

German delegation visits SECP

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce (AHK) visited SECP to understand the regulatory framework. SECP Chairman Aamir Khan welcomed the delegation and gave an overview of SECP's regulatory framework and recent reforms to improve doing business climate. The delegation comprised Head of Division on Foreign Trade Policy for South Asia, Germany Tobias Pierlings, Deputy Ambassador Dr. Philipp Deichmann, First Secretary Economic and Political Section Christian Böttcher, and other representatives of German Embassy and others. —APP

The Business

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KP gets new Provincial Election Commissioner

PESHAWAR: Shamshad Khan, BPS-21 officers of the ECP has been posted as PEC Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He assumed charge of his new assignment on Thursday. Before this new posting, Shamshad Khan was working as DG in the Election Commission Secretariat at Islamabad. The new Provincial Election Commissioner KP had joined the Election Commission of Pakistan as AEC BPS-17 in 1997 has served on various posts in the ECP Secretariat, has vast experience in administrative matters. He has visited different countries. —APP

Speaker approval a must for arrest of lawmakers

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) passed on Thursday amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, it was reported.

The rules required authorities to seek the NA speaker's approval prior to arresting a lawmaker. Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani presided over the session during which Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Murtaza Javed Abbasi presented the amendment resolutions. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif proposed that the amendment should also make it mandatory for the speaker or chairman of a committee to issue a production order for a lawmaker who was arrested.

Under the amendments, approval of the speaker shall be required before the arrest and detention of a member on a criminal charge, and no member shall be arrested within the precincts of the assembly. The production order of an arrested member has also been declared mandatory while the speaker has been authorized to declare parliament lodges or any other suitable place in Islamabad as sub-jail for the arrested member.

Court reserves verdict on bail plea of Swati

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad special court on Thursday reserved the verdict on the bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati who was arrested for a tweet against the army chief and state institutions.

Special Judge Central Raja Asif conducted the hearing. During the proceeding, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) prosecutor raised an objection to the jurisdiction of the court in the case. He said the case must be moved to a sessions court from the special court. The prosecutor said that the PTI senator leveled allegations against the army chief on the acquittal of suspects, adding that the army chief was not linked with the case in any way.

He said that the suspect stated against the army chief and institutions on a public platform. The defendant's lawyer Babar Awan argued that Swati used his constitutional right to freedom of expression. He asked if Swati's statement incited mutiny in the armed forces. —DNA

Iran again offers Pak to buy cheap oil, electricity, gas

ISLAMABAD: Iran has once again offered Pakistan to buy petrol, electricity and natural gas at cheap rates like Russia. In an exclusive interview with a private television Channel on Thursday, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ali Hosseini said that Iran's offer to Pakistan to buy petrol, electricity and gas is still intact.

The Iranian ambassador said Pakistan can trade petroleum products whenever it wants and his country is also ready to give Pakistan as much petrol as it needed. He said the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project has also been completed by Iran so now Pakistan can also buy natural gas at cheap prices.

Iranian Ambassador Hosseini said Pakistan is buying 100 Mega Watt of electricity from Iran and also requested the Pak government to make arrangements to buy more electricity from Iran at cheap rates. —DNA

ECP announces schedule of LG polls in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday released the official election schedule of the LG Election in Islamabad Capital Territory.

The election process will start on November 01, 2022, as the candidates will collect the nomination papers from the Returning Officers. As per the schedule, candidates can submit their nomination papers from November 7 to November 11 and the ECP will release the list of candidates on November 14.

Nomination papers filed by the contestants will be scrutinized from November 15 to 18 while candidates will be able to appeal on the objections from November 21 to 23. The Election Commission will release the final list of candidates on November 29 while candidates will be able to withdraw their nomination papers on November 30. —DNA

Court dismisses NAB appeals against Zardari

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the NAB 4 appeals against the acquittal of former President Asif Ali Zardari in 25 year old cases.

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minallah Thursday. During the hearing CJ IHC remarked "We are accepting NAB plea for withdrawing its appeals and dismissing the NAB appeals on merit, NAB appeals against Asif Zardari were not on merit and NAB decided to take back these appeals after 7 years." NAB said in four applications that further prosecution of appeal will be an exercise in



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of PTI leaders of Rawalpindi meets with Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan at Bani Galla Secretariat Islamabad to discuss organisational matters related to Azadi March.

Punjab govt going to unroll Smog Policy 2022 soon: Secretary

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Secretary Environment Usman Ali Khan has said that the collective measures are a must to eliminate the menace of smog. He was speaking at a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Executive Committee Members and former office-bearers also spoke on the occasion.

The Secretary Environment said that the genuine businessmen should not support those elements that are responsible for environmental pollution. He said that it is not our aim to close the factories. If this is happening somewhere, the industrialists should forward complaints. He said that the smog level in Lahore is high. The role of factories is only 20 percent to 30 percent and the major contributors are 6.5 million vehicles in Lahore with 42 percent share in smog. He said that the kilns and dust are also prominent causes of smog.

