

### Sheikh Rashid's elder brother passes away

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid's elder brother Sheikh Rafiq passed away on Monday. In a tweet on Wednesday, interior minister announced that his elder brother was no more. "With great grief, it is announced that my elder brother Lala Sheikh Rafiq has passed away. I request all for prayers." Sheikh Rashid wrote. The funeral prayers of Sheikh Rafiq were performed at Wednesday evening in Kot Radha Kishan. —Online

# The Business

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### Pakistan condemns restrictions on offering Juma prayers in India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the restrictions imposed by BJP's Haryana government on offering Juma prayers by Muslims at several places in the state. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said we are also deeply concerned over continued vandalism of mosques and attacks against prayer places of Muslims by Sangh Parivar extremists with complicity of BJP ruled states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. —Online

## Navy conducts rescue operation in Arabian Sea

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Ship RASADGAR conducted successful rescue operation on a distressed fishing boat in North Arabian Sea and saved 16 fishermen onboard Safena Pai Khail. The fishing boat was having extensive fire in fuel tanks.

During Maritime Security Patrol in North Arabian Sea PNS Rasadgar observed a fishing dhow under fire off Karachi coast. PN and PMSA assets immediately rescued all the crew members onboard distressed vessel. The fire onboard was extinguished by PN fire fighting teams. All crew members were safely evacuated and provided necessary medical treatment.

Pakistan Navy maintains a high degree of readiness, to undertake range of military and non-military operations out at sea. Besides safeguarding maritime boundaries, Pakistan Navy has always been at the forefront to ensure safety of sea farers. —DNA

## Regular gas to domestic consumers: Azhar

ISLAMABAD: Energy minister Hamad Azhar has said we are not observing gas load shedding at present. Owing to less intensity of cold weather the loadshedding has not been done so far", he said this while talking to media men on the occasion of joint session of parliament here Wednesday.

He stated 10 cargoes have been imported despite shortage of RLNG worldwide. Last year 11 RLNG Cargoes were imported. We have ensured supply of gas to export sector, he said adding fertilizer plants have not been shut in the country for the first time in its history. I have directed to supply gas to domestic consumers uninterrupted, he underlined. —Online

## PTI parliamentary party meeting held before joint session

ISLAMABAD: PTI parliamentary party meeting was held under the Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan ahead of joint session of the parliament and the PM took his associates into confidence on the bills.

The ministers, senators and members of National Assembly of PTI attended the meeting of PTI parliamentary party. The PM while taking the members of PTI on board in regard to the bills said he had personal motives in the legislation. The country future is linked to democracy and transparency. You will have your role to play in laying the foundation of the fair and transparent elections, he stressed.

He reiterated the overseas Pakistanis are backbone of the national economy. They should be given right to vote. I am aware to the problems facing the members of parliament. Their grievances will soon be redressed, he assured. —Online

## 10 lost lives, 270 tested positive due to corona virus

ISLAMABAD: Ten deaths were reported while 270 persons tested positive due to corona virus during the last 24 hours in the country. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) 32006 corona tests were conducted during the last 24 hours of which 270 returned positive.

Tally of positive cases has soared to 1,280,362. The positivity ratio stands at 0.84. As per province wise detail 473,293 coronavirus cases have been reported in Sindh, 442,068 in Punjab 179,276 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 107,383 in Islamabad, 34,517 in Azad Kashmir 33,422 in Balochistan and 10,403 in GB. With the current 10 deaths the total fatalities have surged to 28,628. As per NCO statistics 12,984 persons died due to the epidemic in Punjab, 7,605 in Sindh 5,805 in KP, 949 in Islamabad, 741 in Azad Kashmir, 358 in Balochistan, and 186 in GB.

1,229,347 patients have recovered in the country whereas 1,085 patients are in critical condition. 1,229,347 patients have recovered in the country whereas 1,085 patients are in critical condition.

As many as 119,436,714 with 400,723 doses in the last 24 hours have been administered so far in the country. —Online

## IRD moot calls for promoting CPEC as a national project

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a two-day international conference on "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Building Narratives" called for more efforts to promote China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a national project.

The conference was organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), of International Islamic University (IIU) in collaboration with Faculty of Social Sciences commenced on Wednesday at Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Mosque Campus, Islamabad. The conference was being attended by eminent national and international experts in economics, sociology and mass media.

