

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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## PM directs to accelerate execution of identified projects under SIFC

COAS reaffirms army's all-out support to caretaker govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the realisation of identified projects by capitalising enabling environment, already achieved through Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The prime minister was chairing the 4th Apex Committee Meeting of SIFC - the inaugural meeting under the caretaker government - to continue positive impetus under the Council.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff, entire federal cabinet, chief ministers, provincial ministers and high-level government officials.

The meeting was given a wholesome review of SIFC initiatives, encompassing progress in key areas and benchmarks achieved thus far in a short span of time.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the efficient functioning of SIFC through a collaborative "Whole of Government Approach" for achieving

horizontal and vertical synergy.

The Apex Committee appreciated SIFC's outreach strategy to achieve global traction and ongoing engagements with brotherly/friendly countries including productive visits of high-level delegations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

The Apex Committee expressed confidence on SIFC initiatives and displayed its resolve and support in maintaining positive trajectory towards the

revival of country's economy.

The body also endorsed the projects, approved by the previous government, for attracting investments in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, information technology and energy.

The Army Chief reaffirmed Pakistan Army's all-out support to the caretaker government for continuity of policies in a bid to revive country's economy and steer Pakistan towards progress and prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired the 4th apex committee meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting with representatives of banking industry to review progress on initiatives for financial inclusion, gender equality and issues of banking sector at Sindh Governor House.

## President Alvi for strengthening financial inclusion, gender equality

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi Monday asked the banking institutions to take measures to further strengthening financial inclusion and gender equality in the sector.

Besides ensuring easy and accessible financial services to women and differently-abled persons, he emphasized the banking sector to focus on providing more employment opportunities and financing facilities as well as extending job training and financial literacy to them.

The president was chairing a meeting of representatives of banking industry here at the Sindh

Governor House to review progress on initiatives aimed at financial inclusion of women and differently-abled persons, progress on measures taken to ensure employment and financial opportunities for them, and other issues of the banking industry.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of State Bank of Pakistan and chief executive officers of different commercial banks. Terming meaningful participation of women in economic activities vital for progress and prosperity of the country, the president said it was encouraging to see the ratio of female in bank account holders and

banking sector jobs had recorded a significant growth in previous years but still more efforts were required by the sector to promote gender equality and inclusion of all segments of the society for achieving the objectives of inclusive banking.

He said the jobs for the people with disabilities could be tailored in the banking industry and the process of bank account opening could be made easy further.

President Alvi also proposed the bank officials to explore part-time job avenues in their institutions for the household women.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Faisal, High Commissioner-designate to United Kingdom calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House

## Pakistanis residing in Britain bridges between two countries: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledging the vital role played by Pakistanis residing in Britain termed them as bridges between the two countries.

He urged immediate attention to the challenges faced by these expatriates and stressed the need for swift resolution. The Chairman Senate was talking to Pakistan's newly designated High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr. Muhammad Faisal, who called on him here at the Parliament House on Monday. He warmly congratulated Dr. Faisal on his recent appointment, expressing his good wishes for his tenure.

Sadiq Sanjrani expressed that Dr. Faisal's role as the Pakistani High Commissioner would further enhance the already strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the

two nations, the Chairman Senate urged Dr. Faisal to actively promote cooperation in the fields of environment, trade, IT, education and other sectors.

Highlighting the potential for economic growth and stability, Chairman Senate exhorted British businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. He underscored that the confidence of investors would contribute significantly to the country's economic stability.

Additionally, Chairman Senate emphasized that strong business and economic ties would serve to strengthen the bond between the people of both nations. In his concluding remarks, Sanjrani expressed his confidence in Dr. Muhammad Faisal's capabilities and extended his best wishes for his endeavours as the Pakistani High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

## Cipher case: Court approves 2-day further physical remand of Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (Online): The court has approved two days physical remand of former Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case and handed over him to FIA.

Judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain of special court constituted under official secret act held in-camera hearing of cipher case Monday.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi was presented in the court on completion of three days physical remand.

