

# Independent

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## Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade volume target of \$5bn very much achievable: PM

PM meets world leaders in Turkiye, discuss bilateral ties, cooperation; concludes his 2-day official visit to Turkiye, leaves for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the target of increasing bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Turkiye to \$5 billion annually over the next three years was very much achievable.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister referred to his recent visit to Turkiye where he attended the inauguration of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had been re-elected for the third term in office.

The prime minister said that in his meetings with heads of leading Turkish business groups yesterday, he highlighted the need

for investment and trade in the fields of agriculture, energy, information technology and construction.

Exciting opportunities had emerged for collaboration especially after the historic Trade-in-Goods Agreement between Pakistan & Turkiye became operational on May 31 this year, he added.

"Was glad to find the discernible interest of the Turkish business community in building on the existing partnerships & establishing new ventures," the prime minister further noted in his tweet.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his recent visit to Turkiye also met with

different world leaders and discussed the bilateral ties and cooperation between Pakistan and their respective countries.

The prime minister had travelled to Turkiye to join the world leaders in the inauguration ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The prime minister met former deputy prime minister of Turkiye and Chairman MHP Devlet Bahçeli and conveyed his felicitations over success in the elections, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

On the occasion, he also met with Kosovo's President Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu.



LAHORE: Pakistan People Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali along with Caretaker Provincial Ministers during meeting.

## Pakistan must begin journey of reducing plastic waste: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of World Environment Day 2023, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that the consequences of plastic pollution are intense and long term, as it irreversibly damages our environment and threatens the very fabric of life on earth, from the highest mountains to the deepest ocean trenches.

Under this year's theme 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', centered around addressing the grave concern of plastic under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, Minister Rehman urged a call for action as plastic production is set to triple by 2060 if 'business-as-usual' continues, according to a statement issued here.

The Minister shared the 7R's Action Agenda

which marks the country's commitment to combat plastic pollution and initiate its journey towards reducing plastic waste.

The agenda includes encouraging conscious choices to minimize plastic consumption ("Reduce"), promoting the redesign of plastic products and manufacturing processes to minimize environmental impact ("Redesign"), emphasizing the extension of product lifespans and reducing reliance on single-use plastics through reusing ("Re-use"), advocating for effective recycling practices to transform plastic waste into new materials and alleviate pressure on landfills and oceans ("Recycle"), and highlighting the shared responsibility of individuals, businesses, and communities in managing plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices ("Responsibility").

## Roosvelt Hotel given to NY local govt for 3 years for \$220m: Kh Saad

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday that a contract had been signed with the New York City government to operate the renowned Roosevelt Hotel of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) situated in New York (USA) for three years.

In a press conference held at Allama Iqbal International Airport here, he said that a revenue of US\$220 million would come to the country as a result of the agreement.

Giving details of the agreement, he said that 1025 rooms of the hotel would be handed over to the City government for three years and the initial earnings from the hotel had started pouring in.

He said that under the agreement, one-year business was guaranteed; however, he expressed his hope that the hotel business

would continue for all three years. He said that there were several issues involved in the Roosevelt case, like the hotel was at risk of being declared a landmark after which the building would be unable to be altered. However, now the danger had subsided for at least three years, he added.

The minister said that earlier the hotel had been closed since the COVID-19 period, and an amount of \$25 million were being spent on the closed building and \$20 million were pending as the liability.

He said that 479 employees were working in the hotel, which was a big number and it was difficult for the hotel to terminate them from jobs due to the US labour laws. However, now after the agreement, this number would be decreased to 77 at the end of the contract period, he added. He thanked the New

York city government for its cooperation. Regarding the outsourcing of the airports, the minister said that three international airports including Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad were being outsourced and made it clear that outsourcing did not mean privatisation.

He said that only operation of the airports would be outsourced and not the land or property. As a result of the arrangement, new contractors would develop, improve and operate the airports, and after completion of the agreement period, the contractors would hand over it to the government again. He said that the current administration had put it on the track and soon agreements would be signed with the best international airport operators. A credible company, International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank.



ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs from Ankara after completing his two day official visit of Turkiye.

## Road checking campaign to begin from June 05

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Excise and Taxation Department is going to launch a road-checking campaign to nab tax-defaulting vehicles from 5 June across the province.

The road-checking campaign would continue until 16 June.

The teams of Sindh Excise and Taxation Department will check the vehicles

at more than 30 places in Karachi.

Meanwhile, Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Mukesh Kumar Chawla had requested the owners of tax-defaulting vehicles to deposit their taxes immediately.

He asked them to take the advantage of online tax depositing facility.

## Workers being illegally detained in abysmal living conditions: Imran Khan

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that his party workers are being illegally detained in jails, while alleging that they are being kept in abysmal living conditions. He made these remarks while addressing PTI supporters virtually.

Furthermore, he once again questioned what the future of the country would be like if he were to be put in jail and crackdown on PTI is completed.

He noted that the country was progressing economically with inflow of dollars during PTI's tenure. The PTI chairman once again reiterated that the judiciary has been intimidated and claimed that judges are being blackmailed with audio and video tapes. He also criticised the media for not speaking up for its freedom, similar to how it used to do during PTI's tenure.

Imran Khan said that his party has been barred from carrying out political activities.

## FM felicitates Hakan Fidan on his appointment as Turkiye's FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday extended his warm congratulations to Hakan Fidan on his appointment as the Foreign Minister of Turkiye.

On his Twitter handle, the foreign minister posted that he was looking forward to working closely with his Turkish counterpart in taking the Pak-Turkiye strategic partnership to ever greater heights.

## SC practices & procedure act hearing to hold on June 8

ISLAMABAD (Online): 'Supreme Court practices and procedure act' case will be heard on June 08. Eight members larger bench with Chief Justice of Pakistan Umer Ata Bandial on chair will hear the case. Justice Ejaz ul Ahsen, Justice Muneeb Akhter, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar are the part of this bench.

## Illegal appointment case Pervaiz sent on judicial remand

Pervaiz says will stand with PTI even if 100 cases registered against him

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President and former chief minister Pervaiz Elahi has been sent on 14-day judicial remand to jail in illegal appointment case.

