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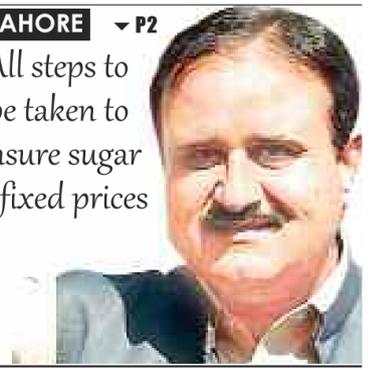
PTI govt striving to ensure provision of facilities to citizens

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All steps to be taken to ensure sugar at fixed prices



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PDM decides to hold long march in December

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has decided to hold a long march in December. This was decided during a PDM's session which is underway to devise a protest strategy against the rising inflation across the country.

The meeting is continued under a chair of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of the anti-government coalition. The meeting is continued through video link. The meeting is attended by PML-N quid, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Sardar Akhtar Mengal and Aftab Sherpao. The meeting is also reviewing a strategy for a joint sitting of parliament on November 10.

According to sources, it was decided during the meeting that protests would be held in all the provinces against inflation while a long march would be held after the protest.

This long march may be in December, the date will be announced later.

PDM discusses strategy for parliament session

An emergency meeting of the PDM, convened on an urgent basis by the alliance's president, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on Saturday discussed a strategy ahead of the joint parliament session called by the govt. The government has summoned the session on Nov 10 with a view to passing 18 bills. The bills are related to granting overseas Pakistanis the right to vote, e-voting and the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Federal Govt lifts proscribed status of TLP

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government on Saturday removed the proscribed status of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

The development comes after Interior Ministry sent a summary of the Punjab government to the Law Ministry on the issue of removing the proscribed status of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The approved summary stated that the Punjab government had recommended to remove the banned status of Tehreek-e-Labbaik and the TLP has assured that there will be no more violent protests in the future.

On Friday last week, Punjab cabinet had asked the federal government to end Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) s proscribed

status and remove all restrictions imposed on the group. The Punjab home department had forwarded a summary to Provincial CM Usman Buzdar for the revocation of the TLP s proscribed status.

It is to be mentioned here that the Punjab Cabinet Committee on Law and Order had devised a plan to take the proscribed title of TLP off after government-TLP agreement.

The federal government's steering committee led by state minister Ali Muhammad Khan had already finalised modalities to offer relief to the TLP and its leadership.

The government had earlier declared the TLP as a "militant organisation" for creating unrest in the country after a series of violent clashes.

NEPRA ratifies govt's decision to increase tariff

ISLAMABAD: National Electronic Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Saturday ratified the government's decision to increase the price of electricity paving way for increase in the basic price of electricity. The NEPRA has decided to increase the price of electricity by Rs 1.68 paise for domestic consumers and Rs 1.39 paise for commercial and industrial consumers.

According to officials, the increase will not apply to consumers up to 200 units per month, while the increase in electricity prices will be applicable from November 1, 2021.

The increase is applicable for the entire country, including K-Electric con-

sumers, while the increase in the price of electricity will fetch the government Rs 135 billion annually.

The government led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on late Thursday night jacked up the price of petrol by Rs 8.03 per litre with immediate effect.

According to a notification issued in this regard, the new price of petrol will be Rs 145.82 per litre against the current rate of Rs 137.79 per litre.

The price of high-speed diesel (HSD) had also been enhanced by Rs 8.14 per litre and will now cost Rs142.62 per litre.

The price of kerosene oil was also increased by Rs 6.27 per litre to Rs 116.53 per litre. —Online



ISLAMABAD: President A.J.K Barrister Sultan Mahmood Ch calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

■ *Sindh crushing season behind crisis: Zaradri, Sharifs own most of sugar mills in Sindh, Punjab: Fawad*

Only 22-day sugar stocks available

ISLAMABAD: The country has a stock of 130,000 tonnes of sugar and the quantity is enough to meet the domestic and industrial demand for the next 22 days.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said this while addressing a press conference flanked by Minister for National Food Security and Research Fakhar Imam on Saturday, adding the sugar crushing season will start in Punjab within next 22 days.

