

NAB files reply to Barjees Tahir bail plea in assets case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Monday filed a reply in the Lahore High Court (LHC) to the pre-arrest bail petition, filed by former federal minister and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Barjees Tahir in assets beyond means case against him.

In its six-page reply, the bureau pleaded with the court to dismiss the bail petition, filed by the MNA.

The bureau stated that it was holding an inquiry on charges of amassing assets beyond means against the petitioner. It submitted that after fulfilling all legal requirements, it sought details of the assets from the petitioner and departments concerned.

The bureau stated that it had received a complaint against the MNA on April 9, 2020 and NAB chairman had given approval for holding an inquiry into it.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) had given interim bail to MNA Barjees Tahir on a pre-arrest bail petition, filed by him.

The MNA, through his petition, submitted that NAB had issued call-up notices to him in an assets beyond means investigation and it was feared that he might be arrested. He submitted that the bureau investigated the matter in 2003 and closed it after an inquiry. He pleaded with the court for grant of pre-arrest bail.

CM Balochistan seeks monthly performance report from Commissioners and DCs

From Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Aliani has directed all the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the province to personally visit the departments under their control in their respective divisions and districts so that to improve their performance besides submitting monthly reports to the CM Secretariat and Secretaries of their concerned departments.

“Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners after their visit to the department under their administrative control shall highlight their good and bad without concealing any fact in their monthly reports must be shared with CM Secretariat on the first day of every month,” Handout issued by the Services and General Administrative Department govt of Balochistan quoting CM Balochistan read.

Strict action may be taken against the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners if the report sent by them was found against the ground realities, it further said.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar calls on Governor Punjab Ch Muhammad Sarwar at Governor's House.

Public service is our mission: Governor — CM Buzdar calls on Governor Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar called on Governor Punjab Ch Muhammad Sarwar at Governor's House here on Monday and discussed different matters of mutual interest.

Both expressed satisfaction over a decrease in the number of corona affected patients in Punjab and appreciated the effective measures employed under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan for overcoming the pandemic.

They also expressed the commitment to jointly counter the elements trying to interrupt the journey of public service. The opposition will gain nothing through the politics of conspiracy or holding of APC and its negative politics will be countered through public service, they added. Interruption in the steps aimed at providing relief to the people will not be tolerated and the journey of public services will be continued collectively. The elements spreading frustration and chaos will never be succeeded, they further said.

CM Usman Buzdar added that critics have no other agenda and they are bent upon disrupting the journey of public service. They should realize that the era of political trickery is over and full attention is paid to public service now.

The past rulers raised minarets of corruption in their tenure but the incumbent government has adopted the policy of zero-tolerance against corruption, he added. Governor Ch. Sarwar pointed out that people of the province suffered tremendously in the past due to wrong priorities.

The opposition is bent upon conspiring against the government from the day first and the past rulers, who remained oblivious of public service in their tenure, are busy in conspiracies again. Pakistan's international image has been boosted in the tenure of Prime Minister Imran Khan, he added.

116 water filtration plants to be installed soon

The government will soon make functional 116 water filtration plants installed by Punjab Saaf Pani Company through the Public Health Engineering Department

while the transfers of the assets of the company will be made after it dissolved.

It was decided in the 37th meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Finance and Development chaired by the Punjab Finance Minister Hashim Jawan Bakhat here on Monday. The meeting also decided hiring in Punjab Infrastructure Development Authority, approval of Rs 4.707 billion grant for Public Sector Development Program, making the water filtration plants functional, community development program, establishment of the offices in Bahawalpur and Multan for South Punjab Secretariat and Public Finance Management Unit in the Finance Department. The meeting also allowed the proceeding for establishment of Punjab University Medical College and its allied hospital permitting the health department to further proceed with the Punjab University. Further, it was instructed developing a comprehensive plan with the consultation of all stakeholders before establishment of the new offices in Multan and Bahawalpur for the South Punjab Secretariat.

SBP grants approval for pilot operation for ecommerce payment gateway 'Payfast'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: PayFast brings the ultimate and innovative solution to address the pain points of digital payments industry of Pakistan.

Pakistan has over 80 million 3g / 4g subscribers, and a huge potential of ecommerce, the market value is estimated at USD 2 billion with a remarkable average yearly growth of 58%.

