



People, not me, helped Imran become PM: Sarwar

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad



Pakistan progressing economically

Large cache of arms seized in S Waziristan IBO: ISPR

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Security forces conducted an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO) in the Sarwakai area of South Waziristan district and recovered a huge cache of weapons, the military's media wing said in a statement on Sunday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the forces conducted the IBO on the reported presence of terrorists in the area. "During the search of the area, a large number of weapons, ammunition and improvised explosive device preparation material was recovered from the hideout," the ISPR said. The weapons and ammunition recovered from

the hideout include sub-machine guns, RPG-7, hand grenades and a large quantity of ammunition of multiple calibres, the statement added. The security forces had a week ago conducted an IBO in Miranshah, North Waziristan in which one terrorist was killed while two others were apprehended. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists," the ISPR had said. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief Moazzam Jah Ansari had on Jan 20 declared the militant Islamic State group's Khorasan chapter a bigger threat to peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa than the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. —APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of barbed wires of partially lock down at Sector G-6 due to a sharp spike of Omicron in Federal Capital. —Online

— Aap Ka Wazir Azam Aap Key Sath

Covid hits world economies, Pakistan no exception: PM

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday said that the global inflation and price hike of commodities triggered by sharp disruption in the supply and demand chain, due to Covid 19 pandemic, had affected all the countries of the world alike including Pakistan.

In a fifth session of "Aap Ka Wazir Azam Aap Key Sath" programme, the prime minister said that post-Covid scenario sent the prices of vital commodities skyrocketing and Pakistan was not the only country in the world to bear the brunt of imported global price hike.

Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Imran Khan said that he does not consider President Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif as leader of the opposition but as a national criminal.

According to PM Office Media Wing, the prime minister had held four such like live TV sessions with the public last year.

About 86 questions, 74 on telephone calls and 12 others via social media, were responded by the prime minister during these sessions.

Says Shehbaz Sharif is not leader of opposition but national criminal; says global inflation and price hike of commodities triggered by sharp disruption in supply and demand chain

The callers had raised different issues pertaining to corruption, land grabbing, inflation, coronavirus, Riyasat-i-Madina, etc., besides giving certain suggestions.

The highest participation in these sessions was made by the callers from Punjab province followed by Islamabad Capital Territory, Sindh and KPK. About 11 percent among these participants were overseas Pakistanis. Major redressal of the public grievances included inheritance share of land as raised by a resident of Kohat, improvement of traffic system in Lahore, construction of RHC at a land donated by a resident of Sarai Alamgir for which the government of Punjab had allocated Rs30 million for the

proposed scheme, waterlogging issue due to Gojra main drain in Faisalabad, stone crushing pollution issue at Ghora Gali, etc road, corruption in the utility store, passport issue at Pakistan embassy in Germany and initiation of criminal proceedings related to encroached land of an overseas Pakistani. Issuance of prompt directions and resolution of their grievances by the prime minister had been widely appreciated by the participants who had also expressed their acknowledgment and gratitude to the prime minister.

PM highlights Afghan humanitarian crises; shares hashtag
Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday

Continued on Back Page

18 more Software Tech Parks to be set up

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology has set a target to establish 18 more Software Technology Parks by the end of December 2022, aimed at providing space, related facilities, and services to IT sector companies.

"Presently 22 Software Technology Parks were operative in small cities and we have set the target of taking the number of technology parks up to 40 by December 2022," a senior official of the Ministry of Information Technology said. He said that the facility is part of the government strategy to develop IT zones and software parks besides setting up purpose-built software technology parks in major

cities of the country. He said that these IT zones, software, and technology parks would help promote efficient and cost-effective collaboration, digitalization, R&D entrepreneurship, and innovation to meet the needs of the modern era.

He said that the federal government was focusing on increasing the growth of the IT sector to enhance exports, adding it was contrary to the past practices when excessive reliance was placed on exports from traditional sectors like textile. "The setting up of IT parks will not only give a fresh impetus to the IT sector, but it will also provide job opportunities for the people," he added. —APP

Pak furniture exports witnesses 206pc surge

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said Pakistan's furniture exports registered astronomical 206.05 per cent increase during the first five months of the current fiscal year, compared to corresponding period of the last year.

He was talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers jointly led by Chaudhary Nabeel and Chaudhary Waleed, which called on him here.

He said during the period under review, furniture worth US\$ 3,645 million was exported and \$ 1,191 million compared to corresponding period of last year. He said furniture industry had big potential to dominate global markets

with innovative designs and could significantly contribute to exports. However, a package of incentives and facilitation was direly needed for further boosting exports, he added. He said if the government extended full support, the volume of furniture exports could touch the figure of \$5 billion for the next five years.

He hoped that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the furniture sector would grow and flourish in the days to come. He said the business community had pinned high hopes on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led government, adding that Imran Khan's government was committed to providing all facilities to businessmen to enhance the volume of exports. —APP

Pak-Kyrgyz relations a milestone in regional, global trade integration

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to Kyrgyzstan Sardar Azhar Tariq Khan on Sunday said that Promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan could be a milestone in regional and global trade integration and connectivity.

