

Minimum 24:°C
Maximum 34:°C
Sunset 05:44pm
Sunrise 05:58am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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FAJAR.....04:37 AM
ZOHAR.....11:51 PM
ASR.....4:03 PM
MAGRIB.....05:44 PM
ISHA.....07:05 PM

Quick Read

PFC greets LCCI President Mian Nouman

By Our staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday facilitated the newly elected unopposed president of Lahore Chamber Mian Nouman Kabir.

In a congratulatory message, he said Mian Kabir is one of the most seasoned groomed and polished veteran trade leader truly representing the business community across the board for help addressing their genuine grievances at local, regional and federal levels.

He said in view of his (Nouman) meritorious services rendered for the welfare of business community, was inducted as caretaker minister in Punjab which speaks of his popularity. He hoped that all problems being confronted by importers, exporter, traders, local and foreign investors will be accorded top priority and get resolved to accelerate the economic activities in the country and boost exports besides rapid industrialisation.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq said Mian Nouman Kabir has inherited capabilities of becoming bridge between business community and government with sole objectives for ease of doing business and put the things in right direction. He said under his dynamic leadership Lahore chamber established in 1923 will be emerging as one of the best in the South Asia.

Crackdown against criminals continues across the province

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the direction of Inspector General of Police Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan, crackdown against criminals is going on across the province.

Led by District Police Officer Gujrat Omar Salamat, police teams took emergency measures to arrest anti-social elements and made significant gains against criminals.

The police teams performed high performance and arrested 203 notorious criminals involved in serious incidents i.e murder, robbery and dacoity. Among them are 37A category, 90B category and 76 are fugitives. During this period, Gujrat police arrested 10 members of 04 dangerous gangs and recovered stolen property worth Rs. 1.1 million and handed this amount to real and rightful owners.

In addition, while conducting operations against criminals, 86 suspects were arrested and heavy weapons were recovered from their possession, including 5 Kalashnikov rifles, 02 guns, 03 rifles, 77 pistols and hundreds of bullets. A total of 69 suspects were arrested and 33 kilo of Cannabis, 180 grams of heroin, 170 bottles of liquor along with 01 activated kiln and liquor distillery were recovered from their possession. In addition, 3 cases were registered against gamblers and 9 gamblers were arrested. DPO Omar Salamat said that Gujrat Police is committed to protect the lives and property of the citizens and crack down on criminals shall remain continued.

Thousands years old artefacts found from Talajah Fort in Soon Valley Govt to start smart varsity, recruit more CTIs, says Buzdar

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A high-level meeting was held under the chair of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar which reviewed the matters related to the Higher Education Department. The Chief Minister was briefed about the progress on setting up of 15 new universities in the province. During the meeting the public-private partnership and joint venture in establishing new universities were also discussed.

The meeting also decided to introduce the concept of Smart University in the province besides giving principle approval to make further recruitment of College Teacher Interns (CTIs) across the province.

Usman Buzdar directed to complete the process for filling up the vacant posts of college principals as soon as possible and said that merit should be ensured in the appointment of controllers and secretaries of education boards. He said that a university in every district would provide better opportunities for higher education to the students especially the female students adding that establishment of Indus University in Rajanpur will fulfil the long standing demand of the people of the area. Universities will also be established in Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Bhakkar, Hafizabad, Bahawalnagar, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Attock, Gujranwala and other districts. University of Taunsa and Women University in DG Khan



will remove the sense of deprivation among the people of the area.

The Chief Minister was further informed that 197 higher education projects would be completed at a sum of Rs. 15 billion across the province. The process of transfer of land for 21 new colleges out of 88 has been completed.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun, Principal Secretary to CM, Chairman P&D, Sec-

retary Higher Education and other concerned officers.

Another report adds: The Buzdar government has taken another important step for the promotion of tourism in the province. The discovery and preservation of thousands years old archaeological and historical sites in Punjab are being carried out.

According to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, Punjab University Archaeology Team Khushab has arrived and started work in the outskirts of tehsil Nowshera. As a result of archaeologists successful expedition, thousands years old authentic artefacts have been discovered from Talajah Fort in Soon Valley. Usman Buzdar said that the discovery of archaeological and historical sites, artefacts and developing tourist points will emerge Punjab a tourism hub.

The discovery of archaeology will arise interest to foreign tourists and researchers. The local economy will be boosted by promoting tourism in the province, said Usman Buzdar.

Chairman Department of Archaeology Dr Muhammad Hameed said that according to local traditions, Talajah Fort was built 5,000 years ago but according to preliminary research it is about two thousand years old. The architecture of the houses and the artefacts discovered in Talajah fort gave the traces that the Muslim population was settled there.

