

## PM resignation will be the largest relief for the people: Maryam

ISLAMABAD: PML-N spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb has said Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan resignation will serve as milestone in allaying the woes of people and easing their difficulties of life, she added. She tweeted "Imran Khan is responsible for inflation, unemployment and economic destruction in the country. His first and last priority is deceit and making the life of the nation miserable. —Online

# The Business

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## 26 die, several injured as bus plunges into ravine

RAWLAKOT: At least 26 persons died and several were injured when a bus on its way from Rawlakot to Rawalpindi plunged into a deep ravine. According to police the bus was travelling from Baloch to Rawalpindi and the bus driver lost control while making turn in the area of Manjhari and the bus fell into ravine. 23 persons died on the spot and several sustained injuries. The condition of several injured persons is stated to be critical. They have been shifted to Tehsil Headquarters hospital Baloch. —Online

## 'Single Sales Tax Portal' to ensure automation

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has launched 'Single Sales Tax Portal' to facilitate the taxpayers through automation. According to FBR, this facility will enable taxpayers to file single monthly Sales Tax returns instead of multiple returns (Six in the past) on different portals; thereby, significantly reducing the time and cost of compliance, and thus achieving maximum efficiency.

It added that the system would be intelligent enough to sift and collect revenues from a single taxpayer and distribute the same among multiple revenue agencies.

The Portal would also be beneficial for tax collectors in having a 360-degree view of taxpayers' business activities across the country in order to maximize revenue potential and tax compliance, the statement added. —APP

## Punjab decides to cancel registration of 52,000 cars

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to cancel the registration of 52,000 cars for non-payment of token tax.

The decision will apply to vehicles registered before the year 2000 and after 2015. The owners of the vehicles can appeal against the decision within 15 days.

Excise and Taxation Regional Director Qamar Hassan Sajjad said that all vehicles that have not paid the token tax for the last five years would get their registration cancelled. All vehicles owners owed millions of rupees taxes to the government, he said.

"All those cars that have completed their life and there were no other transactions against them would also get their registration cancelled. These vehicles are polluting the environment," he said. He clarified that no extension would be given once 15 days of appeal time would expire. —DNA

## FM, entrepreneurs discuss economic diplomacy

ISLAMABAD: In line with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's long-term focus on economic diplomacy, a delegation of young entrepreneurs from the global non-profit Entrepreneurs Organisation called on him here on Wednesday.

Held under the Foreign Minister's 'FM Connect Agenda' for greater stakeholder inclusivity, the delegation comprised some of Pakistan's top young CEOs from the Lahore Chapter of the Entrepreneurs Organisation, led by its President Mohsin Khawaja.

The foreign minister spoke to the business delegation about Pakistan's vision for economic diplomacy and highlighted the measures taken thus far. He called for win-win partnership between the government and the private sector to work on shared objectives of economic development and prosperity.

He also shared PM Imran Khan's emphasis on developing greater trade and investment opportunities for and in Pakistan. The members of the visiting delegation apprised the foreign minister about steps they have taken to contribute to Pakistan's economy and their future plans for expansion. —DNA

## Govt to ensure transparency in future polls: Babar

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan has said that the federal government will ensure transparency in the future elections.

Babar Awan held an important meeting with the chief election commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja at the ECP headquarters in Islamabad on Wednesday. During the meeting, Babar Awan said that the federal government wanted to take the constitutional institution onboard regarding the election reforms. He said that the government wanted to ensure transparency in future elections.

Sources told that the federal government assured the ECP of providing maximum assistance to work on electoral reforms. The CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja welcomed the govt's assurance and said that the institution will also support the legislation in favour of the public and national interests. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Hammad Azhar inaugurates Training Hall at the FATF Secretariat.

# Zafar wants govt to address concerns of traders on taxes

ISLAMABAD: Former Senator and PTI leader Syed Zafar Ali Shah desired that the government should take all possible measures to address the concerns of traders on tax measures including installation of POS and digital payments as taking traders into confidence was important to improve the economy and steer the country out of troubled waters. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He also congratulated Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice-President and Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice-President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on their election. Muhammad Ejaz Abassi and Baser Daud, former Presidents Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Khalid Chaudhry and Muhammad Naveed Malik, former Senior Vice-Presidents ICCI, Raja Safer and others were also present at the occasion.

Syed Zafar Ali Shah said that the business community was playing important role in the economic development of the country and the government should focus on promoting ease of doing business to enable the business and investment activities flourish in the country. He said that the election of new Office Bearers of ICCI was a right choice as they have the potential and talent to contribute for the welfare of the business community.

## Mian Nauman Kabir made FTO Advisory Body Member

The Federal Tax Ombudsman has constituted the Advisory Committee (Central) and made President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mian Nauman Kabir its member.

Federal Tax Ombudsman Secretariat has issued a notification in this regard. Mian Nauman Kabir thanked Federal Tax Ombudsman for his inclusion in the Advisory Committee saying that FTO has great significance, particularly for the business community for resolution of their Tax related issues. The LCCI President said that he will work as a bridge between the business community and Federal Tax Ombudsman.

