

Death anniversary of Sattar Edhi observed

ISLAMABAD: Death anniversary of prominent Pakistani philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi was observed on Wednesday. According to media reports Abdul Sattar Edhi started welfare services in 1951. He later established world's largest volunteer ambulance network along with homeless shelters, animal shelters and orphanages across the country. Many international and national awards, including Nishan-e-Imtiaz were bestowed upon him in recognition. —Online

The Business

Lahore, Thursday, July 09, 2020 Zil-Qad 17, 1441

Earthquake jolts Jhelum, parts of Azad Kashmir

JHELUM: Jhelum, surrounding areas and parts of Kashmir have been hit by an earthquake. According to media reports the tremors were felt in Jhelum and various cities of Azad Kashmir including Mirpur in early hours of morning. People came out of their homes in panic and started reciting verses from the Holy Quran. No loss of life and property was reported from any area of the country due to earthquake. —Online

'Geographical changes vital for trade policy'

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Abdul Razak Dawood has said that increasing geographical diversification is an important part of Pakistan's strategic trade policy.

In a series of tweets on Wednesday, the advisor said, "Once market reach extends, then market share will increase. Increasing geographical diversification is an important part of our strategic trade policy."

The adviser congratulated DG Khan Cement for making a breakthrough in winning orders for export of cement to Philippines. He said this follows on the company's success in China. The adviser urged the exporters to follow this example of extending their market reach across the world, saying: "Exporters should follow this example of extending their market reach across the globe."

In yet another tweet, the advisor said, "I am glad to see that export remittances from IT & ITES sector have also picked up, showing a growth of 21 percent & fetching over a billion dollars in foreign exchange, in just 11 months of FY 2019-20. A lot of this success is due to efforts and support provided by Ministry of IT." He congratulated IT industry and young entrepreneurs on this achievement and hoped, "We will continue to build on this success by extending all-out support from the Ministry of Commerce, particularly our trade missions abroad."

He further said that IT and ITES is one of the top priorities of the government, adding the government encourages local and foreign investors in this sector. He maintained that Ministry of Commerce has also introduced the first E-Commerce Policy, which will give further boost to the IT industry. —TLTP

SECP issues Master Circular for Asset Cos

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), to facilitate mutual fund industry has issued a Master Circular for Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Investment Advisor (IAs) consolidating all existing, applicable circulars, directions and clarifications.

The consolidation of all past circulars, issued by the SECP from January 06, 2009 up to July 1, 2020 aims to draw together different enactments on a topic into a single chapter. Thus, it has divided the circulars into sixteen topics/chapters inter-alia; categorization of collective investment schemes and investment avenues; disclosure requirements; exchange traded funds, performance benchmarks for collective investment schemes and risk management and compliance, etc.

The Master Circular has streamlined the structure of original circulars to make a cumulative effect of successive layers of secondary legislation, removed obsolete materials and resolved minor inconsistencies that have crept in over the years. To facilitate statutory compliance by the industry and other users, the SECP will regularly update the Master Circular to provide access to all the applicable circulars in one document. —DNA

Call to ban poultry exports to stabilise prices

ISLAMABAD: Shahid Rasheed Butt, former president of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), on Wednesday said that mafia gangs have become a threat to the system and masses which must be controlled.

The government should stop taking notice on every move of mafia and take stern action to stop them from fleecing masses, he said. Butt said that poultry products have become more expensive in summer as compared to the last winter; therefore, its exports should be banned and smuggling should be stopped to stabilize prices in the market. He noted that poultry lords have manipulated the market to bankrupt small poultry farmers and started looting masses.

Eggs which were available at Rs80 and 90 per dozen in the last winter are now being sold for Rs130 to 150 per dozen while live chicken is being sold at Rs230 to Rs260 per kg which was almost Rs110 per kg a few months back. He said that inaction against wheat, sugar, pharma, IPP, LPG, petroleum and other mafia groups have emboldened the poultry mafia that has added to the problems



GILGIT: Voice Chancellor Karakoram International University Professor Attaullah Shah and Director General Special Communication service Major General Ali Farman witnessing the MoU.

ICCI demands early notification for construction sector

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had announced an attractive incentive package for the construction industry that aimed to stimulate economic activity in the country and boost investment, but despite the passage of three months, no relevant department in Islamabad has issued its notification due to which its implementation was still at halt.

He said that Punjab Government has issued the notification and timelines for the construction industry and federal government should do the same at the earliest to realize the benefits of construction industry package. Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that about 3 years ago, CDA Board had approved the amended industrial building byelaws, but CDA has not issued their notification as yet due to which not only the industrial growth was suffering, but CDA was also losing significant revenue.

