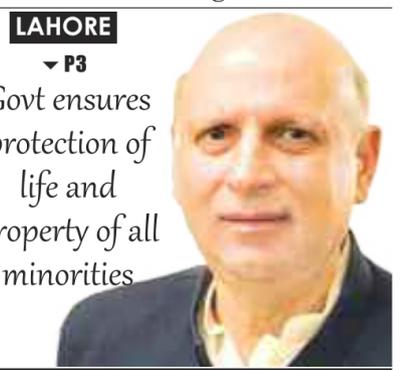


LAHORE ▾ P2
PTI govt awarding rights of vote to expatriates

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad



LAHORE ▾ P3
Govt ensures protection of life and property of all minorities

PAGES 08 | Rs 15

www.thebusiness.com.pk

Rabi-us-Sani 23 1443 Monday, November 29, 2021

Govt to build 2,392 housing units at Sangjani

ISLAMABAD: The government is planning to construct as many as 2,392 housing units at the government land located at Sangjani area under Naya Pakistan Housing Project (NPHP) to facilitate the low income citizen.

"The housing project is at evaluation stage at Sangjani, Islamabad and PC-I of the housing scheme has been approved," official sources in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. The sources said that land transfer and other modalities are in progress on the housing scheme.

To a question, they said that around 45,000 low cost housing units are under construction all over the country. They said, it included four recently inaugurated projects comprising a number of 11,000 housing units at LDA City Lahore, Jalozi Housing Scheme, Nowshera, Alipur Farash, Islamabad, WWF, Zone-V, Islamabad. It also included Punjab Peri-Urban Housing Scheme recently inaugurated at Sargodha.

In Phase-I of this scheme; 10,000 extremely low cost housing units are being built in 20 districts of Punjab and 12 sites have been inaugurated by the Prime Minister Imran Khan, they added.

The sources said that 11 sites would be inaugurated in near future.

About the installments, they said the monthly mortgage installments for these houses would be less than Rs. 10,000 per month. —APP



ASHGABAT: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with heads of state of ECO Member countries at the 15th ECO Summit.

Alvi reaffirms Pakistan's support for Trans-Afghan Railway project

-Holds bilateral meeting with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday held a bilateral meeting with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev wherein he reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the Trans-Afghan Railway project and assured all possible cooperation for its early realization.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 15th ECO Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Ashgabat.

The talks covered the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation, with a special focus on trade and economic relations, and connectivity agenda.

President Alvi underscored the significance of enhancing structured political ties, and fast-tracking trade and economic cooperation by operationalizing Uzbekistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA).

He underscored the importance of the urgent need for immediate provision of humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan to avert an economic collapse in the country.

He stressed the de-freezing of Afghanistan's financial assets as a priority step in this respect.

Both leaders agreed to work closely towards strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in regional and international fora.

The president reiterated the invitation to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to visit Pakistan at the earliest convenience.

PR okays PC-I for 33-km track in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has approved the PC-I for rehabilitation of a 33.50-kilometer track 'through sleeper renewal' between Quetta-Bostan and Quetta-Chaman section.

"The track will not only facilitate the passengers, but also connect three major cities of the province," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said railway network in Balochistan province mainly consisted of Quetta Division having Dera Allah Yar Sibi-Quetta, Quetta-Chaman, Sibi-Khost, Spezend-Dalbandin-Taftan, Bostan-Zhob which were closed for the last 15 years.

The official said there were two passenger trains namely Jaffer Express (40Up, 39 Down) and Chaman Passenger (349Up, 350 Down) operating in Balochistan while no stations had been closed during the last 15 years in Quetta division.

He said the overall length of the railway track in Balochistan was 1470.36 kilometer including the closed Bostan-Zhob section. "The most of the track is more than 100 years old and on certain stretches, engineering speed restrictions have been imposed due to deferred maintenance and owing to resource constraints," he said adding that the routine maintenance of track was being carried out with available resources. —APP

Lack of rule of law deprived Pakistan to achieve potential

ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Imran Khan says that the elite captured Pakistan's resources and the absence of rule of law had not only deprived the majority of the people of basic amenities, but also kept the country from achieving its immense potential.

"The problem was the elite capture of resources which deprived the majority of proper healthcare, education and justice... Lack of rule of law is the reason why Pakistan had not achieved its potential," the prime minister said in an exclusive online conversation with Shaykh Hamza Yusuf aired Sunday.

An American Islamic scholar, Hamza Yusuf, is the president of Zaytuna College and had also authored several encyclopedia entries, academic papers, and articles on Muslim bioethics, legal theory, abortion, and many other topics. The prime minister said no society could ever achieve its potential if there was no rule of law.

"Merit is also associated with rule of law. If you do not have meritocracy in a society, you have this elite which is spoiled, rich and which did not strive and struggle and they sit on the main positions... "Countries disintegrate because of a decadent elite. People do not decay it is the elite that decays," he re-

marked. The prime minister said the fundamental principle of a civilised society was the rule of law where powerful is also equally answerable to the law.

The biggest problem in developing countries is the absence of rule of law and discriminatory laws for the rich and the poor, he explained.

He told the interviewer that he wanted to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state based on the concept of state of Madina by our Prophet (PBUH). "We want to base this country on two principles. One it should be a welfare state and humane state which takes care of its bottom strata of society and second rule of law." Talking about the climate crisis, he said the environment should be treated as sacred. The biggest environmental disaster in the world called climate change was be-

cause human beings had deviated from the basic principle of protecting the earth, he said.

