

## Pakistan Cables wins merit award

LAHORE: Pakistan Cables Ltd. Annual Report 2021 picked up the 'Merit Award' as part of ICMA's Best Corporate Report Award 2021 in the Auto and Engineering Sector. ICMA Best Corporate Report Awards 2020 are held annually to recognize the best corporate reporting practices by public listed companies. Pakistan Cables Ltd. previously won the Merit Award in 2020. About Pakistan Cables Ltd. Founded in 1953, Pakistan Cables is the premiere and most reputable cable manufacturer in Pakistan. Being the only wire and cable manufacturer listed on the PSX since 1955. —PR

# The Business

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## LG polls in Labeled, Hub on Dec 12

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced that the pending Local Government (LG) polls would be held in district Lasbela and Hub on December 11. According to the notification, the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on Nov 1 and 4. Appeals against the acceptance or rejection of the nomination papers could be filed from Nov 7 to 9 while the appellate authorities will decide the appeals by Nov 12. The publication of the revised list of candidates will be on Nov 14. The last date for withdrawal of candidature and publication of revised lists will be on Nov 15. —APP

## Reko Diq case SC notices to BGC, Balochistan govt, others

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to Barrick Gold Corporation (BGC), Balochistan government, Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Company and others on the presidential reference regarding Reko Diq.

A five-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Aijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Yahya Afridi heard the presidential reference. President Arif Alvi, on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had filed a reference in the Supreme Court to get validation for the new Reko Diq project deal under Article 186 of the Constitution.

During the course of proceedings, Additional Attorney General Chaudhary Amir Rehman appeared on behalf of the federal government and said that the Balochistan government entered into the Chagai Hill Joint Venture Agreement in 1993 while the Tethyan Copper Company invested \$240 million in 2000. He said that a constitutional petition was filed in the Balochistan High Court against the gold mining agreement in 2006, which was dismissed. The Supreme Court declared the Chagai Hill joint venture illegal in 2013, he added. —DNA

## German envoy pays maiden call on COAS

RAWALPINDI: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas Tuesday paid his maiden call on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, after assuming his charge, here at the GHQ. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, overall regional situation, bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. The COAS said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Germany.

The army chief congratulated the dignitary on assuming the office of ambassador and expressed hope that relations between the two countries would further prosper. The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. He also appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. —DNA

## HEC to restore Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed said Tuesday the body would restore the Prime Minister Laptop Scheme in the next few days.

Speaking with journalists in Karachi, the chairman announced that the HEC will also initiate a programme for online courses for students in Pakistan's universities with support from Microsoft and different global organisations. He further shared that the commission is going to shift the entire system of verifying degrees and receiving equivalence certificates completely online.

Commenting on the commission's depleting funds, Dr Mukhtar said the HEC has decided that the budget received from the federal government for universities would be allocated among them according to their performances. The commission will soon apply the condition of performance upon public universities following its financial issues, which the HEC has been facing due to an increase in the number of educational institutes and staff, he said.

## Parvez Elahi

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the subsequent government stopped the work on it. Now, we are working afresh to provide the necessary facilities to the detainees in the jails; conveyed Parvez Elahi while saying that the food menu for the prisoners has been improved.

The CM said that the Punjab government has taken effective steps to protect human rights. All minorities have equal rights in Pakistan and special funds have been allocated for their welfare. A quota has been fixed for minorities' educational admissions and jobs. A Pakistan based on the principles of patience, tolerance and brotherhood is our destination.

The EU ambassador expressed regret for the loss of life and money in floods and said that assistance in the dams projects will be reviewed. Cooperation with the Punjab govt in the fields of textiles, manufacturing, and small and medium enterprises will be increased. Elahi is taking good measures for the welfare of the people of the province.

### Akhuwat founder calls on CM

CM Elahi appreciated the societal role of Akhuwat during a meeting with its founder Dr Amjad Saqib at his office. In collaboration with Akhuwat, the government would fulfil the dream of owning a house for low-income people as the government was going to re-launch the loan programme of house construction for the low-income stratum.

### CM hails Multan police performance

CM has congratulated the Multan police for arresting the accused involved in the murder of PTI leader Tahir Hameed Qureshi. In a statement, the CM appreciated the performance of RPO Multan Raja Rifat, CPO Khuram Shahzad Haider and the



BAGH: President Dr Arif Alvi along with the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, launch a private commercial helicopter flight operations service, in Bagh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

# Alvi starts copter service in AJK to promote tourism

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday launched the commercial helicopter flight operations of Kashmir Air in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) as part of an effort to promote tourism in the region.

The president, addressing the launching ceremony of Kashmir Air, at Bagh, said the AJK was blessed with immense natural beauty and tourism potential, and the private sector should come forward to develop AJK's tourism sector to realize its fullest potential. Kashmir Air is a private company that is going to start commercial helicopter flights to AJK and northern areas of Pakistan for the transportation of tourists.