Quoting data from the Ministry of Industries, he said, 15,000 tonnes of sugar is consumed per day in the country, of which domestic consumers consume 6,000 tonnes, while 9,000 tonnes are used by the industrial sector, including the beverage companies.

He said the Sindh government is not releasing wheat, which resulted in price hike of the edibles in Sindh, in general, and, in Karachi, in particular.

Likewise, he said, the sugar crushing is yet to start in Sindh where the sugarcane crops' yield arrived earlier than other parts of the country, which ultimately put the overall pressure on the commodity's price. Another reason for the spike in sugar prices is financial speculation in the market, he added.

"As you know, most of the sugar mills in Sindh are working under Asif Ali Zardari, while in Punjab, they are owned by the Sharif family," he said, adding that

unfortunately, the private sector held their stocks, which stood at 90,000 tonnes. About the action taken by the government against sugar hoarding, Fawad said: "We fixed the price of sugar at Rs90 per kilogram, which also included Rs16 per kg profit for the sugar mills."

The private sugar mill-owners sought a stay order from the courts on the government actions for getting sugar stocks released from their godowns, he said.

"The matter is now pending in the court," the minister said and appealed to the judiciary to decide the cases on merit at the earliest so that the government could overcome the crisis-like situation and pass on the relief to the public. "We are not asking 'the court' to give the decision in favour of the government...at least start proceedings," he said, adding that the stay on the matter of national importance created major problems.

Expressing hope for starting sugar crushing in Punjab, he said, the Sindh government had to start crushing from November 1, but there is no progress made as yet. Fawad said that the hike in the essential commodities' prices is mainly being reported from Karachi. The price of a wheat flour sack was Rs380 higher in the metropolitan area than the actual prices in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Likewise, other edibles, including sugar, were being sold at

the highest rate in Karachi, he added.

Fawad urged the Sindh govt to clear its position on inflation. "Why did it not release wheat earlier and now refrain from starting crushing of sugar...what sort of agenda you people are pursuing and what actually you want?" he questioned. The challenges being faced by the people in the urban Sindh is the result of the provincial govt's bad governance, he said, while pointing to the lawlessness in the province apparently due to the absence of police.

The people are being murdered in broad daylight and social media networking sites were flooded with such clips. It seems that there is an environment of 'jungle' across the province, he added. The minister urged the media to highlight the plight of the people of Sindh and put pressure on the provincial government to conduct independent inquiry into such matters.

About the increase in oil prices in the country, Fawad said the federal government brought taxes on the commodity to the lowest level, despite the rise in the petroleum prices in the international market so that the masses could be facilitated in all possible ways. The government has collected only Rs50 billion in lieu of the petroleum levy.

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Focus on skill development to change youth into asset: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the government is focusing on better education and skill development of youth to build their capacity and transform them into a great asset.

Talking to Special Assistant on Youth Affairs Usman Dar on Saturday, the prime minister said that young people are the real driving force behind any change in society. The prime minister said that the government is concentrating on utilising its energies in a positive direction for socio-economic development of the country. The prime minister directed for all possible steps to ensure inclusion of youth in every aspect of life in order to help them achieve higher goals. He said that 68 percent of Pakistan's population is below 30 years of age and that is why the government is striving for converting this huge population into a great asset to benefit from

their capabilities through education and skill training. He said the government is focused on exploiting the youth's energy for the socio-economic development of the country as they are the catalyst of a change in society.

Earlier, the special assistant on youth affairs presented a two years performance report of the Kamyab Jawan Programme. The prime minister was informed that over 16,600 concessional loans, worth Rs23 billion, have been disbursed since inception of Youth Entrepreneurs Scheme two years ago.

He said that under Kamyab Jawan Skill For All Programme, more than one hundred thousand scholarships, worth Rs4.7 billion, have been awarded.

The prime minister was further informed that five more initiatives under Kamyab Jawan Programme are being started for the benefit of youth.

Usman presents successful Kamyab Jawan Programme report to PM

PM Imran Khan has appreciated the successful Kamyab Jawan programme on the completion of two years.

Expressing satisfaction over the report on the success of the programme, Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated the head of Kamyab Jawan programme Usman Dar and his team for their hard work.

The Prime Minister directed to take all possible steps to ensure inclusion of youth in every aspect of life in order to help them achieve higher goals.

