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PPPP's Murtaza Wahab elected Karachi's mayor, Salman Abdullah deputy mayor

Bilawal felicitates Murtaza Wahab on his election as Karachi Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Barrister Murtaza Wahab, the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP-backed) candidate was returned victorious as the Mayor of Karachi in the election held at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi here on Thursday.

As per unofficial results, Murtaza Wahab secured 173 votes while his rival, Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI-backed) candidate Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, got 160 votes.

PPP's Salman Abdullah Murad was elected as deputy mayor by bagging 173 votes to defeat his opponent Saifuddin Advocate of JI who secured 160 votes.

Four counters were established outside the Arts Council to identify the members. Mobile

phones were not allowed.

Talking to media after 5 pm, Returning Officer (RO) Nazir Abbas said, Murtaza Wahab won the election for the seat of mayor Karachi and JI's Naeemur Rehman remained runner-up with 160 votes. PPP's Salman Abdullah Murad was victorious as the deputy mayor with 173 votes and defeated JI's Saifuddin, who got 160 votes.

The main gate of the Arts Council of Pakistan was closed before the voting started.

The members elected the Leader of the House through a show of hands who first voted for Murtaza Wahab followed by voting for Hafiz Naeem.



KARACHI: PPP Sindh President Nisar Khuhro presents sweets to Mayor-elect Murtaza Wahab on his victory at Arts Council.

It is pertinent to mention here that the total number of city council members is 367. The case of one UC chairman is pending in the court while 333 members were present in the house while 33 members were absent.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

said, today Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has achieved a historic victory and this triumph is the success of the whole of Pakistan.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that this success was the result of the long untiring struggle and sacrifices of the "Jiyalas" of Karachi. The politics of hatred and division in the economic hub of the country reached its logical end, he added.

He said, "Local government problems of every street, locality, and area of Karachi will be solved without any discrimination."

He said, "Now all elected representatives of the PPP have heavy responsibilities on their shoulders."



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev leading their respective sides at a delegation level meeting.

Pak, Azerbaijan agree to enhance trade, energy cooperation, start Baku-Islamabad flights

PM reiterates that Pakistan committed to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and appreciated the bravery of country's forces for fighting for Azerbaijan's rights

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and aviation sectors to reflect the decades-old strong relationship between the two nations.

The bilateral relations were discussed at length in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev here at Zugulba Palace. The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation is on a two-day official visit to Baku at the invitation of President Aliyev.

At a joint press stakeout following their bilateral meeting, the two leaders told the media of agreeing to introduce flights of Azerbaijan airline between the two capitals, enhance number of military exercises, besides exploring the

avenues of cooperation in the areas of energy, investment and education.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who earlier visited the mausoleum of Azerbaijan first president Haider Aliyev and the martyrs monument, spoke high of the President Ilham Aliyev's leadership to build the city's infrastructure and impressive horticulture. Citing the "pleasant surprises" of neatness and beauty of Baku, the prime minister requested the Azerbaijan president to lend their experts in horticulture and waste management to Islamabad.

He told the media persons that during the "wonderful" discussion, there was a "total unanimity" of views on various bilateral and multilateral issues as the relationship was built on mutual trust and sincerity of purpose. The prime

minister said that the Pakistani flags all across Baku manifested the love between the two people.

"Though our ties are so strong since ages, these do not reflect its intensity through trade and investment, exchange of visits and other important areas of cooperation," the prime minister remarked.

Emphasising cooperation in energy sector, he said being an energy-deficient country, Pakistan depended upon costly imported fuels spending \$27 billion last year which was becoming unaffordable owing to the challenges of imported inflation and oil price hike due to the Ukraine crisis.

The prime minister said that his government was committed to replace the costly imported fuels with solar energy to support industries, exports, commerce and offices.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori visiting coastal area of Younas Abad.

Shazia Marri for int'l collaborations to protect vulnerable segments from climate change impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri Thursday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to address the climate crisis and advocated for international collaboration to protect vulnerable nations from the impacts of climate change.

She was speaking at the closing session of the "Global Forum on Adaptive Social Protection: Protecting lives and livelihoods in times of crisis" held in Berlin.

She acknowledged the vulnerability of Pakistan to climate shocks, citing recent devastating floods and the

ongoing threat of a cyclone hitting the country and neighboring India.

In her talk to the audience, Shazia Marri shed light on the climate vulnerability faced by Pakistan.

The country has experienced devastating floods in the past, including in 2010, 2011, 2022, and most recently this year. During the recent floods, approximately 33 million people were displaced, with 6000 pregnant women directly affected.