Meanwhile, the business community hailed the appointment of Mian Nauman Kabir as member Advisory Committee of Federal Tax Ombudsman. They hoped that this step will strengthen the liaison between the business community and the tax machinery. Mian Nauman Kabir also held the positions of Provincial Minister for Labour, Livestock and Transport, Chairman Punjab Mineral Development Corporation, Member Board of Director of PIEDMC, President Board of Management of Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate, Chairman Lahore Township Industries Association and Kot Lakhat.

**New e-commerce platform in the pipeline to facilitate Pak-China trade**  
New e-commerce platform in the pipeline

will facilitate Pak-China trade, China Economic Net reported on Wednesday.

"At present, we are planning to establish a new e-commerce platform with our Pakistani partners to connect the bilateral businesses and customers. Supporting facilities in terms of payment and logistics are also in the pipeline", said Muhammad Mustafa, deputy secretary-general of Shenzhen Cross-border E-commerce Association (SZCBEA) in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN) on the 4th Global Cross-border E-commerce Festival Phase II organized by SZCBEA on Oct. 29.

"This platform will not only link Pakistan and China, but also other countries in the region", added Muhammad. In the past few years, Pakistan's e-commerce sector has grown at an astonishing rate. The market almost doubled in fiscal year 2017-18; in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2021, Pakistan's e-commerce market has grown by 35 percent as revealed by the Ministry of Commerce. In a recent report, global monitoring and data analysis company NielsenIQ shows that commerce traffic in Pakistan increased by more than 230 percent year on year. By estimation, the country's e-commerce market will reach \$1 billion in 2021.

Catching this golden opportunity, both sides are making concerted efforts to push forward cooperation in this burgeoning area. "I'm the first Pakistani employee in our association. —DNA

# Alvi pays tribute to troops of NW, Bajaur and Kurram

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday telephoned the families of the soldiers martyred in the terrorist attacks in Bajaur, North Waziristan and Kurram district and paid tribute to their valour.

The President spoke to the families of Lans Naik Mudassar, Sepoy Jamshed Khan and Sepoy Samad Khan who were martyred on October 20 in Bajaur.

Alvi also called the families of Sepoy Asad and Sepoy Asif, who were martyred on October 26 in firing by terrorists in Kurram district. He telephoned the families of martyrs of North Waziristan including Sepoy Ramzan Khattak and Sepoy Rohail Hussain, martyred on October 26.

The President paid glowing tributes to the men in uniform who sacrificed their lives for the homeland. He prayed to Allah Almighty for grant of elevated ranks to the souls of the martyrs and patience to their families.

**Alvi urges businessmen to financially empower disabled, women**  
President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday

urged the business community to employ persons with disabilities and women, and improve their business skills so as to empower them financially.

He emphasized the need for facilitating differently-abled people by providing them easy access to buildings and workplaces, the President's media office said.

The president made these remarks while talking to a delegation of Entrepreneurs Organisation (EO), led by its President of Lahore Chapter, Mohsin Khawaja, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The president said the government was taking every possible measure to provide a level playing field to the business community and entrepreneurs.

He underlined that the business sector of the country needed to adopt an outward-looking approach and remain abreast of the changing trends in the international markets, enabling them to compete in regional and global markets. He highlighted that the main focus of the government's economic strategy was to enhance the country's ex-

ports, reduce the trade deficit and support the underprivileged sections of society.

The president said the investment policy of the country had been designed to provide a comprehensive framework for creating a conducive business environment and attracting foreign investors. He said the ease of doing business reforms, initiated by the government, had led to improving Pakistan's ranking in the global Ease of Doing Business Index from 108 to 136.

Mohsin Khawaja informed the President that EO was playing an active role in the economic development of the country. The delegation apprised the meeting about its contribution in exports and providing employment to the people. It expressed satisfaction over the economic policies of the Govt and lauded its business and investment-friendly policies. The delegation also briefed the president about certain problems being faced by them. He assured the delegation to take their grievances up with the concerned quarters for redressal. —APP

## Pakistan, EU to extend bilateral trade relations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and European Union (EU) on Wednesday discussed institutional cooperation between Pakistan and EU, frequent exchange of delegations and further enhancing trade and economic ties.

According to details, A 10-member European Parliament's South Asia Delegation to Pakistan called on Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi here at the Parliament House on Wednesday. Deputy Chairman Senate welcomed the EU delegation to the Parliament House and emphasized the role of Parliamentary exchanges in reinforcing bilateral relations and opening new vistas of cooperation. Mirza Afridi, while mentioning European Union as largest trade and investment partners of Pakistan said that the GSP plus has played an important role in expansion of trade. He said that the volume of Pakistan-EU trade in financial year 2020 was Euro 9.3 Billion, with Pakistan's exports amounting to Euro 5.5 billion and imports of Euro 3.8 billion

Deputy Chairman Senate said that amidst the Covid19 crises the Parliament of Pakistan was successful in making active legislation with special focus on laws related to women and children rights that in Particular includes, Women's Property Rights (Amendment) Bill, ICT Domestic Labor Law. —Online

## Ministry gets Rs6.50 billion recovered by NAB

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has overall recovered Rs821.46 billion, the officials of the finance ministry informed the Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Wednesday.