Babar Awan and Shoab Shaheen counsels for Shah Mehmood Qureshi also appeared in the court. Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi appeared on behalf of FIA. The court while accepting FIA plea approved further two days physical remand of Shah Mehmood Qureshi and handed him over to FIA.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review Governance related matters.

## Power ministry finalises proposals on inflated bills

Proposals to be presented to cabinet which will make the final decision today; Senate body directs Power Division to provide list of defaulters, outstanding dues in each DISCO

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI / LAHORE (INP): The Ministry of Power on Monday finalised recommendations on the issue of skyrocketing electricity bills, causing a widespread outcry in the entire nation. The proposals will be presented to the federal cabinet for approval on Tuesday.

A high-level meeting was held at the Ministry of Power to address the matter, during which officials discussed the performance of all power companies and proposed solutions to address the issue of inflated bills, said a statement issued by the ministry.

According to the statement, the ministry has formulated the recommenda-

tions regarding the issue which will be presented during the federal cabinet meeting for final approval tomorrow.

It said that the ultimate decision rests with the federal cabinet, as only the cabinet has the authority to endorse these proposals and make a final decision. APP adds: Senate Standing Committee on Power directed the Power Division to provide list of defaulters and outstanding dues in each DISCO in the next meeting.

The committee met here under the chair of Senator Saifullah Abro also asked about the "Capacity Charges" which are being paid to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee questioned about the electricity theft and electricity subsidy for the current financial year.

The officials stated that approximately Rs.467 billion worth electricity theft and around Rs. 976 billion electric subsidy has been provided in the financial year 2023.

Senator Saifullah Abro lamented the IPPs and attributed them as the primary reason behind the unjustified electricity costs.

He pointed out that IPPs have inflated the invoices of three significant power plants, a fact acknowledged by the Secretary of the Power Division.

He maintained that unless the IPP issue is resolved, the electricity crisis cannot be effectively tackled.

The Senate body also discussed the public petition of Ashraf Ansari regarding non-payment of group life insurance to retired employees of WAPDA.

The officials informed that Group Life Insurance has been provided in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servant Retirement Benefit and Death Compensation Act, 2014", however, there is currently no existing Act that serves as a basis for providing Group Life Insurance to

the WAPDA employees. After detailed deliberations, the committee decided to amend the Act to resolve the issue of WAPDA employees.

Moreover, as to the current status of implementations relating to 765kV Dasu-Mansehra-Islamabad T/L (Lot-1) and consultant M/s GOPA Intec, the officials of Power Division apprised that a Committee to analyse the bidding process of Lot-1 and investigate the alleged irregularities of M/s GOPA Intec has been formed and a comprehensive report will be submitted before the committee within a month period time.

## Relief to masses in electricity bill, caretaker govt's priority: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the complete focus of the government was on providing relief to the masses in electricity bills.

"We are focusing on how to provide relief to the masses instead of delving into discussion that who is responsible for expensive electricity," the minister said while talking to a private TV channel.

He said the caretaker government took the oath on August 17, and the consumers received inflated bills of the month of July.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had taken notice of inflated electricity bills, Solangi said, adding, "We are responsible caretaker government and cannot ignore the issue."

## Journey to progress pivoted on adherence to good governance principles: Sami

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday said the journey to progress and development pivoted on adhering to the principles of good governance in institutions and the system.

Chairing a review meeting on governance-related issues, he stressed that the process of development should continue by adhering to the principles of good governance in institutions and the system.

Officials from the Governance Section of the

ministry resolved that the cabinet would decide in favour of passing on the relief to the masses. He said the prime minister held a meeting with the relevant stakeholders today too. The media should inform the masses about the reasons behind increase in electricity bills, he said while responding to a query.

"Political temperature is already high in the country," he said, stressing that there was no need to resort to debate that who was responsible for the bills.

