

**WORLD** ▾ P7  
Another pandemic may hit the world soon: Bill Gates

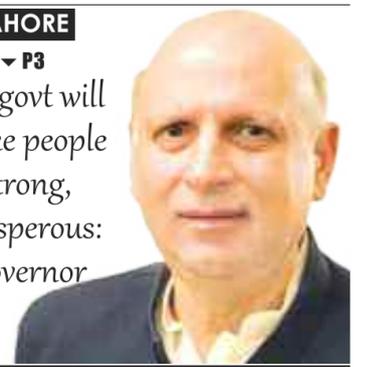
# The Business

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**LAHORE**

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PTI govt will make people strong, prosperous: Governor



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## 'Opposition's no-confidence motion an attempt for NRO'

**MULTAN:** Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Sunday that the announcement of no-confidence motion by the Opposition parties was another bargaining chip for a new deal, in which the Opposition will surely fail. He observed that Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) and their allies in Parliament would work together to thwart the efforts of the Opposition who want to avoid accountability. "There is zero chance of granting National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) by the government and the Opposition will not get it at all", he clarified. Qureshi said this in a tweet and his talking to

masses at various union councils of NA-156 here, said a media release issued by Bab ul Quraish, a local media cell of Qureshi family. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi remarked that Opposition parties were coming together to avoid accountability process. "No matter how much the Opposition parties come together, it will fail surely in its agenda", he clearly stated. The Opposition parties sitting out of power will have to wait, said Qureshi adding the PTI government will fulfill its constitutional term. Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that both PML-N and PPP, had disappointed the people. —



**KARACHI:** President Dr Arif Alvi distributes shields among donors on the occasion of Presidential Initiative Artificial Intelligence and Computing (PAIC) Grand Entrance Exam 2022.

## Fake news now a non-bailable offence: Farogh



**Law Minister reiterates govt believes in freedom of expression but only want to end spread of fake news**

**KARACHI:** Federal Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Farogh Naseem on Sunday said that spreading fake news is now a non-bailable offence with five year sentence as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) has been amended. Addressing a press conference, Farogh Naseem said PECA and Election Act have been amended; however, reiterated that the government believes in the freedom of expression but only want to end the spread of fake news. He further said that the trial of the suspect nabbed under PECA will have to be completed in six months and the subordinate court will be accountable to the high court judge over failure to complete the trial of electronic crimes

within this period. Talking about changes in Elections Act, the minister said that after the amendment anyone including lawmakers will be allowed to run election campaigns. **Alvi signs PECA Amendment Bill, Election Act Ordinance** President Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi on Sunday signed the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Amendment Bill and Election Act Amendment Ordinance (EAAO). According to details, the PECA Amendment Act includes the definition of a person, which includes a person, a company, an association, an institution or an authority, while the amendment bill increases the imprisonment for attacking the identity of any person from 3 to 5 years. As per the ordinance, the aggrieved party, who will be the representative or guardian of the complainant, has been declared a felony and the of-

fense is non-bailable. It is pertinent to mention here that the amendment bill states that the trial court will decide the case within six months and will submit the details of the case to the High Court every month. The ordinance states that federal and provincial governments and officials will be asked to remove obstacles. The Chief Justice of each High Court will nominate a judge and officers for these cases. Under the EAAO, the members of all assemblies, senates and local governments will be able to speak during the election campaign, and any public office holder and elected representative will be able to visit the constituency. Govt extending all kinds of support to IT sector: President President Dr Arif Alvi says the government is extending all kinds of support to IT sector and laws have been made to facilitate the growth of this sector. —Agencies

## Dhabi Group agrees to make Rs60b investment in Punjab: Buzdar

— Discloses Dhabi Group and Punjab Govt going to build tallest building in Lahore

