

Descon Engineering conducts its first CEO Comm session

LAHORE: Descon Engineering, a premier EPC company in Pakistan conducted its first CEO Communication Session of 2020 to promote its foundation of trust and open communication.

The event was opened by Chief Executive Officer, Nadeem Bajwa.

The CEO spoke on the present situation and future plans of Descon and elucidated challenges Descon is facing through radical transparency in terms of business growth and revenues. The aim was to keep all the employees aware of the progress made in the last years and to set the road map for way forward.

Emphasizing the company's purpose of existence and vision Mr. Nadeem said, "We are the differentiators because we have the right people and the right competence. This year we are targeting some strategic wins that will keep us afloat internationally and we will stay and grow up to live 'Partner in Progress'."

The CEO also answered queries of the attendees in detail followed by a one-on-one session. Answering the questions, the CEO addressed all points and made sure to provide a continuous stream of helpful responses.

The session gave a chance to the leadership to address the queries raised by the employees and share the direction of the company. Furthermore, the CEO persuaded everyone to live the company's vision, promote a system of self-governance and lastly be more accountable. Descon is a Pakistani multinational company that is based in Lahore, Pakistan operating three business lines — power, engineering, and chemicals. The company is energetically engaged in fulfilling CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) through different projects. —PR



LAHORE: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Sewa Lamsal in a meeting with the Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at the Governor House.

Erdogan's visit to further strengthen Pak-Turk relations: Governor

—Says 220m Pakistanis warmly welcome Turkish President

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Sewa Lamsal called on Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar.

Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar also participated in a conference 'Respectable and safe workplace for women' organised by Provincial Ombudsperson.

Later talking to media, Governor said that 220 million Pakistanis warmly welcome Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his visit will not only further strengthen Pak-Turk bilateral relations but also be very important with regard to Pakistan's economy.

Opposition parties are not on the same page rather each one of them holding its own page. The government's opponents are not watching interest of the country and the nation but their personal interests, and story of the opposition fighting for its interests is now fast reaching its end. Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Sewa Lamsal discussed relations between the two countries, regional situation, Kashmir issue, menace of terrorism and other issues in

their meeting held here at Governor House on Thursday.

On this occasion, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that Nepalese tourists are also welcomed with regard to religious tourism in Punjab and entire Pakistan.

There are many tourist places in Pakistan which are being opened up to foreign tourists as well.

Nepalese students coming to study at Pakistani universities will be provided with all possible facilities. Exchange programme with Nepal will also be initiated for business community.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, we are eager to have cordial relations with all the countries.

Earlier, Governor participated in a conference 'Respectable and safe workplace for women' organized by Provincial Ombudsperson.

On this occasion, Punjab Ombudsperson Rukhsana Gilani, PTI MPA Uzma Kardar, Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) Vice Chancellor Bushra Mirza, Balochistan Ombudsperson Sabra Islam, Provincial Women Development Department's Secretary Anbareen Raza and others were also present.

In his address, Punjab Governor

Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that women rights envisaged in Islam cannot be usurped. All the obsolete and typical taboos pertaining to womenfolk will have to be eliminated, and for this purpose, PTI government is putting in order effective measures.

Our government is strengthening and empowering the women in every field. While talking to media, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that Prime Minister's utterances are true manifestation of national ambitions.

Whole nation stands by Prime Minister Imran Khan in the war against mafias. Today all the institutions, for the first time in country's history, are working independently. Government is advancing on the mission of 'One Pakistan: Not the two' and In Sha Allah we will make Pakistan as Pakistan of Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Opposition parties are not on the same page rather each one of them holding its own page.

The government's opponents are not watching interest of the country and the nation but their personal interests, and story of the opposition fighting for its interests is now ending. He asked that why the opposition gets flared-up over the subject of accountability? The govern-

ment will not step back on the matter of supremacy of the law and the constitution, and transparent accountability.

Pakistan cannot achieve economical sustainability without inclusion of females: Governor

A conference entitled 'Making Workplace Dignified' has been arranged by the Ombudsperson Punjab.

The sole purpose to arrange the conference is to create awareness among working women about their workplace rights. Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar graced the conference as Chief Guest.

While addressing the conference Governor Punjab said that Pakistan cannot achieve its economical sustainability without the inclusion of females.

He further stated that in order to encourage our women to work, it is the responsibility of the state to provide them with safe and comfortable environment, our government has taken serious steps in creating a feasible environments for females.

Further stating to the audience, he also said that we can only curb the menace of harassment until or unless we don't encourage females to raise voice against it at their workplaces.

Mondelez country's certified top employer 2020

LAHORE: Mondelez Pakistan Ltd. has been officially recognised by the Top Employers Institute as a Top Employer 2020 in Pakistan.

