

Saeed Ghani challenges NAB to arrest him

KARACHI: Sindh's Minister for Education Saeed Ghani has said that he will visit NAB office on Monday so that the anti-corruption body may arrest him. Saeed Ghani on Saturday while addressing a media talk in Karachi alleged that it seems like PTI's Haleem Adil Sheikh has Chairman NAB's 'weak links' since he (Haleem) gets out of the way favors from NAB. Saeed Ghani asked that why the anti-corruption bureau was completely unmovable over PTI-led central govt's corruption scams. —APP

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34 fatalities reported, 1400 tested positive due to coronavirus

ISLAMABAD: As many as 34 fatalities were reported and 1400 people tested positive during the previous 24 hours in the country due to corona virus. As per NCOC data the national death tally since the pandemic started has surged to 22,379 figures and total number of positive cases has touched the mark of 961,085. Currently, the positivity rate stands at 2.91. 48,027 tests were conducted while total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan currently stands at 32,319. —Online

Indo-Pak water talks stand deadlocked

ISLAMABAD: Water talks between Pakistan and India stand deadlocked as Indus Water Commission authorities have said that Indian water experts have not visited Pakistan despite passage of three months.

Indian delegation was to visit Pakistan under IWT. According to Indus Water Commission authorities Pakistan sent three letters to India in connection with their water experts visit to Pakistan because Pakistan was to get inspect different sites by Indian Indus water commission. Indus water commission sources said year starts from April 1 under Indus water treaty and it was agreed in the meeting held in India that Indian delegation too will visit Pakistan. But India has not informed about any visit of its delegation. Indus water authorities said that India was to give reply to the objections raised by Pakistan. —Online

Seven Pakistanis killed in Canadian house fire

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Saturday expressed deep grief over the death of seven Canadian Pakistanis, including four children, in Chestermere locality of Alberta, Canada, caused by a house fire. "I am deeply grieved over the loss of Pakistani nationals in a fire incident.

We are in contact with the Canadian authorities for investigation into the incident," he said in a statement. He also prayed for peace of the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Qureshi said that on his instructions, the Pakistan's High Commissioner and Consulate in Vancouver were constantly in constant with the victim family. The minister also issued instructions for extending all-out support to the affected family. Earlier, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry also condoled over the loss of lives in house fire what, according to the preliminary investigation was no criminal in nature.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic death, due to house fire, of seven Canadian Pakistanis including four children in Alberta, Canada. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims of this tragic incident. We also pray for quick and full recovery of the injured," the spokesperson said in a statement. —APP

Loadshedding returns after five years: Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD: PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif has said loadshedding specter has returned to Pakistan again after five years adding to the miseries of the people.

In a statement issued here Saturday he said PML-N government under Nawaz Sharif had worked hard persistently for five years to end loadshedding and now gas and electricity loadshedding has started due to maladministration and corruption of PTI government. This is living evidence the worst performance and incompetence of PTI government.

He held PTI lied against PML-N that several power plants were installed. PTI claims have been exposed due to the worst ever load shedding. PTI is itself claiming to install sun, air and gas run plants there the allegations of generation of excessive power stand proved false. PTI allegations on installing costly power plants by PML-N also proved false. PML-N was subjected to media trial for 3 years on the basis of this falsehood. —Online

'Bilawal will get nothing from US'

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Communication, Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Saturday said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto will get nothing from America during his upcoming scheduled visit along with some cronies.

Dr Gill addressing the news conference at the residence of PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh today said that PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto tried to get 'job' for the post of prime minister here in Pakistan and dropped his CVs and other documents everywhere but got no response since he had no capabilities and efficiency for



LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressed the course participants of 50th PN Staff Course during his visit to the Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore.

Tourism industry in Pak can ensure a sustainable economy

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Tourism industry in Pakistan can ensure a sustainable economy as it generates revenue for the government and employment for the people. Women entrepreneurs should come forward and show their God gifted abilities in the tourism sector while the government should encourage and extend greatest support.

This was an upshot of the speeches delivered at a seminar on "Tourism as an Industry for Women Entrepreneurs" at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Wife of Governor Punjab Begum Parveen Sarwar was the Chief Guest while LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Secretary Women Development Department Ambreen Raza, Secretary Punjab Tourism Department Capt @ Mushtaq, Managing Director Punjab Tourism Development Corporation Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar, Convener LCCI Standing Committee on Business Women Think Tank Talat Hafeez, Ch. Anees Iqbal, Ms. Zeeshan Zia were the key speakers of the seminar.

Begum Parveen Sarwar said that all segments of society should support our

women so that they could get a better standard. Women should be encouraged to take part in trade and economic activities. She said that women are an integral part of society and no society can develop without active participation of women. She said that women had been facing numerous hurdles while working in different fields.

