

PM orders countrywide crackdown to stop smuggling

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed authorities concerned to launch a countrywide crackdown against the smuggling of goods, which he said is responsible for price hike and causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer. The decision was taken



He directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), interior ministry, federal and provincial law enforcing institutions, and provincial governments to immediately launch a joint anti-smuggling operation. He has also summoned the report from the interior ministry within 48 hours on the progress of the crackdown along with a comprehensive strategy. The prime minister directed to take short-term, medium-term and long-term measures while keeping in view the recommendations of the task force constituted to check smuggling intelligence Bureau (IB), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) were also directed to present monitoring reports of the effective anti-smuggling operations to Premier Imran on a regular basis. He also asked the officials to step up the development of border markets in Balochistan as well as along the western frontiers.

Kartarpur Corridor practical example of Pakistan's desire for peace: UN chief

ISLAMABAD: The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday visited Gurdwara Darabar Sahib in Punjab's Narowal district and hailed the opening of Kartarpur Corridor for Sikh community saying "it is a practical example of Pakistan's desire for peace and inter-faith harmony". The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday visited Gurdwara Darabar Sahib in Punjab's Narowal district and hailed the opening of Kartarpur Corridor for Sikh community saying "it is a practical example of Pakistan's desire for peace and inter-faith harmony". Youth must play a key role in shaping the world: Antonio Guterres

Earlier in the day, he spoke at a dialogue in Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). Guterres said the youth must play a key role in shaping the world and regulating mechanisms so it doesn't become a problem for the society. He added that he believes "a world where men and women are perfectly equal. "We still live in a male-dominated culture and we still have enormous difficulties

with women to be able to play the role that they must play for our world to be fairer and more compassionate and more able to avoid permanent cycles of conflict we live," UNSG said. He underscored that conflict arises mostly because of the aggressiveness of the male-dominated societies but we must strive for the world where there is gender parity. The UNSG further said that we have to make sure that we have the full use of the enormous potential that various technologies have to offer. UN chief urges world to show similar leadership as Pakistan has shown "Digital economy, digital society, artificial intelligence (AI), genetic engineering all have enormous potential," he said also warning that if not used wisely technologies can become a nightmare. Guterres stressed that technology will be a massive creature for jobs and will simultaneously be the reason for unemployment. "However, it will not be the same as they [companies] would need different capacity and different skills. For which education must be an absolute priority," he said

stressing upon the need for education. The UN chief said we will also have to take decision in the context of climate changes as the increasing

hosted by Pakistan from past four decades with open heart" Antonio Guterres had said while expressing his views in the International

Conference on Afghan refugees in Islamabad. Starting his address with 'Aslam Alekum' the UN chief had said "Pakistan kept its doors open for Afghan refugees despite difficult times and added that Pakistan is world's second biggest Afghan refugees host country. He said while addressing a joint press con-

ference along with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi following his visit to the Foreign Office in Islamabad on Sunday.

Responding to questions, Guterres said that the UN has taken several steps for the de-escalation of the tension between the two nuclear-armed states in the wake of New Delhi's unilateral move to revoke the special status of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in August last year. "We have offered our good offices to Pakistan and India

for negotiations but that is only possible when the both sides agree," he said while urging that the peace can only be that the peace can



pollution is the biggest issue. He also emphasized on dialogue between institutions. Later, he also wrote his comments in the guest book. Earlier in the day, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had said despite inner problems Pakistan extended its support to Afghan refugees. "Afghan refugees are being

Samjhauta Express victims still await justice: FO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday reiterated its demand that India should take "serious and credible" steps to bring the perpetrators of the Samjhauta Express bombings to justice at the earliest and



without further delay. "The victims of the Samjhauta Express terrorist attack continue to await justice," read a statement issued by the Foreign Office on the 13th anniversary of the blast in which 68 passengers on the Delhi-Lahore train, including over 40 Pakistanis, had lost their lives. "The inordinate delay in justice for the victims of this tragedy, despite the availability of evidence, illustrates the unwillingness of the Indian government to hold the perpetrators to account for their barbaric action," the Foreign Office added. It further said last year's acquittal of the self-confessed mastermind of the attack, Swami Aseemanand, and some others, only reconfirmed the culture of impunity that the perpetrators of terrorist attacks enjoy under the RSS/BJP-led, Hindu-driven, political dispensation in India.