However, the incumbent government, through the Benazir Income Support Programme, successfully distributed cash assistance to those affected by the recent floods, she said.

Review and appeal are two different powers: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Hayat Bandial has remarked there is basic difference between review and appeal.

He further remarked how should the scope of review be increased. The petitioners are of view that the scope of review be increased. But it should not be changed into appeal. The petitioners problem relates to the process of extending the scope. If government has to make review like hearing again then do it. You will have to adopt right legal way in this connection. Review and appeal are two different powers.

97% of vulnerable population shifted to safe places: Khi corps commander

KARACHI (INP): In the wake of the threat of Cyclone Biparjoy hitting Thatta's Keti Bandar and Indian Gujarat's Kutch area this afternoon, the Pakistan Army has released new statistics of the rescue process in the affected areas. According to the new data, 97% of the population has been shifted to safe places. The Karachi corps commander said the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Navy, the NDMA and all civil administrations deserve applause for successfully moving the vulnerable population to safety within the stipulated time.

Four TTP terrorists held in joint Rangers-police operation in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): In a joint intelligence-based operation, Pakistan Rangers and Sindh police arrested four members of Hizbul Ahrar, a group of banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), from Manghopir in Karachi. The accused identified as Qari Alamgir, Muhammad Zahid alias Qari, Muhammad Kashif alias Kashi and Muhammad Yousof had been involved in extorting money from people, police said. Hand grenades and illegal weapons were also recovered from the possession of the accused, police added.

Denmark to cooperate Pak in developing green energy infrastructure: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Dan Jorgensen on Thursday agreed to enhance cooperation in building climate-resilient green energy infrastructure including wind energy to overcome the challenge of climate change and to resolve energy problems in Pakistan.

Talking to the media here after exchanging Joint Action Plan under Green Framework Engagement Agreement, the foreign minister said the agreement would set the stage for joint initiatives and projects in renewable energy and green transition.

The minister hoped that policies would be formulated on behalf of the federal government to encourage international companies to invest in Pakistan's wind and other green energy sectors.

He said Pakistan was facing climate change challenges and last summer, historic floods hit the country resulting in the loss of precious lives and property.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy rescue team evacuates local populace from Cyclone BIPARJOY affected areas.

Cyclone 'Biparjoy' potent threat to the vulnerable communities: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said the very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS) 'Biparjoy' of category-3 had observed a decline in its intensity but its density prevailed due to emerging weather conditions posing a potent threat to the vulnerable communities.

The federal minister flanked by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik provided the latest update on the VSCS BIPARJOY to the media here.

Senator Rehman said the cyclone's direction had changed from Karachi but its associated risks were prevailing in the impacted areas.

"The water level rise, rainfall, and storm alerts had already been issued whereas the four districts that would probably face the impacts are Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, and Keti Bandar."

"There is a shift in the direction of 'Biparjoy' and landfall will take place at night. However, there are 17 different weather stations monitoring the situation and providing the most updated information," she noted.

Trial of civilians in military courts: Chairman PTI files appeal plea against registrar office objections

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI has filed in Supreme Court (SC) appeal plea against the objections raised by registrar office on the petition filed by him with reference to trial of civilians in military courts and his demand for judicial inquiry into May 9 incidents.

Chairman PTI has taken stance in his appeal plea registrar office raised objection that question of public importance was not highlighted.

Ji, PPP clash after Wahab wins Karachi mayor election

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) candidate Murtaza Wahab appeared victorious in the election for Karachi mayor on Thursday after securing 173 votes and his rival, Jamaat-e-Islami's Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, got 160 votes as per unofficial results. The voting for Karachi's new mayor started earlier in the day with elected members of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) City Council taking part in the process. In the tight contest, Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Murtaza Wahab and Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz Naeemur Rehman were facing each other with Salman Abdullah Murad of PPP.

Khurram Dastagir says: No major breakdown reported in prevailing cyclonic situation

HYDERABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastagir on Wednesday said that no major electricity breakdown had been reported due to the cyclonic situation. However, the Federal Ministry of Energy was working on the rehabilitation of the electricity system likely to affect in Cyclone 'Biparjoy'.

Addressing the press conference in HESCO Headquarters here on Wednesday, the Federal Minister said on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he was visiting different areas of the coastal belt to evaluate the cyclonic situation.

The ministers said eight poles collapsed in the Jhampir area due to heavy winds and two electricity towers also collapsed in the Laadiyon area of district Sujawal, however, restoration work had been started to restore the power supply.

He said that the Cyclonic situation had put adverse impacts on Shipping activities in Port Qasim particularly on the arrival of RLNG which triggered a shortage of gas however under the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) this problem was also resolved by arranging gas supply internally.

HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Engr. Khurram Dastagir Khan addressing to media persons at HESCO office.

Ji to observe 'black day' as Murtaza Wahab elected Karachi mayor

KARACHI (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul-Haq announced to mark Friday as "Black Day" after Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Murtaza Wahab was elected as Karachi's mayor, defeating JI's Hafiz Naeemur Rehman.

"Black Day will be observed across the country tomorrow against the controversial Karachi Mayoral Election. I appeal to every democrat to participate in tomorrow's gathering," the JI chief said in a tweet. Addressing a press conference outside Arts Council, Jamaat Islami Karachi chief Naeem has

demanding of the Chief Election Commissioner to declare the mayoral election in Karachi as void and issue a new schedule.

"We had the 192 while PPP had 173 voters," he claimed. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman also announced to approach courts against Karachi mayor poll.

In a letter to ECP, the JI leader said: "The Sindh controversially abducted 29 PTI council members to restrain them from casting vote in the election."

"The election commission should cancel this 'fraud exercise' and issue a new schedule for polls," JI letter read.



KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon holds a press conference outside Sindh Assembly building.

Pak and Russia sign MoU on Exchange of statistical data between Customs

SAINT PETERSBURG (APP): Pakistan and the Russian Federation on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between Pakistan Customs and Russia's Federal Customs Service on Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade. Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation Shafiqat Ali Khan signed the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Customs while Secretary Commerce Muhammad Saleh Farooqi witnessed the signing ceremony held here on the sidelines of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce said.

Minister of Trade and



SAINT PETERSBURG: A group photograph of Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, H.E. Shafiqat Ali Khan after signing the MoU between Pakistan Customs and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on the Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade while Secretary of Commerce, Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Farooqi also present on the occasion.

No leniency should be shown to any culprit involved in events of May 9: CM Naqvi

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office on Thursday to review progress made so far on the legal proceedings against the culprits involved in the May 9 events.

The meeting decided that trial of the May-9 accused would take place in jail. Daily hearing of cases registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act would take place, and the relevant departments would be duly informed about the trial proceedings in jail. Consensus was reached in the meeting to expedite legal actions against the culprits involved in the events of May 9.

The CM instructed the police and prosecution department to present strong evidence against the accused and emphasised that no leniency should be shown to any culprit involved in the events of May 9, while innocent individuals should not be subjected to punishment. The CM also ordered to intensify efforts to apprehend the absconding culprits.

The participants were briefed that during investigation, 200 individuals were acquitted after being proven innocent, and strong testimonies were being presented against the culprits. The chief secretary, IG police, CCPO

Lahore, secretary prosecution, commissioner Lahore, and others attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the meeting held under the chairmanship of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office decided in principle on Thursday to hand over the management of historic and cultural landmarks of the province to the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA).

Recognising the mesmerizing allure and profound historical significance of Punjab's cultural heritage, the chief minister emphasised the imperative of restoring these architectural gems to their original magnificence.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting to review progress of taking action against the elements involved in 9th May vandalism.

Gives Rs 4m cheque to HCBA Kundi demands cancellation of recent population census

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday demanded cancellation of recent population census conducted in Dera Ismail Khan Division.

According to a press release issued here, the minister wrote two letters to the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Planning and Development in support of the demand made by the political parties, social organizations and All Parties Conference (APC) held on June 7, against the results of the census in the division.

He demanded that the results of the census should be canceled immediately and action should be taken against the responsible persons involved, adding, the public complaints must be addressed.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here on Thursday gave a cheque worth Rs 4 million to the leaders of High Court Bar Association (HCBA).

According to a press release issued here, the minister, on behalf of the federal government, handed over the cheque to the recently elected

HCBA President Malik Hidayat Ullah Malana and General Secretary Waqar Alam in an event organized by the People's Lawyers Forum here at the High Court Bar.

The minister said the supremacy of law and impartial delivery of justice played a basic role in the development of nations. He said that an independent justice system was necessary for a developed, prosperous and stable Pakistan.

The mutual cooperation of the bar and the bench was indispensable for the improving the justice system, he added.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pachaji and other visit Peds Cardiology Ward up gradation in Peshawar Institute of Cardiology.

Turkey envoy inaugurates Peds Cardiology Ward at PIC

PESHAWAR (APP): The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday inaugurated Peds Cardiology Ward at the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology here.

Speaking on the occasion he said that modern machinery has been provided to the hospital and hoped that the patients suffering from heart disease would now be able to get better health facilities.

