

KP govt moot on Kurram says action against 'miscreants' unavoidable

Kurram (News Desk) The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Sunday noted that action against "few miscreants" in the affected areas of violence-stricken Kurram District was now "unavoidable". After an attack on a convoy in Lower Kurram's Bagan area killed over 40 people in November last year, ensuing clashes stemming from decades-old land disputes have claimed at least 130 more lives. The volatile security situation led to the closure of a main road for weeks, resulting in a shortage of essential goods and medicines in Upper Kurram's Parachinar. While a ceasefire deal was signed

between warring tribes on January 1, attacks on a government convoy and an aid convoy this month put peace in peril. In response, authorities have planned to launch a limited "counter-terrorism operation" in the Lower Kurram tehsil, with camps for temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) ordered to be set up as over 1,000 families would be displaced. Today's meeting, held by government and security officials to review the security situation in Kurram, decided to take "indiscriminate action against miscreants". "Action against a few miscreants in the affected areas has become unavoi-

able," said a statement issued by KP government spokesperson Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif. The meeting was attended by Saif, KP Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and KP police chief Akhtar Hayat Khan, among other officials. During the meeting, it was also decided that the peace agreement would be implemented "as per the law and Pashtun traditions". While the statement did not use the term "military operation", it said: "Security forces would be present to support the police and the civil administration in action against the miscreants. "The government appre-

hends that a few miscreants have infiltrated peaceful people," it added, noting that those elements had "attempted to sabotage the peace deal". It asserted that the "best alternate arrangements" had been made to relocate those who would be displaced in the affected areas. According to an earlier government order, over 1,000 families would be relocated from various Lower Kurram areas to four sites in Thall. It recalled the attacks on convoys this month, noting that "miscreants were targeting security forces personnel and aid convoys".



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Shehbaz hails Digital FDI achievement

LAHORE: (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that adopting digital infrastructure, embracing digitisation, and promoting new digital activities and exports of digital services can create a framework to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

He termed it a significant milestone towards establishing an investor-friendly environment in the country. In a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz welcomed Pakistan's inclusion in the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Digital Cooperation Organisation's (DCO) joint Digital Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Initiative.

"Pakistan is the first country to adopt the Digital FDI Initiative under the WEF framework," he noted. The initiative's first digital FDI project aims to identify key targets and advance digital growth, the premier said, adding that it includes a framework focusing on digital infrastructure, digitisation, and the export of digital services. These efforts, he stressed, can incentivise direct foreign investment.

"Pakistan is moving towards a comprehensive digital economy, which is a step towards sustainable development and prosperity. This initiative reflects the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fostering economic growth," PM Shehbaz remarked.

The initiative will also contribute to developing an investor-friendly environment in Pakistan, he added, highlighting its importance in achieving long-term economic objectives.

Five terrorists killed while attempting to infiltrate Balochistan's Zhob: ISPR



Balochistan (News Desk) Security forces killed five terrorists who attempted to cross the Afghan border and infiltrate Balochistan's Zhob district, the military's media wing said in a statement on Sunday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces detected a group of terrorists attempting to cross the Afghan border in Zhob's Sambaza area in the wee hours of Sunday. "Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. Resultantly, five Khwarij were sent to hell," said the ISPR in the statement, using the term designating members of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have lately been strained due to frequent border skirmishes and Islamabad repeatedly demanding Kabul take action against the TTP for using Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan.

21 Pakistanis among survivors in Moroccan boat tragedy: FO

Islamabad (News Desk) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday that 21 Pakistani nationals have been identified among the survivors of the Moroccan boat tragedy. The Atlantic Ocean migrant boat tragedy occurred in the waters between Mauritania and Morocco earlier this month. As per media reports, 44 out of a total of 65 Pakistani immigrants on board the ship either drowned or died after alleged torture, while 10 bodies have been recovered. A high-ranking government team was set to be dispatched to Morocco on Saturday to assess the situation and ascer-

tain the loss of Pakistani lives in the boat tragedy. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar directed the foreign and interior ministries to provide efficient and timely assistance to the Pakistani victims. The survivors and the bodies are currently in Dakhla, a small town near the coast of Morocco. "Based on verified information, 21 Pakistani nationals have been identified among the survivors of a maritime incident near Dakhla, Morocco," the foreign office said in a statement today. "Through our diplomatic mission in Rabat, immediate assistance has been mobilised

for the affected nationals," the statement added. The Embassy has arranged essential provisions including food, water, medicine, and clothing, the statement said, adding that "local authorities in Dakhla are providing shelter and medical care in response to our diplomatic outreach." The embassy's consular team is currently present in Dakhla to oversee relief operations and coordinate with local authorities. "[The] government remains in close coordination with relevant authorities in Morocco to ensure comprehensive support for our affected citizens and finalise repatriation procedures." "We

are committed to safeguarding the welfare of overseas Pakistanis and will continue to monitor the situation closely," the statement said. The names of the victims, according to the system, are as follows: Muddassar Hussain, Waseem Khalid, Muhammad Khaliq, Abdul Ghaffar, Gul Shameer, Tanveer Ahmed, Syed Muhammad Abbas Kazmi, Ghulam Mustafa, Syed Badar Mohy ud din, Imran Iqbal, Shoaib Zafar, Ali Hassan, Syed Mehtab Ul Hassan, Uzair Basharat, Mohammad Asif, Mujahid Ali, Amir Ali, Mohammad Umar Farooqie, Bilawal Iqbal, Arsalan, Irfan Ahmad.



