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PDM doing puppet show with its failed narrative

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'We will tell the world how India backs terrorists'

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said we will tell the world how India funds the terrorist groups. "We will take up the matter of funding terrorists by India at world level", he said this in a statement issued here Monday.

He held Indian policy on Occupied Kashmir as failed. The leadership of Held Kashmir expressed their annoyance over August 05 steps by India during their meeting with PM Narendra Singh Modi. He underlined India is facing economic woes and the unemployment is on rise therein. India is taking these steps to divert attention from its internal affairs.

He remarked "we have served greatly our Afghan brothers. Now time has come Afghan refugees

should return to their homes. "We serve refugees. On the other hand Afghan government levels allegations against us. The return of Afghan refugees should be made part of peace process, he added.

Pak image improving through govt's policies

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omer Ayub Khan Tuesday said that owing to the good policies of the federal government, the image of Pakistan was improving in the world and dream of Prime Minister Imran Khan's new Pakistan was coming true through his visionary leadership.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering here at village Darwaish after the inauguration of the electricity project. The minister said that fiscal budget 2021-22 was people



GWADAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan unveils plaque after inauguration various CPEC projects.

■ Pakistan can benefit from Chinese expertise, development of Balochistan govt's top priority, says PM

One-window facility at Gwadar to help investors

GWADAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan said that India is the biggest "loser" in Afghanistan, its investment worth billions of dollars is at stake at the moment.

Talking to newsmen in Gwadar, PM Imran said that the United States itself does not know what it needs to do in Afghanistan. He said US has no idea what the situation would be in a month. Pakistan has taken a clear stand on the issue of Afghanistan, he added. "We all fear that the situation in Afghanistan will get worse," he said. Our government is making every effort to bring about a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The PM said, "I also spoke to the President of Iran in this regard, all neighboring countries should try for a peaceful resolution of Afghan issue."

Imran said that we do not want anarchy to spread in Afghanistan, nor a long civil war. Afghans are our brothers. If there is chaos, they will suffer the most. Afghanistan has been in turmoil for more than 40 years. He feared that the chaos in Afghanistan would affect all our trade with Central Asia, and

our foreign minister is doing his best. We will also talk to the Taliban to find a political settlement, he added.

Earlier addressing at the launch of development projects and the signing ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding in the port city on Monday PM Imran Khan said "Pakistan can benefit from its strategic location and also from the expertise of its friend China which is an economic power in the region.

The Prime Minister said that Gwadar would open up new avenues of opportunities for regional trade adding that future belonged to Gwadar emerging as the 'focal point of development' and ensuring prosperity for the entire country.

The PM who arrived in Gwadar on a day-long visit inaugurated the first phase of Gwadar Free Zone besides performing the groundbreaking of the its second phase spread at 2,200 acres and opening of three factories. The PM said his vision of an emerging Pakistan was a steadfast nation which was committed to the prosperity of the country.

He said the government was focused

Talks with rebels in Balochistan: PM

GWADAR: PM Imran said that he is considering starting talks with the militants in Balochistan. Addressing a gathering of elders and notables of the area, the PM regretted that the past rulers had prioritized their political objectives, always treating the development and progress of the backward Balochistan province as their backburner. Imran while regretting past rulers' continuous negligence towards Balochistan province, assured that the Centre would increase its contribution for the development of the province every year.

"They did not pay attention to Balochistan province and focused solely to become PM of the country. —DNA

on ensuring provision of basic amenities including clean water and electricity to encourage industrialisation.

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Pak exports to US up by 39 percent to \$5.2b: Razak

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Monday said that Pakistan's exports to the United States (US) during fiscal year 2021 increased by 39 percent as compared to last year 2020. In a tweet, he said that Pakistani exports to US were recorded at \$ 5.2 billion as compared to the exports of worth \$ 3.7 billion of last year, showing increase of \$1.45 billion.

"This is the first time in our history that our exports to the US have crossed the \$5 billion mark," he said. He commended the efforts of exporters and Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) in the US. He urged the TIOs at Pakistan's trade missions in New York and Houston to provide all possible facilitation to the exporters for enhancing exports further.

Another report adds: Adviser to

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CNG price could further go up by Rs13: CNG Association

All Pakistan Compressed natural gas (CNG) Association senior vice president Shoaib Khan has said that the end-users have to bear the burden of taxes imposed by the government.

Addressing a news conference in Karachi, Shoaib Khan said that the price of Compressed natural gas (CNG) had gone up by Rs17 today, adding the price could further increase by Rs13. He said the duty on imported LNG had been increased to 26 percent.

He said that the government had promised provision of uninterrupted supply of Compressed natural gas (CNG) but the government did not fulfill its promise. He said the users were already not buying the CNG at the price of Rs140 per KG. Who will buy CNG at the rate of Rs153 per KG, he questioned. He said their business would be destroyed with a further in-

Gold prices up by Rs 500 to Rs109,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 500 and was sold at Rs 109,500 on Monday against its sale at Rs109,000, Karachi Sarafa and Jewellers Group reported. The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 429 and was sold at Rs 93,879 against its sale at Rs 93,450 while the prices of 10 gram 22 Karat gold went up to Rs 86,055 from Rs 85,662.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs30 and was sold at Rs1440 against its sale at Rs 1410 whereas that of 10 gram silver witnessed increase of Rs25.72 and was sold at Rs1234.56 against its sale at Rs 1208.84 respectively. The price of gold in international market increased by \$5 and was traded at \$1792 against its sale at \$1787. —APP

GPA Chairman briefs envoys about Gwadar

GWADAR: Chairman Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Naseer Khan Kashani on Monday briefed the Ambassadors of various countries and senior journalists regarding developments carried out in Gwadar Port.