Man killed over resistance in dacoity bid

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Unidentified armed outlaws looted cattle and killed a man for putting resistance at Mouza Pakka Naich in the jurisdiction of Saddar Alipur police station on Wednesday night. According to a police spokesman, unidentified armed robbers entered the farmhouse of Sharafat, a resident of Pakka Naich.

LHC disposes of Aleema petition seeking details of cases registered against her

LAHORE (Online): In the light of IG Punjab report, Lahore High Court (LHC) has wrapped up Aleema Khan petition seeking details of cases registered against her. Justice Amjad Rafiq took up Aleema Khan petition for hearing Thursday whereby the petitioner had requested for providing to her details of all cases against her.

During the hearing of the case police authorities presented report in the court on behalf of IG

police. It was told in the report no case has been registered by Punjab police against Aleema Khan. One case is registered against Aleema Khan in Multan with reference to property. The court was informed through the report Aleema Khan arrest is not wanted by Punjab Police at present.

The court disposed of the petition in the light of report presented by police on behalf of IG Punjab.

ANF seizes 184 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug traffickers conducted seven raids across the country and managed to recover over 184 kg of drugs besides netting five accused including two Afghan nationals, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that in an operation, 22.8 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad.

The recovered hashish was concealed in the CNG cylinder of a vehicle. During the operation, an accused resident of Peshawar was arrested. In another operation, two kg heroin and two kg Ice drug concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle were recovered.

The vehicle was intercepted near Sangjani Toll Plaza on G.T Road. Two Afghan nationals were also arrested on the spot.

11 dead, 1,229 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 persons were killed and 1,229 others injured in 1,186 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 690 seriously injured people were shifted to different hospitals, while 539 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The analysis showed that 597 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 164 pedestrians and 479 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

International News

NATO sees no change in Russia's nuclear posture despite Belarus leader's claims

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: NATO sees no sign that Russia has changed its nuclear posture, the head of the military alliance said Thursday, after President Alexander Lukashenko claimed that Belarus has already received some tactical nuclear weapons from Moscow.

In an interview on state television on Tuesday, Lukashenko brashly warned that he wouldn't hesitate to order their use if Belarus faced an act of aggression. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the weapons

will be deployed to Belarus next month and will remain under Moscow's exclusive control.

"We are, of course, closely monitoring what Russia is doing. So far, we haven't seen any changes in the nuclear posture that requires any changes in our posture," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing a meeting of NATO defense ministers at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

NATO's secretive nuclear defense planning group is set to meet on Friday. The meeting has long

been planned and is not a reaction to recent developments, but the alliance is concerned about Putin's threats and his decisions to pull Russia out of important arms limitation treaties.

"Russia's nuclear rhetoric and messaging is reckless and dangerous," Stoltenberg said. "Russia must know that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." He noted that "Russia has invested heavily in new modern nuclear capabilities and also deployed more nuclear capabilities."



AZERBAIJAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan inspecting guard of honor at Zugulba Palace.

Greece hunts for survivors of migrant shipwreck, at least 78 dead

Monitoring Desk
KALAMATA: Rescuers scoured seas off Greece on Thursday in a massive search operation, as hopes dwindled of finding survivors of a shipwreck that killed at least 78 migrants in one of Europe's deadliest such disasters in recent years. Reports suggested hundreds of people had packed the fishing boat that capsized and sank early on Wednesday in deep waters about 50 miles (80 km) from the southern coastal town of Pylos, while being shadowed by the Greek coast guard.

As dawn broke on Thursday, a coast guard vessels sailed into the nearby port city of Kalamata, transferring victims. After an official count, authorities revised the death toll to 78 from 79. They said 104 people were rescued.

They said it was unclear how many had been aboard, but were investigating one account from a European rescue-support charity that there could have been 750 people on the 20- to 30 metre-long (65- to 100-foot) boat.

The UN's International Organization for Migration said initial reports suggested up to 400 people were aboard.

News portals Proto Thema and Skai TV reported that, according to witnesses, mainly women and children were in the vessel's hold.

Government officials said migrants on the boat, which had set off from the

Libyan port of Tobruk, had repeatedly refused offers of help from Greek authorities.

"It was a fishing boat packed with people who refused our assistance because they wanted to go to Italy," coast guard spokesman Nikos Alexiou told broadcaster Skai TV.

"We stayed beside it in case it needed our assistance which they had refused."

The search operation was due to continue until at least Friday morning, according to government sources. Chances of retrieving the sunken vessel were remote, they said, because the area of international waters where the incident occurred is one of the deepest in the Mediterranean.