Local hunter Hammad Mohammad Baig (holding rifle) and his team pose for a photograph after the trophy hunting of ibex in Terich Valley of Upper Chitral district.

Journalist in Khairpur staged his own kidnapping for ransom: police

Khairpur (News Desk) A journalist from Sindh's Khairpur district "faked his own kidnapping," police said on Sunday, after a video posted on his Facebook account showed him chained and pleading for release, claiming to have been abducted by dacoits for a ransom of Rs10 million. The video posted on Friday, which also showed

the journalist, Fayyaz Solangi, being tortured by a masked armed man, sparked a strong outcry from the journalist community in the upper region of Sindh, leading to demonstrations in several towns on Saturday. Solangi's colleague, Ghulam Hussain Chang, said at Hingorja Press Club that the journalist went missing on Jan 12,

with his motorcycle found parked along a link road around 7:00 pm. Police and fellow journalists searched for him but failed to locate him. After the video confirmed his abduction, Solangi's uncle claimed that he received a call from kidnappers demanding Rs10 million ransom. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah later directed the

Sindh inspector-general of police to recover the journalist and submit a report. In a joint press conference today, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khairpur Tawheed Memon and SSP Kashmir Zubair Nazir Shaikh said that the police had recovered the journalist by conducting an operation in the Kashmir area.

Pakistan sees Gaza ceasefire as first step towards two-state solution

UNITED NATIONS: (News Desk) Pakistan has hoped that the Gaza ceasefire, which begins on Sunday (today) morning, will serve as the first step towards a comprehensive solution, including a two-state solution and the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state.

Pakistan also called on Israel to withdraw from Lebanese and Syrian territories, including Golan Heights, and allow UN peacekeepers to operate without obstruction to ensure compliance with international agreements for advancing sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East. Speaking in the United Nations Security Council on Friday, Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, voiced deep concern over the increasing threats faced by peacekeepers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO).

Justice Ayesha Malik calls for strict penalties for mistreating animals

LAHORE: (News Desk) Justice Ayesha A. Malik of the Supreme Court has emphasised the importance of animal rights, saying when human rights receive significant attention, the rights of animals are often neglected. She called for strict penalties against those mistreating animals.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the International Animal and Environmental Rights Conference, Justice Malik stressed that all living beings have the right to live without fear. She highlighted the urgent need for immediate measures to protect animal rights in Pakistan, says a press release.

She noted that during the Covid-19 pandemic, while efforts were made to safeguard humans, animals were largely overlooked. "Just as humans need clean water and a healthy environment, animals also require similar conditions to thrive." She further emphasized the necessity of a robust legal framework to ensure the protection of animal rights across all regions.

Expressing concern over the conditions of animals at Lahore's Tollinton Market, Justice Malik pointed out lack of clarity regarding laws related to stray dogs. She criticized the practice of killing dogs under the pretext of controlling rabies, asserting that rabies must be addressed through prevention rather than culling.

New IHC judges to take oath tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq will administer oath to the newly-appointed additional judges of the court on Monday.

The law ministry had notified the appointment of Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas and Justice Mohammad Azam Khan on Saturday. The notification issued by the law ministry says, "In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 197 read with Clause (8) of Article 175-A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is pleased to appoint following persons as Additional Judges of the Islamabad High Court for a period of one year with effect from the date they take oath of their office."

Inaam Minhas, a prominent lawyer, played a key role in enhancing the vacancies of IHC judges when he was president of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA). He was also part of the Senate Committee on Legal Reforms at that time. He also actively lobbied for the restoration of the IHC when the then chief justice of Pakistan had declared it illegal along with other orders of former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, on Nov 3, 2007. Azam Khan served as an additional district and sessions judge in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Service until he was transferred to Islamabad Judicial Service in 2012. He held the important administrative positions and served as the special court judge, which was seized with the high treason case against former president retired Gen Pervez Musharraf. He also served on different administrative posts of the Islamabad High Court.

Dar reviews Afghan relocation process with many still in limbo

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday reviewed the ongoing process of resettling Afghan nationals awaiting relocation to third countries, according to a statement from the Foreign Office. "Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting today on issues relating to third-country relocations of Afghan nationals," it said. The meeting also reviewed

in detail the boat tragedy, off the coast of Morocco, leading to several deaths. Mr Dar issued instructions for coordination of government response and asked the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior to ensure provision of efficient and timely assistance to the Pakistani victims of the tragedy. Earlier, sources said, it was decided that a team comprising FIA Additional DG (north) Muneer Maarth, Additional Secretary (Interior) Salman

Chaudhary and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Intelligence Bureau would visit the Moroccan capital of Rabat and Dakhla, where they would assess the situation and compile a detailed report to be submitted to the prime minister. The FO statement, however, did not specify whether any decisions were made on the critical Afghan issue, which has been under discussions between Islamabad and key west-

ern allies, particularly the United States. As of July 2024, at least 44,000 Afghans approved for relocation to western countries after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 were still in Pakistan, awaiting transfer. This group includes 25,000 destined for the United States, 9,000 for Australia, 6,000 for Canada, 3,000 for Germany, and more than 1,000 for the United Kingdom. Fresh figures on the relocation process were not



provided by the FO or other involved ministries. However, the slow pace of relocation since the initiative began in late 2021 suggests minimal progress.

Over the past three years, Pakistan has engaged with the governments that had pledged to resettle these individuals, urging them to expedite the approval and visa processes.