Quoting a Hadith of Holy Prophet (PBUH), advising people to "Work for this world as if you will live forever and work for the hereafter as if you will die tomorrow", the prime minister said whatever humans would do today would ultimately have an impact on future generations.

He said the Hadith had completely encompassed everything about the environment and how one should be living on earth. The PM stated that one would have to pursue a humane life if he or she wanted to get close to Allah Almighty. Imran Khan said the leadership that came up through the political system was just too divorced from faith so they came in for power and compromised for staying in power and gain

Voters asked to verify registration status from ECP'S SMS for free

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked the voters to check their registration status on voters' lists by sending SMS with their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) number to its service 8300.

According to an official of ECP, the commission has made the free-of-cost SMS service for citizens to check their votes in electoral rolls. Voters can check their votes by sending their CNIC numbers on 8300 till December 15. Earlier, the SMS charges to check the votes were Rs2+tax.

Meanwhile, the first phase of ECP's door-to-door verification of voters to give the list a final shape before the next general elections that started on November 7 would continue till December 6.

The verification process would enable the ECP to timely prepare "transparent and error-free voters' list" for the use in the 2023 elections. —APP

Govt wants schools to remain open: Shafqat

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood Sunday said that the government wanted the schools to remain open as this year, exams would be held on time.

Talking to the media here, he said that in view of the smog situation, the Punjab government had announced closing schools on Monday besides Saturday and Sunday. To a question, he said that with the grace of Allah Almighty, the country had braved the coronavirus pandemic very wisely, adding that vaccination and following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) were the only way to control the virus.

Regarding by-polls in NA-133, he said that it was a responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan to ensure holding of free and fair elections. About single national curriculum, the minister said that the PTI government was determined to implement it in letter and spirit.

He said that sports were very important for students, adding that this time inter-university and inter-boards sports had been introduced. He said that sport activities in schools, colleges and universities would be encouraged. Earlier, the minister attended a prize distribution ceremony of '38th Millat Tractors Governor's Cup Golf Tournament' as the chief guest at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club.

PML-N pressurizes institutions through fake videos: Fawad

PIND DADAN KHAN: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday said that PML-N's aim was to pressurize national institutions including judiciary by releasing fake videos.

Addressing a public meeting in Pind Dadankhan, he said, fake videos are leaked before the proceedings of corruption cases against PML-N leadership, which later proved to be a fake videos.

He said that a video had gone viral showing those who used the slogan of 'Vote ko Izzat Do' purchasing votes for Rs 2,000 each which was a shameful and detestable act.

The minister said, PML-N was

worried over the use of electronic voting machine (EVM) in the next general elections because they always came into power through electoral fraud and rigging.

Fawad said he himself had contested a bye election from NA- 67 in 2016 in which the PML-N used undemocratic tactics in the same manner, tried to buy votes by giving money to people.

He hoped that the Election Commission of Pakistan would take notice on the viral video of PML-N and take appropriate action.

He said, PML-N had won 1990 general election through massive rigging and the Supreme Court had given a

verdict against them.

He advised Maryam Nawaz and Captain Safdar to start film making business, as politics was not their cup of tea. He said that Army soldiers defend country's borders and they were always ready to sacrifice their lives in line of duty. The minister said properties of Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz were disclosed in Panama Papers leaks. He said that Maryam Nawaz had claimed that she had no property even in Pakistan but she not only had properties in Pakistan but in London also. He said that Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz had no proof of purchase of those properties. —APP

PM opens new block at Al Qadir varsity today

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will inaugurate the academic block of Al Qadir University today (Monday).

The university will focus on Islamic teachings, spiritualism and modern scientific research. The university will play an important role in promoting education and research among youth. —APP

Pakistan Navy Flotilla visits Oman, Bahrain

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy flotilla Thursday comprising Pakistan Navy Ships DEHSHAT, SV BEHR-E-MASAH and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) Ship HINGOL visited port Mina Salman of Bahrain and Port Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

On arrival at Bahrain, PN ships were received by senior National representatives of Pakistan, said a Pakistan Navy media release here received. The Mission Commander along with Commanding Officers called on Chief of Bahrain Naval Forces Rear Admiral Mohamed Yousaf Mohamed. —APP



LONDON: High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan addresses Councilors Convention at the Pakistan High Commission.

Empowerment of women a must to develop society

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Andreas Ferrarese on Sunday said that Women economic and social empowerment is essential for the development of any society and also for sustainable economic development.

In Pakistan, women are leading the economic and political arena and there are huge opportunities for women also in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector, the ambassador told APP, while he was along his wife Mrs. Albana Ferrarese in the annual charity bazaar held by the Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association (PFOWA).

The ambassador said that Pakistani

women are playing an important role in handicrafts, food and hotels and many small and big businesses.

Today, the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association held a charity bazaar to further highlight its economic and social role, he said.

He stressed the need to increase such activities in the future so that women could move towards greater economic empowerment.

On this occasion, wife of Italian Ambassador Mrs. Albana Ferrarese, said that in the near future "we are moving towards establishing an Italian Institute of Culture in Pakistan, which will enhance cultural cooperation between the two countries and

also help in bringing women of both the countries closer."

Albana Ferrarese said that she was very much impressed with the local art and craftsmanship of women in Pakistan, whose business model can now be easily developed in modern trade. She said that today is the era of e-commerce and women can take business orders from all over the world including European countries and move towards their economic strength.

"Pakistani women are very hard-working and skilled. There are many opportunities for them, including handicrafts, hoteling and cooking," she opined. —APP