"On this day, while expressing solidarity with the families of the victims, Pakistan reminds the Indian government of its responsibility to take serious and credible steps to bring the perpetrators

"The Indian decision to gradually exonerate and finally acquit the perpetrators despite the presence of clear evidence against them is a reflection of India's callous insensitivity to the plight of the 44 families of the deceased Pakistanis, who have been waiting for more than a decade to see these terrorists brought to justice," said an official. "It also demonstrates how India protects terrorists who publicly confessed their odious crimes." According to India's National Investigation Agency, which probed the case, the attack was carried out by a Hindu far-right group. Swami Aseemanand, alias Naba Kumar Das, was former member of the Hindu nationalist group RSS. The NIA in its charge sheet had said the accused had met at different locations across India to plot bombings targeting Muslims. In April 2018, a Mecca had acquitted all 11 men charged by the NIA for the Muzaffargarh blast where six people were killed in the Indian city of Hyderabad. Pakistan on Tuesday reiterated its demand that India should take "serious and credible" steps to bring the perpetrators of the Samjhauta Express bombings to justice at the earliest and without further delay. "The victims of the Samjhauta Express terrorist attack continue to await justice," read a statement issued by the Foreign Office on the 13th anniversary of the blast in which 68 passengers on the Delhi-Lahore train, including over 40 Pakistanis, had lost their lives.

Korean Ambassador calls upon Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood at FO

ISLAMABAD: Republic of Korea ambassador, Kim Young Chae called upon the Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood in Islamabad on Tuesday at the foreign office, ARY News reported.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs meeting the development on its official handle on the micro-blogging website termed it a positive engagement focusing on bilateral matters and regional matters. Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting the Afghan peace & reconciliation process. Mahmood also expressed the desire to deepen Pakistan-Republic Of Korea cooperation in trade, investment &

Stable Afghanistan essential for region's economic progress: FM Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday said that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is vital for economic progress of the entire region, ARY News reported.

Talking to the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, who called on him in Islamabad, FM Qureshi said that peace in the war-torn country imperative for regional connectivity. He maintained that Pakistan opened Torgham corridor to boost bilateral trade between the two countries and added that the corridor will remain open for 24-hours a day.

Both the leaders also discussed UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's recent visit to Pakistan. Read More: Pakistan supports democratic process in Afghanistan: FO Last year on December 23, Pakistan had welcomed the announcement of preliminary results of Afghan presidential elections held on 28th of September. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqi had said that Pakistan supported Afghanistan's democratic

process and acknowledged that completion of Afghan presidential elections was a crucial step for political stability of Afghanistan and South Asian region. "She had maintained, "We note that the final results would be announced after



India was against those that speak for truth and justice. She added that the Indian lies are being unveiled for the world to see while Pakistan's role for maintaining and establishing peace in the region is being hailed and respected across the globe. Read More: UN chief reiterates call for dialogue on Kashmir issue: SAPM to the prime minister also said that Pakistan was ready to adhere to and stand by the United Nations and its charters and goals for the future of the region and the world to ensure long-lasting peace. Awan also lauded Pakistan's role in the battle against climate change. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Media and Broadcasting, Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday said that Modi's recent statement.

China to help Pakistan in combating locust: Yao Jing

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing on Tuesday assured that



his government will help Pakistan in combating locust. ARY News reported. Talking to Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Makhdoom Khurosh Bakhtiar in Islamabad, the

ambassador assured to consider supply of pesticides and spraying equipment to Pakistan as an emergency project. He said that the Chinese government will send a delegation of technical experts during next week to Pakistan to further deliberate on aerial management of

Khurshid Shah produced in assets case hearing in Sukkur

SUKKUR: Former leader of opposition Syed Khurshid Shah was produced before Accountability Court Sukkur in assets beyond means case hearing, ARY News reported on Tuesday.

Provincial minister Awaiz Qadir Shah and Farrukh Shah MPA have been among 18 accused including Khurshid Shah, facing graft charges in a reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Khurshid Shah who has been ailing and admitted at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Sukkur was brought to the court for hearing in an ambulance under stringent security measures. Seventeen accused including Awaiz Qadir Shah and Farrukh Shah were present during the court hearing

Military's chemical, nuclear specialists called in as Karachi toxic gas

KARACHI: Chemical and nuclear specialists from the armed forces arrived in the Keamari locality of the port city on Tuesday as the death toll from the as yet unidentified gas leak climbed to 14.

