

## Alvi vows to completely wipe out menace of terrorism

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to completely wipe out the menace of terrorism. In a statement on Thursday, he said our efforts will continue till the elimination of remnant elements. The President strongly denounced the firing of terrorists in Bajaur. He paid tributes to the valiance of martyred security personnel. The President said those rendering sacrifices are an asset of this nation. Commiserating with the bereaved families, he prayed for the higher ranks of martyrs. —Online

# The Business

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## 53 tested positive one patient succumbs to Covid-19

LAHORE: Corona strikes continue in the country amid the reports that one more patient has succumbed to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 30630. According to latest data of National Institute of Health (NIH) 8600 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country of which 57 were returned positive. The total number of positive cases has climbed to the level of 1,574,801. The positivity ratio stands at 0.66 percent. About 53 patients are stated to be in critical condition. —Online

## Arshad's murder

### Not only Pakistani but Kenyans also want to know facts

ISLAMABAD: Kenyan High Commissioner to Pakistan Mary Nyambura Kamau on Thursday said not only Pakistan but Kenyan people also want to know the facts of the murder of Arshad Sharif. In an exclusive interview with a private television Channel on Thursday, she expressed a hope that Pak-Kenya relations will be strengthened once a transparent investigation is completed.

The scribe asked a question to her that the position of the police of Pakistan and Kenya regarding the murder of Arshad Sharif is not the same, what is the real truth? She said she doesn't know much about this matter and also wants the facts of this to be brought forward by the investigators. Mary said the Kenyan President and the Pakistani Prime Minister have discussed all the facts between themselves on this issue. Kenya's High Commissioner condoled to Arshad Sharif's family and said she was very sorry for the tragedy that unfortunately happened in Kenya.

On another question that why is the Kenya police changing its statement every day on this tragedy which is creating doubts and suspicions? She said really does not know about this either but it is certain that the facts will come out and she is also waiting for it.

To a query about providing a transparent investigation in this tragedy to the people of Pakistan, she said that she agreed on it and wants that it should be brought up through a transparent investigation. Not only the people of Pakistan but also the people of Kenya would like to know the truth about this Arshad Sharif murder, she said. She added that after this tragedy, there may be a difference in the relations between Pakistan and Kenya but she has hope that these relations will be strengthened once a transparent investigation is revealed. —DNA

## PAC decides to revoke free Hajj facility for VIPs

ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday decided to revoke the free Hajj facility for VIPs and senior bureaucrats. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of PAC Chairman Noor Alam Khan. During which Noor stated that the facility of free Hajj for government officers, bureaucrats, and assistants should be abolished, noting that the country is in debt, poor people pay taxes, and government officials perform Hajj for free.

"All the details should be provided about who has taken advantage of the free Hajj facility," he added. The committee has sought all the details from the concerned ministry, AGPR, within 15 days, and recovery will be done from the families of the government officials who performed Hajj for free. —DNA

## PPPP awards ticket to Waqar for Senate seat

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) has awarded its party ticket for the vacant Senate seat from Sindh to Waqar Mehdi. According to a tweet shared on the official Twitter handle of the PPP, Waqar Mehdi was a senior party leader and currently working as General Secretary PPP Sindh Chapter.

The Senate seat was vacant after the resignation of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar who quit his Senate membership on the advice of the party's senior leadership on November 10 (Thursday).

Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar was elected on PPP ticket on the general seat from Sindh, in March 2018 Senate elections. —DNA

## PAF planes remain centre of IDEAS exhibition

KARACHI: The 11th edition of the international defence exhibition and seminar, IDEAS 2022, remained at full swing at the Karachi Expo Centre. The spokesperson for Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said that the PAF aircraft remained the center of the guests' attention. "The third day of the exhibition has been marked by the guests' keen interest in JF-17 Thunder and Super Mushak trainer aircraft," he stated.

"The foreign delegates and military officials have expressed deep interest in the aircrafts displayed in the PAF pavilion at the ceremony," he added. In the Hall No. 1 of the exhibition, there were placed modern and sophisticated weapons of Turkey. The Turkish company also secured three major orders in the IDEAS exhibition. Beautiful mortar shells, used in heavy machine guns and submarines, were also placed there in the Turkish stall.

Also, the Sindh police have decided to buy modern and sophisticated weapons for the police officials engaged in an operation against the dacoits in the Kacha area. The Sindh inspector general of police (IGP) had ordered for the purchase of modern and sophisticated weapons for the officials of Sindh police.

It is also to be noted here that a large number of foreign delegates and the delegates of local companies kept arriving at the exhibition. The exhibition will continue till 5pm without any break. A Peshawar-based arms manufacturing company, Zulu Arms, is also participating in the IDEAS defence exhibition being held in Karachi for the first time. Company's CEO Major (ret'd) Abbas said they were par-



KARACHI: Pakistani soldiers demonstrate their skills as they abseil onto a ship from a helicopter during International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2022.

# Diplomats are backbone of global economy: LCCI

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Diplomats are backbone of the global economy as they play a crucial role in the promotion of trade and economic activities between the countries.

