coordination with Chinese embassy in this regard. "We are committed to fight menace of terrorism together", said Fawad.

Thirteen people, including nine Chinese nationals were killed and 28 others sustained injuries when a coach carrying them to an under-construction tunnel site of Dasu hydropower project fell into a ravine in the Upper Kohistan area on Wednesday.

Pak students to get IT training in Spain, Germany

The Business Report

MADRID: Pakistan ambassador to Spain Sajjad Rathor, Deputy Head of Mission Umair Ali, and IT Business counselor Dr. Affan had a meeting with Ishfaq Ahmed Saka, owner of Saka Group of Industries and Junaid Husnain the CEO of IT Bilytica company.



During their meeting, it was decided to send the brilliant students of Pakistan to Spain and Germany so that they can get their advanced IT and electrical engineering training. Ishfaq Ahmed Saka and Junaid Husnain expressed their interest regarding helping the Pakistani student. They told the press that they are taking some steps to make it easy for the Pakistani students in their advanced education easily so that they can serve the country.

'Conspiracy was hatched to murder Nawaz in prison'

PALANDRI: PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz has alleged that conspiracy was hatched to murder her father Nawaz in prison. "Conspiracy was hatched in US to throw Kashmir in the lap of India", she said this while addressing a public meeting here Thursday.

"Kashmir blood runs into my veins. These people are afraid of Nawaz Sharif. Imran Khan every morning and evening starts with the name of Nawaz Sharif. Diverse conspiracies were hatched against Nawaz Sharif. Conspiracy of murdering Nawaz in jail was also hatched, she remarked. She claimed they are conspiring to mortgage the projects worked out by Nawaz Sharif. Nawaz Sharif lovers are

government organizations, international development partners, NGOs and academia, the policies procedures and practices in water management sector are uninformed by contemporary knowledge. Consequently, the old water resources challenges remain and new water resources issues emerge, he said. To address these complex issues, the federal minister termed it crucial that the development investments and policies need to be informed by research. Since assuming charge as Minister of Science and Technology, the minister said, he has taken up one-point agenda for water resources, "translate research into public benefit" with the help of scientific data

and smart technologies.

PCRWR has been tasked to bring their research into action in Islamabad as a pilot. Within a period of 10 days, PCRWR and Capital Development Authority (CDA) have signed a Programme of Cooperation for artificial groundwater recharge and development of an evidence-based groundwater regulatory framework for Islamabad.

Shibli said Pakistan was blessed with diverse landscape and seasons. The Himalayan glaciers in the north are the largest frozen water reserves outside the polar region whereas, fertile alluvial plains of Punjab and Sindh provinces are irrigated by one of the largest contiguous irrigation systems of the world. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister GB Muhammad Khalid Khursheed Khan, Federal Minister Asad Omar and Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Salim Bajwa in a meeting regarding CPEC ongoing projects.

Hungarian Cos keen to import rice from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Hungary-Pakistan Trade & Economic Window (HPTEW), which is an initiative of the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF), has started yielding results, as a number of Hungarian companies have shown their keen interest to import high quality rice from Pakistan.

During an online meeting with the Pakistan rice exporters, the Hungarian businessmen discussed investment and trade partnership in details with Pakistani food and rice companies.

The meeting was arranged by the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) with collaboration of Pakistan Embassy in Hungary and Agriculture Ministry of Hungary. Besides Pakistan rice exporters and Hungarian importers, the meeting was attended by Ambassador of Pakistan to Hungary Mohammed Aejaz, All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) President Syed Maaz Mahmood, general secretary Khuram Niaz and All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) Lahore Board President Aamir Munir while Hungarian Deputy State Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture Dr. David Bencsik represented his country.

Dr. David Bencsik, during the meeting, observed that Pakistan rice and food products offer a huge potential for exports, as a large segment of this industry

is well-organized and has achieved international efficiency levels.

