

Minimum 12:°C
Maximum 26:°C
Sunset 05:02pm
Sunrise 06:34am
(Tomorrow)

Senior minister listens to public complaints

No development sans equitable justice system, says Aslam Iqbal

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The defining moment to move towards the supremacy of law has arrived to bring the country towards a system ensuring the supremacy of law.

Senior Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal stated this while talking to ministers, parliamentarians and important personalities about political and development issues at 90-SQA here, on Friday.

Without a uniform justice system, the dream of composite development and prosperity would remain incomplete; he said and maintained that the real freedom march is a struggle for supremacy of justice as the PTI is striving to end the bandits' rule imposed on the country.

Aslam Iqbal asserted that the people are standing with their leader Imran Khan in the fight to eradicate corruption from the

country. The solution to the country's lingering problems lies in holding early, transparent elections, he maintained.

Those responsible for the economic debacle are scared to face the people but Imran Khan would succeed whenever the elections are held; he stated and concluded that the real freedom march is nearing its destination.

Senior Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal met the people after performing Friday prayer at Jamia Masjid Rashidiya N-Block, Samanabad, here on Friday.

He listened to public complaints and issued orders to redress issues being faced by the people of the area. Aslam Iqbal said that public service is equal to worship for him and added that he tries to resolve people's problems as his own. As long as I am alive, I would continue to serve the masses and always be available for the service of

the people, he added.

CPWB Chairperson receives global collaborative award

Chairperson Child Protection Bureau Sarah Ahmad was honoured with the Global Collaborative Award in Rome, Italy, the other day.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson Child Protection Bureau Sarah Ahmad said that she is grateful to PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Punjab Chief Minister ChPervez Elahi for giving her the opportunity to work and support her. Receiving this award is an honour for her and for Pakistan as well. Chairperson said that she has named the Global Collaboration Award in the name of all the children of Pakistan.

Chairperson Sara Ahmed was awarded the Global Collaboration Award for her services in preventing child exploitation

and protecting children's rights. Apart from Pakistan, only 10 people across the world have been honored with the Global Collaborative Award for working to prevent child exploitation and protection of their rights.

Global Collaborative Award recipients include UNICEF Director, Child USA CEO, Sierra Leone First Lady, Harvard University Professor, Hollywood actor Taylor Perry and others. Honored by Global Collaborative Award for the prevention of child exploitation and the protection of children's rights. Sara Ahmad thanked the team of Child Protection Bureau and said that today she got this award because of the hard work of her team. Her goal is to protect all vulnerable and neglected children and to prevent child exploitation. There is more responsibility than ever and she will fulfill it in a better way.



Quick Read

11 dead, 1249 hurt in 1200 road traffic crashes

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Emergency Service Department (PESD) Responded to 1200 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs 11 people died, whereas 1249 were injured. Out of this 681 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals. Whereas, 568 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (74%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce this an increasing number of Road Traffic Crashes.

Further, the analysis showed that 626 drivers, 43 underage drivers, 165 pedestrians, and 469 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes.

The statistics show that 292 Road Traffic Crashes were reported in Lahore which affected 296 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 103 Faisalabad in with 98 victims and at third Multan with 81 Road Traffic Crashes and 78 victims.

The details further reveal that 1260 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 1025 males & 235 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 242 were under 18 years of age, 637 were between 18 and 40 years and rest of the 381 victims were reported above 40 years of age.

According to the data 1056 motorbikes, 73 auto-rickshaws, 119 motorcars, 21 vans, 16 passenger buses, 28 trucks and 113 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in aforesaid road traffic accidents.



LAHORE: Students perform tableau during inaugurating ceremony of Inter University Women Boxing Championship at the Lahore College for Women University. —Online

Iranian CG hails PCJCCI working, bilateral trade

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Reza Nezari, Consul General Iran in Lahore visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Thursday. Moazzam Ali Ghurki, President PCJCCI, S.M Naveed, Chairman SEZs, Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, Ali Raza Rizvi, Chairman Standing Committee, Diplomatic and Government Relations, Daud Ahmed, welcomed him along with other executive members of PCJCCI. The visit was followed by a press conference which was attended by many top notch businessmen.

Reza Nezari, Consul General of Iran in Lahore appreciated the working of PCJCCI related to regional connectivity and bilateral trade. He also praised various initiatives of chamber which includes; Pak China Knowledge Portal, China-Way magazine, Chinese language courses and Pak China Technology Gateway and the initiative of Pak-China Food and Cultural Analogue 2022. He further added that i feel so delighted upon receiving invitation from PCJCCI, we should conduct such gatherings more often to further enhance brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran. He said that Gwadar and Chabahar are two ambitious ports which can emerge as rays of hope and development to further boost the trade relations between both countries.

Moazzam Ali Ghurki, President PCJCCI said in his welcome address that Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry is resolute to serve as a model chamber and a vibrant platform for promoting mutual investment and friendship between Pakistan, China, Iran and other brotherly countries. He added that we are striving hard to strengthen trilateral business, investment and cultural ties between China, Pakistan and Iran.

