

KP govt taking measures for uplift of merged tribal districts: Jhagra

PESHAWAR: Minister for Finance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taimur Saleem Jhagra on Thursday said the provincial government was making sincere efforts for the socio-economic development of the merged districts. Addressing a press conference here, the provincial finance minister said that budget for the tribal districts, which stood at Rs 32 billion before the merger, has now swelled to record Rs 77 billion.

He added that all such development-oriented measures spoke high volumes of the provincial government's sincerity and efforts. Similarly, the development budget for the tribal districts was Rs 21 billion, that was increased to Rs 37 billion in the budget 2019-20, while Rs 54 billion were earmarked in 2021-22.

Jhagra said that criticism at talk shows would not serve the purpose, and underlined the need for the government to release the fourth quarter development budget for the merged tribal districts. He said that the federal govern-

ment had withheld Rs 17 billion of the merged tribal districts, adding that he would write a letter to the finance division to get rights of those districts. Similarly, Taimur added that funds meant for inclusion of the tribal districts into 'Sehat Card Plus' facility had not been released yet. He further stated that amount which was owed to the KP government under the net hydel profit was still awaited.

KP govt to increase number of universities in province: Minister for health and finance Taimur Salim Jhagra on Wednesday said that we have to increase the number of universities in the province and also pay attention to quality education. The provincial government was introducing education policies keeping in view the market demand. We can successfully tackle the challenge of unemployment by creating more opportunities for vocational education. The services rendered by Khyber Medical University (KMU) through medical education and research as well as through the Public Health Refer-

ence Lab and Corona Vaccination Center during the Covid-19 outbreak were a testament to the vision, priorities and performance of the provincial government. He expressed these views while addressing a function at KMU to distribute scholarship cheques among students and to inaugurate a new branch Bank of Khyber at KMU. On the occasion, Minister for higher education Kamran Bangash, PTI leader Murad Saeed, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Lal Muhammad, Registrar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Gandapur, Director ORIC Dr. Zohaib Khan, Deans of various faculties, Directors, Faculty, administrative officers and a large number of students were also present. Taimur Jhagra said that despite the difficult situation, the provincial government has taken revolutionary steps in the fields of health and education, a prime example of which is the provision of free medical care up to Rs1 million to every citizen of the province. —APP

Layyah-Taunsa bridge to become operational in January 2024

ISLAMABAD: Indus river bridge between Taunsa to Layyah will become operational after completion of approach roads and guide banks in January 2024. An official of National Highway Authority told APP on Thursday that the riverine survey of the approach roads had been carried out along with hydrology study. He said that the bridge linking two important cities of southern Punjab, Layyah and Taunsa had been accomplished. The bridge is located in between Layyah, east bank of the Indus River, and Taunsa, the west bank of the river in district DG Khan, he said adding work on the Rs 2690 million project had started in February 2018 as ECNEC had given approval of the project in October 2017. Due to the absence of a proper river-crossing between the two cities, the only two links available are DI Khan-Darya Khan Bridge located 88 km upstream of the project site and Taunsa Barrage located about 52km downstream, said the NHA official. —APP

'Finland joining Nato would not be against anyone'

HELSINKI: Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said on Wednesday that it "would not be against anyone", if the Nordic country joined Nato, despite Russia warning against the membership. "Joining Nato would not be against anyone. It is not a zero-sum game", the president said at the signing of a political declaration of mutual assistance with the UK PM Boris Johnson. If Finland was to join Nato, Niinisto said that his response to Russia would be "you caused this, look in the mirror."

Similar to the one signed with Sweden earlier on Wednesday, the declaration assures that should Finland "suffer a disaster or an attack", the United Kingdom will assist in a variety of ways "which may include military means". "Finland is already an enhanced partner in Nato. There is no doubt in anybody's mind that Finland is part of the West", Niinisto said.

He noted that the situation had changed, as previously Moscow had considered that militarily non-aligned Finland and Sweden were "stabilising" the Baltic region. —AFP

France opens case against Interpol's UAE president

PARIS: French authorities have opened a case against Interpol's Emirati president over accusations of torture and arbitrary detention by two Britons who were detained in the UAE, a source close to the inquiry told AFP on Wednesday. The case into suspected complicity in torture by Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi was confirmed by France's anti-terror prosecutors office (PNAT), which has handed it to an investigating magistrate who will now decide whether to

Amid crisis, Lanka president vows to curtail own powers

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa pledged on Wednesday to give up most of his executive powers but stopped short of yielding to demands for his resignation over the country's economic crisis.