The specialists will investigate the reported gas leak and determine the source of the deadly agent which has taken a toll on area residents over the last three days. District Health Officer Dr Zafar Mehdi confirmed the latest death toll. A spokesperson from the provincial health department added that over 150 people have been affected during the past three days.

The most affected neighborhoods in the locality are Bhutta Township, Jackson Market, Tara Chand road and GR Railway Colony. The area residents, protesting administrative negligence, also blocked the road near gate 5 of KPT. The protestors are demanding the resignation of the maritime affairs minister and chairman of Karachi yet to establish an inquiry. They are also asking for Rs10 million in compensation for each death and a job for the affected area have evacuated on self-help basis and moved to residences of their relatives. Schools in the area have also been closed until further notice. Hospitals within Karachi's district South have been put on alert by the provincial government to deal with an influx of casualties if need be. "Residents need to be evacuated from Keamari" Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has also ordered an evacuation of the locality. A number of households in





Ambassador of Morocco H.E. Mohammed Karmoune on his recent visit to Karachi visited TDAP and met CEO Arif Ahmed Khan, also seen Ishaq Baig, Hon. Consul General of Morocco & Riaz Ahmed Khan DG TDAP.



First Meeting of Women Development and Entrepreneurship Committee of EFP chaired by Director Saadia Naveed and attended among others by Directors Sharon Dias and Mehnaz Kaludi, President EFP Majid Aziz and Secretary General, EFP Fasihul Karim Siddiqi also attended.



Karachi: Chairman DMC Central Rehan Hashmi addressing Tap Ball tournament 2020 in North Nazimabad area of Provincial capital of Sindh.



Karachi: Officers of Women community center called on Chairman District Council Karachi Salman Abdullahi Murad at his office.

IFJ hints to taking Impunity in Pakistan at international forums

KARACHI: February 19, 2020. The safety and economic condition of journalists deteriorating globally but Pakistan is facing more innovative by initiating new economic models for survival. "Pakistan has some good laws but lack of implementation media in the country. He said CPNE had challenged anti media freedom actions of rulers and would



CPNE EDITORS CLUB meeting with Editors.

problems due to lack of will and international Federation of Journalists (IFJ) can raise these issues at international forums if asked by Pakistani journalists' fraternity.

This was said by Jeremy Dear, Deputy Secretary General of IFJ while addressing Meet the editors on Tuesday at Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) secretariat here at Karachi. He said there should be some regulations for media and as well as social media but those should be transparent and be monitored by autonomous bodies or self-regulated not by the regimes.

Mr Dear told that most of the advertisement was being consumed by three international companies and resultantly print and electronic media had been facing economic crises globally. The media outlets will and international Federation of Journalists (IFJ) can raise these issues at international forums if asked by Pakistani journalists' fraternity.

Pakistan will not be blacklisted, say scholars

WASHINGTON: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is unlikely to blacklist Pakistan during its annual meetings in Paris but may keep it on its watch list, say a US scholar of South Asian studies. The meetings began on Monday but the plenary session, which will decide whether to keep Pakistan on its watch list, also known as the grey list, begins on Feb 19. "It's too early for Pakistan to be removed from the grey list — that will be decided at a meeting later in the year," says Michael Kugelmann, a scholar of South Asian affairs at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington. "What is clear to me is that Pakistan will not be blacklisted." But Uzair Younus, a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council, Washington, says "indications are that Pakistan will probably be off the grey list in the coming months, if not weeks". This, he argues,

Historic visit of Turk President is diplomatic success of PM Khan: KATI

Karachi: President of Korea Association of Trade & Industry (KATI) Sheikh Umer Rehan, Senior Vice President Muhammad Ikram Rajput and Vice President Syed Wajid Hussain express hopes regarding recent historic visit of Turk President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Pakistan. Sheikh Umer Rehan said that entire Pakistani nations salute President of Turkey for showing solidarity with us on Kashmir issue. He said that economic ties between both countries would reach to a new height after this visit. He was said that in many sector Pakistan and Turkey can bring revolution with combine efforts. He also noted Turkey can provide technological assistance to Pakistan in many sectors and this would also help to explore new venues of mutual cooperation and growth. He also termed this visit as diplomatic success of PM Khan.