He urged the industrialists not to support the elements that are using carbon, rubber, tyres and other prohibited fuels.

Usman Ali Khan said that the genuine industrialists are well aware of the environment related standards and ensuring their implementation. He said that the action is being taken against those factories where scrubbers are not installed. The factories, which have scrubbers but working not properly, are only being given notices. He said that the Punjab government is going to unroll the Smog Policy 2022 soon. He added that there is a need to introduce

cheap technology for the industries to control the pollution. He said that there is a dire need to create awareness among the general public regarding pollution.

He said that the innovation is being promoted to control the pollution. For the first time, the department takes real-time images from the SPARCO, converts into word format and mails to the concerned Deputy Commissioner who is responsible for pollution in Lahore High Court. "These is no ban on the entry of trolleys, trucks and loaders carrying construction material and other goods in Lahore", he said and added that the teams have been deployed at Babu Sabu, Sagian and Thokar Niaz Baig entry points to get fees from the smoke-emitting vehicles and give seven-day time for vehicles fitness certificate. He said that the department is going to arrange a seminar soon to create awareness.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that due to lack of awareness of environmental laws, there is a violation somewhere which should not be considered a crime. He said that in the present era, such technologies have been introduced that are minimally affect the industrial production. He said that the government and environment department should spread awareness and help industry in getting these technologies.

The LCCI President said that the Lahore Chamber is providing awareness to its members about the environmental protection through seminars. He said that the Lahore Chamber is an active member of Smog Commission and Green Program and is fulfilling its responsibilities in a winsome manner. While expressing his

concern, Kashif Anwar said that the contribution of industry in smog is very small and the major contributors are smoke-emitting vehicles, burning of crops, burning of garbage and burning of old tyres, plastics, etc for heating. He said that we support the government initiatives to control the smog but no industrial unit should be closed on slightest observation.

The LCCI President added that scrubbers have been installed in many factories, but if smoke is released for a short time due to power outages or technical problems, the inspectors of the Environmental Protection Agency insist to seal the factory, which is unjustified. He said that the action should be taken against those factories where the smoke control system is deficient since long or not installed.

He said that through a recently issued circular, all the industrial units have been directed to install scrubbers and cameras for monitoring to prevent the emission of pollution. Otherwise fines ranging from Rs. 50,000 to 100,000 will be imposed. He said that such measures, sudden raids and immediate sealing will promote corruption besides creating harassment among the business community. He said that the businesses are already going through tough times. Instead of taking such measures, Punjab government should take steps to control smog and should create awareness about pollution among the business community. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said that the government should provide financial assistance to the business community for the installation of equipment to control smog on easy in-

SCCI for further strengthening Pak-Iran bilateral trade, FTA

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Ishaq on Thursday underlined the importance of signing free trade agreement to further strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Iran.

"Islamabad and Tehran should take pragmatic steps to rationalize tariff regime to improve the current mutual trade volume between the two brotherly Islamic countries," SCCI chief stressed while talking to Hamid Reza Ghomi, Iranian Consul General in Peshawar during a meeting here at the chamber's house. The meeting was attended by the chamber's senior vice president Shahid Hussain, vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, First consul/Commercial Attaché Iranian Consulate Peshawar Hossein Maliki, and other relevant officials of the Iranian consulate Peshawar.

Muhammad Ishaq said there are vast opportunities to enhance mutual economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran

and in order to take benefits from these trade avenues, the SCCI chief stressed to bring the business communities of both the country closer through holding joint trade expos, business to business meetings, promotion of barter trade and easy access to manufacturing products of the both countries in local markets.

Hamid Reza Ghomi congratulated the newly cabinet of SCCI, saying that his country is taking serious steps to further strengthen economic and trade relations with Pakistan, and holding a business meeting/program in Karachi and Lahore is a part of these efforts. The diplomat disclosed that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be soon signed between Mashhad Chamber and SCCI to enhance mutual trade relations between the two brotherly Islamic countries.

Iran has finalized a free trade policy for Pakistan, which would be implemented very shortly, Ghomi revealed, adding that

Iran-Pak bilateral relations would be further boosted up in an effluent manner under the policy. During the meeting, the SCCI senior office bearers presented various proposals for enhancing Pak-Iran bilateral trade on which the Iranian diplomat fully agreed and highly welcomed the recommendations, policy, plan and practical steps of the chamber for mutual trade promotion.

Philippines keen to enhance trade with Pakistan, envoy tells SCCI

Charge d'Affairs of the Embassy of Philippines Maria Agnes M. Cervantes has said that her country is keen to boost trade with Pakistan and enhance mutual trade volume to the maximum level. She was addressing a meeting of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which was attended by SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and the business community, here on Thursday. —Online

CM vows to deal wheat issue with Shehbaz

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employments for the Talagang district. A superior university, a medical college and an engineering university will be established in Talagang. We would fulfil the needs of the people of Talagang by building Tamman Dam and Lava Dam. Four more districts will be set up in Punjab in addition to Talagang. Optometrists will be appointed for the eye treatment in the Rural Health Centers.