She said that their contribution to the trade and economic activities will help establish a healthy society on strong footing and get the country a good place in the comity of nations. She said in developed countries, women not only secure their own rights but also play their role in strengthening and taking forward the social and cultural norms. She added that care of places for tourists is the responsibility of everyone.

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said that after 18th amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, tourism has become a provincial subject. Now we have got to explore more business opportunities in the tourism sector to embark upon and especially our women entrepreneurs will have to come forward in this sector to prove their mettle. He said it is en-

couraging to see that the Prime Minister has declared tourism as one of his top priorities owing to its enormous potential for generating new employment opportunities and earning foreign exchange.

It will not be wrong to say that so far we have only explored the potential of tourism in Pakistan equal to the tip of the iceberg. It is an undeniable fact that Pakistan offers a wide spectrum of tourism ranging from religious places for Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhists etc. to ancient civilisations of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa etc.

LCCI Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry said that our culture is so rich and has so many diversities which can be witnessed in various cities of Punjab. "We have to join hands with each other and both public and private sectors must come up with unique ideas to project the tourism potential of Pakistan in general and Punjab in particular", he added.

He said that Pakistan ranks low in the World Travel & Tourism Index, especially in areas like enabling environment, safety and security, environmental sustainability and tourism infrastructure, etc. When women entrepreneurs will take interest in this sector then there will be more chances

ICCI calls for gender inclusive policies to boost growth

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) on Saturday emphasized that the government should focus on gender inclusive policies and take strong measures to bring more women at workplaces in order to realize the actual economic potential of the country.

While addressing the District Convention of Women Workers Alliance, Yasir said that women were half of our total population and bringing them into the mainstream of the economy was very important to enhance their contribution in the economic development of the country.

ICCI president said that as per World Bank's report 2019, women's participation in Pakistani workforce was just 22 percent while it was over 55 percent in most of the well-developed countries. He said that women participation in the labor force was 50 percent in Kuwait, 51 percent in Malaysia, 54 percent in Indonesia, 57 percent in Qatar and 61 percent in China. Therefore, it was very important for Pakistan to enhance women's participation in workplaces for boosting its economic growth. He said that according

to an IMF report, Pakistan's GDP could be increased by up to 30 percent by empowering more women and increasing their share in the workforce. It showed the importance of bringing women into the mainstream of the economy.

SECP approves amendments to NCCPL Regulations

In another significant development, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), has approved amendments to the National Clearing Company Pakistan Limited (NCCPL) Regulations 2015 to introduce reforms in Margin Financing (MF) product which allows securities brokers to provide financing to their customers in a regulated manner.

These reforms will facilitate investors who wish to undertake leveraged trading and need finance for purchasing shares. As a result of these reforms, position limits and exposure limits have been liberalised to allow more liquidity. MF facility will now also be available to investors against their net purchases at expiry of Deliverable Futures Contracts period which will facilitate investors to honour their settlement obligations in futures segment, thereby

further reducing settlement risk.

Further, in consideration of meeting funding needs of investors, MF facility will now be available on T+1 against their net purchases in Ready Market segment. Moreover, MF Financiers can now collect MTM losses in any manner mutually agreed under the financing agreement signed with the borrower instead of the earlier stipulated mandatory collection of MTM losses in cash only in case of five percent decline in MF financed security value.

Further, the brokers that meeting specified eligibility requirements shall be allowed to pledge 75 percent MF financed securities in favour of NCCPL to fulfil margin requirements against exposure in the Ready Market. Lastly, MF financiers will be allowed to release an MF transaction and rollover with revised MF transaction value after adjusting MTM losses and any payment received from their investors.

The aforementioned reforms have been approved after due consideration to any incremental risks and implementation of appropriate risk mitigating features, and were finalised as a result of comprehensive stakeholder consultation. —DNA

FIA serves show cause to Hamza for money trail

LAHORE: FIA has issued show cause notice to Hamza Shahbaz for 30 days in connection with money trail in Rs 26 billion money laundering case.

Sources said that Hamza Shahbaz has been again summoned by the end of this month while issuing show cause notice to him. It has been also indicated that his property will be confiscated if he fails to provide money trail.

Sources said that money trail has been sought from Hamza Shahbaz in respect of properties house in judicial employees society, 10 kanal land of house No 48 to 51, Plot No 61 to 71 in Jauhar Town. Properties in K Block, 25 kanal land in Chiniot, investment in Ramzan Sugar Mills after 2008, Sharif Feed Mills, Madina Construction, Madni Trading Company, Sharif Poultry, Sharif Dairy, Bank accounts, car, shares, jewellery, cash and prize bonds. —Online

Bostan-Kolpur shuttle train launched

QUETTA: Pakistan Railways launched on Saturday a shuttle train service between Kolpur and Bostan railway stations in Quetta to facilitate tourists. The train will chug between the two stations twice a week. Railways Divisional Superintendent (DS) Quetta Akhtar Mahmood Khattak inaugurated the tourist shuttle train at Quetta station.