Toxic gas: Chemical lab says respiratory problems may be result of 'overexposure to soybean dust'

Karachi: The International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) on Tuesday advised the government to consider "exposure to soybean dust (aeroallergens) as a cause of breathing difficulties being faced by residents of Karachi's Keamari area." So far 400 people from different areas of Keamari have died and over 400 have been taken to different hospitals for treatment reportedly after inhaling toxic gas. Residents have complained of experiencing breathing difficulties, "burning sensation in the nose", watery eyes and itching in the throat. ICBS is an advanced research centre at the University of Karachi. The Dr Panjivani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research and Hussain Ebrahim Jamal Research Institute of Chemistry are part of the research centre. A letter sent today to Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shalwani by Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, the director of ICBS, said that the lab had examined blood and urine samples of people "exposed to toxic aerosols" while unloading soybean containers. The letter also pointed out that soybean dust exposure-related epidemics have been reported earlier from other parts of the world as well with associated morbidity and mortality. The ICBS attached a report of similar incidents reported in Barcelona, Spain with its letter. Earlier, while talking to Dawn.com, philanthropist Faisal Edhi had said that "fine dust particles" that are released in Sindh during the offloading of soybeans might be the reason behind breathing problems being experienced by residents. "But if cases continue to emerge tonight, it would mean that the source of the gas is something else, not the soybean shipment," Edhi had added.



A group of people, likely officials or researchers, are gathered around a table, possibly discussing the toxic gas incident.

while unloading soybean containers. The letter also pointed out that soybean dust exposure-related epidemics have been reported earlier from other parts of the world as well with associated morbidity and mortality. The ICBS attached a report of similar incidents reported in Barcelona, Spain with its letter. Earlier, while talking to Dawn.com, philanthropist Faisal Edhi had said that "fine dust particles" that are released in Sindh during the offloading of soybeans might be the reason behind breathing problems being experienced by residents. "But if cases continue to emerge tonight, it would mean that the source of the gas is something else, not the soybean shipment," Edhi had added.

Karachi Literature Festival set to celebrate its 11th edition

Karachi (19 Feb 2020): The much-awaited Karachi Literature Festival (KLF), organized by Oxford University Press, is all set to celebrate its 11th edition this year from 28 February



A group of people, including organizers and authors, are gathered for a press conference for the Karachi Literature Festival.

to 1 March 2020. The overarching theme of this year's festival is 'Across Continents: How the Word Travels' which will explore different aspects of the trans-geographical nature of literature. Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan, shared details of the 11th KLF in a press conference held at the Arts Council of Pakistan. He said that over 200 speakers and authors from Pakistan, UK, USA, France, Germany, and Italy will participate in the event. There will be over 80 sessions featuring talks, panel discussions, Urdu and English mushaira, readings, performing arts, and film screenings. Around 22 books will be launched at the festival this year. Of special significance at the 11th KLF is a session planned for performance poetry and a workshop on "Media Literacy and Misinformation". This year an art exhibition titled 'Ahang: Peaceful Protest against Warfare around the Globe' will showcase video installations and new media art. Speaking on the occasion, Arshad Saeed Husain said, "The 11th KLF will feature a number of sessions that will look at how the written and spoken word connects across borders and results in a cross-pollination of ideas and inspiration for literary works. The festival aims to bring together not only the stakeholders of Pakistan's literary world and academia, but also some of the most creative minds beyond Pakistan's border. He further added, "Through its vibrant programme, the festival celebrates cultural and linguistic diversity."

Arshad Saeed Husain announced William Dalrymple and Zaheda Hina will be the keynote speakers at the KLF inauguration while Ahdaf Soueif and Harris Khalique will deliver the keynote speeches at the closing ceremony. Alexandre Colliex, Claire Chambers, David Waterman, George Fulton, Harriet Sandys, Julien Colmeuau, Massimo Ramaioli, Sadia Abbas, Sean Pue, Victoria Schofield, Jochen Hippier, and Bettina Robotka are

