

Pak to push Dutch companies for possible joint ventures, investment

SIALKOT: Pakistan Ambassador-designate to the Netherlands Suljuk Mustansir Tarar has pledged to encourage Dutch investors to explore Pakistan for possible joint ventures and investment in conventional and non-conventional sectors, besides promoting new sectors and areas in exports to the Netherlands. The newly-appointed Pakistani envoy visited Sialkot on invitation of the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association where he held separate meetings at the Sialkot Chamber. —APP

The Business

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Talal releases audio showing Rashid asking for votes in AJK polls

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Talal Chaudhry has released audio showing Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid asking for votes in favour of PTI in Azad Kashmir election. In the audio on his twitter Talal Ch has shown Sheikh Rashid seeking votes for PTI in connection with AJK July 25 elections. On the other side the man who listened to Sheikh Rashid telephone said he would cast vote in favor of Iqbal Masih. Talal Ch said "this was Sheikh Rashid who used to say Nawaz politics has come to end. —Online

Nishan-i-Imtiaz (mily) given to Turk commander

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Monday conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on commander of Turkish Land Forces General Umit Dundar. The conferment was made at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr to recognize of the meritorious services of General Umit Dundar in strengthening of Pakistan-Turkish ties.

Started with national anthem and recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the ceremony was attended by First Lady Samina Alvi, senior officials of the armed forces and Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul.

He served as the Commander of the 3rd Army for two years and subsequently he served as the Commander of the 1st Army. He served as the Acting Chief of the General Staff for a brief period in 2016. General Umit Dundar served as the Deputy Chief of the General Staff from 2016 to 2018.

He was appointed as the Commander of the Turkish Land Forces by the Turkish President in July 2018. The ceremony was told that General Umit Dundar was a sincere and close friend of Pakistan who played role in strengthening of Pakistan-Turkish ties. —DNA

Facilities may help furniture industry earn more forex

FAISALABAD: The furniture industry is not only catering to the domestic needs but also earning foreign exchange for the country through exports. This was stated by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Senior Vice President (SVP) Chaudhry Talat Mahmood while addressing the standing committee on furniture.

He said that the sector had gained an edge by encouraging the local artisans, who were producing innovative and most attractive handmade furniture. He said that Pakistan could earn sizable foreign exchange by enhancing its furniture exports by extending maximum facilities to the sector.

He said that the FCCI was already trying to facilitate the furniture sector by resolving its core issues and the process would continue with the close cooperation of the stakeholders through the standing committee. Mirza Afzal Mughal, Chairman standing committee, said that a furniture subcommittee was constituted about five years ago which played a major role in identifying its fundamental problems and presenting those appropriate forums. —APP

Fan exports up by 36.98pc in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: The exports of electric fan witnessed an increase of 36.98 percent during the first eleven months of financial year (2020-21) as compare to the corresponding period of last fiscal year. The country exported electric fan worth \$27.872 million during July-May (2020-21) as against the exports of \$20.348 million during July-May (2019-20), showing growth of 36.98 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the exports of electric fan also rose by 48.03 percent by going up from 1,195,000 to 1,769,000, according to the data. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the exports of electric fan increased by 2.17 percent during the month of May 2021 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of fan from the country during May 2021 were recorded at \$2.401 million against the exports of \$2.350 million in May 2020. —APP

19 succumb to COVID-19 during past 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: About 1,347 people tested positive and 19 people lost their lives due to corona virus in the past 24 hours in the country. As per the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) total number of positive cases have climbed to 963,660 while fatalities tally has soared to 22427. 45,245 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours and the coronavirus positivity ratio currently stands at 2.97 percent. The total number of active cases stands at 33,299, while the country's



TUNISIA: Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiquar visited port Goulette. (Inset) Mission Commanding Officer PNS Zulfiquar exchanges views with Commander National Coast Guard Ship.

Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiquar visits Tunis

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiquar (with embarked helicopter) visited Tunis (Tunisia), as part of Pakistan Navy overseas deployment. Upon arrival, ship was received by Tunisian Navy Ship and patrol boats of Tunisian Coast Guard, Defence Attaché of Pakistan and officials of Tunisian navy, said a Pakistan Navy news release here received.

During stay at port, Mission Commander Commodore Syed Rizwan Khalid along with Commanding Officer PNS Zulfiquar Captain Rao Ahmed Imran Anwar called on Commander National Coast guard Commander Jamal Aloui. During the interaction, matters of mutual interest were discussed and contribution of Pakistan Navy to regional peace and maritime security were acknowledged.

