

Court issues notices to respondents in Kite Flying Act 2009 case

LAHORE: The LHC while issuing notices to Chief Secretary Punjab, IG Punjab and other respondents in the petition filed against Kite Flying Act 2009 sought replies from them till January 15. LHC took up the plea filed against Kite Flying Act 2009 for hearing on Wednesday. During the course of hearing, petitioner took the plea that deaths took place despite Kite Flying law therefore court should declare the powers for allowing kite flying. —Online

The Business

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2 die, five hurt in cylinder explosion

JAHANIAN: Two persons have died due to explosion of gas cylinder in Jahanian. According to media reports, four days ago Atif Muneer died due to gas cylinder explosion in marriage ceremony of Master Muneer son while Hakim Ali had also died. Five persons including Master Muneer were injured in incident and four persons were shifted to Nishtar Hospital Multan in critical condition. Two persons among injured have died while two others injured women condition is stated to be critical. —Online



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Zafar Mahmood Abbasi addresses the participants of Air War Course at the PAF Air War College.

OLMT project to be completed by July 2019, says Aleem

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Punjab for Local Government Aleem Khan confirmed on Wednesday that the Orange Line project will be completed in June-July 2019.

Speaking to the press, the senior minister debunked the rumours that suggested the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's provincial government desired to scrap the project.

"We won't close the project. As many as Rs300 billion have already been spent on the project; even if I want to I can't [scrap] it now," Aleem said. "The King (Nawaz Sharif) has left us in great debt for years. We just want to minimise the losses," he added.

The PTI leader said that the provincial government wanted to have earnings from every Orange Line station. "As many as Rs120 billion will be annually spent on the Orange line project during the next five years. The Punjab government will have to spend Rs10 billion per month," the minister claimed.

Aleem apologises to journalists on Chohan's remarks

The senior minister tendered his apology to the journalists for Punjab Information Minister Fayazul Hasan Chohan's sordid remarks from the previous day.

Chohan, at the death memorial of late Qazi Hussain Ahmed, had lambasted a journalist for asking him to respond to the Jamaat-e-Islami leader's statement that the PTI's promise of turning the country into Madinah state was baseless. "Chohan is young, perhaps that's why he got angry. I don't like such tone and that's why I have apologised before as well. On behalf of the entire government I render an unconditional apology," Aleem concluded.

Nawaz's security tightened in Kot Lakhpat Jail

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif security has been tightened in Kot Lakhpat jail.

Jail Authorities have said in this respect that former PM Nawaz Sharif is not an ordinary prisoner but he is a big prisoner. Therefore, Jail authorities had to take big step for his security.

Jail Authorities have installed 15 CCTV cameras in jail ward of Nawaz Sharif. Electric wires have also been laid on the both sides of ward adjacent to Nawaz cell. Special branch of Punjab police has also been issued directives for verification of jail staffers deployed on former PM security. —Online

Newly-elected FPCCI RC/VP, assumes charge

By Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) newly-elected Vice President and Regional Chairman Abdul Rauf Mukhtar and Vice President Shireen Arshad Khan has taken over the charge in a special ceremony arranged here at the FPCCI Regional office on Wednesday.

Addressing the ceremony, Abdul Rauf Mukhtar said that he was well aware of the current issues of business community and efforts would be made in order to resolve all their issues relating to taxes, regulatory duty, customs, smuggling, refund and rebate, starting business and cost of doing business.

Ex-DPO Gujarat handed over to NAB on remand

LAHORE: The Accountability Court (AC) Lahore has handed over DPO Punjab Police Kamran Mumtaz to NAB on physical remand.

He was alleged of embezzling police funds during financial year 2015-16. NAB prayed court for granting physical remand of Kamran Mumtaz.

It is vital to mention here that former DPO Gujrat Kamran Mumtaz has been arrested for his alleged involvement in embezzlement of millions of rupees in the police funds. Suspect Kamran Mumtaz served as DPO Gujrat in 2015 and 2016. According to NAB Lahore, during his appointment misappropriations of Rs 550 million have been made in police funds. —Online

Social, economic factors must be kept in view in constructing roads: Bakht

By Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: Punjab Finance Minister Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bakht on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to first complete under-construction roads after categorization of new and old projects under Rural Access Road Programme.

Chairing a meeting of Steering Committee constituted by Punjab Chief Minister for implementation of the programme here, the Provincial Minister added that social and economic factors must also be kept in view while constructing the link roads. As per availability of land, he said, widening of roads could be considered for villages having greater traffic load.

Hashim Jawan said that PTI's Rural Access Road Programme did not confined only to facilitate the farmers to have an easy access

to markets but to also ensure smooth traveling among populated areas as well as provide other facilities to the people.

