

Senior civil judge found dead

CHICHAWATNI: Senior Civil Judge Badi-uz-Zaman was mysteriously found dead in his house in Chichawatni on Tuesday. The senior civil judge was found dead in his house, the police said and added that they have found the injury mark on the right arm of the deceased. The body was moved to Tehsil hospital for medico-legal. Meanwhile, judges and the DPO have reached the hospital after getting information about the incident. According to police, the cause of death could not be ascertained yet and they were waiting for the autopsy report. Police started an investigation into the matter. —*TLTP*

IHC issues written order in SECP data leak case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday issued a written order in a case pertaining to inquiry against Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) official Arslan Zafar for leaking official data.

Chief Justice Athar Minallah, hearing the case, remarked that apparently the SECP had taken action related to the data leak which was already supposed to be made public. The data of such shareholding companies' was leaked which was associated with interests of a public officer holder. The SECP lawyer said the company concerned had not submitted any complaint to the department regarding the data leak.

The court order stated that the SECP had to satisfy the bench that how this public data was a secret document. The bench also directed the department to produce its record pertaining to previous actions in line of data leakage.

The court stopped the SECP to take any action till October 12, in line of inquiry report and also directed the petitioner to submit answer of department's show cause notice and shared copy with the bench. —*APP*

No compromise on accountability, says Shibli

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz has said that the government would not make any compromise on the accountability of the corrupt and it is not afraid of the opposition's movement.

Talking to state-run television channel, the information minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is ready to sit with the opposition leadership on matters of national importance, but he will not stop the accountability process as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was voted to power to root out corruption from the country.

Shibli Faraz said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders, during their governments, promoted financial corruption and ruined the state institutions. He said it is for the first time in the country's history that powerful people are being held accountable.

Shibli Faraz said the government has reduced current account and trade deficits, and increased foreign reserves through its prudent policies, while the previous regimes ruined the national economy by their policies aimed at looting the national wealth. —*TLTP*

Five die as mortar shell explodes in Nowshera shop

NEWSHERA: Five people died while one got injured when a mortar shell exploded in Akbarpura area of Nowshera on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122 officials, the bodies and injured were shifted to a nearby hospital. Five deceased in the blast have been identified as Shafiqat, Mukarram, Ali, Zahidullah and Hidayatullah, the officials said.

District Police Officer (DPO) Najmul Hasnain and other police officers rushed to the spot and inspected the site of the explosion. Police collected evidence from the site of the incident, DPO Najmul Hasnain said.

The mortar shell was found near the riverside at Akbarpura, which exploded when being sold at the scrap shop, the DPO added.

Akbarpura is situated around 13 miles away from Peshawar and is part of Pabbi Tehsil of Nowshera district. —*TLTP*

NAB summons Abbasi today in PMDC case

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday summoned Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to appear before it today (Wednesday).

According to the corruption watchdog, the former prime minister has been summoned for questioning in a case related to the appointment of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) managing director. The PML-N stalwart is facing a number of cases instituted by the bureau, including the LNG contract case, alleged assets beyond means case, and the PSO MD appointments case. —*Online*

The Business

Lahore, Wednesday, September 30, 2020 Safar 12, 1442

US to restore student visa for Pakistanis from tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: US embassy has announced to restore student visa services for Pakistan, US embassy in Islamabad and US consulate in Karachi will be operational from October 1. According to a statement issued by the US embassy in Islamabad, student visa is their 'top priority'. Will make every effort to assist student visa applicants as timely and safely as possible, the embassy stated. It is said in the statement issued by the US embassy that various measures have been taken. —*Online*



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi meet with Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force during visit to the Air Headquarters.

Eight more die of Covid-19; 672 fresh cases surface

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported eight more coronavirus-related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the death toll from the disease to 6,474, said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday.

According to the NCOC, 32,665 samples were tested for the infection during this period, out of which 672 turned out to be positive. The number of Covid-19 cases across the country has reached 311,516 with the addition of the new cases. So far, 296,340 patients have recovered with the inclusion of 318 people recovering their health in the past 24 hours. The number of active Covid-19 cases stands at 8,702. More than 3.4 million tests have been conducted across the country. As many as 681 patients are under treatment at various hospitals across the country, out of whom 80 are on ventilators.

So far, Sindh has reported 136,395 cases of the coronavirus, Punjab, 99,292, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 37,727, Balochistan, 15,177, Islamabad, 16,532, Gilgit Baltistan, 3,730, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir has reported 2,663 cases. Meanwhile, the global death toll from the new coronavirus, which emerged less than a year ago in China and has swept across the world, passed one million. The pandemic has ravaged the global economy, inflamed geopolitical tensions and upended lives across the world. World sports, live entertainment and international travel ground to a halt as fans, audiences and tourists were forced to stay at home, kept inside by strict measures imposed to curb the virus spread. —*TLTP*

KP govt to buy, restore houses of Dilip, Kapoor

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to buy and restore the houses of Bollywood legend actors Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor.

