

## Defence Minister, Governor KPK visit SW, briefed on security

RAWALPINDI: Defence Minister Pervez Khattak and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman visited South Waziristan and saw ongoing border fencing work at Angoor Adda. The Defence Minister and Governor were also briefed about security situation, ongoing operations and progress on socio-economic development projects, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Tuesday. Visiting dignitaries later met with local tribal elders. —Online

# The Business

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## PPP, PML-N need not to bring down govt: Khurshid Shah

ISLAMABAD: PPP MNA Khurshid Shah has said PPP or PML-N does not need to pull down the government as the government is collapsing due to its own follies. "We don't need to bring down the government. It is falling itself before the people due to its foolish steps", he said this while talking to media men in parliament house Tuesday. "What majority they are enjoying is not their own majority. —Online



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi visits the Exhibition "Art for Climate Change-2018".

## Basant festival in second week of Feb next year: Chohan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Fayaz-ul-Hassan Chohan has informed that a meeting led by Punjab CM Sardar Usman Buzdar on Tuesday has decided to celebrate the Basant festival in the provincial metropolis during second week of February, 2019.

He said that Basant is such a festival which reflects Punjab culture in true letter and spirit, however, it was banned due to some negative aspects in the past which had caused human loss and damage to the public property.

The Minister was addressing the crowded press conference held in connection with Basant at Alhama Arts Council here on Tuesday which was attended amongst others by Secretary Information and Culture Bilal Ahmed Butt, Executive Director Alhama Arts Council Athar Ali Khan and Additional Secretary Culture Akhter Abbas. Fayaz Chohan said that Basant is a cultural, social and traditional festival which has nothing to do with any religion.

"In order to celebrate this festival in a befitting manner and to review its negative aspects" the committee comprising 8 members has been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister Law and Parliamentary Affairs Raja Basharat. Minister Information and Culture, IG Punjab, Secretary Information as well as other members of civil society and media are its members.

The committee after reviewing all aspects of the festival would submit its recommendations to Punjab Chief Minister within 8 days who would decide in principle to celebrate this festival in the light of committee's recommendations. In the meanwhile, the Minister expressed joy over the recent decision taken by British Airways for resumption of its flight operations in Pakistan which reflected its confidence over the policies as well as leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

## CJ, Erdogan discuss relations

KONYA: Chief Justice Saqib Nisar has called on President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Konya and highlighted the special love and affection between the people of Pakistan and Turkey.

President Erdogan also expressed his warm sentiments for the people of Pakistan and welcomed the Chief Justice to the city of Maulana Rumi.

The Chief Justice later participated in the "Shab-i-Arus" held in Konya to commemorate the 745th death anniversary of the great Sufi saint and philosopher, Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, and witnessed the "Sema" ceremony as part of the commemorative events.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan is currently on an official visit to Turkey at the invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of Turkey.

Earlier, the Chief Justice held a meeting with President of the Turkish Constitutional Court Prof. Dr Zuhtu Arslan in Ankara. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on legal and judicial matters of mutual interest.

CJP briefed his Turkish counterpart on the working of the judicial system of Pakistan and also outlined the initiatives taken by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in furtherance of fundamental rights of the people of Pakistan.

The Chief Justice briefed Prof. Dr. Arslan regarding his initiatives for water management, population control, provision of health facilities, besides ensuring justice and rule of law. Both sides agreed to further strengthen institutional collaborations between the highest courts of the two countries. —Online

## Pakistan mulls visa on arrival

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Tuesday said that Pakistan is considering allowing visa on arrival for 55 countries.

Addressing a press conference, Dawood said that a policy was being formulated and it would be presented to PM Imran in January 2019. "We will also consult the country's security institutions regarding the matter," he said. Dawood added that Pakistan needs tourism and the govt would do whatever is in the interest of the country. In January, Pakistan announced to allow visa on arrival for group tourists for 24 countries, including the US and UK.

