

ACM (ret'd) Feroze Khan laid to rest with full military honours

ISLAMABAD: Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Air Staff PAF Air Chief Marshal (Ret'd) Feroze Khan who expired in Islamabad due to cardiac arrest, was laid to rest at PAF graveyard Nur Khan with full military honours. According to PAF Spokesperson a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force also presented gun salute at his grave. After the burial, floral wreaths were placed at the grave of the deceased on behalf of President of Pakistan. —Online

The Business

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Five Indian soldiers killed in attack

ISLAMABAD: Five Indian troops including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were killed in an attack in Poonch district, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The troops were killed in an attack when they were engaged in a cordon and search operation in Surankote area of the district, KMS reported. A reinforcement of Indian soldiers and police was sent to the area, said Lt. Col. Devender Anand, an Indian army spokesman adding that the fighting was continued. Today's fighting comes amid a sweeping crackdown by Indian forces in the Kashmir valley following a string of killings in Srinagar last week. —APP

Schools across country resume regular classes

ISLAMABAD: Schools across the country on Monday resumed regular classes, days after the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) allowed vaccination for people aged upto 12 years.

The decision was taken by the NCOC after decline of the COVID-19 cases across the country. The educational institutions were earlier operating on 50 percent capacity after they reopened following intermittent closures due to the prevalence of COVID-19.

Last week, the NCOC head Asad Umar had announced that all educational institutions would start normal classes from October 11. The planning and development minister had made this announcement in a post shared on his official Twitter handle. "Based on the reduced level of COVID disease spread and the launch of the school vaccination program, it has been decided in today's NCOC meeting to allow all educational institutions to start normal classes from 11th October," he had said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has reported 28 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 1,258,959. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 28,134 on Monday. —TLTP

Punjab Flour Mills Association calls off strike

The Business Report

LAHORE: Flour Mills Association has called off a strike after government accepted demands of the mills. According to details, the Tuesday's strike was cancelled after the provincial government accepted demands regarding wheat release policy.

Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has accorded his approval to amendments in the policy.

CPEC projects benefiting local communities

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong Monday said that the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were benefiting the local communities in Pakistan and providing thousands to jobs to them. He said the power plants at Thar block-II had so far provided over 1838 jobs to the locals and hoped that more jobs would be created when the project would reach at peak construction period.

"Glad to learn that Thar Energy Limited and ThalNova Power Thar Limited (TEL&TNPTL) 2x330MW Power Plant Projects at Thar block-II have provided jobs to 1838 local people and will provide more jobs to locals for the peak period of construction", he said in his tweet. He said the TEL 330MW Power Plant Project in Thar Block-II was making steady progress by joint efforts of both Chinese and Pakistani staff. —APP

Govt urged to ensure regular gas to CNG stations

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Compressed Natural Gas Association (APCNGA) has requested the government to ensure provision of uninterrupted gas supply to LNG-based CNG stations. In a statement issued on Monday, APCNGA leader Ghiyas Abdullah Paracha said that there should be no supply curtailment to CNG sector if there is no shortage or delay in berthing of liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels.

He was of the view that private sector players including the CNG entrepreneurs should be encouraged to import the LNG aimed at meeting needs of the industrial sector especially CNG. He feared that the gas supply chain would affect in the upcoming coming winter season that could be avoided with effective engagement of private sector entities in the LNG import. He expressed confidence that the government would fulfill all commitments it made with APCNGA for complete revival of the CNG industry and requested to bring down the taxes ratio, as the CNG that



ISLAMABAD: A principal teaches students as NCOC announced opening of the educational institutions with 100 percent attendance.

SAARC Chamber pinpoints hurdles in enhancing Pak-Afghan trade

Oman wants to boost trade, economic ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Oman wanted to boost trade and economic relations with Pakistan as both countries enjoyed strong political and defence relations, but their trade relations were not reflective of the true potential of both countries. This was stated by Al-Sheikh Mohammed Al-Marhoon, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman while interacting with the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

The envoy said that Pakistani high quality products have great prospects to penetrate Omanis market and added that chambers of commerce of both countries should play a role to ensure bilateral trade of quality products between them.