The minister said the cross-cutting function of the governance section called for its proper and efficient monitoring of all projects. Sami Saeed underscored that the economic and social outcomes obtained from the projects should be closely monitored while focusing on the optimal utilization of every single penny incurred on the projects. He added that projects of national importance should be continued on a priority basis to pass on their due benefits to the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf

## IHC to announce Toshakhana verdict today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) today (Monday) has reserved a verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea seeking suspension of sentence by the trial court's Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Humayun Dilawar in the Toshakhana case.

A two-member bench, comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, conducted the hearing, with Election Commission of Pakistan's lawyer, Amjad Parvez, who wasn't able to appear before the court due to ill health at the last hearing on Friday, presented his arguments in the case.

## Imaan Mazari arrested again after release from Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad accepted bail plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir in sedition case and Imaan Mazari was released. However she was again arrested. The ATC accepted bail plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir against the surety bonds in the sum of Rs 30000 each. Later Imaan

## PM, Lord Aamer Safraz discuss ways to enhance Pakistan-UK relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here held a meeting with Member of House of Lords of British Parliament Lord Aamer Safraz and discussed matters of mutual interest.

They discussed ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, developmental planning and other fields.

The prime minister appreciated the services of

Pakistanis living in Britain, particularly their contribution to the British political system.

He said the Pakistanis residing in Britain were playing an important role in further improving ties of Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK).

Lord Aamer Safraz congratulated the prime minister for assuming the office and assured full cooperation from the British political leadership and the Pakistanis living in Britain.

## Aneeq urges Saudi govt to increase Pakistan's Hajj quota as per new census

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, in a bid to accommodate the growing population of Pakistan, on Monday called upon the Saudi government to expand the Hajj quota for pilgrims. In an exclusive conversation with APP, he highlighted the discrepancy between the current Hajj quota and the country's population figures. "Presently, Pakistan's allocated Hajj quota stands at 179,210 pilgrims, a number that falls short of accurately representing the nation's population."

The recently conducted census revealed that Pakistan's population has surged to 241.49 million, with an annual growth rate

of 2.55 per cent," he added. Minister Aneeq took the opportunity to discuss this matter during a recent visit from his Saudi counterpart, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah. Dr. Al-Rabiah, acknowledging the concern, assured him of an increase in the Hajj quota, subject to the completion of necessary procedural formalities.

Highlighting the success of the 'Road to Makkah' project, which significantly streamlined the pilgrimage process during Hajj 2023, the minister proposed extending the initiative to encompass multiple airports across Pakistan, including Lahore and Karachi. This expansion would undoubtedly facilitate pilgrims embarking on the sacred Hajj journey, he added.



## First Lady for creating awareness on socio economic, health issues

KARACHI (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Monday called for creating awareness on health and socio-economic issues, particularly the high mortality rate due to breast cancer, the neglected issue of mental health, and well-being and the rights of persons with disabilities.

She urged teachers, students, mediapersons, and health professionals to play their proactive role in that regard which would help create an equitable and inclusive society, she added.

The first lady was speaking at an Interactive Dialogue on Breast Cancer, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Mental Health Issues, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) at Hamdard University.

Besides experts from

the fields of Oncology, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and faculty members and students of Hamdard University, Technical Advisor from WHO, Head of WHO-Sindh, Chancellor Hamdard University, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University, Leading Consultant Medical Oncologist, and Head of Department (HoD) of Psychiatry Dow University also attended the event.

Begum Alvi said Pakistan had a high mortality rate in the South Asian region due to breast cancer, and numerous lives could be saved by diagnosing the disease at an early stage.

She stated that breast cancer was curable, provided it was diagnosed early. Besides having a

balanced and healthy lifestyle, women must adopt the habit of a five-minute self-examination every month to detect the disease at early stages and seek medical help if they notice any lump or unusual change in their bodies, she added.

She said she had been raising awareness about breast cancer since 2018 and due to the efforts of her team and support from the media, more women with breast cancer were being diagnosed at early stages.