North Korea fires two missiles off east coast

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea fired its first missile after two months off its east coast just less than an hour, AFP reported on Thursday citing the South Korean military.

The launching of two short-range ballistic missiles came after Pyongyang had warned of an "inevitable" response to military drills jointly staged by South Korea and the United States.

The two nations, in their response to the increasing threats from the nuclear-armed North, are jointly carrying out large-scale live-fire "annihilation" exercises.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the "two short-range ballistic missiles from the Sunan area into the East Sea between 19:25 and 19:37 (1025 to 1037 GMT)."

"We have stepped up monitoring in case of further provocations and are maintaining readiness in close coordination with the United States," it said, terming the launches as a "grave provocation" violating UN sanctions. The missile launches were also confirmed by Tokyo, saying that they had landed in waters within Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Arab countries account for quarter of Israeli arms exports

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli defence exports hit an all-time high of \$12.5 billion last year, with Arab countries that recently established ties accounting for nearly a quarter of purchase contracts, officials said on Wednesday.

The defence ministry, which oversees and approves the exports of Israel's defence industries, said one quarter of deals were for drone systems, with "missiles, rockets and

air defence systems" making up another 19 per cent. Ministry figures show total exports have doubled over the past nine years.

A breakdown of the regions to which the goods are exported showed a leap among Abraham Accords countries from \$853 million (nine per cent) in 2021 to \$2.96 billion (24pc) in 2022. The US-brokered Abraham Accords from 2020 saw Israel normalise ties with the United Arab Emirates.

Iran tested suicide drone in Gulf, U.S. official says

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran tested a suicide drone against a practice vessel in the Gulf and fired one other missile or drone without warning ships in the area, a U.S. official in the region said.

The one-way drone was launched on Wednesday from the Jask area of Iran 8-9 miles out to sea - within Iran's territorial waters - against a practice barge, the official said, citing U.S. intelligence data. "Essentially practicing hitting merchant vessels."

US pushing India to seal drone deal

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington, the Biden administration is pushing New Delhi to cut through its own red tape and advance a deal for dozens of US-made armed drones, two people familiar with the matter said.

India has long expressed interest in buying large armed drones from the United States. But bureaucratic stumbling blocks have hampered a hoped-for deal for SeaGuardian drones that could be worth \$2 bil-

lion to \$3bn for years. US negotiators are counting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the log jam. Since the date for Modi's visit was fixed, the US State Department, Pentagon and White House have asked India to be able to "show" progress on the deal for as many as 30 armable MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones made by General Atomics, two sources said. Modi and Biden are also expected to discuss co-production of munitions and ground vehicles.

Two killed in shooting at Japan army base

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: A new military recruit shot and killed two fellow soldiers and wounded a third at a training range in central Japan on Wednesday, the military said, with the 18-year-old suspect detained at the scene.

"During a live-bullet exercise as part of new personnel training, one Self-Defence Forces candidate fired at three personnel," the Ground Self-Defence Force (GSDF) said in a statement, confirming two deaths.

US fighter jets deployed in Middle East to counter Russian aggression

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) has announced the deployment of F-22 Raptors to the Middle East due to a rise in unsafe and unprofessional behaviour by Russian aircraft in the region. The decision aims to demonstrate the US military's ability to swiftly reposition forces and deliver overwhelming power when necessary.

"Russian Forces' unsafe and unprofessional behaviour is not what we expect from a professional air force. Their regular violation of agreed upon airspace deconfliction measures increases the risk of escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla said in a news release. "Alongside our partners and allies, we are committed to improving the security and stability in the region." The F-22 Raptors, hailing from Langley Air Force Base's 94th Fighter Squadron in Virginia, have been integrated with other Coalition forces on the ground and in the air. The move comes in response to Russia's repeated violations of agreed-upon airspace deconfliction measures, which pose an increased risk of escalation or miscalculation, according to CENTCOM Commander Gen. Erik Kurilla. In recent weeks,



Members of the Japanese Self-Defence Force (SDF) are seen around the shooting range where a teenage member of the SDF was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a shooting incident, in Gifu, Japan.