As per details, the court rejected the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) appeal for physical remand and sent the PTI president Pervaiz Elahi on judicial remand.

Furthermore, secretary Punjab assembly Rai Mumtaz Hussain Babar has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

The court in its verdict sent PTI President Pervaiz Elahi to jail on 14-day judicial remand, rejecting the ACE's request for his physical remand in a case pertaining to illegal recruitments in the Punjab

Assembly.

Elahi was presented before the court today by ACE officials amid tight security after he was re-arrested for the second time in two days on Saturday. However, he was taken away by ACE officials after the court reserved its decision on the ACE's plea for his 14-day physical remand.

Meanwhile, talking to newsmen on the occasion of his appearance in anti corruption court, former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi said that he would stand with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) even if 100 cases were registered against him.

PTI Punjab President came down hard on the PDM, calling it a failed alliance.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Burns Road Town Incharge, Irfanullah Khan and Head of Women Department, Abida Sultana presiding over the first meeting of Women's Department UC 27, held at Burns Road Town in Karachi.

## Zardari announces big public rally in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan People Party (PPP) co-chairman and former president has announced big public political gathering in Lahore.

Party district president Aslam Gul is visiting various parts of city.

PPP leader said political rally date will be announced soon.

On the other side former President Asif Zardari's active politics is continue in Lahore and new leaders are joining party.

## Hina Khar to visit Norway, Sweden, Denmark today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar would undertake official visits to Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium from Monday (Today) to 13<sup>th</sup> of this month.

According to Foreign Office spokesperson, she will hold meetings at the ministerial level to discuss political engagement and cooperation in development, trade and climate change.

She would also meet lawmakers and local entrepreneurs.



HYDERABAD: Former Chief Minister Sindh and senior leader Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Qaim Ali Shah addressing a press Conference at Ansari House.

## PPP bags 155, JI 130 seats after KMC special seats election completes

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party has bagged 155 seats in the city council after election on reserved seats completed. Jamaat Islami and PPP bagged one seat each from two seats of the city council reserved for disabled persons and transgender categories. The PPP overall won 51 special seats in the house, while JI bagged 43 seats. PTI grabbed 20 seats and PML-N six seats.

The total number of seats in the City Council is 371 and the magic number required to win the mayor's office is 186 members of the house. The election of mayor and deputy mayor will take place on June 15 while the nomination paper can be submitted by June 9-10. The ECP schedule stated that the Returning Officer will check the nomination papers on June 11 and the finalized list of candidates will be released on June 14.

Majorities special seats, the PPP bagged five seats, JI four, PTI two and PML-N one seat. Jamaat Islami and PPP bagged one seat each from two seats of the city council reserved for disabled persons and transgender categories. The PPP overall won 51 special seats in the house, while JI bagged 43 seats. PTI grabbed 20 seats and PML-N six seats.

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## Minister inaugurates expansion work of Dargah Jahanian Shah's hall

Independent Report HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Minority Affairs Gianchand Esrani inaugurated the expansion and renovation work of the hall of Dargah Jahanian

hall of Dargah Jahanian Shah would make it easier for pilgrims to perform their religious rituals.

He said the Department of Minority Affairs had done record develop-

ment work this year and this process was still going on at a good pace.

Hundreds of development schemes of improvement of temples, churches, crematory and other places of worship of the minority community are going on across the province", he

He further said that the minority community had always been given importance in the governments of Pakistan People's Party as practical

steps had been taken for the welfare of the minority community including the renovation of their places of worship.

He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had given him the task of taking special care of the minority community and he was trying to fulfill the expectations of the party Chairman by serving the minority community.



Shah here on Sunday. Talking to media persons, he said the Department of Minority Affairs was working on the construction, repair and renovation of the places of worship of the minority community adding that expansion and renovation of the

## Nasir lays foundation stone of Central Karachi Hospital Sindh Govt to construct new hospital in Karachi: Nasir Shah

Independent Report KARACHI: Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that Central Hospital Karachi will be constructed at a cost of Rs.400 crore for the citizens at Federal B Area Water Pump with the support of Sindh Government.

He added that on the vision of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto, Sindh Government is taking measures on an emergency basis for the construction and development of the city of Karachi and providing basic rights to the citizens. He said these words while laying the founda-

tion stone of Central Hospital Karachi the other day.

He was accompanied by Senator Waqar Mehdī, Minister of Labor and Human Resources Saeed Ghani, Secretary LG Najam Ahmad Shah, Director General of KDA Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, senior leader of PPP Dr. Asim, Chief Minister Sindh Coordinator Shehzad Memon, President District Central PPP Masroor Ahsan, General Secretary District Central Dil Muhammad, political leader Najmi Alam and MC-KMC Syed Shujaat Hussain.

Minister said that health facilities will be pro-

vided in the Central Hospital under the supervision of Pakistan Medical Association. Central Hospital Karachi will consist of 6 floors and a basement including four towers.

In Central Hospital, a trauma center, general hospital, cardiology ward, emergency, gynae, children's emergency medical facilities will

be provided to citizens on the basis of modern style, while community center and nursing school will be established in Central Hospital.

He said that the initial phase-I will be completed on priority basis and construction is estimated to cost Rs.100 crore. Director General KDA Syed Muhammad Ali Shah said that Central Hospital Karachi will be built in a short time with the support of the Sindh government to provide medical facilities to the citizens by ending the encroachment on the KDA land established on the water pump.





Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Advancing Balochistan's Development Through PPP**

In a recent meeting led by Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili, the Executive Committee of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority made significant strides in bolstering Balochistan's development. The approval of a new project in line with the PPP mode signals a proactive approach towards addressing crucial areas of growth and progress. One of the key approved projects focuses on the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, with a specific emphasis on establishing a state-of-the-art Center of Excellence Hub in Hub, Balochistan. This initiative, operated by the esteemed private institution ZABTEC, aims to offer training in over 18 different trades to approximately 2,700 students over the next three years. By bridging the skills gap and equipping individuals with relevant expertise, this endeavor will contribute to empowering the local workforce and enhancing employability prospects.