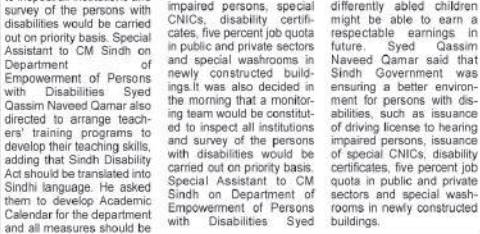
Selected Works of Abdullah the Cossack by H M Naqvi. While sharing his views at the press conference, Salman Tarik Kureshi, poet, columnist, and member of the KLF Advisory Board, said, "The theme for this year's KLF takes us beyond this city or even the country, to reflect upon the shared issues, culture, and intellectual scholarship are international phenomena, which travel across continents faster than the click of a mouse, and are not restricted by national or ethnic borders." The KLF Advisory Board members include Muneeza Shamsie, Mubid Bareilly, Iftikhar Arif, Harris Khalique, Salman Tarik Kureshi, Bina Shah, and Michael Hougaard, some of whom were present on the occasion. Other eminent literary figures also attended the press conference. The 11th Karachi Literature Festival will take place at the Seach Luxury Hotel. Following in its decade old tradition, the festival will be free and open to public. About Oxford University Press, Oxford University Press (OUP) is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide. OUP Pakistan is committed to promoting the reading culture and to improving the intellectual content of life in Pakistan. It has an extensive school and college textbook publishing programme which addresses the need for books that are both of high quality and specific to the environment. It has gained a reputation for publishing well-researched academic and general books which are considered to be authoritative and definitive works on Pakistan Literature Festival. Karachi Literature Festival (KLF) seeks to create an intellectual space in which the diversity and pluralism in Pakistan's society and that expressed by authors from literary and cultural traditions, beyond Pakistan's borders can be freely accessible to people in an open and participatory manner.

Faraz Dero expresses his condolences over Kemari incident

Karachi 19 February. Mr. Faraz Dero Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation, Government of Sindh has expressed his heartfelt condolences upon death of Tan persons and several injured in Kemari due to spread-out of toxic gas a couple of days ago. The Provincial Minister has directed the Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority Sindh, Syed Salman Shah for rapid response in the affected areas by utilizing all available recourse and investigates the source of emission of toxic gas. Accordingly, the Director General PDMA Sindh, Syed Salman Shah along with his team members Mr. Sanaulah Shah and Maqsood Hussain Soomro and Mobile Air Quality Testing Unit visited the affected areas late night. The team has collected the air and soil samples from the affected areas so that the nature, root cause and source of the toxic gas may be assessed. Director General, PDMA Sindh told that PDMA's Emergency Operation Centre has been working round the clock to facilitate the affected. Affected can contact the helpline of PDMA Sindh.

Regular sports week will be organised in special education, rehabilitation centres

Karachi 19 February. Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Syed Qassim Naveed Qamar has said that regular sports week will be organised in Special Education and Rehabilitation Centres to enhance the talents of differently abled children. This he said while presiding over a meeting here in his office today. Secretary DEPD Pervaz Ahmed Seehar, Director, DEPD Ghulam Nabi Nazamani, Deputy Secretary Shahzaib Shaikh and other officers also attended the meeting. It was also decided in the morning that a monitoring team would be constituted to inspect all institutions and survey of the persons with disabilities will be carried out on priority basis. Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Syed Qassim Naveed Qamar also directed to arrange teachers' training programs to develop their teaching skills, adding that Sindh Disability Act should be translated into Sindhi language. He asked them to develop Academic Calendar for the department and all measures should be taken to empower vocational training centres so that differently abled children might be able to earn a respectable earnings in future. Syed Qassim Naveed Qamar said that Sindh Government was ensuring a better environment for persons with disabilities, such as issuance of driving license to hearing impaired persons, special CNICs, disability certificates, five percent job quota in public and private sectors and special washrooms in newly constructed buildings. It was also decided in the morning that a monitoring team would be constituted to inspect all institutions and survey of the persons with disabilities will be carried out on priority basis. Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Syed Qassim Naveed Qamar also directed to arrange teachers' training programs to develop their teaching skills, adding that Sindh Disability Act should be translated into Sindhi language. He asked them to develop Academic Calendar for the department and all measures should be taken to empower vocational training centres so that differently abled children might be able to earn a respectable earnings in future. Syed Qassim Naveed Qamar said that Sindh Government was ensuring a better environment for persons with disabilities, such as issuance of driving license to hearing impaired persons, special CNICs, disability certificates, five percent job quota in public and private sectors and special washrooms in newly constructed buildings.



A group of people, including officials and staff, are gathered for a meeting or press conference.