He said that many Pakistani products were getting labelled in third countries for export at higher prices and urged that Pakistan should ensure direct export of its products by focusing on their branding that would achieve better results for its economy. He said that peace in Afghanistan would create many new opportunities of trade promotion between the Central Asian region and Arab countries through Gwadar and Salalah ports, which would also strengthen trade cooperation between Pakistan and Oman.

He also invited Pakistani investors to explore JVs and investments in Salalah Free

Zone which offered great incentives including 30-year tax holiday, zero VAT, customs duties exemptions, 100 percent foreign ownership, only 20 percent Omanis requirement, one stop shop services and no minimum capital requirement. He assured that his Embassy would cooperate in enhancing Pakistanis exports to Oman.

Another report adds: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an apex trade body in the region Monday pinpointed the major hurdles in enhancing the bilateral trade between two Muslim neighbouring countries Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Life member SAARC Chamber Pakistan chapter Mian Kashif Ashfaq who is also CEO Pakistan Furniture Council and former chairman FIEDMC while talking to a delegation of exporters and importers led by Waqas Anjum, he said a couple of days ago first 10 members Afghan traders delegation of Kunar Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Torikham border crossing point since new Taliban regime to find out for quick removal of impediments in smooth flow of trade and work out a strategy for promoting regional economic connectivity besides improving the bilateral ties between two countries.

He said extremely poor infrastructure with only two small scanners is one of the major cause in smooth flow of trade which

resulted in heavy congestion.

He said Pakistan in given circumstances must increase the capacity for quick handling and clearance of consignments and new scanners also be installed few kilometres away from the zero point to avoid crowding. He said in prevailing global and regional scenarios trade and economic connectivity is of prime significance and both countries must eliminate the key challenges faced by the traders of either countries at all border crossing points.

Govt providing incentives to promote industrialization: Ministry
The Spokesperson to Finance Minister, Muzammil Aslam has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government is providing incentives to various sectors for promoting industrialization in the country.

In an interview, spokesperson to Finance Minister, Muzammil Aslam said construction, industry and manufacturing sectors are producing results due to incentives given by the government.

He said agriculture sector is showing progress in different crops including cotton and rice. The spokesperson said the target set by the government for tax collection would be achieved without any hindrance. He said that subsidy has given on petroleum products besides essential food items. —Online

BoP signs MoU with TCF: A Sadqah Jariyah initiative



By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab (BoP), one of the leading financial institutions with a network of 641 branches across Pakistan, has signed an MoU with The Citizens Foundation (TCF), a leading non-profits, educating 275,000 less-privileged students through 1,687 school units across the country. The MoU was

signed by Zafar Masud, President and CEO of Bank of Punjab (BoP) and Syed Asaad Ayub Ahmad, President and CEO of The Citizens Foundation (TCF).

Through this partnership, Bank of Punjab (BoP) aims to contribute to TCF's mission to provide quality education to less privileged children of Pakistan.

Under the "Sadqah Jariyah" initiative, Bank of Punjab (BoP) will provide donation collection services to The Citizens Foundation (TCF), thus garnering more support for The Citizens Foundation (TCF) programmes. Several physical and digital channels will be set-up to facilitate donations, including support from Non-resident Pakistani donors using the Roshan Digital Account (RDA) platform.

Funds collected will be utilized in programs themed around education for the girl child, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and

adult female literacy (Aagahi).

Speaking on the occasion, Zafar Masud, President and CEO of BoP said, "Social responsibility is the cornerstone of Bank of Punjab (BoP) vision of giving back to the society by educating the less privileged. By signing this MoU, we are laying the foundation for a long-term partnership between Bank of Punjab (BoP) and The Citizens Foundation (TCF).

We hope to raise funds from overseas Pakistanis as well through the Roshan Digital Account (RDA) channel. In addition to facilitating fund collection, the Bank of Punjab (BoP) will also contribute financially by matching customer & staff donations by up to Rs.1 million per month. Bank of Punjab (BoP) has always been on the forefront of social betterment and this partnership perfectly aligns with

Pervez Malik, PML-N MNA passes away

LAHORE: The PML-N Lahore President and MNA Pervez Malik, has passed away.

According to family sources Pervez Malik was ill since some times and his health deteriorated in the morning. He was shifted to hospital where he breathed his last.

