

## Abbasi rubbishes minister's claim of PML-N top four's deal talk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has rubbished the government minister's talk about the PML-N's top tier four leaders' endeavour to strike a possible deal with 'someone' in case their party supremo Nawaz Sharif did not fit in 'their' power framework. In an interview with a private television channel on Saturday, Abbasi said there was no veracity in federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry's claim. —DNA

# The Business

Lahore, Sunday, January 23, 2022 Jamadi-us-Sani 19, 1443

## Provinces, LEAs asked to beef up security over terror threat: Ministry

ISLAMABAD: Interior Ministry has issued directives to the provinces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to beef up security in view of the recent wave of terrorist attacks in the country. According to a handout issued by the interior ministry, the provinces have been directed to ensure foolproof security in view of the recent terror attacks. "All security institutions should remain alert," the handout sent to the provincial chief secretaries, police, FC and Rangers read. —APP

## PIAF wants cut in power rates on permanent basis

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF), while appreciating the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority for decreasing electricity price by 99-paisa per unit under quarterly tariff adjustment (QTA) formula, has urged the authority to cut the electricity rate on permanent basis.

The tariff cut will become effective from Feb and remain in place until April 2022 and provide about Rs22 billion relief to the consumers in these three months. The adjustment was on account of various cost variations for the 4th quarter (March-June) of 2020-21. The lower tariff will be applicable to the consumers of all Discos. PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, in a joint statement issued here today, also welcomed the government plan of shutting down all expensive oil based power plants (IPPs) to ensure availability of cheaper energy for consumers.

Nasir Hameed lamented that the previous government did not pay attention on rehabilitation and maintenance of old power plants which caused several system constraints inflicting heavy losses. —Online

## Judge should be coward rather than brave: Faez

LAHORE: Supreme Court (SC) senior judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa has said "I was asked that I am very brave judge but judge should be coward rather than brave."

"A brave judge would be the judge who gives decision in favor of those who are on the side of truth. Judge should fear from Almighty Allah and constitution. All the laws which are enacted in Pakistan are made in English. It is beyond comprehension why they are not translated into Urdu immediately."

I don't know why the vehicles with sirens are preferred. They all have been purchased out of public money. We should fix one day as car free day, he said this while addressing a ceremony held here under Lahore High Court (LHC) Bar Saturday. "I was told I am brave judge. I said judge should be coward rather than brave. The bold judge will be that who gives decision in favor of those who are on the side of truth. Judge should be fearful of Almighty Allah and the constitution, he remarked. I am affiliated with profession of law since the last 44 years. We spend our lives only under one objective. There are complaints from people that cases are decided late, he underlined.

Need is there that laws are enacted in the country in Urdu, he said adding all the laws are made in English in Pakistan. It is beyond comprehension that why the law which is made in English is not translated into Urdu immediately. —Online

## Lankan Trade Minister for \$1b trade by 2024

KARACHI: Hanif Lakhany, Vice-President, FPCCI, has expressed his profound grief over the most unfortunate and gruesome Sialkot incident with a Sri Lankan national; and, respectfully acknowledged the Sri Lankan resolve and resilience to continue to cement the brotherly bilateral relations between the two historically significant strategic partner nations. He was speaking at the visit of a high-profile Sri Lankan trade & investment delegation comprising of high-ranking state functionaries and business leaders.

Hanif Lakhany added that Sri Lanka is the only country with whom we have trade surplus on a sustainable basis; and, therefore, it will always continue to be an important market for Pakistani business, trade, and industrial community. He also pointed out that Sri Lanka should aggressively promote its wonderful destinations and tourism infrastructure to Pakistanis to broaden People-to-People (P2P) and Business-to-Business (B2B) linkages and relations. Dr. Bandula Gunawardane mentioned that Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA) inked in 2005 has not achieved its real potential and needs to be revisited to make it more effective and result-oriented. He was optimistic that PSFTA can be widely expanded and updated to effectively kickstart an upward spiral in trade volumes and can translate into a multi-billion dollar phenomenon. —Online



NEWYORK: Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, speaks at the plenary debate of the General Assembly on the report of the Secretary General.

# Guterres reaffirms UN stand on Kashmir's settlement

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has reiterated the world body's position on the Kashmir dispute that it should be resolved on the basis of the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan.

Antonio Guterres reaffirmed the stance in reply to a question at his first press conference as he began his second term as the UN chief in New York. He hoped that human rights would be respected in the disputed territory.

"Well, the position of the UN and the resolutions that were taken are the same, remain the same," he said in reply to a question from a Pakistani journalist, who reminded him of the statement he made on August 8, 2019. The Secretary General pointed out that the United Nations has a peacekeeping operation in Kashmir, the UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan, which monitors the Line of Control in the disputed region.

