

13 die, 363 tested positive due to virus during last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: As many as 13 persons succumbed to Covid-19 and 363 persons tested positive during the last 24 hours in the country. As per the latest statistics by the NCOC and 41,240 coronavirus tests were conducted during the last 24 hours of which 363 returned positive. Tally of positive cases has soared to 1,283,223. The positivity ratio stood at 0.88 percent. As per province wise details 474,772 corona virus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 442,714 in Punjab 179,774 in KP 107,554 in Islamabad. —DNA

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Inflation declaring from street-to-street PM is thief

LAHORE: Opposition leader in the National Assembly (NA) Shabbaz Sharif the uncontrollable jin of inflation is declaring street to street that the PM Imran Khan is thief. "Insensitivity of the tyrannical rulers is salt on the injuries of the poor masses", he said in a statement issued here Thursday. He held the people who are standing in queues today are remembering the Old Pakistan wistfully. The smog of corruption, inefficiency, incapability and inflation has engulfed the country since the last three years, he added. —APP

Work to demolish Nasla Tower, Tejori Heights underway

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Karachi Commissioner on Thursday has presented a report in the Supreme Court (SC) and told that work to demolish illegally constructed buildings in the metropolis is underway.

During the hearing at Karachi registry, the commissioner said that the concerned authorities are acting on court's order and razing Nasla Tower and Tejori Heights. 50 days are required to demolish Nasla Tower whereas builder of Tejori Heights is himself flattening the building, he told. Sources told that the apex court is likely to review the one-page report submitted by the commissioner.

On October 25, 2021, SC had ordered to demolish Nasla Tower in Karachi. During the hearing at Karachi registry, the apex court directed to use latest technology in the process and take all the expenses from the owner of Nasla Tower. Seize the properties of the owner if he refuses to pay the expenses, the court remarked.

Half of Karachi is under illegal occupation: SC

KARACHI: Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmad has remarked half of Karachi is under occupation and on the other hand the officers continue to warm up their seats while sitting in the offices.

He further remarked there are good and bad people but unfortunately we have dirty people. He gave these remarks while hearing the case pertaining to computerization of land record in Sindh. Senior member board of revenue presented progress report before the court in respect of the case.

The court expressed annoyance over it. The CJP Gulzar Ahmad remarked half Karachi is under occupation. If we go around the Karachi we will see that illegal constructions are underway. Go and see where the so called motorway has been constructed all is under illegal occupations therein. These land are not seen alongside airport. This is illegal. He further observed "you should comply with the orders otherwise the contempt of court proceedings will be initiated and you will go to jail. —Online

SCO's inclusive approach vital to address poverty

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said all member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) still faced multifaceted challenges of poverty, food security, and climate change, which could be addressed through an inclusive approach.

In his virtual address to the leaders at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting held in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, the foreign minister said SCO's emphasis on cooperation and conflict resolution offered hope to humanity. Prime Minister of host country Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, Secretary General SCO Vladimir Norov and heads of government of SCO member states and observers joined the meeting. Terming SCO a model of shared growth and prosperity, the foreign minister said "it provided an attractive platform for inter-state cooperation in diverse fields including economy, security, connectivity and sustainable development.

EVM Bill sent to Alvi for signature

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) Secretariat has sent second amendment bill-2021 related to election through Electronic Voting Machine to the President Arif Alvi for signatures and endorsement.

The bill is most probably to become law this week. According to NA authorities the other 32 bills which have been passed in the joint session of parliament are being sent to the president Arif Alvi step by step. These bills are being sent through the ministry of parliamentary affairs so that they take the shape of act and become law. The second amendment bill 2021 pertains to use of electronic voting machine in election and granting right to vote to the overseas Pakistanis. The criminal procedure law has also been amended. —Online



LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan gives top bank award to The Bank of Punjab (BoP).

PCJCCI keen to promote trade of gems and jewellery

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan, being the fifth largest country of gemstones reservoirs, can increase its exports to China, which is the world's largest consumer of gems and jewellery. Wang Mihai, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) in his on-line address to the PCJCCI's Export Promotion Committee today assured to create a network of Chinese importers of gems and jewellery for Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI and Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI along with other executive members, here on Thursday. President PCJCCI said that Pakistan despite being the fifth largest country of gemstones reservoirs, had not been able to get benefit from its natural resources due to lack of skills, technology, and knowledge for processing of the mining materials. Highlighting the gemstones potential, he added that Pakistan has annual export potential of 800,000 carats of Ruby, 87,000 carats of Emerald and five million carats of Period which remained unutilized due to lack of appropriate cutting and polish-

ing facilities in the country.

Ehsan Choudhry, SVP PCJCCI revealed that Pakistan's Pink Topaz and Kashmir Ruby are unique items all over the world, especially the Pink Topaz is considered as one of the second highest valued mineral. He also suggested collaboration with China to learn the latest techniques for cutting and polishing of the gemstones and by taking the National Productivity Organization (NPO) and Asian productivity organization on board in this regard. Chinese professionals in this sector should be invited to train Pakistani labor force and mining engineers for manufacturing and designing the state of the art jewelry in this vital segment of economy.