Furthermore, the meeting directed the Lasbella Industrial and Economic Development Authority (LIEDA) to expedite efforts in launching HUB SEZ Phase-II. The PPP Authority has received proposals to promote various industries within this phase, underscoring the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and development. Additionally, the progress made on SEZ Phase-I under the federal and provincial Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) was acknowledged, reflecting the dedication to executing comprehensive plans for industrial expansion. Education emerged as a paramount concern during the meeting, with a briefing from the Taaleem Foundation on the work plan and progress of the Kharaan Technical Training Center. The government's assurance in removing obstacles hindering the foundation's activities highlights their commitment to creating an enabling environment for quality education. It was heartening to learn that full-scale academic activities at the center will commence from August, signaling the government's emphasis on providing educational opportunities that equip the youth with the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields.

The gathering also addressed the decision to entrust the operation of the Green Bus Service in Quetta to a private company, underscoring the government's focus on modern transportation facilities for the city's residents. The Chief Secretary's directive to expedite the implementation of this project highlights the administration's dedication to providing convenient and efficient public transportation services. The Secretary of Transport's comprehensive work plan, to be presented in the upcoming two weeks, further demonstrates their commitment to swift and effective execution.

It is crucial to recognize the significance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable development. The successful implementation of these projects will not only create job opportunities but also strengthen the economy and improve the overall quality of life for the people of Balochistan. It is imperative for the government and relevant stakeholders to continue their collaborative efforts and ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these initiatives. By harnessing the potential of public-private partnerships, Balochistan can chart a path towards progress, prosperity, and inclusive growth. The commitment demonstrated during this meeting sets a positive precedent for future endeavors. It is through such concerted efforts that we can build a thriving Balochistan, where opportunities abound, and the aspirations of its people are realized.

**Perils of punditry**



Abbas Nasir

If the government decides to call for elections just a few days shy of the current parliament's term-end, the caretaker administration will have 90 days in which to complete the process, and if the term is completed, then in 60 days. This would translate into elections in the first half of either October or November.

My own bet would be November as that would give more time to the government coalition parties and their backers to get a tighter grasp on the process. Two important offices will change hands in September. The president's term ends on Sept 9 and the chief justice of Pakistan's seven days later, on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Despite President Arif Alvi's quick assent earlier this week to legislation passed by parliament to expand the scope of reviews in the Supreme Court verdicts in suo motu cases, the government and its powerful allies would not have forgotten his foot-dragging on other pieces of legislation passed by parliament on multiple occasions.

While after the elections the new parliament will elect a new president, for now the powers that be may be far more comfortable with their own long-term protégé, the Senate chairman, who seems also to have been adopted by the PML-N-led coalition government.

The other change will be in the office of the chief justice of Pakistan as Justice Qazi Faez Isa takes over from the soon-to-retire incumbent chief justice. Government figures have been critical of

the latter as they perceive a softer approach on his part towards the PTI.

This criticism appears to partially stem from the Supreme Court judgement in the floor-crossing case in the election of Hamza Shehbaz as Punjab chief minister, where even eminent lawyers said the Constitution was being rewritten rather than interpreted.

The court ruled that the legislators voting against the party whip would not only lose their assembly membership, as the Constitution mandated, but also that their vote would not count. Ergo, Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi was reinstated as the provincial chief executive.

Many political commentators attribute the current crisis in the country to that judgement. Government ministers were outraged, claiming bias. This perception might have been reinforced by the forming of benches, as the Supreme Court rules empower the CJP to do, following seemingly inexplicable criteria that excluded some of the most senior and respected judges from hearing cases of political significance.

It is now clear that every impediment, legal or otherwise, will be placed in the path of the PTI and its leader going forward. The party and its leader, perhaps under the false impression of substantial support in key institutions, may have grossly overplayed their hand on May 9. Who knows what they'd been led to believe by utterly over-the-top YouTubers, over-egging the pudding for more followers, views and the consequent monetary windfall. Or had insiders misread the mood within and sold an utterly fictional scenario? Whatever the case, a strategy devised on a false premise failed and the payback has been severe.

It is assumed that any legal bar on the party, or more significantly, on its leader will end up in the superior judiciary and, therefore, it would be better when, in the view of the government and its backers, the formation of more neutral and balanced benches is likely.

However, those placing too much hope in the set-up beyond mid-September would do well to remember that all of the judges excluded from hearing cases in recent months, including the senior puisne judge, are fiercely independent and strong-minded. So, the cases before them would have to be watertight to get a favourable verdict.

All of the above factors must be among the variables going into the matrix as decision-makers prepare their plans for the next elections and, equally important, 'the before and after' scenarios. The PTI seems to be collapsing like a house of cards.

Its supporters argue with justification that their fanatical support base across the country can't be ignored or disenfranchised. But they should also consider that it is equally true that a party network and organisational structure is what delivers that support to the polling stations and translates into votes.

Candidates play an important role as well. A popular party may poll a certain percentage of votes in every constituency but every party looks for strong candidates who bring their own vote banks with them, particularly in rural and/or semi-urban constituencies. As we speak, the PTI is looking a bit vulnerable in this area. Let's see what sort of a line-up they are able to muster for the elections. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Another court**



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

Are constitutional courts an idea whose time has come in Pakistan? The proposal to constitute one was seriously presented in the Charter of Democracy signed by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in 2006 after the Supreme Court legitimized the 1999 military coup. The PPP, which came to power in 2008, did not make a serious effort to implement this particular aspect of the CoD. Even when almost a third of the Constitution was modified through the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2010 on the PPP's initiative, the idea of a constitutional court could not be accommodated in the package of amendments.

The PPP tried to raise the question of a constitutional court in the Senate in 2015 during the PML-N's rule, but the matter didn't seem to get very far. Recently, the prime minister's special assistant on legal reforms and accountability, while criticising the Supreme Court's performance, once again mooted the idea of a constitutional court. The main reasons for establishing a parallel constitutional court — according to him, and as quoted in the media — are that there is 'a division' among the Supreme Court judges, and the process of forming benches is reportedly 'biased', leading to 'political engineering'.