The Hungarian companies' representatives intended to visit Pakistan and study its food sector's market for partnerships and investment and to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with Pakistan. Their prime interest was the rice import from Pakistan where they were interested to develop JVs with local counterparts.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Hungary Mohammed Aejaz, while addressing the meeting, appreciated the role of All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF), saying that it is a beginning of great era between Hungary and Pakistan to import and export agricultural products from both sides. He said that this is a great result-oriented interactive session, leading to enhancement in bilateral trade of the both countries.

The Ambassador also applauded Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's Economic Diplomacy as an essential part of Pakistan's modern diplomatic practice. The government is now focusing on promoting economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment as part of the efforts to make the country economically secure. APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, during the meeting, applauded the efforts of Ambassador of Pakistan to Hungary Mohammed Aejaz, as due to his efforts several Hungarian

companies had already visited Pakistan and held B2B meetings with Pakistani companies for JVs in their respective sectors following the launch of HPTEW.

Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the HPTEW was launched in an effort to fully utilize the bilateral trade potential of Pakistan and Hungary from current volume of meager \$44.3m, engaging the Embassy of Hungary in Islamabad and the Pakistan Embassy in Budapest fully in this regard. He said that the European Union is Pakistan's largest export market representing over 30 percent of exports, with Hungary accounting for below 1 percent of the total EU imports from Pakistan, which needs to be enhanced.

He said that the slogan of Foreign Minister's Economic Diplomacy to broaden mutually beneficial trade and economic partnerships with European countries, have been yielding positive results, as Pakistan's exports to European Union has been increasing.

Discussing the issues of Pakistan agri sector, he said the government should enhance the areas of research to encourage indigenous technological innovations and modernize its agriculture sector, as this has the potential source of employment. He said that Pakistan needs to move from traditional to modern agri-

Railway facing 400-500b rupees deficit, says Swati

LAHORE: Railway Minister Azam Khan Swati on Thursday revealed that Pakistan Railways was facing a deficit of 400-500 billion rupees.

Addressing a ceremony at Railway Carriage Factory, Swati told about expenditures and deficits of his ministry. "Railway pays pensions to 1, 32000 employees. Scraps and tickets are being theft. Those who work hard, will get a double reward", Swati maintained, adding that his ministry will introduce new technology soon to bring reforms to the department. The minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan and he will never get blackmailed. "We are introducing modern technology that will enable us to know about ghost workers in Railway" Swati said.

Swati said that national institutions are facing a loss of 1.3 trillion rupees, while the total expenditure of Army is 1.1 trillion rupees. However, we cannot break the 'status quo' without technology, the minister said. Swati, while thanking the

defence production department for introducing technology in Railways said that now his department is on right track and people will be hired as per the requirements. "Railway will be a surplus department", the minister affirmed, adding that it's his responsibility to ensure his workers' bread and butter.

Opposition demand for reviewing 21 controversial bills accepted

Opposition demand for reviewing 21 controversial bills which were approved by National Assembly (NA) has been accepted. Law making committee of National Assembly (NA) has worked out rules and regulations and sent them to speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaisar proposing detailed discussion should be held on these bills as electoral reforms bill is of national importance.

According to National Assembly (NA) sources TORS have been worked out on the matter of 21 controversial bills which were passed by National Assem-

ble (NA). Additional Secretary law making Muhammad Mushtaq has sent the TORs to the Speaker National Assembly (NA). According to TORs details discussions should be held on the bills passed on June 10 in National Assembly (NA). Committee will review the procedure adopted in respect of these bills.

It has been said in TORs recommendations be sent to Senate after reviewing all bills. According to opposition recommendations for amendments in the said bills be sent directly to chairman Senate. Government will not oppose in the Senate the committee recommendations approved with consensus.

Electoral reforms are of national importance. According to opposition members a sitting of parliamentary leaders should be held on the said matter. A detailed review is required on the matter of suspension of powers for approval of bill by the house. Sufficient time and opportunity be given to TORs members to express their opinion. —Online

Punjab govt decides to restore local bodies

LAHORE: The Punjab Government decided to restore local bodies across the province, including Lahore.