He said that business community was also facing problems in lease renewal from CDA and this situation was affecting business activities. He urged that CDA should issue notifications of amended building

byelaws and construction industry package. He further stressed that CDA should streamline the lease renewal process to facilitate the growth of businesses.

ICCI President said that construction industry played a key role in the economic development of the country as growth of over 50 allied industries depended on this industry. He said that acceleration in construction activities would give boost to business and investment activities besides creating plenty of new jobs that will reduce poverty and unemployment. He said that construction of houses under Naya Pakistan Housing Program will also benefit the low-income people for which materialization of the said package was important.

He stressed that the Prime Minister should issue directions to all concerned departments for issuance of early notification for implementation of construction industry package so that businessmen and people could realize its benefits.

Tahir Abbasi, Senior Vice President and Saif-ur-Rehman, Vice President ICCI President said that Covid-19 pandemic have caused devastating impact on business and industrial activities and in these conditions, the growth of construction in-

dustry would help in reviving the business and investment activities in the country.

They further said that Punjab Government has issued notification and timelines for construction industry and federal government should also do the same in order to give boost to economic activities.

PSMA contradicts removal of office-bearers

The spokesman of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has refuted a news item appeared in newspapers regarding grouping in association and removal of office-bearers.

According to the issued statement the spokesman clarified that according to the trade organization rules and act the association election announcement had already made in the first week of July. The election commission has also appointed for this.

The electing process of new Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman, Vice Chairman and executive committee would be completed in next few weeks. News is the part of election commission and main objective to this information is to attract the voters, he added. Moreover, he stated that association is nonpolitical and believe on

KCCI appeals PM to help in loadshedding issue

The Business Report

KARACHI: Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) & Former President KCCI Siraj Kassam Teli and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan have appealed Prime Minister Imran Khan to immediately intervene and take strictest notice of the widespread protests and sit-ins being carried out by every single citizen of Karachi and all the political parties even PTI MNAs/MPAs who have been strongly protesting against K-Electric (KE) as it fails to control loadshedding all over Karachi.

Whereas the Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan, while totally disowning Karachi, says KE's electricity issue is not his responsibility which is a really worrisome statement hence the PM must take immediate notice of this serious situation. If PTI-led government fails to act against KE then, the entire business & industrial community of Karachi would like to request the honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan to please intervene in this serious matter by taking suo motu notice in order to provide relief to the perturbed citizens of Karachi who have been going through

awful situation caused not only by KE but also by federal and provincial governments who are equally responsible for their inability to ensure relief to Karachi. It is really unfortunate that nobody owns Karachi but everybody wants to squeeze 70 percent revenue from this city to run the entire country, Siraj Teli and Agha Shahab added in a statement issued on Wednesday.

Although all the political parties have been protesting against KE but strangely, PTI MNAs have also joined the fleet by holding press conferences and sit-ins against KE whereas they are in power and KE comes under federal government's purview yet they have been strongly criticizing Omar Ayub Khan for his powerlessness to deal with this issue which is beyond our imagination, Chairman BMG and President KCCI said while referring to strong remarks given by MNA Aamir Li-aquat Hussain against Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan and President Dr. Arif Alvi.

They were of the opinion that Prime Minister Imran Khan must put aside all his other engagements and visit Karachi at the earliest to hold a meeting in which all the stakeholders, particularly represen-

tatives of the business & industrial community who are the biggest stakeholders, must be invited so that the load shedding issue could be amicably resolved.

'Increasing production, exports sans refunds impossible'

President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, FPCCI's Businessmen Panel Senior Vice Chairman, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said boosting production and exports in the absence of enabling environment and delay in refund payments is self-deception.

The business community is facing a demand shock amid unfavourable circumstances, virus disruption and increasing energy prices, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that exporters are facing issues like non-payment of refunds, delayed payment by importers and liquidity crunch which is bankrupting them. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said the largest export earner sector of textile is also facing serious issues which should be resolved otherwise there will be no benefit of reducing interest rates. The former minister noted existing conditions may result in the closure of industrial unite

Rupee strengthens against dollar, gains 19 paises

ISLAMABAD: The exchange rate of Pakistani rupee gained 19 paises against US dollar in the interbank on Wednesday to close at Rs 166.76 compared to the last closing of Rs 166.95.

However, according to Forex Association of Pakistan, the buying and selling rates of Dollar in open market were recorded at Rs 166.7 and Rs 167.7 respectively. The State Bank of Pakistan reported that in interbank, the price of Euro depreciated by 11 paises to close at Rs 188.18 against the last day's trading of Rs 188.29.