The SAPM, therefore, thought that the solution for the 'division' and 'biased judgements' would be the establishment of a constitutional court. He also gave some features of the proposed

court. For example, he mentioned that the constitutional court would comprise former and 'non-controversial' chief justices, judges of the superior courts and parliamentarians who are knowledgeable about legal matters.

The idea of a constitutional court is not a novel one, and quick research shows that over 60 countries have dedicated constitutional courts functioning side by side with the apex courts which deal with regular criminal and civil cases. It makes sense especially in a country like Pakistan where the Supreme Court, like other courts in the country, is beset with a heavy pendency of cases. In fact, there is an increasing tendency to take urgent political-constitutional matters to the courts, which end up — in due time — in the Supreme Court, or the apex court opts to take suo motu notice of a matter which it considers to be of public interest. In both cases, the increasing workload of such urgent cases relegates regular criminal and civil cases to lower priority — much to the anguish and pain of the litigants. A dedicated constitutional court may help check the tendency of 'urgent' cases interfering with the sequence and pace of regular criminal and civil cases in the Supreme Court.

The idea of a constitutional court is, therefore, a worthwhile one but needs to be seriously debated not only in parliament but also in various other forums such as bar associations, civil society organisations, and the media before a decision is taken in principle. Details such as the composition, qualifications and procedure for appointing and removal of judges, etc, will also need careful consideration. Since a constitutional amendment will almost certainly be re-

quired to establish a constitutional court in the country and the current National Assembly doesn't have the required numbers to take a decision on a constitutional amendment, the matter will have to wait until the new National Assembly is elected five to six months from now. It is, therefore, difficult to understand the objective of mooted the proposal at this time when several other urgent matters require the attention of both the government and opposition for resolution.

Although there is no harm in initiating a debate on the subject in society, in the context of the present unenviable state of relations between the government and parliament on one hand and the Supreme Court on the other, the proposal may be considered a political ploy to exert pressure on the apex court, which may further vitiate the environment. Our long experience with the legislation and institutions in Pakistan indicates that unless there is a strong will and a proper mechanism for effective and faithful implementation of the law, mere legislation and the creation of new institutions will not serve any purpose. Instead, they end up further complicating the processes and burdening the public exchequer.

If the government is not satisfied with the performance of the judges who have gone through a rigorous process to rise through the ranks, have decades of experience to their credit, and whose elevation, at least in recent times, was made possible with the consent of government representatives in the judicial commission, how can they be sure that a new institution will not invite similar complaints from them? -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Pakistan a priority market for business: Naveed Qamar tells British companies**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamar has urged the UK business community in Manchester to prioritize Pakistan as a market for business expansion.

He was addressing the Manchester based business community during his official visit to the UK to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' meeting, said a press release issued here by the Commerce Ministry on Sunday.

The minister highlighted the favorable business environment and

abundant opportunities available in Pakistan during his speech at the event, which was attended by the business community, UK Parliamentarians, Mayors, Councillors and media representatives.

The minister acknowledged the 1.6 million-strong Pakistani diaspora in the UK as the cornerstone of the strong UK-Pakistan relationship. The UK has become Pakistan's third-largest export partner, second-largest investment partner and third-largest source of remittances, Naveed Qamar

said. He said despite pandemic restrictions, Pakistan's exports to the UK grew by 33 percent, surpassing the US\$2 billion milestone. Exports are expected to maintain momentum, with a 10 percent growth rate in the current financial year, said the Minister. Minister Qamar thanked the UK Government for its development assistance to Pakistan. Commending the UK government, Qamar highlighted the announcement of a £1.5 billion facility to support bilateral investment and export.

**SM Tanveer says: Punjab govt committed to promoting industrial sector thru proactive policies**

LAHORE (Online): Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer has emphasized the seamless continuation of industrial production activities by addressing industry-related issues as a top priority.

The government is extending full cooperation to industrialists and traders, recognizing the collective responsibility of every individual in uplifting the

country from its challenging economic circumstances.

During his address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club event and separate meetings with delegations from the All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters, Importers & Merchants Association (PFVA) and Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer expressed these views.

**Agro Deptt. seals factory on manufacturing fake pesticides**

BUREWALA (APP): The agricultural department's team on Sunday raided a factory, situated at Vehari-Burewala road, which involved in manufacturing fake pesticides, fertilizer and also managed to arrest two accused. The team also directed to seal the factory on the spot. In line with special directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Asif Hussain Shah, a special team of the agriculture department conducted a raid at Pengold factory and checked the quality of pesticides.



JEHLAM: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy, Bilal Azhar Kayani meeting with people during an open katchery (court).

**Energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal, mobilise finances for renewable energy**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Sunday termed just energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal and mobilise investments towards renewable energy (RE) in Pakistan.

It was the crux of a symposium on "Just energy transition in Pakistan" organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan: Research and Advocacy here, a news release said.

Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed highlighted that the current challenges slugging rapid off-take of renewable energy in Pakistan arise from inadequacy of infrastructure and grid stability. He stressed innovative decentralized energy models, micro-grids, encouraging the development of local RE industry and building storage capacity to address these challenges.

Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Michael Waldron emphasized the need to increase energy sector investments by 3-4 folds to meet SDGs.

He highlighted that "Just Energy Transition Partnerships" (JETP) can play key role by providing low-cost finance to Renewable Energy (RE), promoting investment-grade domestic policies to phase out fossil fuels, and supporting just transition for affected workers.

**Fiscal budget 2023-24 needed to provide relief to masses: Murtaza**

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Sunday said that the federal government would provide sizable relief to the masses in the upcoming fiscal budget 2023-24.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering at Nawanshahr Abbottabad.

The minister further said, "We do not accept any agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that are against

the interests of the people, and we will strive to control inflation and provide relief to the masses, fiscal budget 2023-24 would be people-friendly."

While criticizing PTI he said that they had ruined the country. "In the last seventy-three years, the actions of the PTI leaders of Hazara are the real enemy of the region as the establishment of the Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) faced the most."

**China's transport investment up 13.4 pct in first 4 months**

BEIJING (APP): China's fixed-asset investment in the transport sector reported robust growth from January to April, official data shows.