According to the media reports, Secretary Local Govt Punjab Noor ul Amin has sent a summary to Punjab Chief Minister for approval making the decision of Supreme Court of Pakistan as basis for restoration of local government. Upon receipt of summary, the Punjab Chief minister handed over the portfolio to the provincial Ministry of local bodies to Mian Mehmood Al-Rasheed. —Online

PNS Zulfiqar attends exercise White Star-III

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiqar (with embarked helicopter) visited Portsmouth, United Kingdom, as part of Pakistan Navy overseas deployment. Upon arrival at port, the ship was warmly welcomed by officials from Royal Navy, Deputy High Commissioner and Defence & National Advisor of Pakistan at UK.

During stay at port, the Mission Commander Commodore Syed Rizwan Khalid along with Commanding Officer PNS Zulfiqar Captain Rao Ahmed Imran Anwar called on Commander Naval Base Portsmouth Cdre J J Bailey. During the interaction, matters of mutual interest were discussed and contribution of Pakistan Navy to regional peace and maritime security were acknowledged. Mission Commander also conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Niazi for the people of UK in general and Royal Navy in particular. The Mission Commander also extended his gratitude for whole hearted support provided in making the ship stay comfortable. The High Commissioner of Pakistan to United Kingdom Moazzam Ali Khan also visited onboard PNS Zulfiqar and interacted with Mission Commander.

Road to talks with Delhi passes through Srinagar

The Business Report

TASHKENT: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the road to talks with Delhi passes from Srinagar, with such an attitude towards Kashmir, how can there be talks with India.

In a statement on Thursday, the Foreign Minister while talking about situation in Afghanistan said that Pakistan was playing a vital role in bringing peace. Pakistan will soon invite key members of the Afghan leadership to Islamabad so that we can work together to move the Afghan peace process forward.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan's role is of a conciliatory nature and the primary responsibility for peace in Afghanistan lies with the Afghans. The FM said that PM Imran is expected to meet Afghan President Ashraf Ghani tomorrow. He said the Uzbek president had invited PM Imran and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to the connectivity conference. There are going to be three major agreements with Uzbekistan.

Rupee sheds 18 paises

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistan rupee declined by 18 paises against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Thursday and closed at Rs 159.30 as compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 159.12.

According to Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 158.8 and Rs 159.5 respectively. Similarly, the price of euro was appreciated by Rs 1.07 and closed at Rs 187.66 the State Bank of Pakistan reported.

The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs1.44, whereas an increase of 06 paises was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound, which was traded at Rs 220.56 as compared to its last closing of Rs220.50. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 05 paises each to close at Rs 43.36 and Rs 42.47 respectively. —APP

'Integrated water resource data multiplies challenges'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Syed Shibli Faraz Thursday said that the pressing water resource challenge was unavailability of an integrated water resources data.

This limitation has multiplied water resources management and governance challenges, he said while speaking at the "Pakistan Water Conference on Emerging Water Challenges" arranged by Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR).

The minister stated that despite the numerous organizations were working in various areas of water resources management including national and international research institutes, federal and provincial

government organizations, international development partners, NGOs and academia, the policies procedures and practices in water management sector are uninformed by contemporary knowledge.

Consequently, the old water resources challenges remain and new water resources issues emerge, he said. To address these complex issues, the federal minister termed it crucial that the development investments and policies need to be informed by research.

Since assuming charge as Minister of Science and Technology, the minister said, he has taken up one-point agenda for water resources, "translate research into public benefit" with the help of scientific data

and smart technologies.

PCRWR has been tasked to bring their research into action in Islamabad as a pilot. Within a period of 10 days, PCRWR and Capital Development Authority (CDA) have signed a Programme of Cooperation for artificial groundwater recharge and development of an evidence-based groundwater regulatory framework for Islamabad.

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UNITED KINGDOM: Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiqar and Royal Navy ship HMS RYNE during exercise White Star III.