The 72-year-old, in his first address to the nation since the start of a month-long protest campaign calling on him to quit, said he will announce a unity government in the coming days. "I will name a prime minister who will command a majority in parliament and the confidence of the people," Rajapaksa said in a televised speech.

He did not name the successor of his elder brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, who stepped down as prime minister on Monday to clear the way for a new cabinet.

"I will work to give more powers to parliament and activate the key elements of the 19th amendment to the constitution," he said, referring to democratic reforms he overturned soon after his 2019 election. Sri Lanka has moved Mahinda Ra-

japaksa to a naval base for his safety, the defence secretary said on Wednesday, following violence targeting the family for its role in the country's worst economic crisis. Gotabaya Rajapaksa's pledge to reinstate the amendment would deprive him of the ability to control senior appointments to the public service, police, elections office and judiciary. Sri Lanka has suffered through months of lengthy blackouts and shortages of food, fuel and other vital goods after running out of foreign exchange to pay for imports.

The island nation's central bank chief warned on Wednesday that the economy will "collapse" unless a new government was urgently appointed. Rajapaksa said he needed the public's support "to ensure that the country does not collapse and we are able to provide the essentials to all". Soldiers stood behind wrought-iron barricades and next to burnt-out buses in the heart of capital Colombo on Wednesday, guarding almost deserted streets after a convulsion of deadly clashes. —AFP



HYDERABAD: Youngsters jump in the canal to bath and get cool off during hot weather. —Online

Every heatwave enhanced by climate change: Experts

PARIS: All heatwaves today bear the unmistakable and measurable fingerprint of global warming, top experts on quantifying the impact of climate change on extreme weather said.

Burning fossil fuels and destroying forests have released enough greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to also boost the frequency and intensity of many floods, droughts, wildfires and tropical storms, they detailed in a state-of-science report. "There is no doubt that climate change is a huge game changer when it comes to extreme heat," Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute, told AFP. Extreme hot spells such as the heatwave that gripped South Asia in March and April are already the most deadly of extreme events, she added. "Every heatwave in the world is now made stronger and more likely to happen because of human-caused climate change," Otto and co-author Ben Clarke of the University of Oxford said in the report, presented as a briefing paper for the news media.

Evidence of global warming's impact on extreme weather has been mounting for decades, but only recently has it been possible to answer the most obvious of questions: To what extent was a particular event caused by climate change?

The most scientists could say before is that an unusually severe hurricane, flood or heatwave was consistent



with general predictions of how global warming would eventually influence weather. News media, meanwhile, sometimes left climate change out of the picture altogether or, at the other extreme, mistakenly attributed a weather disaster entirely to rising temperatures. With more data and better tools, however, Otto and other pioneers of a field known as event attribution science have been able to calculate -- sometimes in near realtime -- how much more likely or intense a particular storm or hot spell has become due to global warming. —AFP

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Loss Of Allocation, Intimation, Allotment & Transfer Letter)

Allocation, Intimation, Allotment and Transfer Letter of Flat-1586, Sector-1, Phase-3, Measuring 1 Kanal issued by Defence Housing Authority, Lahore Cantt. in the name of Muhammad Almas NO Number 48040, 443 127 Chiridar Road Bahawalpur Pakistan, has been lost. Finder may return the same to Secretary, Defence Housing Authority, Main Office Complex, Phase-3, Lahore Cantt. Otherwise after 7 days original Allocation, Intimation, Allotment and Transfer Letter shall be treated as cancelled.

(UAN: 042-111-342-547 Ext.2810)

COURT NOTICE

Where as Mr. Muhammad Sarwar S/o Allah Ditta resident of House No. 238/A street No. 4 Anwar Shaheed Colony Renala Khurd Distt: Okara Allottee of plot No. 12 Block B street No 30' wide Government Housing Scheme Renala khurd has appointed Mst Zahida Sarwar W/o Muhammad Sarwar R/o House No.44 Housing Scheme Renala Khurd Distt: Okara as his power of attorney registered by Sub-Registrar Renala Khurd registered vide No. 26/4 dated 16-3-2022. The attorney intends to transfer this plot in the name of (1) Mr. Muhammad Nadeem S/o Ch. Muhammad Akram (2) Muhammad Saleem Akram S/o Ch. Muhammad Akram R/o House No. 122 Kocha Anwar Pasha Renala Khurd Distt: Okara. if any one has any objection/legal rights of any sort in this regard, he should frunish the same in writing to the undersigned alongwith his original National Identity Card within 15 days from the Publication of this notice. After the expiry of this notice period no excuse want to ever will be listened to and the Deptt: will not be responsible in any way.

