

# Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 102, Safar 11, 1445 AH Tuesday August 29, Pages 08, Price Rs.15



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

## 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.

## 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 recommendations 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.

## Traders, others let loose their anger across country against exorbitant electricity bills

Monitoring Desk LAHORE: Protests against inflated electricity bills across the country continued for the fourth day on Monday.

Interestingly, an emergency meeting held on Sunday at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad ended without a decision.

In several areas of Lahore, people came out on the streets against high electricity bills.

The angry protesters said they could not feed their families if they pay electricity bills. They threatened that they would stage sit-in inside Wapda House if taxes were not withdrawn.

Meanwhile, government employees and businessmen also registered

their protest against the inflated electricity bills. They demanded that facility of free electricity to officers should be withdrawn.

The members of Wasa Phool Union also protested in the offices against the increase in electricity bills.

On the other hand, Hall Road traders vent their anger against huge increase in electricity bills. Anjumani-Tajran President Babar Mahmood Butt said if the increase in electricity bills was not withdrawn, they would be forced to take to the streets.

Hundreds of citizens surrounded the grid station at Bakra Mandi and burnt electricity bills. They chanted slogans against the government.



QUETTA: Director General PDMA Jahanzeb Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Bright future can be ensured keeping in view needs of artificial intelligence & robotic technology: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that bright future can be ensured keeping in view the requirements of artificial intelligence and robotic technology.

He said that the artificial intelligence is affecting the economy and human behaviours very fast. Therefore, it is necessary for us to meet the modern needs of the ever changing world.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to the Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar, Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq

Sabir, who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

While speaking to the Vice Chancellor, the Governor said that thousands of people of Balochistan are forced to work hard away from their families.

He said that it is our conscious efforts and desire that our youth may not go to other provinces and countries to earn livelihood as night watchman, labourer or driver, but every jawan has the capability of leading life as successful professional, IT expert, researcher or scientist. In this regard, the role of Balochistan Public sector universities is very impor-

tant, he maintained.

The Governor stressed the need to impart higher education to the poor male and female students of the remote districts of the province.

He appreciated the initiative of University of Gwadar through which different courses were launched for the local students and youth.

He said that the University has created history by launching different courses for the local students and other youngsters.

However, he emphasized upon focusing on quality of higher education and training at the same time.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Solangi said, adding, "We are responsible caretaker government and cannot ignore the issue."

He said tomorrow the issue would be taken up by the Federal Cabinet which would explore the ways to pass on relief to the public without violating the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The minister 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.

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,

## Caretaker CM reaches Karachi on brief visit

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reached Karachi on Monday on a brief visit.

During the stay in Karachi, Ali Mardan Khan Domki would meet the former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan and other personalities.

It may be mentioned here the caretaker Chief Minister went to Islamabad from Quetta a couple of days back. From Islamabad, Mr. Domki reached Karachi on Monday.



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

## Jan Achakzai assures every possible efforts for welfare of journalists

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has stated that the journalists of the province are facing financial hardships while the budget of Information department is limited. Still, he would make every possible endeavor for welfare of the media persons.

Jan Achakzai was addressing the seminar held under the auspices of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) here at the Quetta Press Club on Monday.

The seminar marked the observance of Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Sahafat in memory of three media persons who had been gunned down on August 28, 2014.

The office bearers of media persons as well as the lawyers, representatives of civil society participated in the seminar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Infor-

mation said that media persons are his companions, and his heart beats with them.

He stressed that we have to bring reforms in our institutions so as to get desired results and improve their performance. He also emphasized that we would also have to perform our responsibilities honestly.

Jan Achakzai also spoke about the ways and means for bringing improvement in the economy of the province. He said that we have to remove the obstacles to attract investors in the province. He said that there could be development in the province by putting the free trade zone on modern lines.

While on the other hand, some 200,000 people can get jobs at the refinery to be set up in the province, he hoped.

The President BUJ, Irfan Saeed, President QPC, Abdul Khaliq Rind and other senior journalists also addressed the seminar.

## Domki greets Arshad on winning silver medal in World Athletic C'ship

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has congratulated the Olympian Arshad Nadeem on winning silver medal in the World Athletic Championship.

In a felicitation message issued here on Monday, the caretaker Chief Minister noted with pleasure that the star Olympian Arshad Nadeem is the first Pakistani athlete who got big success in Jullin throw at the international level.

Arshad Nadeem is the only athlete who have done the biggest throw of the year, the caretaker Chief Minister maintained.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that his success is a big honour for the country.

He also said that the players happen to be the ambassadors of peace everywhere, and the national flag is hoisted in every nook and corner of the world.

The caretaker Chief Minister hoped that Arshad Nadeem would continue to perform in the same manner and get more achievements at the international level brightening the name of country.

## BHC quashes FIR registered against PTI chief, cancels non-bailable warrants

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has quashed the FIR registered against the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi that was lodged with Police Station Bijli road, Quetta under sections 124-A, 153-A, 505 P.P.C r/w section 20 of the Act, 2016.