The total investment in transport came in at 1 trillion yuan (about 140.8 billion U.S. dollars) during the period, rising 13.4 percent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Transport. Specifically, investment in waterway development surged 29.8 percent year on year to 56 billion yuan.

**A joint delegation of PSX, MFA calls on Ishaq Dar**

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and Mutual Funds Association (MFA) of Pakistan called on the Federal Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The PSX was represented by its MD/CEO Farruk Hussain and Chief Financial Officer Ahmed Ali whereas Mir Adil and Arif Qadri represented Mutual Funds, said a press release issued here Sunday.

The Finance Minister was accompanied by Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Special Assistant to the

Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue, Ashfaq Tola Chairman Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission (RRMC), Asim Ahmad Chairman Federal Board of Revenue and other senior officers from the Finance Ministry and Revenue Division. Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmad also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, representatives of MFA highlighted the growth of Sharia compliant mutual funds and proposed that short term Sharia compliant sukuk should be launched.



RAWALPINDI: A man is busy in selecting and purchasing gemstone and rings from roadside vendor in the city.

**Kashif for taking painful decisions to counter extreme temperatures**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis

Sunday said that painful decisions must be made as extreme heat threat grows and underdeveloped countries and poor nations would be even more vulnerable as they had lack of resources to mitigate against extreme temperatures.

Speaking at a seminar on "How to counter growing threat of climate change", held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said extreme heat is very much one of the major extreme

weather events that threaten to alter the planet permanently, said a press release.

He said the past eight years were collectively the hottest on record and Southeast Asia is currently setting heat records.

Scientists have reported that drought in the Horn of Africa has been made 100 times more likely by climate change. Extreme heat caused by climate change threatens the way of life of millions of people, he expressed.

He said that 419 million people in 57 countries were vulnerable to 1.5 C of global warming over the next few years.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club ceremony.



## Mohsin Naqvi says: Those occupying property, or assets of overseas Pakistanis will be dealt with iron hand

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has issued directions to the Inspector General of Police to promptly redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has directed that the Inspector General of Police should personally monitor complaint redressal system of overseas Pakistanis. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi further directed that all Commissioners, RPOs,

Deputy Commissioners and DPOs should leave no stone unturned to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in their relevant cities. Mohsin Naqvi directed the administrative and police officers to personally redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis and they should submit a report to the CM Office every month. Mohsin Naqvi directed that relevant overseas Pakistanis should be kept posted regularly on the progress being made with regard to redressal of every complaint adding

that a time frame should be chalked out to resolve the problems of overseas Pakistanis residing abroad. Mohsin Naqvi asserted that every complaint should be disposed off in a minimum span of time adding that a slow paced traditional action on a complaint being sent by a portal, telephone or by mail will not be tolerated. Mohsin Naqvi stated that concerned officers will monitor steps being taken to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in the CM Office as well.

## Foreign Experts declare PM's successful visit to Turkiya as new heights of bilateral relations

PESHAWAR (INP): International relations and political experts here Sunday termed the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the brotherly country Turkiya was highly successful that would lead bilateral relations including trade between the two brotherly countries to a new height. They said the Prime Minister's visit to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the Turkish President was the right decision that would further cement

trade, economic and bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations. Former Ambassador, Manzoorul Haq said that the presence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during the oath-taking ceremony of Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his historic welcome, passed a strong message before the world that both countries have immense respect and warmth for each other besides highly valued its deep-rooted relations.

## Three youths killed in various incidents

ATTOCK (APP): As many as three youths were killed in different incidents in various parts of Attock district on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a rickshaw driver was shot killed by assassinations in broad daylight on Rawalpindi road in the limits of Fatehjang Police Station.

Police sources said that Nasir Khan, a native of Hangu district of KP was shifted in the town due to some old enmity and driving a rickshaw to earn.

On Sunday, when he was coming on his rickshaw on Rawalpindi road, three masked men riding a motorcycle intercepted him and showered bullets over him, as a result, he died on the spot.

The assassins managed to escape from the scene successfully. In the second incident, a 17 years old man died while catching fish through a generator in the river Indus near Jalalia in the limits of Hazro Police station.



FAISALABAD: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer along with U.S. Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole visits the Center for Advanced Studies at University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

## Apex Committee meeting CM KP to accelerate implementation of decisions

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday took notice of the delay in the implementation of the decisions of the Provincial APEX Committee Meeting held on May 24.

Now, it was decided to prepare a rapid response contingency plan to prevent untoward incidents as per the decisions made in the Apex Committee Meeting, under the Chairmanship of the Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan.

He while addressing

the meeting, said that the Rapid Response Contingency Plan could not be prepared till now which has no proper justification for delaying of the said plan.

Work on preparation of the contingency plan is going on, it will be ready soon, CCPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar informed the Chief Minister during the meeting.

CCPO said that work on the contingency plan under the leadership of the Home Department would be completed very soon. A

decision was also taken in the meeting of the APEX Committee to allocate a Police Force equipped with modern equipment for the security of red zones.

The concept paper for the preparation of the Police Force will be prepared and sent to the authorities soon and the red zone will be determined in Islamabad style, CCPO said. It was also decided to identify the important government buildings and facilities located outside the red zones.

## Process of 8,500 new promotions in police starts

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Sunday said that in continuation of record promotions, 8,500 new promotions have been started in Punjab police from today.

In his message, he said that 2009 batch Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) were being cleared for promotions while promotions of 2010 batch ASIs was being commenced.

The IGP said that in a few weeks, thousands of

officers and personnel would be given promotions as per rules and regulations on all the remaining seats from constable to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank.

New recruitment was being started to make young people full of new blood and enthusiasm a part of the police force, he added. The advertisement for the above recruitments would come in next few days, so young candidates should start preparing for the exam, he informed.

## CM seeks report over finding dead bodies of two brothers

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday expressed his deep sense of sorrow over finding dead bodies of two young brothers from a house at Millat Park.

Mohsin Naqvi sought a report about the sorrowful incident from CCPO Lahore and directed to probe the sorrowful incident from every aspect and facts should be brought to light.