Notice

I KHARUNNISA WIFE OF SALEEM HER BY DECLARE THAT NO ANY Communication and Repletion of my Father ESSA RATANI S-O YAQOUB RATANI AND MY BROTHER AMIN RATANI S-O ESSA RATANI.

KHARUNNISS WIFE OF SALEEM
PHONE NO -
03323642369

At least 14 dead from toxic gas in Karachi's Keamari as source remains unknown

Karachi: The source of a toxic gas leak in Karachi's Keamari area remained unclear on Tuesday as officials confirmed the death toll had risen to at least 11, two days after residents from adjoining areas rushed to hospitals complaining of breathing difficulties.

Meanwhile, dozens of protesters, belonging to residential areas close to the affected area, gathered in Keamari's Jackson Market, demanding answers from authorities on the deaths that have been caused from the mysterious gas.

Addressing a press conference along with Sindh Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Tuesday afternoon, Karachi Commissioner Fikhar Shalwani said multiple theories were being considered but thus far the source of the gas and its nature was still unknown. He added that an investigation was still ongoing.

Dr Ziauddin Hospital spokesperson Amir Shehzad told Dawn.com that nine deaths took place at the hospital's Keamari Campus over the course of the past two days. According to the police, two other deaths were reported at Kutfanya Hospital.

Dozens of others have been hospitalised in various medical facilities across the city with officials confirming that over 250 individuals were discharged after treatment.

Shehzad said approximately 250 patients had

been brought to Dr Ziauddin Hospital with 100 brought in on Monday alone.

He said most patients were released after being treated, adding that five patients had been admitted to the intensive-care unit (ICU) whose conditions were also improving.

According to the hospital spokesperson, the patients, who were from various areas of the city, had shown symptoms including difficulty breathing, dizziness while some were also throwing up.

Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre Executive Director Dr Seemim Jamali told Dawn.com that the hospital had received 27 patients on Monday night, all from the Keamari area.

Jamali said that one of the patients had acute exacerbation asthma attacks and was in critical condition in the intensive care unit (ICU).

She added that the remaining 26 patients had been discharged after three to four hours.

According to Jamali, the

patients all came from a specific area in Jackson Bazaar near a mosque and behind the railways line.

She said that during the day things had been stable but patients started to come in on Monday night.

"Some gas had been emitted from there," she said, adding, "We express solidarity with the people living in that area."

Police surgeon Dr Qarar Ahmed Abbasi said two female patients were brought to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi and they were discharged after first medical aid.

Speaking to Dawn.com, Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) spokesperson Muftaba Baig said the organisation had conducted an initial survey yesterday and talked to people in the area. He said they were unable to determine the exact source or cause of the toxic gas, adding that there was "some sort of activity" but they couldn't yet be certain what it was.

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Alli Shah had ordered the evacuation of residents from the affected areas, regretting that the "bad smell" was not receding and people were still being affected.

Possible cause In his presser on Tuesday, Karachi Commissioner Shalwani

Authorities were alerted to the incident when people in the Keamari area began rushing to nearby hospitals with severe breathing problems on Sunday night. The concerned authorities were not sure about the exact cause of the incident.

"We are still clueless to find out the possible cause of the incident," Karachi police chief Guliam Nabi Memon had told Dawn on Monday.

He added, however, that senior police officers were working in coordination with doctors to determine the exact nature of the incident.

Earlier on Monday, Shalwani had informed a Sindh cabinet meeting that a ship that was offloading soybean or a similar substance could be the probable cause of the toxic gas. "When offloading from the ship is halted, the smell too diminishes," he reasoned.

At this, CM Shah directed to check the particular container on the ship. The commissioner responded that offloading from the ship had already been stopped.

However, when contacted, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi told Dawn.com on Tuesday that reports that of the gas emanating from a soybean ship was "absolute rubbish" as the crew and the vessel were fine. He said he had personally visited the port and the hospital yesterday.

Zaidi said that it was interesting that the gas would only smell at night. He reiterated that nothing was happening at the port.

Pakistan conducts test of air launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II: ISPR

Rawalpindi: Pakistan successfully conducted a flight test of air launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

According to a press release issued by the ISPR,

are provided all requisite security and escort by Pakistani authorities, the sources said. UNMOGIP is also provided any administrative assistance it requires by Pakistan whenever it requests, they added. UNMOGIP, then known as



the cruise missile, which has a range of 600 kilometres, is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement targets with high precision.