Both actors were born and raised in Peshawar's famous Qissa Khwani area before they moved on to Mumbai to become acting greats. According to the Director Archaeology and Museums, Abdul Samad, the government has decided to buy the houses of Bollywood icons and in this regard, a letter has been sent to the deputy commissioner Peshawar.

The value of both houses would be determined after the imposition of section 4. The houses, in the first phase, would be restored to their original position and after reconstruction, they will be transformed as museums, Samad said. "The move is part of efforts to restore Peshawar's traditional culture." Under the conservation plan, around 1,800 buildings in Peshawar over 100 years old will be acquired and restored by the provincial government.

The Kapoor haveli was built between 1918 and 1922 by Raj Kapoor's grandfather, Dewaan Basheswarnath. Meanwhile, Dilip Kumar's house was built by his father who was a fruit merchant. Kumar was born in Peshawar as Mohammed Yusuf Khan on 11 December 1922. According to Mr Waheedullah, Kumar's father suffered substantial business losses in the mid-1920s, forcing the family to move to Bombay in search of better opportunities. —*TLTP*

PTCL, Telenor Microfinance Bank sign agreement

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited have signed an agreement for provision of physical and Virtual Data Centre (VDC) Hosting Services bundled with industry's leading Managed Security solution.

Zarrar Hasham Khan, Chief Business Services Officer, PTCL and Khurram Gul Agha, Chief Information Officer & Operations Support, Telenor Microfinance Bank, signed the agreement at a special ceremony recently held at PTCL Zonal office in Karachi. Umar Farooqi, General Manager, Digital Services Sales, PTCL, Javaid Sher Ali, Executive Director, IT Planning & Architecture, Telenor Microfinance Bank and Nadeem Ashfaq, Director Information Technology, Telenor Microfinance Bank, were also present on the occasion, along with other senior officials. Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) is providing Telenor Microfinance Bank with its state-of-the-art infrastructure and platform solutions that are equipped with latest technology, managed security and DDoS filtering solution. —*Online*

PTBA seeks PRA upgradation

By Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan Tax Bar Association (PTBA) has proposed upgradation of the Punjab Revenue Authority PRA.

PTBA senior vice president and advocate High Court Habibur Rehman Zubari in a letter to the PRA chairperson has proposed that the Punjab Revenue Authority is on track to become a viable institution.

In the letter, he said that for achieving the targets, it is proposed that the various steps are essential to be taken immediately to improve the working and provide a friendly atmosphere. The letter highlighted that due to COVID-19/country wide lock down, the appeal matters, registration, revision of return, payment of tax or reply by the taxpayers have become barred by time, the department should condone the delay voluntarily and suo-motu action.

It said that tax rates reduced in the budget 2020 on restaurants from 16 percent to five percent in case of payment of bills through debit/credit card have not been practically implemented so far because machines installed on the premises are still charging 16 percent which create severe hardship for the taxpayers of this line of

business. Immediate action in this regard is proposed to transfer the benefits of a lower tax rate of five percent as against 16 percent still being charged which is a clear violation of the prevailing law.

It was explained in the letter the registration process of PRA is solely based on the FBR data without confirmation whether the taxpayer is still living and doing the same business or otherwise. Similarly, no verification whatsoever has been made by the department before compulsorily registering the taxpayers using social media for rendering services irrespective of the fact that whether the business remains in existence after the withdrawal of lock down.

The letter added that the notices sent to taxpayers should have the officer's proper address, Cell/Land Line number and room number etc for easy access. A quick response in a well manner can save time and also reduce the fear/harassment of the taxpayer and encourage them to pay the due amount of tax. 4-Simplify the adjournment process, for example, this facility is also available through telephone, WHATSAPP or SMS by the taxpayer or his authorized representatives. The letter pointed out that the existing taxpayers must be facilitated to

improve their confidence being a contributor to the Government exchequer. 6-Waiver of penalty and surcharge in case of payment of principal amount by the taxpayer.

Tax broadening requires a friendly attitude of the officers and a friendly environment in the organisation to promote the image of the department. Thorough inquiry should be made before taking ex-parte decisions and proper service of notices be ensured to meet the ends of justice, the letter explained, adding that to provide a proper sitting place besides air and water facilities in order to give respect to the visitors' taxpayers authorized representatives to avoid hardship waiting for the hearing.

A proper mechanism of training of the officers be developed so that they have command and proper knowledge while initiating proceedings against the taxpayers, the letter stated. "We strongly believe that if these suggestions/proposals are given due consideration and find place before the competent authorities, these will produce fruitful results for betterment of the organisation to achieve the maximum targets and to contribute a major share in the national exchequer besides upgradation of the image of the department," the letter concluded.

SCO states discuss payments in their national currencies

BEIJING: The representatives of the leading financial institutions from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states took part in a roundtable discussion on developing recommendations for the gradual shift to payments in national currencies.