Provincial Finance Minister said that revenue generation strategy was also inevitable to make these projects viable economically so that repair and maintenance of these roads could not become difficult in future, and this task would continue in accordance with the set mechanism.

Financial framework of developmental projects was as important as their operational framework and PTI govt wanted to put in place a coordinated and comprehensive development strategy that would also prove beneficial for its successors as well, he said and asserted, "Apart from governance, our motto is also to streamline the administrative affairs." On this occasion, Punjab Communication Minister Sardar

Asif Nakai stressed the need for determining the time period for repair works to ensure durability and long life of roads.

Punjab Communication and Works Department's Secretary Shehryar Sultan briefed the steering committee about the salient features, cost estimates and allocated budget of the programme. He said that Punjab CM had approved the Rural Access Road Programme worth Rs 15 billion, and a grant of Rs 5b had been allocated in the current fiscal year.

Participants of the meeting also gave suggestions regarding proposed method for allocation of budget to districts under the programme, width of roads and their repair work. Provincial Finance Minister also directed the Local Government Department, and Communication and Works Department to must ensure monitoring during implementation of

every phase of the programme so that immediate remedial measures could be taken against any complaint in this regard.

SECP warned public

against investing in fake entity The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has warned the public against investing in a fake entity, "Fine Sarmayakari Company", which has been trying to trap innocent people through social media to invest in fake schemes, says a press release.

It has come to the SECP's knowledge that in the name of Fine Sarmayakari Company, an anonymous person is engaged in unauthorised and dubious activities by placing advertisements in different newspapers.

The person is trying to collect deposits from the public by offering various Ponzi/investment schemes. —Online

SECP warns against investing in Fine Sarmayakari Company

By M J Hayat

LAHORE: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has warned the public against investing in a fake entity, "Fine Sarmayakari Company", which has been trying to trap innocent people through social media to invest in fake schemes.

It has come to the SECP's knowledge that in the name of Fine Sarmayakari Company, an anonymous person is engaged in unauthorised and dubious activities by placing advertisements in different newspapers.

The person is trying to collect deposits from the public by offering various Ponzi/investment schemes. The SECP would like to clarify that this company is not registered with the SECP and that raising unauthorised deposits from the public by offering multi-level marketing (MLM), pyramid and Ponzi schemes, directly or indirectly, are unlawful/unauthorised business activities.

The SECP would like to warn the public not to be misled by such fraudulent activities and Ponzi schemes launched by the entities/companies through advertising in the

electronic and print media, websites, emails and mobile text messages.

Earlier, it has come to the knowledge of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) that in the name of Reliable Estate an anonymous person is engaged in unauthorised and dubious activities. He is trying to collect deposits from the public by offering various Ponzi schemes.

On his website a fake company registration certificate purportedly issued by the SECP entitled "Reliable Estate (Pvt.) Limited has been displayed, i.e. http://reliableestate.co. The SECP would like to clarify that "Reliable Estate" is not registered with the SECP and that raising unauthorised deposits from the public, indulging in referral marketing, multi-level marketing (MLM), pyramid and Ponzi schemes, directly or indirectly, are unlawful/unauthorised business activities.

The SECP would like to warn the public not to be misled by such fraudulent activities and marketing schemes launched by the entities/companies through advertising in the electronic and print media, websites, emails

and mobile text messages.

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He is trying to collect deposits from the public by offering various Ponzi schemes. On his website a fake company registration certificate purportedly issued by the SECP entitled "Reliable Estate (Pvt.) Limited has been displayed, i.e. http://reliableestate.co. The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan would like to clarify that "Reliable Estate" is not registered with the SECP and that raising unauthorised deposits from the public, indulging in referral marketing, multi-level marketing (MLM), pyramid and Ponzi schemes, directly or indirectly, are unlawful/unauthorised business activities.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan would like to warn the public not to be misled by such fraudulent activities and marketing schemes launched by the entities/companies through advertising in the electronic and print media, websites, emails and mobile text messages.

Master Motor to assemble Iveco trucks in Pakistan

The Business Report

KARACHI: Master Motor is starting this year the assembling of Iveco trucks, which is the first Italian automotive brand being manufactured in Pakistan.

This was announced by Master Motor Chief Executive Dania Malik while inaugurating their first state-of-the-art 5-S facility and showroom on Wednesday.

"Master Motor is committed to the well-being of Pakistan. We have been importing Iveco trucks but now we have decided to start its assembling from the middle of this year," he added. Dania said that Iveco vehicles and Foton and Fuso vehicles, already being sold in the country, are OGRA-complaint, adding that the company is starting production of Changan brand vehicles in Pakistan from next month.

"This joint venture between Master Motor and Changan Automobiles from China, set up with the initial investment of \$100 million, would provide 10 thousand direct and indirect employment opportunities," Dania said.

