



LAHORE P3

Clash not in favour of country, says Ashrafi

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad

LAHORE P2

Dengue situation under constant monitoring



PAGES 08 | Rs 15

www.thebusiness.com.pk

Rabi-ul-Awal 25 1443 Monday, November 01, 2021

Pak can offer wheat, rice to Kabul: Fakhar

MULTAN: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam said on Sunday Pakistan could provide wheat and rice to Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds, in case need arises therein. He said this while talking to media during Kissan Convention, held at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, here on Sunday. The people of Afghanistan are our brothers, Fakhar said and added that Pakistan could offer wheat and rice to help them address food challenge. Pakistan has sufficient stock and there would be no shortage in the country. Half of the population of Afghanistan was facing shortage of food, he added. In recent past, Pakistan offered 40,000 tonnes to address issue of food crisis in Afghanistan. Responding to overall sector, Syed Fakhar Imam said that Pakistan set target to produce 28.9 million tonnes wheat. In case of favourable climate, he hoped that the country would achieve the set target. During last season, record production of maize, sugarcane, rice and wheat was achieved. A visible change is being observed in agriculture sector. The farmers will obtain good price against agricultural commodities. To another question about increase in fertilizers prices, the federal minister observed that federal government would provide subsidy of Rs 8 billion. However, provinces would also contribute the same amount. Similarly, the government is offering direct subsidy to farmers via Kissan Card. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaisar, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MOS for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan and Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman jointly address a press conference.

Govt, banned TLP reach agreement, says Mufti Muneeb

— Agreement will start yielding results from the next week

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Government and banned organization Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan have reached agreement, Mufti Muneebur Rehman announced on Sunday. PTI government's negotiating team including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaisar and Federal Minister Ali Muhammad Khan were present alongside Mufti Muneebur Rehman and representatives of banned TLP. Mufti Muneebur Rehman while addressing a press conference said that under the agreement, a steering committee has been formed that will be headed by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan and this committee will become functional from Sunday. He said that the details of the agreement will be revealed at appropriate time; however, he said that as per the agreement, a steering committee has been formed under the chair of Muhammad Ali Khan. He added that the agreement, which also has support from banned TLP's

chief, will start yielding results from the next week. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, while addressing the media persons, said that innocent lives were lost and properties of people were damaged and if the issue was prolonged, the situation could have gotten worse. Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday

Qureshi says innocent lives were lost and properties of people were damaged and if issue was prolonged, then situation could have gotten worse

had formed a 12-member committee to hold negotiations with the banned organization. On the other hand, authorities have closed both sides of bridge on Chenab River by placing containers and other barricades in order to stop long march of banned organization TLP.

Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) have also set up a red line at a distance of 500 meters from the Chenab River and all sorts of transport is not allowed on the bridge. GT Road is also closed from several points and land routes to Gujarat, Kharian and Jhelum have also been closed. Residents of the areas are facing increasing problems due to closure of roads, educational institutions and markets. Imran Khan has said that the government would not have any objection to releasing banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) chief Saad Rizvi if courts ordered to release him. He said this in his meeting with Ulemas. The scholars raised objections on the statements of the federal ministers and said that the statements could sabotage the negotiations with the banned TLP. The premier went on to say that the government wouldn't have any problem if courts order Saad Rizvi's release, adding that expelling French Ambassador is not the solution to the problem but the world will have to be educated regarding blasphemy.

Kamyab Jawan Programme Over Rs22b soft loans disbursed, says Usman Dar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar on Sunday said the government had so far disbursed soft loans worth over Rs 22 billion under the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) of Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP). In a news release, he said there has been a significant increase in the loan disbursement process under the Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP) as a large number of young people had opened their own businesses after availing concessionary loans on merit. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) said the government was making serious efforts for welfare and prosperity of the youth. Loans upto Rs 3 billion was being approved for the youngsters every month, he added. He said the government had achieved yet another milestone by disbursing soft loans amounting to over Rs 22 billion in the last two years. Usman Dar vowed to disburse loans amounting to Rs 100 billion within the set time period. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) also tweeted success story of Raj Kumar who expanded his fruits and vegetables business after getting soft loans under the Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP) within a timeframe of two months. In a video message, Raj Kumar from Islam Kot, Sindh extended gratitude to Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP) team for creating pro-youth opportunities. —APP

Dams to increase water storage capacity

ISLAMABAD: The under-construction dams will increase country's total water storage capacity by 21.837 million acre-feet after completion. Garuk Dam, Winder Dam, Papin Dam, and Pelar Dam having combined water storage capacity of 0.142 million acre-feet are all set to start functioning in the coming days. While, Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Naulong Dam, Kurram Tangi Dam, Nai Gaj Dam, and Dawarat Dam having combined storage capacity of around 7.747 million acre-feet, were in the initial stages of development. Similarly, the Government is also planning to build seven more dams including Hingol dam, Akhori dam, Shyok dam, Munda dam (Mohmand Dam), Tank Zam dam and Chiniot dam in the country. These seven dams will add 13,948 million acres of storage capacity to the current water reservoirs in the country. —APP

Suki power project to be ready by 2022

ISLAMABAD: The 884 MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, being constructed with US \$ 1.9 billion cost under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be operational by 2022. According to the schedule, Suki Kinari hydropower plant is expected to be completed by the end of next year, an official source told APP. The run-of-the-river project is being established alongside the Kunhar River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is also one of Pakistan's largest private sector power development projects and is being constructed as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's 'Early Harvest' projects. The project is being developed on the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model - which implies that the Chinese Company would operate it for 30 years after which the project would be transferred to the KP government. Once completed, the project would add 884 megawatts to the national grid and all four units would become fully operational by 2022. The completion of this hydro power plant will play an important role in promoting Pakistan's industrial development and economic recovery. —APP

