

PML-N leader Daniyal Aziz discharged from hospital

RAWALPINDI: Former federal minister and PML-N leader Daniyal Aziz has been discharged from hospital. Commandant CMH Mohsin Qureshi and Major General Sohail Amin saw him off. Mehnaz Akbar MNA has said in a statement that CMH Doctors have allowed Daniyal Aziz to go home. Doctors are satisfied over the health condition of Daniyal Aziz who is recovering speedily. She held CMH doctors provided him best treatment. Daniyal Aziz morale is high. —Online

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SC verdict is replete with errors: Fawad

LAHORE: Criticizing the Supreme Court's detailed judgment that set aside the April 3 ruling of then deputy speaker National Assembly that dismissed the no-confidence motion against then Prime Minister Imran Khan, former information minister and PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry termed the verdict full of errors. Addressing a presser in Lahore on Thursday, Fawad Ch said that the apex court ignored the ground realities while giving its judgment. He said that the judges should have taken notice of the sale of people that was going on in the Sindh House. He was of the view that future would decide whether the judgement would be appreciated or not. —APP

Afridi removed from NA Kashmir body chairman

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Special Committee on Kashmir Affairs on Thursday passed the motion of no-confidence against committee chairman and Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehryar Afridi.

The additional secretary of the National Assembly (NA) chaired the meeting of the special committee as Afridi was not present.

No legislators belonging to the PTI participated in the no-confidence motion session.

Nawab Sher Wasir, a PTI dissident lawmaker, tabled the no-confidence motion against Afridi. A number of other PTI dissident lawmakers participated in the session.

In total, sixteen members voted in support of the no-confidence motion, which was then effectively passed. Earlier, as the chairman of the forum, Afridi said that he had activated the Kashmir Committee to help raise the Kashmir dispute at all national and international forums. He said Kashmiris needed to be provided international platforms to build the case of the Kashmiri freedom struggle.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Advisor to PM on Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira address a press conference.

Govt files appeal in IHC against Imran's acquittal

ISLAMABAD: The Government has filed appeal plea in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the acquittal of Imran Khan in parliament attack case. The government has prayed the court to nullify the decision regarding exoneration of Imran Khan.

The government took the plea that the decision by Anti Terrorism court runs contrary to law. Enough documentary proofs and video proofs are available in record regarding commission of offence by Imran Khan. The trial court ignored the evidences of the eye-witnesses and acquitted Imran Khan.

The petition said that public prosecutors supported acquittal of Imran Khan against the law. The trial court acquitted Imran Khan without issuing notices and hearing the affectees of the incident. It has been prayed in the petition trial court gave decision in haste. Therefore, it should be nullified. It may be mentioned that Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad acquitted Imran Khan in parliament attack case on October 29, 2020. —Online

PPP demands President Arif Alvi to step down

ISLAMABAD: PPP leader Senator Sherry Rehman has demanded of President Arif Alvi to step down after the Supreme Court (SC) decision against deputy speaker National Assembly (NA) ruling.

In a statement Thursday she said SC decision on its suo motu notice against the unconstitutional ruling of deputy speaker is last nail in the coffin of the narrative regarding foreign conspiracy. As per Court decision the speaker's ruling, Prime Minister (PM) order on dissolution of assembly and president step regarding dissolution of assembly were unconstitutional and against the rights of political parties. Constitution and parliament were insulted by giving ruling based on presumptions. —Online

Parliament joint session on 20th

ISLAMABAD: The government has summoned joint session of both the houses of the parliament on July, 20. The joint session will be presided over by speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervez Ashraf. During the joint session several pending bills will be approved. The criminal procedure, Baitul Mall and several other bills are lying pending.

Sources further said the decision to summon NA session has been taken to complete the days of the lower house. More 20 days are required to complete compulsory 130 days of the NA. —Online

ICCI welcomes IMF's staff-level agreement with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has welcomed the IMF's staff-level agreement with Pakistan and termed it a positive development as it would pave way for the release of much-awaited over USD 1 billion to Pakistan and improve its foreign exchange reserves. However, he said that the economy of Pakistan was facing very serious problems as its foreign exchange reserves were fast depleting amid rising external debt servicing, which required some out of the box solutions to address such problems. He said this while addressing a meeting of ICCI Executive Committee.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that Pakistan's external debt servicing has reportedly increased to over \$10 billion in the first three quarters of 2021-22 compared to \$13.38 billion in the entire financial year 2021. He said that Pakistan needed urgent help for its external debt-servicing obligations that are reportedly projected to be \$23 billion in 2022-2023. He said this situation demanded that the government in consultation with stakeholders should devise a new policy to boost exports in order to improve its foreign reserves.

