



Punjab to extend all-out cooperation in uplift of Baluchistan: CM

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Beaten NZ need 'mental' adjustment - Williamson



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No one be left shelterless in this extreme cold weather

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday directed the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to set up temporary shelters for the down and out people in this extreme cold weather, who could not be accommodated in the existing Panaghs.

In a tweet, the prime minister said that given the extremely cold weather conditions, he had asked the chief ministers of Punjab and KP to ensure that no person was left out without shelter.

"Their administrations must take immediate action to provide temporary shelters plus food for those who cannot be accommodated in existing Panaghs," the prime minister directed.

The establishment of Panaghs was one of the foremost projects executed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government soon after it came to power after the prime minister directed to establish shelter houses in the federal capital and different cities of Punjab and KP. The Punjab government had already established Panaghs on five locations in Lahore including Railway Station, Thokar Niaz Baig, Badami Bagh, Data Darbar and Lorry Adda with two more being in the pipeline.

The Punjab government has decided to build shelter homes in 36 districts to accommodate the needy and homeless people.

Similarly, the KP government was also providing roof and food to the homeless people in different cities, besides the federal government that had also established a couple of such facilities in the capital city.

'Pakistan a land of hidden natural wonders, untapped tourism potential'

Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday said that Pakistan was a land of unimaginable beauty, hidden natural wonders and untapped tourism potential.

The prime minister said this in a comment on his Twitter handle while retweeting an article titled "9 of Pakistan's most breathtaking natural wonders" published by Wanderlust, a British Travel magazine.

According to its website, Wanderlust is the UK's leading independent travel magazine, delivering inspiration and advice to the travellers seeking unique and enriching travel experiences which covers destinations near and far and combines in-depth practical information with breathtaking photography and award-winning editorial.

Highlighting the tourism potential of the country, the magazine says, "from magical Himalayan valleys to lunar landscapes of bubbling mud volcanoes, Wanderlust's 2020 Hot List destination Pakistan offers a diversity of extraordinary natural beauty without the crowds..."

Govt releases Rs 299.87b for uplift projects

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has so far authorized release of Rs 299.87 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2019-20, as against the total allocation of Rs701b.

Under its development programme, the government has released an amount of Rs135.176 billion for federal ministries, Rs102.55 billion for corporations and Rs 21.7 billion for special areas, according to a latest data released by Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.

Out of these allocations, the government released Rs 26.78 billion for security enhancement in the country for which the government had allocated Rs 32.5 billion during the year 2019-20.

An amount of Rs 39.15 billion has also been released for the blocks managed by finance division under the government's 10 years development programme.

Similarly for Higher Education Commission, the government released an amount of Rs14.2 billion out of its total allocation of Rs 29 billion while Rs150.73 billion were released for Pakistan Nuclear Energy Authority for which the government had allocated Rs 301.48 billion in the development budget. —Online



MULTAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi talks to media.

NAB Ordinance neither NRO nor aimed to hide corruption: Qureshi

■ Says Opp making undue criticism on NAB Ordinance; Modi's ideology of Hindutva exposed before the world

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Sunday the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance was neither NRO nor it meant to put curtain for hiding corruption.

While talking to media persons after attending Qul Khawani of the mother of religious scholar Shafiq Bhutta here at Daulat Gate, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had zero tolerance against corruption. He stated that opposition was making undue criticism on NAB ordinance. He lamented that it had become a trend to criticise government's steps.

Earlier, the opposition was making demand for amendments in

NAB laws but now it was criticising without studying new ordinance.

The opposition was of the view that businessmen community was worried and economy was not heading forward due to tight policies.

Private businessmen should work without any fear, said Qureshi.

Similarly, some people were held due to procedural flaws and others were also in state of fear. NAB ordinance would help promote business by addressing the procedural flaws, he said.

Qureshi said Pakistan Peoples Party had also been demanding change in the amendment. Qureshi also suggested that opposition should talk to the government and present its recommendations instead of doing criticism.

The government would not allow any misuse of public money, said

Qureshi. About tax evasion and some other issues, there are some other institutions to deal with such sort of issues.

Responding to a question about India's Citizen Amendment Act (CAA), Foreign Minister said the whole world was noticing the recent development in the neighbouring country. Protest demonstrations were being held not only across India but also in the capitals of important countries.

The Modi government's ideology of Hindutva had been exposed before the world.