Ambassadors of various countries including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Egypt, Kenya, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Pakistan for Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill attended the briefing. The participants were briefed about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), projects related to Gwadar Port Authority, operations and expansion projects pertaining to Gwadar Port. —APP

Phenomenal raise in salaries of Punjab ministers

LAHORE: The government of Punjab has increased salaries of the ministers, advisors, parliamentary secretaries up to Rs22.1 million overall.

As per details, the government has increased the House rent and utility allowances by Rs 0.1m to 0.7m for ministers, advisors and parliamentary secretaries. According to the revised allowances, Punjab government will now spend Rs 2.5 million annually on salary and allowances.

The basic salary of ministers has been increased up to Rs5.5m and the basic salary of parliamentary secretaries up to Rs 4.5m overall. Ministers, advisers and parliamentary secretaries will be allowed to make phone calls up to Rs10 million overall. —DNA

Rupee falls by 31 paise

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The exchange rate of US dollar increased by 31 paise in the interbank on Monday against Pakistani rupee.

The greenback closed at Rs158.18 on first business day of the week compared to previous closing of Rs157.87.

Since start of June, dollar has risen by 3.78 rupees. However, the greenback has lost 10.25 rupees or 6.28 percent of its value from its peak of 168.43 in August 2020.

Pak repatriates 4,000 from Kabul

KABUL: In accordance with Prime Minister's directions to help Pakistanis abroad, Ambassador of Pakistan in Kabul Mabsoor Khan and the Embassy of Pakistan have made effective arrangements for around 4,000 Pakistanis stranded in Afghanistan due to closure of flights to Saudi Arabia, for their return to Torkham. An embassy statement said these Pakistanis were provided a decent place for temporary stay at the Embassy and provided food. —DNA

PSX loses 257 points to close at 47,429 points

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 257 points, with a negative change of 0.54 percent, closing at 47,429.12 points against 47,686.18 points on the last working day.

A total of 494,532,650 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 563,811,841 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs15.369 billion against Rs16.332 billion the previous day. As many as 411 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 133 of them recorded gain and 270 sustained losses whereas the share price of 8 companies remained unchanged.

The three top traded

companies were World-Call Telecom with a volume of 55,638,000 shares and price per share of Rs4.06, Hascol Petrol with a volume of 39,831,710 and price per share of Rs8.26 and K-Electric Ltd with volume of 29,472,500 and price per share of Rs4.07.

Rafhan Maize witnessed maximum increase of Rs453 per share, closing at Rs10250. Sanofi-Aventis was runner up, share prices of which increased by Rs63.99, closing at Rs964.99. Unilever Foods recorded a maximum decrease of Rs200 per share, closing at Rs15800 followed by Pak Tobacco, the share prices of which decreased by Rs70 per share,

Bidding for new oil, gas sites soon: Hammad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is opening new areas for oil and gas exploration through competitive bidding that will push massive exploration activities in the country.

This was stated by Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Hammad Azhar in a meeting with Ambassador of Japan, Kuninori Matsuda here on Monday, said a statement.

Minister said that International Companies including Japanese Companies must participate in the competitive bidding as they are vital for massive exploration targets. This would not only increase the local oil and gas productions but will also save a lot of foreign exchange now used for its imports, he said.

Hammad Azhar also apprised the Japanese Am-

bassador on the effective steps taken by the present Government in substantially minimizing the growth of circular debt from Rs. 538 billion last to Rs.177 billion this year, which has greatly contributed in restoring the confidence of investors.

He said that due to Industrial Support Package coupled with economic policies, the electricity consumption has witnessed a 15% increase as compared to last year. Minister while reiterating Govt's strong commitment to further cement the existing ties between Pakistan and Japan, invited Japanese Companies to explore the electricity transmission and distribution system for their investment which offer good return on equity. —DNA



GWADAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan witnesses signing of MoU.

Iran's trade through Gwadar port to start soon, says Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt. Gen. (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa Monday said that work for Iran's trade through the Gwadar Port (in and out) was in progress and the trade would start soon through the port.

"The Ramadan-Gabd crossing point near Gwadar is active and fully functional now, fencing work with Pakistan-Iran border is going on rapidly and new border markets are being established at the crossing points," he said adding the smuggling to and from Iran is decreasing due to increase in regulated trade.

In his video message here, the Chairman said after completion of

development works of Gwadar Port and first phase of Gwadar Free Zone, Prime Minister Imran Khan was going to perform the ground breaking of second phase of the Zone.

He said as compared to the first phase which comprised of 60 acres of land, the second phase would be a huge project comprising of 2200 acres of land. Chairman Bajwa said around seven to eight big Chinese investors from Shanghai would also participate in the ground breaking ceremony where they would make commitments in Gwadar Zone and inform about their future plans in Pakistan.

He said some 46 enterprises were engaged in the Free Zone phase-I while 12 factories were being estab-

lished out of them three were completed. He informed that the traffic at the port was increasing everyday and last year the trade volume increased by hundreds of times as 60,000 MT of cargo was transported during the year 2020-21 compared to only 1300 MT in the preceding year.

Besides, he said five LPG vessels were berthed at the Gwadar Port. In future, he said, the cargo volume would increase with even higher pace as interest for transshipment and industrialization was increasing with every passing day. He said the Prime Minister would also sign an accord for installation of desalination plant in the city with capacity of 1.2 million gallon per day. —DNA