# Taliban attach strings to US call for ceasefire

ISLAMABAD: The Afghan Taliban have agreed to consider a US request for a six-month ceasefire if Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) guarantee that Washington will establish an interim government in Afghanistan and appoint a Taliban-favoured leader as its head, according to media reports.

Saudi Arabia, UAE and Pakistan were the only three countries to recognise the Taliban government during its five-year rule from 1996-2001.

Quoting Taliban officials, Reuters reported that on the second day of talks in Abu Dhabi arranged by Pakistan, the US delegation asked Taliban to announce a six months' ceasefire in Afghanistan. However, the insurgent group has sought guarantee from Saudi Arabia, UAE and

Pakistan regarding establishment of an interim government in Kabul of their choice.

The Taliban also said they held talks with UAE, Saudi Arabia and Pakistani representatives on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and its

the US and Taliban in September was also stuck over the issue of maintenance of US military bases in Afghanistan, according to Waheed Muzhda, a former Taliban official in Kabul who remains in regular contact with Taliban leaders. The "US wants the Taliban to

■ **Taliban will consider six-month ceasefire if Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and UAE guarantee; US will establish interim govt in Kabul**

security and reconstruction.

Taliban said at the end of the day on Monday, they met US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador, Zamaq Khalilzad too.

An earlier interaction between

accept at least two military bases, Bagram and Shorabak. The Taliban are not willing to accept it," Muzhda had said, adding that the insurgent leaders are unwilling to accept anything more than a nominal number of troops re-

quired to secure the US diplomatic mission.

Analysts said one of the differences of this meeting to others, is that in addition to Taliban's representatives from the group are also in attendance.

Members of the leadership team of Taliban including Abbas Satekzai, head of Taliban's Qatar office; Salam Hanifi, Deputy Minister of Education; Din Mohammad Hanif, Planning Minister; Khairullah Khaikhaw, Minister of Interior; Mohammad Fazl, Army Chief of the Taliban and Deputy Defense Minister during Taliban regime; and Mawlawi Ahmaddullah, acting chief of Taliban Council in Kabul. Meanwhile, the US did not confirm direct meetings between Khalilzad and the Taliban

# BankIslami extends alliance with Premier Systems (Pvt) Ltd

LAHORE: BankIslami Pakistan Limited, one of the leading Islamic banks of Pakistan, has extended its agreement for the year 2018, with Premier System (Pvt) Ltd. (Audi Pakistan) Pakistan's No. 1 luxury premium automobile brand. With the successful completion of two years of Alliance, both BankIslami and Audi Pakistan have reaffirmed to mutually serve the Automobile Industry of Pakistan and offer customized financing packages to Audi customers across the country through the flagship product of Islami Auto Finance.

Bilal Fiaz, Head of Consumer Banking, BankIslami and Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Premier Systems (Pvt) Ltd. (Audi Pakistan), laid the cornerstone of this partnership by signing the agreement in a meeting held in Karachi.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilal Fiaz, said "With the success of our initial agreement executed in May 2016, this extension of Alliance is a milestone, not only for both the or-

ganisations but also for the customers who will greatly benefit from our uniquely structured auto financing solutions.

Muhammad Yasin Khan, added: "This ini-

tiative has created an ideal scenario for both, BankIslami and Audi Pakistan as it will enable us to offer best value proposition to our valued customers." —PR



# FPCCI terms PM steps highly encouraging

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Tuesday termed the moves of the Prime Minister highly encouraging for the business community which is infusing confidence in them.

Addressing an award ceremony organised by the FPCCI, the Prime Minister has vowed to introduce fundamental reforms to restructure the economy and strengthen the domestic industry, said Atif Ikram Sheikh, Vice-President FPCCI.

The PM has also assured that the industry and exports which are the backbone of trade and commerce in any country which would be facilitated while electricity and gas would be provided at competitive rates, he added. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the prime minister has repeatedly promised to reduce the cost of doing business, improve the

taxation system and remove bottlenecks which are imperatives for the national development, he added.

He the government has planned to give a boost to small and medium enterprises and facilitate the export industry for wealth creation and profitability which is the only way forward.