During his day-long stay in the AJK, the president launched the helicopter flight service, visited a newly established high-end private school, and the flagship campus of a healthcare Information Technology company at Bagh, and was briefed on the establishment of a hospital at Abbaspur. The president urged the AJK government to promote sustainable and environment-friendly tourism, besides evolving tourism-friendly policies for facilitating private-sector investment.

He said that tourism had become the mainstay of many developing economies in the world and was considered a prime source for earning foreign exchange, creating jobs, stimulating growth, and reducing economic disparities. He called for adopting an integrated approach to tourism planning in AJK, adding that a careful assessment of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism on the region should be conducted, besides establishing linkages between stakeholders,

businesses, resources and tourism activities.

President Alvi said that Pakistan possessed enormous human resources in the form of youth and women, which with relevant skills and training could become an asset to the national economy in the future.

He urged the need to provide technical and vocational skills and training to AJK's youth in the tourism and hospitality sector to provide gainful employment to youth, particularly women, in their own region.

He said that the adoption of IT tools and artificial intelligence could help in the development and promotion of the tourism sector in AJK to market AJK's tourism assets as well as provide information, online booking facilities and tourism packages to domestic and foreign tourists.

President Alvi said that the IT sector was akin to a "fast train", that could help Pakistan achieve accelerated economic growth with little investment as compared to traditional brick-and-mortar dependent infrastructure development. During his visit to the school, the president appreciated the private sector for providing quality education to students of AJK to help improve the education standard.

Reiterating his call for making investments in the IT sector, he said that advancements in the field of IT had opened up new avenues for women's empowerment, as they could offer their services online worldwide using the latest ICT tools.

He highlighted that Meta (Facebook) had provided training to over 5000 Pakistani women to enable them to market their products and services online. He

added that Prime Minister's Digiskills programme had benefitted 2.4 million people, in which people from different academic backgrounds had participated.

The president highlighted that women should be encouraged to enter into the workforce in all sectors, including the tourism sector, by providing them safe and secure working environment as it would help in the development of AJK's tourism sector and their economic empowerment.

He said that women's employment rate in Pakistan was as low as 24 percent, adding that efforts should be made to enhance women's employment rate and economic participation. He said that Islam had allocated the due share of women in inheritance, however, regrettably, women were being deprived of their God-given right in different parts of our country.

While expressing his views during his visit to the flagship campus at Bagh, he said that the facility would provide high-quality healthcare services to the people of AJK. He stressed that keeping in the mountainous landscape of AJK, telemedicine could provide quality health care services to the people of far-flung areas at their doorsteps.

He urged the private sector to make contributions to society through their CSR initiatives by developing partnerships among industry, academia and government. During his visit, he was also briefed on the establishment of a hospital in Abbaspur, which was providing quality healthcare services to the people of AJK. The president said that Pakistan was committed to providing moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Occupied Kashmir

# PM Ilyas warns India to avoid misadventure of attacking AJK

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan on Tuesday warned India to avoid any misadventure of attacking liberated territory otherwise it would have to face stiff resistance and humiliation from the freedom loving people of AJK.

"We are the followers of Abu Ubayda ibn al-Jarrah, Khalid Bin Waleed, and Muhammad Ibn al Qasim and we will not only defend every inch of our motherland but will also protect the honor and sanctity of our Muslim mothers, sisters and daughters in India", he said while addressing a seminar jointly organized by the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission in connection with the 75th Foundation Day of AJK government.

Terming the universities and educational institutions as nursery schools to

prepare youth for nation building, the PM expressed his pleasure for organizing such a wonderful seminar by the university to sensitize the students about the struggle of their forefathers for achieving freedom.

Sardar Ilyas said despite of the worst kind of Indian atrocities, Kashmiri brothers and sisters continuously carried on their indigenous freedom movement with full courage and perseverance against one million Indian Armed forces. "Even today, Kashmiri mothers name their sons Burhan Wani and Syed Ali Geelani as to show their symbolic association with these personalities besides, their commitment with the liberation struggle", he asserted.

PM AJK warns if the United Nations does not resolve the long-standing Kashmir issue as per its unanimously passed resolutions, it will lose its existence like many other global institutions. Former AJK Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Fa-

rooq Haider Khan urged upon the government of Pakistan to trust on Kashmiris and give them an opportunity to present their case themselves before the world community. "World is more interested in hearing the grievances of Indian atrocities by Kashmiri people themselves other than Pakistan's stance on Kashmir", he added.

Farooq demanded that the Azad Kashmir government should enter into a defense pact with Pakistan to protect the region from any possible Indian aggression. "In the first phase, Pakistan should try to get observer status for Kashmiris in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation", he suggested. The former AJK Chief Justice Syed Manzoor ul Hassan Gillani while speaking on the occasion said the longstanding Kashmir issue cannot be resolved according to the conditions and requirements of 1947 because the world has rapidly changed, now the Kashmir issue needs to be presented in today's

## IHC rejects plea to form JC to probe Arshad's killing

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected the plea to instantly constitute Judicial Commission to probe into the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif.