ICCI President said that the government in consultation with the private sector should formulate a new strategy in order to generate indigenous resources and get

rid of IMF loans as the tough conditions of IMF have always pushed up the prices of gas, electricity and POL products, slashed subsidies & tax exemptions and created more difficulties for the business community and the general public. He said that in its 75 years of existence, Pakistan has gone to the IMF 22 times, which showed that successive governments have failed to make Pakistan stand on its own feet.

He said that frequent borrowings from the IMF have piled up a huge foreign debt burden on Pakistan, which is making the future of our generations bleaker and time has come that the policymakers should think seriously about reducing the country's reliance on foreign loans.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI said that the governments of many countries including Turkey, Bangladesh, India and others have got rid of IMF loans by adopting prudent economic policies and it is the high time that the government should make efforts to exploit indigenous resources to stabilize the economy. They said that the government should take measures to promote ease of doing business and focus on creating a conducive business environment to generate more indigenous resources that would enable the country to become self-sufficient instead

of relying on foreign borrowing to run its economy.

Trade not aid is the solution to economic turmoil

President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Itikhar Ali Malik on Thursday said trade and investment should be criteria for attaining country's development goals rather than aid.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Momin Ali Malik, member Executive Committee Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said it is because aid first stifles and ultimately obliterates the economic growth of a country. Furthermore, aid makes its recipients immensely dependent on its benefactors, the aid-giving agencies and rapidly debilitates a nation's ability to stand on its own feet. Unfortunately, that is exactly what has become of Pakistan today.

He said billions of dollars in foreign assistance that Pakistan has sought since its inception to meet its developmental needs have done more harm to the country than good. Since its independence, Pakistan has been persistently struggling to deal with its political and economic instability he added. For meeting its developmental needs and economic growth, it has been depending more on foreign assistance and other capital inflows, such as foreign remittances, then on foreign

PCJCCI keen to add value to Pakistan marble industry

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Wang Zihai, President, Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) said that Pakistan has great potential to earn millions of dollars from exports of marble products and the government should address issues of the sector to harness its potential. A meeting was arranged at the PCJCCI premises on Thursday to resolve the issues being confronted by the marble industry.

Speaking on the occasion, President PCJCCI Wang Zihai said that the government should pay special attention to the development of the marble and granite industry because this could be the way to rapid recovery of the economy by in-

creasing the country's exports. Pakistan is the 6th largest mineral extractor of marble and granite and has a place on world mining map. It has enormous potential to promote exports of marble products as it possess huge marble and granite reserves of around 350 million ton and 64 varieties of marble and granite stones, he added.

He also said that currently global market for marble and granite was estimated at around \$62 billion, but Pakistan's share was below one percent, which should be a cause of concern for the policymakers. He said with the support of government, marble industry has the potential to become the backbone of the economy and promote more exports than the share of textile products and urged that government should address marble industry issues on

priority, whose exports can well go up to over \$200 million per year, if some inducements are provided to marble sector, specifically in the field of value-addition.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that the high electricity cost, use of obsolete mining techniques, lack of financing facility and processing units, law and order issues in major mining areas, inconsistent power supply, insufficient infrastructure from mines to ports, lack of value addition, improper transportation facilities and supply chain problems etc were the major hurdles that were holding back this industry from full growth potential. He also added that we should facilitate investors to overcome power shortages; the erratic power crisis is a gigantic ob-

EC takes notice of PTI 'offering' bike to voters

MULTAN: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday took notice of the vote-buying attempt by Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf's Multan candidate Zain Qureshi.

Reportedly, PTI candidate Zain Qureshi who is contesting by-polls from PP 217 constituency of Multan has been accused of violating the election code. According to the ECP notification, social media is alleging that the PTI Multan candidate is involved in corrupt practices as he is offering one motorcycle in return for 10 votes. District Monitoring Officer Haider Riaz has issued the notification of an inquiry into the matter. The Sadr Assistant Commissioner and RTA Secretary have been appointed inquiry officers. The DMO has asked the IOs to present the report of the inquiry in the quickest possible time. —DNA

US stocks drop as inflation hits new four-decade high

NEW YORK: US stocks fell on Wednesday as a hotter-than-expected US inflation report unnerved investors. The Dow Jones Industrial Average decreased 208.54 points, or 0.67 percent, to 30,772.79. The S&P 500 slid 17.02 points, or 0.45 percent, to 3,801.78. The Nasdaq Composite Index lost 17.15 points, or 0.15 percent, to 11,247.58.

Nine of the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors ended in red, with industrials and communication services down 1.2 percent and 1.07 percent, respectively, leading the laggards. Consumer discretionary and consumer staples rose 0.86 percent and 0.01 percent, respectively, the only two gaining groups.

The above market reactions came after data showed U.S. inflation accelerated to a fresh 40-year record, a sign that price pressures are becoming entrenched in the economy.

US consumer price index (CPI), a broad measure of everyday goods and services, soared 9.1 percent in June from a year ago, marking the largest 12-month increase since the period ending November 1981, the Labor Department reported Wednesday.