The event was organised by Russia as part of its Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Presidency. The meeting was attended by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Deputy Secretary-General Sherali Jonon who noted the relevance and active cooperation of the countries in the area of national currency payments, according to a press statement issued by SCO Secretariat here.

In his remarks, he stressed that this sort of financial cooperation can strengthen economic, trade and investment exchanges between the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries, and build a solid foundation for the expedited development of the regional economic integration within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). This cooperation can boost the international status of the national currencies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries, facilitate a multi-polar development of the international currency system and support the SCO's regional economic security.

It will also contribute to the development and unfolding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) members' financial industry and it will also boost their capacities when it comes to trading

financial resources on the international market, SCO Deputy Secretary-General emphasised during his remarks.

The participants discussed the current state of mutual payments between the SCO countries, exchanged opinions on the prerequisites, stumbling blocks and possibilities of shifting to mutual payments in national currencies. Those at the event also discussed the subsequent action plan in the context of the draft roadmap of the SCO member states on the gradual increase of the share of national currencies in mutual payments, which they are currently developing. In view of the upcoming summit of the SCO heads of state, the participants agreed to promptly finalise the draft roadmap and establish a working group of experts who will subsequently organise work based on the roadmap.

SCCI demands three months extension in filing income returns 2020

The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has expressed reservations over a number of deficiencies and hiccups in features of e-filing income tax returns, commonly known as IRIS system. It has caused many difficulties to taxpayers in timely filing of tax returns 2020.

It demanded the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to give a three months extension in filing income tax returns for 2020 to facilitate taxpayers. Engineer Maqsood Anwar Pervaiz in a statement issued here on Tuesday said according to income tax ordinance 2001, financial year closes on 30th June of this year, while the last date

of filing of income tax returns is fixed at September 30, 2020 under the section 118 (3) of the aforesaid ordinance.

However, he said that owing to unnecessary delays in uploading of draft return 2020 and delayed final notification of income tax return of this year, besides glitches in the IRIS system, the taxpayers are being faced with enormous difficulties in timely filing of income tax returns.

The SCCI chief said the coronavirus pandemic hasn't only brought negative impacts on the country's economy, but it has created severe financial challenges and difficulties for taxpayers as well as slowing down the filing process of income tax returns for this year. Maqsood Pervaiz said the IRIS system isn't working smoothly, because of which taxpayers have faced difficulties in filing income tax returns 2020 owing to overloading of the electronic system 'IRIS'.

Furthermore, he informed that under section -118 of the income tax ordinance 2001, with rule: 34 of the income tax rules 2002, the time period for filing or income tax returns to be 90 days, while on the contrary only 14 days have been given between 17th and 30th September 2020 for filing of income tax return 2020, which is quite difficult for taxpayers to file tax returns in the aforementioned period.

Therefore, he urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to give a three months extension in filing of income tax return 2020 in order to ease difficulties of the taxpayers, also it can make sure they timely



ISLAMABAD: Former Senior Vice President of ICCI, Malik Sohail presents a souvenir to Asad Qaiser, Speaker National Assembly. —*DNA*

Over 27,000 Pakistanis reach Saudia via PIA in two weeks

KARACHI: More than 27,000 Pakistanis, working in Saudi Arabia, have reached back the Kingdom via Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

According to the data released by the Pakistan International Airlines district manager, 27,500 passengers reached Saudi Arabia via 91 flights operated by the national flag carrier PIA from September 15 to 28.

The majority of the passengers' work permit was ending on September 30. The Pakistan International Airlines district manager further said that they have received complaints regarding selling tickets at the exorbitant rates. Meanwhile, the passengers said that they faced problems in getting tickets to fly to Saudi Arabia due to inflated prices. With the special efforts of Prime Minister Imran

Khan, the Saudi authorities had allowed Pakistan International Airlines to operate 21 more flights to the kingdom.

The Saudi government allowed PIA to operate more flights for Saudi Arabia after high-level contact made by the Pakistani foreign office. All increased flights would leave for Saudi Arabia before September 31.

It must be noted that PIA on September 15 had sought permission from the Saudi authorities to operate 28 flights to Saudi Arabia. However, the Saudi aviation department had allowed PIA to operate 13 flights.

Four PIA planes hit by birds in 24 hours

The incidents of bird strikes are consistently increasing in Pakistan as four more aircraft of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) were

hit by birds at different airports during the last 24 hours.

According to details emerged on Tuesday, an aircraft of the national carrier, PK-204, was hit by a bird which caused damage to both engines. The Lahore-bound plane from Dubai was grounded for repair work by the administration.

Two PIA planes including PK-309 and PK-301 were also hit by birds. Both flights were arriving at Karachi airport from Islamabad. After being collided with the bird, damages on a wing of the aircraft, PK-309, were reported. In another incident, a bird struck a PIA plane, PK-5739, while preparing to land at Multan airport from Jeddah.

A total of 39 bird strike incidents were reported during the last three months including 14 in July, 10 in