

## Aamir Liaquat approaches SHC against Kemari district

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Aamir Liaquat Hussain has approached the Sindh High Court (SHC) against division of District West by Sindh government. Aamir Liaquat, in a tweet on Monday, he said "I am about to file a constitutional plea against an unconstitutional act of Government of Sindh." PTI leader also claimed that he has full support of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

# The Business

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## China to absorb Pakistan's textile yield significantly: Report

ISLAMABAD: The market in China will absorb Pakistan's textile yield significantly and support textile sector for its further rehabilitation in wake of COVID-19. Gwadar Pro quoting Monthly Report of China Cotton Market released by China Cotton Net stated that the global economic recovery has been slow and gradual, while the Chinese economy has recovered steadily. The textile imports volume of China rose 6.5 percent year-on-year in July, well ahead of market expectations. —Online

## Balochistan sets up facilitation centre for investors

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan government has established a facilitation center in Islamabad to provide information and guidance to local and foreign investors about business opportunities in different sectors of the province.

The Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan said that the investors will be encouraged to benefit from business friendly policies and opportunities. —Online

## Taliban team arrives to discuss peace process

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: A delegation of Afghan Taliban arrived in Islamabad on Monday to discuss the Afghanistan peace process with senior Pakistani officials, media reported.

The delegation reached Islamabad from Qatar at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the Afghan peace process and other related issues. A spokesperson for the Foreign Office, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry, had confirmed the other day that an Afghan Taliban delegation will be visiting Pakistan to discuss the way forward in the peace process. In October last year, a 12-member delegation of the Afghan Taliban under the leadership of Mullah Baradar had held dialogues with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi after reaching the Foreign Office prior to signing a historic peace deal with the US in February 2020.

The delegation had appreciated Pakistan's efforts for peace in the region. In February, a deal was reached between the United States and the Taliban in which it was agreed that 5,000 Taliban prisoners will be released from Afghan prisons before peace talks between the militant group and the government. The government has so far released 4,600 prisoners.

The Loya Jirga, which was attended by more than 3,000 elders, community leaders and politicians, stated that intra-Afghan peace talks should begin immediately. It said that foreign prisoners, if any, should be handed over to their respective nations after receiving credible guarantees from their governments.

The jirga also decided that the freed prisoners should not return to the battlefield while permanent ceasefire should be imposed.

## Shehbaz flays govt over propoganda against PML-N

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif on Monday lambasted the PTI-led government over its "unparalleled propoganda against the PML-N" as well as a failure to prove corruption against the former ruling party.

He expressed these views while talking to media persons in Lahore. Referring to Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration, Shehbaz Sharif said it was a government that is the "worst in the history, incompetent, and one that neither knows governance nor is concerned about the problems the public faces".

"In two years, the [rising] inflation has brought people to the brink of disaster. First, sugar was exported and the gains from depreciation in the rupee were availed. Farmers were punished and the exporters made billions. "The price of sugar has gone above Rs100 [a kilo]. Now, sugar is being imported," he said. The PML-N President also expressed his condolences over the passing of National Party President Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo, saying the late senator always stood strong with democracy and the Constitution of Pakistan.

"Hasil Bizenjo made innumerable sacrifices," the PML-N leader said. Shehbaz was accompanied by senior party leaders, including former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former finance minister Miftah Ismail, and former foreign minister Khawaja Asif.

For the first time in history, there was a shortage of wheat even before the harvest season ended. A member of the govt asked on the floor of the House where the wheat had gone! Shehbaz said oil prices were jacked up in one shocking move. "Electricity prices skyrocketed but the circular credit is still out of control," he added. "The [govt's] worst incompetence and incompetence has led to



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to PM on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh chairs a meeting to review the progress on FBR Reforms agenda.

# Pak, India tension: SAARC Chamber no more functional

ISLAMABAD: The diplomatic and political brawl between Pakistan and India has reportedly paralyzed SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) as the Association has barred Pakistan from using its nomenclature being a suspended body.

Pakistan's renowned businessman and Chairman UBG Iftikhar Ali Malik, has been nominated the President of SAARC CCI after an agreement between the incumbent President FPCCI Anjum Nisar and former President Daroo Khan Achakzai at the Supreme Court level.

Only July 6, 2020, Fazulrahman Rahmani, Director, HRT, SAARC Secretariat wrote a letter to the heads of the SAARC recognised regional apex bodies saying that according to SAARC guidelines and procedures, their recognition status has expired. The recognition of 24 bodies (six apex bodies and 18 recognized bodies) has expired while previously, SAARC bodies used to continue their working as per schedule despite expiry of recognition but this is the first time, they have been barred from functioning.