It is a presumption that archaeological and historical sites before the Muslim era in South

Asia can also be discovered from Talajah fort. He further stated that according to local tradition, Muslims lived in the fort before the arrival of Jalaluddin Khawarizmi the ruler of Central Asia. The authentic statement can be possible after excavation and research of the residential block and rest of the city located at 22-acre of land in Talajah fort. He said that the discovery of Talajah fort can reveal many facts for the archaeologists besides promoting tourism. The archaeologists further disclosed that the research team has also discovered engraved manuscript on the stone of Mehmood Ghaznavi era during an excavation in Nandana fort.

Chohan terms Mazdoor Card Scheme 'unprecedented'

The Punjab government Spokesman Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan on Sunday said the scope of Mazdoor Card will be expanded to the whole province.

The Punjab Government, he said, for the first time in the history of Pakistan, is introducing Mazdoor Card after Sehat and Kissan cards.

He said with the support of Punjab Bank, 1.1 million workers will get Mazdoor Cards.

He said this card has 11 cash benefits; it will ensure minimum wages to labourers and can be used not only at the government Hospitals, dispensaries of Social Security Institutes throughout the province but also in the enlisted private hospitals.



LAHORE: Special Representative for PM for Religious Affairs Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addresses a press conference at the Punjab Institute of Quran and Seerat Studies.

Sunnah to be highlighted in Juma sermons, says Ashrafi

LAHORE: Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Affairs Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Sunday said that in the months of Rabiul Awwal and Rabiul Saani, Juma [Friday] sermons would be delivered in the light of the Holy Prophet Sunnah, the teachings and practices of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Addressing a press conference here, he said that the decision was made in the Majlis-e-Shura of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Punjab. He said that different topics like women education and their rights, hijab, eradication of extremism and terrorism, significance of the belief of Khatm-e-Nabuwat, steps required to establish Madina-like welfare state, importance of education, method of preaching of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), etc., would be included in the Juma sermons.

He said that it was crucial to raise awareness among people about the state of Madina concept and system of Khulfa-e-Rashideen [Rashidun Caliphate]. Ashrafi said that collective efforts were required to make Pakistan a welfare state like the state of Madina. He said, he would request the Punjab education minister to organise debate and competitions on different aspects of Seerat-e-Mustafa in all educational institutions across the country. The special representative to PM thanked the government of Saudi Arabia for giving 600 scholarships to Pakistani students. He also thanked Kuwait for resumption of issuing of visas to Pakistanis after a gap of 10 to 12 years. He said that relations of Pakistan with all Islamic countries were further strengthening.

About Afghanistan, Tahir Ashrafi said that entire world was supporting Pakistan's stance on Afghanistan situation. He said that those who were criticising Single National Curriculum (SNC) should understand that there was not a single sentence against any religion or sect in the curriculum. —APP

PTA blocks over 175,000 illegal IMEI devices

LAHORE: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked more than 175,000 illegal Internet Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) devices since it introduced a mechanism to prevent the use of stolen mobile phones under the Device Identification Registration & Blocking System (DIRBS).

Besides, the authority identified and blocked around 26.03 million fake and replica mobile devices from the use on local networks, a senior PTA official said.

Moreover, he said as many as 880,780 cloned, duplicated IMEIs against 5.28 million MSISDNs (Mobile Station Integrated Serv-

ices Digital Networks) had been identified and blocked.

"The connectivity of smartphones on local networks has been increased from 35 percent to 51 percent as of July 2021 after the implementation of DIRBS."

Since the implementation of DIRBS, the official said, the import of mobile devices via legal channels has increased by 62 percent with revenue of Rs 46.27 billion. In 2020, he said around 38.14 million devices were imported with revenue of Rs 54 billion and in 2021, so far 20.91 million devices have been imported through legal channels.

To a question he said, the gov-

ernment has introduced Mobile Manufacturing Policy in June 2020 to encourage local manufacturing. Subsequently, the official said the PTA issued Mobile Device Manufacturing (MDM) Regulations in 2021, a major milestone in the journey towards "Digital Pakistan".

As of July 2021, he said the PTA has issued MDM authorization to 26 companies, including both foreign and local companies with brands like Samsung, Vivo, Oppo, Nokia, Alcatel, Techno, Infinix.

After seven months of the MDM authorization issuance, he said 12.48 million mobile devices

have been manufactured locally, which includes over 5 million 4G smartphones. The official said one company has also exported 5,000 "Made in Pakistan" smartphones to the United Arab Emirates.