These views were expressed by the LCCI President Kashif Anwar while addressing a delegation of the participants of 28th Junior Diplomatic Course for Foreign Diplomats, belonging to 12 countries of three continents, on Thursday visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Foreign diplomats asked a number of questions from the LCCI President Kashif Anwar who gave well directed and knowledge-based answers ranging from economic scenario in Pakistan and role of business community in progress and prosperity to external trade and investment opportunities in various sectors. The delegation was headed by Director Program, Foreign Service Academy Irfan Shaukat while LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion. LCCI Executive Committee Members were also present on the occasion.

The LCCI President said that Pakistan is looking to expand its external trade through exploring lucrative and untapped potential markets. He informed the participants that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has established an African Desk with an objective to strengthen trade and economic relations

with African continent. He said that the liaison between the countries is very important and the trade missions can play a pivotal role in this regard. He said that exchange of trade delegation and participants in the trade fairs & exhibitions are also the important tools expand trade.

Kashif Anwar added that the LCCI member companies have trade relations with the companies in all parts of the world. The Lahore Chamber disseminates the trade and investment related information to its members so that they can avail the opportunities. He said that being the premier business support organisation of the country, LCCI accords great importance to the role of foreign diplomats in projecting a positive image of Pakistan and facilitating trade, investment & economic cooperation. He informed the participants that the glorious history of the Lahore Chamber dates back to 1923 when it was established under the name of Northern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Today, it stands out as the premier business support organisation of the country having the largest membership base with around 32,000 members representing a cross section of trade and industry.

The LCCI president added that the primary function of LCCI is policy advocacy. Through its Research and Development Department, the Chamber identifies the issues and their viable solutions with the input of standing committees focused on the various

sectors. These issues are taken up at the highest forums of Government for their early resolution. He said that LCCI facilitates the business community by keeping them aware of the opportunities and challenges originating from the globalization of trade & investment. LCCI prepares Budget Proposals and sends them to government for consideration so that tax anomalies could be rectified and private sector representatives may be encouraged to take new business initiatives. LCCI gives feedback to the Government on various public policies e.g. Industrial policy, Investment Policy, SME Policy and Trade Policy etc. LCCI also organizes Seminars, Workshops and Conferences for capacity building of its members.

He said that LCCI also sends trade delegations to various countries for exploring business opportunities and also participation in the international exhibitions. This provides a good opportunity of interaction for mutually beneficial activities. Kashif Anwar said that LCCI has signed lots of MoUs with national and international organizations related to trade and other important fields like health care, banking, education, diplomatic affairs etc. He said that apart from pursuing its main objective of promoting and protecting the interests of trade & industry, LCCI carries out Corporate Social Responsibility quite actively. Such activities include donations to hospitals and educational institutes and participating in relief activities as and when needed.

## Boom in housing sector to revive the economy: Secy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shallwani Thursday said that boom in the housing and construction sector can turn around the economy, create more jobs and attract investment.

Giving an example of UAE, he said that Dubai was facing economic problems in 2008-09 and the construction of only one mega project "Burj Khalifa" helped revive its economy. He said that many countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Japan achieved better growth by focusing on the housing and construction sector, which showed its vital role in the economy. He said this while addressing the pre-launch ceremony of the first International Housing Expo being organised by the Ministry of Housing & Works in collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the theme "Shelter for All" on Dec: 8-11, 2022 at Convention Centre, Islamabad. A large number of builders, developers and realtors are expected to attend the event.

Iftikhar Ali Shallwani said that the purpose of organizing the first International Housing Expo is to stimulate the business and economic activities and provide affordable housing to people. He said that the government wants to promote the housing sector with public-private partnership to address the housing needs of people. He said that housing is the fundamental right of every citizen and the government wants to fulfill its obligation in collaboration with the private sector. He said that the Expo would attract local and international investors and would be a right step towards providing shelter for all.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI said that the country was witnessing a deficit of millions of houses due to rising population and urged the government to support the housing and construction sector to ensure shelter for all. He said that the growth in housing and construction would boost the business activities of all allied industries and help revive the economy. He said that

timely delivery of credible housing projects on public-private partnership would improve the confidence of the buyers and attract more investment.

He said that ICCI has already organised two very successful property and housing expos and hoped that the first international housing expo would be another landmark success. He said that the government should establish an Expo Centre in the federal capital to promote exhibitions of various sectors to boost the business and economic activities.

### Vawda appears before NAB in funds fraud case

Former federal minister and PTI leader Faisal Vawda Thursday appeared before the NAB in Islamabad in the case of funds misappropriation. The NAB had summoned Faisal Vawda as part of the investigation into the misappropriation of funds from the United Kingdom (UK). It is to be noted here that the NAB is carrying out an inquiry against Shahzad Akbar and other PTI leaders. —Online

## CM starts release of funds to 55,000 flood affectees

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He said that children were given free education and books before and now they are benefiting from free education till graduation. Three times more stipends would be given than before to the girl students of south Punjab. Imran Khan and I did a telethon together and we got ideal funds, he added. No other person tried to do so as they knew that the public would not give them anything.