According to the letter, in terms of guidelines and procedures for granting/ renewal of recognition by SAARC to the 'SAARC recognized regional apex bodies', the Stand-

ing Committee is the competent SAARC body to take a decision on this matter. Given the fact, the status of recognition of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is no more valid beyond its date of expiry and stands pending until the competent body of SAARC meets and considers the matter relating to the Chamber, including the question of renewal of recognition.

SAARC Secretariat has asked SAARC CCI to discontinue its activities under the nomenclature of SAARC until its status of recognition is renewed by the competent body of SAARC. The sources said, the competent body means the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs of member countries, adding that the issue cannot be resolved until their meeting is not held. However, there is no indication that India will agree on early meeting of the apex body.

Pakistan's relevant entity, sources said, recently wrote a couple of letters to the concerned authorities of SAARC, showing concern on delaying tactics on the part of some office holders of the organization.

Iftikhar Malik along with a delegation also met with Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and sought his help to resolve the issue. There are also reports that the SAARC CCI is collecting fee for SAARC sticker in dollars from businessmen despite the fact the or-

ganization's license has expired.

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been enjoying the Apex Status of SAARC since 1992, has been playing a vital role for the economic integration of the South Asian region. "The due date of the next SAARC Standing Committee meeting is uncertain and a meeting of the SAARC Standing Committee has not been held since 2016, over the past four years. As a responsible and well reputed institution, the SAARC CCI is not in a position to discontinue its activities for an uncertain period of time.

Moreover, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry has invested PKR 600 crores on its Permanent Headquarters in Islamabad. With work in progress and certain contractual obligations signed under the SAARC nomenclature, it may drag the SAARC CCI and its leadership in unnecessary legal complications and litigations process."

However Pakistan has requested the concerned authorities to allow SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry to operate under SAARC patronage and nomenclature to carry forward agenda of regional integration within the ambit of SAARC Charter, Constitution of SAARC CCI and the Guidelines and Procedure for Apex bodies, till next meeting of stand-

# LCCI hails govt policy for income tax refunds

LAHORE: President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has appreciated the government's policy for payments of income tax refunds to the taxpayers.

President Irfan Iqbal has also thanked the federal government for considering Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry's efforts for the payment of refunds of Income Tax to the taxpayers.

"I'm very grateful to the government for taking such a big step to facilitate the business community on the efforts of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry," says the LCCI President. He has also congratulated the business community that LCCI's efforts borne fruits for the businessmen and the fellow traders who had been suffering from Covid-19 for a long time. The President has asked all the taxpayers to immediately approach their respective regional tax offices to fulfill all the legal requirements for the issuance of refunds.

"This is major achievement of the LCCI that the authorities have considered its efforts to provide relief to the business community that suffered from COVID-19," says LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh.

"I'm happy that our proposals have

been accepted and such a big relief has been given to the business community," he further says. Appreciating the government policy for payments of refunds of income tax to the tax payers, the president has stated that the traders, and especially small and medium enterprises would stand up again for their revival.

Earlier, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Irfan Iqbal Sheikh had written letters to Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) that COVID -19 badly damaged the businesses and even the small shops remained closed due to lockdown imposed to contain spread of the virus. He said all the business activities remained suspended during this period which caused huge damage to the economy. He had asked the FBR to refund income tax to the taxpayers in these challenging times which had now been considered.

**FBR's Member Inland Revenue visits Sialkot on invitation of PRGMEA**

The FBR's Member Inland Revenue (Operations) Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed visited Sialkot on invitation of the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA). Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue RTO, Sialkot Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan

received the Member Inland Revenue (Operations) at the RTO Sialkot and thereafter accompanied him to the PRGMEA House for meeting with the business community.

The meeting held at PRGMEA House was attended by the whole business community of industrial hub of Sialkot including President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry, all exporters' associations chairmen and representatives, i.e. PRGMEA, Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Pakistan Gloves Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Surgical Instruments Manufacturing Association of Pakistan, Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association and Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association.

The Member IR (Operations) while addressing the meeting, assured all the exporters of Sialkot that sales tax and Income Tax refunds will be paid on priority basis to the exporters to overcome their financial crunch amidst post-corona slowdown, hitting the whole industry, especially the industry of Sialkot being the foreign exchange earner of over \$2.5b The Member IR (Operations) was in the favour of revival of industry and growth of exports for the maximum employment generation in

## 172 states working on virus vaccine plan, says WHO

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday that some 172 countries are engaging with the COVAX facility designed to ensure equitable access to coronavirus vaccines. However, it stated that more funding is needed for the purpose and countries need now to make binding commitments.

WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "The facility is critical to end the COVID-19 pandemic, and would not only pool risk for countries developing and buying vaccines, but also ensure prices are kept as low as possible." He added, "Vaccine nationalism only helps the virus. The success of the COVAX facility hinges not only on countries signing up to it, but also filling key funding gaps." Meanwhile, the WHO stated that countries wishing to be part of the global COVAX plan have until August 31 to submit expressions of interest, with confirmation of intention to join due by September 18, and initial payments due by October 9.

## Govt bans Khatam-ul-Anbiya organisation

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has declared Khatam-ul-Anbiya named organisation defunct.

According to media reports the organisation Khatam-ul-Anbiya has been banned due to involvement in terrorism.

According to the notification of restriction on the organisation, Federal government while declaring Khatam-ul-Anbiya as terrorist organisation has imposed restriction on it.

Similarly, strict restrictions have been imposed on more than 88 terrorist organisations and elements in Pakistan. —Online

## India removes IIOJK distinction of settlers, others

NEW DELHI: In order to remove any distinction between original residents of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and new settlers from India, New Delhi has made it compulsory for Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) holders to acquire domicile certificate in the name of applying for jobs and getting other benefits.

The announcement in this regard was made by Indian Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during a press briefing in New Delhi. Responding to media queries, Dr Jitendra Singh said, somehow an impression is being created in certain quarters that those holding PRC need not apply for the Domicile Certificate and asked them not to be "misled by such rumours".

He said, those holding PRC of Jammu & Kashmir are eligible for receiving new Domicile Certificate. Those who are privy to the day-to-day developments and BJP's anti-Kashmiris' moves in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir say that the latest move is meant to remove any distinction between original residents of Jammu and Kashmir and those, being settled by Bharatiya Janata Party government from India to change demographic composition of the territory. —Online

## 'NAB thinks fight against corruption as national duty'

ISLAMABAD: Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal, Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has said that NAB is absolutely committed to root out corruption where fight against corruption is being taken as a national duty. He said that NAB was established to rid the nation from corruption and corrupt practices.

He said that "NAB's faith is Corruption free Pakistan". He said that the hard work, commitment, dedication and merit being put in by NAB officers are being appreciated by national and international reputed organizations from time to time. He said that NAB officers should double their efforts in nabbing corrupt elements and recover from them the hard earned looted money of the innocent citizens of Pakistan. He said that NAB has introduced a "Combined Investigation Team" (CIT) system for a fair, transparent and unbiased, inquiry. —Online



ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistani Muslim League (N) Shahbaz Sharif shows a report at the press conference.

# Political resistance movement gaining strength in IOK: FM

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that Kashmiris' struggle for right to self-determination has taken a new turn with a political resistance movement gaining strength in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, the foreign minister pointed out that six political parties of IOK have rejected the Indian steps of August 5, 2019. He said these political parties have forged an alliance, vowing to wage a joint struggle to revive the old status of the territory.

He said this is not an ordinary occurrence but an important development as the joint statement issued by the political parties holds the signatures of Farooq Abdullah and enjoys support of the Congress party which

is the main opposition party in India.

He said it is a clear message to the Modi government that the Kashmiris have stood up against the illegal steps of 5th August. He said that India undertook the illegal steps to change the demography of the disputed territory and dis-empower the local population. Qureshi said Prime Minister Imran Khan became Kashmiri people's voice at every global forum, vehemently raising and drawing world leaders' attention to the issue.

He said the Indian brutal acts of the last one year including military siege and communication blackout have not shaken the resolve of the Kashmiri people. Responding to a question, the foreign minister said there is no change in the stance of Saudi Arabia on Kashmir. He said both Pak-

istan and Saudi Arabia are discussing different proposals. He said the OIC has several times passed unambiguous resolutions in support of oppressed Kashmiri people.

The foreign minister said that China also has been holding a clear stance on the Kashmir issue that the dispute should be resolved under the UN resolutions. To a question about CPEC, the foreign minister said that Pakistan and China have been resolutely pursuing the project and the pace of implementation of the project will increase in days to come. He said that CPEC will benefit not only these two countries but will also lead to regional connectivity. Responding to a question about Israel, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said PM Imran Khan has categorically. —Online