The petition seeking formation of Fact Finding Commission (FFC) to probe into the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya came up for hearing before a single bench of IHC led by the Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minallah Tuesday. Petitioner Barrister Shoaib Razaq appeared in the court.

The court inquired during the hearing of the case has some one gone to family of Arshid Sharif. Barrister Shoaib Razaq told the court Arshid Sharif dead body will reach here today. It is our request that judicial commission be constituted to investigate the murder incident. Government had asked UAE government to return Arshid Sharif.

The CJ IHC remarked I have come here to hear only this case. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) told the court this is a sorrowful incident which has occurred. Let the report from Kenyan government come. If they raised some objection over it then this case should be heard. The court remarked the journalists organizations should be kept on board on the matter of inquiry. There is no use of constituting some commission at this stage.

Shoaib Razaq, counsel for Arshid Sharif said it is our request that a judicial commission be constituted to investigate into the murder of senior journalist. Justice Athar Minallah remarked this is matter of two different countries. The state institutions can resolve this matter in better way. The court adjourned the hearing of the case for one week. —Online

## Partial solar eclipse witnessed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The second partial solar eclipse of the year was partially observed in different parts of the country on Tuesday, according to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

The solar eclipse was visible from most of Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East and Western parts of Asia while it was partially visible in Pakistan. In Pakistan, the partial eclipse began at 13:58 PST and ended at 18:02 PST with greatest eclipse occurred at 16:00 PST. According to the PMD, the eclipse in Islamabad started at 15:43 PST and ended at 17:22 PST with coverage of 64.5 percent. In Lahore, the eclipse started at 15:49 PST and ended at 17:20 PST with the coverage of 60.7 percent.

Karachi witnessed 50.0 percent eclipse from 15:57 PST to 17:56 PST, Peshawar observed 65.2 percent eclipse from 15:41 PST to 17:28 PST while Quetta witnessed 59.7 solar eclipse from 15:44 PST to 17:51 PST. —APP

## Korean Cos donate \$800,000 to flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water) donated one hundred thousand dollars to Pakistan to support the ongoing flood relief efforts, making the total contribution of Korea's private sector to \$800,000. After the donation of the Korean companies, South Korea's total contributions increased to \$ 2.8 million.

A handing-over ceremony for this donation was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, the Representative/Chief Executive Officer of Star Hydro K-Water Pakistan, Bong Rok Oh, the Director General (EAP) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aamer Ahmed Atozai, and senior officials of the concerned authorities. —APP

## Ali Wazir MNA, others acquitted

KARACHI: Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Karachi has acquitted Member of National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir and others.

Case against 12 accused persons including Ali Wazir came up for hearing before ATC Karachi. The court acquitted all the accused including Ali Wazir. It is pertinent to mention here that case against Ali Wazir was registered in Sohrah Goth. He spent a period of more than two years in jail in this case. The accused were charged with making speeches

# Businessmen a power house for economy: LCCI

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) is committed to act as a bridge between the business community and the government as the strong public-private partnership is the key to economic stability.

These views were expressed by LCCI President Kashif Anwar while addressing the delegations of Anarkali led by Ashraf Bhatti, Cottage Industry led by Ghulam Sarwar Malik and Fresh Fruits Merchants Trade Association at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion while Executive Committee Members were present in the meetings.

The LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood and Vice President Adnan Khalid

Butt said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry will leave no stone unturned to get the issues of business community resolved in the shortest possible time. They said that role of traders is important in promoting economic activities therefore all the government sectors should play the role as facilitator and pay due attention to their better development.

They added that business community of Pakistan is power house for the economy therefore, they should be encouraged and treated as partners. They said that all possible measures will be taken to ensure an atmosphere conducive for the business activities. The LCCI office-bearers said that country is abundant with all resources but facing various economic challenges because of unavailability of a mechanism for implementation of government policies. They said that Pakistan is one of the largest producers of cotton and wheat it also has

largest coal, gold and copper reserves.

They said that the country is also enriched with vast reserves of precious stones, gypsum, salt and marble but instead of taking full advantage of these God-gifted resources most of the share being exported in raw form and a little attention towards value addition can do miracle for the country.

They said that policies cannot give desired results until and unless business community is not taken on board.

The delegations members said that business community attaches high hopes with the new leadership of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They said that LCCI office-bearers are rich with vast experience and have the abilities to get the issues of business community resolved through policy advocacy.

**Turkiye eyes \$5 billion bilateral trade potential with Pakistan**

Turkiye wants to increase bilateral trade

with Pakistan to at least \$5 billion in the next two-three years as both countries have good potential to further enhance two-way trade volume in many items.

This was said by Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye while talking to a delegation of ICCI that called on him in his office led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye Embassy was also present at the occasion. The envoy appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an International Housing Expo in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works and assured that Turkish companies in Pakistan shall participate in the Expo whereas the companies and dignitaries from Turkiye would also be encouraged to join the Expo. Talking about trade through roads and railways, he said that Pakistan should upgrade its railways system to make it compatible with the railways system of Turkiye.