Lieutenant General Nadeem Zaki Manji Strategic Plans Division (SPD) Director General Dr Nabeel Hayat Malik, the National Engineering and Scientific Commission chairman, and senior officers from the SPD, Strategic Forces and Strategic Organisations were also present on the occasion, the statement said.

The SPD director general appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of the scientists and engineers who contributed towards developing the weapons system and [for] making the launch a success. He termed it "a major step towards complementing Pakistan's deterrence capability," the statement read.

According to the statement, the president and the prime minister congratulated the team of scientists and engineers for successfully conducting the missile test.

On Jan 23, Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi. During visits, UN personnel

the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), was formed in 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir. It is mandated to observe developments pertaining to the strict adherence of the 1971 ceasefire agreement and report them to the UN secretary general. In particular, it is tasked with looking into any alleged ceasefire violations along the LoC.

Pakistan has repeatedly called on India to allow UNMOGIP to observe the LoC from its side. Last year, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to United Nations Dr Maleeha Lodhi called for strengthening of UNMOGIP in light of developments in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) that have brought the two neighbours' ties to their lowest ebb.

"The efficacy of UNMOGIP has become more significant due to multiple ceasefire violations by the Indian armed forces along the Line of Control," Lodhi said at a UN Security Council debate on peacekeeping operations in September.

India has restricted the activities of the unarmed UN observers on its side of LoC by claiming the grounds for their mandate have lapsed.

Fire damages PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb's flat at Parliament Lodges

Islamabad: A fire broke out on Monday night on the third floor of parliament Lodges in Islamabad, causing damage to the apartment of PML-N leader and spokeswoman Marriyum Aurangzeb, officials said. PPP MNA Abrar Shah also confirmed the fire had broken out on the third floor, saying there was so much smoke that "one could not breathe properly".

According to the statement, the president and the prime minister congratulated the team of scientists and engineers for successfully conducting the missile test.

The director of Parliament Lodges, in a media briefing on Tuesday, said the fire was first reported at 11:35pm on Monday, adding that it had been extinguished. He said two employees of Aurangzeb were rescued without any injuries, and that the exact cause of the fire was not yet known.

He said according to an employee, the fire erupted from a geyser in the gallery but added that it would be "premature to say how the fire started".

Senate Deputy Chairman Saleem Mandiwalla arrived at Parliament Lodges on Tuesday to review the damage. In a statement, he said he met with Aurangzeb's mother, MNA Tahira Aurangzeb, to inquire about the incident and their safety.

"Thanks to Allah there were no casualties," Mandiwalla said. A fire broke out on Monday night on the third floor of Parliament Lodges in Islamabad, causing damage to the apartment of PML-N leader and spokeswoman Marriyum Aurangzeb, officials said.

PPP MNA Abrar Shah also confirmed the fire had broken out on the third floor, saying there was so much smoke that "one could not breathe properly". He said around 80 per cent of Aurangzeb's flat had been burned.

The director of Parliament Lodges, in a media briefing on Tuesday, said the fire was first reported at 11:35pm on Monday, adding that it had been extinguished. He said two employees of Aurangzeb were rescued without any injuries, and that the exact cause of the fire was not yet known.

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PPP MNA Abrar Shah also confirmed the fire had broken out on the third floor, saying there was so much smoke that "one could not breathe properly". He said around 80 per cent of Aurangzeb's flat had been burned.

The director of Parliament Lodges, in a media briefing on Tuesday, said the fire was first reported at 11:35pm on Monday, adding that it had been extinguished. He said two employees of Aurangzeb were rescued without any injuries, and that the exact cause of the fire was not yet known.

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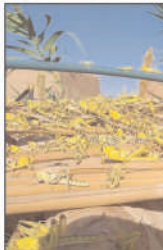
Pakistan may import insecticides from India to fight locust attack

ISLAMABAD: As trade with India is under suspension for more than seven months, Pakistan is considering a one-time exemption for import of insecticides from India to fight ongoing locust attack on its agriculture.

This will be one of the key items on the agenda of the federal cabinet called to meet on Feb 18 to also deliberate on gas pricing and power bills to comply with requirements of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for disbursement of next tranche of \$450 million. The meeting to be presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday will have a comprehensive presentation for engagement of party parliamentarians in the Ehsaas programme by the technical adviser to the PM on social protection and poverty alleviation.