Prime Minister said 68 percent of Pakistan's population was below 30 years of age and that was why the government was striving for converting this huge population into a great asset to benefit from their capabilities through education and skill training. —DNA

Lahore, Karachi among top 4 most polluted cities

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: Lahore and Karachi have been ranked third and fourth respectively on a list of the world's most polluted cities.

According to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index, Lahore recorded a particulate matter (PM) rating of 181, placing the city at the third spot on the global index of most polluted cities. Karachi, however, reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 163 and was declared the fourth most polluted city in the world.

It is pertinent to mention here that the US Air Quality Index declared India's New Delhi "the most polluted city in the world".

As per the Air Quality Index, a city that records the PM rating from 151 to 200 falls under the "unhealthy" category, 201 to 300 under "highly unhealthy" and 301 and above come under the "dangerous" category. Earlier on November 2, the AQI reached 289 in Lahore, which put the city on the list of the most polluted cities in the world.

Gold prices up by Rs 2800 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs 2800 and was sold at Rs 123,000 in the local market on Saturday against its sale at Rs 120,200 the previous day, Karachi Sarafa and Jewellers Group reported.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2401 to Rs 105,453 against its sale at Rs 103,052 whereas that of and 10 gram 22 karat surge to Rs 96,665 from Rs 94,464. The price of per tola silver appreciated by Rs 20 to Rs 1440 while ten gram silver by Rs 17.124 to Rs 1234.56. The price of gold in international market also increased by \$26 to \$1818 from its sale at \$1792, the Jewellers Group reported. —APP

Petrol price hike challenged

The Business Report

LAHORE: Recent hike in petroleum products by the government has been challenged in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

The plaintiff argues that the hike is illegal as the government increased the prices without approval of the federal capital.

The government on late Thursday night had jacked up the price of petrol by Rs 8.03 per litre with immediate effect. According to a notification issued in this regard, the new price of petrol will be Rs 145.82 per litre against the current rate of Rs 137.79 per litre. The price of high-speed diesel (HSD) has also been enhanced by Rs 8.14 per litre and will now cost Rs142.62 per litre.

The price of kerosene oil was also increased by Rs 6.27 per litre to Rs 116.53 per litre. In addition, the price of light diesel oil has been enhanced by Rs 5.72 per litre.

The new price of light diesel oil will thus be Rs114.07 per litre.

Jammu Martyrs' Day observed

SRINAGAR: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over observed the Jammu Martyrs' Day, to reaffirm the resolve to continue the martyrs' mission till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were massacred by the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh, Indian army and Hindu extremists in different parts of Jammu region while they were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November in 1947.

Hurriyat leaders and organisations in their statements, while paying tributes to the Jammu martyrs, said that their blood would not go waste. They said that the martyrs of Jammu had laid down their lives for a sacred cause and their unprecedented sacrifices would not be forgotten. They said that the genocide of the Muslims of Jammu in 1947 was one of the biggest tragedies. —Online



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Bulls toss PSX index over 47,000-point mark

The Business Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a volatile trading week, however, the benchmark KSE-100 index powered past the 47,000-point mark in the outgoing week to finish with a gain of 1,111 points or 2.4 percent.

Interest in cyclical and sideboard sectors kept the market buoyant as investor participation remained strong. The index maintained a healthy momentum on the back of strengthening currency and clarity regarding the IMF programme. Additionally, sector-specific developments also spurred buying interest in

select stocks, which further fuelled the rally. The market finished four out of the five sessions in the green to settle at 47,295.80 points.

On Monday, the index climbed over 900 points as investors' interest

WEEKLY REVIEW

was rejuvenated after Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin confirmed that an agreement with the IMF over the revival of the \$6b EFF had been reached and a formal accord will be signed later this week. The uptrend continued on Tuesday as investors cheered consistent appreciation of

the rupee against the US dollar and significant growth in exports.

However, the trend reversed on Wednesday and the market succumbed to selling pressure in line with world equity markets. Moreover, concerns regarding monetary policy tightening in the upcoming MPC meeting — scheduled to be held on Nov 26 — forced the investors to trade cautiously. Fortunately, the tables turned on Thursday and the market closed the session in the green as fertiliser, banks and automobile sectors attracted cherry-picking from investors. The market managed to sustain the positive momentum and despite choppy trading.