The Japanese Yen remained stable at Rs 1.55, whereas an increase of 68 paises was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound which was traded at Rs 209.00 as compared to its last closing of Rs 208.32. The exchange rates of Saudi Riyal and Emirates Dirham decreased by 05 paises each to close at Rs 44.45 and Rs 45.40 respectively. —APP

ADB sells \$4b 3-year global benchmark bond

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) returned to the US dollar bond market with the pricing of a \$4 billion 3-year global bond, proceeds of which will be part of ADB's ordinary capital resources.

"We are very appreciative of the consistently solid investor support that ADB receives in its US dollar bond outings. This trade is no exception. The transaction was well oversubscribed, which enabled us to fine tune pricing and still print one of our largest 3-year USD issue sizes at \$4 billion. This gives us the resources to continue to provide much needed assistance to the Asia and Pacific region, particularly during this pandemic," said ADB Treasurer Pierre Van Peteghem on Wednesday in a statement.

The 3-year bond, with a coupon rate of 0.25 percent per annum payable semi-annually and a maturity date of 14 July 2023, was priced at 99.833 percent to yield 12 basis points over the 0.25 percent US Treasury notes due June 2023.

The transaction was lead-managed by Bank of Montreal, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. A syndicate group was also formed consisting of ANZ, Credit Agricole CIB, Daiwa, ING, Mizuho, and Natwest.

The issue achieved wide primary market distribution with 43 percent of the bonds placed in Asia; 23 percent in Europe, Middle East, and Africa; and 34 percent in the Americas. By investor type, 62 percent of the bonds went to central banks and official institutions, 25 percent to banks, and 13 percent to fund managers and other types of investors. The ADB plans to raise around \$30 billion to \$35 billion from the capital markets in 2020. —TLTP

Moody's downgrades shipping outlook

NEW YORK: The ratings agency Moody's has downgraded its forecast for the deep-sea shipping industry this year, and it now expects that earnings will contract by as much as 18 percent compared with 2019.

"We now expect the aggregate EBITDA of rated shipping companies to fall by around 16 percent-18 percent in 2020, nearly doubling from our previous projection of a drop of around 6 percent-10 percent," said Maria Maslovsky, vice president and senior analyst at Moody's. The analysis differs markedly by sector. The outlook is stable for tanker operators, as tanker rates have benefited from unusually high demand for floating storage. However, these rates are set to come back into line with long-term averages in the second half of the year, Moody's predicted, and oil demand could potentially be impacted by another round of COVID-19 outbreaks.

Throughout the pandemic's first six months, the container segment has done remarkably well by adjusting its capacity to meet demand. Freight rates on core routes - and for some carriers, overall earnings - have exceeded last year's levels. However, Moody's cautioned that while the carriers have shown restraint in allocating tonnage, they could still be challenged by another wave of COVID infections, which could endanger demand for consumer goods in North America and Europe later in the year.

The dry bulk market remains highly volatile, according to Moody's. The fall in iron ore cargoes from Brazil after mining company Vale's



ISLAMABAD: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah talks to media after appearing at the NAB.

Services trade deficit shrinks by 41.63 percent in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: The country's services trade deficit contracted by 41.63 percent during the first eleven months of the financial year 2019-20 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During the period under review country's services exports declined by 8.52 percent, whereas services' imports narrowed by 23.61 percent, according to the trade statistics of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). During the period from July-May (2019-20), the exports reached to \$5.050 billion against the exports of \$5.520 billion during the same period of last year, it added.

Meanwhile, the services imports witnessed decrease of 23.61 percent and went down from \$10.146 billion in first eleven months to \$7.750 billion of the same period of

current financial year, it said.

Based on the figures, the services trade deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$2.700 billion against the deficit of \$4.625 billion during last year, showing decline of 41.63 percent.

On year-on-year basis, the services exports from the country decreased by 16.72 percent during May 2020 as against the exports same month of last year. The exports during July-May 2020 were recorded at \$389.99 million against the exports of \$468.27 million in May 2019. The imports also witnessed decrease of 59.79 percent during the month as these went down from \$1164.03m in May 2019 to \$468.03m in May 2020.

On month-on-month basis, the exports from the country decreased

by 4.19 percent in May 2020 when compared to the exports of \$407.06 million in April 2020. On the other hand, the imports into the country decreased by 19.59 percent in May 2020 when compared to the imports of \$468.03 million in April.

A significant reduction in the first eleven months of current financial year and declined by 27.77 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The Country's deficit during July-May (2019-20) stood at \$21.058 billion against the deficit of \$29.154 billion during July-May (2018-19), according to the data. Meanwhile, the country's merchandise trade deficit witnessed significant reduction during the fiscal year 2019-20 and declined by 27.11 percent as compared to the previous year. —APP