Covid has evidently caused a boom in online payments as the customer's preference from cash has started to shift towards cashless means. Dubai Islamic Bank, Faysal Bank, Finca MicroFinance Bank, HabibMetro Bank, Summit Bank, UBank, JS Bank, Telenor Bank, & NRSP Bank. The merchant count has also climbed steadily and has crossed the 150 mark. At this pace, PayFast is all set to achieve new heights very soon.

Nonetheless, the value can be far better if the concerns are addressed as it is still a Cash dominated economy with COD valuing 90% of online transactions.

We have more than 1,500 ecommerce enable merchants with a huge pie left out, this low number is primarily attributed to the dearth of cost effective, robust and secure online payment solutions compatible with multiple modes of integration such as Open APIs, plug-in etc.

PayFast address these issues by providing payment acceptance via multi instruments with a User Centric UI/UX, these include cards noteworthy being, UnionPay and other card schemes, Mobile Wallets and now unveiling Bank account numbers as an easy payment instrument.

They are also helping merchants to accept online payments at ease, by offering them digital sign up, Developer friendly APIs, plugins for ecommerce stores and the experience of future payments.

PayFast is PCI-DSS compliant entity, coupled with a very dynamic Fraud and Risk Management System that will ensure security and compliance of transactions for the consumer and the merchant. Another disruptive service PayFast is bringing to the table is digital invoicing. Payments can be accepted with just a unique link, ideal for FB merchants, Freelancers, etc as the link can be sent via WhatsApp, FB messenger, email and mobile number.

PayFast will fill the gap of the requirement of a payment gateway in the ecommerce industry. Its indigenous gateway's services and features would be comparable with renowned international gateways like Stripe, Square and Razorpay.

Digitalization is our ambition and an indispensable need of society particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic.



LAHORE: Sacrificial animals being fed at the Ravi Riverside Cattle Market. —Online

UK-based Pakistani, Kashmiri diaspora commemorate Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day

The Business Report

MIRPUR: Hearts of the people of Pakistan and Kashmir beat in unison and Pakistan, indeed, will not ever leave people of Jammu & Kashmir alone in their just and principled struggle for right to self determination.

Chairman Global Pakistan Kashmir Supreme Council (GPKSC), Raja Sikander Khan said this while addressing a ceremony held to observe Kashmir's accession to Pakistan day in London late Sunday, said a message received here on Monday.

The ceremony was addressed among others GPKSC President Kala Khan, Secretary General Zahid Khan, Greater London Unit President GPKSC Raja Sultan, Ambassador for International Affairs Raja Mazhar Hayat, President political Affairs wing Agha Tanveer, President Business Affairs Khurram Shahzad, Additional Secretary General Zubaid Khan, GPKSC IT Secretary Faraz Aslam, Sultan Hayat and many others, it added. Raja Sikander said "Pakistan is the only center of hopes and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

who, he underlined, had unequivocally decided to determine their destiny with this country 73 years ago through the historic unanimous resolution of October 19, 1947 in a Kashmiri Muslims representative congregation in Srinagar. He said that valiant people of Jammu & Kashmir were giving the supreme sacrifices of their lives for the achievement of the destination, which was determined by our (Kashmiris) elders this day 73 years ago.

"We want the early peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir issue which can only be possible with the involvement of entire wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir", he declared.

Raja Sikander said that no power on earth could deprive the Jammu Kashmir people of their birth right to decide about their destiny. By laying down the supreme sacrifices of their lives since over last 07 decades, the Jammu & Kashmir people had proved that their spirit of freedom was non-conquerable and the struggle for liberation of the motherland from India's forced and unlawful rule would continue till a single Kashmiri was alive, he

added. He said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan fought the case of Kashmiris through his bold and courageous address in the United Nations General Assembly – which was the manifestation of Pakistan's everlasting, unequivocal moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris struggle for their birth right to self determination, he added.

The GPKSC chairman said that it was ample proof of the fact that hearts of the people of Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir beat in unison.

Like Kashmiris living both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) in internationally-acknowledged disputed Jammu & Kashmir state and rest of the world, the Britain based Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora community observed the day under the fold of their fora – the Global Pakistan Kashmir Supreme Council (GPKSC) to commemorate Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan on Sunday, with the renewal of the pledge to continue the struggle with full vigor to make the idea of translation of the historic July 19 Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan resolution into reality.