The geo-strategic position of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan also highlights their geo-economic importance, which could play a significant role in promoting trade connectivity amongst different regions and potential markets of the world, Ambassador of Pakistan to Kyrgyzstan Sardar Azhar Tariq Khan told APP here on Sunday. The ambassador said that due to its

geostrategic importance, Pakistan is currently a major player in global and regional trade, bordering the Middle East and South Asian states on the one hand and the global economic power China on the other.

Similarly, Kyrgyzstan, due to its very important geographical location, has a distinctive place among the Central Asian states (CARs).

He said that geographical location of Kyrgyzstan offers many opportunities for trade with Pakistan as it is the shortest entry point of Pakistani products to the 'Eurasian Economic Markets' of 182-million people comprising Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Armenia.

Sardar Azhar said that goods once exported to Kyrgyzstan can be further transported to the Eurasian markets without payment of customs duties.

Furthermore, Kyrgyzstan has flourishing construction and hoteling industries, he added. Given the strategic location of Kyrgyzstan and its membership of Eurasian Economic Union, a trade delegation may visit Kyrgyzstan to look for new markets for our products, he said. The Pakistan's envoy said that many high rising buildings for shopping malls, apartments and hotels are currently being constructed mostly by Turkish firms for which raw material is being imported from other countries. —APP

Pakistan hits its highest ever IT exports in six months: Faisal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Senator Faisal Javed Khan on Sunday said that Pakistan hits its highest ever Information Technology (IT) Exports in 6 months. In a tweet, he said that "our IT Exports during Fiscal Year 21-22 surged to \$1.302 billion at the growth rate of 36% v/s \$959 million during the same period of 2020-21". "Hopefully we'll be able to cross \$3.5 billion mark during this financial year", he added. Faisal Javed Khan who is also Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's focus is on increasing exports to stimulate economic growth. "We will inshaallah double our IT industry in 2 years", he added.

He said that TechZones are being set-up to create employment, economic transformation & attract intl investors. "We are now the third-largest gig economy globally", he added. —APP

PQA's net profit jumps over Rs19b in FY2020-21: Zaidi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi on Sunday informed that the Port Qasim Authority (PQA)'s net profits increased to Rs19.76 billion which is a 29 percent rise during the financial year 2020-21.

In a tweet on his official handle, he said, "Meanwhile expenditures dropped by 2.18 percent, PQA also paid taxes of Rs 8 billion perfect example of what happens when a state owned enterprise is run professionally." The minister praised PQA for achieving the milestone of improved financial progress and better tax payments to the national exchequer. —APP

PM prays for recovery of Maldives President

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday expressed concern about President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih who was tested Covid positive.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, the Prime Minister said, "Concerned to hear that the President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih tested Covid positive. My prayers for your speedy recovery & good health." —APP

PM to recover looted money from opposition: Gill

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication, Dr Shahbaz Gill on Sunday said that the Prime Minister has sent a clear message to the opposition that he (PM) would recover the national wealth, plundered and looted by political leadership.

Neither there would be any NRO, nor deal to the opposition, he tweeted.

"Today every word of Prime Minister was the voice of an ordinary Pakistani. By stabilizing the economy and achieving 5.37 per cent growth, today the PM sent a message to the opposition that now he would recover the looted money from them", he said. —APP

KP govt plans to irrigate 109,723 barren land

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government is planning to irrigate more than 109,721 acres of barren land besides generating 25.5 MW power by constructing three dams in Tank and Dera Ismael Khan districts.

The new dams included Tank Zam Dam, Chodwan Zam Dam and Daraban Dam would help improving water table in these areas. The provincial government has decided to construct these dams on priority basis as the region has facing water shortage, said an official source. —APP



KARACHI: Indian fishermen being released from Malir prison.

'Diamer Bhasha Dam to be completed by 2029'

ISLAMABAD: Diamer Bhasha Dam having storage capacity of 8.1 Million Acre Feet (MAF) will generate power of 18,100 Gigawatt hours (GWh) annually after completion by April, 2029, official source told on Sunday.

Being constructed 40 kilometer downstream of Chilas town on River Indus, the installed capacity of Diamer Bhasha Dam will be 4,500 Mega Watt (MW) and live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF. The project is of paramount importance for water, food and energy security of the country.

The total estimated cost of Di-

amer Bhasha Dam project is Rs.1406, 122 million which includes PC-I (acquisition of land and resettlement Rs. 175,436 million, PC-I (Dam Part Rs. 479,686 million while cost for PC-I (Power Generation Facilities yet to be approved) is Rs. 751,000 million.

Similarly, the amount spent by previous governments on the Dam is Rs. 86,685 million under acquisition of land and resettlement (AL&R) since 2009-10 while present government has spent Rs. 30273 million under AL&R and Rs. 51555 million under dam part. The total amount of Rs. 116,158 million

has been spent under AL&R and Rs. 51,555 million under dam part.

The source further revealed that present government which is giving priority to completion of mega power projects and had earmarked Rs. 15,500 million for Dam Part and Rs. 7,000 million for AL&R during fiscal year 2020-21.

The government has so far acquired 32,073 acres of land for important Diamer Bhasha Dam project would meet growing water and power needs of the country.

The acquired land is around 90 percent of total required 35,924 acres of land for the project. —APP