Sarfaraz Butt, VP PCJCCI said that China had started attracting global jewelry industry since 1978 and with the passage of time China had turned to be a rapidly growing consumer market. He said, in 1980, only 20,000 people throughout China were involved in the jewelry industry and 30 years later, more than three million are employed in this field but, rising costs of labour created challenges for the manufacturing sector, which has created a room for Pakistan in this area.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI pointed out in the Executive

Committee meeting that Chinese consumers are becoming more sophisticated in their shopping habits; they are moving away from traditional styles and are more inclined towards latest trends, quality, uniqueness and luxurious products. Therefore Pakistani exporters will have to ensure international standards and quality to attract Chinese market.

Central bank becoming a threat to national security

The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said the central bank should not be allowed to become a real threat to national security. The IMF is planning to govern the country through its financial viceroy to fully cripple the limping economy and takeover, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that the central bank is a symbol of the financial sovereignty of any country and it would be suicidal to leave it in the hands of international institutions.

He said that according to some independent economists, the central bank has played a major role in the destruction of the country's economy.

With more freedom, it will become more empowered and will be free to play havoc with the economy. —Online

LCCI asks govt to handle livestock and dairy sector

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Thursday urged the government to give due attention towards livestock/dairy sector to enable it to cope with challenges.

These views were expressed by the LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir while speaking at a seminar on "How to enhance milk production" and Dairy/Allied Product Show at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, Vice President Haris Ateeq, Punjab Minister for Public Prosecution Chaudhry Zaheer ud Din Khan, former Minister for Livestock & Dairy Development Mumtaz Khan Manais, Secretary Livestock & Dairy Development Naveed Haider Sherazi were the key speakers.

The Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam said that there is a dire need for livestock

census in the country. He said that accurate data will help evolve an effective strategy for the promotion of livestock sector. He said that only seven to eight percent of the milk production is being processed that should be increased. "Pakistan is far behind in animal breeding", the Minister said that this area needs to be worked on.

He called for the measures to increase dairy production and value addition. Syed Fakhar Imam said that the youth of Pakistan needs to be brought towards animal science so that livestock sector can be built on modern lines. He also called for long-term, medium and short-term strategies.

Provincial Minister Chaudhry Zaheer-ud-Din Khan said that processing of milk and its allied products can increase the exports significantly. He said that Halal meat sector has the potential to get a major share in the international market. He said that to promote value addition in the country, duties and taxes on the import of dairy processing machinery should be zero.

LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that according to the data by the Eco-

nomics Survey of Pakistan, the gross milk production 2020-21 stood at 63.7 million ton, as compared to 61.7 million ton in 2019-20. The milk consumption in Pakistan was 51.3m ton in 2020-21 as compared to 49.7m ton in 2019-20. However, as per ITC World Trade Map, Pakistan's dairy exports in 2020 stood at 42.7 million dollar, declining consistently ever-since peaking at 108 million dollar in 2013.

While sharing the figures from UNO's Food and Agriculture Organization, the LCCI President said that in the last three decades, global milk production has increased by more than 59%, from 530 million tonnes in 1998 to 843 million ton in 2018. Mian Nauman Kabir said that there is another area which requires immediate attention of Government. Unfortunately, a large quantity of milk produced in rural/remote areas is lost because of having no or small storage facilities. Poor road conditions and backward infrastructure of milk transportation are other important reasons. He added that another major barrier is that most farmers in Pak-

Suspect held for firing at Khurram Dastgir's house

GUJRANWALA: The accused involved in the shooting at the house of senior Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Khurram Dastgir has been arrested.

The police have reportedly arrested the accused who opened fire at the house of former Pakistan Defense Minister and Muslim League (N) leader Khurram Dastgir from Peshawar. According to SHO Gujranwala, the accused who identified as Yasir was handed over to Gujranwala police by Peshawar police. It was revealed that the accused Yasir opened fire in order to spread fear. —Online

NA-133 by-polls

PTI not to approach SC

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehrik-insaak (PTI) has decided not to approach Supreme Court (SC) against rejection of nomination papers in NA-133 Lahore by polls.

PTI nominee in NA-133 Lahore Jamshed Iqbal Cheema has said returning officer has rejected nomination papers while election tribunal and high court upheld the objection. It can take seven days to move to SC. If we approach the court then we cannot launch election campaign. Therefore, decision has been taken not to approach the SC. There are 40,000 bogus votes in this constituency. By polls in NA-133 will take place on December 5. —Online

Crimes stories are given more coverage in media

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid has said that there was peace when there was only one state TV channel in the country and now the crime stories are exaggeratedly presented in media today.

"At present the crime stories are given more coverage in media. The day is not far off when the problems and crimes will stand eliminated from the country and peace will prevail here", he said this while addressing ASPs passing out parade ceremony here in National Police Academy Thursday.