Only solution is agriculture: Khurshid

ISLAMABAD (Online): During debate on budget of fiscal year 2023-24, member national assembly demanded special allocation to deal with climate change as Pakistan number three most vulnerable country to climate disasters. Federal minister for water resources Khurshid Shah said that only solution to our problems is agriculture. He said what happened on May 09, has never happened in the history, enemy has not made such damage. Federal minister of water resources Khurshid Shah said required fund be provided to K-4 project so the project can be completed as soon as possible. Federal minister for professional education Rana Tanvir Hussain said when we took over the government, economy was so worse that send a hair shudered us. He said there is no example in the world like declaring Nawaz Sharif disqualified. The 2 number admi (Fraudulent) like Shehzad Akbar took 'volume ten', he added. Rana Tanvir said we have worked for development and prosperity of Pakistan but the man was brought to power as Jewish agent. Dr Asrar said this that time when PTV was attacked, parliament gate was broken. Dresses were hanged on Parliament walls. Electricity bills were tar-

nished and said it civil disobedience and result of all that we heard. He said 2018 election were rigged for the person who has distorted country's situation. PTI made contempt of parliament. First they resigned then they all including PTI chairman took salaries. Minister said we took over economy and made pure fight (Jehad) and people said we took government. Have we taken government first time? Our ministers made six, six turns. Imran Khan overthrew two governments and he gives credit of everything to his wife Bushra Bibi, he maintained. Further the minister said Imran Khan has killed so many people of TLP (Tehrik Labaik Pakistan). What the situation of Pakistan is today is because of Imran Khan. He added that Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan an atomic state despite Bill Clinton. Our government started work from where they left. We should pay taxes for the betterment of country. If we have opportunity again we will improve Pakistan's revenue. Pakistan Peoples Party member assembly Khurshid Junjo said cyclone is to landfall in Karachi pray for Karachi to not may any human loss happens.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar meets EU Mps in Strasbourg.

Asset rich Pakistan can survive without IMF support: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq dar on Thursday reiterated that Pakistan was an asset rich country and it could survive without any support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Briefing the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, the minister stated that the annual budget had been prepared without the Fund's consultation, whose reservations could be addressed, according to a press release. He told the committee, which met with Senator Saleem Mandviwala in the chair, that the information technology (IT), agriculture and SME sectors were 'drivers of growth' and exemptions given to those sectors were inevitable for the economic growth of the country, which currently stood at 0.29 percent. He said the annual budget allowed freelancers to retain 35 percent of their revenue. Besides, freelancers earning \$ 2,000 were exempted from sales tax and they could also procure duty free hardware. He maintained that in the current fiscal year, a return of \$ 2.5 billion was expected from the IT industry, which would reach \$4.5 billion by next year. The exemptions were given to the industry keeping in view its potential growth, he added. The minister said import restrictions were imposed to curb the massive

inflows. The external debt of the country had increased from \$70 billion to \$100 billion in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime, which was clearly an outcome of its financial indiscipline, he added. He said expenditure bill should be made by keeping in view the external debt and import restrictions would be lifted by June 30. Ishaq Dar said as far as prevention of illegal border trade was concerned, coordination among intelligence agencies and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was of vital importance and deliberations with authorities concerned had also been conducted for in that regard. Senator Taj Haider proposed that the tariff on tennis and badminton racket and other sports equipment should be exempted. Ishaq dar said fixation of tariff was a prerogative of the Commerce Ministry and their recommendation would be forwarded to it. Senator Zeeshan Khanzada highlighted the issues confronted by the industry in opening of letters of credit (LC's) opening and inquired as to what steps had been taken by the Finance Ministry for the repression of illegal border trade. Senator Irfan Siddiqui said the employees of Radio Pakistan had not been paid from the past three months and proposed 5 percent radio fee in the annual vehicle registration fee to curb the financial crunch of the institution.

Hina Khar meets EU's high representative/President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for the Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar met the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) Josep Borrell in Strasbourg. Recalling her meeting with the High Representative on the sidelines of the second EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Stockholm on May 13, the minister expressed satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and the EU based on the Strategic Engagement Plan. The minister highlighted, "Pakistan is engaging with the European institutions for building partnerships under various initiatives of the EU including the Global Gateway Strategy with a focus on green energy, and blue economies," according to a statement received here on Thursday. She also expressed the desire to further enhance EU-Pakistan mutual engagement, especially legal pathways to migration while addressing EU's concerns on readmission. Underlining the importance of trade and economic cooperation, Minister of State emphasized that the EU's GSP Plus framework had been mutually beneficial and instrumental in growth of trade between the two sides. She highlighted the importance of decisive global action on climate adaptation and building climate resilience, and the importance of developed countries taking the lead in mobilizing climate finance, noting the significant role of public and private funds, and technology to facilitate the transition.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi getting his biometric verification for driving license at Islamabad Traffic Police F-8 Office.