Organisations certified as Top Employers dedicate themselves to providing the very best working environment for employees through their progressive 'people-first' HR practices.

Mondelez Pakistan has been ranked high in leadership development, cultural and organisational progress, and exceptional talent strategy. Top Employers Institute CEO David Plink said. —PR

Daraz joins hands with Multan Sultan

LAHORE: Daraz, the leading online marketplace in Pakistan, has joined hands with Multan Sultan for HBL Pakistan Super League Season 5. Through technological innovation, the platform promises to bring customers' an amplified experience that combines the nation's favourite sport with online entertainment and shopping. "As the nation gears up for the biggest cricketing event in the country. —PR

Bonanza Satrangi welcomes Summer



LAHORE: Bonanza Satrangi, the leading fast-fashion brand in the country, has launched their all-new summer collection volume 1 for 2020, available online and in stores nationwide.

The festive and colorful collection features an array of elegant one-piece and three-piece dresses designed with exquisite designs perfectly befitting the spring-summer season.

Starting from just Rs 980 for one-piece and Rs 2,280 for three-piece, the volume features light and soothing colors, exotic designs, soft pastels, and serene prints.

Bonanza is renowned for its eclectic and up-to-date style, dressy casual wear, elegant eveningwear, and fast fashion trends, and has been delivering aesthetically pleasing and quality design to its consumers. The new collection marks the beginning of the spring, summer season and offers something for everyone.

PHED clarifies

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Spokesman Punjab Higher Education Department, in a statement issued on Thursday, has said that government has not stopped any private university from working neither issued any orders to close down sub-campuses.

He said that concerns of private universities are baseless. HED has sent the notices to the unauthorized sub-campuses of private universities for violating their own charter. Recommendations have been given by the Special committee of Punjab Assembly in this regard.

He further maintained that these campuses have been restrained to enroll more admissions for violating the law. He said that the future of the students of these sub campuses will not put on stake as government is a guarantor of the rights of these students.

Government is not against the good project of private sector but is infect wants to help them. He directed to avoid creating unrest among the students.

PFA seals 22 food businesses on account of adulteration, forgery, unhygienic conditions

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has sealed a food manufacturing company and confiscated a huge cache of artificial sweeteners and corn syrup during conducted an undercover operation under the supervision of PFA Director General Irfan Memon in the area of Thokar Niaz Baig here on Thursday.

He said that the action was taken against Venus Food Company for changing the la-

bellung of expired products, poor storage, as well as found expired flavours, chemicals, milk powder and corn syrup.

Meanwhile, hazardous vegetable oil was preserved in the prohibited non-food graded drums. He said that PFA's enforcement team not only closed down the premises, but rather confiscated 20,000kg artificial sweeteners; 3,000 litres corn syrup; 2,000kg white flour, vegetable oil, cake base and chemicals. Irfan Memon said that the violation of the hygiene principles by popular food-produc-

ing companies is very regrettable.

He further said that Punjab Food Authority is regularly checking the small and big food businesses without any discrimination that to be continued till the elimination of adulteration mafia from Punjab.

On the other hand, PFA has closed down eight food businesses over multiple violations while carrying out an operation to ensure the provision of healthy and safe food in the market as per the vision of Punjab government.

LAC, PILAC observe 'World Radio Day'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The World Radio Day was celebrated by the Lahore Arts Council (LAC) in collaboration with Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture (PILAC) under title 'Radio and Diversity' at Alhama Arts Centre here on Thursday.

The purpose to celebrate WRD was to bring the focus on diversity, linguistic and tolerance as it is a crucial medium to celebrate humanity, intercultural competence, and democratic citizenship. In this connection, a cake-cutting ceremony was held at Alhama to celebrate the radio as a way of educating people, providing information, and promoting freedom of expression across cultures. The ceremony was attended by DG PILAC Saman Rai, Director Information Rafiq Akhtar, Ex-Commissioner Faisalabad Tariq Mehmood Bhatti, Executive Director LAC Ather Ali Khan, Director Arts, and Culture Zulfikar Ali Zulfikar, Actor Rashid Mehmood, Actor Nasoor Jin, actor Haseeb Pasha, PILAC's FM 95 team and other officers from different organizations.

Each year the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) around the world celebrated the World Radio Day by planning activities with broadcasters, organizations, and communities around the world.