Motorway Police arrest two women involved in fraud with people

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The officer of Motorway Police central zone arrested two females involved in fraud with people.

As per details, officers of Motorway Police stopped a vehicle in violation of wrong side overtaking. The driver of the car stopped the vehicle at a distance and ran away in adjacent locality along with a woman sitting on front seat. However, the officers of Motorway Police managed to apprehend two women sitting at back side of the car with the help of local women. Two motorcyclists who were also chasing the said car stopped and informed officers that the two women along with her other culprits had committed fraud with a native of Pattoki.

They further told that the culprits had fraudulently led the person in believing that he had got a plot in Rana Town, Lahore in a balloting and minted rupees fifty thousand from him.

Quaid-e-Azam Business Park to promote industrial progress: Aslam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Industries & Trade Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal has said that PTI government has laid the foundation of industrial revolution by initiating work on Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

He maintained that Quaid-e-Azam Business Park to be established on 1,536 acres of land near Motorway is an important milestone with regard to promoting industrial progress.

He expressed these views in a statement issued here on Monday and disclosed that employment opportunities for more than five lac persons will be created by this mega project. Aslam Iqbal maintained that with the establishment of 563 industrial units in Quaid-e-Azam Business Park will promote business activities in the area. He highlighted that according to the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the process of industrialization has been expedited to generate employment opportunities.

He vowed that we would achieve the goal of national progress and prosperity with the promotion of industrialization. He informed that 13 special economic zones are being established on thousands of acres of land across the province and added that industrial infrastructure of international standard is being provided in these special economic zones.

The Minister apprised that those establishing industrial units in the special economic zones will be given ten years tax exemption along with exemption from paying duty to import machinery for the first time. Aslam underscored that investment worth Rs250 billion is expected in the Quaid-e-Azam Business Park and one window operation facility for the industrialists is also provided. He informed that the facility of multi-purposed industrial complex, emergency services and factory outlets will also be provided.

Traffic Wardens directed to take strict action against illegal parking

From Our Staff Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi City Traffic Officer (CTO) has directed traffic wardens to take strict action against encroachments and illegal parking particularly at Murree Road and Raja Bazaar and make all out efforts to ensure smooth traffic flow and avoid the traffic congestion on the main arteries.

According to a CTP spokesman, CTP has also made special arrangements to clear encroachments. Now lifters and crane would also be available in Raja Bazar and Murree Road areas to remove encroachments. He said, additional force has also been deployed in commercial areas to regulate traffic load.

He said that CTP launched a special operation last week against encroachments and illegal parking particularly to clear City Saddar Road, Imperial Market, Gungmandi Road and Bara Market areas.

The City Sector Traffic

Laws to disqualify parliamentarians running militias

LAHORE: Advocate Supreme Court, Barrister Syed Ali Zafar, has strongly condemned the practice of maintaining private armies by the political parties in collusion with criminals and mafias. Talking about the JIT reports' revelation in this regard, Barrister Ali opines that, Article 256 of the Constitution also prohibits establishing private armies.

He has proposed that Parliament should form a bipartisan parliamentary committee assisted by intelligence agencies to dig out the truth and expose the culprits.

He further requested to add new laws in both the Pakistan Penal Code and the Election Laws for the provision to disqualify any member of parliament found to have links either with a group involved in collecting extortion money or

kidnapping people for ransom. According to Barrister Ali the commission reports, like the Panama leaks, are God's gift that should be used wisely for palpable reforms.

Descon achieves year with 24m man-hours
Descon, Pakistan's leading Engineering, Construction and Manufacturing enterprise, achieved an impressive 24 million safe man-hours without any lost time injury (LTI).

This is a remarkable achievement during the most challenging operating environment in the recent past, it's truly commendable and would not be possible without and utmost commitment towards safety of culture, which we carry at Descon.

In the current challenging times, Descon continues to operate safely

by providing most competitive world-class solutions.

Descon Engineering's CEO Nadeem Bajwa commented, "Our company is committed to the safety of its employees, partners, and our valued customers. Amid to our day-to-day operations and specifically during these challenging times, the well-being and health of our employees and their families is the most important elements of our core values"

The company believes in creating HSE performance be one of the main indicators of administrative excellence by assimilating HSE into Descon's business procedures thereby sustaining growth, complying with social obligations, protecting the human loss, and the environment. This landmark imitates the company's firm pledge to safety.