Govt working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, job sectors: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that government was working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, infrastructure, and job sectors besides taking steps for tackling environmental changes in Pakistan. The young boys and girls would be provided opportunities for technical skills so that every institution could show progress in a befitting manner, he said while talking to PTV. "We want to achieve fast growth to make Pakistan a prosperous state," he said. All available resources would be utilized for benefiting people of all provinces, he added. Commenting on transparency in the development budget, he said a portal had been developed to ensure transparency in the utilization of funds. He said that general public could click on portal to check transparency in the development projects. The minister said that Imran's party could not pay attention to many sectors during the period of four years. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, had worked on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, adding foreign investment was coming to Pakistan during the period of PML-N's government.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presiding meeting with US ARCENT LTG Frank.

Pakistan Navy continues rescue, relief operation at cyclone affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy continued wide-scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations in far-flung coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan. In the recent developments, Pakistan Navy Emergency Response Teams in coordination with local administration carried out the evacuation of personnel and provided edibles to the aggrieved populace, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The Pakistan Navy Emergency Response Teams have so far evacuated over 17,000 inhabitants from various coastal areas of Keti Bandar, Kharo Chan, Shah Bandar, Baghan, Sujawal, Chuhar Jamali and Jati City. Additionally, 46 fishing boats of local populace of Ormara city have been provided shelter at Ormara Naval Harbour. PN Ships and Emergency Response teams are continuing patrolling at sea and in affected areas to efficiently respond to distress calls of seafarers. Pakistan Navy's ongoing Relief Operation in catastrophe-hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan is a practical manifestation of PN's resolve to provide every possible assistance to fellow countrymen in the hour of need.

Sardar Shah congratulates Murtaza Wahab for being elected as Karachi Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Education Minister Sayed Sardar Ali Shah on Thursday felicitated Barrister Murtaza Wahab on his election as Mayor Karachi. In a Twitter message, Syed Sardar Shah termed the election of Murtaza Wahab as mayor as the success of party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. It is a matter of pride that for the first time in the 90-year history of mayorship in Karachi under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto, PPP candidate became the Mayor of Karachi, Sardar Shah stated. He expressed hope that like Jamshed Mehta, the first mayor of the city in 1933, Murtaza Wahab would make Karachi the most beautiful city among cities.

Police chief issues instructions to police for expected rains

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Thursday issued instructions to the police in view of the advisory issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department regarding the expected rains. All Zonal DIGPs and District SSPs should give regular briefings on rain-related relief activities to their concerned police officers and officials and ensure liaison with concerned agencies. In view of the rains, all necessary measures should be implemented at the police station level.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference regarding alleged rigging the mayoral election polls, held at Arts Council building in Karachi.

Administrator Karachi for securing historical assets "Khaliqdina Hall - Library"

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman has said that Khaliqdina Hall and Library are historical assets; we will secure it for future generations. He said this while visiting the office of Khaliqdina Hall Library and the office of the Students Welfare Organization on MA Jinnah Road on Thursday. He said that the nations that remember their history are on the path of development and prosperity, all places and buildings of historical importance in Karachi will be improved with the cooperation of relevant institutions. President of Khaliqdina Hall Library Association Ali Hassan Sajid, President of Students Welfare Organization Bashir Sadozai, Secretary Tariq Rahmani, Syeda Naqvi Hassan Asmi Rizvi, Ishrat Jahan, Anjum Mehmood, Shehla Moedd, Farah Tabasum, Afroz Khan and Muhammad Asif and other members were also present on this occasion. Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman made a detailed inspection of the historical library, main hall and the office of Students Welfare Organization located in Khaliqdina Hall and gave instructions to the relevant officers. He said unfortunately no attempt has been made to secure the heritage, but now is the time to highlight the importance of these things and to move forward with renewed courage and courage towards improvement. He said that Khaliqdina Hall Library was patronized by prominent personalities in the past like Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, Hakeem Muhammad Saheed and Hajra Masroor were its presidents. Students and common citizens used to come to study and this library was a source of quenching their thirst.

Senators call for Charter of Economy to steer country out of economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators on Thursday stressed the need for enhancing the country's revenue, besides inking the Charter of Economy (CoE) like Charter of Democracy (COD) to steer Pakistan out of the economic crisis. They appreciated the government for announcing various incentives for the agriculture and information technology sectors, overseas Pakistanis and youth. Taking part in the debate in the Senate, Saifullah Abro of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said

there were so many opportunities available in the country which could help generate revenue. The Guddu Thermal and Lakra Thermal power plants could be rehabilitated with limited funds and could earn hefty revenue for the country, he added. However, he alleged that the power sector was intentionally destroyed by representatives of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) setting in the every government. Such 'mafias' had vested interests and they never wanted rehabilitation of state-owned thermal powers, he added. Senator Abro suggested that the government should allocate Rs 2.5 billion for the purchase of CT scan and MRI machines in two government own cancer hospitals in Larkana and Nawabshah from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rs 450 billion allocation. Many poor patients from both Sindh and Balochistan visited the two hospitals for their treatment, he added.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the mausoleum of National Hero and first President of Azerbaijan, Haider Aliyev. Prime Minister laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum.