He said the company has already established 10 dealerships in major cities of Pakistan while this dealership is its first 5-S facility. Meanwhile, Master Motor Managing Director Nadeem Malik said that the company has taken a step further in its pursuit towards providing quality products and services to the customers by inaugurating its first state-of-the-art 5S facility and showroom in SITE, Karachi. He praised the efforts of his team on the occasion and assured of his commitment to the advancement of the automotive industry in Pakistan.

"This 5-S facility will serve our purpose of facilitating commercial and private customers while bringing industry and customers closer," he concluded.

Drunken PIA flight steward off-loaded from plane

ISLAMABAD: A drunk Pakistan International Airlines flight steward Ghulam Muhammad Chandio has been off-loaded after stopping him to fly-off the plane.

According to media reports, PIA medical team made a sudden checking of all the passengers travelling through PIA flight from Islamabad to Lahore and took their blood samples. In the blood reports of flight steward Ghulam Muhammad Chandio, alcohol was identified after that authorities while stopping him to fly-off the plane, off-loaded him. Spokesperson PIA said that departmental inquiry will be launched against steward. —Online

Accords with IPPs

Continued from Front Page

The CJF thanked project director Sabtain Fazal remarking his services are appreciable in this matter.

SC summons Ayub Omar
The SC on Wednesday summoned Federal Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan to explain his position over excessive payments made to independent power producers (IPPs). At the outset of the hearing, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, a member of the bench, quoted a report as saying that IPPs were paid Rs159m each and questioned if the power producers were paid as per their power generation capacity.

The secretary power division, who was present in the court, explained that the IPPs were paid as per their capacity and fuel consumption. "They are paid as per their capacity regardless of whether they generate electricity or not." "Millions of rupees were paid to IPPs even if they produced electricity or not," Justice Nisar remarked.

"Such agreements are being revoked the world over," he added. "People didn't get electricity but private companies were made full payments. Nothing was obtained by paying billions of rupees to private companies," he continued. "We are sending this matter to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)," the top judge added.

"The government faced a shortfall of electricity, did you not supply it?" Justice Faisal Arab inquired. Federal Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan was then summoned by the top court. The chief justice took the notice while hearing different cases at the Supreme Court Lahore Registry and issued notices to 10 IPPs.

The IPPs, which are approximately 50 per cent of the power producers within the industry, have the verified and audited overdue amount to approximately Rs248 billion as of July 15, 2018, in respect of 21 members of the Independent Power Producers Association (IPPA).

Reporters continue boycotting Chohan's media talk

The Business Report

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan on Wednesday has failed to talk to media as reporters continued their boycott against him.

According to details, the journalists chanted slogans against the provincial minister for ridiculing the media.

Meanwhile, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has submitted a resolution against Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan for bashing media and demanded to remove him from the post.

On Tuesday, Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan had reacted violently in response to a question asked by a journalist on achievability and progress being made by the federal government on the model of Riyasat-e- Madina

(welfare state). A reporter asked him that Jamaat-e-Islami chief Siraj-ul-Haq has perceived the government's Riyasat-e- Madina model as "vague and hollow".

Irked by questions of the media, the minister stated that such a question should have been asked from the Jamaat-e-Islami and called the media "Shameless".

Responding to his comments, reporters lodged a strong protest and surrounded his car when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) minister tried to get away.

Zubair confronted by armed men in Karachi, escapes unhurt

Armed men attempted to stop former Sindh governor Mohammad Zubair's car near his residence in Phase VI of Karachi's DHA area on Tuesday night, media reported citing police. Zubair, according to

Darakhsan police station's station house officer (SHO) Arshad Janjua, was returning home with his wife at 11:30pm on Tuesday when his vehicle was intercepted by three unidentified men in a car, with one of them pointing a gun at the PML-N leader, who managed to drive away.

Zubair, the brother of current Finance Minister Asad Umar, reported the incident to the police and his statement was recorded, the SHO said. A first information report of the incident has not been registered as yet.

It is pertinent to mention here that the former governor was driving the vehicle himself and does not have any security assigned to him. Following the incident, however, police officials were posted outside Zubair's residence on the orders of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP)

South Pir Muhammad Shah, who assured him that a case would be lodged.

The SSP South also paid a visit to Zubair's residence along with Superintendent of Police Clifton Suhai Aziz and met the former governor's family. Sindh Inspector General of Police Dr Syed Kaleem Imam took notice of the incident and sought a detailed inquiry report from the Senior Superintendent of Police South.

He directed the officer to take legal and security measures in light of Zubair's statement in order to hold the suspects involved accountable. The incident came three weeks after MQM leader Ali Raza Abidi was murdered in DHA's Phase V neighbourhood. Abidi was shot outside his house by two unidentified assailants riding a motorcycle. The case is under investigation.