In different sessions of the conference, around 50 national and international

experts, researchers, academicians and intellectuals will discuss various aspects of CPEC's regional and global impact.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony in his presidential address, IIU Rector Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai underscored the importance of the universities in solution of the problems and challenges of society.

He stressed that debates on the vital topics that have the game changing importance such as CPEC must be openly conducted on the constructive platforms and universities must lead this initiative.

Dr. Masoom hinted at meaningful presence of the Youth in Pakistani society, and expressed that the Pakistani human resource compliant to the CPEC needs, with mu-

tual agreement between both states, must be produced to be benefited from the opportunity. He also hailed IRD for arranging an important international conference.

Rafiullah Kakar, Director, Strategic Planning and reforms cell, Government of Baluchistan, in his keynote address discussed misconceptions and myths about the CPEC. In addition, he also explained an overview of the project with the perspective of both countries. He enlightened on potential risks and ground realities with the example of statistical approach. He opined that there is a dire need to realize that CPEC is not a substitute to local development policies and it is imperative to solve the indigenous issues with indigenous approach. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin chairs a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to review the price trend of essential commodities.

# Businessmen for regular, low cost gas supply to industry

ISLAMABAD: As the domestic as well as export industry is fearing to face gas supply disruptions in winter the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel, has called for uninterrupted supply of gas to the industrial sector, urging the government to up-grade its distribution and supply system to avoid losses.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar called for uninterrupted and low cost gas supply to the industrial sector, urging the government to up-grade transmission and distribution system to ensure continuous and smooth supply of electricity and gas. He urged the government not to tolerate any laxity towards up-gradation of gas and power transmission and distribution system, as any negligence could cause unbearable loss to the trade and industry.

He said that the UFG of SNGPL reached around 11.9 percent and 16 percent of SSGC in financial year 2020-21 against the permissible limit of seven percent. He said that gas and electricity are basic ingredients for the industrial sector and are must to keep the wheel of industry moving. He said that growth of local in-

dustrial sector is a barometer of economy.

The BMP Chairman observed that business-friendly policies should be adopted as other neighboring countries of the region are giving to the industry. He said that sizeable cut in oil rates would certainly bring down the cost of doing business and our products would get their due share in the global market. Mian Anjum Nisar, who is also the former president of the FPCCI, called upon the government to address the key issues of the trade and industry, facilitate the economic growth along with improving tax revenue of the government. He said that the impact of COVID-19 has badly affected business and industrial sector, stressing the government to bring down GST in order to ease the difficulties of businesses. He said that the move would reduce the cost of doing business, attract new investment, promote industrialization and create new jobs.

### PFC to take part in Intel Fair in Poland on Dec 01

The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a three-day International fair being held in Warsaw Poland from December 01 to discover business opportunities and explore new markets in

European Union. Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq presiding over board of directors meeting here on Wednesday said that PFC along Chenone will approach Trade Development Authority of Pakistan for participating in this international fair.

He said this fair attracts thousands of weavers from all over the world which showcase their products. He said Chenone will also exhibit its high international quality woven and knotted, upholstery, leather garments, readymade garments products to capture their share in European market. He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak branded 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 and TDAP is facilitating the manufacturers of

# Strategic trade policy steps to help in economic growth

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) has welcomed the new Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2020-25, approved by the Cabinet, after a delay of more than two years, stating that the framework measures will enhance economic growth by supporting businesses' capacity to manufacture and market their products more competitively across the world.

PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, in a joint statement issued here today, pointed out that unlike the past frameworks, the government this time did not announce an export target linked with the support being given to the sectors.

Nasir Hameed said the government has to formulate long-term and consistent policies for the revival of industry and considerable improvement in exports, as contrary to regional countries, Pakistan's exports have remained stagnant for a long time, and unless attention was paid to all factors that hamper industrial and exports growth, the country

might not be able to achieve desired results. He expressed the hope that present trend of positive growth in large-scale manufacturing (LSM) will help achieve the annual economic growth target, besides creating jobs for skilled and unskilled workers.