DC chairs meeting regarding recruitment on deceased quota

HYDERABAD (APP): For recruitment on deceased quota, a meeting of District Recruitment Committee was held, Deputy Commissioner SBA chaired the meeting. On the occasion, the candidates appearing under the deceased quota were interviewed after verification of documents and other issues. After consensus, the District Recruitment Committee cleared 22 candidates' job on deceased quota in departments of education, local government, health, irrigation, LBOD, Peoples Medical College Hospital and other departments. DC congratulated candidates on recruitment on deceased quota and said that they got their right and expected hope that they would discharge their duty honestly. The meeting was attended by Regional Director Colleges Prof Shahida Taj Abro, Deputy Director Local Government Abdul Sattar Rathore, District Health Officer Dr. Daulat Jamali, Medical Superintendent PMC Hospital Dr. Aqeel Qureshi, District Education Officer Secondary Qurban Ali Rahu, District Education Officer Primary Abdul Fatah Dahri and other committee members.

Administrator DMC South greets newly elected Mayor of Karachi Murtaza

KARACHI (APP): Administrator DMC South Hammad N.D.Khan has congratulated the newly elected Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad and said that Murtaza Wahab has served the city as the Administrator Karachi. In a statement on Thursday, Administrator DMC South said that he is confident that under the leadership of Murtaza Wahab, Karachi city will move on a new path of development and the citizens of Karachi will feel a positive change.

Administrator DMC East, Syed Shakeel Ahmed visits Safoora Town Condition of drains should be improved in the time before the rainy season, Syed Shakeel

KARACHI: Administrator DMC East, Syed Shakeel Ahmed visited various areas of Safoora Town in view of the expected rains and reviewed the condition of drains and also inspected the pre-installed dewatering pumps. He inspected Chisht Nagar, Habib University, Nalah, Johar Complex Nalah, Songal Goth Nalah, Sikandar Goth Nalah and installation of de watering pumps at Urdu University and various places. He further said that maximum measures should be taken to clean the drains by utilizing the available time before the expected rainy season while there is a need for the winching of sewerage lines, the water and sewerage board should be contacted to ensure the performing of the said works. He expressed satisfaction over installation of dewatering pumps at Urdu University and other places and said that installation of dewatering pumps at important places would help in quick drainage in case of heavy rains. Senior Executive Engineer Intiaz Bhutto, Director Anti-Encroachment Elahi Baksh Banbhan, Assistant Executive Engineer Rashid Fayyaz and other officers were also present on the occasion.

KATI felicitates newly elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), on Thursday, felicitated Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Salman Murad on their election as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi. President KATI Faraz-ur-Rehman, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chayya, Senior Vice President Nighat Awan, Vice President Muslim Moheemad and other members, in a statement issued here, expressed their support to the newly elected Mayor and expressed confidence that "Wahab, being

a true son of Karachi" would actively contribute to the development and resolution of long-standing issues of the metropolis. Faraz ur Rehman also extended gratitude to the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party for nominating Murtaza Wahab for the position. He urged Wahab to prioritise the improvement of Karachi's infrastructure upon taking office and ensure fair allocation of funds to all LG bodies without discrimination so that city could be better served and its problems addressed promptly.



KETIBANDAR: Peoples Party (PPP) MPA, Ali Hassan Zardari along with others inspecting the relief operation due to tropical extremely severe cyclone storm named Biparjoy, in Keti Bandar.

KMC employees asked to play role in improving performance

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the employees who are appointed and promoted in KMC should play a role in improving the performance of the institution. He said this while speaking at the function held at KMC Sports Complex to give appointment letters under deceased quota and promotion letters to employees of Grade 1 to 10. Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Shujaat Hussain, Senior Director HRM Jameel Farooqui, Senior Director Culture and Sports Sait Abbas, Senior Director Information, Printing and Media Management Ali Hassan Sajid and other officers were also present on this occasion. Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the family members of the employees who served in KMC for a long time and died during service had the right to be employed in KMC. In this regard, keeping in view all the rules and regulations, the appointment letters have been issued and they have been appointed to the available posts in various departments, while 51 employees who have been promoted from one to ten grades have also been given promotion letters today so that these people perform their duties with more diligence.