He said he had offered his good offices to resolve the dispute several times, and we hope that this is something that can be solved peacefully. Pakistan has always

welcomed the UN Secretary General's offer of mediation, but India always rejected it. Meanwhile, Pakistan has urged the United Nations to step up its efforts and urgently resolve the Kashmir dispute in order to halt Indian atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and prevent a threat to regional and global peace and security.

Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador

Munir Akram, while commenting on the report of the UN chief on the work of the Organization told the UN General Assembly that peace and security must remain at the core of the functions of the United Nations. "We urge the Security Council and the Secretary General to exercise their considerable authority to promote an early and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and to end the Indian reign of terror against the Kashmiri people," the Pakistani envoy said in his speech. Ambassador Munir Akram said, the United Nations and the Secretary General can do "much more" to address peace and security threats by fully using the authority provided by the United Nations

Charter, such as in Article 99, and by taking action in the General Assembly if the Security Council is unable to do so.

The Pakistani envoy said, the primary threat in South Asia is posed by the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir and India's attempt to annex and transform the Muslim majority IIOJK into a Hindu majority territory, a grave violation of Council resolutions that promised the Kashmiris their right to self-determination through a United Nations supervised plebiscite.

Ambassador Munir Akram condemned the extensive illegal actions taken by India in IIOJK and urged the Council and the Secretary General to promote an early, peaceful end to the dispute.

He deplored that so far, there has been no accountability for India's crimes in IIOJK. Draconian Indian laws provide complete impunity to the 900,000 troops India has deployed in the occupied territory, he pointed out.

"Pakistan condemned the increasing harassment, illegal arrests and registration of fake criminal cases against journalists and civil society activists such as Khurram Pervez, in IIOJK. —DNA

# Economy improving despite corona, says Aon Abbas Buppi

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on E-Commerce, Senator Aon Abbas Buppi Saturday said that the inflation affected strong economies of the world but the Pakistani economy witnessed positively growth in corona pandemic situation.

Talking to a private news channel he said, the entire world was facing inflation problem and the strongest economies even of USA was also reported 7.9 percent inflation after thirty years history.

He said according to World Bank report, Pakistan was ranked second in index in normalcy after post Covid situation, corona targets lockdown was also less, exports were getting more better than predicative, power sector losses were reducing. The report further revealed that structural reforms were being introduced, he said. The SAPM said the economy was significantly improving with 7.6 percent growth in industries, 5.24 percent in services sector and agriculture department growth were also increasing, he added.

**No corrupt to be let escape: State Minister**

State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farukh Habib said on Saturday that nobody would be allowed to go escort free and the Sharif family would have to

be answerable to the state institutions as well as people about their loot and plunder.

Talking to the media during launching a book of prominent writer Nadeem Rizvi at Jinnah Hall of District Council here, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was committed to take all corrupt elements to task so that entire looted national wealth could be recovered from them.

He said that previous rulers had plundered national wealth with great impunity and now they were using different tactics to divert the attention of general public from their accountability. He said that funds of billions were transferred to the accounts of Sharif family including Shahbaz Sharif but they were still reluctant to expose Masroor Anwar like people who deposited billions of rupees in their accounts.

He said the opposition trumpeted negative propaganda against the PTI that it was ineligible to handle the country as well as its economy", but the time proved that PTI not only dragged Pakistan from multifaceted crises but also put it on the road to progress and prosperity. Now, due to prudent policies of the PTI government, the national economy had witnessed 5.37 percent growth in the GDP during last fiscal year, he added.

He said that corona had badly jolted the entire economic situation in the world. The economies even of developed countries started squeezing during COVID but on other hand, Prime Minister Imran Khan adopted smart lockdown policy against complete closure of industries and other sectors due to which the economy of Pakistan started growing up.

He said that PML-N leaders including Miftah Ismail were also accepting recent GDP growth rate as it was not only sustainable but also had solid basis, he added.

He said the global community also appreciated smart lockdown policy of PM Imran Khan against COVID as it not only contained the spread of corona pandemic but also helped people to continue earning their livelihood.

The minister said that 4 persons wanted to usurp the top-slot of PML-N by removing Nawaz Sharif and for this purpose, they were not only hatching conspiracies against each other as well as against Nawaz Sharif but also creating confusion against Local Bodies elections.

He said that Local Bodies elections would soon be arranged in Punjab. Therefore, PTI workers

and activists should keep themselves prepared to take part in LB elections with

## Weather to persist in Sindh till 27/28 January: PMD

KARACHI: The Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) on Saturday predicted that a cold and dry weather spell will persist in Sindh till 27/28 January.

"Night temperatures to remain 8-10 degree Celsius in Karachi and 3-5 degree C in rest of Sindh during the period", Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said in its weather forecast.