## Joint efforts needed to restore credibility of justice system: Bilal

JHELUM (INP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Sunday said that Pakistan was grappling with a "grave crisis of justice provision" and the legal fraternity should work together with the political leadership to ensure the delivery of justice to the people and restore the credibility, dignity and efficiency of the justice system.

He was talking to a delegation of Jhelum Bar Association led by its President Sheikh Ikram Advocate here.

Kayani said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made difficult but right decisions which proved to be in favour of the people with the passage of time. He acknowledged the pivotal role of the 1100 billion federal development programme in driving Pakistan's economic recovery and expressed the confidence that by tackling the economic crisis alongside political unrest and corruption, the country would be able to overcome these challenges successfully.



LAHORE: SAPM Rana Mubashir Iqbal listening to the problems of people in Khuli Kachehri at his Dera situated in Khayaban-i-Ameen.

## Ombudsman Punjab provides over 17.2m in financial relief to plaintiffs

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has swiftly responded to public relief requests, effectively resolving the issues faced by 60 individuals across various districts. These proactive efforts have resulted in a cumulative financial relief worth Rs. 1,72,38,187 being extended to those in need.

According to a statement issued by a spokesman on Sunday, the University of Mianwali, on the direction of the provincial ombudsman, has disbursed Rs. 92,82,843 to 52 students, including plaintiff Muhammad

Hanzala Zubair, as outstanding amounts of their need-based scholarships. Additionally, the District Education Authority Chakwal has granted 2.2 million rupees as financial aid to complainant Haji Mehr Muhammad. In another case, the district administration Lodhran has provided employment dues worth Rs. 1.9 million to Ayesha Mai, the widow of deceased Patwari Ghulam Murtaza, the spokesman added. In a separate instance, the administration of Ghazi University in Dera Ghazi Khan has refunded a security deposit amounting to Rs. 17,70,824 to complainant Abdul Wahid.



LAHORE: Members of Pakistan Nazriyati Party are holding protest demonstration against detention of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui by US authorities, at Lahore press club.

# International News

## Biden signs debt ceiling bill into law, averting default

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed into law a debt ceiling bill passed by Congress after weeks of wrangling, moving to avert a catastrophic, self-induced default in the world's biggest economy.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 authorises the government to extend the so-called debt ceiling to renew borrowing, keeping the bills paid.

The Treasury had warned that if the debt ceiling was blocked beyond Monday, the country would default on its \$31 trillion debt.

A default would have likely triggered market

panic, huge job losses and a recession, with global implications.

In a statement on Saturday, the White House thanked the Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress "for their partnership." In a rare Oval Office address, Biden said that the debt ceiling bill saved the country from "economic collapse".

Speaking from behind the historic Resolute Desk on live primetime television, Biden said the deal resolving the standoff between Democrats and Republicans was a compromise where "no one got everything they wanted." However, "we averted an economic crisis," he said.

Oval Office addresses have always been reserved by presidents for moments of unique national danger or importance.

Biden used the occasion to project a reassuring, calm tone. Sprinkling his speech with chuckles and smiles, he praised his opponents for negotiating in good faith and promised Americans that he had never felt more optimistic.

Biden said that Congress has now preserved "the full faith and credit of the United States." But even with the House and Senate putting aside differences to finally rush through the agreement over the last week, the US economy's reputation took a hit.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a ceremony commemorating the death anniversary of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini at his mausoleum just outside Tehran, Iran.

## China seeks dialogue, says clash with US would be 'unbearable disaster'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SINGAPORE: Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu told Asia's top security summit on Sunday that conflict with the United States would be an "unbearable disaster" but that his country sought dialogue over confrontation.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Li said the world was big enough for China and the US to grow together — remarks made days after he refused to meet his US counterpart for direct talks.

"China and the US have different systems and are different in many other

ways," he said in a speech that marked his first significant international address since he was named China's Minister of National Defence in March.

"However, this should not keep the two sides from seeking common ground and common interests to grow bilateral ties and deepen cooperation," he said.

"It is undeniable that a severe conflict or confrontation between China and the US will be an unbearable disaster for the world."

Wearing the general's uniform of the People's Liberation Army, Li made his

address on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Ties between Washington and Beijing are badly strained over a range of issues, including democratically governed Taiwan, territorial disputes in the South China Sea and President Joe Biden's restrictions on semiconductor chip exports. As delegates at the summit debated the risks of accidents and miscalculations amid those tensions, the US Navy said a Chinese destroyer made "unsafe" manoeuvres near a US warship in the Taiwan Straits on Saturday, highlighting the dangers.

## US, Saudi Arabia urge Sudan's warring parties to agree to a new cease-fire, fighting continues

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Saudi Arabia and the United States urged Sudan's warring parties Sunday to agree to and "effectively implement" a new cease-fire as fighting showed no signs of abating in the northeastern African nation. Sudan descended into chaos after fighting broke out in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan

Dagalo. For weeks, Saudi Arabia and the United States have been mediating between the warring parties. On May 21, both countries successfully brokered a temporary cease-fire agreement to help with the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the war-torn country. Their efforts, however, were dealt a blow when the military announced on Wednesday it would no longer participate in the cease-fire talks.



Police detain a person in downtown on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Beijing's Tiananmen Square crackdown, near where the candlelight vigil is usually held, in Hong Kong, China.

## Russian governor offers to meet group holding soldiers captive

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said on Sunday that he was willing to meet a pro-Ukraine group of Russian partisans holding two Russian soldiers captive, as he reported a renewed flare-up of fighting near the border. The Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps have claimed responsibility for a spate of cross-border attacks inside Russian territory, including last week when Moscow said two civilians were killed during fighting.

In a video on the Freedom of Russia's Telegram channel, a man identifying himself as the commander of the Russian Volunteer Corps said he would hand over two soldiers they were holding captive in exchange for a meeting with the governor.

## Landslide in China's Sichuan province kills 14, leaves 5 missing: state media

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: A landslide in China's southwestern Sichuan province has killed 14 people and left five missing, Chinese state media outlet CCTV reported on Sunday.