The Indian government hid its brutalities in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir through information blackout but it could not conceal the public protests in its cities, which were jointly held by Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits and other com-

munities, he added.

Even chief ministers of five Indian states, he said, refused to impose the CAA. The Indians today were divided into two, one section was supporting secularism while the other was working for imposing the extremist Hindutva ideology.

He said former Indian minister Chidambaram had also termed the CAA against the constitution of India and hopefully the Indian Supreme Court would strike it down.

Some 25 persons died while hundreds of peaceful citizens were arrested by the Indian police for opposing the CAA, he added.

Qureshi said the CAA had in fact exposed the real face of Modi government, damaging the country's image internationally.

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Govt to revamp DRAP, reform health sector: Firdous

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Sunday said the incumbent government would revamp the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) as a part of its health reform agenda, bringing it at par with the international regulatory agencies.

Addressing the 10th International Medical Conference 2019 organised by Medics International, the special assistant said Prime Minister Imran Khan is committed for the surgery of deteriorated health system of the country and heading toward bringing health reforms through public private partnership.

The role of DRAP in ensuring access of safe and quality medicines to the citizens on affordable prices is of prime importance and the incumbent government is transforming this au-

thority on modern lines.

Pakistan being an Islamic Welfare state is responsible to provide quality medical facilities to its citizens. However, poor patients being unable to get proper health care gave up their lives at the doors of the public hospitals which is quite painful, she lamented.

She said 90 percent doctors in the public hospitals are devoted to their cause however, 10 percent are exploiting the poor patients.

Those doctors who studied medical from private colleges mostly belonged to the feudal families who just enter this field to maintain their status, having no association with the noble cause behind this profession.

The role of DRAP in ensuring access of safe and quality medicines to the citizens on affordable prices is of prime importance and the incumbent government is transforming this au-

getting the ultimate human cause of their profession.

The special assistant said Imran Khan is a social worker and his political career is deeply attached to the cause of humanity. He established Shaikat Khanam Cancer Hospital for serving the poor segments of the society.

Imran Khan entered the parliament through making the impossible possible and challenged the status quo thus overcoming all the resistance caused by his opponents.

"If your leadership is committed to a cause then success is your destination", she added.

Referring to the health challenges of infant and mother mortality rate, growing hepatitis, stunting growth etc. being faced by the citizens, Firdous Ashiq Awan reiterated the government's commitment to provide all out support for restructuring the

entire health system.

"The policy makers have to be hand in glove with implementers to accomplish this task", she commented. She said, 'prevention is better than cure' and awareness about communicable and non communicable diseases is indispensable for prevention of diseases.

"Adequate information about diseases should be part of academic syllabus", she stressed.

The government is ready to restructure the old health system and introduce technological transformations, effective management system and merit-based hiring and promotions system through public-private partnership.

The private organisations and overseas doctors would be provided conducive working environment to protect lives of poor suffering from the chronic diseases. —Online

PCMEA seeks govt support to capture world market

LAHORE: Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Chairman Muhammad Aslam Tahir Sunday said Pakistan's Carpet Industry has great potential to dominate global markets with innovative designs and it could contribute substantially to country's export revenues annually.

He expressed these views while chairing the Association's meeting here, while Carpet Training Institute Chairperson Pervez Hanif, Association's Senior Vice Chairman Sheikh Amer Khalid, Senior Central Leader Abdul Latif Malik, Senior Member Riaz Ahmed, Saeed Khan, Muhammad Akbar Malik and others were also present.

Aslam Tahir said that the government should provide them all possible support to carpet manufacturers to display their products in international exhibitions and departmental stores abroad. He also demanded to make sure that carpet industry would be given special incentives in the proposed trade policy.

He said the government's policies to boost export were good omen, however, he demanded to take them into confidence for devising exports policies. He added that there was dire need to increase the volume of exports to strengthen national economy for which government should continue to make business and exports friendly initiatives.

PCMEA Chairman was of the view that Pakistan needed to develop the best strategy to fully exploit Pak-China Free Trade Agreement and the government should also help carpet exporters to seize space in departmental and super stores in foreign countries.