"Prevailing windy and dusty weather is likely to persist through to the evening".

"Gusty winds from northwest direction with average speed of 20-25 nautical miles per hour with occasional gust of 30-32 nautical mile per hour can damage loose structures, billboards and uproot week trees," the weather office cautioned. "The visibility to remain lower than 1 km due to blowing and suspended dust," it added.

The Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) earlier predicted partly cloudy/ cloudy conditions with chances of light rain or drizzle in Sukkur, Ghotki, Khairpur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadkot districts of northern Sindh.

Dry weather with cold night and misty/foggy morning over the plain areas are likely to prevail elsewhere in the province, according to the weather report.

At least six people including two children lost their lives and many sustained wounds due to roof and wall collapse incidents as gusty winds battered different parts of Karachi during the windy weather. —DNA

## 12 succumbed to COVID-19, 6540 tested positive

ISLAMABAD: Twelve people lost lives and 6,540 others tested positive due to corona virus in the last 24 hours in the country.

As per the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) latest statistics 58902 tests were conducted during the last 24 hours of which 6,540 returned positive taking the tally of positive cases to 1,360,019.

According to province wise details 520,415 coronavirus cases have been reported in Sindh, 460,335 in Punjab 183,865 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 115,939 in Islamabad, 35,130 in Azad Kashmir 33,855 in Balochistan and 10,480 in Gilgit-Baltistan so far.

With 12 deaths during the last 24 hours, tally of fatalities has soared to 29077.

According to NCO 13,100 people have succumbed to the epidemic in Punjab, 7,730 in Sindh 5,969 in KP, 975 in Islamabad, 749 in Azad Kashmir, 367 in Balochistan, and 187 in GB so far. 170,711,868 doses have been administered so far in the country.

1,267,598 patients have recovered in the country while 1,055 patients are stated to be in critical condition. —Online

## VCs join heads for need-based research

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An academic research should focus more on social and industrial issues. All the countries whose research, academia and science are linked to industry, developed rapidly.

These views were expressed by the Vice Chancellors, businessmen, participants in the "University-Industry Linkages Round Table" Session held at the Lahore Chamber.

Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Lahore Chamber Mian Nauman Kabir said that the objective of organizing this round-table is to align Higher Education Commission with the future needs of industry. We believe that strong industry academia linkage is the most important tool to tackle the key economic challenges of Pakistan. We have seen that the countries with effective industry academia linkage have higher productivity and competitive economies.

He said that we still need to fully realize the fruits of developing such linkages. A number of countries are working on formalizing diverse approaches to connect the university-industry links with overall national policy framework in order to set up a conducive environment for research and innovation. We just need to emulate their footsteps. Mian Nauman Kabir said that the industry-academia linkage is imperative for the innovation and growth of the country.

## PM changes Pak economic course

Continued from Front Page

Pakistanis living abroad, he said. "Overseas Pakistanis stand behind Pakistan to make it economically strong and the Prime Minister Imran Khan promises to stand by them as he has done, which no other prime minister could have even thought of doing for Pakistanis living abroad," he added.

He said Prime minister Khan was personally monitoring facilities for the Pakistanis living and working abroad.

The minister further said prime minister Imran Khan had given pride to the countrymen working abroad by listening to their issues and resolving them on priority basis.

He had regained 'self-respect' for Pakistanis working abroad due to his solid backing for them, he added.

"We have given them the right

to vote and are trying hard that they cast their vote in the next general elections. We have made it easier for them to get passports, ID Cards and power of attorneys online without the need to visit the embassies and consulates," Fawad was quoted as saying.

About price hike, the minister said it was an international problem as every country was facing the heat of price hike since COVID-19 hit the world, adding, "While global economy is still under a lot of strain, Pakistan has done well. Its economy saw a 5.3 percent growth last year."

This is an important landmark that we have achieved on the economic front."

About priorities of his government, he said tourism was one of the top items on the agenda of development for the prime minister.

After the unfortunate incident of

Murree, he said, they were working on a comprehensive plan to avoid any such incident in the future.

Enumerating achievements of the government, he said the prime minister's other contribution was bringing the focus on the environment narrative in Pakistan.

"He is the only PM who speaks about environment and has made drastic changes in policies to tackle environmental issues."

We are now talking about green economy and this is not an easy shift, given the resources," he added.

About Expo2020, he said the week-long film festival would feature films at the Pakistan pavilion.

Expo 2020 Dubai had given them a huge opportunity to showcase their film and music industry, he said, adding the festival would help bring Pakistani films closer to film producers in the UAE. —DNA



MANAMA: Pakistan and officials from other navies onboard Pakistan Navy ship Tabuk during ship visit to port Mina Salman Bahrain.