

PIA flights to resume to UK from 30th

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will resume its operation to England with new European aircrafts and crew from October 30. In the first phase, flights will be operated from Islamabad and Lahore to London and Islamabad to Manchester. "The flights will operate directly with new aircraft, comfortable seats, halal food and the world's best in-flight entertainment," PIA spokesperson said. "Hopefully our guests will be better than any of the best airlines or we will choose the national airline for the best service," the source added. The spokesperson further said that PIA has started booking tickets for the flights. —DNA

The Business

Lahore, Sunday, October 18, 2020 Safar 30, 1442

Ardern's Labour Party wins New Zealand election

AUCKLAND: Jacinda Ardern's centre-left Labour Party has won New Zealand's general election after the prime minister's opponent Judith Collins conceded defeat on Saturday with almost a quarter of the votes still to be counted. Labour had 49 percent of the votes, far ahead of National at 27 percent, the Electoral Commission said, with 77 percent of ballots counted in an election that was largely a referendum on Ardern's aggressive handling of Covid-19 epidemic. Labour was on track to win 64 of the 120 seats in the country's unicameral parliament. —TLTP

PML-N may be banned over its activities: Rashid

LAHORE: Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said that Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) may be banned over its anti-state activities and speeches by its leadership.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said that the PML-N tried its best for a deal and several meetings were held for the purpose. One of such meetings was held in the Renaissance Istanbul Hotel in Turkey. He predicted that the PML-N would be divided into parts after Dec 31.

Sh Rashid said that there was no threat to the government from the public gatherings and rallies of the opposition alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).

He said that governments could not be toppled by organising rallies. He said speech of Nawaz Sharif strengthened Prime Minister Imran Khan's government.

He said Nawaz spoke the language of enemies by criticising the Pakistan Army, adding that now it was death of politics of Nawaz in the country.

He said that the PML-N itself voted for the extension of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and now its leadership was speaking against him and the Pakistan Army. He said that Pakistan Army was protector of the country and soldiers were sacrificing their lives for security of the country.

He said that the PDM kept the media engaged for one month and could not gather as much people as they were expecting. —APP

'Conversion of CNG stations to RLNG laudable'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan on Saturday lauded the move of the government to promote the use of LNG in vehicles in place of CNG.

As per the plan, conversion of CNG stations to RLNG is in progress and the CNG stations will not get natural gas in future and they will use imported LNG which will bring an end to the scarcity of gas for vehicles during the winter, he said.

He said that the move of the government will reduce the oil import bill by almost 20 percent, reduce environmental pollution and fares for the masses.

Aslam Khan said that the imported LNG will be around 20 to 25 percent cheaper than petrol which will provide relief to millions of people linked to the transport sector and commuters.

This will also help the government to utilise the idle capacity of LNG terminals which is resulting in heavy losses. This will bring down the terminal charges on a unit basis while the private sector will start building new terminals by investing billions. A sizable volume of local gas will be saved through this initiative which could be diverted to industrial sector reducing complaints and triggering production and employment. —Online

FPCCI warns against inflation

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Saturday warned the authorities that inflation above six percent can hurt economic growth in the country in post-corona slowdown and a careful strategy is required to keep it in control.

In a written statement issued here, FPCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar said that Pakistan inflation reaches over 9 percent in Sept against stable annual inflation rate of 1.2 percent across the world amidst dropping food and energy rates, calling for putting the economy on a balanced and sustainable growth trajectory, addressing the underlying structural vulnerabilities, as low export growth, limited foreign exchange reserves, documentation of economy and higher food inflation are still major challenges to the economy.

He said that there is a consensus that a low inflation rate helps economic activities, while high inflation hurts economic growth. The high inflation environment affects decision making of all economic agents in economy, like investors, savers, consumers and producers through uncertainty about the expected payoffs from their decisions.



LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Moazzam Ahmed Khan receives the pace team from Pakistan Military Academy at the High Commission.

Furniture industry can double exports in no time: Misbah

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Tariq Misbah Saturday said that Pakistan has the potential to export up to one billion dollar wood furniture if the government supports furniture industry.

Speaking at the three-day 'Furniture Living Expo' as chief guest, the LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said the export oriented furniture industry and value-added sectors should be encouraged and facilitated. The President congratulated the organiser Dr. Nazish Faisal, CEO, R F Events for holding such a great exhibition of its kind that is not only focusing on improving the prospects of furniture exports but also supporting the local market. The President informed that almost 50 top brands of furniture have participated in this three-day Expo sponsored by Mater Molty Foam. He also appreciated the exhibitors for participating in the expo and showcasing their finest and supreme furniture articles which can be purchased on 50 percent discount.