He went on to say the criminals have gone far ahead. Police officers are going to step in new life. The best training was imparted to police officers to discharge their obligations. He held the responsibilities of police have increased at present Police personnel are discharging their duties with courage and responsibility. Unfortunately the positive impression is not taken in respect of police department. —Online

PM gives BoP No 1 bank award

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab (BoP) has been given Top Bank Award under the Kamyab Jawan Programme by Prime Minister Imran Khan at the "Kamyab Jawan Convention 2021" held at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad late Wednesday.

Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (KJ YES) is a flagship programme of the Government of Pakistan. Currently 21 banks are the Executing Agencies for this Program and BoP has maintained its pole position under KJ YES for two consecutive years i.e. The top performing bank in 2020 followed by the Top Bank Award in 2021. As on 31 October 2021, BoP has disbursed Rs 6 billion under this scheme involving more than 5,000 households resulting in creation of more than 15,000 job opportunities through focus on diversity and market penetration.

Under this Programme, BoP has ensured transparency and meritocracy by processing all applications through a scorecard based Digitalized processing system.

Loans have been disbursed to Youth from all walks of life including farmers, Urban Communities and Special Segments i.e., Females, Transgender and Differently Aabled People. It is pertinent to mention here that BoP is also the leading bank in the industry which has disbursed over Rs 2.7 billion under Tier 1 of the scheme where loans up to Rs 1 million are disbursed against Personal Guarantee of the borrower, playing its integral role in Financial Inclusion of the unbanked / underbanked. Focusing on the Agri Sector.

PM for incentivizing OPs, VIP treatment for remittances

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will get benefit by scoring points in the APP. The Adviser said gap between our exports and imports is bridged by our Pakistanis living abroad. Governor State Bank Reza Baqir in his remarks said purpose of this scheme is to incentivize overseas Pakistanis using a digital application.

PM inaugurates SDRP promote remittances through formal channels

Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday inaugurated the Sohni Dharti Remittance Programme (SDRP) offered jointly by the State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance and financial institutions at the PM House.

In his address as chief guest, the Prime Minister thanked the Overseas Pakistanis for posing confidence in the bright future of their homeland by sending record high remittances of over \$29 billion in last fiscal year FY21 and continuing the trend in FY22. The PM noted that his Government has always encouraged and appreciated the

efforts of Overseas Pakistanis through various initiatives and programs. He especially mentioned the incentives like making remittances transfer free of cost, providing free airtime for remittances received through mobile wallets and covering marketing cost of remittance service providers.

The Prime Minister congratulated State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Ministry of Finance (MoF), financial institutions, participating public sector entities (PSEs) and all other stakeholders as without their efforts the launch of this remittance incentive program would not have been possible.

The Governor termed the launch of SDRP another step towards digitalization and financial inclusion that would play a significant role in digital onboarding of Overseas Pakistanis and their beneficiaries in Pakistan. The mobile application of SDRP is available at both Google android and Apple IOS platforms. He took the opportunity to appreciate the participating banks, PSEs and other stakeholders in this regard as it was

due to their hard work that this initiative finally saw the light of the day.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Mr. Shaukat Tareen congratulated SBP, PSEs and other relevant stakeholders for implementing the SDRP as a technology-based solution. He observed that the establishment of Pakistan Remittance Initiative in 2009 was a decision that has worked quite effectively to integrate country's financial institutions with the ones abroad to help Pakistani diaspora in sending remittance to their families in Pakistan in a very efficient and cost-effective manner.

Under the SDRP, if an individual sends remittance to the limit of USD10,000 or equivalent in one fiscal year, then he/she will be awarded one percent as a reward and allotted a green card category. Similarly, for remittances sent by an individual between USD10,000 and USD30,000 or equivalent, the remitter would be given 1.25 percent as reward and classified into gold card category. Lastly, for remittances

of more than USD30,000 or equivalent, he/she will be awarded 1.5 percent as reward and allotted a platinum card category.

Recovering forest land from grabbers govt's priority: Imran

PM Imran Khan Thursday while calling the retrieval of forest land from land grabbers and encroachers as the government's priority, directed the authorities concerned for urgent steps to multiply country's forest cover through forestation on encroached land.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on Housing, Construction and Development, said it was essential to curb the unauthorised use of land and restrict horizontal sprawl of housing societies.

Such measures would ensure food security and ease the provision of better civic amenities like water and sewerage, he added. The prime minister directed that the findings of the cadastral survey should be shared with the provinces which should be followed by swift action to retrieve public property.

He also instructed the provinces as well as the CDA to determine as how much land was encroached in the past and the ratio of the recovery. The prime minister declared to personally chair the fortnightly meetings to review the progress on retrieval of the encroached land. He underlined that the government is accountable to the people of Pakistan and it was its top priority to protect the state land. Emphasised a systematic approach to deal with land mafia, the prime minister directed the Chairman CDA to create a special cell to save valuable public land marked for parks and forests.

PM welcomes foreign IT Cos to establish ventures in Pakistan

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday termed the talent of Pakistani youth "unparalleled" said the international companies were welcome to establish their ventures in Pakistan. The prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with Group CEO of Veon (Multinational Telecommunication Services Company) Kaan Terzio. —Agencies