Knitwear industry considering protest if levies on power tariff not reversed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The members of value-added knitwear industry have threatened to go on strike if government's commitment of providing electricity to the export sector at regionally competitive rate of 7.5 cents/KWh is not fulfilled by Monday, next week. The executive body as well as the majority members of the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) in a meeting held today at PHMA regional office with its vice chairman Shafiq Butt in the chair, have assured their leadership that the whole export industry is ready to come to streets for mass protests if the surcharges and extra levies are not taken back immediately. Some members also urged their leadership to consider other options of road blockade or closure of mills to pursue the government for fulfillment of its commitment, as high power tariff would hit Pakistan's exports and discourage investment. Addressing the meeting, PHMA vice chairman Shafiq Butt said that the body in its next meeting likely to be held on Tuesday, Feb 18, will decide the next strategy.

Emerging global security trends

By Maria Khalid

India's actions within the country and in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) continue to escalate tensions in the South Asian security landscape. One might think that these actions may have been a miscalculation that sparked widespread protests in India, however, all evidence points to the fact that it is just another step in a decades-long scheme of incitement. The lineage of Hindu nationalism — that has for some time remained hidden behind the slogans of secularism — pre-dates 1947 and today Hindu majoritarianism is on the rise on an unprecedented scale.

The proponents of Hindu nationalism believe that even the so-called Indian secularism is a fraudulent imposition perpetrated by the ruling elite at the time of independence and the precarious balancing of religious minorities living in India obscures India's true

Hindu identity. Furthermore, BJP's actions are driven more by politics than strategic calculations considering the Pulwama attack took place only a month prior to India's impending national elections of April-May 2019. In the Eurasia Groups annual forecast — published on January 6, 2020 — of political risks that are most likely to play out over the course of the year, risk 5 reads "India gets Modi-fied." It hints at the recent developments and deteriorating situation in India that is likely to have broader repercussions throughout South Asia and beyond.

After the re-election of Modi and BJP in 2019, he blatantly attacked Kashmir, abolishing the constitutionally guaranteed semi-autonomous status of IOJK. In order to assert their position as a muscular, majoritarian state there couldn't be a target better than Kashmir, the world's most militarised Muslim majority state where the unarmed citizens have been fighting for their

freedom from the Indian occupation for more than seven decades.

In the Nazi terminology, Gleichschaltung is the process by which the Nazis established a system of totalitarian control over all aspects of German society, from economy and trade associations to media, culture and education. Similarly, the position of BJP and its Hindutva ideology at the helm of affairs allows them to use the capacity of the state to further their goals as is evident from their recent actions.

In the states ruled by BJP such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the state governments have rewritten history books to downplay Islamic contributions in the Indian history.

They have also devoted their energies to rename cities that refer to their Islamic heritage. Furthermore, greatly diverging from an ostensible egalitarian society, the new laws: National Registry of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act

(CAA) that are discriminatory in nature and have sparked widespread protests all over the country, will aid the ruling party in its agenda to build a Hindu state.

To distract attention from the protests in India against the two new citizenship laws, India is likely to escalate tensions along the Line of Control (LOC).

During an interview with the International Media Council on the sidelines of WEF in Davos, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that he fears that India might attempt to raise tensions at the border in order to divert attention from domestic protests against two government measures that have been criticised as anti-Muslim.

In a letter to the President of UN Security Council, Pakistan has highlighted India's designs that constitute a threat to the peace and stability of South Asia and emphasized on the 3,000 ceasefire violations by India, partial removal of the fence on LOC by India in five sec-

tors, deployment of Brahmos Missile, anti-tank guided missiles and Spike missiles, and conduct of numerous missile tests since August 2019.

Pakistan has further pointed out Indian leadership's bellicose rhetoric, issuance of new 'political maps', unprecedented ceasefire violations targeting unarmed innocent civilians along LOC, and attempts to change the demographic structure of IOJK.

Kashmir, the paradise endowed with mesmerizing beauty, is now burning and is tainted by the blood of hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris who have lost their lives at the hands of Indian security forces. The state of affairs in the paradise is terrifying where a score of men, women, children and the elderly have been injured, maimed or killed and lives of generations of Kashmiris have been wasted or ruined. These events are alarming and the world must wake up to the dangers that Hindutva is posing to the region and in the common inter-

est, act to ensure the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris who have been imprisoned in their own state.

India may try to brutally suppress the voice of Kashmiris but it can't silence them and it can't stop Pakistan from supporting the Kashmir cause. As COAS, General Qamar Javed Bajwa said, "Our quest for peace must never be misconstrued as weakness. There will never be a compromise on Kashmir whatever the cost. We are capable and fully prepared to thwart any misadventure/aggression for the defense of our motherland."

It is needless to reiterate that Kashmir is a nuclear flashpoint. The Indian Army Chief has indulged in provocative statements and posturing that can further escalate the situation along the LOC to divert attention from the domestic issues. However, Pakistan is fully prepared to befittingly respond to any such misadventure or aggression.

Courtesy Hilal