Mission Commander also conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Tunisia in general and Tunisian Navy and Coast Guard in particular. The visit of PNS Zulfiquar to Tunisia will go a long way in strengthening diplomatic relations, military ties and enhance cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim countries. —APP

No visit of Putin to Pakistan scheduled: FO

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri has said no visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Pakistan has been scheduled so far.

"I have seen media reports on Russian president Vladimir Putin visit to Pakistan, however no such his visit to Pakistan has been scheduled yet", he said this in his statement here Monday. He went on to say Pakistan and Russia are close friends and partners. Pakistan and Russia are bolstering cooperation in diverse sectors. The two countries are working together in the efforts for regional and global peace.

He underlined Pakistan and Russia are committed to building a strong multi-dimensional relationship that not only serves their respective national interests but also contributes to regional as well as global peace and security. He said exchange of high level visits is an important part of the growing Pakistan-Russia relations. —Online

How property was made in NY: NAB asks from Zardari

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has further tightened noose around former president Asif Ali Zardari by seeking reply from him how he has made assets in New York. Asif Zardari has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) in connection with his bail.

Through the notice sent to Asif Zardari NAB has asked from him he owns an apartment in Main Hitton New York which he has not shown in Pakistan. Apparently no money was sent to New York legally to purchase this plot. Asif Zardari has approached IHC to seek bail with reference to NAB notice. He has said in his bail plea that notice was issued by NAB on June 15 and sought information. The NAB has been requested to give time to reply so that he could collect information. —Online

Blackmailing is going on in KP: CJ

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad has remarked blackmailing practice is going on in KP. He remarked, "The court cannot regularize any one. It is government domain. Regularization cannot be made through court's decisions. This is government job. Regularization takes place as per law.

CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench of SC during the hearing of appointments in police complaint commission and Public safety KP case here Monday. The court sought reply from KP government on appointment of employees in grade-17. Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan inquired during the hearing of the case how the applicants were promoted without public service examination. Additional Advocate General (AAG) KP told the court all the employees have been upgraded. The petitioners had filed applica-

Nigerian HC for JVs to explore huge untapped potential

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: High Commissioner of Nigeria Abioye Muhammed Bello has said huge untapped potential in the Pharmaceuticals, Information Technology, Construction and Textile sectors of the two countries can be explored through joint ventures.

He was speaking at a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah presented the address of welcome while LCCI Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Nigerian Counselor Oluwatoyin Orukpe and Minister Mohammed Goni also spoke on the occasion. The High Commissioner said that the Nigerian High Commission will extend best cooperation to the private sector of Pakistan for joint ventures with their Nigerian counterparts. He said that we should move forward to boost mutual trade and economic ties. He underlined the need to establish more banking channels to smooth bilateral trade.

He said that dissemination of trade related information holds key importance in strengthening mutual trade relations. He said that both the countries should exchange, particularly of a list of sector spe-

cific businessmen. "Nigeria and Pakistan share a lot of commonalities. The two countries enjoy unique geographical locations which are strategic in their respective continents", he added.

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said that Nigeria and Pakistan maintain a close relationship and both are key members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and Commonwealth. He said that the Lahore Chamber has been voicing to explore the untapped trade and economic potential of African Continent and the country of Nigeria holds key position in this connection being the largest economy in Africa.

Talking about bilateral trade between Pakistan and Nigeria, the LCCI President said that the volume has dropped from 307 million dollars in 2019 to 146 million dollar in 2020. Pakistan's imports from Nigeria fell from 280 million dollar in 2019 to 116 million dollar in 2020 while our exports to Nigeria increased from 27 million dollar to 30 million dollar in the same period. "In our view, there is considerable potential for both countries to take the trade volume to at least above one billion dollar in the short run by enhancing trade and economic cooperation in the fields of Pharmaceuticals, Light Engineering products,

Surgical Instruments, Automotive Parts, Sports Goods and Value Added Textiles etc.", Mian Tariq Misbah said adding that besides these sectors, there are also opportunities for both countries to enter into Joint Ventures in the field of oil, gas, agriculture technology and renewable energy.

He said that once the COVID situation improves further, there should be regular exchange of business delegations. The LCCI President added that lack of sound banking channels is a major problem in enhancing trade. Both governments need to take urgent steps in this connection. We have raised this important issue on many high level forums. He said that LCCI members have often observed that information about duty structures and legal requirements in African countries are not easily available on web and other sources. The premier trade bodies of both countries can play a solid role in exchange of information which is useful for the businesses.