Speaking to journalists at the inauguration ceremony, he said the Pakistan Railways (PR) has launched this special train for people of Balochistan and resolved to utilise all available resources to facilitate passengers. The shuttle train was launched on a request by the Balochistan government. The train will depart from the Quetta railway station for Kolpur at 9pm. It will have stopovers at Buleli, Kuchlak, Bostan, and Supzand railway stations before reaching the final destination and began journey back to Quetta at 2:10pm. —DNA

Zardari's health gradually improves

ISLAMABAD: The health of former president and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has been improving gradually at the Ziauddin Hospital in Karachi.

In the latest photo, a smiling Asif Zardari can be seen holding the hand of his younger daughter Aseefa Bhutto Zardari while the doctor was performing a test. Earlier, a team of senior doctors was due to examine Asif Zardari who was admitted to the hospital Thursday night on account of deterioration in health.

Zardari had to be admitted to the hospital since he was suffering from fatigue after visiting Islamabad and also had his blood pressure fluctuating. Doctors were waiting for the results of different tests that they had prescribed for the former president so that his treatment could be continued in light of these test reports.

Meanwhile, the sources added that the doctors have advised Asif Zardari a complete bed rest. On Friday, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his sister Bakhtawar Bhutto along with her husband reached Karachi to inquire after the health of their father. —DNA

Dams water level may ease crisis

ISLAMABAD: Water levels in dams have started increasing as glaciers melting over the mountains in the northern areas due to high temperatures have increased the flow of water in rivers, raising hopes for a reduction in the severity of the power crisis, for the time being.

The maximum temperature in Skardu has reached 30 degrees Celsius. Indus River System Authority (IRSA) says that presently water flow in rivers stands at 0.3 million cusecs while reservoirs of water in dams stand at 27, 64, 000 acre feet.

According to the Authority, water inflow in River Indus at Tarbela is 1, 55, 000 cusecs while discharge is 1, 30, 000 cusecs. The water level at Tarbela Dam has risen to 1,434 feet while the reservoir stands at 7, 45, 000 acres feet. Similarly, currently water flow in River Kabul at Nowshera is 37, 000 cusecs. Likewise, water inflow in River Jhelum at Mangla is 43, 000 cusecs while discharge is 30, 000 cusecs. The flow of water in River Chenab at Marala stands at 62, 000 cusecs. —DNA

Imports of mobile, telecom apparatus surge to \$2.33b

KARACHI: Import of mobile phones and other telecommunication apparatus to Pakistan increased 47 percent during the first 11 months of fiscal year 2020-21 as volume of telecom imports surged to US\$ 2.337 billion.

According to data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics total value of telecommunication imports reached at \$2,337.199 million that is 47.18 % higher as compared to corresponding period of previous fiscal year, July-May 2019-20 when mobile phones and other telecom apparatus worth \$1,587.94 million were imported by Pakistan.

The data depicted 63.4 % growth in import of mobile phones during July-May 2020-21 as import of cellular phones reached \$1,860.49 mil-

lion. In the first 11 months of FY 2019-20, \$ 1,138.641 million were spent on import of mobile phones.

Import of other telecommunication apparatus increased 6.1 percent to \$ 476.709 million in 11 months of FY20-21 compared to \$449.299 million in corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. Monthly imports of telecommunication sub sector stood at \$ 220.696 million showing 38.87% increase over May 2020 and 14.27 percent growth over April 2021. In May 2020 volume of telecom imports was recorded \$ 193.137 million while in April 2021 the volume remained \$158.925 million.

During May 2021, Pakistan imported mobile phones worth \$175.501 million and other telecom

apparatus of \$45.195 million representing 17.79% and 2.38 % growth respectively over April 2021. In the previous month -April 2021- import volume of mobile phones stood at \$148.992 while other apparatus amounting to \$44.145 million were imported as well.

Govt decides to launch KPP from this month

Finance Minister (FM) Shaukat Tareen has said government will extend interest free loan to the farmers and financial support for business.

Meeting of Kamyab Pakistan Programme (KPP) was held under FM here Saturday. Meeting was attended SAPM Usman Dar and National Bank chief and senior officials. It was decided in principle in the meeting to launch KPP dur-



KARACHI: Workers of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan participate in the rally from Press Club to Hassan Square.