PIAF leadership said that it is good that the policy is dynamic in nature and will be subject to course correction based on constant monitoring and evaluation. He demanded that there should be an institutionalized mechanism for robust monitoring and implementation of the policy to minimize policy implementation gaps, which have traditionally remained a weak link due to multi-organizational roles in the export ecosystem. He that cross functional National Export Development Board has been constituted under the chairmanship of the prime minister and comprising senior public sector officials of relevant organizations and private sector representatives with a view to oversee the policy implementation, which is the right step in the right direction.

Nasir Hameed said that this is the fourth strategic framework announced since

2009 by the government which allocated Rs45 billion for its implementation in the next five years by giving subsidies and other support to non-textile sectors. He asked the government to also approve the Textile and Apparel Policy 2020-25, laden with cash subsidies and lower rates on utilities to boost production and export of value-added textile products. He also called for the approval of a scheme for payment of Drawback of Local Taxes and Levy, which is simply a cash subsidy on export proceeds from the country.

He appreciated the State Bank of Pakistan's offer for hefty incentives to the entrepreneurs, proposing to allocate a hefty amount for the Export Finance Scheme and Long Term Financing Facility. PIAF vice chairman Javed Siddiqi said that main focus of the policy framework 2020-25 should be on geographical and product diversification, reduction of cost for manufacturing through tariff rationalization, pursuit of regional connectivity and Look Africa policy, enhancement of market access through free trade and preferential trade agreements.

## ADB reassures support to Pak reform agenda

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reassured its support to Pakistan in its reform agenda, especially in the Energy and Financial Markets Sectors and to speed up the economic recovery process.

The assurance was given by the US Alternative Executive Director at Asian Development Bank Board, John Hurley during a meeting with Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar in Islamabad.

While acknowledging Pakistan's efforts for effective management of the Covid-19 crisis, he said the ADB is fully committed to provide assistance to the developing countries for procurement of Covid-19 vaccines. John Hurley said Pakistan's efforts to curtail the Covid-19 pandemic have minimized indigenous economic shock up to great extent.

During the meeting, various infrastructure, energy, Disaster Management and Climate Resilience, Urban Services, Social services Education, Ehsaas Programme and health-related projects being funded by the ADB came under discussion.

## Razzak welcomes agreement signed at ITIF

KARACHI: Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile and Industry, Razzak Dawood said the agreement signed with Belarus at the International Trade and Industrial Fair (ITIF) was of utmost importance, which would promote advanced education in the country.

On the second day of the event, Junaid Lakhani's University signed three agreements with institutions in Belarus. Razzak Dawood said Afghanistan's regional connectivity would increase in a couple of months, which would also benefit Pakistan's external trade.

"Economic development in Afghanistan would directly impact Pakistan, and Prime Minister Imran Khan has categorically advised to increase trade with the neighbouring country." Minister said the economy was heading in the right direction post-covid. "Presence of foreign delegates at the fair proved the confidence of international community in Pakistan's ability to deal with the pandemic. He informed that Pakistan was increasingly tapping the non-traditional markets adding, he would soon Nigeria in this regard —DNA

## PM to inaugurate 'Track and Trace System' to curb tax-evasion

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will inaugurate 'track and trace system' on November 23, it emerged on Wednesday.

According to media reports, new system will ensure electronic monitoring of production and sales of tobacco, fertilizers, sugar and cement. The new system would ensure addition to country's revenue and eradicate tax-evasion. New system will reportedly monitor the process of production and supply of above mentioned goods to the consumer. The system has already been installed in tobacco sector, according to the report. —Online

## Federal, KP govts join hands for Rs20b subsidy

PESHAWAR: Federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments have joined hands for speedy disbursement of Rs20 billion food subsidy in over 2.6 million households under the Prime Minister's Ehsaas Roshan Programme for next six months in the province.

Out of Rs20 billion subsidy on three highly consumed food items including flour, ghee/cooking oil and pulses, the KP government has decided to contribute Rs13b and Federal Govt to provide Rs7 bln in Rs120b landmark PM Ehsaas Roshan Programme in order to ebb away inflation and arrest price-hike, the officials of Ehsaas Programme KP said while talking to this agency on Wednesday. He said a digital app portal for registration of families and owners of Karyana General Stores has been developed. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif addresses a press conference outside the National Assembly after the boycott of joint session of Parliament.