

Former CJ IHC Sardar Muhammad Aslam passes away

ISLAMABAD: The first Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, namely Justice (R) Sardar Muhammad Aslam passed away on Monday. The Chief Justice, Judges and Staff of Islamabad High Court are deeply saddened by the news of this irreparable loss in legal fraternity, said a press release issued here. We express extreme grief over his untimely demise. We extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family. The late Justice (R) Sardar Muhammad Aslam was an eminent lawyer and a highly. —APP

The Business

Lahore, Tuesday, July 21, 2020 Zil-Qad 29, 1441

NCRC to launch drive on impacts of COVID-19 on children

ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) members on Monday recommended launching an awareness campaign on "Impacts of COVID-19 on Children in Pakistan". Speaking in a webinar on impacts of Covid-19 on children, the members (NCRC) said there should be child-friendly policy measures to tackle the situation of pandemic. Safety advice and planning for those experiencing domestic abuse should be included in the national recommendations on COVID-19. —Online

LCCI for controlling surge in dollar price

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has urged the government to control the surge in dollar price as it would give a new blow to the economy.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad said that surge in dollar price will badly affect manufacturing sector as raw material price and cost of doing business will go up. They said that devaluation of rupee will cause high inflation and halt growth by hitting all the important sectors of economy. They said that dollar price will lead to increase in import costs, hike in POL prices etc." The LCCI office-bearers said that the government, Ministry of Finance and State Bank of Pakistan need to ascertain the factors weakening the value of rupee and check the possibilities of undue speculations and panic buying.

This will help stabilize rupee and restore the confidence of the business community.

They said that an unchecked increase in the dollar rates would multiply the cost of doing business and badly affecting the industrial, manufacturing and agriculture sectors as Pakistan has to import fertilizers, food items, oil, machinery and industrial raw material.

They said that the government should take immediate measures to arrest further devaluation of rupee to avoid more damages to the economy. They said though the weaker rupee benefits the exporters by giving them more rupees per dollar, but this benefit is neutralized by the costly imported inputs of manufacturing sector including textiles thus eroding the financial advantage of a weaker rupee. The LCCI office-bearers said that if the greenback continues its upward flight, it will certainly inflate import bill besides lowering the competitiveness of Pakistan's business and industry.

Efforts to be made for revival of sick units: SBP

From Our Staff Reporter

FAISALABAD: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Executive Director Syed Irfan Ali on Monday said all-out efforts would be made to revive sick industrial units.

He was addressing a zoom meeting with the owners of sick units at the FCCI here. He said the government and all financial institutions were taking steps for revival of economy in addition to creating maximum job opportunities. He asked President FCCI Rana Sikandar Azam Khan to provide details of sick units so that action could be initiated immediately. On this occasion, Javid Akhtar, Director Banking Policy & Regulation SBP, said ten banks had constituted a CRC with a mandate to revive sick units.

PAF JF-17 Thunder in Air Tattoo Show brings laurels

LAHORE: It was a moment of pride for the country when the Pride of Pakistan JF-17 Thunder participated in Virtual Air Tattoo Show-2020 at Royal Air Force Base Fairford (UK).

Besides the indigenously manufactured multirole fighter aircraft of No16 Squadron, the time tested C-130 Hercules from No 21 Squadron also participated in the mega event.

This year, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, air forces from all over the world were asked to send short video clips of the participating aircraft and aircrew. As per the conditions, PAF sent short video clips of each participating aircraft along with message from the aircrew. These clips were telecast on the official social media channels of RIAT and were widely appreciated by the online users. The event would go a long way in showcasing the potential of JF-17 for the international market besides projecting the soft image of the country across the world.

Fans of the Royal International Air Tattoo enjoyed a weekend of virtual flying displays, interviews and never seen before aerial footages of modern aircraft. Ranked among the biggest air shows of the world, Royal International Air Tattoo features aircraft from the leading air forces across the globe. Various Air Forces, aircraft manufacturers, aerospace technology firms participate in this mega show each year. —PR



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the PM on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting on continuation of concessionary rates of electricity and RLNG for export oriented sector.

Call to explore world market for Pakistani apparel goods

■ PREGMEA becomes Pak first body to participate in Digital Global Apparel Expo

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: As the worldwide economy has been facing slowdown in the post-Corona scenario and all international textile exhibitions have been cancelled the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association has taken the initiative to participate in the Digital Global Apparel Sourcing Expo, adopting the latest trend to explore world market for Pakistani apparel goods through virtual mode.

The one-month long digital apparel show, organized by the International Apparel Federation (IAF) and the Foursource, has already been launched online on 15th of this month, running till August 14 2020.