As regards mental health and well-being, Begum Alvi said the topic of mental health and stress was often neglected in Pakistan due to its social stigma. "The people neglect their mental health and do not seek professional advice," she added.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a high level meeting of Parliamentary Peace Committee on current law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan at CM Secretariat.

## Mayor Karachi for accelerating work to bring streetlights on solar system

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday directed the officials concerned that work should also be accelerated to bring streetlights to the solar system and take whatever approval is required from him.

He said this by chairing a high-level meeting with the officers of the engineering department in his office.

Earlier, as an administrator, he had started work to bring streetlights to the solar system in Karachi, but then this work was stopped, the Mayor of Karachi said.

The engineering department should start the work of solar streetlights from Shahrah-e-Faisal and gradually extend it to other important roads and streets of Karachi, he said.

Murtaza said that

non-functioning of street lights except load shedding hours on the city's major corridors like Shahrah-e-Faisal, Rashid Minhas Road, Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Mai Kolachi Road, M.T.Khan Road and other main roads and highways cannot be tolerated any further. He said that the engineering department must ensure that the street lights installed on all these roads are kept lit within a week and the concerned engineers should visit the areas personally and take immediate steps where required, but provide convenience to the citizens at any cost.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Director General Engineering Azhar Hussain Shah, S.E Electrical & Mechanical Abbas Ali Shah.

## SSP Operations for facilitating downtrodden sections of society

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly appointed SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi visited various police stations Yakka Tut Police Station, Tarnab check post and Motorway Blockade late at night and reviewed the working of police staff at various police stations and the overall security situation.

He instructed the police officials to facilitate the downtrodden sections of the society in the provision of justice, adding that the aim of his late-night visit was to motivate the police personnel to further improve the security arrangements. He instructed the police officials deployed at different check-posts to use safety helmets and jackets in view of the current situation.

On the occasion, the SSP met with the relevant police officers and checked cleanliness and other arrangements at police stations including crime chat, personnel statement.

## Jaranwala incident Registrar LHC raises objection over petition seeking judicial inquiry

LAHORE (Online): Registrar office Lahore High Court (LHC) has raised objection over the petition filed in the court in connection with judicial inquiry into Jaranwala tragedy.

Registrar office while raising objection said the application filed in connection with judicial commission is not attached.

The petition has been filed by Grace Bible Fellowship church Pakistan.

LHC will hear objected petition.

Chief secretary, home secretary, IG Punjab and police officers Faisalabad have been made respondents in the petition.

The petitioner has taken the plea that false and unrealistic incident of desecration of the Holy Quran took place on August 16.

One person made announcement in the mosque which ignited provocation among others. 25 churches and over 200 homes were set ablaze in Jaranwala. The homes of Christians were looted and later were destroyed. The mob desecrated divine books.

JIT has been constituted in regard to this incident but this process can take too much time.

Several affectees still stand deprived of basic facilities despite lapse of two weeks.



KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at New M.A Jinnah road in Karachi.



LAHORE: Chairman Bahawalpur Heritage Organization, Engineer GA Farooq along with Mr. Niaz Hussain Lakhvira called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

## CM GB chairs Apex body meeting, reviews law & order situation

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan on Monday chaired the meeting of Apex Committee and reviewed the current law and order situation in the province.

All Senior officers including Chief Secretary, IG Police, Home Secretary, all other LEAs officers and field formations attended the meeting.

Following decisions were made;

Any person indulging into hate speech and religious intolerance shall be proceeded against as per relevant provision of law.

Any person propagating hate speech and such like material on Social Media shall be taken to task and legal action shall be taken without any impunity.

Security of life and property of all citizens shall be ensured through strict enforcement of law.

Movement of all vehicles plying from and to down country through KKH, JSR and Babusar Top shall be made safe and secure by deployment of Karakoram Task Force and

Police throughout the route. Nobody shall be allowed to block any road and immediate legal action shall be taken against the violators.

Heavy contingents of GB Scouts, Rangers and Police shall be deployed in all major cities of GB to ensure peace and safety of people.