Deputy Director/Secretary Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency Sub Region Okara

EU-wide mask rules to be eased next week

BERLIN: EU-wide guidance on requiring masks for air travel will be lifted from next week, the bloc's aviation safety agency said on Wednesday, as the pandemic eases in Europe.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) said that under the new guidelines developed with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), masks were no longer considered essential for all flights and airports.

Nevertheless national regulators and airlines will still have scope to demand face and nose covering by passengers and staff, it noted.

"From next week, face masks will no longer need to be mandatory in air travel in all cases, broadly aligning with the changing requirements of national authorities across Europe for public transport," said EASA executive director Patrick Ky in a statement.

"For passengers and air crews, this is a big step forward in the normalisation of air travel." Despite the new guidance, Germany as the EU's most populous country and top economy said it had no plans to lift the mask mandate for flights.

"The mask requirement on airplanes continues to be in place for all domestic routes as well as on flights that take off or land in Germany," health



ministry spokesman Hanno Kautz said in an emailed statement. EASA said after Monday, "rules for masks in particular will continue to vary by airline beyond that date".

It stated that "flights to or from a destination where mask-wearing is still required on public transport should continue to encourage mask wearing".

Vulnerable passengers with compromised health "should

continue to wear a face mask regardless of the rules", it added. The EASA said passengers were also encouraged to observe social distancing at the airport but that operators should adopt a "pragmatic approach", meaning avoiding measures that would "lead to a bottleneck in another location in the passenger journey". The Geneva-based International Air Transport Association (IATA) welcomed the new

guidance for the EU but acknowledged the picture was more complex in an international context. "Although the European protocol comes into effect next week, there is no globally consistent approach to mask-wearing on board aircraft," said Willie Walsh, IATA's director general, in a statement. "Airlines must comply with the regulations applicable to the routes they are operating. The aircraft

crew will know what rules apply and it is critical that passengers follow their instructions." He added that the IATA asked all passengers to "be respectful of other people's decision to voluntarily wear masks even if it not a requirement". The European aviation sector has predicted a return to near pre-pandemic traffic levels this summer despite soaring fuel prices, the war in Ukraine and inflation.

Indian couple sues son, demand grandchild within a year or \$650,000

NEW DELHI: An Indian couple are taking their son to court demanding that he and his wife produce either a grandchild within a year or cough up almost \$650,000.

Sanjeev and Sadhana Prasad say that they exhausted their savings raising and educating their pilot son and paying for a lavish wedding. Now they want payback. "My son has been married for six years but they are still not planning a baby. At least if we have a grandchild to spend time with, our pain will become bearable," the couple said in their petition filed with a court in Haridwar last week.

The compensation they are demanding — 50 million Indian rupees — includes the cost of a wedding reception in a five-star hotel, a luxury car worth \$80,000 and paying for the couple's honeymoon abroad, the Times of India reported on Thursday. The parents also forked out \$65,000 to get their son trained as a pilot in the United States only for him to return to India unemployed, the paper said. "We also had to take a loan to build our house and now we are going through a lot of financial hardships. Mentally too we are quite disturbed because we are living alone," the couple said in their petition. The couple's lawyer Arvind Kumar said the petition will be taken up for hearing by the court in northern India on May 17. India has a strong joint family system with many generations including grandparents, nephews, aunts and uncles often living in the same household. —AFP

US backs new South Korea leader on North

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday voiced support for South Korea's new president's outreach to North Korea and reiterated that it was ready to talk to Pyongyang on rising tensions. President Yoon Suk-yeol, a conservative expected to take a harder line on the North, in his inaugural address on Tuesday called on his neighbor's leaders to give up nuclear weapons. —

CORRECTION OF FATHER'S NAME



I RIAZ HUSSAIN MUMTAZ have passed the Secondary school Certificate Annual Examination 1979 under Roll 36536 from B.I.S.E. Sargodha. My Father's name is SHEIKH MUHAMMAD BAKHSH whereas on certificate my father's Name has been mentioned as MUHAMMAD BAKHSH Which is incorrect. I want to get changed my father's name from MUHAMMAD BAKHSH to SHEIKH MUHAMMAD BAKHSH. If any person/organization/agency have any objection, then the same may be intimated in writing to the Secretary, Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, near 49-Tail Faisalabad Road, Sargodha within 15 days.