**Dr Areeba refuses involvement of Basharat in her case**  
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former member Parliament from Rawalpindi Muhammad Hanif Abbasi's daughter Areeba Abbasi has blamed that she has been persecuted for political reasons.

She claimed that she was performing her professional responsibilities in letter and spirit. She said the then Punjab CM Shehbaz Sharif made a surprise visit to Benazir Bhutto Hospital Rawalpindi

on September 11, 2011.

Former member Assembly was also with him. That time, Dr Zaman Khan Niazi was Medical Superintendent Benazir Bhutto Hospital and Special Officer of Dengue Virus Control. Shehbaz Sharif after finding poor arrangements for dengue patients, cleanliness and look after of patients issued notice to Dr Zaman.

At the same evening, the former chief minister suspended Dr Zaman for neglecting his professional responsibilities. She said a brother of Dr Zaman was performing his services as DMS in the hospital that time.

She said as he got promotion he started harassing and pressurizing her. She said usually doctors are being transferred as per their capabilities and that time she was performing her duty at skin

department of the hospital. However, Dr MS Tariq Niazi shifted her in the emergency department against her will.

Dr Areeba insisted to work in the department of her specialization. Following her insistence, Dr Tariq Niazi started teasing her. Following the situation, Dr Areeba informed the whole story to her father Hanif Abbasi. Hanif Abbasi asked her daughter to leave her job. On December 14 this month, Dr Areeba resigned from her job.

She, however, has refused any such news that she or her family requested Raja Basharat for favour, adding that she came to know about his phone to MS BBH in news.

**PPP can alliance with any party, leaders**

Pakistan People's Party can make alliance with any party according to the prevailing political

situation, said PPP leader in a press conference here.

Pakistan People's Party leaders Mousa Baksh Chandio and Nafisa Shah said that the present puppet government defaming the state institutions, and instead of easing the public creating new problems for them. "Parliament is a solution to all the problems, anyone who come into power becomes an angel, and when left the government becomes the enemy of the country, on the name of accountability, the political revenge is under process", they added.

Central Secretary Information of Pakistan People's Party Nafisa Shah said that PPP commemorating the eleventh death anniversary of Benazir Bhutto, our slain leader gave huge sacrifices of this country, and stood fast against dictatorship. —Online

## Nawaz seeking NRO for Maryam: Rashid

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Shiekh Rashid Ahmed on Tuesday claimed that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo is seeking an NRO for his daughter Maryam Nawaz from powers that while Zardari is not interested in any deal for Bilawal.

Speaking in Rawalpindi, the federal minister said that there will be a crackdown against the looters before March 2020. "Even after March if they manage to escape then only God can save Pakistan," he said. "The nation voted for Imran Khan for accountability against the looters. Those stole national resources are traitors."

Rashid said that economic crisis is the prime issue of the country, and the reason behind it is the presence of 'vultures' in the political structure of the country.

"Those who looted Pakistan are being respected and no one cares for those who gave sacrifices for the country. But the nation now knows who is a thief. And they know they are carting protocol," he added.

The railway minister said that case should be registered against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on the attack against Samaa's cameraperson.

"They only think about themselves. And leave people stranded. They know that they have become unpopular so they are using their thugs to attack people," he said. Rashid appealed Chief Justice of Pakistan to take notice of the case.

## Nawaz's guards sent to jail on judicial remand

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: Two of the former PM Nawaz Sharif's security guards on Tuesday were shifted to jail on judicial remand for attacking a television cameraman on duty.

Earlier in the day, a case was registered against the former premier's security guards.

Wajid Ali, a cameraman working for private news channel Samaa TV, was filming Nawaz as he was leaving the Parliament House when his security guards attacked and injured him. Video footage available with Geo News shows the guards chasing the cameraman, who ran to save himself but was eventually overpowered and brought to the ground with kicks to his face.

In the First Information Report (FIR) filed against three of Nawaz's guards, Wajid Ali said he was performing routine coverage of the Parliament session for his channel on Monday. As he began filming Nawaz when the former pre-