Imran Khan has a cheque of one billion rupees for Sindh but they have not conducted the survey yet. It could be syphoned off if the aid money is given to Sindh. Don't know how many days are in power but would continue to serve the people. Allah rewards good intentions. Every day I review what I have done for the people. I try to do the remaining work the next day, he concluded. Dr Sania Nishtar said that preventing corruption in the Ehsaas programme was the biggest chal-

lenge. In the past, social protection data was compiled on a political basis. The curse of nepotism and political bias has been eliminated in data entry. The record of every payment will be recorded through CCTV.

CS Abdullah Sumbal said that a coordinated and transparent aid mechanism has been established through collective efforts. The CM formally launched the programme and gave relief funds to the victims of Taunsa, Jampur, Kot Chhata, Rajanpur, and Rojhan at the special BoP counter.

### CM approves plan to treat free breast cancer patients

Parvez Elahi has approved a plan to treat breast cancer patients free of cost in Punjab in collaboration with Roche company.

A delegation led by managing director Roche Pakistan Ltd Hafsa Shamsie met CM Parvez Elahi at his office and the CM was briefed that the rate of breast cancer is the highest in Pakistan as 8,000 to 10,000

women are found to be suffering from cancer. The CM said that centers of excellence would be established in major hospitals along with special counters in government hospitals for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Cancer may be diagnosed at any stage but the patient would be treated free of charge; he said and announced that lung cancer patients would also be provided with the best treatment facilities.

The CM said that 37 thousand lady health workers are being trained in collaboration with the private sector as LHVs could best work for the diagnosis of cancer in women. He asked Roche company to set up a production plant in the 10-year tax-free zone of Quaid-e-Azam Business Park and the government would extend every possible support.

### New generation students intelligent, active

Punjab Chief Minister said that the stu-

## Bid to smuggle \$40,000 foiled at Torkham border

ISLAMABAD: The Customs officials have foiled the two smuggling bids of foreign currency at Torkham border and seized an amount of \$40,000 from two passengers traveling to Afghanistan during the last five days.

According to the Customs Department, the organisation was carrying out strict vigilance on specific information on the smuggling of foreign currency through borders. During the last five days, the department made two seizures totaling \$40,000 – \$20,000 each from two passengers during the body search and luggage scanning at the Torkham border crossing point. The Customs staff of Enforcement intercepted an Afghan passenger named Aqdas Aerial, daughter of Gul Muhammad having Passport No. P00149377 on Thursday. During the body search, the Customs officials recovered \$20000 from her shoulder bag.

Similarly, on November 12, the Customs staff of Enforcement had intercepted a Pakistani passenger named Azhar Akbar, son of Gul Taj Khan, bearing Passport No. WM1334701. During body search and scanning of the passenger's shoes, the officials recovered two plastic-wrapped packets in the shoe soles. Further unwrapping of the packets led to the recovery of \$10,000 in each packet. Following the seizure of the foreign currency, the Customs department is taking further necessary action as per the Customs Act, 1969. —DNA

## JIT starts probe into assassination bid on Imran

ISLAMABAD: The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has started the investigation process to probe the assassination bid on former Prime Minister Imran Khan in Wazirabad.

According to the sources, the two members of the JIT reached Wazirabad and officially started investigations. Syed Khurram Ali Shah and Naseebullah investigated the crime scene. Additionally, spots were also identified to obtain more digital evidence from the crime scene. Sources also said that the members will hand over the task to the investigation team in Wazirabad. Accused Naveed will be presented before the court soon for physical remand. —DNA

## Public, private sectors liaison a must: FCCI

FAISALABAD: A close and result-oriented liaison between public and private sector is imperative to give a quantum jump to exports through structural changes, procedural improvement and aligning the TDAP's (Trade Development Authority of Pakistan) vision to the fast-changing global trends.

This was said by Dr Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), while talking to a delegation of the TDAP Faisalabad that met him in his office here on Thursday. The delegation was headed by Madam Fareeha Khan, Director TDAP Faisalabad. Dr Khurram appreciated the proposal to organize sector specific webinars through Pakistani commercial counselors deputed in different countries.

He said after identification of potential and B2B meetings delegations could also be arranged in order to ensure growth in exports. He stressed the need to evolve a separate strategy for textile, engineer, IT and agriculture sectors and said that space may be allocated for the FCCI in TEXP02023 scheduled to be held in May in Karachi. He said the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) would allocate this space to the small business houses and new entrants as major exporters could independently get stalls without any support of the chamber.

Director TDAP Madam Fareeha Khan said that agriculture, engineering, IT and textile Expos had been arranged and focus was on inviting serious buyers from the other countries. Quoting previous engineering Expo, she said that Ghazi and Millat tractors got sizable orders because of this event. She said that many foreign buyers from Africa and Central Asian Republics participated in this event at their own expenses. She said that another exhibition was being held in Houston (America) and the TDAP would bear 50 percent expenditures of the willing participants. She said the OIC is also organizing a trade fair in June the next year in Lahore. She added that businessmen from 56 countries were expected to participate in this exhibition