Mian Tariq Misbah said the exhibitions always play a pivotal role in promoting the products and exhibitions like Furniture & Living Expo should be organised on regular basis. He said Pakistan's furniture exports are just 2.6 million dollar while the global furniture trade is touching 90 billion dollar, adding there is a huge potential for Pakistan to enhance its exports of furniture

to USA, Germany, UK and France etc. which are top importers of furniture in the world.

With some innovation in this sector, Pakistan can gain a competitive position in this sector at international level, the LCCI President said, adding "All we need is to modernize our furniture designs and market these articles at competitive price both at national and international levels".

President LCCI said the Expo will be helpful in promoting and introducing Pakistani furniture, accessories and interiors in and outside Pakistan. He hoped that this exhibition will open new venues to the amazing potential and calibre of Pakistani furniture, fixtures and furnishing goods that are being produced with high quality.

Owing to COVID-19, a big demand of furniture has been generated because of coming of winter season and resumption of events, marriages and newly built houses, stores, buildings.

He said that this sector is creating loads of jobs in multiple skills and also increasing the production level which ultimately results in high-end production and increase in exports, adding "the country needs to rebound the economy, and to achieve that, this sector should also be the primary focus". Mian Tariq Misbah said there is an urgent need to explore international markets for boosting the exports of furniture. He said with aggressive marketing strategy and proper dissemination of the importance

of the Pakistani products the value of exports could be doubled in a short span.

ICCI calls for promulgation of a balanced rent control act: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with a delegation visited Sitara Market, G-7 Markaz, Islamabad and congratulated Syed Altaf Hussain Shah, President, Rana Akram, Secretary General and other newly elected Office Bearers of the Traders Welfare Association of the market on achieving landslide victory in the elections. Chairman Founder Group Mian Akram Farid, Vice President ICCI Abdul Rehman Khan, Zubair Ahmad Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaikat Masood, Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry, Naveed Malik, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Fahim Khan, Akhuzada Naeem Khan, Chaudhry Ashraf Farzand, Rana Qaiser, Malik Afzal and others were in the delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the promulgation of a balanced rent control act in Islamabad was the dire need of the hour as it was a long standing demand of traders. He said that the absence of a rent law was not only giving rise to rent disputes between the tenants and landlords, it also affected the business activities as well. Therefore, he demanded that a balanced rent law should be promulgated which should protect the genuine rights of

Efforts to hit state institutions not to be tolerated, says Shibli

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz Saturday said the government fully stood with state institutions and would not be tolerated any such efforts by opposition parties to damage the institutions.

"Any adventure against the state institutions responsible for integrity of the country will not be allowed" the minister stated while talking to the journalists here.

He said the opposition parties in the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) public meeting held yesterday targeted the institutions through using the language of enemies which is intolerable.

He said the political parties were trying to damage the institutions "if things would not move as per their will doesn't mean to use inappropriate language about institutions". The minister said that, "This should be enough for the opposition parties to understand after facing rejection from the people of Gujranwala (the place having in laws

of Nawaz Sharif and maternal relatives of Maryam Nawaz) that the masses will not support them for pursuance of their personal agendas".

The population of Gujranwala city consisted of in lacs and the whole division numbered in crores, "If the opposition parties failed to fill the seats in the stadium despite having majority of seats in Central Punjab how would they move forward," he questioned. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had only 10 seats in Central Punjab, he said. The minister said now Parvez Rashid, Rana Sanaullah and Khurram Dastagir should resign after failing to meet the challenge that had given to them of filling the Gujranwala stadium for the meeting. The minister criticized the opposition parties for using inappropriate and vulgar language in the public meeting. Bilawal Bhutto's own mother did politics but he didn't realize as what kind of language he was using, he said. Criticizing Khawaja Asif speech, he said

Khawaja Asif had also shown his political brought up through his speech.

He said the opposition parties again deceived Maulana Fazlur Rehman who is head of the PDM alliance by arranging his address in front of the empty chairs, same as like they did in the Azadi March last year.

PDM meeting fails to create any impression: Fawad: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Saturday said that there were only 15,000 to 18,000 people in the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) Gujranwala public meeting according to the independent analysts which failed to create any impression.

In a tweet, the federal minister said the opposition leaders used vulgar language in their speeches and made unsuccessful attempt to target the institutions.

Chaudhry Fawad said the PDM's public meeting further damaged the opposition in-

641 virus cases; 13 deaths in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Saturday were recorded 9,174 as 641 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours.