Owner rights will be given to the katchi abadis of Talagang and Chakwal adding that Chakwal will also remain part of progress. We have formulated a programme to join together Chakwal and Talagang and make it a division. We will also fully activate and functionalize the Lava teshil. We will also establish state-of-the-art Khatam-e-Nabuwat SAW mosque for thousands of people of Talagang. CM expressed his gratitude to the people of Tala-

gang for according him a warm and a sincere reception. All the people deserted but the people of Talagang stood firmly with him and his generations will not forget their loyalty.

Hafiz Ammar Yasir while addressing the public rally said that CM Ch. Pervaiz Elahi is their real benefactor and gave a new identity to Talagang by making it a district. It is the land of martyrs and ghazis and will remain loyal generation after generation. Rasikh Elahi, Assembly member Sardar Aftab, Fouzia Behram, former Chairman Adeel Altaf and notables of Chakwal and Talagang participated in the public rally.

Parvez forms Chief Minister Task Force for Education

Parvez Elahi has formed the CM Taskforce for Education. Former provincial education minister Mian Imran Masood has been appointed as the chairman of the Chief Minister's Taskforce for Education.

Chief Minister Parvez Elahi gave Mian Imran Masood the notification of the constitution of the CM Taskforce for Education at his office and expressed his best wishes for him on new responsibilities.

The taskforce will take steps according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab for the promotion of education. It will make recommendations to improve the performance of government schools, colleges, universities, and intermediate boards. The taskforce will also prepare a report on the problems of private educational institutions. The taskforce will review teachers' training, curriculum preparation and other issues for the promotion of quality education in the province and submit a report to the Chief Minister Punjab about its recommendations.

Mian Imran Masood has said that it is an honor for me to be elected as the chairman of the taskforce for education. A compre-

UAE, Belgian Ambassadors call on COAS

RAWALPINDI: Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, Ambassador of UAE called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral defence and security cooperation and regional security situation came under discussion. COAS said that Pakistan values Emirate's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our bilateral relationship. Both sides agreed to further enhance cordial relations and enduring strategic partnership.

The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan, offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims and hoped for early rehabilitation of affectees. COAS appreciated phenomenal support provided by the UAE Government for the flood affectees.

Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan Charles Joseph M Delogne, also called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) at the GHQ, on Thursday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and enhanced bilateral & defence cooperation were discussed, the ISPR said. The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence for the families of the victims. —DNA

Mariyum in Turkiye to attend OIC ministers moot

ISTANBUL: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb has arrived in Turkiye to participate in the 12th Conference of the Information Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held here on October 21-22.

Mariyum will represent Pakistan at the conference which will be focusing on the OIC's role in different areas of information sector, said a news release on Thursday.

Secretary General of the OIC Houssein Ibrahim Taha will address the inaugural session of the conference titled "Combating Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era". The information ministers of OIC member countries will highlight the problems faced by the organization's African member countries, and especially discuss the ways to mobilize the media regarding the issues of Al-Quds Sharif and Palestine. —APP

15 Turkish aircraft carrying 227 tons aid land in Pak

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci has said that 15 aeroplanes carrying about 227 tons of humanitarian aid have so far landed in Pakistan from Turkiye for the flood affectees. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said these planes carrying family tents, food parcels, medical supplies, blankets, clothing and carpets have arrived in Pakistan.

The Turkish envoy said besides two mobile health units and camps, 50 motorboats were also brought in Pakistan to assist the authorities working in the flood-hit areas. Briefing the media, a representative of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkiye said besides the aid bridges, its personnel coordinated the works in Pakistan and ensured the process of distributing humanitarian aid among the flood affectees. —Online

Made in Pakistan being promoted: NA informed

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed on Thursday that a series of steps have been taken by the government to establish new industries, promote the Made in Pakistan concept and enhance employment opportunities in the country.

Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud in a written reply told the house during question hour that under Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy, thirty mobile manufacturers have been issued licenses to start local manufacturing of mobile devices by setting up local facilities. The Minister said Green Field Tech is another initiative for both import

hensive action plan will be prepared to solve the problems of the education sector in Punjab. I will try my best to promote the education sector program of Chief Minister Parvez Elahi, he concluded.

CM chairs meeting of Lahore Div parliamentarians

A meeting of the assembly members of the Lahore Division was held in the CM Office under the chair of CM Elahi in which parliamentarians expressed their gratitude for PTI's victory in the by-elections. Chief Minister Parvez Elahi termed the political win as the success of Imran Khan's narrative. The assembly members also paid tribute to the development vision of Chief Minister Parvez Elahi and offered suggestions for solving the problems of their constituencies.

Parvez assured the implementation of the recommendations and workable proposals of the members of the assembly for the development projects. He said that the popu-