The court also declared that non-bailable warrants of the petitioner issued by Judicial Magistrate-I, Quetta are without lawful authority and are of no legal effect, and thus the non-bailable warrants are cancelled.

The division bench

headed by Chief Justice High Court, Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan passed the order on the petition filed on behalf of the PTI chief.

In its judgment, the court remarked that after registration of FIR on March 5, 2023, the learned JM-I issued non-bailable warrants of the petitioner on March 9, 2023 without applying its judicial mind and without determining as to whether it can take cognizance of the offences in absence of any authorization / sanction by the federal or provincial governments u/s 196 Cr.P.C.



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

## Inclusion of some ministers and advisors in caretaker cabinet of Balochistan challenges in BHC

Independent Report QUETTA: The inclusion of some ministers and advisors in the cabinet of Balochistan has been challenged in the Balochistan High Court (BHC) here on Monday.

The division bench of High Court headed by Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan heard the constitutional petition initially.

The petition was filed on the matter by a citizen namely Bayazeed Khan.

After initial hearing, the High Court issued notices to the Advocate General of Balochistan and Attorney General of Pakistan.

The petitioner's stance was that the caretaker cabinet of the province com-

prised some political, convicted and non-local persons.

It was also pointed out that a political government has been formed in the province instead of caretaker government. He also claimed that some ministers and advisors included in the caretaker cabinet don't meet the criteria under various articles and clauses of the constitution and as such the election would be controversial due to them.

The petitioner also submitted certain proofs along with his petition filed in the High Court.

The BHC has fixed the date of August 30 for regular hearing of the petition.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Muhammad Achakzai presiding over a meeting regarding departmental affairs at DGPR. Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, DGPR Kamran Asad and other officers are also present

## NHA released Rs. 540m for construction of Bolan's Pinjra Bridge: Solangi

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Director of Sibi National Highway Authority (NHA) Imdad Hussain Solangi on Monday said that Chairman NHA has released Rs. 540 million for construction of Pinjra Bridge area of Balon district, which will start in September and was

damaged by high-level flood last year.

He expressed these views while talking to media on the occasion of inspecting the work of the causeway at the Bolan Shahrah Pinjra Bridge.

He said that the NHA department would utilize all

available resources for the improvement of the highways saying that the NA 65 Bolan National Highway was badly affected by heavy rains and high level floods last year and the Pinjra Bridge was completely destroyed.



MULTAN: Traders are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills



## 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 affectedes still stand deprived of basic facilities despite lapse of two weeks.

## ANF seizes 75 kg drugs; arrests seven accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting seven operations across the country, managed to recover 75 kg drugs and arrested 7 accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation at Islamabad International Airport, 1.6 kg heroin and 344 grams Ice drug were recovered from the possession of a passenger, resident of Mustang who was leaving for Qatar on flight number PK-287. In two operations near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, 2 kg hashish was recovered from the bag of a woman resident of Mipur travelling.



KARACHI: 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;

Nobody shall be allowed to take law into hands and violate the SOPs for maintenance of law and order and strict action shall be taken against the violators.

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.

## 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 JUIF 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 tube-wells 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

## 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 Chakkla Cantonment, two of each from Potohar town urban and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi area while one patient reported from Rawalpindi.

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

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed the federal government to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of chairman management committee Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Ashraf.

Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal took up the case for hearing

## Governor Punjab for preserving cultural heritage of Uch Sharif

**Independent Report**  
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 Aabled 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 Dagher 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 Dagher 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 Dagher 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.

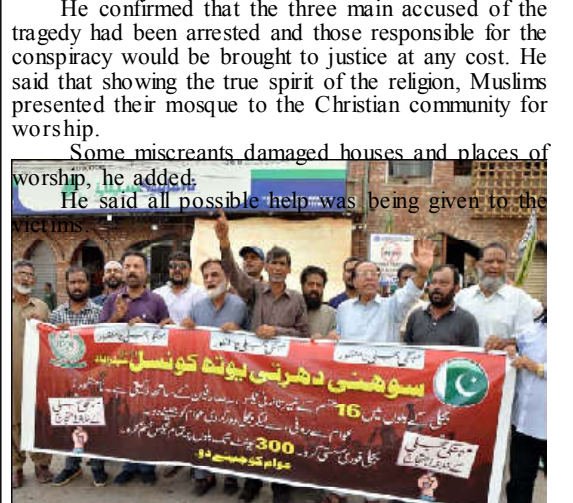
He confirmed that the three main accused of the tragedy had been arrested and those responsible for the conspiracy would be brought to justice at any cost. He said that showing the true spirit of the religion, Muslims presented their mosque to the Christian community for worship.

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

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

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

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



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): Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed the federal government to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of chairman management committee Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Ashraf.

Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal took up the case for hearing

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.