Pakistan had downgraded its trade relations with India on August 10 to the level of Israel — no trade at all — in reaction to India's decision to revoke Article 370 of its constitution that granted occupied Kashmir a special status. The decision was taken by the federal cabinet following a proposal approved by the National Security Committee the same day.

The adviser to the prime minister on finance & revenue would also give a detailed presentation on regulatory duties and taxes on pulses in view of rising



prices of essential food items. The meeting will also take up a proposal of the Human Rights Division for creation of National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCR).

The cabinet will also consider a summary of the inter-provincial coordination (IPC) division for establishment of a permanent secretary of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in the ministry of the IPC as required under the 18th Constitution Amendment. The meeting will also take

up cases of overseas employment promoters' licences, surrender, transfer and change of jurisdiction under section 12(2) & 12(4) of the Emigration



Ordinance, 1979. The cabinet would also consider appointment of a managing director/chief executive officer of the Pakistan Mineral of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) and give additional charge of the vacant post of chief statistician of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Another summary of the revenue division for proportionate adjustment of input tax by excitation and production companies operating as joint ventures would

also come up for discussion at the cabinet meeting. As trade with India is under suspension for more than seven months, Pakistan is considering a one-time



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Two Pakistan embassy officials allowed in Wuhan as city remains in lockdown: FO

Beijing: China on Monday accepted a "special request" by Pakistan as it allowed a two-member special task force from the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing to enter Wuhan and meet students in different universities to get an update on their well-being and safety, a press release from the Foreign Office said.

The task force, which will remain in coordination with Chinese authorities, will be permanently deployed in Wuhan and "will return to Beijing once the lockdown in Wuhan is lifted in its entirety and on-ground situation is completely stabilised", the statement added.

Today the two Foreign Office staffers visited Pakistani students in four universities and also met administrative staff in each university to get first-hand information on the health and safety needs of the students.

"In the coming days, the officers will visit students in three other universities as well as the administrative staff in those universities to ensure the welfare of Pakistani students in



Wuhan," the press release said. It added that all Pakistani students in the universities that the officers have thus

far visited were "safe, healthy, and well-looked after". The FO statement said since the lockdown began in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, the



embassy has maintained "a close liaison with Pakistani students and Chinese government at various tiers to provide assistance to

Pakistani students". "Under the supervision of Ambassador of Pakistan, an 11-member core group was constituted to daily monitor the evolving situation and respond to queries/requests



of Pakistani students." The embassy has also set up 24/7 hotlines for facilitation of students in China, the press release

said. However, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senator Quratul Ain Marri opposed the bill, stressing that it violated the 18th Amendment to empower provinces to legislate on the matter.

The law In 2019, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government tabled the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill. The bill proposed setting up of an authority, Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) tasked to maintain a database of missing and abducted children. A helpline, 1099, will be set up to report and forward all cases to ZARRA. When a child is reported missing, the agency will activate alerts across the federal network and the public at large will be provided information such as the child's physical attributes, habits, clothes,

LHC seeks reply from NAB on Maryam's plea to remove name from no-fly list

Lahore: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday issued a notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) seeking a reply from the anti-graft watchdog on the request of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz regarding including Nawaz Sharif's medical reports in the plea seeking the removal of her name from the no-



fly list. A two-member bench, headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, resumed hearing the case. The federal cabinet in December last year had decided not to remove Maryam's name from the exit control list (ECL) in the AI Azizia Steel Mills reference. Following this, on January 14 the federal cabinet had placed Maryam's name on the ECL for a second time in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case. During the hearing, Maryam's lawyers Anjad Pervez and Azam Nazir Tarrar con-

tended before the court that her father, PML-N supreme and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's fresh medical reports had also been submitted along with the petition. "Maryam has lost her mother. She, along with Nawaz, came back to the country to serve her sentence, even though it would have been very easy for

her to stay abroad. "The court had directed her to submit her passport. Now, for the past two months, she has been seeking permission to go abroad just once," her lawyers said. They added that Nawaz's medical reports were being regularly submitted to the court with due diligence. Nawaz has an angiography procedure scheduled for Feb 24, the court should allow Maryam to travel so that she can be with her father, the lawyers argued.

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