Moreover, CM, GB directed the Parliamentary Committee headed by Minister Home to meet religious leaders of various sects and ask them to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of Code of Conduct agreed by all sects so as to ensure durable peace in the region.

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## Overwhelming victory of independent candidates in KP LG poll

PESHAWAR (APP): The independent candidates in the local government by-election in 21 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) defeated the candidates of major political parties by securing an overwhelming lead in the polls, revealed the results announced by the election commission on Monday.

According to election results, PTI candidates secured 14 seats in the by-polls followed by JUI with six seats, Jamaat Islami with five, ANP with four, PPP two, and TLP one.

The elections were held on a total of 72 local body seats including 65 villages and neighborhoods of 21 districts in the province.

In Peshawar, PTI

candidates secured four seats out of a total of six neighborhood and village councils while JUI and ANP candidates clinched one seat each.

The election commission had set up 256 polling stations in 21 districts of the province including 102 for males, 89 for females, and 65 joint stations.

The Election Commission had declared 156 polling stations most sensitive, 84 sensitive, and 13 normal, however, the elections were concluded peacefully at all the polling stations.

According to the election commission, there were a total of 385,835 registered voters including 208,964 male and 176,871 female voters.

## SACM rules out compromise on corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP Caretaker CM on Irrigation and Housing, Zafarullah Khan Umerzai on Monday ruled out any compromise on corruption in his departments and vowed to take stern legal action against corrupt officials.

He expressed these views during a briefing regarding various development schemes initiated in the irrigation and housing departments. Secretaries of both departments gave him a detailed briefing on protective walls and tubewells also highlighted the importance of the construction of small dams and other projects. Umerzai directed that all those schemes initiated in the public interest should be completed within the stipulated time period.



KARACHI: Students of different school and college holding banners are participating in the "Clean and Green Walk" in Provincial Capital.

## Political parties pledge to elevate girls' education in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The representatives of different political parties and Ex-lawmakers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pledged to sustain and support prioritizing girls' education in party manifestos, to address barriers to girls' education in the province.

According to a press release issued here on Monday, Blue Veins, in collaboration with Pakistan Education Network (PECN), organized national and provincial conferences with political parties to underscore the importance of girls' education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Among the participants were representatives and leadership of notable political parties including PTI, PML (N), Jamaat-E-Islami, PTI (P), JUI (F), Mazdoor Kisan Party, and ANP.

The primary objective of the conference was to emphasize the urgent need for political parties to prioritize and

include commitments towards the enhancement of girls' education in their election manifestos.

Political parties, both on the government and opposition benches, held significant leverage in steering the national discourse.

Through these consultative workshops, Blue Veins and PECN have facilitated an environment where political leaders can understand and acknowledge their critical role in promoting girls' secondary education.

"We believe that the political machinery can be an incredibly effective tool in advancing the cause of girls' education," said Sana Ahmad a representative from Blue Veins.

"Qamar Naseem from PECN also added, "When political leaders commit to an issue, they have the power to bring about lasting systemic changes." During the conference representatives from the participating political parties.

## Seven more dengue cases surface in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as seven more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 157 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that, among the new cases, three cases had arrived from Chaklala Cantonment, two of each from Potohar town urban and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi area while one patient reported from Rawalpindi.

## Governor Punjab for preserving cultural heritage of Uch Sharif

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has called upon the government and non-governmental organizations to play their role in preserving, protecting cultural heritage of historic Uch Sharif besides promoting tourism in the city.

The Governor Punjab was talking to Chairman Bahawalpur Heritage Organization Engr. G. A. Farooq and Niaz Hussain Lakhvira who called on him at the Governor's House here on Monday.

Balighur Rehman hailed services of Bahawalpur Heritage organization in promoting cultural heritage of Uch Sharif.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman further said Uch Sharif is home to one of the ancient cultures in the country, and it must be preserved. He said Uch Sharif is full of prospects of religious tourism for its affinity with Alexander the

Great and a seat of Sufis and Saints between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Earlier, a delegation of All Pakistan Crockery Importers Association called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Governor about various problems faced by them.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said despite difficult conditions, the business community is playing an active role in the country's economic development.