The landslide occurred at around 6am on Sunday morning in a mountainous area near the Leshan city in the south of the province.

More than 180 rescue workers have been dispatched to the site,

with search and rescue operations still ongoing, CCTV said.

The Leshan city was hit by heavy rain over the two days before the incident, weather tracking data indicated.

Earlier this year, at least four people were killed in a collapse at a coal mine in northern China, while the progress in the search for dozens who were missing was hampered by a massive landslide.

## Chinese warship passed in 'unsafe manner' near US destroyer in Taiwan Strait

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A Chinese warship passed in "unsafe manner," U.S. military officials said, as China blamed the United States for "deliberately provoking risk" in the region. U.S. and Canadian navies were conducting a joint exercise in the strait, which separates the island of Taiwan and China when the Chinese ship cut in front of the U.S. guided-missile

## Iran's top leader defends hard-line approach toward West

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader on Sunday defended his tough approach to the West, saying compromise would only invite further hostility from Iran's enemies and blaming recent anti-government protests on "thugs and villains."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks come amid an intensifying standoff with Western countries over Iran's nuclear program, which has made major advances in the five years since then-President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from an international ac-

cord that restricted it. Trump restored crippling sanctions on Iran that have contributed to a severe economic crisis without forcing any concessions from its leaders. Iran has also lent support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, supplying armed drones that have wreaked havoc on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. "Some people are mistaken to think if we back down from our stances in certain cases that will cause the enmity of the U.S., the global arrogance, or Israel toward us to diminish," said Khamenei, who has the final say on all major Iranian policies. "This is a mistake."



Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu speaks at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

## Indian authorities seek cause of deadly train crash in Odisha

**Monitoring Desk**  
BALASORE: Desperate relatives searched Sunday for loved ones missing after India's worst train disaster in decades, and the death toll was expected to climb above 288 as authorities searched for clues to the cause.

Debris was piled high at the site of Friday night's crash near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha, with compartments smashed and the blood-stained wreckage of some carriages flung far from the tracks. "I saw bloodied scenes, mangled bodies and one man with a severed arm being desperately helped by his injured son," researcher Anubhav Das, 27, told AFP after surviving the crash.

There was confusion about the exact sequence of events, but reports cited railway officials as saying that a signalling error had sent the Coromandal Express running south from Kolkata to Chennai onto a side track.

It slammed into a freight train and the wreckage derailed an express running north from India's tech hub Bengaluru to Kolkata that was also passing the site. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the crash site and injured passengers being treated in hospital and said "no one responsible" would be spared. "I pray that we get out of this sad moment as soon as possible," he told state broadcaster Doordarshan.



# Talha returns Rs 4.5 bln to pilgrims, implements cost-cutting measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Sunday said the ministry, taking significant measures to ease the financial burden on pilgrims, had returned an impressive sum of Rs 4.5 billion, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the well-being of those embarking on the holy journey.

He, in a talk with APP, highlighted the efforts made by the ministry to reduce costs associated with the Hajj pilgrimage.

He disclosed that this year's expenses for the Hajj had been lowered to \$3,900 from \$5,000, presenting a substantial decrease in comparison to the previous year. However, despite this decrease, he acknowledged that the current Hajj remained the most expensive in history due to the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee and the increase in the value of the US dollar, he added.

Addressing concerns about accommodation for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, Senator Talha emphasized

that the ministry had taken steps to secure buildings at more affordable rates.

He revealed that the ministry had rented buildings between SR1,800 and SR2,300, compared to the higher rental fee of SR2,600 in 2019. Despite the significant difference in inflation rates between 2023 and 2019, the ministry managed to secure accommodations at lower prices, he maintained.

Furthermore, the minister emphasized the importance of efficient management of medicines for the pilgrims stating that more than fifty per cent of the required medicines could be obtained through donations, while the remaining medications could be purchased from pharmaceutical companies at their actual cost of production. By effectively managing these resources, the ministry could have saved a substantial amount of money allocated for the pilgrims' medications, he observed.

Regarding the pilgrims' food, Senator Talha informed that the contract was already awarded but it



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing a public gathering during inauguration ceremony of NADRA Registration Center Aminpur Bangla and Passport Counter in Chak No.30-JB on Narwala-Aminpur Road.

## Pak Navy celebrates WED to highlight significance of environment, promote awareness amongst personnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his message on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED) 2023 said Pakistan Navy celebrates WED to highlight the significance of environment and to promote awareness amongst personnel for mobilizing actions to stem detrimental effects of environmental degradation.

In a Pakistan Navy news release, the Admiral said 'World Environment Day' (WED) was observed

## Sherry Rehman expresses full solidarity with families of martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman Sunday strongly condemned the violent incidents of 9<sup>th</sup> May terming it as 'a black stain on Pakistan's history and expressed full solidarity with families of martyrs.'

The whole nation stands with armed forces and those who insulted the martyrs deserve the worst punishment', she said while talking to PTV news channel. The vandalism of the civil properties and defence installations on May 9 has exposed the wicked face of Imran Niazi and the government would have zero tolerance by taking strict action against attackers, she added. The minister said that it was our priority to look after the fami-



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan addressing faith and community leaders at Pakistan House.

## Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, urged faith and community leaders to work together to promote inter-religious harmony when he met them at his residence on Saturday.

The faith leaders comprised Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs.

"The strong bonds of humanity bind us all together; While we maintain our religious beliefs and identities, we have to work collectively, as one community, for the larger national interests and projecting the true image of Pakistan," the



KARACHI: People attends a traditional breakfast gives Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu at Turkish Consulate General, in Provincial Capital.

## NFEH calls for adopting National Action Plan for effectively dealing with plastic pollution issue in Pak

KARACHI (APP): The National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) has demanded that federal, provincial and local governments should sit together and adopt a 'National Action Plan' to effectively deal with the issue of plastic waste before this polluting issue causes irreversible damage in the country.