Making confirmation about the death of Pervez Malik, Vice Chancellor of university of health sciences said he died of cardiac arrest. Pervez Malik, 74 was born in Lahore.

He remained commerce and textile minister from 2017 to 2018 while he was elected MNA five times. PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif while expressing grief over the death of Pervez Malik said PML-N has lost a selfless and loyal leader. He was sincere brother and friend and his death has caused tremendous loss to the party. His affiliation and loyalty with PML-N and Mian Nawaz Sharif remained ideal. He will be remembered for ever for his services to nation and democracy. —Online

Lok Sabha speaker invites Sanjrani to visit India

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: As a move to de-escalate hostile relations between arch-rivals, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla on Monday has invited Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani to visit India.

According to a letter, the invitation has been forwarded to Senate chairman to attend a ceremony marking centenary of Lok Sabha's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on December 4. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the ceremony. On the other hand, sources told that consultations are being carried out regarding Sanjrani's visit to India.

Onboarding of fund investors simplified

ISLAMABAD: In continuation of its efforts to promote financial inclusion through digitalization, increase investor base and micro-savings, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has specified a swift and simplified onboarding framework for customers of the Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Pension Fund Managers (PFM).

Under the new framework, the accounts can be opened online, while the Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) can conduct customer verification and authentication through virtual platforms such as WhatsApp, Skype, etc.

The new framework classifies three categories of investment accounts on the basis of investment & transaction limits, and the respective documentation/verifications, which are Sehl Sarmayakari Account, Sahulat Sarmayakari Account and Sarmayakari Account. Under this new framework, digital joint account opening is also allowed.

Through Sehl Sarmayakari Account, users can be onboarded through digital wallets without providing any additional information or document to the AMCs. The Sahulat Sarmayakari Account requires additional documentation but does not necessitate customer risk profiling for investments (in Money Market and Low risk Income Schemes). —DNA

78 more fall a prey to dengue in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: 78 more dengue cases were reported in Islamabad, 46 in rural areas and 32 in urban areas during the last 24 hours.

Dengue virus is rising in the suburbs of Islamabad, 817 dengue cases were reported in rural areas of Islamabad and 412 in urban areas. According to DHO Zaem Zia, a total of 1229 people were diagnosed with dengue virus in Islamabad so far. According to Health department Punjab, 169 dengue cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

124 cases were reported in Lahore yesterday. Health department said that 26 patients were reported from Rawalpindi and 3 from Sargodha. So far this year, 3975 confirmed cases of dengue virus have been reported

PHMA demands duty free import of cotton yarn

KARACHI: The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) demands the Government to abolish custom duty and regulatory duty on import of cotton yarn and allow import of cotton yarn from all over the world as cotton yarn is the major raw material of the value-added textile export industry.

Value-Added Garment & Home Textile Exporters are facing severest ever shortage of cotton yarn which is basic raw material. Where cotton yarn is available is of sub-standard quality. Export orders of value added textile are available, however, the exporters are reluctant to materialize the said export order in view of ongoing crisis of cotton yarn.

In this scenario, such export orders meant for Pakistan shall be diverted to other regional countries stated by Shahzad Azam Khan, Central Chairman, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA).

During the time, value added textile exports have been increased which indicates that the demand of cotton yarn by value added textile exporters have also increased. While there is a huge demand of cotton yarn in the Pakistani Value Added Textile Export Industry, the yarn manufacturers / spinners are exporting cotton yarn to our competitors in the regional countries.

Meaning thereby, the yarn manufacturers on one hand are depriving the value added textile sector with

regards to availability of cotton yarn in Pakistan and on other hand are passing on the subsidy benefit being offered and given by the Government in shape of supply of gas and power on concessional rates to the regional competitors beside exporting cotton yarn, articulated by Shahzad Azam Khan.

Shahzad Azam Khan demanded that the Value Added Textile Export Sector contributes to more than 55 percent in total national exports, earns highest foreign exchange and provides huge employment, therefore, Cotton Yarn being the major raw material of the value-added textile export must be allowed duty free import of cotton yarn from all over the world by abolishing custom duty and regu-



RAWALPINDI: Players of Islamabad Nove Team after winning the final match of the Celebrities Premier League at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.