"The establishment of 26 manufacturing plants has brought in an investment of over \$126 million," he said, adding that over 10,000 jobs have been created in a short span of seven months.

"The local manufacturing plants are going to be instrumental for creating further job opportunities, enabling affordability for Pakistani users, and the export of devices to global markets," the of-

Common man and the government policies

Mamoona Hussain

Pakistan is a country where more than 70 percent population is living below the poverty line. Our economy is facing adverse conditions due to a lot of reasons. The reasons for decline are over population, bad governance and low literacy rate other problems include the neglected attitude of world powers toward our state. There is also lack of systematized infrastructure within the country. There is almost a consensus that the major economic challenges facing Pakistan are rising poverty and unemployment, inflation, heavy external and domestic indebtedness, high fiscal deficit and low investment.

Now in the current situation Pakistan faces these challenges but major challenge is now economic crisis due to Covid-19 and bad infrastructure, bad governance and weak economic policies. I would like to focus today on a question which is upper most on every body's mind: why have not things improved during the last three years according to popular expectation? PTI gave the high-level expectations to the people of Pakistan but after coming in government their all slogans proved there slogans were like bubbles of

water.

Bad governance is still major issue within the state. Many political leaders have bank accounts in foreign countries. PTI government claimed that they will bring back the looted money of their country from other countries but they have also failed to bring back that money. In spite of this, the UK courts cleared Shahbaz Sharif in the money laundering case and allowed the banks to unfreeze his accounts. If the government had no solid proof against him, then why it wasted nation's time and money?

The PTI government has failed to control the prices of common daily use items, petrol prices and dollar. Due to this PTI has lost his image in public.

Our major business men and political person have invested in other countries. The own the companies and have shares in such highly developed states. This is the kind of insincerity towards the nation. Moreover our political leaders have unbalanced attitude towards the state. Few regions are highly neglected regions. This thing is creating and impatience within state. Public need changes in Pakistan but remember it if we need changes in Pakistan firstly our leaders must be patriotic for

all country. There is still need of pure democracy within the state. We should be confident of leaders selected by nation

First decade of 1990s was a lost decade as far as Pakistan's economic development was concerned. Frequent political changes and lack of continuity in policies, poor governance and the last May 1998, Development had together created very difficult economic conditions in the country by Oct, 1999.

Per capita economic growth rates had sided to 1-1.5% investment rates had declined from 20 to 15% of GDP, poverty had doubled from 17 to 34%, external debt had doubled from \$18 billion to \$36 billion, debt servicing had risen to a level where it claimed 56% of revenue, fiscal was averaging about 6% of GDP.

As for as if we take a look of over this PTI governments performance, the common man of this countries very disappointed from PTI. Common don't know what are the reasons behind the inflation and petrol prices but they compare it with past government. Common man has no concern with the policies of government policies he is looking only for his needs. In this scenario, he is not satisfied and government has badly failed to control the prices in the market. In 2021 PTI Govern-

ment has revised the prices of gas and electricity, it is also extra burden on common man.

Second there has been a decline in the unit value of Pakistan exports while favorable domestic policies and aggressive entrepreneurs can bring about increase in the quantity and quality of exportable goods. They have no control on prices they can fetch. These prices are determined in the international market. The narrow export structure under which two thirds of our exports are cotton and textile based doesn't allow new and nontraditional exports to offset the deterioration in the unit value of textile exports, while the cynics and pessimists may keep on moaning about the lack of an exportable surpluses in the country the fact is that the exportable surplus has been generated by the exporters and businessman of this country, but the depressed world prices have not allowed this to be translated into hire export earnings. Another factor that has not so far helped us, is the non resumption of foreign direct investment inflows at the level. We had envisaged hubco dispute has only recently been resolved removing a long standing irritant to foreign investors, oil and gas and IT investments have just began to be fi-

nalized and will take some time to materialized in the mean while there have been some disinvestments for global strategic non economic reasons which were beyond the control of Pakistan's economic managers.

To conclude the gap between expatiations and the actual economic performance can be explained by a number of factors but the constraint imposed by global environment including the conditionalities of IMF, the inability of our key economic institutions in implementing the policies and unanticipated external development are principal factors. This doesn't mean that we would like to absolve ourselves of the mistakes. We have made or you should ignore the shortcomings in our decision making but I can assure you that if this has happened it is purely an international because our commitment and dedication to turn thing around for the betterment of the country is as strong and fierce as any on else. This PTI government came in ruling in the name of change but unfortunately the change has seen in transfers of police officers and secretaries. If PTI government wants to win next coming election then they have to give relief to the common man.