S.M Naveed, Chairman Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) govt. of Punjab said that we invite Iranian brothers to come forward and invest as zone developers to attract Iranian investments in the fields of pharmaceutical, agriculture, marble, automobile, gems and jewelry and others.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI and Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General thanked the Consul General Iran for his precious time and said that we are endeavouring to build a better and prosperous future of Pakistan with the cooperation of Iran.

PIAF for serious steps to cut reliance on borrowing

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has asked the government to take serious measures to get rid of its dependence on foreign loans, as the current expenses of the government reached Rs1.84 trillion out of which Rs 954 billion was used for domestic and foreign debt servicing.

PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol asked the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan to make strenuous efforts to save the rupee from further depreciation, as all that good news of bailout forex inflows from international financial institutions (IFIs) as well as from Saudi Arabia and China can do is the help the rupee make some momentary gains.

The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front Chairman said that debt servicing appears to be the biggest problem for the government, compelling the country to borrow even more money to pay off its

existing debts.

Low tax revenues against large government expenditures on unfeasible projects create the perfect recipe for economic mismanagement-with a tax revenue gap of 10 percent, which is not surprising.

He said that during the last two years the country has witnessed the worst unemployment, high inflation and negative growth, raising the country's external debt to a whopping Rs62.5 trillion.

At the start of the year, the International Monetary Fund had projected a minor decline in the country's debt. The government spending was also expected to decrease this year, but that did not happen. The country was still reeling from the madness surrounding Russia's invasion of Ukraine when it was hit by the worst torrential floods in its history, triggering an economic crisis of dystopian proportions.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already taken to the international stage to request debt relief from major creditors as it

wrestles with the aftermath of its most recent climate disaster, but to no avail.

With the appreciation of the US dollar against many currencies both in the developed world and emerging markets, the price of imported goods is higher than ever; tightening economic conditions for countries in the Global South, such as Pakistan.

The taxpayer money that we do collect is immediately diverted to foreign debt-servicing, leaving no funds for public goods. In the meantime, we continue to rely on external borrowing as opposed to investing in domestic institutions that could provide us with a safety valve during times like these. Pakistan's biggest creditor, China who has invested more than \$60 billion in Gwadar, is growing exasperated with low returns on its investment, as evidenced by recent disagreements between the two countries over interest rates, leading Beijing to postpone all CPEC meetings with Islamabad.

Faheem Saigol said that Pakistan's medium-term debt repayment capacity has

been weakening due to government's absolute dependence on loans.

Due to the high external debts and liabilities stocks, its servicing has surged to a massive \$3.07 billion in the first quarter of this fiscal year, showing an increase of 25.36 percent annually, he added.

He warned that the government will have to borrow on a large scale during the current year to meet the huge gap of current account deficit. If the quarterly debt servicing maintains this trend and magnitude, overall FY23 figure could be around \$14 billion, limiting the SBP reserves to \$7.3 billion level.

With a view to contain the current account deficit and improve foreign exchange reserves the government has now introduced import curbs which gave it some relief on the external front, he said and added that the same strategy has adversely impacted economic growth as decline in imports have hurt business activity in the country.

COPD a disease of respiratory system causing edema, lung disorders

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Postgraduate Medical Institute Principal Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-Fareed Zafar said that Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a disease of the respiratory system which includes inflammation of the respiratory tract, edema, lung disorders, breathing difficulties and infections and lack of energy while smokers are not aware of the dangers of this disease. Therefore, it is important to discourage smoking at all levels because one person who smokes directly affects 10 people around him. Every year 30 lac people around the world die due to this disease.

He expressed these views while talking to the participants of the awareness walk organized by Pulmonology Department of Lahore General Hospital. HOD Pulmonology Dr. Javed Magsi, Dr. Irfan Malik and Dr. Khalid bin Aslam gave detailed information about the prevention of this disease. Prof. Al-Fareed Zafar said that the reason for the spread of this disease is environmental and air pollution which affects the respiratory system of workers in factories, traffic smoke and particles of products produced inside the factory. He said that in order to prevent this disease, apart from the government institutions, the people

also have to fulfill their responsibilities and take preventive measures to eradicate the causes of disease. A person affected by COPD can suffer from diseases like heart diseases, lung cancer and asthma, so there is a strong need to focus on the elimination of this disease. Talking to the media representatives, Prof. Al-Fareed said that the modern industrial development, the establishment of unplanned residential areas/colonies, the rush of vehicles on the roads due to the increase in population and the lack of proper monitoring of the fitness of these vehicles by the relevant departments.

Due to this, the vehicles emitting smoke are seen on the city roads which are affecting the health of the people badly. Principal PGMI highlighted that creating awareness among the citizens about this disease is the need of the hour so that people take other necessary precautions besides using face masks in public places, factories to avoid air pollution. Prof. Al-Fareed Zafar further said that under self-determination, citizens should take preventive measures as an integral part of their lives while being concerned about their health. At the end of the walk, pamphlets based on precautionary measures were also distributed among the citizens. Doctors, nurses and paramedics were present on this occasion.