The reading exceeded the prior 40-year high of 8.6 percent in May and was above the 8.8 percent Dow Jones estimate. —APP

LCCI demands improvement in drainage system

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: While appreciating the Punjab government for taking extra care of the province on Eid-ul-Azha, the President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mian Nauman Kabir has once again invited the attention of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif towards rainy season that has caused a huge damage in Sindh and Balochistan.

In a statement issued on Thursday, LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that that the threat of urban flooding is looming large with the advent of monsoon rains therefore there is a dire need to improve drainage system in Punjab. The LCCI President said that improvement of drainage system should be the most important part of development plan as the aging sewerage system cannot keep up with the load and also causes huge loss to the business community in the rainy season.

He said that sewerage system in the markets of Lahore is outdated and dysfunctional and shows flood-like situation whenever there is heavy downpour. The LCCI President said that rainy water enters into the factories, warehouses and other business places and damages the items like machinery, furniture, trading goods and raw materials etc.

He added that rainwater submerged main arteries of the city and suspended the movement of imported goods from the port to the wholesale markets. He said that in many industrial units, rainwater accumulated and stopped almost all the activities. Mian Nauman said that there is a dire need to follow the drainage system of modern countries to get of the loss of billions rupees.

Terrorism has no nationality, ethnicity nor religion, FETO threatens humanity as a whole



Mevlut Cavusoglu, Foreign Minister of Türkiye

On the evening of July 15, 2016, the "Fethullahist Terrorist Organisation" (FETO) launched a bloody coup attempt against the people and the government of my country. Their aim was to establish a radical, fundamentalist regime, loyal only to their ring leader Fetullah Gülen.

As FETO affiliated army units left their barracks to occupy key locations, such as the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul and fighter jets and attack helicopters bombed strategic targets, including the Parliament, Presidential compound, army and police headquarters; thousands of civilians took to the streets to stop this unprecedented heinous coup attempt. The plotters killed 251 innocent civilians and left thousands injured. On that night the Turkish people defended democracy with their lives. This heroic response was something the conspirators did not foresee.

To understand what transpired, one has to understand the true nature of FETO. It was established in the late 1960s as a so-called "religious movement". Under the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions.

The well-planned and wide-spread

infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law-enforcement, judiciary and numerous government institutions, including my Ministry, was carried out for decades clandestinely for an overarching plan, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016.

Had the coup attempt succeeded, there would have been a very different Türkiye today. Democracy would not have existed and fundamental rights and freedoms would have been suspended indefinitely. The nation would have fallen in the hands of an extremist government.

FETO not only controlled a significant portion of educational institutions, but also owned numerous financial institutions. Their bank accounts were fed by prominent FETO members in industry and commerce, as well as by officials and members of the public. Many innocent civilians were also lured into contributing to

FETO's finances as their piety was manipulated. The enormous income driven from their schools around the globe was channeled into these accounts clandestinely waiting for their ultimate move.

Following the bloody coup attempt of July 15, 2016, a resolute cleansing of the public sector, including government institutions and the military, as well as of the private sector from all FETO affiliated persons and companies was initiated. Some prominent conspirators have been apprehended. Others escaped justice and found refuge in foreign countries. The head of the FETO terrorist organisation, Fethullah Gülen, still resides in the United States. Our government has been requesting the extradition of Gülen to Türkiye from the United States as well as that of FETO members from European countries for years. Unfortunately, these requests have not been fulfilled yet.

On the other hand, elsewhere in the world, an increasing number of governments understand the danger this terrorist organisation also poses to them and are taking the necessary steps. FETO is also engaged in illegal activities such as visa fraud, money laundering and arms trafficking. Consequently, FETO members are being cleared from public and private sectors in many countries. Many schools affiliated with this terrorist organisation abroad have been transferred to the Turkish Maarif Foundation after 2016. Today, Maarif Schools are still functioning in many countries and are providing excellent education worldwide.

The nature and scope of Türkiye's fight against FETO is no different than that exercised by other countries against organisations which had terrorized officials and civilians alike, and endangered democratic values, fundamental rights and freedoms.

Türkiye is doing what the respective countries in their fight against terrorism have done in the past. All procedures are in compliance with law.

Terrorism does not have a nationality, ethnicity or religion. This menace threatens humanity as a whole. Therefore, the response to this threat must be united and determined. No state has the luxury to differentiate between terrorists and no terrorist organisation can be classified as "useful" according to preferences. FETO is responsible for the loss of hundreds of lives as well as other grave crimes against the Turkish people. Six years after July 15, 2016, Türkiye continues its resolute fight against FETO, just as it continues its fight against other terrorist organisations such as the PKK, PYD-YPG, DHKP-C and DAESH.

We expect the international community to stand in solidarity with Türkiye in the fight against terrorism.