The Governor Punjab said all businesses are very important even if it is a small shop. He said that business not only leads to socio-economic development but also provides employment opportunities to millions of people.

He further said the government is well aware of the problems of the business community.



KARACHI: Begum Samina Arif Alvi is being presented with memento during the interactive dialogue Session on Breast Cancer Awareness, Mental Health and Inclusion of Differently Abled Persons organized by World Health Organization, at Hamdard University.

## Sindh Finance Minister directs to clear dues of ex-govt employees

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance Mohammad Younus Dagha has directed the finance department to take immediate measures to clear the dues and payments of retired and serving government officials who have been suffering due to non-clearance of their dues for the past two years.

Younus Dagha was chairing a meeting with the officers of the Finance Department on Monday at his office to review the working of the District treasuries.

The minister was told that the cases of over 20,000 retired government officials have become overdue in past three years due to low budgeting

against the heads of pension commutation, gratuity and LPR.

The liability has soared to Rs 36 billion and the retired employees are facing a queue of two years in various District Account offices of the province.

The minister was briefed that several cases of massive irregularities were found in the District treasuries in which the officials found involved were penalized. However, the system cannot still be termed as foolproof for any such fraud in the future. Younus Dagha directed the Secretary of Finance to remove the ill-reputed treasury officials from their positions and take disciplinary actions against them.

## Intelligence agency of enemy country involved in Jaranwala tragedy: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Punjab Police Dr Usman Anwar said on Monday that intelligence agency of the enemy country was involved in the Jaranwala tragedy.

Addressing a press conference, he said they had broken the network of the enemy and assured the nation that such incidents would not happen in future. The tragedy was an attempt to foment a clash between Muslim and Christian communities, he said and added that religious scholars and civil society played their role in controlling the situation.

He confirmed that the three main accused of the tragedy had been arrested and those responsible for the conspiracy would be brought to justice at any cost. He said that showing the true spirit of the religion, Muslims presented their mosque to the Christian community for worship.

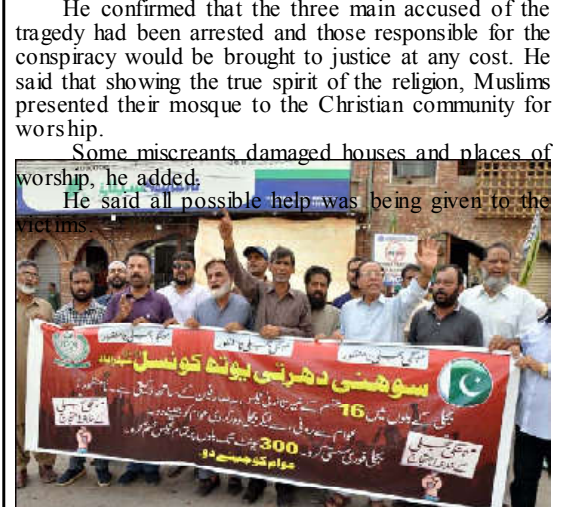
Some miscreants, damaged houses and places of worship, he added.

He said all possible help was being given to the victims.

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HYDERABAD: Members of Sohni Dharti Youth Council are holding protest demonstration against unbridled hikes in the electricity and fuel prices, at HyderChowk in Hyderabad.

## LHC directs govt to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of Zaka

LAHORE (Online): Monday. The court recommended to send the petition to Justice Shahid Karim for further hearing.

LHC rejected the plea for sending the petition to secretary Election Commission (EC).

On court's orders Additional Attorney General (AAG) appeared in the court and told the

matter has gone to cabinet division so far. The petitioner has challenged the summary.

The counsel for Zaka Ashraf said Secretary PCB wants to bring chairman of his management committee before world cup. Secretary PCB wrote letter to principal secretary of the Prime Minister (PM) for removing Zaka Ashraf.