Addressing a meeting of the core committee of NFEH here Sunday to organize an interactive seminar on in connection with the World Environment Day-2023 to be observed on Monday, NFEH President Naem Qureshi said that the least Pakistan should do was to ensure that all the main urban centers in Pakistan should

## Yang Yundong says: Pakistani young students can be inheritors of China-Pak friendship

KARACHI (INP): "It is hoped that Pakistani young students can be the inheritors of China-Pakistan friendship, the enhancers of the development of China and Pakistan, to convey the friendship of 'higher than the mountain, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey' in Chinese language," said Yang Yundong, Chinese Consul General in Karachi.

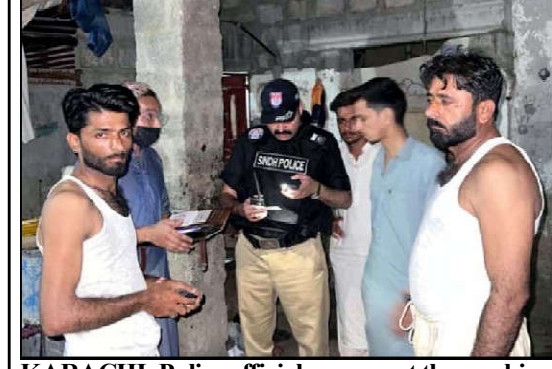
During the Karachi Division Final of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Bridge-Chinese Proficiency Competition for International University

## Two members of criminal gang held with arms, snatched bike

KARACHI (INP): The police and Pakistan Rangers Sindh during joint action on Sunday arrested two wanted members of a criminal gang with arms, snatched bike and spare parts of the stolen bikes.

The police and Sindh Rangers on a tip-off regarding presence of wanted criminals launched joint raid in Frontier Colony of Karachi.

During operation, two members of a criminal gang identified including Musadid alias Muzamil alias Bacha and Sanaullah alias Pehlwan alias Motta were held with a pistol, a motorcycle and spare parts of snatch bikes.



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons at different areas of Nusrat Bhutto Colony in Karachi.

## Training workshop for ensuring political participation of persons with disability held

NAWABSHAH (APP): A training workshop on ensuring the political participation of persons with disabilities was organized by the Pakistan US Alumni Network under the chairmanship of President NDF. On the occasion, the coordinator of the project Abid Lashari said that appointing councillors through reserved seats for persons with disabilities in the Local Government was a commendable step and a good move by the Sindh government.

Hundreds of disabled people have become a part of practical local politics and decision-making processes.

The Disability Rights Act 2018 Government of Sindh guarantees political participation as well as the protection of all rights of persons with disabilities.

President Hari Welfare association Akram Khaskheli said that allocating councillor seats for disabled people in the Local Government ACT amendment bill 2021 was a big step through which people with disabilities could become part of decision-making at the local level.

## Two soldiers martyred, two terrorists killed in Bannu fire exchange: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): Two soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while two terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire in the general area of Jani Khel in Bannu District, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

According to the military's media wing, Pakistan Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists, killing two of them.

The martyred soldiers were included Naib Subedar Ghulam Murataza and Havildar Muhammad Anwar.

## Inflation breaks backs of masses, pushed millions below poverty line: Shahid

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Sunday that merciless inflation has broken the backs of the people and pushed millions of people below the poverty line.

He said that people in rural areas are more affected by the inflation than people in urban areas, which is unfortunate.

In a statement issued here, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that now that inflation is fully embedded in the system, it will continue to damage the masses with full force in the next financial year to increase public anxiety. He said that according to the data released by the government, inflation has reached 38 percent in the month of May, which is the highest level in the history of the country and in South Asia.

Inflation is increasing, but there has been no increase in the wages of the workers, nor has there been a significant increase in the salaries of public and private employees, he added.

The business leader said that people are being affected by inflation and that it has become difficult for them to make ends meet. While the politicians, aristocrats, industrialists, landlords, and bureaucracy do not care about it.

To reduce inflation, it is necessary to improve the price mechanism, deal with hoarders and profiteers according to the law, and import cheap food items from neighbouring countries, he demanded.

Shahid Rasheed noted that authorities are not willing to take an interest in providing relief to the masses as they are all focused on politics.



KARACHI: Members of Sindh Friend Forum are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

## PML-N, Tareen group leaders in contact with PPP, says Khosa

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan People's Party leader and former Punjab chief minister Dost Muhammad Khosa Sunday claimed that a part of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) current and former assembly members, leaders from Jahangir Tareen group are also in contact with the PPP.

In his exclusive interview with a private TV Channel, Dost Muhammad Khosa said eight to ten PML-N MNAs 'contacted' are in touch with the Pakistan People's Party. Khosa further said that some of PML-N leaders are current and some are former MNAs. The PPP leader, referring to Jahangir Tareen's efforts to form a new political party, said that the people of the latest group have already faced defeat and now they cannot afford another 'misadventure'.

## Police constable killed, three injured in road accident

LARKANA (APP): A police constable was killed while three inmates got injured in a road mishap near Marri Chowk, on Larkana-Dadu road, some 8km away from here, on Saturday evening. According to police reports, a police mobile of Jhatpate police station of Dera Allahyar of Balochistan was heading towards Karachi from Dera Allahyar. Suddenly the vehicle turned-turtle and fell into roadside ditch due to a burst of the tyre. Resultantly, one constable Abdul Hai Khosa was killed on the spot and inmates Muhammad Ali Bhungar, Naveed Ali Marri and Waqar Ahmed got injured.



HYDERABAD: Famous Columnist and writer Muhammad Khan Bhatti addressing a ceremony of his Birthday celebration, organized by Shah Inayat Sufi Sangat at Local Hotel.

## Met Office forecast light rainfall in northern, central Sindh districts

KARACHI (INP): The Met Office on Sunday forecast dust-thunderstorms or light rainfall in various districts of northern and central Sindh. Mostly hot and dry weather will prevail in various parts of Sindh.

Dust-thunderstorms and light rain expected in Qambar-Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Larkana, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Kashmore, Ghotki, Dadu, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Tharparker, Sanghar and Khairpur districts at evening or night, the weather office predicted.

Partly cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the province, however isolated rain thunderstorm (moderate to heavy falls) may occur in some parts of Musa Khel, Zhob, Kohlu, Barkhan and its surroundings, provincial