Mian Tariq Misbah informed the Nigerian High Commissioner that a standing committee on "Pakistan Africa Business Promotion" in LCCI. Through this forum, LCCI wants to develop close liaison with the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce so that business to business contacts may be

PCJCCI backs PM's statement of standing with China

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: S.M. Naveed, President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has endorsed the statement of Prime Minister Imran Khan for standing with China through all thick and thin in the changing world economic order.

While addressing a meeting of the Executive Committee of his chamber on Monday, he said that China had proved to be the sincerest friend of Pakistan both politically and economically throughout the history of our diplomatic relations. Daud Ahmad, Senior Vice President, Khalid Raffique Chaudhry, Vice President, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General and a number of the executive committee members were present on this occasion.

Naveed said that the business community of Pakistan had knitted strong business relations with Chinese counterparts which are reflecting positive impressions also on social, cultural and political fronts. He informed that the month of July, is a great and solemn month in the history of both the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the

Chinese nation for the completion of 100th years of the founding of Communist Party of China. He extended congratulation to the people and leaders of China for crossing this landmark of their political history.

He said that China had set an example for all of us by maintaining a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China, and is now marching toward the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects. Daud Ahmad, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that, China has made indelible contributions to the progress of human civilization with a history of more than 5,000 years struggle. He expressed satisfaction that Pakistan was included in all major development initiatives to provide the world with new economic opportunities.

Khalid Raffique Choudhry, Vice President PCJCCI said that around 17 projects of CPEC worth \$13 billion had been completed while another 21 projects having an estimated cost of \$12 billion were passing through the implementation phase. The unity and bond of the China's Communist Party will also help in maintaining strong

relations between Pakistan and China.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI extended warm wishes to the China's Communist Party on such huge achievement and success. He said that Pakistan and China will definitely open up new vistas of technology for the betterment of both countries through future joint ventures in the fields of trade and industry.

ICCI calls for withdrawal of new tax on voice calls

A delegation of the representatives of cellular service providers visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and during a meeting with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI expressed grave concerns over the levy of 75 paise tax on voice calls above 5 minutes duration in Budget 2021-22 as it was an anti-poor tax and would increase the cost of 5 minutes call from current Rs.1.97 to Rs.2.72 putting more financial burden on the consumers besides affecting the business of telcos. They strongly demanded that the government should immediately withdraw this tax to save the telcos and the

One-window facility

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He said the recently announced Rs 7.3 billion development budget by the federal gov't for Balochistan was historic, that aimed at uplifting the province and mitigating the longstanding deprivation of its people. "No country can progress unless it mainstreams all its areas and ensure development across the board," he said, adding that connectivity was one of the major component of the Balochistan package.

Imran Khan said the government was prioritizing development in far-flung areas of Balochistan, northern areas and rural Punjab. The prime minister mentioned that Gwadar International Airport would encourage regional trade and boost economic activity. He said one-window operation was in progress to facilitate the investors and urged upon the

provincial governments to ensure proper servicing of investors since the subject moved to them after the passage of 18th Amendment.

Imran Khan thanked the government of China for launch of water and solar projects in Balochistan, particularly Gwadar. He also mentioned the technical education provided by China to the locals of Gwadar, which he said, would prove greatly helpful as the foreign investment grew in future.

The prime minister mentioned several initiatives for the uplift of Gwadar including the university, employment under Kamyab Jawan Programme, and the upgradation of the equipment of local fishermen to ensure value addition to their catch.

He said the Prime Minister Office would regularly monitor the progress on the development plans initiated in Gwadar on a monthly

basis. The prime minister said regional countries had expressed interest in reaping the benefits offered by the Gwadar port. In this scenario, he expressed concern over the law and situation in Afghanistan, which he said, was extremely important for the continuity of development.

Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan said the provincial government had been collaborating with the CPEC Authority to resolve the issues of customs. He drew attention to the problem regarding the relocation of locals along the East-bay and mentioned that efforts were on for an amicable solution. He said the Public Sector Development Programme for the current fiscal year covered the entire Balochistan and mentioned that the extension of Gwadar Hospital up to 200 beds, construction of the first university in Gwadar. —TLTP



ISLAMABAD: Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan calls on Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Hammad Azhar.