13 corona patients, 12 of whom were under treatment died in hospital and one out of hospital on Friday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Balochistan, while 78 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,884 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied. Some 32,465 tests were conducted across the country on Friday, including 8,429 in Sindh, 12,136 in Punjab, 4,966 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 5,002 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 1,063 in Balochistan, 364 in Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and 505 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Around 306,640 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.

Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 322,452 cases were detected so far, including AJK 3,398, Balochistan 15,644, GB 4,033, ICT 17,913, KP 38,565, Punjab 101,425 and Sindh 141,474. About 6,638 deaths were recorded in country since the eruption of the contagion, including 2,574 Sindh among five of them died in hospital and one out of hospital on Friday, 2,288 in Punjab five of them died in hospital on Friday, 1,265 in KP, 194 in ICT one of them in hospital on Friday, 146 in Balochistan, 90 in GB and 81 in AJK one of them in hospital on Friday. A total of 4,041,962 corona tests have been conducted so far, while 735 hospitals are equipped with COVID facilities. —APP

Four out of five Pakistanis say jobless rises

ISLAMABAD: According to Dun & Bradstreet and Gallup Pakistan Consumer Confidence Index, 80 percent Pakistanis believe unemployment has increased in the past six months.

The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) is a reflection of current sentiments and future outlook as seen through the eyes of consumers across Pakistan. The CCI score is an indicator of consumer optimism/pessimism about the economy, as well as their own financial situation. Consumer Confidence Index is a leading indicator of the economic health and social well-being.

A nationally representative sample of adult men and women from across the four provinces was asked the following question, "In your opinion, in comparison to last six months, unemployment in Pakistan has.....?" In response to this question, 5% said decreased a lot, 9% said decreased, 5% said remained the same, 29% said increased and 51% said increased a lot.

Dun & Bradstreet Pakistan and Gallup Pakistan collaborated to launch the Pakistan CCI, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. Wave 1 of the survey was carried out among a sample of 2041 men and women in urban and rural areas of all four provinces of the country, between 8th February and 12th March 2020. Wave 2 of the survey was carried out among a sample of 1500 men and women between July 9 and August 10, 2020. —DNA

Dubai deports 200 Pak workers over documents

LAHORE: At least 200 Pakistanis have been deported from the Dubai airport over their failure to meet the new travel conditions set by the UAE.

All travellers from Pakistan are required to carry return tickets along with AED 2,000.

The people who didn't have either were sent back to Pakistani via PIA flights. The passengers landed at the Lahore airport and were kept in the custody of airport authorities. They were released after they paid a fine of AED 1,000 per person.

The authorities reportedly seized the passports of the people who couldn't pay the fine.

Many passengers complained that the airport authorities in Pakistan did not inform them of the change in policy. —Online

Textile export up by 2.92pc to \$3.4b in Q1, 11.30pc in Sept

ISLAMABAD: The exports of textile commodities witnessed an increase of 2.92 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The textile exports from the country were recorded at \$3469.585 million in July-September (2020-21) against the exports of \$3371.376 million in July-September (2019-20), showing growth of 2.92 percent, according to latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The textile commodities that contributed in positive trade growth included knitwear, exports of which increased from \$779.293 million last year to \$860.758 million during the current year, showing growth of 10.46 percent. Likewise, exports of

bed wear increased by 8.40 percent by growing from \$601.024 to \$651.487 while the exports of tents, canvas and tarpin grew by 78.71 percent, from \$15.771 to \$28.184, the PBS data revealed.

The readymade garments' exports were recorded at \$701.442 million during the current year against the exports of \$666.157 million last year, showing an increase of 5.24 percent while exports of madeup articles (excluding towels and beadwear) increased by 16.58 percent from \$148.050 million to \$172.604 million. Meanwhile, the commodities that witnessed negative growth in traded included raw cotton, exports of which declined by 97.50 percent, from \$10.826 million to \$0.271 million while the exports of

cotton yarn decreased by 42.65 percent, from \$297.237 to \$170.475.

Exports of cotton cloth also decreased by 8.49 percent, from \$499.390 million to \$457.060, yarn (other than cotton yarn) by 22.77 percent, from \$7.230 million to \$0.931 million, art silk and synthetic textile by 2.93 percent from \$77.894 million to \$75.615 million whereas the exports of cotton (carded or combed) witnessed 100 percent decline during the period under review. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the textile exports increased by 11.30 percent in September 2020 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports during September 2020 were recorded at \$1189.739 million against the exports of \$1068.906 million. —DNA



LAHORE: President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Tariq Misbah cuts the ribbon of the three-day 'Furniture Living Expo'.