He also suggested the government to take measures to reduce cost of production and provide facilities to exporters to achieve result oriented targets. —APP

Knitwear worth \$1.320b exported in five months

ISLAMABAD: Knitwear exports from the country during first five months of current financial year grew by 8.69% as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-November, 2019 about 51,240 thousand dozen knitwear worth \$1.320 billion were exported as compared to the exports of 48,315 thousand dozen valuing \$1.215 billion of same period of last year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, readymade garments exports from the country during the period under review also grew by 13.19% as country fetched \$1.156 billion by exporting about 26,181 thousand dozen of readymade garments as compared to the exports of 19,225 thousand dozen valuing \$1.021 billion of same period of last year.

During the period under review, textile group exports from the country increased by 4.68% as against the exports of the corresponding period of last year as textile products worth over \$5.763 billion were exported as compared to exports of \$5.506 billion of same period of last year.

Meanwhile, on month on month basis, textile exports from the country also grew by 7.03% in November, 2019 as it was recorded at \$1.177 billion as against the exports of \$1.099 billion of same month of last year. However, it was down by 3.10% as compared with the month of October, 2019 as textile products worth \$1.214 billion exported in previous month, the data revealed.

During the period under review 206,971 metric tons of bed wear worth \$1.013 billion exported as against the exports of 180,960 metric tons valuing \$968.151 million of same period of last year. Where as about 76,210 metric tons of towels worth \$317.484 million also exported during the period under review as against the exports of 74,657 metric tons valuing \$314.348 million of same period of last year, it added. —DNA

Pak embassy in Kabul resumes consular services

The Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan embassy in Kabul announced to resume its full consular services with effect from Sunday after a gap of nearly two months.

The embassy made this announcement over Twitter saying: "@PakEmbKabul is happy to announce that it would be resuming its full consular services with effect from Sunday".

The embassy had suspended the services on Nov 4, citing concerns about safety and security of its staff after harassment of some Pakistani embassy personnel in Kabul and its sub-missions where embassy vehicles were hit by motorcycles.

Afghanistan intelligence service's officials had been harassing, and using abusive language with the Pakistani diplomats.

However, a few days after suspending the consular operations, the embassy started issuing health visas as the closure had created problems for a large number of Afghans who needed to visit Pakistan for medical treatment. Many Afghans visit Pakistan for education and business activities too.

China's border trade with Pakistan increases

The Business Report

BEIJING: With the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Pakistan's domestic economic growth, the trade volume surged this year at a major border port between China and Pakistan.

Cargo import and export reached 66,600 tonnes in the first 11 months at Khunjerab Pass in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, up 46.8 percent from the same period last year. Trade volume increased by 1.4 times to 5.99 billion yuan (around 856.3 million U.S. dollars) during the same period, according to a report of

China News Network on Sunday.

About 5,000 meters above sea level, Khunjerab Pass is a major trade port between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. China mainly imports textiles, agricultural products and daily commodities there, and exports plants and herbs.

The authorities at Khunjerab Pass said they will continue to increase customs clearance efficiency to facilitate trade in the future.

Urumqi customs statistics show that from January to November 2019, the total value of imports and exports from Xinjiang ports to Pakistan was

5.5 billion yuan, an increase of 1.2 times compared with the same period last year. Among them, exports to Pakistan were 5.49 billion yuan, an increase of 1.3 times, mainly in textiles, apparel, and mechanical and electrical products.

With the CPEC Project, China and Pakistan can achieve comprehensive connectivity, diversification and mutual benefit. It is not only a model project and flagship project of China's "Belt and Road" initiative, but also provides an important opportunity for the development of Pakistan.

In recent years, the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative has driven

a large number of major infrastructure projects such as energy, electricity, roads, and railways, injecting a source of power into the development of China-Pakistan trade.

Xinjiang, as the core area of "the Silk Road Economic Belt", is promoting the interconnectedness between China and Pakistan and driving the economic and geographical advantages of the regions along the route.

According to Urumqi Customs, since February this year, the value of imports and exports from Xinjiang ports to Pakistan has maintained a year-on-year growth. Among them, in November alone, the value of imports

and exports from Xinjiang ports to Pakistan reached 1.82 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 74% and a month-on-month increase of 63.8%.

Xinjiang port to Pakistan is dominated by small amount trade, and it has grown significantly, accounting for 70.5% of the total value of Xinjiang port to Pakistan trade.

Import and export through general trade was 1.56 billion yuan, an increase of 17.9%, accounting for 28.4%. Private enterprises are the main force for import and export. From January to November, the import and export volume through the Xinjiang port to Pakistan was 4.31 billion yuan.