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar took a successful visit of Dubai and due to his personal interest and endeavours, Dhabi Group agreed to make Rs 60 billion investment in Punjab. CM met with UAE Minister Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak in Dubai. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak accorded a warm reception to the Chief Minister. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak announced to make mega investment in the construction sector of Punjab and in this regard an agreement between Punjab government and Dhabi Group in Dubai had been finalized. A MoU had been inked for the revival of the construction of Mubarak Centre during a ceremony. CM Usman Buzdar was the chief guest of the ceremony as Dhabi Group would construct Mubarak Centre in Lahore under the auspices of Taavun Pvt. Ltd. The Punjab government would provide all possible cooperation with regard to the construction of Mubarak Centre. Usman Buzdar while expressing his views on this occasion remarked that more than Rs 60 billion investment would be made in the construction sector of Lahore. It would provide accommodation to the international cricket teams with the completion of this project, he added. He disclosed that Dhabi Group and Punjab government were going to build the tallest building in Lahore. He stated that he would congratulate the Head of Dhabi Group and the concerned officials on making this agreement.

## Sherry lashes out at govt for planned ordinances on social media

**ISLAMABAD:** PPP Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday slammed the government for cancelling a scheduled session of the National Assembly without an official announcement and planning to promulgate two ordinances regarding election campaigning and social media. A session of the National Assembly was scheduled for February 18 only to be cancelled by President Dr Arif Alvi. The opposition had criticised the postponement as a move to stop PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif from avoiding his indictment in an alleged corruption case while a source had told the session was shelved since the government wanted to promulgate some ordinances. She said that the PTI government, which has promulgated over 70 ordinances since August 2018, has been facing strong criticism for heavily relying on ordinances for legislation. Senator Rehman added to that criticism today, saying that the ordinance regarding campaigning would allow government ministers "unprecedented ability to misuse state resources". She said it showed how "far gone" the government was in its "fear of the people". —Online

## Virus claims 11 more lives, 402 new cases in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Around 11 people lost their lives to coronavirus on Sunday, while 402 new cases were reported in Punjab. According to the data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province had reached 498,469 while total number of deaths recorded so far was 13,440. The P&SHD confirmed the maximum number of coronavirus cases were reported in Lahore with 240 cases, one case each was diagnosed with the virus in Attock, Bahawalnagar, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Muzaffargarh, and Rajanpur 13 in Bahawalpur; two each in Chakwal, Kasur, Khushab, Layyah, Lodharan, Mandi Bahauddin, Nankana Sahib, and Sahiwal; four each in Dera Ghazi Khan, Mianwali, Narowal, and Vehari; 16 in Faisalabad; 12 in Gujranwala; three each in Khanewal and Okara; 14 in Multan; 36 in Rawalpindi.

KP second phase LG polls

## Scrutiny of papers from today

**ISLAMABAD:** The Returning Officers will start the scrutiny of nomination papers of the candidates from Monday, February 21 to February 23 in the second phase of Local Government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the last date for filing of appeals against the decisions of the Returning Officers (ROs) on rejecting or accepting the nomination papers will be from 24 to 28 February. The last date for deciding on appeals by the Appellate Tribunal will be March 1 while the date of publication of the revised list of candidates will be March 2.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature and publication of the revised list of candidates will be March 3 while the date of allotment of election symbols to contesting candidates and the date of publication of the list of contesting candidates will be March 4. It added the consolidation of results will be on April 4, 2022, on completion of the polling process in all areas after five days of polling day. Earlier, the public notice inviting nomination papers was issued on February 10 while the dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officers by the candidates were from 14 to 18 February. —APP

## PM to open tree plantation drive 2022 tomorrow

**ISLAMABAD:** Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Sunday announced that an overarching strategy for launching nation-wide spring tree plantation campaign has been formulated in consultation with all provincial forest departments. Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to kick-start the spring tree plantation campaign-2022 tomorrow (Tuesday, February 22), which is also marked annually as Plant4Pakistan Day, said a media release. "We have set a whopping target of planting over 540 million plants all over the country during the spring season spread over February to April under PM Imran Khan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme

(TBTP)", the PM's aide elaborated. Sharing details, Malik Amin said that 7,50,000 scout members of the Pakistan Boy Scout Association (PBSA) would join the plantation campaign. The plantation drive would also witness members of all governmental and non-governmental civil society organisations including educational institutions, political leaders, National Assembly and Senate members, he added. Spelling out provincial statistical break-up data regarding spring tree plantation campaign, the PM's aide said that out of over 540 million nationwide spring tree plantation target for the Spring season-2022, 194 million plants would be planted in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, followed by 74m. —APP

## Plan chalked out to provide loans for houses: Farrukh

**FAISALABAD:** State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday said the government had chalked out a comprehensive strategy to provide loans to each and every family with low income to enable them get their own shelter through different policies announced by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government. He was addressing the oath taking ceremony of newly elected members of Jhang Union of Journalists at Jhang Press Club. He said the government had launched Naya Pakistan Housing Project and directions had already been issued to all banks to provide housing loans to the target groups so that the objective of adding new housing units could be achieved within the shortest possible time.

Under the scheme, people could get easy loans for construction of their 3-marla to 10-marla houses, he said, adding that the banks had so far received applications for loans of Rs 260 billion, out of which, loans of Rs 130 billion were approved and Rs 40 billion were distributed so far. He said that Kamyab Jawan programme was also linked with Housing Project so that low income people could get housing loans for 3 to 7 years duration. He said that past rulers only gave lollipop to people, however, the PTI government was taking practical steps for the welfare and betterment of masses. He said the government had started provision of interest free loans up to Rs 500,000 under Kamyab Jawan Programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(KPK) and now the scope of this facility was extended to Punjab. He lauded the health card scheme and said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had made every citizen of Pakistan a millionaire because the card holder could get medical treatment up to Rs 1 million from the best hospital of his choice. He said that past rulers preferred to get treatment of their diseases from abroad as they failed to establish even a single quality hospital in the country. Now, Prime Minister Imran Khan brought a universal health insurance system under which each family in Punjab would get Sehat Card by March 31 and the card holder would be entitled to get free treatment from any public or private hospital of the country. —APP



**JHANG:** Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib talks to the media men at Jhang Press Club.

## Pakistan least costly country in world: Numbeo Ranking

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan ranks least costly among the 139 countries of the world, according to the latest Numbeo's cost of living index. Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin sharing the screenshot of the index on his official Twitter handle said Sunday that Pakistan was the cheapest country among the 139 countries of the world. According to Numbeo-the world's largest cost of living database, on average, the family of four people in Pakistan costs around Rs 171,783.24 per month (without rent) while a single person's estimated monthly costs are Rs 51,798.76 (without rent). The database has estimated that the

cost of living in Pakistan is, on average, 71.52% lower than in the United States. Similarly, it said the residence rent in Pakistan is, on average, 90.64% lower than in the United States. According to the Numbeo database, the average price of milk per liter in Pakistan is Rs 122.56, that of rice per kg is Rs 159.07, and eggs per dozen is Rs 175.04. Likewise, the price of chicken meat per kg in Pakistan is Rs 393.45 per kg, beef Rs 645.1 per kg, apples Rs 170 per kg, oranges Rs 115.29 per kg, tomatoes Rs 77.86 per kg, potatoes Rs 55.16 per kg, onion Rs 52 per kg, water (1.5-liter bottle) Rs 61.01, and cigarettes 20 pack (Marlboro) Rs 250. In transportation, the Numbeo data-

base has estimated the average price of the one-way tickets (local transport) at Rs 40, taxi start (normal tariff) Rs 150, taxi per km (normal tariff) Rs 36.61, and Toyota Corolla sedan new car at Rs 3.24 million. Similarly, the price of basic utilities (electricity, heating, cooling, water, garbage) for an 85 m2 apartment is around Rs 11,425.43 per month, price of one minute of prepaid mobile tariff local is Rs 2.67, that of the internet (unlimited monthly data) Rs 3,596.98, one pair of jeans (levis or similar) Rs 2,527, Summer dress in chain store Rs 3,980, pair of Nike running shoes (mid-range) Rs 8,412, and one pair of men leather business shoes Rs 5,628. —APP