In a joint statement issued here on Monday, Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) regional chairman Sohail A. Sheikh and Chief Coordinator Ijaz A. Khokhar observed that this is another initiative of Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA), becoming the first trade body from Pakistan to participate on self-finance basis in a digital textile show and use this worldwide technological fashion industry platform for B2B matchmaking, as both the exporters as well as the importers are now reluctant to travel abroad and attend 'physical trade exhibitions' and explore market.

Ijaz Khokhar, who is also the Regional

President of International Apparel Federation (IAF), said that owing to Covid-19 all trade shows are cancelled, so marketing trends have now moved to Digital Exhibitions and matchmaking programs, bridging relationships and strengthening connections. Additionally, retailers and buyers have opportunities to learn, network and conduct business with new exhibiting brands, he added. At the virtual show, companies can display all kinds of garments for Men, Women, Juniors and Children. It offers an opportunity for Pakistan to boost its exports to as well as revive the closed manufacturing capacity.

Naya Pakistan housing project launched

The Naya Pakistan Housing Programme NPHP has entered to its implementation phase as project ground breaking ceremony was held at Hazro town of Attock.

Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has performed the ground breaking ceremony. Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme spread over 400 kanals of land comprising 658 plots that include 90 plots of 10 marla each, 64 plots of 7 marla each, 189 plots of 5 marla each and 400 plots of 3 marla each.

The plots would be given to the people through ballot and on merit. The colony would have a park, walking track and commercial area comprising 38 shops. The project would be completed in December 2021 at the cost of Rs 37.972 million.

Speaking at the ceremony, Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said The project is not only a step towards fulfilling the commitment made with the public by the party.

He said the construction of five million houses for low-income segments of society across the country was a difficult task. The Government would on the other hand, took it as a challenge and necessary legislation was being made to provide loans to people. He said PTI Government was also striving to develop Pakistan as such a welfare state and the Naya Pakistan Housing Project was part of a process.

He vowed to help the country's long-neglected stratum move from katchi abadis into swiftly constructed flats and high-rises in a bid to overcome the housing shortage for lower-income groups.

He revealed that work on similar project in Attock had also been started and for Naya Pakistan Housing Project 700 kanal of land has acquired. Aslam has said that 0.1 million Sehat Insaf card has so far distributed in Attock so far while 30 thousand cards to more people would be distributed in coming days. Spokesman PTI Punjab Qazi Ahmed Akbar speaking on this occasion has said that a state of the art trauma centre would be constructed at THQ hospital Hazro besides E library would also be constructed in Hazro with an allocation of Rs 7.50 million. Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Development Malik Taimoor Masood Akbar and Director

PPP, PML-N's APC after Eid 'to get rid of govt'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Opposition parties have agreed upon calling an 'All Parties Conference' (APC) after Eidul Azha in order to discuss strategies to "get rid of this government", PPP and PML-N leaders announced on Monday.

During a press conference, Qamar Zaman Kaira and Ahsan Iqbal, senior leaders of the PPP and PML-N, respectively, said that a joint opposition coordination committee meeting will be held this week and after consulting all parties, an APC will be held after Eid.

Kaira and Iqbal were speaking to journalists after a meeting between PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and a three-member PML-N delegation at Bilawal House, Lahore. The PML-N delegation included Iqbal, Khawaja Saad Rafique and Ayaz Sadiq, while PPP's Kaira, Chaudhry Manzoor and Hasan Murtaza also attended the meeting. Kaira, while speaking to the

media, said that opposition parties will "complete our homework" before Eidul Azha and discuss strategies to oust the government in the APC.

"The opposition feels that Pakistan will face several external and internal dangers [if] this government remains in power," Iqbal said. "[Considering] what is happening in our region, we need internal unity but this government only has a vengeful agenda with which it is disintegrating the country. "In this situation, the country's two biggest opposition parties agree that to get rid of this incompetent government will be representative of this country's 220 million people."

Ahsan also criticised the government for trying to introduce a law that is "twice as bad" as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in order to put an end to terror financing and comply with Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) guidelines. The law, he said, would allow authorities to arrest a suspect for 90 days without getting a re-

mand and the detention can be extended without allowing the suspect to obtain a bail.

"Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) members are not telling Pakistan to turn the country into a fascist state through legislation [to stop terror financing]," the PML-N MNA said and added that the move was "defaming FATF, the international community and the United Nations".

He said that while the opposition was in favour of compliance with FATF guidelines, it would not allow the government to curb individual rights and freedom. He accused the government of making people's lives difficult by pushing them into poverty, throttling the media and isolating the country in the international community.