PFC to take part in trade fair in Paris

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a three-day Texworld International fair being held in Paris from February 07 to discover business opportunities and explore new markets in Europe. Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq presiding over board of directors meeting here on Sunday said that PFC along Chenone will approach Trade Development Authority of Pakistan for participating in this international fair. He said this fair attracts twice a year thousands of weavers and manufacturers from all over the world which showcase their products. He said Chenone will also exhibit its high international quality products to capture their share in European market. He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers. He said this fair also offers professional buyers a sourcing platform with wide variety of products ranging from basics to the most creative and qualitative. Mian Kashif said Chenone has already attended several other international fairs in US, China, Italy, Turkey, Sri Lanka and introduced its products which are in great demand. He hoped in getting orders from foreign buyers. He said main purpose of attending the foreign fairs is to help strengthen the national economy. —Online

8th Multinational Exercise Pakistan Navy participates in NUSRET 2021

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Sunday participated in 8th multinational special operations exercise 'NUSRET 2021' at Canakkale, Turkey. Pakistan Navy (PN) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team participated along with teams of other countries under the auspices of Turkish authorities, said a Pakistan Navy media release here received. The teams from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Republic of Korea, Romania and Tanzania participated in the exercise. The representatives from NATO Mine Counter Measure (MCM) Group, NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation also participated in the exercise. The exercise was designed to exchange professional expertise in Special Operation Forces (SOF) domain. The aim of exercise was to develop synergy, strengthen military relationships and enhance interoperability among Special Operation Forces of participating countries. The Multinational Exercise focused on operations which include Under Water EOD Operations and Mines Counter Measures in maritime domain. It added that professional experience gained during multinational exercise. —Online

Saudi Vision 2030 provides best scope to Pakistan: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said that owing to their complementarities in the socioeconomic fundamentals, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 provided opportunities to Pakistan to engage with Saudi Arabia in realizing Naya Pakistan's ambitious plan. "I must say that there are significant complementarities in the socio-economic fundamentals of the 'Naya Pakistan' and the Saudi Vision 2030. Both lay emphasis on economic opportunity and diversity, domestic growth, modernization and development, and trade linkages and connectivity," the prime minister said in an interview with Saudi Arabia's Al-Riyadh newspaper published Sunday. The PM said Pakistan could contribute manpower; both skilled and semi-skilled besides sharing its expertise in other sectors like IT, infrastructure development, and agriculture.

He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had historically enjoyed long-standing fraternal ties, rooted deep in common faith, shared history and mutual support. Both countries have stood by each other, through thick and thin, regardless of the change in leadership. "We never had the reason to reposition our relations with Saudi Arabia in the wake of regional or international developments - in the past as well as in contemporary times. Relations between the two countries have withstood the test of time," he remarked. Imran Khan said both the countries had a special bond for seven decades now. "It is now our earnest desire to transform this relationship into a deep, diverse and mutually beneficial strategic partnership. We are now working to consolidate historical gains by exploring new and non-conventional areas of cooperation. We want our

trade relations and investment cooperation to be commensurate with excellent political relations," he said. He said during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, he had the opportunity to attend the first Saudi-Pakistan Investment Forum wherein he stressed the importance of engaging the private and corporate sectors of the two countries to realize the untapped potential in the fields of trade, business and investment. "I am confident that the Investment Forum would usher in a new dynamism in our investment cooperation." To a question, he commended the Saudi leadership for introducing reforms in various sectors under Vision 2030. During the recent visit, he said the two countries had discussed ways to strengthen and enhance economic and

● Continued on Back Page



CANAKKALE: Pakistan Navy & Turkey UW EOD operations teams during 8th Multinational exercise NUSRET-2021 at Canakkale, Turkey.

Azad Pattan power project to generate 3,064GWh electricity

ISLAMABAD: Azad Pattan Hydropower Project having capacity to annually generate 3064 GWh cheap and environment friendly power would be completed by 2026. The 700 MW project is located on Jhelum River roughly 7 km upstream of Azad Pattan Bridge in the Sudhanoti District, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and 90 km from Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, said official source of Ministry of Water Resources. The project's \$1.5 billion investment agreement was signed between Chinese state-owned China Gezhouba Group and Pakistan in July 2020, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan and senior govern-

ment ministers in July 2020. Height of run of the river dam is 90 m (295 ft). 1124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project is likely to be completed by December 2025 with the cost of \$2.4 billion. The annual generation capacity of run-of-the-river project is 4800 GWh, said an official source. The diversion dam site is on Jhelum River near Sarraan Village 40 km upstream from Muzaffarabad and a 20 km long tunnel connects to the powerhouse which is located at Barsala 7 km upstream from Kohala Bridge. The Kohala hydroelectric scheme will have a gravity, roller-concrete compacted dam on the upper branch of the Jhelum, 40 km from Muzaffarabad. The powerhouse, on the

lower branch of the Jhelum near Barsala, will house four 281-MW Pelton turbines. The Kohala Hydropower Project is Chinese state owned hydropower developer, namely CTGC, largest investment in Pakistan. It won the right to develop a hydroelectric dam in Pakistan on January 7, 2015. The high head project of 316 meters that is located near Kohala, in Azad Kashmir. In 2020, the project's agreement was signed. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Pakistani Prime Minister, and Chinese ambassador. A 300 megawatts coal-fired Gwadar Power Plant would start functioning from October 2023, said official sources. —APP