The meeting, chaired by committee chairman Senator Talha Mahmood was informed that the finance ministry has only received Rs6.50 billion from NAB out of the total recovered amount. "Where are other funds, where they are being used, we don't have any idea," the officials informed the committee. The committee members were shocked to hear the reply of the finance ministry officials and said strange no one has a record of such a huge amount.

The committee members said the amount received from National Crime Agency the UK is also not deposited in the national kitty. The committee summoned the auditor general of Pakistan (AGP) and the auditor of the NAB on the next meeting of the committee. —DNA

## 11 deaths occurred, 561 tested positive due to corona

ISLAMABAD: Nearly 11 deaths occurred and 561 tested positive due to corona virus during the last 24 hours in the country.

As per National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) statistics 561 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past. 43,914 corona virus tests were conducted of which 561 tested positive. The tally of positive cases has surged to 1,274,578. The positivity ratio stands at 1.27 percent. As per province wise details 470,690 coronavirus cases have been reported in Sindh, 440,542 in Punjab 178,204 in KP 106,990 in Islamabad, 34,487 in Azad Kashmir 33,274 in Balochistan and 10,391 in Gilgit-Baltistan. —Online

## China-Pakistan Friendship Square opened in Wuhan

BEIJING: "The China-Pakistan Friendship Square reflects the great affinity and solidarity, deep love, trust and respect between our two countries and peoples," said Moin-ul-Haque, the Pakistani Ambassador to China.

According to China Economic Net, Haque made the remarks when attending the inauguration ceremony of the China-Pakistan Friendship Square in Wuhan, which is the first of its kind in China. In response to this friendship square, Pakistan will launch a China-Pakistan Friendship Square in Karachi soon, according to Haque. Haque said Sindh province Pakistan and Hubei province China, Karachi and Wuhan, as well as Kahuta Punjab, Pakistan and Yiling district, Yichang, Hubei province would sign agreement to establish sister province and

# Imran announces Rs120 billion targeted subsidy package

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Addressing the nation on Ehsaas Ration Programme on Wednesday, the Prime Minister said that he is really grateful for the support of friendly country as it helped to manage the stability of Pakistani rupee. He would announce the biggest welfare programme in Pakistan's history, which he said would take the country towards becoming a welfare state. He said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had inherited a difficult economic situation, and thanked Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and China for providing the help that saved Pakistan from defaulting.

"I am happy to announce the biggest welfare programme. I especially pay tribute to the Ehsaas pro-

gramme team," Imran Khan said and thanked friendly country who supported to make Pakistani currency stable. "We had to approach the International Monetary Fund (IMF), we were stabilising the country for a year and then corona came," he said, lauding the National Command Operation Center (NCO) for taking data-based decisions that helped Pakistan's coronavirus fight.

"We were internationally acknowledged for being one of the few countries to deal with Covid-19 in the best manner." Fearing unemployment, the premier further said, the government imposed "small and smart" lockdowns instead of completely shutting down the economy.

"We especially saved agriculture and construction, which create jobs in urban areas and [increase] ex-

ports," he added.

## PM for urgent steps to guard youth against alien culture

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday urged the need of taking urgent steps to guard the country's youth against the onslaught of immoral alien culture through modern means of communication, especially the social media. "We have to follow the glorious traditions set by our Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) 1400 years ago to bring positive changes in our society", he said while chairing a meeting of Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority.

The Prime Minister said that the purpose of establishing Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority was to inculcate moral and ethical values in the country's young generation which was being exposed to all

sorts of unethical content online in this age of internet penetration.

He directed the authorities concerned to conduct credible research on how to effectively ensure character building of "our tech-savvy" youth. The Prime Minister emphasized on introducing changes in the curriculum for educating students at school, college and university levels in the light of glorious teachings of Seerat-e-Tayyaba.

The meeting was attended by Education Minister Shafiq Mehmood, Religious Affairs Minister Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri and renowned national scholars. Prominent international religious scholars also joined the meeting via video link.

— orders appointment of facilitation officers for OPs  
Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a

major step towards the facilitation of Overseas Pakistanis by the government, has directed to appoint BS-19 facilitation officers in 39 federal ministries and divisions.

He has also directed for the setting up of special sections and desks in 34 attached departments of 13 ministries. On the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) has issued directives to the relevant ministries, a press release issued here on Wednesday by PM Media Wing said. The ministries have been directed to notify the appointment / posting of the facilitation officers, which will not be less than grade 19. According to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) directive, the establishment of special sections and desks

should also be formally notified.

The federal institutions and departments have been further directed to provide information to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Pakistanis and Information about the provision of facilities.

The step, which was aimed at addressing the problems faced by the Overseas Pakistanis in various offices, will help create awareness about the provision of services to Pakistani expatriates and in other matters. The Prime Minister Office has directed all the divisions to complete the process and present report within 21 days. The Prime Minister Office has also directed the Ministries if Foreign Affairs, Overseas Pakistanis and Information and Broadcasting to give information about the facility on their own.