In response to a question regarding Maryam Nawaz's participation in the upcoming meetings, Iqbal said that "no one has played as huge a role in public mobilisation than" the former premier's daughter. He added that she will play her role

Pakistan has great potential in producing both black, green tea

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has great potential in producing both black and green tea, said by Chairman, PARC Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan.

He further told that NTHRI is working successfully in genetic improvement in tea germplasm and standardization of nutritional requirements of tea and other high value crops and tea plantation also maintains ecological balance. The Chairman further added that tea is one of the most important non-alcoholic beverage drinks worldwide and has been gaining further popularity as an important health drink in view of its medicinal value.

According to FAO stats 2017 China is the leading producer of tea in the world at 2,473,443 tonnes annually while Pakistan is much behind in this race as it is the importer of tea. The high import bill of tea for a developing country like Pakistan became a great problem; therefore government of Pakistan has established National Tea Research Station, PARC Shinkari, Mansehra in 1986 which later reorganized as National Tea & High Value Crops Research Institute during 2013.

NTHRI comprises of Tea Garden Area under high value crops, Tea Nursery and the Tea Processing Units and working for obtaining production of fresh tea leaves and carrying out Research activities on various aspects of tea cultivation and management.

Senate approves bill to increase seats of Balochistan Assembly

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Monday unanimously approved the bill seeking constitutional amendment to increase the number of seats in Provincial Assembly of Balochistan from 65 to 80.

The bill – the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019] (Amendment of Article 106) – was sponsored by 20 lawmakers from Balochistan which demanded to increase the number of seats in Provincial Assembly of Balochistan from 65 to 80. Two-third majority was required (66 out of total membership 104) was required for the passage of the bill and it was approved after division among the lawmakers in the House. A total of 71 members present in the House at consideration of this bill votes in its favor and none of them opposed it.

Earlier, the motion to table the bill was also unanimously adopted by the House as 71 Senators voted in its favor and no one opposed it.

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice presented report on this bill during last session which recommended to increase the number of seats in Balochistan Assembly. It is to mention that this private members' bill was referred to the Committee on September 2, 2019 after introduction in the House. The committee considered the bill in multiple meetings and also held public hearings in Karachi and Quetta. According to the amendment, the general seats in Balochistan Assembly would increase to 63 from 51, Women seats to 13 from 11 while seats for Non-Muslims to increase from three to four.

Advisers holding dual nationality

IHC seeks reply from govt

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought reply from the federal government on petition pertaining to the appointments of advisers holding dual nationality.

During the court proceedings, Member National Assembly Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said that according to the law, Prime Minister Imran Khan's advisers cannot be part of the federal cabinet then how they were attending the meetings. In his remarks, Deputy Attorney General Raja Khalid Mahmood said that the advisers could not be part of the cabinet but all can be part of the sub-committee. After brief arguments, the court adjourned the hearing and sought a reply from the federal government within two weeks. Talking to media after hearing, Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said that it was not acceptable for unselected people



UNITED KINGDOM: Pakistan Air Force officials pose for a photo along with JF-17 Thunder as JF-17 participated in Virtual Air Tattoo Show-2020 at Royal Air Force Base Fairford (UK). —Online

Construction CPEC, SEZ a great success for Pakistan'

The Business Report

BEIJING: The construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and special economic zones is a catalyst for Pakistan's industrialization, which is promoting the transfer of China's manufacturing industry to Pakistan and pushing Pakistan's development onto a fast track. Cheng Xizhong, Special Commentator of China Economic Net and Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law said on Monday.

So far, remarkable success has been achieved in the CPEC development. It is mainly manifested in three aspects: First, the govts and enterprises of China and Pakistan are very satisfied with the progress,

which shows that the cooperation between both sides is close and the corridor construction is progressing well. Second, Pakistani PM Imran Khan said recently that the corridor is a declaration of friendship between China and Pakistan and an excellent project for Pakistan's economic and social development.

He also said that Pakistan should complete the corridor construction at all costs. In the past, there were different voices in Pakistan on the construction of the corridor. Now, from the federal government to the local governments, from political parties to the public, they are on the same page. They highly appreciate the great achievements of the corridor construction. Third, the construction of corridor projects is progressing

well. In the first phase, 90% of the 22 major projects have been completed and put into operation, and the rest will be completed within a few months, he said in his article published by CEN here.

The second phase of construction has already started. The construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and special economic zones is a catalyst for Pakistan's industrialization, which is promoting the transfer of China's manufacturing industry to Pakistan and pushing Pakistan's development onto a fast track. He said, recently, Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chairman of CPEC Authority said that the construction of CPEC is being accelerated, and the second phase of the construction has started substantially.